

# The Ricardian Register

Newsletter of the American Branch  
Richard III Society



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TPAV RIGHT;  
MORE WRONG;

This is a report that "To Prove a Villain" copies More as More wrote it. Someone appears to be working with More but I found a facsimile copy of the 1557 edition, (published by William Rastell?) and after struggling through the early English, found it had a translation into contemporary English. In all cases, Hastings was referred to as Richard and Buckingham as Edward. Moreover Hastings was called a noble man. Since he is already Lord Hastings, he is automatically a noble-man and the separate words must mean something more, a description of his character. Or am I giving it a 20th century interpretation? Anyhow you can tell Mr. Handler that More was wrong and he is not seeing things or typographical errors.

The really shocking discovery, which I should have found out earlier, is that Kendall edited in such an unhistorical way. He has written a couple of excellent books, he knows how history should be treated, but to merely say he has corrected More's inaccuracies and filled in blanks, without indicating which ones, is really shocking. Well, live and learn.

-Maude D. French

Taylor Littleton and I were delighted to encounter David Handler's careful reading of TO PROVE A VILLAIN (Ric. Reg., III, (1968-69) and would assure him and all readers that we are aware of the discrepancies in proper names which we mentioned (and there are others as well). The errors are those of Thomas More who was not the most trustworthy of historians - a point best made when students discover his flaws for themselves. There are, of course, several variant texts of More's History. We followed the Rastell version, as did Richard S. Sylvester, the editor of the Yale edition of the Complete Works of St. Thomas More, II,

(New Haven, 1963, who noted that "the 1557 edition has acquired an almost canonical authority." (pp. xxix-xxxx) All Ricardians will agree upon the names of Will Hastings and Harry Stafford; unfortunately Sir Thomas was no Ricardian.

-Robert R. Rea

HELP WANTED: NEW EDITOR

Due to the time consuming effort of trying to handle a full time job, a house, and a family, further complicated by illness, I find that I cannot continue to act as editor of the REGISTER. If there is anyone out there who would like to volunteer for this job, please write to me. You don't need to be a journalist, but you should have access to printing facilities - preferably ones we can use at cost or less.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

Too much time has gone by since the last REGISTER, and I offer my apologies to all of you. As noted in the help wanted column, I need someone to take over the position as editor of the newsletter. I have not yet received the shipment of pins from England, but hope for it soon. My apologies to those of you who have been patiently waiting.

I hope in the future to have some china dishes, ashtrays etc., with the boar insignia.

I do have a limited supply of the January RICARDIAN (the English publication). I will be glad to send these out on a first-come basis to anyone who did not receive one.

## WHAT ELSE CAN I DO?

Many of you have asked this question, and I think that this reprint of the talk Donald G. Kilgore, Jr., M.D., Co-Chairman, gave at the last annual meeting will help to answer this Question.

Bill Hogarth asked me to say a few words about an article on Richard which appeared in the magazine Diagnostica - a publication featuring medical and paramedical articles distributed to all doctors in the United States by the Ames Pharmaceutical Company. Each issue of Diagnostica contains a featured series called "Tales of Medical Detection". This series is restricted to novels or non-fictional narratives in which the solution depends upon a point in medical diagnosis. In the May-June 1968 issue this feature was called A Werish, Withered Arm and concerned the paradox of a renowned warrior having a withered arm. It discussed the possibility of Richard being deformed and included passages from Shakespeare and Sir Thomas More about the strawberry incident in the tower of London which culminated the execution of Lord Hastings. The author mentioned Dr. Joly's probable diagnosis of Richard's withered arm as an allergy to strawberries. Dr. Joly reasoned that if Richard knew that he was allergic to strawberries and could produce a serious rash on his arm that it might appear to be witchcraft to unsophisticated observers. However, the author pointed out the difficulties with this diagnosis, first from Richard's known ability as a warrior carrying a heavy shield on his left arm and a heavy weapon in his right. Second, the only surviving picture of Richard which showed no deformity, and finally the known record of Richard's coronation in which he was stripped to the waist, a ceremony that Richard certainly would have avoided if he were indeed hump-backed and had a withered arm. This article was written by David Unwin.

I was impressed by Mr. Unwin's fairness in appraising the situation which is an exception to the usual trash that you read about Richard. So I wrote him a brief letter concerning the history of our society, our objectives and some of the speculative possibilities on the disappearance of the two little princes. I found that David Unwin was pseudonym for Mr. David J. Severn who writes for Physician's Publications, Incorporated, a firm which provides an editorial assistance for many pharmaceutical firms which issue

company publications. They have a rule that bylines of articles should be written under a pseudonym. Mr. Severn told me that he was a secret partisan of Richard and was very much interested in the Society. Because of his interest I invited him to our meeting, but apparently he was unable to make it.

Bill asked me to say a few words about writing letters to people when you see an article in print. As all of you realize, most of what you are going to see in print is going to be unfavorable; because for nearly 500 years we have had pretty much of a "one party" system setting down the story. However, I have found that most people are fair minded enough to realize that a definite doubt exists when you put them in possession of all the facts:

- 1) That Polydore Virgil was Henry's paid political historian.
- 2) That Sir Thomas More, despite his saintly title, was not too long out of diapers during the reign of Richard, and received most of the basis of his History from Richard's worst enemy.

The very absurdities in the accounts of both More and Virgil as well as their contradiction to one another make it easy to discredit their reliability. An important fact to emphasize is that Henry did not accuse Richard of the murder of the princes in his Bill of Attainder against Richard. I believe that it is very important to emphasize that our Society, while sympathetic to Richard, is only seeking to establish what actually did happen during this period of the Yorkist Era. Another point worth emphasizing are the rather numerous accomplishments of Richard (establishment of trial by jury, laws against intimidation of juries, the establishment of the bail system for prisoners, the abolishment of kings' benevolences, etc.)

One question that you will probably be asked is where can I find out more about this. Every Ricardian should have in his library at least 2-3 references on this subject. To Prove A Villain is a most comprehensive one and includes the Daughter of Time by Josephine Tey. Costain's The Last Plantagenets is good, but perhaps the most comprehensive material of all is found in V. B. Lamb's The Betrayal of Richard III. Probably many of you have other suggestions, but these are the main points I try to bring up in talking or writing to people about Richard.

MORE HIDDEN BOOKS  
DOROTHY MARSDEN WRITES:

Like Mr. Snyder, who found materials while browsing in the Folger Library this last spring, while I was browsing in the same German article, Richard III in Shakespeare's Plays compared to Richard in History, 1976. I also found a curious book, a small one, A dialogue with Richard III and his adopted son Richard IV, 1744, no author, printed in London for John Warner. The book was in the Rare Book Department, rather the special Libraries Department, and I was allowed to examine it. However, I did not have the time to study it, despite its brevity, 30 pages. Perhaps someone in the Boston area might be able to examine it more closely.

It is a dialogue of a visit in Hell between Richard and his adopted son. For 250 years Richard III had been in Hell. I don't know who Richard IV was, nor where he had been, nor why the visit is occurring after 250 years, but there may be some value of Ricardian lore to be found in this little book. The BPL also had listed Richard IV, Plantegenet, by J. F. Hodgetts, London, 1888, but again, lack of time did not allow me to see this book. Does any one else know of it?

I am sending along a program of a new play, The Vindication of Richard III by Moody Blanchard which I saw at Haywood last week. Since Mr. Blanchard is a member, perhaps he can give you more information about his own play.

BRYN MAWR CHAPTER MEETS

Our chapter is meeting again three days before that, on the 18th, a Tuesday, to see Olivier's Richard III at the University of Pennsylvania in Irvine Auditorium. After the film, we will have a discussion of the film at the home of the Whipman's. It will be our fourth meeting since the chapter was "founded". Not bad, if I do say so myself!

Bobbie Jacobs  
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RICHARD III IN A NURSERY RHYME?

Huff the Talbot and our  
cat Tib  
They took up sword and  
Shield  
Tib for the red rose, Huff  
for the white,  
To fight upon Bosworth  
Field.

Oh, it was dreary that night  
to bury  
These doughty warriors dead;  
Under a white rose brave  
dog Huff  
And a fierce Tib under a red.

Low lay Huff and long may  
he lie?  
But our Tib took little harm:

He was up and away at dawn of day  
With the rose bush under his arm.

-The Complete Mother Goose

BOOK LOOK

Among new books touching Richard III is Godfrey Turton's Builders of England's Glory (to be published by Doubleday & Co. in June), chronicle of the house of Tudor which devotes considerable space to the Welsh adventurers before they stole a crown. Nothing new here, but perhaps Ricardian educational efforts DO have some effect: Mr. Turton admits that "the portrait drawn of Richard III by Shakespeare, and by Tudor chroniclers before him, is a calumny inspired by political motives." He absolves Richard of murdering the young princes, suggests that Buckingham was the villain, and concludes that "King Henry was at the same disadvantage as King Richard. The fate of the boys was a mystery, he could not lay the ghost by indicating the grave." A follower of the White Rose might suggest another reason for Henry Tudor's trouble with graves and ghosts (and the 10,000 masses he ordered for the good of his soul) but this is going marvellously far for one whose theme is the Welsh conquest of England!

-by Robert R. Rea  
Alumni Professor of History  
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CORRECTION TO "PEERAGE" IN LAST REGISTER:

Note: "Absent from coronation" should be marked with a slash. The Earls of Salisbury, Warwick and March were absent.

Note: (7) Add: "Edmund Tudor lost the Earldom of Richmond by attainder". "The last two sentences as they stand".

Note: (6) Jasper Tudor. attainder. Add: "It was granted by Edward IV to his son Edward and retained by him after removal of his royal titles.

There is no note (8).

Cite: compiled from Markham

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Section II  
LIBRARY LIST

This is the first installment of our rather lengthy library list. To request books or other literature, write Mrs. Elizabeth Haynes, 4149 25th St., N. Arlington, Va. 22207. There is no charge unless otherwise noted. You are responsible for the return postage.

B O O K S

(Before requesting books from the Librarian, please make every effort to locate the titles desired in your local public or university library.)

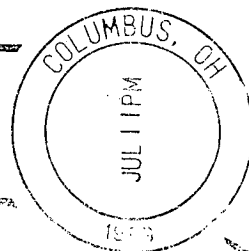
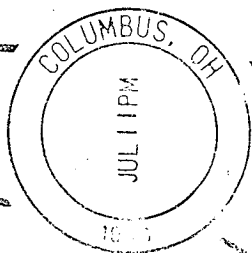
Non-fiction:

- Richard III, Jacob Abbott (a Victorian horror)
- The Fifteenth Century, The Prospect of Europe, Margaret Aston
- The Anatomy of Villainy, Nigel Balchin
- A Study of Changing Historiographical Trends as Illustrated in the Medieval English Chronicles of Croyland Abbey, Ira J. Black (thesis)
- \*Historie of the Life and Reigne of Richard III, Sir George Buck (1646)
- The Last Plantagenets, Thomas B. Costain (popular history)
- All Wrong on the Night, Maurice Dolbier (mishaps on the stage)
- History's Richard III and Shakespeare's "Richard III", Rosalie Ehrlich (draft of thesis)
- Nations of the World: England, Vol. II (1461-1603), John Richard Green
- The Later Plantagenets, V.H.H. Green (history)
- Fifteenth Century England, Percival Hunt
- \*The Battle of Bosworth Field, William Hutton (1788)
- The Great Debate, P. M. Kendall, editor (More's History of Richard III and Walpole's Historic Doubts, with notes)
- The Betrayal of Richard III, V. B. Lamb (survey of the controversy)
- The Wars of Roses, J. R. Lander (extracts from contemporary accounts)
- The Golden Longing, Francis Leary (popular history)
- To Prove a Villain, Taylor Littleton and Robert R. Rea (the case for and against Richard in literature)
- John Argentine, Provost of King's, Dennis E. Rhodes
- Bosworth Field, A. L. Rowse (opinionated popular history)

\*Please send \$2.00 with request to cover cost of packing and sending by registered mail. Must be returned by registered mail.

Fiction:

- The Last of the Barons, Edward Bulwer-Lytton (turgid Victorian romance of Warwick the Kingmaker)
- Under the Hog, Patrick Carleton (Richard III)
- The Golden Yoke, Olive Eckerson (romance of Richard and Anne)
- Richard, by Grace of God, Brenda Honeyman (Richard III)
- The Swan and the Rose, Francis Leary (events of 1460-61)
- Fire and Morning, Francis Leary (events of 1485)
- The Borrowed Crown, Cecil Maiden (juvenile; Lambert Simnel)
- Quest Crosstime, Andre Norton (science fiction)
- The Goldsmith's Wife, Jean Plaidy (Jane Shore)
- The Passionate Queen, Barnaby Ross (Margaret of Anjou)
- Shadow of the Dragon, Marjorie A. Rowling (Yorkist loyalty after Bosworth)
- The Black Arrow, Robert Lewi's Stevenson
- The Daughter of Time, Josephine Tey (detective story)
- Loyalty Binds Me, Ruth Trevan (Richard III)
- My Lord of Canterbury, Godfrey Turton (Thomas Cranmer)
- The Last Plantagenet, Tyler Whittle (Richard III)
- Shine Out, Fair Sun, Valerie Giles (typescript; juvenile; Francis Level)



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