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Loyaulte me lie Ricardian Register

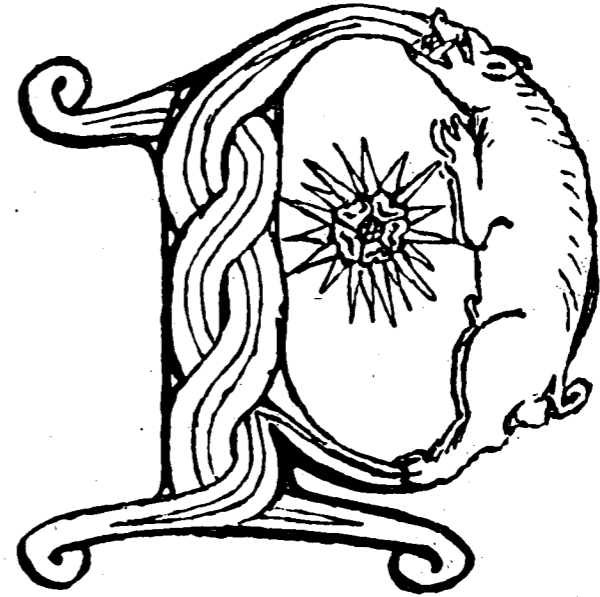


Fig. 59

The letter "P," the first in a paragraph, in a book belonging to Richard. The "P" consists of, and is at the same time eating, the badges of York and Richard III (Hillary Jenkinson, The Later Court Hands, Cambridge at the University Press, 1917, p. 126, figure 59)

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Loyaulte me lie Ricardian Register vol. 18 no.1

Editors: Pamela Garrett, Julie Vognar, Hazel Peter

Address material for the Register to Julie Vognar, 2161 North Valley, Berkeley, CA 94702. Articles on subjects pertaining to Richard III and his era are eagerly sought from our members, as are personal news items.

RICHARD III SOCIETY, INC. is a non-profit educational corporation chartered in 1969 under the membership corporation laws of the State of New York. Dues, grants, and contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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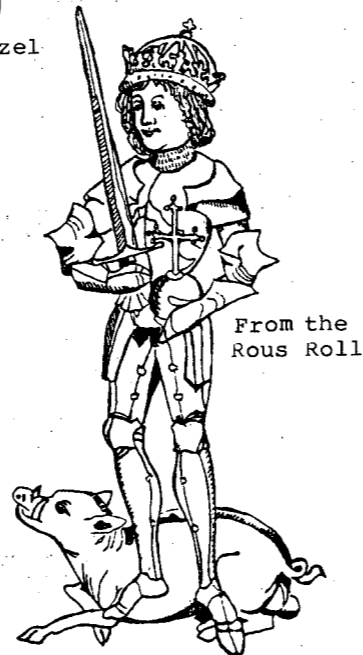
Dues are \$15 a year for single or family memberships, \$12 a year for students. The dues year runs from October 2 (Richard's birthday) to October 2, and is not prorated. National dues, change of address notifications and membership queries should be directed to Martha Hogarth, Box 217, Sea Cliff, NY 11579. Local dues are decided by the local chapters themselves.



The Fellowship of the White Boar is the original, now alternate, name of the Society. The American Branch now incorporates the former Friends of Richard III, Inc.



Graphics by Hazel Peter



From the Rous Roll

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In Memorium

The actor Donald Madden died January 22 of cancer. He was 49. When I first learned of the untimely death of this our fellow Ricardian, I was numb. Later I began to think about him and all the wonderful performances I had seen him give from the late '60's through '79--his last stage performance in New York, and I wanted to tell you of his portrayal of Richard III in the 1970 Joseph Papp production in New York's Central Park: he was true to Shakespeare--a thoroughly evil villain without equivocation, yet fascinating and appealing for all that, so vibrant that you felt Shakespeare's Richard was truly living on the stage. Our then pre-eminent drama critic Clive Barnes said that Mr. Madden took the part by the teeth and shook it--a most apt description. I marvelled at his development of Richard of Gloucester in the Henry VI plays, also done that summer in the park. How frightening he was when he stabbed Henry VI to death in the Tower--knife flashing, teeth literally bared in anger (he taught me what that phrase meant that night). The stamina of the man was incredible: I remember one night that summer all three Wars of the Roses plays were done consecutively (H.VI I, II, and III condensed into two plays--the Royal Shakespeare Company version--and then R.III). It wasn't all over until well into the following morning. People sat huddled under blankets and tarpaulins but they stayed, mesmerized by the production unfolding before them. On August 22, 1970, the night Richard III closed in Central Park, Donald walked out on the stage to begin his soliloquy and many in the audience rose to their feet to applaud him before he could utter a word; they'd seen the performance more than once and so had I. No matter what he did--Shakespeare, Ibsen, whatever, it was always a thrill to see Donald Madden. Future generations will know Olivier's Hamlet and Richard III from films, but not Madden's, and that saddens me. I never had the privilege of knowing him personally but I loved him as an actor for years. I had looked forward to many years of future performances--Lear, MacBeth, Prospero--now all those characters will never live through him. What a terrible loss. I am so grateful to Donald Madden for all the joy he gave me over the years. I will miss him.

Diana Calvert

Polly Parker, our loyal and inventive RIII co-convenor of the Monterey Peninsula died June 17 of cancer. All our group of maverick Ricardians (we are not officially a chapter, nor do many belong to the National Branch) will miss her greatly.

Sue Bernhardt



Notes & Letters

Letter from the Editor

No, the Register has not been published regularly! If you got 3 in 1981, 2 in 1982, and this is your first in 1983, you are current. If you think this represents a problem to you, think of the poor libraries, who are used to having publications come in regular as clockwork. The English Branch, too, has indicated gently that a schedule of some sort would be helpful to them. We'll do the best we can; more we can't promise. Contributions of some length would be helpful!

Arizona Member, Attention!

...Something else that is cooking in dry Arizona is the fact that the Richard III Society has a member in the Arizona State Penitentiary in Florence, but Martha Hogarth declines to give him my name so that I might lend him books, as it would be an invasion of his privacy.

Mrs. Charles Martin
7360 North La Oesta
Tuscon, Arizona 85704

(The gentleman knows the lady's name; further contact must of course be left to him.)

Shot Heard Round the World?

(Professor Bisceglia addressed the Northern California Chapter for its AGM; we hope to print his talk in the next issue. Between the talk and refreshments, we all gathered round the radio to listen to the Dodgers lose their playoff hopes in their final game with the Giants. Prof. Bisceglia remembers the occasion thusly:)

...I think Richard III was a Giants' fan. Pedro the Cruel was a Dodgers' switch-hitter in the Old Siesta League...
L.R.B.

A "Rowseing" Birthday Gift

I received A.L. Rowse's Annotated Shakespeare for my birthday--three volumes (overpriced and plastic) which I returned to my local bookstore. Needing a reason for the return, I told the clerk Rowse

is anti-Ricardian and after reading his introduction to the three volumes probably anti-Shakespeare as well.

The clerk didn't argue; she obviously knew a "roused" Ricardian when she saw one.

I used my refund to buy Gillingham's Wars of the Roses, the Ross Richard III and to order The Sunne in Splendour.

Jacqueline Bloomquist
President, Northern
Calif. Chapter
Keeler House
1780 Highland Pl.
Berkeley, Ca. 94709

Better Late than Never, Register!

Mr. Jeremy Potter, Chairman,
Richard III Society
41, Woodsford Square
London, England W14 8DP

Dear Mr. Potter,
On behalf of the members of the American Branch, I take great pleasure in extending to the members of the parent Society our good wishes and warm feelings upon the occasion of your Annual General Meeting.

The expanded activity in the research and writings of the Society's members reflects the quality of the leadership provided by you and your officers.

Cordially,
William H. Snyder,
Chairman
Richard III Society
Inc.
3302 Gleneagles Dr.
Silver Spring, Md.
20906, U.S.A.

Richard's Third Illegitimate Child

I recently subscribed to British Heritage, and came upon an interesting letter, from "Wearne, Maidstone, Kent." The writer seems to speak with much authority on Richard's

supposed third illegitimate child--the conversation at Bosworth was interesting, almost as though the letter-writer had been there in person. I don't know what the official Society view is about Richard's natural children (I don't really care!) but I've come to my own conclusions.

Sincerely,
Karen Thompson

(Here follows the gist of the letter to British Heritage:)

Richard Plantagenet was born in 1469 "of an unknown noblewoman." After the death of his heir, Richard III wished to acknowledge the boy. On the eve of Bosworth, he sent for the boy and told him to watch the battle from a certain vantage point; if Richard won, the boy should come to him, and if he lost, the boy should shift as well as he could for himself, and "never mention being my son, for there will be no mercy shewn to one so nearly related to me." After the battle, the boy fled into Kent; he worked as a bricklayer. In his old age, he was befriended unexpectedly by Sir Thomas Moyle "who discovered his secret after seeing Richard reading Latin classics." (Moyle was Henry VIII's Chancellor of the Court of Augmentations which dealt with the financial side of the Dissolution of the Monasteries.) Richard continued to live at Eastwell, Kent, til he died. The Parish Registry entry, under the article of burial, reads, "V. Richard Plantagenet December 22 1550." The initial 'V' denotes nobility. Edward Hasted, the Kent historian, in Vol. VII of his History, reports that in his time (c. 1800) there was an ancient tomb, without inscription, with the marks of two coats of arms, the brasses gone, which was reputed to be the tomb of Richard Plantagenet. The tomb now stands in the open air; nearby can be seen a tomb of the Moyle family. Eastwell Church has been a ruin for many years....It is really a very peaceful setting.

**

Peter Hammond wrote (Ricardian, Sept. 1975, pp.30-31): The only hard fact

in the whole story is an entry in the Parish Register of Eastwell... the entry reads "Rycharde Plantagenet was buryed the 22nd daye of Desember, Anno ut supra," and appears under the year 1550....It appears to be genuine; the register is in fact a copy made in 1598...Of course no one knows if the deceased believed himself to be a Plantagenet, or whether Sir Thomas Moyle, the owner of Eastwell so believed, or both. (summarizing) There is a mark against the name Richard Plantagenet; there are other marks (different) against other names (not all noble). It is suggested by some that a member of the Finch family (later owners of Eastwell) used these to mark entries interesting to himself for later copying.

There is one tomb in the Eastwell church, ruins, all others having been removed to the Victoria and Albert Museum in 1968 for protection. This tomb was "almost certainly" meant to house two bodies, the woman with a headdress c. 1480-1490. It is probably the tomb of Sir Walter Moyle (died 1480). The story of Richard first appeared in Desiderata Curiosa, Vol. 2, 1735, pp. 13-15.

(The story has been subject to additions and amendments, and two novels, The King's Bed, by Margaret C. Barnes, and The Sprig of Broom, by Barbara Willard. Both are directed at young people; the second is by far the better.)

Aversion to Anaheim Convention Center

Congratulations on another fine issue. But really, I don't want to imagine three airplane hangars trying to have sex with each other! (Register, summer, 1982, p. 19)

Lorraine Attreed

Letters, Continued

A Change from Napoleon

I recently read a book, American Assassins, the Darker Side of Politics, by James W. Clarke (Princeton University Press, \$18.50), which contains a short biography of one Richard Lawrence who considered himself Richard III, partly due to his first name (and probable insanity). In 1835 Richard Lawrence tried to kill President Jackson because--Jackson being against a national bank--Lawrence felt he was being cheated out of his alleged congressional claim for funds to take off for England.

As royalty, he felt himself the owner of English estates Tiegear and Kennany, "attached to the crown."

With a newly acquired mustache and sudden interest in fashionable clothes (he had been a hard-working house painter up to that time), he soon inspired the neighborhood children to address him by the desired "King Richard" as he posed on the doorstep.

But we don't know if he had done any reading on Richard III, or even on firearms, for that matter. He misfired two pistols in the assassination attempt, the powder having fallen out of the guns while in his pocket.

During the trial, he informed the jurors that they had no authority over him, because it was he who had authority over them. That statement no doubt contributed to their verdict, along with the persuasiveness of the prosecuting attorney, Francis Scott Key, and also contributed to the judge's decision to sentence him to mental hospitals where he died in the Government Hospital for the Insane in Washington, D.C. in 1861.

Luretta Martin

Praise Always Welcome--Also Criticism

I so enjoy the Ricardian Register, it is a lovely publication and becoming quite a work of art!

Frieda M. McKenzie

Thoughts about Jasper Ridley's Statesman and Saint, Cardinal Wolsey and St Thomas More; and Thomas More in General

(The Times Literary Supplement reports the author's views as clear: Wolsey was a statesman, More a fanatic). Well, I'm not sure what to make of it. The author appears to have very good credentials; one can't very well accuse him of being an earnest amateur with a bee in his bonnet, who goes bounding off in an excess of enthusiasm after an idea that sterner minds would shun....I'm just not sure where this gentleman would fit in on the spectrum of reasoned thinking vs. rot.

I must say, I have always been a believer in St. Thomas the Good, and never mind what he had to say about Richard. (In that regard, I've felt that Hanham's explanation of his writing as satire... is as good an explanation as any). In any case, I don't like the argument that runs: "More was a Tudor proprogandist who deliberately falsified and distorted facts for the good of the cause.".... If we object to the view that Richard was de facto evil, we ought not to apply the same sort of charge to persons whose judgments we are calling into question. You know, the first time I read Tey, the first time I saw her reference to "the sainted Thomas," I thought it was rather cute; but by the third or fourth time I read it, I began to feel that it was too cutesy and manipulative. When one repeats the same line too many times, it usually means that he has run out of original ideas -- or that his few ideas were pretty lame to start with. So, while I admire Tey the dramatic writer, I don't rate her very high as a thinker. So, I have tended to reject the notion of More as a liar and outright louse. Obviously, I'll have to read this Ridley book.

Helen Maurer

QUINCENTENARY PLANS

The April, 1983 Tour of Ricardian Britain for the American branch visiting sites included on the Royal Progress of 1483 has some space available for members and their friends.

If you would like to join this program and have not contacted the organizer, Betty Schloss, we suggest that you inquire right away.

The August 1983 tour of Ricardian Britain promises to bring 15th century England to life in an exciting way. The tour will be limited and Society members will, of course, be given first consideration. For tour brochure or information, contact:

Betty Schloss
MATTITUCK TRAVEL
Main Road, P.O. Box 1421
Mattituck, New York 11952
(telephone (516) 298-5151)

Incidentally, for members living on Long Island, Bill Hogarth will be giving his slide lecture, RICHARD III ON STAGE & OFF, at Custer Institute, February 19th at 8:00 p.m. in Southold, New York. If you need directions on how to reach Southold, Long Island, call Betty Schloss at the above telephone number, Monday through Saturday during business hours.

The English branches are, of course, having their own celebrations--almost one to each branch! However, the two which have been most persistent in sending their brochures United Statesward (new word?) are Canterbury (Kent), and Middleham itself. Middleham offers musical programs almost every day from August 2 through August 20, and dramatic presentations and "the Middleham Market with both medieval and modern stalls displaying the skills and trades of the Yorkshire Dales." The music sounds wonderful and contemporary, and the drama intriguing. For further information, write:

Peter Hibbard (Chairman)
Old School Arts Workshop
Middleham, Nr. Leyburn
North Yorkshire. DL8 4QG.
(Telephone 0969-23056) U.K.

The Kent program is larger and more formal, with a medieval market at Kingsmead Stadium, a play called "Dirty Dick," guided tours of Canterbury Cathedral, one of Kent's finest choirs singing sacred music of the Yorkist age, a Richard III Exhibition, using graphic display panels and genuine artifacts of the period, the Kent Medieval Branch Banquet (members only here!), an open day seminar at Blackfriar's Hall, an audio-visual presentation, "The Crowned Boar," a narrative by one of England's leading actors telling the story of Richard III's England and the events of the Wars of the Roses--and other things. For further information, contact:

Dorothy Lanham
Kent Branch Secretary
8, Sunningdale Ave.
Rainham, Essex
Rainham 23060
U.K.

RICHARD III SOCIETY QUINCENTENARY DINNER

The Society will celebrate the 500th anniversary of Richard's accession at a Quincentenary Dinner at the Guildhall, London, to be held in the medieval crypt, on

WEDNESDAY, 11th MAY, 1983, from 6:00p.m.-10:00 p.m.

The dinner will be attended by the Society's Patron, H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester.

Other distinguished guests of the Society on this occasion will include the Duke of Norfolk, Garter King of Arms, and the Mayor of Gloucester.

The cost, which will be \$38.00 per person, will be all inclusive, and the evening will comprise:

a tour of the Guildhall, a reception and drinks before dinner, a four course dinner, and wine and port during the meal.

We plan to set up a 'bed register' in order that members from a distance may find accomodation for the night with local members.

Dress will be dinner jacket or lounge suit.

The evening promises to be a very special occasion, and a fitting way to commemorate Richard's quincentenary. We have already had much interest expressed by all who have heard of the plans for the dinner, and since the capacity for accomodation is comparatively limited, we do advise prompt application for tickets.

Please send your application without delay together with a cheque for \$38.00 per person, made out to the Richard III Society, and a s.a.e. for return tickets to:

CORRESPONDENCE SECRETARY, Miss Elizabeth M. Nokes, 4, Oakley Street, Chelsea, London SW35NN. Tel. 01-351-3391

to whom any enquiries for further information may be addressed.

Please fill in the following application:

Richard III Society Quincentenary Dinner - Ticket Application
(Please print in block letters or type)

No. of tickets:.....

Name(s).....

Address:.....

I enclose remittance of.....(\$38.00 per person). Cheques/postal orders to be made payable to: Richard III Society.

Please send this application, together with remittance, and S.A.E. to: Miss E.M. Nokes, 4, Oakley Street, Chelsea, London SW3 5NN.

Miss Nokes writes further: Overseas members sending cheques in their own currency must include the equivalent of 1.00 to cover our bank's conversion charge.* Checks made out in sterling can only be accepted if addressed to a London bank for payment, in which case there is no conversion charge. In addition, to cover the requirement for a stamped, self-addressed envelope for return of tickets, international postal coupons should be used.

* (This is included in the \$38.00 fee for American members.)

You might also like to know for the Register that we have in hand advance plans for a day seminar in Leicester on 14 May - i.e. the Saturday after the dinner, on Richard. Strictly speaking it is aimed at non-members, but will probably attract members also. Jeremy Potter will probably speak; it will run from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., and include three other lectures, and cost about £5.00. Full details will go in the March Bulletin, but I can let you have them when available.

Bill Hogarth asked about taxis and hotels for the Dinner. Re former, it would be a case of booking from your hotel, and arranging for pick up from the Guildhall. Re hotels - few, near the Guildhall, and those expensive, but of course plenty elsewhere to suit all pockets, or U.S. members could apply for the bed register - which will however depend for its success on people over here offering beds. If you would like more hotel details I can let you have them, and/or of booking agencies.

Quincentenary Dinner - Register of Spare Beds (and requests)

I would like.....bed(s) for the night of Wednesday, 11th May, 1983, as follows:

Beds/male/female/numbers:

Number of beds:.....

Single or Double.....

For Male (M)/Female (F):.....

NAME:.....

ADDRESS:.....

.....

Telephone Number:.....

Please return to Miss E.M. Nokes, 4, Oakley Street, Chelsea, London SW3 5NN

For those of you who can write checks on English banks, the fee in pounds sterling is £22.00.

The Richard III Society of Canada--Toronto

The Canadian branch of the Society is providing royal entertainment on July 2-3, 1983. Events scheduled will include:

---a Colloquium by noted medieval scholars.

---a Medieval Banquet, with contemporary food, drink and entertainment (special diets of any kind can be catered).

---a re-creation of the Coronation (using the original text) with contemporary music and a costumed parade. One of Canada's leading actors will take the part of Richard.

The cost of these will be approximately \$22 per person; there is a limit of 125 people. Everyone is to come in costume, and any costume can be rented there, from peasant to nobility. Accomodations can be made for visitors in student residence halls.

For further information, write M. Christine Hurlbut:
155 Falkirk Street
Toronto, Canada M5M 4K4

Part of a Story: "A Plague on the French!"
by Hazel Peter

(This is a segment of a novel I am currently writing. It deals with the adventures of a group of Yorkist exiles who live in the mythical town of Ligia in the Romania of Northern Italy. The narrator, named Ellen Holland, is a midwife from Coverdale in Yorkshire. The other characters are:

Tom Holland, her brother; John Holland, her husband (and supposedly cousin), actually John of Gloucester; Caesare Montini, the head of the town council; Mother Michaela, a Mother Superior at a local convent; Leonardo, a local artist, inventor, etc., a mentor to John; Uncle Francis--Francis Lovel, Branwen's companion.

The events in this section take place in March of 1495 when Ligia, like the rest of Italy, is facing a major invasion by an enormous French army.)

We met that night at the Guildhall. The large chamber was stuffed with guild leaders, militia officers, university tutors and just plain townspeople. Many of the farmers from the area around Ligia had also crowded in. Mother Michaela and I were the only women present: she sat at the table with John, Caesare and the others; I stood in the corner, watching the massive oak table lit up by the heavy torches that burned in the sconces on the back wall.

One by one the militia leaders reported on the readiness of their units. Tom stepped forward to talk of his fledgling bowmen and Francis spoke of his unit of apprentices and students. They had trained with scorpions, which are like our English bills or Swiss halberds. At least they are the nearest thing Italians have to bills and halberds. Most of Francis' lads were from the university or the street of scribes. I had wiped their noses; Mother Michaela had brought them into this world.

Then Leonardo spoke of Charles and Milan. He stood at the table and talked, not the rambling curses and anger of that afternoon, but clear concise sentences. His artist's eye had seen, counted; he had listened. The picture he painted for us was gloomy. We were outnumbered: the most the city and the contadari could come up with was 1500 men--a few more if we included babes and grandsires. And, I realized, one woman. Few people knew that I had practiced with Tom. I had seen Tom off to Bosworth, but this time I would be at his side. But even my help and that of the old men would not save us. We were outnumbered and out-trained. When Leonardo finished, we stood in silence; the light from the torches flickered over the despairing faces. My own eye picked up faces that would be in that band of 1500. My own John, Tom, Francis, Rico, the Bartholdi boys, Johnny Kendal. Johnny, whose own father had died at Bosworth in that awful charge. And as I looked around me, I saw, reflected in the despairing faces around me, the certainty of another Stoke.

Then one of the older men began to speak. He was a farmer from a village at the top of the valley; I had bought a basket full of artichokes from him only the week before. Now he was giving a speech worthy of King Hal at Agincourt, full of "comrades standing shoulder to shoulder" and how as long as one Ligian stood we would resist. "We would fight. Aye every tree and stream would fight back. A plague on the French, we would survive!"

John's face lit up. Suddenly he bounced to his feet. "That's it!" he yelled, "That's it, a plague on the French. We must give them the plague, or at least let them think we have it in our power to give it to them."

"Would you send to Naples for plague victims?" asked Caesare.

"No, we haven't time and it's not necessary. You see, when I was in prison in England, Francis used the plague to help me escape. He gave it to me, or actually, what he gave me was one of Ellen's Granny's weird mixtures. One doesn't actually take the plague. I just looked like I had. Not that it felt great. I had an ache all over, sweated like a pig, got dizzy and hot and finally passed out.

"I must have looked pretty bad, because the guards let Ned Winter take me to Greyfriars for burial. That's where I woke up three days later, feeling like I'd been kicked by a mule, hard. I had a headache down to my toes and I couldn't sit a horse for another week, but I was free. Ellen," he asked, "do you know what your Granny used? Ah, I see that you do. Well Ellen can give us the plague. Not all of us, just enough to make the French army avoid us. Let them get to the Holy Land by looting somewhere else. Or better yet, maybe they might just go back where they came from. Anyway, they will probably decide to avoid us."

As I listened to John and watched the room come to life, I ran the ingredients through my mind and multiplied by 100. My goodness, you could run a dyer's on that much woad. I would be black up to the elbows before I finished. So would Branwen. No, Branwen had better avoid this. Granny's mixture wouldn't do the baby she was carrying any good. Mary Kendal and Mother Michaela would help.

The townspeople were pushing me towards the table and John. Just as I reached it, the old farmer stepped up and said he would take the plague. Others had stepped forward to join him in a noisy crowd, when Leonardo held up his hands.

"No!" he shouted. "If we just leave a lot of decorated male bodies lying around, the French will never believe us. We need to present the plague, like a masque or a play. Dead animals; some women; shadows, so they can't see too well; a stench, who can give us a stench?" Several alchemists from the university crowded forward. "Trust Leonardo," I said to myself, "to come up with a use for them. Well, they were much better at producing stench than they were at turning lead into gold."

Mother Michaela was trying to work her way towards me. She was the center of a small group of volunteers. Half of them looked terrified at the "witches' brew" I would be pouring down their throats. I wondered how they would feel when I told them that they would have to go out and gather it first.

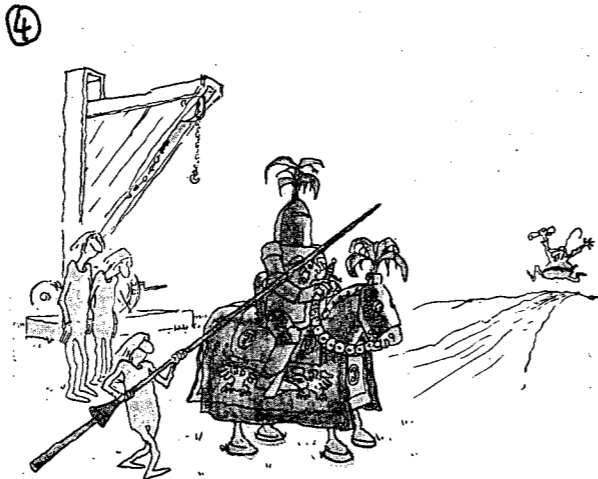
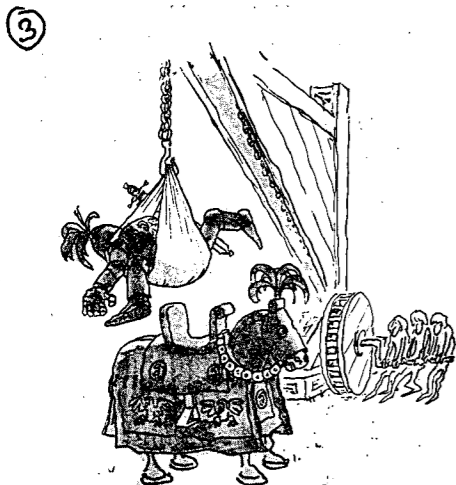
Mother Michaela, Leonardo and I had rubbed down the last of the volunteers, a scappy twelve year old named Sandro. Leonardo had arranged him neatly near the well with the rope and bucket in his hands. I don't think the Frenchies would want to use the water. Particularly if they found the dead rat Leonardo put in the bucket. I don't think I would want to use it, and I knew it was a sham.

We were in the barn getting Leonardo himself ready when we heard our guests arrive. For an instant a look of horror passed over Leonardo's face. Then he started to grin. "Up to the loft with you two," he whispered. As we hastily climbed up, he moved toward the door. He waited until we were safely buried in the hay before he staggered out. Just before he shoved the door open, he stood with his head bowed, and then shrugged his shoulders, as though he were adjusting to a new cloak, or a new role. We couldn't see him, but we could hear him; his hoarse voice gasped for water as he bumped and lurched towards the well. With his body swelling and his eyes glazing he must have looked a sight. But I hadn't had time to put on the purple or the woad and weald or the blistering cream. Apparently, what they saw was enough because a few minutes later we heard the guests depart. Too bad, they didn't stay for dinner. We had decorated the kitchens just for them. I thought Leonardo had overdone it. Rats, rotting food, and the

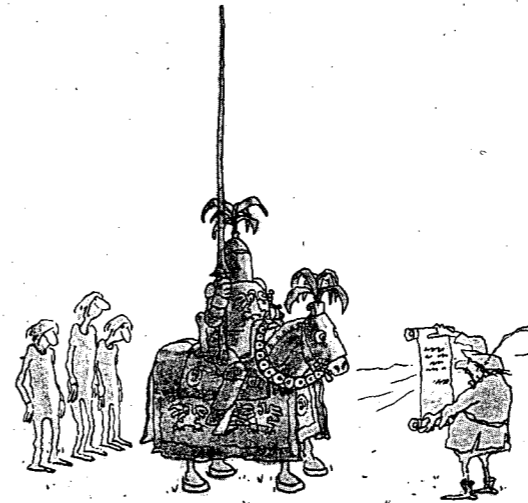
stench: between the alchemists and the papermakers, Ligian ingenuity had produced a stench that was so strong you could taste it. I could feel it in my mouth almost as a physical presence.

Leonardo told us later that his acting had not been the sole reason for the departure of our guests. As they came to the well, not only did they find Sandro's bucket and all, but a gray ball of shapeless fur which crawled out from under Sandro's cloak. If they had waited, they would have realized that the ball was one of the pesky kittens we had dispossessed the bakery of, but getting a mere glimpse was enough. It was gray and alive, and the Frenchies decided they had more than enough news to tell their king without determining what kind of rat and its state of health.

Leonardo sunk to an artistic pile on center stage, watched them go and then quietly passed out.

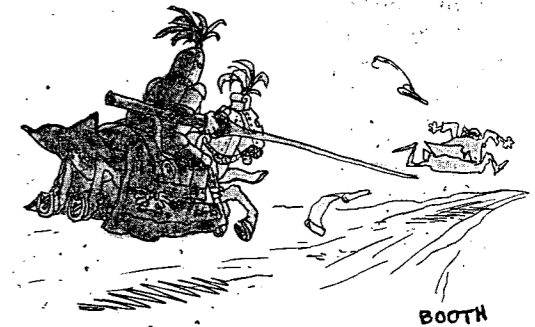


⑤



"Sire, we have peace."

⑥



reprinted from The New Yorker, Dec. 6, 1982.

Margery Nonesuch Receives a Letter
from a Pilgrim and Friend

Dearest Friend Margery I send thee greeting in Christ's name.

Item--I have given the Brothers here at Rippon the seeds and plants you charged me to give them.

Item-- I send you the Abbot's greeting and that of Brother Willfred and Brother Alired.

Item-- I have examined Brother Juniper, and as we surmised, he did not have leprosy. He did seem to have irritated skin caused by wearing dirty, coarse robes and not bathing often enough. Nobody I have looked at in England has had leprosy. They have acne, fever blisters boils and measles. Nor have I seen a real case of leprosy since I came back from my pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

The general state of the establishment needs improving. The new Abbot, Joscelyn, will be writing to you. The late Abbot Simon had a well deserved reputation for piety, but he was not very good at running a monestary. The herb garden needs manuring, the woodlot had been severely cut back and the tenants have been threatening to burn down the mill, which takes 1/3 of the grain in charges for grinding instead of the 1/4 most mills take. Yours,

Giles Bowman

Fifteenth Century Quizzical

Identify the following 15 quotations as seems appropriate--author, or occasion or subject. Most are by or about Richard. Three are direct quotations of the spoken word, and may never have been spoken of course--they are nevertheless famous. I have tried to put them in chronological order of occurrence, not reporting, where there is a distinction between the two.

Oh. Four are direct quotations of the spoken word, but one has been reported by so many people and there were so many witnesses that it probably happened just as reported.

Julie Vognar

- 1) By God's Blood, thy father slew mine, and so will I do thee and all they kin!
- 2) ...by God's blessed Lady I am a batchelor and have some (children) too: and so each of us hath a proof that neither of us is like to be barren. And therefore madam I pray you be content....
- 3) ...the world seemeth queasy here....and it is said for certain that the Duke of Clarence maketh him big in that he can, showing as he would but deal with the Duke of Gloucester. But the King intendeth, in eschewing all inconvenience, to be as big as they both, and to be a stifler between them. And some men think that under this there should be some other thing intended, and some treason conspired; so what shall fall I cannot say.
- 4) We are so important, that even without the King's uncle, we can make and enforce these decisions.
- 5) There is great rumour (i.e. uproar) in the realm. The Scots has done great in England. Chamberlain (Lord Hastings) is deceased in trouble. The chancellor is disproved and not content. The Bishop of Ely is dead. If the king, God save his life, were dec(eas)ed; (if) the Duke of Gloucester were in any peril; if my lord prince, (which) God defend, were troubled; if my lord of Northumberland were dead of greatly troubled; if my lord Howard were slain. De Monsieur Saint Johns.
- 6) He contents the people where he goes best that ever did prince, for many a poor man that hath suffered wrong many days have be relieved and helped by him and his commands now in his progress. And in many great cities and towns were great sums of money give him, which all he hath refused. On my troth I liked never the conditions of any prince so well as his; God hath sent him to us for the weal of us all.
- 7) I pray that by my servant this bearer, one of the grooms of my stable, you will let me know in writing your full intentions, at the same time informing me if there is anything I can do for you in order that I may do it with a good heart. And farwell to you, Monsieur mon cousin.
- 8) Here, loved be God, is all well and truly determined, and for to resist the Malice of him that had best Cause to be true...the most untrue creature living...
- 9) Provided alway that this act or any part thereof, or any other act made or to be made in the present parliament, in no wise extend... any let, hurt or impediment to any artificer or merchant stranger of what nation or country he be...for bringing into this realm, or selling by retail or otherwise, of any manner books written or imprinted, or for the inhabiting within the said realm for the same intent, or to any writer, limner, binder, or imprinter of such books, as he hath or shall have to sell by way of merchandise, or for their abode in the realm for exercising of the said occupations....

- 10) Signifying unto you, that it is showed unto us, that our servant and solicitor, Thomas Lynom, marvellously blinded and abused with the wife of the late William Shore, now being in Ludgate by our commandment, hath made contract of matrimony with her, as it is said; and intendeth, to our full great marvel, to proceed to effect the same. We, for many causes, would be very sorry that he should be so disposed; and pray you, therefore, to send for him, in that ye goodly may exhort and stir him to the contrary.

And, if ye find him utter set for to marry her, and none otherwise would be advertised, then, if it may stand with the law of the church, we be content (the time of marriage being deferred to our coming next to London) that, upon sufficient surity being found of her good a-bearing, ye do send for her keeper, and discharge him of our commandment by warrent of these; committing her to the rule and guiding of her father or any other, by your discretion in the mean season.

- 11) The Cat, the Rat, and Lovell our Dog
Ruleth all England under an Hog
- 12) O Jesu! Yet more trouble!
- 13) ...then she prayed him as before to be a mediator for her in the cause of (the marriage) to the K(i)ng, who, as she wrote, was her only joy and maker in (this) world, and that she was his in heart and in thoughts, in (body), and in all. And then she intimated that the better half of Fe(bruary) was past, and that she feared the queen would nev(er die.) And all these be her own words....
- 14) ...that King Richard, late mercifully reigning upon us, was, through great treason of the Duke of Norfolk (sic) and many other turned against him...piteously slain and murdered, to the great heaviness of this city.
- 15) But he says that he heard the said Master Burton say that King Richard was a hypocrite, and a crookback, and burried in a ditch like a dog.

Answers at the end of this issue.



AGM Notes

Southern California:

The Southern California Chapter is selling National Portrait Gallery buttons (pins) of Richard; they're about 3" across and are really lovely. Contact Mary Rowan, address in masthead, \$2.50 a button, or pin.

The meeting was called to order at 1:40 p.m. by President Mary Rowan. This third quarterly meeting was held in honor of Richard III's birthday, at the Cock N' Bull Restaurant in West Hollywood. In the absence of the secretary, Karen Thompson was requested to act as secretary. R. Thad Taylor led the traditional toast to King Richard.

Following luncheon, self-introductions were made, there being 36 members and guests present. (Many of our new members joined as a result of the article in the August 22 edition of the Los Angeles Times).

The treasurer's report was given and members were reminded that national and chapter dues are payable at this time (last October--Ed.). They were also advised of a chapter fund raiser -- 3" buttons bearing a color portrait of Richard III -- at a cost of \$2.50 each.

Old Business

Vice-President Joyce Hollins distributed items which had been silk-screened (T-shirts, tote bags, etc.) as a chapter fund raiser. She announced that there would be another opportunity to order these things.

New Business

Elections for the 1982-83 year were held. The results were as follows: President: Mary Rowan; Vice-President - Joyce Hollins; Secretary - Frieda McKenzie; Treasurer - Jim Kendall.

The date of the next chapter meeting was set for January 9, 1983.

Program

Dramatic reading -- selections were read from "Impasse to Bosworth," a play written by Meg Macaulay (a member of the Southern California Chapter).

The guest speaker of the afternoon was Dr. Gerald Fecht of Moorpark College, who discussed symbolism in 15th Century art.

The white rose centerpieces were auctioned and the meeting was closed at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Thompson

Seattle:

On Sunday, August 15 a medieval picnic in honor of the Battle of Bosworth was held at the home of Ed and Winnie Hotske. The beautiful backyard (Ed is President of the Rose Society) was properly decorated by Ed with posters depicting the battlefields, the armies and surrounding areas. A display of Ricardian pamphlets and books about Richard were available for perusing. Entertainment was provided by Sue and Jim Scanlon, who sang old English ballads to the accompaniment of their guitars.

Our annual meeting was held at the Mediterranean Delicatessen on October 1. A delicious dinner of potted hare was served. We all ate well.

Marge Voigt held a short quiz on early English words. Among the words she asked the members to define: grimalkin, garderobe, buttery and verjuice. Winnie Notske came away with the prize - a bottle of wine.

Our guest speakers of the evening were Linda and Hal Greenwald of the Britannia Society. Linda, known as "Linda of London" on a local radio station, brought tapes of two of her programs. The tape about Sudeley Castle was of particular interest to us because of its connections with Richard. The other tape was of an interview Linda held with the Marquess of Hertford, owner of Ragley Hall, which was a delightful insight into how the "other half" lives.

Hal brought with him an issue of "In Britannia" from 1978, in which there was an article about Richard, parts of which we violently disagreed with.

An election was held, following the program. Our new president is Alan Quigley. Marge Voigt was elected secretary.

Our next meeting will be held in February.

Respectfully submitted,
Marge Voigt

Northern California:

The October 3rd (day after Richard's birthday) meeting of the Northern California chapter was held at the elegant apartment of Frances Berger and Pam Garrett in San Francisco. About 36 attended; meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. Light refreshments were supposed to be served, but Hazel Peter brought a small medieval banquet (2 kinds of pies, bread, pasties, a Mushroom Explosion, and hot cider--all home made). Coffee was served.

Pam announced that because of pressing outside responsibilities, she would be stepping down as President, although she agreed to remain on as Vice-President. Jacqueline Bloomquist was elected unanimously by voice vote. Pam was given a small corsage in token of our appreciation for 3 years of arduous service, but, not liking corsages, she didn't especially know what to do with it.

Professor Bisceglia, of San Jose State University, spoke to us on "English History: Eras and Errors -- Arthur, William and Richard." He combined his usual sense of humor with a terse presentation of historical facts and dissection of historical writing (we hope to print Prof. Bisceglia's speech in the next Register). Meanwhile, one of our hostesses was lying in bed with the flu, listening to the final game of the season between the Giants and the Dodgers, in which the Giants crushed the Dodgers' playoff hopes. A couple of us stuck our heads in to commiserate, Frances being a Dodgers' fan.

We were reminded about dues, questioned about the Register, and told that Donna Rieser, a PhD candidate and former student of Professor Bisceglia's, would be willing to speak to us at our next meeting about William, Lord Hastings. Donna is doing a thesis on Richard. This announcement was greeted with much approval, as was the food, the conversation, and the last few innings of the ball game. Meeting adjourned about 3:30.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Vognar

BOOK REVIEWS: The Sunne in Splendour, by Sharon Kay Penman, Holt, Reinhart and Winston, New York, 1982

As a work of fiction, this more than 900 page novel is most interesting as a work of historical theory. It is full of speculation about events which we are unsure of and plausible explanations for behavior which puzzles us. The exact course of the Battle of Tewkesbury, George's slightly insane behavior and uncertain knowledge about that which it was im- parative that he did not know, Elizabeth Woodville's erratic behavior, the relationship between Richard and Bess--these are carefully explored. The death of the princes is Buckingham's responsibility, and there is an explanation for his never having been accused of it. Since Miss Penman, in discussing the murder in her postscript, does not claim what she has written to be "truth," but only a very plausible theory, I suppose we may take all her other explanations as plausible theory as well. At any rate, they hold together nicely.

Occasionally, Miss Penman inserts a fictional "fact" (such as the birth- date of Richard and Anne's son); one's reaction is that she couldn't possibly know that, or that it's just plain wrong. There's no justification for such a reaction, as Miss Penman explains in her postscript that she felt compelled to "fill in the gaps" and (occasionally) slightly change known events largely because "medieval historians could be thoroughly indifferent to the needs of twentieth-century novelists." (p. 935)

Perhaps Miss Penman's sense of humor contributes to the slight misdirection of focus in the book. This is a novel about Richard III, from childhood to death, but it is Edward IV, the Sun in Splendor himself, who is presented with the greatest clarity. We feel his hugeness and beauty, his confidence and rages, his ease among people, his my ends justify the means morality, and above all we delight in his sense of humor, and miss him when he dies.

Edward on his deathbed thinks about what he has done to reconcile the warring factions of his council and family, regrets his son having been kept so much at Ludlow, feels he must have faith that Stillington will keep his mouth shut, and hopes that his brother will be strong enough to hold it all together--and always doubting, doubting. His wife is ter- rified at the sight of his dying, his mistress Jane (her middle name!) bursts into tears whenever she is allowed near him. Finally Bess comes to sit by him, wanting to say goodbye, and for a time clinging to the hope that it isn't goodbye:

"Don't worry, Papa. Please don't worry."

"Do you know...what be the worst...worst sins?"

She bent closer, not sure she'd heard him correctly. "No Papa. What be the worst sins?"

The corner of his mouth twitched, in what she knew to be the last smile she'd ever see him give.

"The worst be," he whispered, "those about to be found out."

Here I laughed aloud. Penman's Edward has a knack of seeing humor in truth.

The most serious flaw in this novel, for me, is its failure to present a solid vision (contradiction in terms?) of Richard himself. Some aspects of his developing character are explored; others are not. He is described physically, but he doesn't have the presence his brother has--he isn't solid. It isn't necessary that an author explain why a character does everything he does, as long as the author makes it seem right to us that he does it. We do not know Richard well enough to understand why he wants to be king, as he confesses to Anne, or why his rage in the council room results in Hastings' immediate execution (no, it is not because of Lord Hastings' Indentured Retainers). Lovell objects to it because he doesn't like what it will do to Richard (a typical, expected Lovell re- action).

19. After Richard becomes king, his leniency and trust towards those who have least cause to be true he explains by saying that he he has asked God for a sign that it was right for him to claim the throne. This, of course, never comes, and things go from tenuous to horrible. There is a near speculation that at Bosworth, Richard may really have been ill (could he have caught Anne's consumption?), and that this may have cloud- ed his judgment. But his behavior here, too, is explicable with the un- derstanding that he is waiting for a sign that never comes.

I suppose that, within the revisionist framework, the author was attempting a certain amount of objectivity. But the novel is written without com- pulsion, or passion, or great confidence. The language, both archaic and modern (sometimes disconcertingly mixed) is also unexciting. However, there is considerable attention to historical detail and occasional sparks of real emotional insight (or invention). Whether this justifies 935 pages, I don't know. I enjoyed it, but did not read it in one sitting, one day, or one week.

---Julie Vognar

violets



BOOK REVIEW: The Anchor Atlas of World History, Anchor Books Edition, Penguin Books, Ltd., Ayelsburry, Buckshire, U.K., 1974.

This is a useful addition to your Ricardian library. In addition to a general map of the Wars of the Roses and the Hundred Years War, it in- cludes economic maps of Europe in various periods with occasional maps of the new world, Africa and Asia.

While not all the maps are perfectly accurate (some periods are such that borders can only be approximated) and some of the commentary is inaccurate, the book provides indispensable references to who had what when. From the who and what and when, sometimes you can tell the why. Despite minor inaccuracies and occasional over-simplification, the Atlas is useful to the serious student and invaluable to the beginner. An excellent investment at \$5.95, it's a good buy for a grandson or grand- daughter who's good at history, especially one who visualizes better than he/she reads.

There is a second volume dating from the French Revolution to recent times, also \$5.95.

---Raymond Nelson

BOOK REVIEW: The Medieval Machine, Jean Gimpel, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1976.

The blurb on the jacket quotes Buckminster Fuller as saying that The Medieval Machine contains more factual information about the middle ages than any single work he has encountered. I suggest that Mr. Fuller try Volume M of the Encyclopaedia.

In some ways, Dorothy Hartley (Lost Country Life--reviewed Fall, 1981) and Jean Gimpel seem to be mirror images. They bracket Richard III's era: Dorothy starts at about the 17th century, and Gimpel leaves off at about the 14th century. Dorothy described, in detail, even the construction of the beehives, and the significance of straw beehives in mead making, but she rarely mentions the price of anything. Gimpel graphs the medieval price index over a 500 year period, but as for the grain and sheep that produced the money in the first place, I've read better in the Britannica.

Gimpel claims the yield ratio (site not mentioned) for grain (type unspecified) in the 11th century was 2½. That is, for every bushel of grain sown, 2½ bushels of grain were harvested. For every three bushels the farmer intended to eat, tithe, sell, or otherwise use, two bushels had to be stored as seed from the harvest to the next sowing. This is nonsense. If the real ratio was 5, and half the harvest was not reported, that would explain the discrepancy. This is not quite as silly as it sounds. In 1350, the Bishop of Winchester got just over half the yield of oats that was expected by the author of the Husbandry, a book on medieval farming. Gimpel can put this down to inflated figures on the part of the Husbandry, but I have read that Bishops rarely make well-loved landlords. No doubt the Bishop stimulated the farmers' already dishonest habits.

Another example is Gimpel's treatment of the timber and coppice system of forestry: he totally ignores it. The timber and coppice system was a fascinating response to the medieval firewood shortage. After the timber was clear-cut, the stumps sent up shoots. The shoots were allowed to grow until they were about one inch in diameter (for firewood, or smaller for wicker work). This turned a timber-producing forest into a firewood-producing coppice. Timber became a non-renewable resource, but the productivity (in firewood) of the coppice was increased. The problem facing the medieval economy was not a shortage of firewood, but of timber. Nevertheless, Gimpel talks at great length of various firewood users denuding forest. E. g.: (p.80) "There were objections in 1255 when two limekilns in the forest of Wellington consumed five hundred oaks in one year...."

It would be nice to know if the coppice was mentioned in those objections, or if the limekilns had been using coppice wood all along, or if the coppice system was not yet in use there. This is much more serious than the omissions about grain, because the coppice system is by no means obvious. If I can't trust Gimpel's word on timber or grain, can I trust his word on iron, or waterpower, or sheep?

In conclusion, this book suffers from two even more important flaws. First, Gimpel does not manage his sources well. He uses secondary

sources too often; he fails to cite his sources in the notes, and the citations in the text are incomplete. Fortunately, they are better than Sir Thomas More's, but Gimpel uses the Domesday Book, Husbandry, Walter of Henley, and Seneschaucy without ever citing them in his notes. Lastly, Gimpel has diverted his book from a study of medieval technology to an outrageous attempt to be the Gibbon of western civilization's decline and fall, before the fact. According to Gimpel, the first industrial revolution (the middle ages) blossomed as it repopulated the lands emptied by the plague, and then ground to a halt and degenerated into the Renaissance (Gimpel and I agree that the Renaissance consisted of so much manure). Then civilization was saved from Humanism by the discovery of the New World and the second industrial revolution was born. Now we have exhausted the western frontier, western civilization is decadent, and earth's only hope is the revitalized philosophy of the Red Chinese. Some people might disagree with this theory.

Aaron Joseph Peter

(From the Valley Independent Press,
August, 1982, "Lost and Found" dept.)

DOG

"Now is the winter of our
discontent" (Richard III,
Act I)

After 5 years of her love
and companionship, our be-
loved miniature Italian
Greyhound is lost. She has
been our Joy since puppy-
hood.

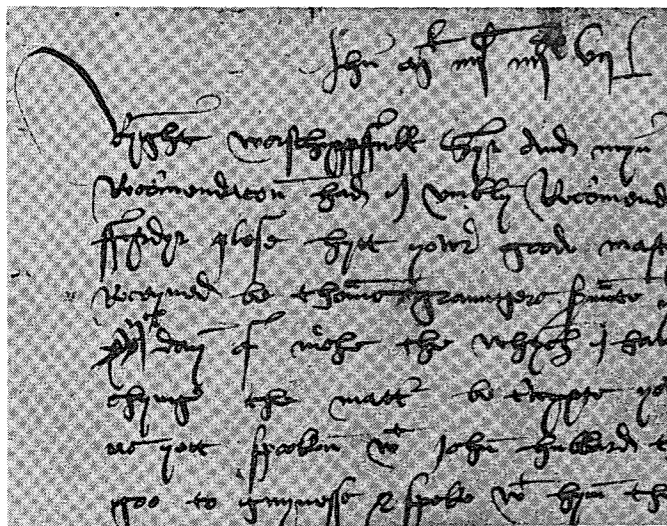
Finder please call us that
we may have her in her home
again, the only home she
really knows. In so doing,
you will mend two hearts so
near to breaking and banish
all our fears.

Know well, Dear Friend, the
compassion in your act be-
comes forever a part of you.
Deo Gratia. 697-5205.

(submitted by Dorothy Marsden, along
with several favorable reviews of
The Sunne in Spendour, and request
for membership forms for two friends.)



A Personal View of 15th Century Handwriting by
 Someone Who Doesn't Know Much About It Yet
 by Hazel Peter



The upper left hand of a letter from William Cely, 1488. English Court Hand A.D. 1066 to 1500 by Charles Johnson and Hillary Jenkinson, Oxford, at the Clarendon Press, 1915, Plate XLII (b)

For me the problem of understanding the past begins with a re-creation of the past. How did the late 15th century look, smell, sound, taste and feel? As I watch a friend who has worn skirts "maybe six or seven times in my entire life" struggle with the weight and bulk of 3½ yards of heavy material around her hips and ankles, I realize that clothing, food, weather, ease of travel and countless other factors made the physical world that shaped people who lived in Richard's day.

Until now I have dealt with this world through the printed book, an item that was a rarity in 15th century England. Now I am taking my first steps towards being able to deal with manuscripts. Following Bill Hogarth's instructions I made the acquaintance of Sir Hillary Jenkinson and Charles Johnson. Sir Hillary has a writing style which his admirers would call concise. It is a cross between a computer printout and a government report. At first their books, English Court Hand and Later English Court Hand seem overwhelmingly complex. The Atlas which accompanies each book seems to add to the complexity. My first attempts to decipher the plates meet with total failure. Even the formal book hand is hard to read.

The next step was to start working on individual letter forms. Some of these looked more like puzzles than letters. That upside down "e" was an "e". The circle with a diagonal cross was a "c". The diagonal line with a reverse loop was a "b". There were also letter forms to end words, just as there are in Hebrew: the final "r" does not look like an "r" occurring in the middle of a word. I wanted to write out the letters with my lettering pen, but I couldn't because I was within

the sacred precincts of U.C. Berkeley's Bancroft Library. The Bancroft employs two people who register visitors and frisk them (gently) to remove any writing implements other than pencils. Since these attendants had been kind enough to overlook the fact that I had spent the morning on my job as a cleaning lady and was wearing my uniform of old cords, a sweatshirt and battered tennies (the uniform, plus the lingering smell of Spic 'n Span, made me feel self conscious among the woolen seaters and creased slacks around me), I did not feel I could ask for my pen. It was locked away in a locker along with my purse and coat.

Even with half a dozen letter forms in my head, I encountered still more problems. Some of the letter-puzzles could never be solved, because the letters no longer exist. Medieval writing included forty odd letters and abbreviations that no longer exist, in fact. Many of these abbreviations were either French or Latin and were transformed into English if nothing but the sound was right. Oddly, Jenkinson claims that the ampersand (&), the only extra letter I am familiar with, was just beginning to evolve at that time. I then spent a happy fifteen minutes practicing thornes, a sort of squished "y" (ŷ) that was used instead of "th"; a thorne with a small "e" where an astrisk would normally be was "th+e" or "the". A thorne plus a small "m" was th+m which equalled "thm". All this was based on a system of superior and inferior letters. The big letters are superior and the tiny letters following them and written above the line are the inferior ones. Sometimes an inferior letter, usually a vowel, is quite arbitrarily dropped after an initial superior one. Therefore, th+m equalled "them".

My opinion of all the nameless souls who had trascribed Paston letters, Patent Rolls, etc. was going up by leaps and bounds. Johnson and Jenkinson, who I was now calling Charlie and Hillary went on to explain that i and j were interchangeable, sort of, and so were u and v, both j and u being post Roman forms. "O.K. Charlie," I said to myself, "if you say so." Charlie then warned me that 15th century writers did not use any consistant spelling system. (I remembered that in my printed copy of the Cely Papers one Cely had referred to his son as both "Georg" and "Jorges" in one letter.)

The use of the French article le as a prefix or the Latin orum at the end of the word turned an ordinary English word into either French or Latin (at least in the mind of the writer). As I assimilated this last piece of information, I noticed a list in batarde. A word leaped out at me: "Longbows," I read, "courgettes, blackbills" (apparently a list of weapons). I could read. Not everything. The Cely letter would have to wait a bit. But I could read! Today, "longbows," tomorrow "I send you greeting" and "Item--".

(In the next issue, we will present a more advanced view of 15th century hand by Bill Hogarth.)

From the Desk of Lorraine Attreed, Research Officer of the American Branch, and Cultural Liaison with the English Branch of the Richard III Society

11 September

1981-2, a year before anyone could start celebrating anything remotely Ricardian, was particularly rich in fifteenth-century historical publications and projects. Autumn of '81 saw the nearly definitive word on Henry VI in Ralph Griffiths' awesomely complete biography. By Christmas, the long-awaited Charles Ross treatment of Richard III had reached the shelves, to annoy and disappoint some readers as any good classic study should.

Our own side of the Atlantic produced the useful and informative Crown and the Tower: The Legend of Richard III by William Snyder. As a collection of pertinent documents, it moves beyond a simple condensation of Caroline Halsted's groundbreaking study.

Last spring saw the first session on Richard III at the International Congress on Medieval Studies at Kalamazoo, Michigan. Organized by Society member Veronica Kennedy, the session was one of the best presented of the conference.

In preparation for 1983 publication is a book by Jeremy Potter, reviewing the problem of Richard in histories from Polydore Vergil to Charles Ross. The third volume of the respected Harleian MS. 433 project should be offered for sale now; Anne Sutton and Peter Hammond have finished their critical edition of Richard's coronation rolls, to be published by Alan Sutton next summer at the latest. Plans continue in England for the 1984 seminar with Charles Ross as a speaker. A Yorkshire member, Richard Knowles, is planning his own conference for April 1983 at which Professor Ross will discuss Yorkshire and the Crown, and I will speak on the Scrope-Gloucestre indenture. I shall enjoy reporting these events, if you still have the patience to read me.

6 December

The University of Manchester hosted a conference on Richard III last month, and although the number in attendance was disappointing (160, out of 400 expected), audience participation was enthusiastic.

The first paper was given by Professor Ralph Griffiths of University College Swansea, author of the massive Reign of Henry VI. Griffiths spoke on the sense of dynasty among the Yorkists, best seen during the reburial ceremonies of Richard of York at Fotheringhay in 1476. He also took the Yorkists to task, and Richard III in particular, for acting more like murderous ambitious magnates than members of a royal family. According to Griffiths, Richard should have accepted the limitations of the protectorship, in order to put an end to the ruthlessness characteristic of Edward's reign.

Dr. Tony Pollard of Teeside Polytechnic followed with a paper on Richard and the north. No friend of Richard's since his 1977 article "The Tyranny of Richard III" in Journal of Medieval History, Dr. Pollard reviewed his past work and revealed some new thoughts on Richard's relations with his northern retainers. To Pollard, the same relations which helped Richard to the throne and secured his power after Buckingham's rebellion

came in the end to imprison the king. The "tyrannous" plantation of northerners in southern positions of power distorted the structure of Richard's reign and created more friction than it prevented. The creation of the Council of the North at Sandal, and the continuation of the Scottish war both favored northern retainers. By the time Richard was forced to deny marriage plans with his niece because of the feared reaction of the north, the king was a prisoner of his own retinue. As Dr. Pollard had been honest about his lack of evidence for such conclusions, the audience generally chose to let his thesis pass without shredding it to pieces.

Following a paper on the Stanley family's relations with local society, Professor Charles Ross gave an excellent overview, despite his fiercely contended opening line "Edward V was murdered in the Tower July 1483." Ross examined Edward IV, Richard III, and Henry VII in terms of their relations with the aristocracy. Under the first Yorkist king, the aristocracy gained in power due to Edward's numerous creations and generous gifts. Richard III was overly dependent upon four nobles (Buckingham, Norfolk, Percy, Stanley), and although most magnates turned up on Bosworth Field, Ross doubts their enthusiasm. Henry VII came to the throne with little aristocratic backing. He was assisted in the mastery of the class by its apathy for continued warfare, successfully controlling them by use of punitive bonds and threatened land confiscations. Ross suggested that Richard might have been as successful with the nobility, had he had more time on the throne and had not been suspected of his nephews' murders. Several other conferences are planned in England over the next two years, but few promise to be as hostile as Manchester!

In the works: Geo magazine, a fairly new publication in the U.S., heavy on beautiful color photos, is planning an article on Richard III for 1983 or later. The author, Anthony Astrachan, spent the past 3 weeks in England, visiting various sites of Ricardian interest and interviewing everyone from Ross to Jeremy Potter to the warden of Bosworth Field. The article will be worth watching for.

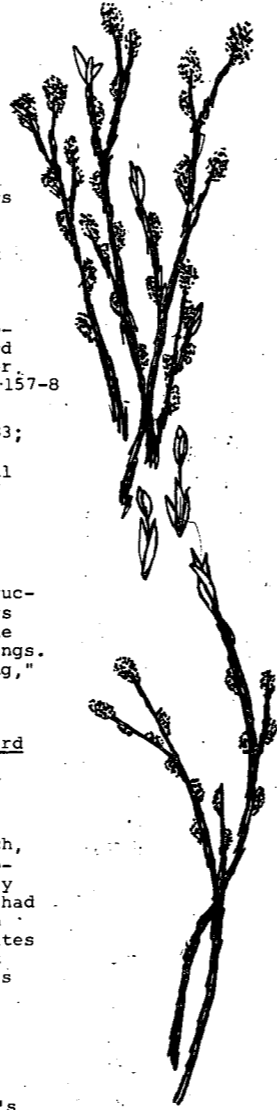
With all best wishes,

Lorraine Attreed



Answers to Fifteenth Century Quizzical

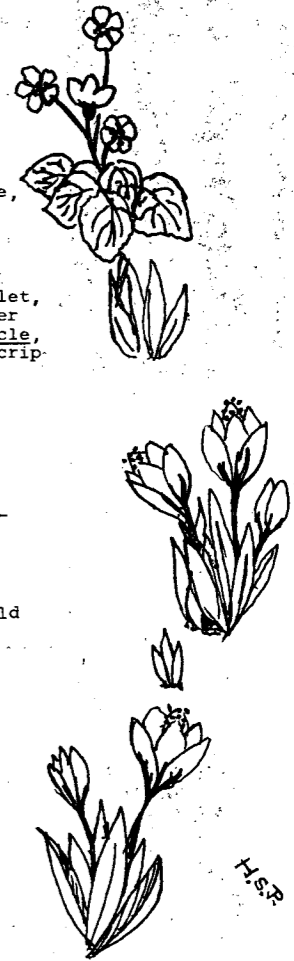
- 1) John, Lord Clifford, "said" this to Edmund, Richard's elder brother, as he slew him, Dec. 21, 1460, near Sandal Castle, after the (probably) truce-breaking attack by the Lancastrians during which Richard, Duke of York and the Earl of Salisbury were also slain. (Hall's Chronicle, ed. Henry Ellis, London, 1809, pp. 250-51). Kendall remarks (Richard III) "Clifford probably never said this, but he undoubtedly thought it."
- 2) Edward IV is reported to have said this to his mother the Duchess when she pointed out Elizabeth Woodville's unsuitability to be his bride and queen (Thomas More, The History of King Richard III, Ed. R.S. Sylvester, Yale University Press, New Haven and London, 1964, p. 64.) The Duchess had called the marriage "bigamy" (p.63) because of Elizabeth's widowhood and children. Again, More was't there, or even born, when this alleged conversation took place.
- 3) Letter from Sir John Paston to his son John, 6 Nov. 1473. The brothers were apparently still quarreling over the Neville lands--and others. Note that Sir John is quite even-handed in reporting the quarrel, but adds that some think some treason may be intended, and this could only be on the part of George (there are no existant documents indicating that Edward ever distrusted Richard), though he doesn't say so. It may have been that George had turned his coat so often, that whenever he quarreled with one of his Yorkist brothers, some men automatically thought "treason." (Clarence had already agreed that Richard might marry Anne, but that he would "part no Livelode."--Paston Letter 1471) Paston Letters, Ed. Harrington, Everyman's Library, 1967, 2, pp.157-8
- 4) The only direct quotation (which doesn't make it an accurate one) in all of Mancini's Usurpation of Richard III, written before 1 Dec. 1483; (Ed. C.A.J. Armstrong, Second Edition, Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1969). This is Anthony Woodville, manipulating the Council before the arrival in London of Richard with Edward, Prince of Wales, after the death of Edward IV.
- 5) This was written on a spare piece of paper in a memoranda book by George Cely, a wool merchant, whose source appears to have been Sir John Weston, Prior of the order of St. John in England. The repeated use of the word "trouble" and the odd, fragmented sentence structure would indicate that the writer was himself troubled. The jottings were apparently not intended for circulation, but simply represent the sort of rumors current in London immediately after the death of Hastings. The two clerics dead, as well as Hastings himself. The two boys ("King," "prince") dead or troubled, Gloucester in peril; Northumberland perhaps dead; Howard slain--both the sentence structure and the message lead to endless speculation, but they were in any case not written by a man at ease with his world. Quoted in A. Hanham, Richard the Third and His Early Historians from P.R.O. S.C. 53/19; also appears in Cely Papers, Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1975. Kendall refers to it only in a footnote as being too enigmatically written for interpretation.
- 6) A description of Richard in his early days as king, written by Dr. Thomas Langton, Bishop of St. David's, to the Prior of Christ's Church, September, 1483. (Christ Church Letters, Ed. J.R. Sheppard, Camden Society, 1877, p.64. Quoted Kendall p. 303; Hanham p. 50). Hanham really tore this one apart: 1) Langton was in line for a fat promotion, and had just received one, and 2) after the quoted part, he lapses into Latin which she admits is virtually unintelligible, but tentatively translates as "Sensual pleasure holds sway to an increasing extent, but I do not consider that this detracts from what I have said." As usual, Hanham's additional observations lead to a great furor.
- 7) Part of Richard's grim but amusing answer to a casual acknowledgement from Louis XI that he (Richard) had become king. Quoted by Kendall (p. 306-7) from Original Letters, Ed. Henry Ellis, 3 series, London, 1817, series 2, f. 237.
- 8) Sent from Lincoln on October 12, 1483 to Chancellor Russell, Richard's appendage to a dictation concerning preparations for resisting the Buckingham rebellion. Written with his own hand, it shows his horror and fury at Buckingham, both in the handwriting and the words. Also, that his prose wasn't bad. (Photographed in Ross, Richard III, facing page 75).



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- 9) An insertion made by Richard himself (Kendall, pp. 342-43) in a confining and taxing law proposed by the Commons, "Touching the Merchants of Italy," during his parliament, Jan 15-Feb. 20, 1484. The spirit of the Ricardian proposal is completely opposite from the typical law governing the treatment of foreigners dwelling in England, and seems to me to show enormous consciousness of the importance of the printed word.
- 10) Richard's letter to Chancellor Russell (undated--should probably have come 3 or 4 numbers earlier in this quiz) concerning Elizabeth Shore's marriage with Thomas Lynom. Although Ricardians have always found it amusing and compassionate, until recently, others have pointed to it as an example of cruelty: "You see- he's threatening Lynom, should he actually marry poor Jane." Since we now know (Nicolas Barker, "The Real Jane Shore," Etoniana 125, June 4, 1972) that they did marry, and Lynom wasn't punished, it is very tempting to say, "So there."
- 11) Colyngbourne's couplet, fastened to the door of St. Paul's, July 18, 1484. Sounds like a Chicago gang: William Catesby, Sir Richard Ratcliffe, and Francis Lovell, whom Colyngbourne calls "dog" because of his cognizance of a running hound, and Richard, who is referred to by his own cognizance, changed a bit to fit the rhyme.
- 12) However, on July 10, Colyngbourne had already attempted to send a newsy and treasonous message to Henry Tudor, and for this crime, not the couplet, he was convicted of treason, and was hanged, drawn and quartered on Tower Hill, where, just before he died, he issued by Fabyan, the Great Chronicle, and others, to have uttered these understated words. For a detailed description of Colyngbourne's death, and the point at which he uttered these words, see any good, detailed work of Ricardian fiction--there must be at least two.
- 13) Sir George Buck's reconstruction of the gist of Elizabeth of York's letter to John Howard, Duke of Norfolk, concerning a marriage with her uncle, Richard III (The History of King Richard the Third, Ed. A.N. Kincaid, Sutton, 1979, p. 191). Since Kincaid's reconstruction of the original Buck, the existence of the letter has gained some credence, because of stylistic corrections and the circumstantial likelihood of its having completely disappeared--without never having existed. Although Buck's absolute honesty is not a strong point, one is struck by the difference between the contents of this letter and literally everything else he showed an interest in. It's just not the kind of thing Buck would have thought of inventing--besides: to what end?
- 14) Richard's famous "epitaph" as written by the York City Council, August 23, 1485; which became part of the York Municipal Records and was thus preserved for us. "Norfolk" was substituted for "Northumberland," to keep the peace; the Council was, in fact, at that very moment, writing a letter to the Earl of Northumberland, asking, in effect, "What should we do now?" (Extracts from the Municipal Records of the City of York during the reigns of Edward IV, Edward V, and Richard III, Ed. Robert Davies, London, Nichols and Son, 1843, pp. 218-219).
- 15) From the same York Records, May 19, 1491, pp. 220, 221. This was John Payntor's testimony of the evil words Schoolmaster Burton uttered in a drunken quarrel the two of them had had. For his part, Burton said Payntor had said the Earl of Northumberland had died a traitor to "our sovereign the King (Richard)." Both men probably told the truth of the argument, though it was later glossed over by the Pryor of Bolton, a witness, trying to keep the peace. (Northumberland had been murdered by the common people of Yorkshire when he went unwillingly at Henry VII's command to collect a large tax Henry had exacted and put down the rebelliousness the demand had stirred. Thus only in the records was the peace kept.)

Corrections and amendments are welcomed. What, no quotes from Croyland? Etc.



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