

RICARDIAN REGISTER

SUMMER, 1986

VOLUME XX, NO. 2



Margaret Pole, Countess of Salisbury; daughter to George, Duke of Clarence

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Fall Issue
August 15, 1986

Winter Issue
November 15, 1986

FROM THE EDITOR:

Dear Readers:

That the true Ricardian spirit is alive and flourishing is a fact to which I can attest with heartfelt gratitude. This is not the proper forum in which to voice individual thanks, but those who wrote the articles featured on these pages need never have 'Loyaulte Me Lie' explained to them. Under hurried, less than optimum circumstances, they rushed to the rescue of your Ricardian Register and this harried, slightly panic-stricken editor without hesitation.

All of the material in this issue was supplied by a relatively small number of people, and I can only reiterate the plea of my predecessors in asking for your help. Ideally, the Register should appeal to the widest possible range of interests, from those of the neophyte Ricardian still struggling with the intricate web of events and personalities which formed the panoply for Richard's life and times to those of the recognized expert. That criteria creates a crying demand for a much broader spectrum of contributors, be they submissions made in the form of isolated comments or fully developed articles. This is, after all, your newsletter, your quarterly, and it can only be as interesting, informative, though provoking, or even whimsical as a vast array of contributors can make it.

Having made that plea, I can only close my thoughts with the hope that the Register will bring each of you closer to the Society and your fellow Ricardians, pique your interest, and further your commitment to the cause which binds us, diverse and widely scattered as we are. If it does that, my editorial tenure, no matter what its duration, will have been a satisfying experience and a Ricardian contribution I will feel privileged to have made.

Judie C. Gall



1986-87 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD:

Robin L. Dorfman

The Richard III Society Schallek Memorial Graduate Study award has been awarded to Robin L. Dorfman. A 1985 magna cum laude graduate from Harvard, she is completing her Master at the Centre for Medieval Studies at the University of York in England. Her dissertation is on "The Effects of the Lancastrian Usurpation on the Dean and Chapter of the York Minster."

Robin has returned to York and is using York and its resources, including the Mystery Play cycles, the art of the Middle Ages, the stained glass window in York Minster and manuscripts from the period. It is to be hoped that when Miss Dorfman finishes her studies they will be made available to both the American and British branches of the Society.

Miss Dorman plans to continue her Doctoral studies in 1987.

A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHAIRMAN:

Dear Ricardians,

In spite of "the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune..." we are making progress:

- We were able to publish a Register after an extended sabbatical
- We have appointed a research officer who will be the collector of articles and bibliographies about Richard III and his times
- Our scholarship committee has been able to grant one scholarship of \$1,000 to an American student at the University of York, and we are planning wider publicity of our research grants for the 1986-87 academic year.
- Our finances, while not completely in order, are beginning to take shape (with a tip of the hat to our Treasurer).
- Plans are going forward for an Annual General Meeting (AGM) in San Francisco. I know I'm looking forward to seeing all of you there.
- The cause of Richard is being helped by the videotape of the trial broadcast on London Weekend Television now available in the United States
- So, from Fotheringhay to Middleham to Sherriff Hutton to Bosworth Field on to the Statue of Liberty and the Golden Gate Bridge, Richard's sword is held high by you all.

Loyaulte Me Lie,
Morris G. McGee

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Dues, grants and contributions are tax-deductable to the extent allowed by law.*

Dues are \$15.00 annually for students and \$20.00 for individuals. The membership year runs from October 2 to October 1.

Members of the American Society are also members of the English Society. All Society publications and other items for sale may be purchased either direct at U.K. member's rate or via the U.S. Society, when available. Papers may be borrowed from the English librarian, but books are not sent overseas. When a U.S. member visits the U.K., all meetings, expeditions, and other such activities are open, including the AGM. American members attending the AGM are free to cast a vote.

RICARDIAN POST

Editor:

I just received my Ricardian Register. Congratulations! As a long-time member of the Society it is really gladdening to see the first glimmer of the new.

Best wishes for future successes. It finally seems we have the opportunity to be a *Fellowship*.

Pam Giglio
Connecticut

Editor:

Just a note to tell you what a pleasure it is to see the Register again!

You and your staff have done an excellent job. Congratulations.

Richard Durant
Michigan

Editor:

I just wanted to drop you a line to congratulate you and your staff for a fine edition of the Ricardian Register. I look forward to future issues.

John Duffer
New York

Editor:

My wife just received the spring 1986 Ricardian Register. I am a professional writer and use the HP Laserjet extensively in my work, and I must admit that I was quite impressed by the production values displayed in your publication. Ms. Duplantis & Mr. Koontz are offered my congratulations.

F. Butzen
Illinois

Friends of Canterbury Cathedral
11 The Precincts
Canterbury, CTI 2EH
ENGLAND

Sirs:

I wish to thank you for the copy of the Walk Round Guide Canterbury Cathedral which you kindly forwarded to me as a member of the friends.

It is a handsomely done piece of work with exceptionally good color photography. I do however

have one caveat. You refer at the top of page 16 to the two princes who were murdered in the Tower by order of their uncle who became Richard III.

Sir Thomas More and William Shakespeare, to the contrary notwithstanding, and despite assumptions regarding the youthful skeletons unearthed from under a stair at the Tower during the reign of Charles II, the fact is that the disappearance of the two princes remains an unsolved mystery.

I do indeed hope that in any future editions of the Guide you will eliminate or correct this Tudor-ized bit of history.

Respectfully,
Charles R. Wood
Florida

The following is the reply received by Mary Miller from Edward Packard. We printed her letter to him in the Spring edition of the Register.

Dear Ms. Miller:

Your letter of January 20th reached me after some delay. I appreciate your writing and regret that there are serious historical inaccuracies in *TOWER OF LONDON* by Susan Saunders. I will pass your letter along to her with the hope that she will find it instructive. It would seem that she has unwittingly perpetuated the misconception that Richard III was an evil king, a misconception I had held myself. Actually it's a possible misconception isn't it? Your letter does admit the possibility that Richard had his nephews murdered in the Tower. In such case we might conclude that he was indeed an evil king. But I assume most scholars would agree that the case is not proven.

I would be interested to know whether you regard Shakespeare's play as historically sound.

Again, thanks for writing. It is our aim to make *Choose Your Own Adventure* educational as well as entertaining. I could cite many ways in which our books do succeed in that respect. I'm sorry if we have in this instance fallen down.

Yours,
Edward Packard
METABOOKS, Inc.
Sayre's Path, Box 720
Wainscott, NY 11975

MARGARET, COUNTESS OF SALISBURY: A VERY HONORABLE AND VIRTUOUS LADY, IF THERE BE ONE IN ENGLAND

At about seven o'clock on the morning of May 28, 1542^{**}, Margaret Pole, Countess of Salisbury, was "beheaded in a corner of the Tower, in the presence of so few people that until evening the truth was still doubted. It was more difficult to believe as she had been long prisoner, was of noble lineage, above 80 years old, and had been punished by the loss of one son, and banishment of the other, and the total ruin of her house - the manner of proceeding in her case - seems to argue that those here are afraid to put to death publicly those whom they execute in secret."¹

With the death of Margaret of Salisbury the last direct heir to the house of the Plantagenets was gone. Her death, at the age of 67², saw the results of the Tudor extermination policy. Rival heirs to the throne were viewed as threats to Tudor stability and were dealt with in a quick and decisive manner. Margaret's death was merely one in a succession of judicial executions designed to rid the Tudor monarchy of possible political conspirators and dissenters.

Henry Tudor, who became Henry VII, grew up during the so-called Wars of the Roses³. When the throne fell to Richard III, Henry decided to press his claim by combat. On August 22, 1485, he defeated Richard III at Bosworth Field and became the first of the Tudor monarchs. His claim to the throne was tenuous, to say the least. Through his mother (Margaret Beaufort), his claim went back to Edward III through his son, John of Gaunt, and Gaunt's mistress (who later became his third wife), Katherine Swynford. This line was later legitimized by Richard II with the understanding that none of its descendants would claim the right of succession. On his father's side, Henry descended from Katherine of Valois, the widow of Henry V, and a Welshman, Owen Tudor⁴, which did not, in actuality, reinforce his claim. Upon winning the throne, Henry attempted to secure his position by marrying the Yorkist heiress, Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Edward IV.

Henry learned soon after gaining the crown that it was not secure. Almost immediately rebellions started with rival heirs to the throne, the most important being the cases of Lambert Simnel and Perkin Warbeck. Lambert Simnel claimed to be Edward, Earl of Warwick, who was the son of George, Duke of Clarence (hence, Margaret of Salisbury's brother). Simnel was supported by John de la Pole, Earl of Lincoln, who was the eldest son of Edward IV's sister Elizabeth, and was himself another claimant to the throne. The rebellion ended at the battle of Stoke, June 16, 1487, when Simnel was captured and Lincoln was killed, thus ridding Henry VII of one real and one false claimant to the throne. The Perkin Warbeck rebellion lasted from approximately 1491 - 1499, and involved Ireland, France, The Netherlands and Scotland. Warbeck claimed to be the Earl of Warwick, originally, but later changed his mind and impersonated, instead, one of the "Princes in the Tower", Richard, Duke of York. The end result to the Warbeck rebellion was the execution of the real Earl of Warwick, who had been in the Tower since 1485. Also executed was Sir William Stanley, a surprise supporter of the rebellion, who was Henry's Chamberlain of the Household as well as his uncle by marriage. Henry had rid himself of another potential rival for the throne. Clearly, the throne was not secure; even those close to the King were open to rebellion. It is most assuredly this, combined with Henry's tenuous claim and the existence of so many rival claimants, that led to the Tudor policy of executing other heirs to the throne. "It is obvious that Tudor reasons of state demanded and obtained far more numerous blood-sacrifices than the Yorkist version did."⁵

It was in the midst of these rebellions that Margaret, daughter of George, Duke of Clarence, niece to Edward IV and Richard III, married Sir Richard Pole.⁶ Pole served Henry well during the various uprisings, at one point raising arms against Perkin Warbeck. As a reward he was appointed a squire of Henry's bodyguard, Knight of the Garter, and a few other positions. By 1500 he had been promoted to Chief Gentleman of the Bedchamber to Prince Arthur. Both Margaret and Richard had places at court. While Richard's loyalty to the King helped to further their interests, Margaret's bloodline was also respected. When Richard Pole died in 1505, his wife Margaret, left with five children, stepped into the background. She emerged again upon Henry VIII's ascent to the throne.

MARGARET, COUNTESS OF SALISBURY (CONTINUED)

Margaret had already become friends with Catherine of Aragon when Richard had been Prince Arthur's Chamberlain. With Catherine's help and influence, Margaret's position at court improved until she was granted the title of Countess of Salisbury, and was given all of the lands which had once been part of her family's possessions. The attainder against her brother, the late Earl of Warwick, was reversed and full restitution was made to her of the rights of her family. The grant read: "Margaret Pole, sister of Edward late Earl of Warwick and Salisbury. Grant to her and her heirs forever, of the possessions of Richard, late Earl of Salisbury, her grandfather, son and heir of Alice, Countess of Salisbury, and husband of Anne, Countess of Warwick, which came into Henry VII's hands by the attainder of the said Edward."

The large Salisbury estate, comprised of lands primarily in Hampshire, Wiltshire, the western counties and Essex, improved Margaret's circumstances but would ultimately create severe trouble. Though Margaret kept a modest court, mainly entertaining later as Princess Mary's governess, hers was an expensive position to keep up -- feasts and fetes could require hundreds of servants, not to mention the cost of the food and the entertainment. A position at court was as much a social as political one: the Duke of Buckingham in 1509 gave a Twelfth Night celebration with a feast for over five hundred at dinner and four hundred at supper.⁸ Not only was a position at court expensive, but if you were of royal blood it could be dangerous. Buckingham discovered this when he was executed in 1521, as his grandson also discovered, when he, too, was executed after the reign of Henry VIII.

Margaret of Salisbury held a position which proved to be stable until Henry VIII divorced Catherine of Aragon. Margaret's friendship with the Queen, which had begun when Catherine was married to Prince Arthur, continued to grow throughout her marriage to Henry. Catherine would often mention Margaret in her letters to Mary. In one poignant letter, written during Catherine's downfall, she asked Mary to "recommend me unto my good lady of Salisbury, and pray her to have a good heart, for we never come to the Kingdom of Heaven but by troubles."⁹ And both Margaret and Catherine had their troubles. By the time Catherine and Mary were sent from court, Margaret was a loyal servant to them both. As governess, she had control over Mary's household, as well as her upbringing and her education. It was a position entrusted to her by Catherine early in their relationship; because of it Margaret would have many occasions to prove her loyalty. Margaret often served as intermediary between Mary and her father, King Henry. On one occasion, Anne Boleyn decided that she wanted Mary's jewels. Thomas Cromwell wrote to his representative, Lord Husey at Beaulieu ordering him to get the jewels from Margaret. He replied to Cromwell that Margaret refused to give up the jewels "unless you (Cromwell) obtain the King's letters to her on this behalf. Would to God that the King and you did not know what I have had to do here of late."¹⁰ Margaret was causing trouble for Cromwell and Lord Husey while showing her staunch loyalty to Mary.

A week later Henry *did* request the plate from Princess Mary but Lord Husey was unable to find it in Mary's coffers. Husey then asked Margaret whether she knew the whereabouts of the plate; Margaret responded that she did have it but "it is occupied at all such seasons as the Princess is diseased, and cannot conveniently be spared."¹¹ Margaret added, though, that if he (Henry) *really* wanted to take the needed plate from his ill daughter that she was ready to obey the King's pleasure. It is not surprising that these actions were unfavorable in Henry's eyes. She was fiercely loyal to Catherine, Mary, and the throne -- in that order. Margaret remained loyal to Mary even when dismissed from her post as governess; she then offered to follow Mary at her own cost. Chapuys viewed their separation as a part of Henry's plan to rid himself of Mary: "Mary's governess, daughter of the late Duke of Clarence and the King's near relative -- a very honorable and virtuous lady, if there be one in England -- offered, I hear, to serve the Princess at her own cost, with a good and honorable train of servants, but her offers were not accepted: nor will they ever be, for were the said lady remain by the Princess they would no longer be able to execute their bad designs, which are evidently either to cause her to die of grief or in some other way, or else compel her to renounce her rights, marry some low fellow, or let her fall prey to lust, so that they may have a pretext and excuse for disinheriting her and submitting her to all manner of bad treatment."¹² Chapuys surely had a high regard for Margaret if he believed that her presence could have prevented Mary from coming to such harm or succumbing to vice.

Margaret's presence must have greatly annoyed Henry, but it was not just her loyalty to

MARGARET, COUNTESS OF SALISBURY (CONTINUED)

Catherine that made her a nuisance - there were many other political factors which led to her downfall and execution. Margaret of Salisbury was the daughter of George, Duke of Clarence and Isabele Neville, the daughter of the Earl of Warwick, called the "Kingmaker". She was niece to both Edward IV and Richard III and was in fact, first cousin to Henry VII's wife, Elizabeth of York. Her relationship to Edward III was stronger than Henry Tudor's, and of unquestionable legitimacy. When her father had been executed by Edward IV, an attainder had been brought against his children, Edward, Earl of Warwick and Margaret. But even though there was the exclusion by attainder, their claim to the throne was still stronger than the Tudors'. Henry VII realized this, executed Warwick in 1499, and married Margaret to a loyal minor nobleman. Margaret's position at this time was quite safe and virtually ignored. It was only with the ascension of Henry VIII, and when Catherine of Aragon became Queen, that the attainder was removed. As Margaret's status rose, her position became more dangerous.

In the time of the later Plantagenets -- the Yorkist kings -- it was, more often than not, the great magnates who caused the uprisings. John of Gaunt had enough power to hold the throne for his nephew Richard II - or lose it for him, when he failed to give him his support, or eventually died. He was a great and powerful magnate. Margaret's grandfather, the Earl of Warwick, was called the "Kingmaker" because the power that he wielded was enough to control the throne (as Edward IV discovered: after he won the throne, Warwick switched sides and Edward had to fight to regain it.) During the upheavals of the Wars of the Roses and the conclusion at Bosworth, there was a great transition of power, by the time Henry VII became king most of these mighty magnates were dead or had lost much of their power. The greatest magnate at that time was Richard III himself, who was the heir to the Yorkist lands and many of the so-called Lancastrian lands. By marrying Warwick's daughter, Anne, he was also heir to the Neville power, so that his death at Bosworth left a number of properties and titles open for Henry VII to reclaim and redistribute. Henry VII, though, ruled differently. He was not a wide distributor of patronage; men had to work for and earn any rewards. Henry did not make the mistake of building up new magnates who could rebel and topple the throne.

The result of Henry VII's reign was a country that was much more politically and economically sound than the England of the Yorkist kings. When Henry VIII became king the structure altered. Henry VIII was not adverse to greater patronage; Margaret's lavish grant of the Salisbury estates is a good example. Henry VIII's England afforded the chance to rise in the social structure. Wolsey, Cromwell, and Cranmer discovered that they could become the most powerful men in the country despite their lack of royal blood or large estates. But Henry changed his favor quickly and spasmodically, as they also found out. Wolsey died alone and penniless; he had won his position and paid the price of losing it. Cromwell brought about the downfall of many men and women, Margaret of Salisbury, to mention one; but he himself was executed due to incurring the King's displeasure. So as one's position rose, so did the danger of having a position. Margaret of Salisbury is the unfortunate victim of the dangers of power. Not only did she have an exalted position and was of better royal lineage than the King, but her children also had high and equally dangerous positions, and, of course, the same bloodline.

Henry, Lord Montague, was the eldest son of Margaret of Salisbury. Like his mother he was not exempt from incurring Henry's displeasure. In 1521 the Duke of Buckingham was put into the Tower and executed for treason. Montague, who was Buckingham's friend and dicing partner, was also put into the Tower for a while. Arthur, Margaret's second son, was expelled from court and Margaret herself was relieved from her position as Mary's governess. Though all three of these punishments were fairly minor and did not last long, they illustrate the precariousness of the Pole family's position. Montague was merely a friend of Buckingham, not implicated in the treason; nevertheless, action was taken immediately. The Poles had too much royal blood to be ignored.

It was the behavior, though, of Margaret's third son which ultimately caused the greatest harm and lead to the downfall of the family. Reginald Pole had at one time been a protege-in-type of Henry VIII. He had been educated early in his life by the Carthusians at Sheen, and Henry VIII have made a grant towards his maintenance. Pole matriculated as a nobleman at Magdalen College, Oxford, and in order to finance his education, Henry VIII commanded the Prior of St. Frideswide to provide a pension until a benefice could be found for him. Henry was interested in Pole's views and followed his development. In 1531 Reginald Pole was invited to speak to

MARGARET, COUNTESS OF SALISBURY (CONTINUED)

the King about the question of the validity of Henry VIII's and Catherine of Aragon's marriage. He had expressed a favorable position with tactful diplomacy and Henry looked forward to further support from his cousin. Reginald went to York Place and the two had an interview which resulted in a disagreement and Henry's displeasure. It was seven or eight months later when Reginald was finally allowed to return abroad to continue his studies.

In 1535 Henry commanded Reginald to give his opinion about the marriage question and also the primacy of the Pope. Though Pole was told to be honest and impartial when he wrote his opinion, it was always implied with Henry VIII that what he really wanted was support of his own views, which should be written in a tactful if not a flattering manner. In May 1535 Reginald Pole's work "Pro Ecclesiasticae unitatis defensione" was completed, and the outrage began. It was intended by Henry to be a work supportive of his reign but turned out to be a direct attack on his personal, political and religious views. It was a "vigorous attack on the royal supremacy and as vigorous a defence of the papal primacy"¹³ and did not serve to endear Reginald nor the rest of the Pole family or Henry. Henry VIII in his wrath openly looked upon the Poles as hostages, "a system peculiarly congenial to Henry. He openly looked upon the mother and brother of Reginald Pole . . . as hostages for his good behavior. When he defied the King it was only Henry's extreme benignity which prevented him from ordering the Cardinal's relations to instant execution."¹⁴

If Buckingham's connection to Montague had caused Montague to be put in the Tower in 1521, imagine the results of Reginald's actions. The Poles became foremost in the mind of Henry VIII and he watched them closely. In December 1536 Reginald Pole, ignoring the family's request to do otherwise, accepted the Cardinal's Hat. This action further alienated him from Henry and the King's new views on the position of the Church. Reginald wrote to Margaret in 1536, saying that he had to first serve God, and that she had given him to the Lord as a child, and the Lord would provide for him. Because of this he felt he must follow his conscience about Henry and the Church as he had only one Lord first.¹⁵ Margaret's reply was the reaction of a woman wise in the ways of diplomacy and aware of her tenuous position at court and the aggravation caused by her son's actions: "Son Reginald, I send you God's blessing and mine, though my trust to have comfort in you is turned to sorrow. Alas, that I, for your folly, should receive from my sovereign lord such message as I have late done by your brother. To me as a woman his Highness has shown such mercy and pity as I could never deserve, but that I trusted my children's services would express my duty. And not to see you in his Grace's indignation, trust me, Reginald, there went never the death of thy father or of any child so nigh my heart. Upon my blessing I charge thee to take another way and serve our master, as thy duty is, unless thou wilt be the confusion of thy mother. You write of a promise made to you by God. Son, that was to serve God and thy prince, whom if thou do not serve with all thy wit, with all thy power, I know thou cannot please God. For who hath brought you up and maintenance you to learning but his Highness? Will pray God to give him grace to serve his prince truly or else take him to his mercy."¹⁶ It was a wise, diplomatic letter which attempted to reinstate Margaret's former favorable position. One wonders, though, whether it was primarily written for the King and his council, who also read it, or whether she really meant it for Reginald. Whatever the case may be, her position was plain. Margaret needed to subdue Reginald's actions before he incurred too much of Henry's anger and thereby caused the downfall of the whole family.

Starkey also attempted to help the family and wrote to Cromwell complaining about Reginald. "No man is more disappointed than I -- nor his own mother, who now repents having brought him into light, nor yet his most dear brother, who, by his act is deprived of a great comfort of his life."¹⁷ Reginald Pole himself in a letter to Cardinal Contarini, said that he was almost moved by the letters from home to reverse his position, but that he was persuaded by two bishops to stand by what he had said and so he would remain strong in his beliefs no matter what others might say.¹⁸ With Reginald Pole's obstinate refusal to change his views and his continually public stance of opposition to Henry and Henry's views on the church, the Poles' position in England became dangerously precarious.

Margaret of Salisbury's royal bloodline, her animosity toward Anne Boleyn and staunch support of Catherine of Aragon and Princess Mary during Anne Boleyn's period of favor, and her son's persistent opposition to Henry VIII all combined to cause the Pole family's downfall. From 1537 onward, the destruction of the family became imminent. In 1538 Castillon wrote to Mont-

MARGARET, COUNTESS OF SALISBURY (CONTINUED)

morency in France, describing the Pole family's situation. He said that Montague had been put into the Tower of London and that "quite a long time ago the King said he wanted to exterminate this family who is still of the White Rose and of the family Pole, which is the Cardinal's family - I doubt anything will come out of this except trouble and I'll let you know the minute I have anything further."¹⁹ The significance of this document could be extraordinary or minute, depending upon the accuracy of Castillon's statement. If Henry said, before any of the trouble started with Reginald, that he wished to destroy the Pole family, then perhaps his anger over the issue was merely a front to rid himself of these rivals who were "still of the White Rose". The Yorkist-Lancastrian tensions must then still have been present.

During the Buckingham treason in 1521 Margaret was not under suspicion "on account of her noble birth and virtues."²⁰ Also, when Henry sent instruction to Margaret concerning the upbringing of Mary, he asked her to be careful to raise Mary "according to the singular confidence that the King's Highness hath in her."²¹ But by 1535 and the downfall of Catherine of Aragon, Henry's opinion of Margaret had changed. In a letter from Chapuys to Charles V, we are told that Chapuys requested that Mary at least be put under the care of her old governess, "the Countess of Salisbury, whom she (Mary) regarded as her second mother. He (Henry VIII) replied that the Countess was a fool, of no experience, and that if his daughter had been under her care during this illness she would have died, for she would not have known what to do, whereas her present governess is an expert lady even in such female complaints."²² Whether this comment was inspired by hatred for Margaret or by loyalty to his new wife, Anne Boleyn, and her family is not certain -- but Margaret obviously was out of favor.

On October 26, 1538, Geoffrey Pole, Margaret's youngest son, was arrested. Geoffrey was the most mercurial and least diplomatic member of the family, and, unfortunately, the one most likely to talk. He was "examined" from October 26th to November 12th, during which time he attempted to commit suicide.²³ Failing at that, he chose to cooperate with his inquisitors. Geoffrey Pole said enough about his family, excepting his mother, to provoke the arrest and examination of them all.

On November 13, 1538, Margaret's examination began. She was questioned about Reginald, and whether he had ever "opened his mind to her, saying he like not the proceeding of this realm and for that reason would go beyond sea." Margaret denied having heard anything "touching any statutes or proceeding of the King." She was asked whether her son Geoffrey ever told her that the King had ordered the death of Reginald. She said that he did, and she "prayed God heartily to change the King's mind." She was further asked who told her that the Cardinal had escaped the danger and she replied, "Both sons, and for motherly pity she could not but rejoice."²⁴ Though Margaret did not know it, her motherly rejoicing would be used against her in the evidence for her attainder.

On December 9, 1538, Margaret's oldest son Montague and his cousin the Marquis of Exeter were executed for treason. The Marchioness of Exeter was put in the Tower (but later pardoned), and her young son, Edward Courtenay, was also taken. He remained a prisoner until the accession of Mary. Montague's young son and heir was imprisoned in the Tower and disappeared without ever being heard from again.

Margaret's examination continued, but it seemed as though the examiners were having as difficult a time as the examined. In a letter from Southampton to Cromwell we find that Margaret held steadfastly to her beliefs. "We then entreated her with both sorts, sometimes with doulx and mild words, now roughly and asperly by traitoring her and her sons to the ninth degree, yet wolle she nothing utter, but maketh herself clear -- denying everything, and saying that if anything she has denied can be proved, she is content to blame in the rest of all the articles laid against her. Surely if it like your lordship, we suppose that there hath not seen or heard of a woman so earnest - and so precise as well in gesture as in words, that wonder is the be seen. For in her answer and declaration she behaveth herself so, and so (convinced that) all things sincere, pure and upright on her part that we have conveyed and needs must deem and think the tone of (all) things in the that either her sons have not made her privy nor participant of the bottom and pit of their stomachs, or else is the the most

MARGARET, COUNTESS OF SALISBURY (CONTINUED)

errant traitoress that ever lived."²⁵ These words are a testimonial to Margaret of Salisbury: she took a strong, courageous stand and denied everything, almost defecating her vicious examiners. Unfortunately, Margaret's bravery and defiance could not save her.

Transferred from Warblington (her home) to Cowdray in Sussex, which belonged to the Earl of Southampton, she was ill-treated by the Earl and his wife. They refused, at first, to see her; and when Southampton finally did visit, he said that he and his wife could not find it in their hearts to see her when "that arrant whoreson traitor, her son the Cardinal, went about from prince to prince to work trouble to the King and realm." Margaret replied with her usual sharpness that, though she grieved for her son's behaving so, "he was no whoreson, for she was both a good woman and true." Southampton requested that Cromwell "rid me of her company, for she is both changeable and troubleth my mind."²⁶ Shortly thereafter, Cromwell had Margaret moved to the Tower, where she was to remain until her death.

Margaret of Salisbury's death stands out in history as one of peculiar inconsistencies. Left in the Tower for two years with minimal food and clothing, Margaret never stood trial nor was she allowed to plead her defense. Nevertheless, she was convicted of treason by attainder. It was supposed, at one time, that she might be released, until a rebellion broke out in the North in April, 1541 -- a conspiracy of Yorkshiremen who attempted to raise the country against the tyranny of the King. The rebellion failed, and about 60 men were executed. Henry must have found the rebellion a convenient excuse; under the guise of a warning to others of old faith that he would tolerate no interference, he had Margaret executed at the same time as some of the conspirators. It appears to have been a quick decision on Henry's part: the Privy Council did not sit on May 27, 28, 29, or 30. On the 27th the household of the King and Queen moved to Westminster and Eltham, and when the Privy Council finally did meet on the 31st, no business was recorded.

It was, of course, allowable for Henry to have her executed under the act of attainder without discussion in the Privy Council. But it is odd that the orders must have been given while the court was in progress (i.e., on the move). Even Margaret herself was confused by the sentence as she had not been forewarned of it and was given no time to prepare. According to the account by Chapuys, not even the Tower was prepared. "About the same time (as the execution of conspirators in the North) took place the lamentable execution of the Countess of Salisbury at the Tower in presence of the Lord Mayor and about 150 persons. When informed of her sentence she found it very strong, not knowing her crime; but she walked to the space in front of the Tower, where there was no scaffold but only a small block. She there commended her soul to God, and desired those present to pray for the King, Queen, Prince, and Princess. The ordinary executioner being absent, a blundering 'garconneau' was chosen, who hacked her head and shoulders to pieces."²⁷ It seems to have been a spur of the moment execution. Also, according to Chapuys and Marillac, there were rumors that this was just the beginning of a plan to clear the Tower of prisoners.

Margaret, Countess of Salisbury, one of the highest claimants to the throne (although she had never pressed her claim), was executed. The reasons abound, but underlying the problems with Reginald and possible involvement in the Yorkshire rebellion was the King's fear of her Plantagenet bloodline. "There is no evidence to show that any of these members of the royal race, but for the Earl of Lincoln, went to any great lengths to deprive the Tudors of their possession of the crown, but their existence easily bred rumors which the Tudors could not, in the light of their own usurpation, afford to ignore."²⁸

The fear of legitimate royal lineage appears to have been the driving force behind the Tudors' methodical extermination of all Plantagenet heirs to the throne. Margaret of Salisbury is the prime example: having once earned the King's favor and risen high in social position, only to fall when troubles arose, brutally executed in her old age. Henry VIII was reported to have expressed his intention to exterminate the entire Pole family - this indicates that it was not the individuals, but the family bloodline which he despised, and which ultimately was responsible for their deaths. There were many other heirs to the throne; their fates must be examined, also, to determine whether the seeming trend was a Tudor plan or merely a series of random executions for various unconnected reasons.

MARGARET, COUNTESS OF SALISBURY (CONTINUED)

First, Margaret's family: she was executed at the age of 67 by Henry VIII. Her brother Edward, the Earl of Warwick, was executed by 1499 by Henry VII. Her son Montague was executed, along with their cousin the Marquis of Exeter, in 1538. Geoffrey was released, only to spend the rest of his days wandering half-mad through Europe, grieving over the downfall of his family. Reginald remained in exile until the reign of Mary I, when he was allowed to return. It is not known what became of Arthur. Margaret's daughter Ursula survived, but her son was later executed. Montague's heir was put into the Tower and never heard from again. Two of Geoffrey's children were executed during the reign of Elizabeth I. The Marquis of Exeter's family fared only a little better: his son was left in prison until the reign of Mary I (at which time he was released and created the Earl of Devon) and Exeter's wife, who had no royal blood was, oddly, released and pardoned by Henry VIII. Surrey was executed for treason, as were Buckingham and Edmund de la Pole, Earl of Suffolk. Arthur Plantagenet, Lord Lisle, believed to be Edward IV's illegitimate son, was also executed. William de la Pole had been put into the Tower by Henry VII, and left there to die.

There seems to have been some trimming of extraneous branches of the Tudor family tree as well. Of the three children with issue of Henry VII: Henry VIII's line became monarchs, but were careful of their position - Elizabeth, especially, learned to play the political game well and bide her time. Of Mary (sister of Henry VIII) Tudor's line, her granddaughter, Lady Jane Grey, was executed by Mary I for attempting to usurp the throne, and Jane's father, the great-grandson of Elizabeth Woodville by her first marriage, also was executed for treason. Jane's sisters later spent time in the Tower for displeasing Elizabeth I. Margaret Tudor's granddaughter, Mary Queen of Scots, was executed in 1588 by Elizabeth I because she had dared to press her claim to the throne. Margaret Tudor's great-grandson, James, survived to inherit both the Scottish and English crowns.

Was it Tudor policy to eliminate those with claims to the throne? There are too many instances of heirs who were executed or disappeared to attribute their fates to mere coincidence. M. L. Bush, in the article The Tudors and the Royal Race²⁹ argues that although there was the elimination of the 'royal race', the evidence indicates that it was not deliberate Tudor policy. He says that Tudor policy was "one of not being squeamish about acting with severity when blatant defection seemed to occur, and of continually seeking to limit the independent power of princes as magnates and also, perhaps, in cases of defection, of reducing their rank as noblemen when they were forgiven."³⁰ While this is an attempt at a fair analytical theory, I do not believe that the evidence supports it. Granted, treasonous activities were reason enough to execute anyone, whether or not he/she were of royal blood. But the Earl of Warwick had personally committed no treasonous act - he had spent the entire reign of Henry VII in the Tower³¹, until his execution in 1499. His name had been used as the focal point for various uprisings, the Lambert Simnel affair in particular, but he had not been involved. Warwick was reported to be mentally slow and thus could not logically be seen as the head of a complicated treasonous plot. Of course, in the days of Tudor uncertainty, merely to be the focus of a rebellion (with or without one's knowledge or consent) was sufficient cause for execution³².

The evidence continues, against Bush's theory. There was no case against Montague's son and heir; he was very young and had not been the focus for any rebellion. But he was of strong Yorkist blood, and his relatives had been executed for treason. He disappeared into the Tower, and was most probably murdered there. Another heir silently eliminated?³³ Consider, too, that interesting comment by Henry VII to the French ambassador that he planned to eliminate the entire house of Pole because they were Yorkists. Chrimmes, in his work Henry VII, notes that "merely to be a de la Pole was fatal in the reign of Henry VII's heirs, as many of the family discovered when the only surviving male Tudor ruthlessly sought to extinguish the White Rose forever." Bush does point out that many Yorkist heirs caused their own downfall by acting unwisely, though some were undone just by being related to a traitor. Edmund de la Pole fled the country on two occasions, making him seem suspicious in Tudor eyes. Buckingham tactlessly requested the right to retain troops, and had been heard to say (without the support of men for a rebellion) that he planned to kill the King. Montague's fault was blatantly voicing his dislike of the government of the 1530's, and Exeter caused his own execution, according to Bush, by singing political songs of a subversive nature in his garden. Also, the actions of de la Pole's brother, Richard, who died fighting for Francis I at Pavia, and of Montague's

MARGARET, COUNTESS OF SALISBURY (CONTINUED)

brother, Reginald Pole, partly condemned them. "In these circumstances, which were made all the more explosive by the reformation, the crown found it difficult to avoid spilling royal blood."³⁴

Of course, the Tudor crown did not try to avoid spilling Yorkist royal blood but, as we have seen, made it a policy to exterminate rival heirs to the throne. They had many justifications for such a policy. When Henry VII won the throne he had to deal with the threatening problem of constant sedition. "Eight insurrections and rebellions and three changes of dynasty in thirty years had debased the vision of kingship, making men more inclined to treason than they had been in the middle years of the century."³⁵ J. R. Lander believes that because this precedent had been set, there were more likely to be treasonous activities - Henry VIII had to assume that there would be and guard against the possibility. Also, he had no heir of mature age, as yet, which fact could only add to the likelihood of treason. He knew that it was rumored, in private, that prominent men still ignored his claim to the throne. The Simnel and Warbeck rebellions, with their scattered but by no means weak support, would suggest that the Tudor throne was not at all secure. It is easy now to view the reign of Henry VII as the beginning of a fairly long and stable Tudor dynasty, but we must remember what occurred during the years of that dynasty: the Tudors were fraught with rebellions and treasonous activities (including Mary's claim being superseded by the advent of Lady Jane Grey as Queen). Not that people were unduly loyal to the Yorkist cause, "It was rather that some people had thrived under the Yorkist regime, and, not unjustifiably, calculated they would thrive better under a restored Yorkist monarch than they would under the unknown Tudor. Nor could Henry VII, even though claiming to be the heir of Lancaster, make any great capital out of Lancastrian precedents, which can hardly have seemed very encouraging in 1485."³⁶

Henry VII had set a dangerous precedent by overthrowing Richard III. He could not push his claim as the Lancastrian heir to any great extent, tenuous as his birth was. It has been said that his was the closest thing to royal blood that the House of Lancaster possessed at that time. Henry had not been widely supported; had it not been for the last minute betrayal of some of Richard III's powerful supporters, Henry's victory may instead have turned out to be just another bothersome rebellion, much as the Earl of Lincoln's revolt in 1487 during his own reign. There is certainly no indication that Richard III, when he went to Bosworth, felt that he was dealing with a great and dangerous rival to the throne. As the most powerful magnate in England, besides being a wise and seasoned commander of troops, Richard would have had the greater advantage, and would have been almost assured of victory. Henry Tudor had lived outside of England, did not have a great following, and had no tactical experience as a commander (it was his first battle), nor was there a great commander to rely upon in his following. However, due to some shady defections in the White Rose camp, Henry squeaked through triumphant.

Having won his throne, Henry VII now tried to make it secure. He married the Yorkist heiress, Elizabeth, and put forward the propaganda of a new era - even naming his first son Arthur, to hark back to the days of Camelot! But all was not left to chance. Immediately after the battle of Bosworth, before Henry had left Leicester for London, "He dispatched Sir Robert Willoughby to Sheriff Hutton Castle to secure Warwick's person and bring him South, to be kept in custody in the Tower."³⁷ He spent the next years of his reign putting down rebellions and attempting to bring the nobility to heel. Henry did not employ a large system of patronage, as had been earlier used. His Chamberlain was Morton, who would wring money out of any source he could find.³⁸ Rewards in the court of Henry VII were hard-earned and, before any grants and patronages were given, he had to be assured of loyalty.

Nor was Henry above threats as a show of strength. He "held about three-quarters of the nobility under the terror of attainders, bonds, and recognizances."³⁹ It was this balance of threats, a strong show of arms (when needed), minor grants and hard-earned patronage that kept his throne secure. He also employed and appointed wise councillors and set up various judicial councils to deal with the ongoing problem of sedition throughout the realm. Henry often went over the accounts, which were sent for his approval, and did not leave important work to some supposedly trustworthy servant. His personal signature often was the seal of approval on a document, not a passed-around seal of ring. Henry VII became a personal monarch, in that he personally oversaw all that it was feasible to oversee. He made the office of King just that,

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an office - a full time job requiring twenty-four hour attention. It was not a question of divine right: Henry VII ruled the country by his own right, that of powerful and extensive governing. Any other monarch might not have succeeded in keeping the throne, especially with all of the rival claimants who often had a better right to it. Henry did not inspire love, but he demanded and received loyalty. The noblemen "had little cause to love Henry, but they at least respected the care and vigilance which enabled him to survive a reign."⁴⁰

It was this harsh precedent, set by Henry VII in an effort to secure his throne, that led to widespread elimination of rival claimants. The number of executions and disappearances is too great to be ignored. The extermination of rivals may not have been an explicit policy by the Tudors, but it certainly was implicit. Even those claimants who were loyal, but had the misfortune of being royal blood, or of having a relative who caused disfavor, often felt the executioner's axe. The case in point is Margaret of Salisbury, who had the "supreme misfortune to be a Plantagenet and the mother of the detested cardinal."⁴¹

The case against Margaret was flimsy; she had asserted her innocence and was never in fact proved guilty of any crime. According to the act of attainder, though, she was guilty. She had traitorously confederated herself with Lord Montague and Reginald Pole, knowing them to be traitors and common enemies of the King; she had traitorously aided, maintained, and comforted them, and had committed other treason. The evidence was minimal. Her comment that she could not be but glad that her son, Reginald, had escaped death was used against her. A piece of needlework - a coat of arms, uniting Princess Mary's personal arms and Reginald Pole's, with a tree springing from them, was discovered in an old trunk in Warblington - the implication being a new line of royal children of Reginald and Mary. On the back of this coat of arms were depicted the five wounds of Christ, which emblem, although quite often used in pre-Restoration England, was more commonly used in the Restoration period by many religious rebellions. The coat of arms was probably made during the time of Catherine of Aragon, when a match had been considered between Mary and Reginald. Chapuys noted that Catherine had been known to say that she would not be happy unless Mary married one of the Pole family. The Passion of Christ, or the Five Wounds of Christ, on the back of the arms represented the Catholic monarchy that would have arisen out of such a union. There is no indication that the coat of arms was used for any other purpose, and never in the backing of a Restoration rebellion. In all probability it had lain forgotten in that trunk until Cromwell's diligent searchers discovered it.

Actually, Margaret of Salisbury had no chance. Her entire family had been attainted. Her brother had been executed earlier in life, one son was executed, another son was in exile, a third was distraught after contributing to the downfall of his family, and eventually four of her grandchildren would meet the same fate as the rest of the family. It is a shame that this woman - she who had survived for so many years, had lived through the reigns of five Kings (being niece to two of them and cousin to the other three), had been known for being wise and virtuous and loyal, and had so brilliantly attempted to plead her own case - finally had to die as she did. But her death, viewed in the series of events of the time, was merely one of many such deaths. It was the price of being of Plantagenet blood in Tudor England. As her son, Reginald Pole, wrote to Cardinal Contarini, "You have heard, I believe, of my mother being condemned by public council to death; or, rather, to eternal life."⁴² "Not only has he (Henry VIII) who condemned her condemned to death a woman of seventy, than whom he has no hearer relation except his daughter, and of whom he used to say there was no holier woman in his kingdom; but at the same time, her grandson, son of my brother (Montague), a child, the remaining hope of our race . . ."⁴³ Unfortunately, the race was that of the Plantagenets, and had to be destroyed for the cause of Tudor dynastic stability.

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FOOTNOTES

**The date is reported as May 27th in the Dictionary of National Biographies, but according to the Calendar of Letters and Papers of Henry VIII, Marillac reports her death as occurring on May 28, as does the index to the year 1541.

MARGARET, COUNTESS OF SALISBURY (CONTINUED)

1. Calendar of Letters and Papers of Henry VIII, Marillac to Francis I, May 29, 1541.
2. Margaret of Salisbury's age when she was beheaded has been reported differently. Chapuys described her as "nearly 90 years of age", and Marillac put her "above 80". But, as she was born in August 1473 and died May 1541, she was but 67 years old at death -- which was still a ripe old age for the Tudor period.
3. The name "Wars of the Roses" seems to have been first used historically by David Hume. Shakespeare also used it earlier in a few of his history plays, but it was not a term used in the late fifteenth century.
4. Katherine of Valois and Owen Tudor caused quite a stir when they became lovers. As Queen Dowager she had contracted a great misalliance with Tudor, whose position was a minor one at court. It is supposed, but not certain, that they did marry.
5. Chrimes, S.B., Lancastrians, Yorkists and Henry VII, p.163.
6. It is supposed that Margaret and Richard married about the year 1491; certainly before 1494 at which time she was mentioned in a crown payment as "my lady Pole".
7. Calendar of Letters and Papers of Henry VIII. Oct. 14, 1513
8. Paul, John E., Catherine of Aragon and Her Friends, p. 52
9. Calendar of Letters and Papers of Henry VIII, Sept. 15, 1533
10. Ibid., Aug. 21, 1533
11. Ibid., Aug. 28, 1533
12. Calendar of State Papers, Spanish 1531-33, No. 1161, p.881
13. Catherine of Aragon and Her Friends, p. 238
14. Dodds, Madeleine, Hope and Ruth, The Pilgrimage of Grace and The Exeter Conspiracy, Vol. 2, pp. 275-76
15. Calendar of Letters and Papers of Henry VIII, July 15, 1536
16. Ibid.
17. Ibid., July 24, 1536
18. Ibid., Oct. 10, 1536
19. Ibid., Nov. 5, 1538
20. Ibid., Vol. III, No. 1204
21. Catherine of Aragon and Her Friends
22. Calendar of Letters and Papers of Henry VIII, Feb. 25, 1535. (Mary's governess at this time was one of Anne Boleyn's aunts, probably Lady Anne Shelton.)
23. Dictionary of National Biography, under Geoffrey Pole
24. Calendar of Letters and Papers of Henry VIII, Nov. 13, 1538
25. Ibid., Nov. 14, 1538

MARGARET, COUNTESS OF SALISBURY (CONTINUED)

26. Ibid., March 14, 1539
27. Ibid., Chapuys to Queen of Hungary, June 10, 1541
28. Bush, M.L., "The Tudors and the Royal Race", History, 1970, pp. 37-48
29. Ibid.
30. Chrimes, S.B., Henry VII, p.94
31. He was released for one day in 1487.
32. As Lady Jane Grey learned when Wyatt used her as the new Protestant heir to the throne. Elizabeth had (wisely!) refused any form of communication from him, and, since Lady Jane was in the Tower it was easy to use her with neither her permission nor involvement. As a result, Mary I had her executed.
33. It is possible that he survived Henry VIII's reign, but, if this were the case surely he would have been restored to favor in the reign of Mary I, as his uncle and cousin were.
34. "The Tudors and the Royal Race", op. cit.
35. Lander, J.R., Conflict and Stability in Fifteenth Century England, 1969, p. 95
36. Henry VII, p. 68
37. Goodman, Anthony, The Wars of the Roses, p. 96
38. This came to be known as 'Morton's fork' -- a two-pronged system. The theory was this: if a man lived in poverty, claiming to be too poor to pay the high taxes, the collectors would assume that he must be hoarding what money he took in (since he obviously wasn't spending it on anything!), and could therefore give it to the King. If, on the other hand, one spent all of his income on lavish living and claimed to have nothing left for taxes -- why, then, he must be lying, for anyone could see by his possessions and lifestyle that he is affluent, and can well afford to pay the King! Today this would be known as Catch-22.
39. Lander, J.R., Politics and Power -- England 1450-1509, 1976, p.34
40. Conflict and Stability in Fifteenth Century England, p. 96
41. Catherine of Aragon and Her Friends, p.251
42. Margaret of Salisbury was later beatified by the Church; this is the first sept toward attaining Sainthood.
43. Calendar of Letters and Papers of Henry VIII, Sept. 22, 1539

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Nancy Aronson "fell in love with Richard III" in the 9th grade, while a student in David Coombs' class. Nancy has been a member of the Society since 1980. She graduated from Claremont McKenna College in 1983 with B.A. degrees in both History and English Literature.

Nancy spent her Junior year at the University of Lancaster in England, where she researched and prepared primary source materials on Margaret of Salisbury from original state papers. This information, plus other information gleaned from various articles were the basis for two works -- one, an essay, "Margaret of Salisbury and the Later Plantagenets: Rival Heirs to the Throne" (which has been retitled for publication in the Ricardian Register), and an historical novel, My Lady of Sarum (Sarum was the older name for Salisbury; Margaret is sometimes referred to by that name). This novel, her Senior thesis at Claremont, earned her an Honors degree.

More recently, Nancy attended Pepperdine University School of Law, where she just graduated (May 17, 1986) with a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree. She will take the California State Bar examination in July, and hopes to be employed in the field of Criminal Law next autumn.

15TH CENTURY VOGUE

The 15th century was a time of great exaggeration in costume. All of the items associated with fairy-tale princesses come out of this century: gowns with long trains and flowing sleeves, diaphanous veils and amazing headdresses all stem from the late 14th and 15th centuries.

Women's clothing has flowing lines, both in its skirts and sleeves. Headgear reached stunning proportions in this century. In fact, this is what the 15th century is chiefly noted for. Some were shaped like turbans and decorated with knobs and veils. Others were shaped like flower pots and worn with a veil or scarf tied under the chin to secure it. Women also wore rolled headdresses at this time, usually heart- or U-shaped, pulled low over the forehead with nets covering the ears and holding back the hair. Some of these also had veils worn over the top and under the chin, which made for a modest, but very pretty, look.

One of the stranger fashions seen in this century was that of placing large, barrel shaped cauls over the ears, and over these a framework of wire that stuck out one or two feet on either side of the head like horns. This was covered with a scallop-edged veil, and on top of the entire structure, a coronet was worn.

From France came the style that everyone associates with the 15th century: the hennin. This was a high headdress, usually cone- or heart-shaped, rising as high as three feet above the head. The hennin frequently had a veil suspended from the end, or mounted on wires in elegant butterfly shapes, rising in two or three tiers above it. Later in the century, the hennin would be truncated -- the long point would disappear, leaving a shorter headdress, something like a fez, which was covered with a long veil, reaching the ground in back but coming only to the ears and covering the eyes in front.

Hair was pulled tightly up under the hennin so that little or no hair showed. They even shaved the hair back from the their foreheads and necks so that no hair showed. It was common to see women plucking their foreheads in public with as little thought as we today give to applying lipstick.

Towards the end of the century, the tall steeple headdress began to have lappets falling down to the shoulders on either side. These long pieces of cloth were sometimes decorated with jewels and may have been the beginning of the gable headdress, such as Elizabeth of York wears in her portrait.

Women's clothing of this time was only slightly less fantastic than their headgear. Dresses became more sumptuous as new fabrics became available: damask from the Middle East, taffeta from Persia, velvet from Genoa, and even some fabrics made of silk by-products were beginning to trickle into England. Variety and exaggeration were common, each woman trying to outshine her neighbor. Which shows women weren't so different in Richard's time from those today!

Early in the century, a sideless gown was worn over a tight-fitting underdress, called a coat-hardie. It was popular in the late 14th century as well as the first few decades of the 15th century. After the 1420's, the sideless gown was worn only by the nobility for ceremonial occasions. It was replaced by the houppeland.

The houppeland was worn by women of rank. It was a loose gown with long trailing sleeves and skirts, very voluminous. Sleeves could either fall to the floor and be lined with fur or fabric, or could be gathered into a tight cuff, the fullness falling below the elbow. This last item was known as the bag sleeve, and it was popular into the 1480's. The houppeland had a high collar, but it was frequently worn open and folded down. Eventually this collar would become wider and deeper, held open with ivory stays and faced with fur. This collar eventually became so deep that it met in points at the high-waisted girdle in back and front. The decollete space in front was usually filled with an undergown or modesty of contrasting material.

These dresses were usually belted high under the breasts, almost in an empire style, although in the 1460's the waistline was more natural. Belts, or girdles, were important features in women's wardrobes at this time. There were several types: broad jewelled belts worn with plain gowns and narrower ones that were used with more elaborate styles. Skirts covered the

15TH CENTURY VOGUE (CONTINUED)

ground in front of the wearer and had such long trains in back that pages were needed to carry them.

The houppeland was fairly well out of fashion by the 1480's. It began to be replaced by the round dress, easier to manage than a houppeland. Its skirts just reached the floor and generally had a very deep border of fur all around the hem. It usually had a very wide neckline, like that of the later houppeland, but sometimes it was filled in with folds of cloth. It had a broad belt and long tight sleeves edged with fur. Skirts were seamed and gathered onto the bodice.

In the last years of the century, women's costume changed drastically. The fantastic headdresses disappeared and the long trailing gowns began to shift to the floor length gathered skirts of the Tudor era. Dresses were full over the hips and had tight fitting bodices, almost with a corset-like effect. These gowns usually had small V-shaped or square openings at the neck.

Of women's footwear of the time, little can be said. Shoes were made of leather or tough fabric, with pointed toes. They were usually laced at one side or fastened with a strap at the ankle. Pattens, a separate wooden sole on iron rings which fastened to the shoe with leather straps, were worn to keep the feet out of the mud.

Ornaments were lavish in this century. Clothing was embroidered with all-over patterns, or powdered with geometric designs, stars, flowers or heraldic insignia. Jewels were also sewn onto garments. Colors ranged from soft pastels to vivid primary colors, as well as grey, brown, and black. White was used for headdresses, veils, and partlets, which showed at the necks of dresses. Scarlet was used for trimming.

Both men and women wore jewelry. Rings and necklaces had both faceted and un-faceted stones, and close fitting necklaces like chokers were worn. Earrings were seen occasionally. Women wore jewelled cauls and coronets, and gloves and purses were also jewelled.

A word about the simpler sisters: The clothing worn by peasants, farmer's wives, and servants were similar in style, if not so rich in material and cut. Wool was commonly used, and dresses were pulled up into belts and covered with aprons. Hair was covered with simple hoods or caps of linen.

Although the 15th century can be noted for some exaggerated and downright ridiculous fashions, it also boasts some of the most graceful and dignified clothing ever designed. For timeless beauty, you need look no farther.

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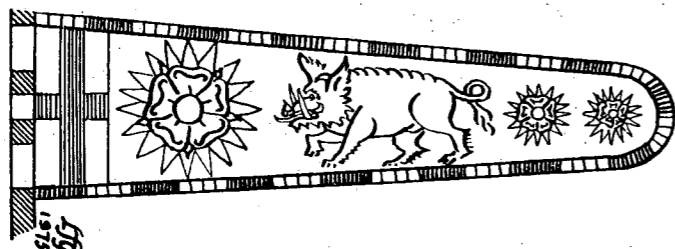
CECILY NEVILLE, DUCHESS OF YORK

Only rarely do medieval women, except those who wore a crown, come down to us as anything more than a name, mere shadows without form or substance, regardless of their place in the history of their times. Largely ignored by writers of the age, their faces and personalities are lost to us. One of the notable exceptions to that general rule is Cecily Neville, Duchess of York. Never to wear the royal diadem herself, she was the mother of two of England's monarchs. Granddaughter of John of Gaunt, daughter of Joan Beaufort and Ralph Neville, first Earl of Westmoreland, and wife of Richard, Duke of York, she also epitomizes the familial divisiveness common to that period known as the War of Roses. In an age which set great store by such things, her lineage was as impeccable as it was politically complicated and dynastically formidable. In one of those ironies with which history is so often overrun, out of prolific Beaufort-Neville union, the blood of Lancaster and York was united two generations before the House of Tudor united with York. Although Henry IV had amended the legitimation of the Beauforts granted by his predecessor to exclude any possible claims that family might make on the throne, though the Duchess Cecily, both the sons who would one day rule as England's only Yorkist monarchs had the distinction of being descended from Edward III on both sides of that battle scarred struggle. Intriguing as that blending of heritage appears in retrospect and despite her contribution of two kings to the pages of English history, none of that would have been enough to give us a tantalizing glimpses of Cecily Neville that have filtered down to us.

Though a woman much renowned for her learned and sincere piety, there are glimmers of evidence that, at least until her later life, she was never as far from the mainstream of affairs as a reputation for such obvious piety would imply. Nor does humility appear to have been a marked trait in the woman frequently referred to as 'Proud Cis', a lady of reputed beauty and presence who lived in a semi-regal state wherever her peripatetic marriage took her, whether amid the vast York holdings in England or Rouen, where both Edward IV and Edmund of Rutland were born, or across the Irish Sea in Dublin, where George of Clarence entered the world. Obviously, she had a yen for being at the heart of things, for playing her role as consort and companion to the powerful prince of the blood royal she had married. For a while after the sojourn in Dublin, she disappears to a quieter, more domestic life, perhaps at Fotheringhay, a favored Yorkist holding where Richard was born in 1452 and the last of her numerous children, a daughter, in 1455. She resurfaces at the fall of Ludlow Castle with her younger children, then again, newly widowed and grieving the wanton death of her second oldest son, sending her youngest sons, George and Richard, to the safety of the court of Burgundy, but choosing to ride out the troubled times in her castle in London. Certainly not the sign of a coward, or a woman unable to act on her own.

Apparently of an independent turn of mind, she does not appear to have actually lived with any of her children, preferring the privacy of her own residences, though there is evidence that she segregated herself from their affairs, although her disapproval of Edward's marriage to Elizabeth Woodville no doubt strained relations with that faction of the family, from a purely personal standpoint. After George of Clarence's trial and eventual execution, she appears to have retired to Berkhamsted, for the most part, although some have placed her in London at the time Richard assumed the Crown. In any case, somewhere between 1481 and 1485, she apparently took, at least, the lay vows of the Benedictine Order, giving the final years of her life to the devotions and piety that has always been such a marked characteristic. She died in that seclusion in 1495, having survived all save two of her children, Elizabeth, Duchess of Suffolk, and Margaret of Burgundy. In the end, she was grandmother to a Queen, apparently left in peace by the victor of Bosworth. She had lived through civil war, both its dizzying victories and agonizing defeats, and I cannot imagine had not left her mark on those around her.

Judie C. Gall
Ohio



NEW SALES OFFICER

I have recently taken over from Reverend Warren Malach as both the publications and specialty sales officer.

As with any transition period, occasionally a few things "slip through the cracks." Therefore, if you have placed an order and not received all of the items ordered, please contact me. Tell me what items were not sent to you and include a copy of your canceled check; I will issue you a refund immediately.

I am in the process of reworking the price list of Ricardian items for sale. Some of the items are no longer available (such as the GEO Magazine article) and others will be discontinued. Most items will be repriced so that Sales will make some profit for the Society, rather than being a break-even operation. When the new price list is available, it will either be included with *The Register* or published in it.

I am trying to fill all new orders within a week. If any of the items you order are not immediately available, a refund will be issued.

I have recently ordered a new stock of enameled pins, pendants, tie clasps, lapel pins, and earrings. These show the white boar, with a blue and green background and gold outlines. I have even ordered a few with a tiny ruby in the boar's eye for the more adventuresome members! When they are available, a flier and order form will be sent to all members.

I look forward to being actively involved in the Society again and look forward to serving you.

Linda B. McLatchie
Sales Officer

TONY COLLINS APPOINTED PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIRMAN

Anthony C. Collins of Reston, VA has agreed to serve as Public Relations Chairman for the Society. As such, Tony will be eager to receive any press clippings or notices on the Society that are available. He has no files at all at this time, so nothing submitted would be a duplication.

Tony will also be in charge of the Speaker's Bureau, which is an attempt to gather various individuals in differing locations who are willing to present informal presentations on the Society or even specialized lectures on subjects of Ricardian interest. If you would be willing to assist in this manner, please contact Tony.

Recommendations and information relative to an enhanced public image for the Society are actively sought.

SECOND RESEARCH OFFICER APPOINTED

Longtime member and respected Ricardian authority, Helen Maurer, has been appointed as a second Research Officer for the Society. This appointment reflects the current board's priority of supporting and instigating all possible endeavors in the research field.

As always, there is a continuing need for various kinds of assistance from the general membership. One project emphasized is the compilation of a suggested reading list, especially for new members who are anxious to commence their own Ricardian delvings but need an informed guide through the quagmire of fact and fiction which confronts them.

Personal bibliographies, not necessarily for the purpose of sharing the contents of your own libraries, but in the interest of gathering the widest possible range of suggestions, would be of immense help in compiling such a list.

The Research Officers are also anxious to know more about individual areas of interest, study, and continuing research, be that in the academic milieu or more personal pursuits which have led to in-depth studies of specific persons, places, or events of the Ricardian era. Requests for such specialized types of information are frequently made to the Society. Our ability to be of assistance will be greatly expedited by a compendium of qualified, interested individuals readily available to those whom such requests are channelled.

Please contact Helen Maurer or Tony Franks if you can help in this - or any other - fashion.

INTRODUCING THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE: Dr. Milton R. Stern

Milton R. Stern is Dean, University Extension at the University of California at Berkeley. He is an Anglophile, a founding member in 1975 of the Royal Oak Foundation, which provides American support for historic preservation in Britain, particularly of the National Trust of England and Wales. Dean Stern lectures and writes extensively in his field of continuing education. Most recently (1983) he edited Power and Conflict in Continuing Professional Education.

In one of his speeches, "The View from the Fifteenth Century", he commented on the fact that Thomas More (malevolent source of Shakespeare's energetically unsound play, Richard III) had been a student at Oxford in its most glamorous decade, the 1490s. He reported that More's conservative father kicked his twelve-year old son out of college because they had lately introduced a great novelty at Oxford, the study of Greek. More went to Lincoln's Inn and became a lawyer. Who knows? If he had stayed under the influence of Oxford's dreamy spirs he might not have lost his head.

The Trial of Richard III by Richard Drewett and Mark Redhead, Alan Sutton Publishing Company - Gloucester - 1984. Reprinted in 1985 - A Channel Four Book (paperback).

I ordered this book from the publisher, Alan Sutton, as I had not seen the television program and wanted to read the script. I was both pleased and surprised when the book arrived and it was filled with background material which made the reading of the script and the verdict by the jury all the more enjoyable.

Richard Drewett met Jeremy Potter, Chairman of the Society, at a seminar in 1980. Potter began to tell Drewett about Richard III and, after listening, Drewett decided that there was a television program just waiting to be done about Richard. However, he did not want to do the usual historical character presentation (Henry VIII or Elizabeth I), but something different. Finally, after a lot of thought and preparation, the trial format was decided upon. Then, began the hard work ... what sources to use, how to pick the witnesses, how and where to stage it, how to treat the Bones, how to select the jury, and then, where to film the trial. All of this is covered in the book.

The Duke of Gloucester, the Society Patron, agreed to introduce the program and was filmed at the Tower of London. The duke is certainly one of the most charming members of the Royal Family, and a worthy patron of the Society.

The actual trial covers only the issue of whether or not King Richard caused the Princes to be murdered. You are able to join the jury in weighing the evidence against King Richard, and reach your own conclusion. I think we all know that the jury found Richard *INNOCENT*. But, why? After reading the script for the program, you may not agree with the findings. However, I did.

In the opinion of some, the prosecution was not as well handled as it might have been. Why does Mr. Starkey allow himself to become entangled in Thomas More's gaffes? What is it that allows the jury to accept Anne Sutton's quiet statement that the pre-contract, followed by Edward IV's clandestine marriage to Elizabeth Woodville, was *the crux of the matter* in turning public opinion, when the prosecution had already presented much evidence to the contrary ... including some that public opinion had never been changed? Why does Dr. Ross (a physician, not the historian-author), in her role as prosecution witness, present such clear evidence for the defense, complete with photographs, that the bones of the elder skeleton

in the urn do not conform in state of development with the age of Edward V at the time of his disappearance? She could have concentrated on the good prosecution evidence of the teeth.

At any rate, there is much lively exchange between the consuls for the prosecution and the defense, and witnesses for both sides -- much as there would be in a regular trial. Dr. Tony Pollard is very feisty for the prosecution, and Anne Sutton's quiet certainty and economy of words for the defense made a strong impression on the jury. Lady Wedgewood presented evidence about pictorial altering -- with obvious intent -- of the Ricardian image to maximum effect, and Jeremy Potter was his usual, charming self. Perhaps, our witnesses were more effective because they had their hearts in their arguments, although the prosecution, especially Dr. Pollard, argued well, too.

Then, last August, while walking back to my London hotel room, I saw a young man walking down the street wearing a t-shirt with *RICHARD III - INNOCENT* printed on it. I was surprised by my reaction. I found myself continuing on to the hotel, smiling and wishing I had a shirt just like it!

Jackie Bloomquist & Julie Vognar
California

***This book is available from our publications officer*

Great Romantic Ruins of England & Wales by Brian Bailey, Photos by Rita Bailey, Crown - New York - 1984.

The London Encyclopedia ed. Ben Weinreb & Christopher Hibbert, Adler & Adler - Bethesda, Md. - 1986.

Ricardians are, almost by definition, Anglophiles, but few of us can afford to indulge ourselves with a visit to the Old Country every year or two. So for armchair traveling, as well as serving to hold down the coffee table, try these two books.

The Baileys include the usual Ricardian ruins (Kirkby Mallory, Minster Lovell) and hold the usual traditional views. The traveller has a wide choice, though, from the Neolithic Wayland's Forge to a house built in 1920 and abandoned in 1927. Not all were ruined by Henry VIII or Oliver Cromwell. Some fell to other disasters, and one was never finished -- a budgetary disaster? There are many handsome photos, some in color.

If you are headquartered in London, the **London Encyclopedia** will tell something of the history of

every place, thing, or institution, of importance existing in the area (No hours of opening, etc.; it's not a guide book) -- or that has ever existed. Here is material for a game of London Trivia. See if you can answer these:

1. Where would you buy U.S. postage stamps in London, assuming you had a need for any?
2. When & where was the Big Stink?
3. What was the Duke of Wellington's favorite exhibit at Mme. Tussaud's?
4. Where can you find a cat petted by Elizabeth I?

(Answers Below)

Plan the next trip, reminisce about the last one, try to re-create 15th century London, or just leaf through enjoying the flavor of English names: Tooting Bec, Golders Green, Pratt's Bottom???

Answers:

1. At the Mayflower Inn, of course.
2. The Thames, 1858.
3. The Chamber of Horrors.
4. Do you really want to know? It's a mummy, of course, and it's in the Tiger Tavern on Tower Hill.

Harri Tudur a Cymru/Henry Tudor & Wales by Glanmor Williams, University of Wales Press, 1985.

The Son of Prophecy by David Rees, Blac Raven Press, London, 1985.

When Was Wales by Gwyn A. Williams, Penguin, England & N.Y., 1985.

Since 1985 was the anniversary of the beginning of the Tudor dynasty, it's not surprising that that year would produce a number of histories with a Welsh viewpoint & Welsh authors, such as the three above.

Henry Tudor & Wales is a slim volume, made even slimmer by the fact that half of it is in Welsh (on alternate pages). Williams believes Richard guilty of the death of his nephews, but he is less vituperative than many English authors. He is compelled to admit that one reason that public opinion turned against Richard was the poor harvests in 1481 and 1482, which drove prices up and displaced laborers. The economy was feeling the pinch by the spring of 1483. Williams also draws attention to a budding revolt in Wales in 1486

among the Vaughns and Herberts, Yorkist stalwarts.

Was Henry a benefit or a bane for Wales? It would have hardly been possible, says Williams, for any man to live up to some of the more overblown Cymric hopes, and reaction inevitably set in -- one disgruntled gentleman even accused Henry of favoring the "men of the North"! Williams tries to give a balance view, but concludes: "Erys yn ageged i fan unigalion." Translated: Judge for yourself. And judge for yourself if that is a cop-out or not.

The Son of Prophecy is subtitled "Henry Tudor's Road to Bosworth" but it is less of a biography of Henry than the preceding book. It's more about the background of the situation in Wales and The Wars of the Roses, and Tudor figures more as a symbol than a real person. If you want to know about Rhys ap Thomas, this is your book. Rees says that "according to Sir Thomas More" Richard gave orders for the murder of the princes, but he doesn't dwell on it. Richard is apparently also just a symbol. By and large, the author thinks Henry was a Good Thing for Wales.

Gwyn Williams gives the Tudors -- all of them -- only one short chapter in his history of Wales, which would seem to be of interest mainly to those of Welsh descent -- though it's sure to make some of them, at least, rather angry. Even in the few pages he devotes to them, he comes up with some nuggets of information. Did you know that Henry was referred to in the bardic poems as "The Seagull" -- we all know the habits of seagulls, don't we? Henry contributed to the demise of the Welsh national identity, and was therefore a Bad Thing, but Williams gives the impression that they (the Welsh) probably deserved it.

Williams writes with a detached and somewhat cynical air ("Whom the gods wish to destroy they first afflict with a language problem"), but it's the type of cynicism that is a cover for deep feeling.

All in all, an interesting view of how the Other Side sees matters.

Myrna Smith
Texas



CHAPTER NEWS

CHAPTER CONTACTS:

Southern California:

Dr. Melinda Burrill
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Upland, CA 91786

Northern California:

Mrs. Julie Vogner
2161 North Valley
Berkeley, CA 94702

Chicagoland:

Ms. Judy G. Thomson
2226 N. Racine Avenue #7
Chicago, IL 60614

Southwest: (LA, TX, OK, NM)

Mrs. Roxane Murph
3501 Medina Avenue
Fort Worth, TX 76133

Current Chapter Organization Efforts:

Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky area:

Mrs. Judie C. Gall
5971 Belmont Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45224

Washington, DC area:

Ms. Carol S. Bessett
8251 Taunton Place
Springfield, VA 22152

or:

Mrs. Lillian Barker
P. O. Box 1473
Laurel, MD 20707

New York City area:

Ms. Frances Berger
1914 W. 5th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11223

Northern New York State:

Mrs. Mary Ann Park
4551 Kinney Gulf Road
Cortland, NY 13045

Southern New York State:

Ms. Karen Rock
2315 Oakdale Avenue
Seaford, NY 11783

New Hampshire:

Mrs. Mary C. Bearor
10 Buckmeadow Road
Merrimack, NH 03054

Washington State:

Miss. Margery Voigt
14651 NE 40th, #C-2
Bellevue, WA 98007

If you are willing to help organize a chapter in your area, please contact a board member or one of the following individuals, who have agreed to co-chair a committee on Chapter Organization:

Roxanne Murph
3501 Medina Avenue
Fort Worth, TX 76133

Mary Miller
8801 James Avenue
Albuquerque, NM 87111

Roxane and Mary organized the Southwest Chapter and can offer you helpful guidelines in how to best accomplish what can be a very rewarding personal experience.

MEETINGS:

Washington, D.C. area - June 20th
Initial organizational meeting
Contact Carol Bessette, Lillian Barker

Ohio - June 27th
Initial organizational meeting
Contact Judie Gall

Northern California Chapter - June 29
Regular Chapter Meeting
Contact Jacqueline Bloomquist

Southwest Chapter - August 22
Annual Bosworth Memorial Dinner
Contact Roxanne Murph



"If you see a lady in distress, take care!"

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER SPECIAL EVENT

Sunday, May 25. As a just-for-fun social activity, approximately 22 members and friends attended our second annual outing to the Renaissance Pleasure Faire at Paramount Ranch in Agoura, California. This is the property where Paramount Pictures used to film many movies -- it is a scenic area of chapparal-covered hills and meadows studded with oak trees, all tied together with a network of equestrian trails. Each year (for the last 24 years!) it comes alive with the colorful tents and banners of a 16-century May Market, where costumed artisans hawk their wares: one can purchase many wonderful things -- pottery, leatherwork, fresh flowers, jewelry, blown glass, stained glass, armor, medieval shields, swords and other weaponry, cutlery, rare perfumes and oils, wood/stone/bone carvings, baskets, foodstuffs, handcrafted pewter/gold/silver items, books and prints, flutes, drums, dulcimers, astrolabes, wax candles (you can even make your own!), medieval costumes and hats, elaborate papier-mache masks, and handcrafted toys. There is entertainment for everyone, too -- Elizabethan theatrical presentations and parades, as well as games for all ages: beanbag and ring-tossing, darts, skittles (lawn bowling), archery and crossbows, drench-a-wench, 'Twelzie Wop' (pillow fight), quoits, Maypole dancing, and more. There are schools of fencing, heraldry and falconry, and -- for the less serious -- juggling. One may weave a basket, make a banner, dip a candle, learn to spin, card, and weave cloth. At one booth a comely lass will, for a small fee, braid your hair (complete with ribbons and festoons!). And all are welcome to stitch upon Her Majesty's tapestry.

The more adventurous may stray into Witches Wood, where the gypsies ply their trade -- telling fortunes by Tarot cards, astrology, palmistry, numerology, and whatever other forms of magic they use to divine the future. (There is a love oracle, too.)

And the feasting! Fresh cinnamon buns, turkey legs and chicken pyes, bread, cheese, sausage, scones, roast beef and Cornish pasties, salads, vegetables, 'Bangers of York' (our favorite!) -- even quail! Sweets, too, tempted us; fruit pyes, fresh fruits and ices (not authentic, perhaps, but, after all, the temperature was nearly 90 degrees) -- and all washed down with good English ale, herbal teas, that new discovery, coffee (hot or iced), cold milk, fruit juice or lemonade.

Many in our party were in costume (some of us purchased items of clothing to wear next year), and a right merry time was had by all. One highlight of our day was our visit to the antique

bookseller -- he had some wonderful Elizabethan books, memoirs, and State papers, among which were Robert Dudley's memoirs, and some of Elizabeth I's writings in her beautiful script hand. Last year we told the book merchant all about the Society and left him with some Ricardian propaganda. *This year he was ready for us!* He had brought several books of special interest to Ricardians, just for us (they were hidden under the counter until we identified ourselves, at which time he gleefully retrieved them and spread them before us.) Melinda Burrill chose two, one hard-to-find volume about the Kingmaker, Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick, and another on Richard III; Chuck and Joyce Hollins snapped up a (rare) 1786 edition of Horatio Walpole's works, vol. 2 of 5, which includes the famous Historic Doubts. Joyce also purchased an edition of Alison Hanham's Richard III and his Early Historians 1483-1535. Others found books, rare coins, art prints and other goodies to take home ... but nobody wanted the Charles Ross book on Richard (why pay good money for such a derogatory picture of our hero? Besides, most of us had already read it, and found it hazardous to the health of a good Ricardian -- it could cause a severe attack of apoplexy!) Generally, though, it was a real treasure trove for us history buffs. *We can't wait to see what the dear man will have for us next year --*

And we do plan to return; going to the Renaissance Faire is like traveling backward through time ... it's fun, for a day, to pretend that we are living in the 16th century (but great to come back to our modern-day conveniences!) Our special thanks to Melanie Lotocky, who served as Chairperson and coordinator for this event.

Joyce Hollins
California

SOUTHWEST CHAPTER REPORT

At the April 5th meeting of the Southwest Chapter in Fort Worth, TX plans proceeded for a special fund, which would help pay plane fares of those wishing to attend the AGM in October.

An offer to host the 1987 AGM has been made by the Chapter and acknowledged by Vice-Chairman McGee. Marge Nelson sought a donation of hand-made items for door prizes for the 1986 AGM.

The second annual Bosworth Memorial Dinner will be held August 22 at Colonial-Jetton's. The chapter plans to run Bosworth notices in local papers.

A video tape of Leonard Nimoy's "In Search Of" program dealing with the princes in the Tower ended the meeting.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

WHO ARE WE?

This question has been an overriding consideration for the current administration. Unless we are fortunate enough to live in a city with an active Chapter, most of us have had little opportunity to come to know one another and share ideas. Our official tours to England provide some interaction, but this is a relatively small group. Finding out who we are is not something that will be accomplished overnight. Surveys were sent in November with brief questions, and many of those have been returned. We know enough to be able to state that our membership encompasses almost every imaginable profession, from the business world to academia. We do not know enough to make any authoritative statements about ourselves overall, except for an abiding interest in matter relating to King Richard III.

WHERE ARE WE?

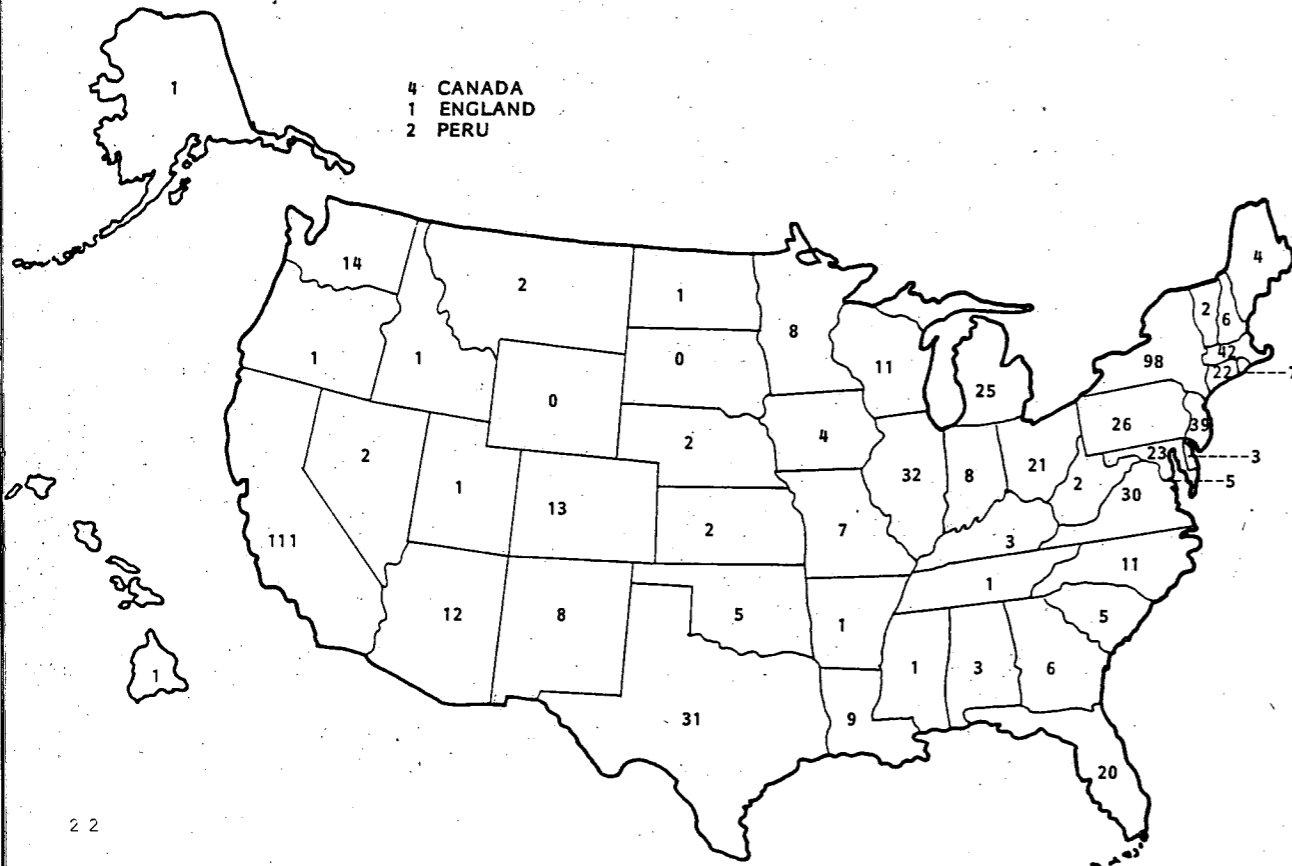
It is relatively easy to find out where we are. For that reason, we give you as our membership report a demographic breakdown of membership. This report is based on membership of 701 at May 30, 1986. Two states appear uninhabited with Ricardians: Is this possible? Our two coasts lead in membership, with California first and New York a close second. The Midwest makes a strong showing with 32 in Illinois, but is beat in third place by New Jersey. All of this is interesting - we are not sure what it indicates.

WHAT DO WE EXPECT FROM THE SOCIETY?

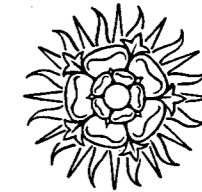
With such a variance of backgrounds, meeting everyone's expectations is likely not possible. It is to be hoped that a Society will evolve in which all members feel included, at whatever level they wish to participate.

Carole Rike

4 CANADA
1 ENGLAND
2 PERU



OUT OF DARKNESS



In 1940, during "England's blackest hour", a short, balding, middle-aged man rallied his nation to give battle to the greatest military power ever assembled to that day. His own mightiest weapons were his words and his wits. More than 450 years earlier, another Englishman also relied on those weapons, at a time when his own cause appeared hopeless. Physically, these two leaders could not have been more dissimilar, for the young commander of 1461 was tall beyond the average, golden haired, and only nineteen years old. Their shared similarity was that ability to inspire their followers with their oratory.

It was dawn, February 2, 1461, when Edward, Earl of March and new Duke of York, faced his adversaries at Mortimer's Cross. That morning meteorologic conditions were right for the occurrence of the atmospheric phenomenon called the parhelion: bright spots appearing on either side of the sun. The quick witted Edward fully realized that the impact of this unusual happening could be used to his advantage. He cannily interpreted it as a sign of Divine Favor for the Yorkist effort. "Be thee of good comfort and dread not," he told his men. "This is a good sign, for these three suns betoken the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, and therefore let us have good heart and in the name of Almighty God go we against our enemies."¹

The Yorkists did, indeed, carry the day. Whatever religious obeisance Edward made to his God for this victory was not recorded, but shortly after Mortimer's Cross, Edward's heraldry included the representation of the sun . . . in splendor.

¹ The Book of the Medieval Knight, Stephen Turnbull, Crown Publishers, New York, 1985

*Mary Bearor,
New Hampshire*

DR. BUCHANAN SHARP TO SPEAK ON "MINORITY RULE"

"Minority Rule" will be featured at the Annual General Meeting in San Francisco, CA on Saturday, October 4, 1986. The lecture will be delivered by Dr. Buchanan Sharp.

Dr. Sharp is Professor of History at the University of California, Santa Cruz, where he has taught since 1970. He has degrees from the University of California, Berkeley, and the University of Illinois.

Professor Sharp presents academic and public lectures continuously in aggressive pursuit of "spreading the word", especially on matters concerning the English, the Irish, or the Scots. He has numerous papers, articles and book chapters to his credit in these areas. He is the author of the book, In Contempt of All Authority: Rural Artisans and Riot in the West of England, 1586-1660.

Dr. Sharp has a keen interest in British matters as a result of genuine roots. He was born in Dumbarton, Scotland, in 1942. Our speaker has "been there", in thought, deed, and heritage.

1986 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 1986 Annual General Meeting, will be held on Saturday, October 4, in San Francisco, California. For those requiring overnight accommodations, the King George Hotel will be used as our headquarters. The King George Hotel is small, charming and reminiscent of a typical British inn (English High Teas is served daily every afternoon on Monday through Saturday). For members who arrive early, the California chapters will host a get-acquainted party in the hotel's 'Bread and Honey Tea Room' on Friday evening, October 3, from 7:00 to 8:30.

The AGM luncheon meeting will be on Saturday at Bardelli's restaurant just around the corner from the hotel. Reservations will be held on a first come, first serve basis (you will receive a notice with registration form shortly). The agenda will be as follows:

9:45 - 11:00	Registration check-in/continental breakfast.
11:00 - 12:15	Ricardian Workshops (Discussion Groups).
12:30 - 1:30	Luncheon
1:30 - 2:00	Guest Speaker
2:15 - 4:00	General/Business Meeting

There will be six discussion groups that should be of interest to members. Topics include:

- "The Bones in the Tower"
- "The Battle of Tewkesbury"
- "The Political Motives of Richard III"
- "A Traveler's Guide to Important Ricardian Sites in Britain"
- "The Pre-Contract -- A Valid Excuse for Usurpation?"
- "What American Ricardians Can Do to Promote the Reassessment of 15th Century History"

Our guest speaker is Professor Buchannan Sharp of Stevenson College in Santa Cruz, California. The topic will be "Minority Rule".

The registration fee is \$22.50 per person, which includes the breakfast, a roast beef luncheon with all the trimmings, and participation in all events on the agenda.

There are plans for a raffle, with several door prizes. Included is a limited edition ceramic bisque wall plaque in the shape of the white boar, with Richard's motto.

If you can help by donating a doorprize or raffle prize, please contact Joyce Hollins (address on inside cover) or Marge Nelson, 4901 Jessie James Drive, Edmund, OK 73034 (405)348-5614.

There will, of course, also be plenty of Ricardian books and memorabilia for sale.

We hope to make this the most exciting AGM for our members ever. Please participate!!

A TRIBUTE TO NORFOLK & SURREY

I

John and Thomas, father, son
Went together on that day
Of dripping dampness, gloom and doubt,
To meet their Fate, whatever be.

II

Their choice a kingdom ruled by one
Who reveled in fidelity,
Whose sense of justice knew no bounds
To commons, nobles, and the rest.

III

The press of battle and its din
Was magnified by desperate ones
Who sought a fleeting prize,
The cup of blessed victory.

IV

To John, a traitor's requiem
Inflicted by the Tudor's wrath,
Sped his soul and those of whom
Support him in eternity.

V

No watchful eye behind the Fate
of Thomas, in his misery,
An earthbound spectre doomed,
Enchained in solitary evening.

*John O. Jewett
Massachusetts*



What princes???

SOCIETY LIBRARY CURRENTLY IN TRANSITION

With great regret, we announce the resignation of Julie Lord as Society Librarian. Julie has served in this post for the past eight years, and has done an admirable job of administering the loan system in the library and answering various questions for members. She has been a continuing source of aid to new Ricardians who sought specific areas of interest.

Julie's efforts will be sorely missed, and all of us thank her for her past efforts.

Plans are underway at this time to catalogue and reorganize the Society holdings. The library will be separated into four categories: Non-fiction and Research Papers, Fiction, Archival (past issues of Ricardians, etc), and Visual and Audio.

Our Research Officers, Helen Maurer and Tony Franks, are helping to coordinate future administrative plans.

Helen Maurer will handle the Fiction and Research Papers Library; if you are in need of an item at this time, please contact her. If Helen is not able to fulfill your request, she will do her best to point you in the right direction.

We hope to be able to furnish a complete library catalogue by the AGM.

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

February 20, 1986:

Rike reported \$2694.19 in checking account, \$17,167.30 in moneyfund account, including both operating and scholarship funds. Membership is 660, with 133 new members since October. A discussion of membership policy indicates a need for Treasurer to submit suggestions to Board for future consideration.

Rike reported on letter from Past Chairman Hogarth re arrangements with England for a supply of The Crown and the Tower (mailed in late Fall and not otherwise documented) and the request made of her for a \$2000 tax receipt for the recent donation of the Maude French estate to the library. It was deemed more appropriate that the receipt come from the Librarian, who is in possession of the collection, as the Treasurer has no inventory of the books involved. It was further agreed that a policy must be established for the acceptance of non-cash gifts.

McGee reported on pending legal action regarding return of Society property. The bylaws committee expects to have the completed bylaws shortly in compliance with New York state law. A fund-raising letter is being prepared by the Vice-Chairman to be mailed in May. McGee will write English Chairman Jeremy Potter to help regularize relationships with the English organization. A personal meeting with Research Officer Tony Franks in Washington indicates that he is enthusiastic about the publication of bibliographies and pamphlets. Nine candidates have applied for the scholarship award; the deadline has been extended to March 11.

\$100 was authorized for expenses incurred by the California Sunne in their December mailing to the entire membership, in lieu of our own Register. Some discussion was held on the possibility of an additional library, but it was agreed that an update on the status of the current Society library is badly needed. Rike will contact current Librarian, Lord, in that regard.

Battaglia to determine planned length of Chairman Kennedy's absence.

April 14, 1986

Battaglia reports that to date we have no response from Chairman Kennedy.

Rike reported 687 paid members to date, with \$1633.71 in checking and \$15,349.46 in the moneyfund account. \$100 has been sent to the new Research Officer for expenses, as well as \$400 to Linda McLatchie for the Specialty Sales account. Rike pointed out that two more issues of the Ricardian are to be purchased in this administration. (This administration was also responsible for September, 1985 issue.) A request by Rike to write checks in sterling on her English banking account in order to save on the high costs of drafts was approved. Rike reported a second increase in bulk mailing postal rate, and it was agreed that a combination mailing of the Register with the Richardian would be preferable to save on postage. Rike reported sale of 82 T-shirts to date. A legal demand had been served on past officers on February 28th. A request for itemized list of Society properties sought was answered on April 8.

McGee indicated that only one fully documented application for the scholarship has been received. He will contact Dixler for a progress report on the Bylaws Committee.

Rike reported on meeting plans provided by AGM Chairman Hollins. Details of the meeting plans and agenda were discussed. Voting for new officers anticipated entirely by mail, in order to have elections handled before the AGM. Publications Officer Rev. Warren Malach has advised he will need to resign, due to personal commitments.

The Spring issue of the Register and its status was discussed. In order to clarify the scope and purpose of the newsletter a list of recommendations were adopted by the board to serve as guidelines for the editors.

It is the policy of this board that all appointive officers are appointed for the administrative year of the current Board, and are subject to review by newly elected officers. Following review, appointed officers will be confirmed or replaced by the new Board of Directors.

April 21, 1986:

Cost of the AGM fees were resolved to be \$23.50 per member for attendance. This would include participation at workshops, materials, luncheon, tips, speaker, and refreshments at registration.

Concerns about the Register and its pending publication and distribution were discussed.

June 6, 1986:

The resignation of Newsletter Editor, Julie Vognar, and Librarian, Julie Lord, were reported to the Board and accepted with regrets. Appointments were confirmed by the Board: Judie Gall, Register Editor, Helen Maurer, Research Officer, Linda McLatchie, Sales Officer, and Tony Collins, Public Relations.

McGee reported on difficulties in transferring library materials. It was agreed that materials would be sent Federal Express to New Orleans, due to the restrictive nature of the time and dates involved, and that Rike would inventory and forward materials to appropriate parties. The appointment of Helen Maurer as Librarian for Non-fiction and research papers was confirmed. Additional distribution of the library is planned to be as 1) Archival materials, 2) Fiction and 3) Audio and Visual. These assignments are to be made when additional information is available. A conference call between Rike and Research Officers dealt with cataloguing plans and administration of the library in the future.

The Board agreed that for all appointive officers, the job description and/or agreements with such officers should include the stipulation that such appointees recognize their responsibility for return to the Board (or their successors) all Society materials at the end of their tenure of office. All officers and appointive officers must be reasonably accessible by telephone during their tenure of office. Current appointive officers will be requested to help formulate appropriate job descriptions, with reports due August 15.

McGee reported on the current status of the Bylaws, and conflicts with NY state law in the matter of voting practices. The award of a \$1000 Schallek Memorial Graduate Study Fellowship Award has been made to Robin Dorfman for her dissertation on "The Effects of the Lancastrian Usurpation on the Dean and Chapter of York Minster".

A nominating committee was appointed as consisting of Joyce Hollins, Tony Collins, Mary Miller, and Linda McLatchie, with their report due by the next Board Meeting.

Rike reported that the first gross of T-shirts had completely sold out, and that we are almost half through the second gross. For each sale, \$4.00 is allocated to the Scholarship Fund. A fund-raising letter will be printed and mailed by the end of May. Frank Duffer has sent a donation to be used towards the printing and acquisition of a Society mug. The theme of the 1987 Ricardian calendar will be heraldry; artwork is due to be complete in mid-August.

Rike reported on continued correspondence with Scarecrow Press in an effort to determine the possibility of reissuing Roxane Murph's Richard III: The Making of A Legend, which is currently out of print. An inventory has been submitted by past officers for property which will be released if all legal action is suspended; the list does not appear to be complete and is not clearly identified in the matter of financial records.

It was agreed that a lack of 1985 records preclude a formal audit, but that a simple review of finances could be prepared by a qualified member or members for the AGM.

Battaglia reported correspondence with Frieda McKenzie relative to Chapter Organization guidelines. The following will be contacted to serve on such a committee: Mary Miller, Judy Thomson, Roxane Murph, and Carol Bessette.



LAUD & LOYALTY

AMERICAN WORK IN THE RICARDIAN

It is with great pleasure that we announce the publication of the work of an American Branch member, Kenneth R. Shepherd of Columbus, Ohio, in an upcoming issue of *The Ricardian*. The article will deal with the Act of Succession of Richard III and is based on discrepancies Ken discovered in the reporting of it during the course of his own research while working towards his Master's Degree at Miami University in Ohio. We are also pleased to report that Ken has agreed to lend his talents and expertise to the *Register* with an article on Dominic Mancini to be presented as a feature in a future issue. It is to be hoped that these will only be the beginning of Ken's contribution to the expansion of Ricardian knowledge and research.

NOTECARDS

The Southwest chapter of the Richard III Society is selling notecards. The design of a rose and a crown is printed on cream colored stock. Each package contains 10 cards and envelopes and sells for \$5.00. Send orders to:

Roxane Murph
3501 Medina Ave.
Fort Worth, TX 76133

Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Montgomery, AL presents *Richard III* June 5-August 16 on the Festival Stage. P. O. Box 20350, Montgomery, AL 36120-0350, (205) 277-2273

LOST MEMBERS:

Society mail returned, no forwarding address:

Beverly Reppert, Oak Park, MI
T. M. Trout, Grissom AFB, IN

If you know of these members, please ask that they contact the Society.

CONDOLENCES:

Sympathy and condolences to member Betty Schloss of New York, whose husband passed away in the Spring of 1986.

A long-time member, Betty will be recognized by those who have participated in past Ricardian tours to England.

Mary W. Schaller of Burke, VA was part of a high school class which put on a play of the trial of Richard III. The script was written by Mary. She reports the play was a huge success and that the audience voted to uphold Richard's innocence.

Dramatic Publishing Company has exhibited an interest in publishing the play.

Dr. Robert E. Doolittle of Gainesville, FL was recently invited to present a lecture on Richard III and the Yorkist Age at the University of Florida, Gainesville, complete with slides and handouts. This will be an annual event for Dr. John Summerlin's course.

A recent mailing included a reprint of the Temple, TX *Daily Telegram* review of member Dr. Charles Taylor's one-man play, *Devil Dickie 3*. An additional review praising his performance and concept of Richard has been received.

The play has been offered to the Southwest Theatre Conference in Dallas for October, 1986. If accepted, we hope local members will be able to catch the performance. A performance is scheduled this summer at Tablerock Festival in Salado.

Joyce Wulfing has called to our attention an article in the March, 1986 issue of *History* relating the discovery of a stairway at Warwick Castle. During recent repairs to Tower House (begun by Richard III in 1483), a bricked-up stair-case was uncovered.

According to *History*, "the whole Tower House complex is historically important in that had it been completed it would have been the last Royal Keep built in this country".

Unfortunately, this ambitious undertaking was not completed by Richard before his death.

NOTE: No official Society tour has been planned for 1986. If you or your group are making plans for a trip and would wish to consider including other Ricardians, please let us know.

We do hope to begin plans shortly for a 1987 tour.

BOSWORTH - 1986

For those of you planning a trip to England this summer, we have a limited supply of brochures outlining the various events and points of interest at the preserved battlefield site. It is interesting to note that this is the first battle-site in England to have been developed in the manner which it is, and is considered to be the place of one of England's three most historic battles.

Commencing on Sunday, June 20 and continuing through successive Sundays (and Monday, August 25) through September 7, there will be specially staged reenactments ranging from demonstrations of falconry and hawking and jousting to the battle itself on the 24th of August.

Direct inquiries:
Resident Warden
Battlefield Visitor Centre
Ambition Hill Farm, Sutton Cheney
Market Bosworth, Leicestershire CV13 0AD

For a brochure, send SAE to Carole Rike.

SOCIETY T-SHIRTS STILL AVAILABLE

WEAR THE WHITE BOAR!

Our T-shirts are a medium blue, with the Society name in name blue and Richard's white boar printed in reverse white. The shirts are 100% cotton, with the Hanes label. Sizes are small, medium, large, and extra-large. The small is suitable for a child - sizes run somewhat small.

Cost of this item is \$10 postpaid, orders to Linda McLatchie or Carole Rike. All profits from the sale are earmarked for the Scholarship Fund.

RICARDIAN TRIVIA

In the reign of Edward IV, it was enacted that every Englishman, whatever his station, the clergy and judges alone excepted, should own a bow, his own height, and keep it always ready for use, and also provide for his sons' practicing the art from the age of seven. Butts were ordered to be erected in every township where the inhabitants were to shoot "up and down" and "every Sunday and feaste day under penalty of a hapenny."

Reprinted from *The White Rose*
Chicagoland, Summer, 1982

ATTENTION DOLL COLLECTORS:

Time was one could purchase a Peggy Nisbett edition of Richard III, dressed as he is depicted in the National Portrait Gallery portrait. Recent mailings from Nisbet, Ltd. forwarded by member Ms. M. L. Mutolese of Havertown, PA, offer only a version of Richard coupled with the "princes in the tower". This is sold as a set for \$148.95, and listed as a Limited Edition Portrait Doll Series, The Princes in the Tower. Richard III alone (which sold in the \$50 range) is no longer carried on their order list.

If you would like to protest Richard's somewhat arbitrary coupling with the princes in the doll-cases of America, the address is:

House of Nisbet Ltd.
Dunster Park, Winscombe,
Avon BS25 1AG, ENGLAND

ARTWORK, DRAWINGS, ILLUSTRATIONS NEEDED

If you can assist with artwork suitable for use in the *Register*, please contact Judie Gall. Please be on the lookout for drawings of Ricardian interest.

We are also interested in slides, photographs, and other items of interest to the Society, as none of these items are available to us at this time.

NEW MEMBERS

Athena J. Christos, Orlando Park, IL
Peter F. Cohalan, Bayport, NY
Robert Fisher, Tucson, AZ
Edward J. Geiger, Staten Island, NY
Holly L. Gorden, Middletown, CT
Shawn Marie Herron, Louisville, KY
Wayne B. Lindsey, Silver Creek, GA
Megan Macaulay, Fullerton, CA
Sharon Misenheimer, Temple Hills, MD
Helen E. Peterson, Los Angeles, CA
Michelle Lynn Post, Detroit, MI
Shari Smith, Houston, TX
Miss Lucille Wright, Norridge, IL
Miss Mary Louise Wright, Lawrence, KS

ERATA

Ohio organizational meeting has been rescheduled for July 19th - please disregard other date shown under Chapter Meetings.