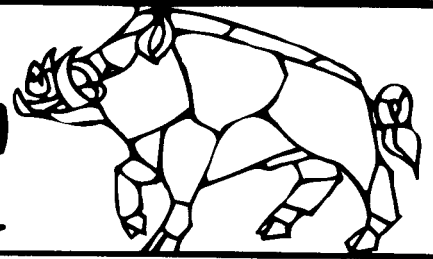


Ricardian REGISTER



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Richard III offered the crown at Baynard Castle.

(Mural in The Royal Exchange, London, by Sigismund Goetze.)

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Geoffrey Richardson



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The Society is looking for a volunteer as Publicity Chair. If willing to help, please contact any officer.

Editorial License

Carole Rike

It's not news to those who know me personally that this newsletter gets done by "the seat of my pants." The last item written is this column. It is never proofread, and what you read here is the first draft of whatever comes into this aging and befuddled mind.

This time, however, I've *really* done it. In the Fall issue of the *Register*, I identify Geoffrey Richardson as Geoffrey Wheeler. I know both of these men and have no difficulty keeping them separate in my head — only on the keyboard.

Bad enough to make this error, but worse when I identified Geoffrey Wheeler with Geoffrey Richardson's current drive to re-examine the bones in the urn, which runs contrary to the purposes of the "Parent Society." I quote below an e-mail from Elizabeth Nokes of the English branch, which pretty much sums up my stupidity:

[Geoffrey Wheeler] is a longstanding member of the Committee of the Society, and its Audio Visual and Press Records Officer, and lives in London. He recently wrote the article on Barnet heraldry in the December 2000 Bulletin, and frequently provides it with cover illustrations. He is NOT the perpetrator of the Bones/DNA petition, and is in perfectly good health!

Geoff Richardson lives in Yorkshire, and has recently become a member of the Yorkshire Branch Committee. It is he who has generated the bones/DNA petition, and who has recently been unwell.

So the following contain error: 'Editorial License' page 3, paragraph 5. 'Ricardian Post' pp10-12, authored by Geoff Richardson, but by you attributed to Geoff Wheeler, Yorkshire.

It is quite important not to attribute Geoff R's views to Geoffrey Wheeler, because he does not share them at all!

I can only offer my sincerest apologies to both Geoffreys and hope they will be able to forgive my lapse. Both of them are held in great esteem by me!

Also my apologies to our Readers, who have reason to expect more accuracy from their Editor.

King Richard's Field

Peter Hancock

Perhaps the most frustrating aspect of Ricardian scholarship is the poverty of information about the most crucial episodes of the late King's life. The epitome of this may very well be the dearth of evidence about the battle in which Richard met his death. It is a supportable assertion that this was the most pivotal of all conflicts in English history. Yet to day we still do not even agree on the name of the event, let alone the substance of what actually occurred (see Bennett, 1985; Gairdner, 1896).

Here, I refer to the battle as 'Bosworth Field,' although alternative titles might well have a better claim to being more descriptive or more historically relevant. In deed, the combatants present on the 22nd of August, 1485 might well have no recognition at all of this common name that we use to day! Existing records concerning the battle are sparse and sometimes contradictory, so in this brief article I want to examine references to the battle on early English maps of the area¹. However, even the earliest of these maps was printed approximately one hundred years after the battle and so we should not expect any new contemporary insight. What I believe these maps do illustrate is the prominence of the battle field region in the formulations of these early cartographers, at least one of whom is also a noted historian. I discuss the significance of this observation in relation to three specific examples of such early maps.

The first consistent survey and cartographic record of the Counties of England was constructed by Christopher Saxton (see Ravenhill, 1992). It is likely that Saxton was a student, a servant or an apprentice of John Rudd, whose connection with royal patronage was most probably influential in securing the commission to survey and map the realm. The line of authority came through Thomas Seckford who was Master of Requests to Queen Elizabeth I and whose arms appear on the maps, although the moving force in the enterprise was most probably William Cecil, Lord Burghley, who orchestrated much of Elizabethan administration and may well have been concerned with cartography as a tool in defense of the realm. Ravenhill (1992) provides several references to Saxton's life and achievements (see

Fordham, 1928; Harley, 1979; Tyacke & Huddy, 1980) and his story is especially interesting in that in a very few years he was able to survey all of England and by 1577 produce maps of such accuracy that they remain pragmatically useful to the present day.

In response to the requirement to adjust each mapped area to the size of the printing plate, Saxton varied the scale of each map, the smallest being the representation of Lancashire at approximately 1:300,000 and the largest being Monmouthshire at approximately 1:140,000. As a result of this sizing procedure, twenty-five of the maps each illustrate a single County while the remaining nine feature a different number of counties ranging up to five Counties on one printed sheet. In respect of Bosworth, Saxton combined the counties of Warwickshire and Leicestershire together in one of the five maps of paired counties that he produced. The relevant area of the map of Leicestershire is reproduced here.



We should note the variations in the spellings with an extra 'e' for Bosworth and the two close villages to the battle site given as just Sutton and Doddington (or possibly Daddington, the second letter being rather indistinct). Across this area, Saxton has provided the designation 'King Ricfeld,' and immediately below the 'R.' Saxton has shown an elevation, which in this case is most probably Ambion Hill. While Saxton's Atlas represented the first comprehensive mapping of England, it is John Speed who is often acknowledged as the outstanding English cartographer. This might be

surprising for many who have followed the story of Richard and encountered Speed only in his role as a historian. In his *History of Great Britain*, Speed (1632²) proves no friend to Richard. However, it is of particular interest to note that the Chapters on Edward V and Richard III are both written by Sir Thomas Moore. Given this Moore is the Thomas More of Cardinal Morton's household and the author of 'The History of Richard III' the slant presented upon the reign of the King is certainly more than understandable (and see Dockray, 1988). Thus these chapters repeat many of the accusations with which we are now thoroughly familiar. On his own map of Leicestershire, Speed has a cartouche which, as shown, illustrates the Battle of Bosworth.



The leg end from the cartouche reads:

"Nere Bosworth upon Redemore the last battail betwixt the families of York and Lacaster was fought. Whose Civill discentions had spent England more blode then twice had done the winning of Fraunce. There Richard the tyrant & usurper by Henry Earl of Richmond with 4000. men were slaine, and but 10 only on the Earls part. The corps of ye dead king being tugged and dyspitefully torne was layd all naked upon an horse, and trussed like a hogge behind a pursivant at Armes and as homely buried in ye Graye Fr. within Leicester, which being ruined, his grave rests as obscure overgrowne with nettles and weeds. This Battail was fought the 22 of August anno 1485."

A small but interesting point to note on Speed's map is the inconsistency in spelling of the

area around the battle. On the main representation, an area within King Richard's Field is noted as Red More. However, within the cartouche itself, the spelling changes to Redemore. Spelling consistency is much more an insistence of recent centuries but could be of significance here in that the difference between 'Red More' (red moor) in reference to the supposed color of the soil at the location and 'Redemore' (reed moor) in reference to a marshy area of flat land has been a point of contention in the arguments concerning the specific site of the battle itself. The interested reader is directed to Foss (1988, 1990) whose book arguably represents the most authoritative text on this wider issue which also concerns the many different names given to this event. Speed designates the area 'Kinge Richards feild,' which as we shall see was also subject to copying error.

Before the advent of copyright, it was not unusual for cartographers to copy or borrow directly from their predecessors. For example, the map-maker Lea combined elements of Saxton's early maps with parts of Speed's later maps to produce a very aesthetic and successful hybrid. In the present case, it appears that Speed, like Smith earlier, has borrowed some from Saxton's description. However, the names around the battle site were changed. For Sutton, Speed now has Sutton Cheney and Doddington has become the much more familiar Dadlington. In the center of this area, Speed retains the designation 'Kinge Richards feild' but on his map provides a boundary to the area. It is clear that Speed considered this a special place. Featuring the battle here as a specific location on the map itself and as a cartouche provides us with several potential insights. First, Speed may well have considered this the pre-eminent event in Leicestershire County history to



that time. Also given that Speed features only a limited number of cartouches on his 43 County maps of England, we might conclude that he, as a historian, considered the battle a pivotal event in history. Further, the SW-NE axis of the area might also have some significance (see Foss, 1988). As mentioned, cartographers often borrowed from each other and on the Dutch production by Jansson of the same County, we find the same feature. Jansson managed to inject a transposition error into his copying, giving us 'Kingo Richards feild.' Thus still managing to reproduce the now, odd spelling of field. Despite these understandable metamorphoses, the designation King Richard's Field remains.



Here I have only included a very brief selection of early English maps of the area, including the two consensus most influential in Saxton and Speed. From these observations I would like to draw some tentative conclusions. First, the presentation of a specific area, 'King Ric. Feld' is essentially unique. I can find no comparable case in Saxton's Atlas or in Speed's. While we might assume that Speed copied directly from Saxton, the question still remains where did this designation originate. Remember, Saxton was an Elizabethan cartographer working specifically for the Crown. Elizabeth I, lest we forget was the grand-daughter of Henry VII, Earl of Richmond and Richard's manifest enemy on that fateful day at Bosworth. Perhaps the most likely explanation is that Saxton himself, or one of his agents, derived this information from local contacts. (There is little evidence of earlier maps of this particular area for Saxton to copy, although some earlier maps of other counties by Norden and perhaps Rudd might have provided a basis for some Counties especially around London). Saxton's designation does provide us with prime facie evidence that

approximately one hundred years after the battle, the location was known by King Richard and not King Henry's name. The fact that the same designation appears on the map of the general area presented in Hutton's (1788) treatise is not then to be a surprise.

Our best evidence suggests that Henry Tudor played little in the way of an active role in the actual battle itself. Whatever the veracity of that observation, it is clear that Bosworth was the most significant event in Henry's life. Today, we suspect that crown hill, to the south of the battle site was the location in which Henry was first recognized as King after the crown itself was purportedly recovered from a thorn bush. Given the importance of this event, it may therefore appear strange that the local site is named after the dead, defeated King and not the live, victorious one. We can well surmise that Henry's hold on the crown would, at least initially, have been a very tenuous one. His marriage to Elizabeth of York was an act calculated, at least in part, to confirm his position. Why then did Henry not take steps to assure the perpetuity of his name in the victorious battle location? That the name might have subsequently reverted to Richard's might be a local circumstance but that a royally commissioned Tudor cartographer producing the first detailed map of the realm includes it as such is odd at least. And one last point. Who names a location after a villain of the supposed magnitude of Richard III? Perhaps this is another small, faint indication that history has not always treated Richard as a stage stereotype representation, and that local residents, unfettered by greater power politics and persuasion could, like the people of York remember the dead King with more affection. That Saxton could and did produce this designation is also in deed to his credit.

Acknowledgment

I am very grateful for the review and comments of Mr. Jonathon Potter on an earlier version of this work. As a leading expert on antique maps, his time and evaluation are greatly appreciated. For those interested in a thorough evaluation of the questions of the Battle of Bosworth, I strongly recommend Foss's very informative text (1990, 1998).

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Originally from Gloucestershire, Hancock collects and studies antique maps and is a committed Ricardian. He is married with two children, plays golf and coaches high-school soccer.

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Contrasting Shakespeare's Richard With the Historical Figure

Joseph Smigelski

Much emphasis is placed upon introducing the concept of critical thinking in community college English courses. Should we believe everything we read and hear without questioning its validity? If not, how should we evaluate the information? How much can we trust the points of view of people in positions of authority? What agendas might they be following? What biases might they be subject to? Students need to learn that when people—even authority figures—make claims, those people can be wrong. The evidence supporting those claims must be scrutinized. Only after carefully reviewing that evidence should we decide whether or not to believe the claims.

Richard III is an ideal subject to use when exploring this issue because there are two Richards: the Machiavellian monster created by Shakespeare and the historical figure who many historians claim is a much-maligned innocent man. So is Richard the sinner or the one sinned against? How can we decide? Is a decision even possible?

In Shakespeare's play *Richard III*, Richard describes himself as a deformed malcontent in the opening soliloquy. (Shakespeare often uses physical deformity to mirror an evil mind.)

*I, that am curtail'd of this fair proportion,
Cheated of feature by dissembling nature,
Deformed, unfinish'd, sent before my time
Into this breathing world, scarce half made up,
...*

*And therefore, since I cannot prove a lover,
To entertain these fair well-spoken days,
I am determined to prove a villain
And hate the idle pleasures of these days.*

Many historians, on the other hand, have a different view of the man. For instance, in the 1956 biography *Richard the Third*, Paul Murray Kendall describes Richard based on contemporary writings and two well-known portraits of the King.¹

Most contemporary descriptions bear out the evidence of these portraits that Richard had no noticeable bodily deformity, and establish him as a thin, frail man of a little less than normal height.

The most heinous crime that the Tudors (the kings who succeeded Richard to the throne) accused Richard of committing was the murder of his nephews—Edward V and Richard, Duke of York—the sons of his brother, the former king, Edward IV. How seriously should we take this accusation? What evidence supports it? Kendall writes, "If we take 'evidence' to mean testimony that would secure a verdict in a court of law, there is no evidence that he [Richard] murdered the princes." Shakespeare is certain that Richard was a malicious archfiend. Kendall and others have serious doubts. What really happened to the Princes in the Tower, the young boys who were next in line to the throne when Edward IV died, is the biggest mystery in English history. Shakespeare says that Richard had them killed. Should we take the Bard's word for it?

I encourage my students to read Josephine Tey's mystery novel *The Daughter of Time* which introduces the other side of the story: Maybe Richard did not kill the princes; maybe somebody else did, or maybe they were not murdered at all. On top of that, maybe Richard was actually a good king, even a reformer. Let's look at all the available evidence before coming to a conclusion. Two other books I recommend that give conflicting viewpoints on this controversial subject are *The Princes in the Tower* by Alison Weir and *Royal Blood: Richard III and the Mystery of the Princes* by Bertram Fields. Weir is a respected historian who argues Richard's guilt, and Fields is a high-profile attorney who claims that there is nowhere near enough evidence to convict the King. Both books are fun to read, and students have responded favorably to them. In fact, after I had introduced this topic in class, a few of my students said to me that they were absolutely determined to prove Richard's innocence. They went out and read all three of the aforementioned books, and although they fell short of a definitive solution to the mystery, they learned a lot about critical thinking and the writing process.

As I suggested above, one of the many logical fallacies that impair critical thinking is the appeal to authority. To support an argument, an author will often find an "important person" who agrees with his or her view and will present that person's unsubstantiated opinion as evidence. After all, it is tempting to believe something without question when it comes from an

author's figure. However, this could lead to dangerous ground because the important person could be dead wrong. Such an important person is Sir Thomas More, who wrote the first condemnation biography of Richard III. In *The History of King Richard III*, More painted Richard as a monster:

*Richard the third son ... was ... ill featured of limbs, crook backed, his left shoulder much higher then his right, hard favored of visage, ... he was malicious, wrathful, envious, and from before his birth, ever froward. It is for truth reported, that the Duchess his mother had so much ado in her travail, that she could not be delivered of him uncut: and that he came into the world with the feet forward, ... He was close and secret, ... where his advantage grew, he spared no man death, whose life withstood his purpose.*²

More was a much respected lawyer and scholar who was eventually canonized by the Catholic Church. However, he was but a child during Richard's reign and was brought up under the tutelage of John Morton, Bishop of Ely, a known enemy of Richard and the holder of high position in the Tudor government. Was More being objective in his writing, or was he merely following the party line? More's biography of Richard remained unfinished and unpublished at his death. Because of this, some contend that More never intended to publish it, that it was perhaps written as a parody or an ironic statement about the historical "spin doctoring" having been done by Henry VII and Henry VIII. It was in the interests of these Tudor kings to smear Richard because making Richard look bad bolstered their relatively weak claims to the throne.

When writing their books, Tudor historians Edward Hall and Raphael Holinshed got much of their information from More. In turn, Shakespeare, who is considered by many to be the greatest writer in the English language, based his famous play on Hall and Holinshed. Should we believe More and Shakespeare—the saint and the genius—solely because of who they were? Or should we treat them as fallible human beings capable of error and confusion? It is questions like these that I want my students to ask.

I use two films in my classes as additional instructional tools. The first is *Looking for Richard*, a documentary on Shakespeare's play directed by Al Pacino. He and his colleagues (among them Kevin Spacey, Alec Baldwin, and Winona Ryder) analyze the plot, try to figure out the relationships of the characters to one another, and discuss the personalities of the key figures. They also perform many scenes from the play itself. One of the high lights is Al Pacino (as Richard)

trapping Winona Ryder (as Lady Anne) in the famous seduction scene in Act One. Students find this movie a very helpful, indeed vital, introduction to the text. I suggest that they do not start reading the play until after viewing the film. That way, when they put their eyes to "Now is the winter of our discontent,"³ it will mean something to them. (A nice companion to Pacino's film can be found on the Richard III Society's website at www.r3.org/pacino/index.html. Here you'll find a "Viewer's Guide and Lesson Plan" that will save any teacher a lot of work and provide the students with an interesting project.)

The other film I use is a History Channel production called *The Missing Princes of England*, a documentary about the historical Richard III and the mystery surrounding the Princes in the Tower. This film provides a well-balanced view of the controversy; historians share their conflicting views in a well-illustrated presentation. The film also serves as a very good brief biography of Richard, so it is well worth viewing. I can't think of a better introduction to the historical side of things.

So, was a good king's reputation destroyed by the Tudors who succeeded him on the throne? Did William Shakespeare simply go along for the ride? To this day, these questions continue to fascinate historians and English teachers. Books and articles are written on the subject every year. There is even a Richard III Society dedicated to clearing the name of the last Plantagenet king.

In conclusion, Richard III is an excellent subject to use when helping community college students develop the necessary critical thinking skills that will lead to success both in school and in life.

For more information on the fascinating world of Richard III, go on the World Wide Web to www.r3.org, the site maintained by the American Branch of the Richard III Society.

NOTES

1. One is in the Royal Collection at Windsor Castle, and the other is in the National Portrait Gallery.
2. To make the above quote easier for today's readers to understand, I have taken the liberty of modernizing More's spelling.
3. "Now is the winter of our discontent" is the first line of the play.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Joseph Smigelski teaches English at Las Positas College and at Diablo Valley College in Northern California. He also writes short stories.

Annual Appreciation Award Citations

Background: The Board together with Maria Torres, 2000 AGM Chair, and with Ex Officio Board members Webmaster Laura Blanchard and *Ricardian Register* Editor Carole Rike decided to cite active Committee Chairs and other members who had given generously of their time and services in furtherance of the Society's goals, as follows:

Peggy Allen, "for faithful service as Membership Chair, 1996-2000."

Bonnie Battaglia, "for faithful service as Treasurer, 1996-2000."

Dianne Batch, "for information and advice concerning the Chapter and the NYM AGM."

Rita Blake, "for organizing Ricardian efforts in Eastern Missouri."

Laura Blanchard, "without whom there would have been no impetus to resuscitate the NYM Chapter, with gratitude from the Chapter membership for all her advice and support."

Roy Blanchard, "for his contribution as an actor in *Loyalty Lies*."

Celeste Bonfanti, "for her dynamic participation in the coordination of the NYM AGM and for designing the NYM AGM logo."

Michael Bongiorno, "for his efforts as Vice-Chairman of the NYM Chapter and founder of its newsletter, and for helping in the Chapter's first participation in the Cloisters' Medieval festival, for participation as an actor in *Loyalty Lies*."

Colleen Carter, "for her efforts as NYM Chapter Member-at-Large, for helping in the Chapter's first participation in the Cloisters' Medieval festival, and for creating the concept for the NYM AGM logo."

Tina Cooper, "for creating pages on the Society's Web site for AGM 2000, and for ongoing assistance with the Web site."

Susan Dexter, "for ongoing graphic design services to *The Ricardian Register* and to other Society endeavors."

Jeanne Faubell, "for her contribution as an actor in *Loyalty Lies* and for meritorious service in the position of Fiction Librarian, 1997 - current."

Judie Gall, "for advice, support, newsletters, friendship, and the indispensable Ricardian banners for use at the Cloisters' Medieval festival and the NYM AGM."

Patricia Gallagher, "for her efforts as NYM Chapter Secretary, and for designing the Chapter's Web site."

Elizabeth Greene, "for helping in the NYM Chapter's first participation in the Cloisters' Medieval festival, for her contributions to the dramatic aims of the Chapter, and for her contributions to the NYM AGM entertainment, and for participation as an actor in *Loyalty Lies*."

Lisa Ann Guastella, "for her dynamic contributions to the NYM AGM as our newest member."

Dawn Kania, "for her dynamic contributions to the NYM AGM."

Sherry Liff, "for meritorious service processing membership renewals, 1999-current, and for compiling Two-Year Member Profiles for publication in *The Ricardian Register*."

Helen Maurer, "for long-time and meritorious service as Librarian of the Judy R. Weinsoft Memorial Research Library."

Mary Miller, "for meritorious service on the 2000 Nominating Committee and also to recognize her long-time service as Fiction Librarian, through 1997."

Roxane Murph, "for presenting the key notes speech at the 2000 NYM AGM, for meritorious service on the 2000 Nominating Committee, and for other long-time and valuable service to the Society."

Nancy Northcott, "for meritorious service in the position of Coordinator for the William B. Schallek Memorial Graduate Fellowships Award, 1997 - 2000."

Jennifer Reed, "for valuable service in the position of Sales Officer, 1998-current."

Geoffrey Richardson, "with the American Branch's grateful thanks, for numerous contributions to *The Ricardian Register*."

Cheryl Rothwell, "for meritorious service in the position of Online Member Services Chair, 1996-current, and other services to the Society and its Web site, including bringing the *1966-1999 Ricardian Register Index* to the Society's Website."

Annual Appreciation Awards

Yvonne Sadler, "for meritorious service in the position of Audio-Visual Librarian, 1995-current."

Anne Smith, "as a long-distance NYM Chapter member, and for her enthusiastic coordination of the dramatic entertainment for the NYM AGM, and for participation as an actor in *Loyalty Lies*."

Myrna Smith, "for ongoing meritorious service as Book Review Editor of *The Ricardian Register*."

Kathleen Spaltro, "for compiling the 1966-1999 *Ricardian Register Index*, which was published in print and on the Society's Web site."

Marilynn Summers, "for representing the American Branch and displaying its materials at Middleham, July, 2000."

Maria Elena Torres and the New Yorkists (New York Metro Chapter), "for organizing and hosting AGM 2000."

Sandra Torres, "for her contribution as an actor in *Loyalty Lies*."

Janet Trimboth, "for gathering and organizing Ricardian books and materials to be donated to schools in the Society's name."

Barbara Underwood, "for presenting the Sunday morning Schallek breakfast address at the 2000 NYM AGM."

As a policy, Board members receive an award for their Board service only at the end of their terms, not each year, though they may be cited from year to year for other activities in addition to their Board duties. If you know

Ricardian Register Now On The Society's Web Site!

A member who rejoined after a long lapse wrote in, "I was an active member for many years and then quit receiving mailings of any kind. I would like to become a member once again and to be updated on society happenings worldwide since 1988 or so." She may soon be able to get this information, at least for the American Branch, by visiting the members-only section of the Society's Web site: www.r3.org/members

Back issues of the *Ricardian Register* are now available at the above address, in the highly readable Adobe Acrobat format, and more are being added as this issue goes to press.

The members-only section is password protected — to receive a password, e-mail richard3-owner@plantagenet.com



New York AGM: Compton & Shirley Reeves

In Loving Memory

DR. PHILIP DERICKSON died 30 September, 2000 in Tucson, AZ. He was an active member of Richard III Society with this wife Doris, since 1973.

We shall not forget you.

Loyaulte me lie...

Arizona Chapter Richard III Society

Good News For Middleham Tourists

It's very possible that Ricardians will be able to travel from London to Leyburn, the town just a few miles north of Middleham, by train by next summer. The following item is from the November 29 issue of *Rail*:

The purchase of Leyburn station is seen by the Wensleydale Railway Company as an important step in its campaign to return passenger services to the 22-mile Northallerton-Redmire line. A shop will be set up in the former ticket office and waiting room.

The company, which already owns Aysgarth and Leeming Bar stations, has agreement from Railtrack to run its first trains next summer and was negotiating the lease of the 22-mile route from the ECML at Northallerton to Redmire. Its long-term aim is to restore the link with the Settle-Carlisle line at Garsdale."

Additional information on the Wensleydale Railway can be found at <http://www.ukhrail.uel.ac.uk/wra.html>. The Settle-Carlisle line is considered by many to be England's most scenic railway. Additional information can be found at their website, <http://www.settle-carlisle.co.uk/>

THE RED QUEEN

A novel about Margaret of Anjou
Ruth S. Perot, 1st Books, Bloomington, IN,
2000 pb ISBN 1-58721-233-1. 285 pages.

Richard has been rehabilitated, why not Margaret, Shakespeare's "Tiger's heart wrapt in a woman's hide,"?

Print-on-demand book, available through Amazon, Barnes and Nobel, and most bookstores, or from me (signed, if you wish), postpaid \$20.

Ruth S. Perot
102 Homestead Village, #18
Fairhope, AL 3653

New Chapter Coordinator Appointed

The Board has appointed Pam Mills, an active member of the Arizona Chapter, to take the position of Chapters Coordinator.

Pam will be the main conduit for two-way communication between the national Society and the Chapters. She will be fielding requests for assistance with Chapter formation and the like, and will be collecting chapter reports and trying to promote an exchange of ideas about what helps chapters grow and thrive.

Pam is now entering her second year as a Ricardian. She became involved through the theater — namely Shakespeare's *Richard the Third*. She loved Richard as a villain, and he was her "favorite" bad guy in literature.

For the last 10 years Pam has been a fan of Kenneth Branagh, who has done much to revive Shakespeare's works. A friend interviewed him 3 years ago and asked if he had read *The Daughter of Time*, which he had. At this time she had not heard of the book, but bought a copy and read it right away. She then wrote to Mr. Branagh about Richard, and the Tey book. He wrote back suggesting she might be interested in joining the Richard the Third Society.

Since joining the group, she has traveled to England, and visited several Ricardian sites. She has met many who share her enthusiasm for Richard.

Pam is married and lives with her retired husband in Phoenix, Arizona. Her other interests include theater, the SCA, fencing, and archery, and of course medieval history.

Anyone who wishes to start a new chapter, or needs to communicate with the group on chapter-related duties, can e-mail Pam at SHAKESPEARE.@prodigy.net or they can snail mail to: Pamela Mills 8946 W Osborn Rd. Phoenix, Arizona 85037; her phone number and fax number is (623) 772-9295

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Paying in advance saves both the Society and the member some postage costs, plus time and effort. If you would like to do this, no special procedures are needed — our database can handle it! Simply make out your check for as many years' dues as you wish and write a note on the renewal card to the effect that you wish to pay for that many years in advance.

Ricardian Honor Roll – 2000

Year Joined

1980

20 - Year Mem bers

Mr. George B. Crofut
Mrs. Georgia Howeth
Mrs. Mary Poundstone Miller
Ms. Ellen Shapiro
Mr. & Mrs. John N. Tsigakos
Prof. Retha M. Warnicke

1985

15 - Year Mem bers

Ms. Nancy Bailey
Mrs. Sharon V. Buley
Mrs. Dorothy Calkins
Virginia V. Chanda
Ms. Athena J. Christos
Mrs. Susan P. Connally
Mrs. Marilyn Dailey
Mr. Samuel Lyles Freeland
Judie & Bruce Gall
Vicki A. & Carl M. Hild
Mary Houck
Mrs. Patricia J. Johnson
Mr. James Lithgow
Ms. Amy Lubelski
Ms. Barbara H. Magruder
Wendy W. & Francis J. McGarvey
Mr. Eugene McManus
Ms. Marianne J. Mitkus
Christopher P. & Mary Y. Nicholas
Ms. Helen E. Peterson
Mr. B. Franklin Reinauer III
Mr. Michael J. Ressetar
Mrs. Lois H. Trinkle
Miss Karen Vogel
Ms. Janice L. Weiner

1990

10 - Year Mem bers

Ms. Becky Aderman
Mr. Sam T. Allen III
Mrs. Junell H. Bott
Ms. Barbara Bowman
Mrs. Angela P. Braunfeld
Ms. Claire K. Brock
Jim & Peg Devine
Mr. George R. Dodsworth
Ms. Caroline W. Everett
Mrs. Elizabeth Gibbons
Victor H. & Elizabeth S. Hanson II

1990

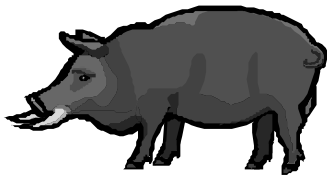
10 - Year Mem bers

Marion Harris
Mrs. Virginia Ann Heyerdahl
Mrs. Lorraine Lindevald
Ms. Beverly B. Norris
Mr. Louis Pernicka, Jr
Ms. Toni Press-Coffman
Mr. John L. Price
Ms. Jean C. Siler
Dr. Mary E. Springhorn
Ms. Jane L. Taverner
Lt. Col Theodore Michael Trout
Joyce & Tony Tumea
Mrs. Ruth D. Wandrei
Mrs. Mollie L. Weaver
Rev'd. Canon Robert S. S. Whitman

1995

5 - Year Mem bers

Ms. Lisa Baas
Mrs. Maryanne E. Bagby
Mrs. Christopher Bailey
Diane Martinez & Donna C. Boggs
Dr. Gil Bogner
Mr. Earl Rae Booker
Lt. Col & Mrs. James A. Boyd, Jr.
Miss Daryl R. Dally
Mrs. Marianna K. Dyal
Dr. Jack Feldman
Mrs. Sarah S. Foulkrod
Mrs. Anne Marie Gazzolo
Kelly S. Gritten
Mrs. Gloria Halliday
Mrs. Joan Search Hanson
Yvonne Herron
Mrs. Constant E. Hopkins
Mrs. Dortha Lininger
Ms. Elizabeth J. Linstrom
Mrs. Monica C. McCarty
Ms. Greta L. Mohon
Ms. Susan M. Morris
Mrs. Florence Radok
Robert Reed
Mr. Thomas A. Rucker
Ms. Lisa A. Ruffino
Audrey Schadt
Mrs. William Slaugher
Ms. Joan M. B. Smith
Mr. William A. Walsh
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A busload of Ricardians at New York City AGM, October, 2000: Cloisters Tour

“Edward IV’s Roll I”: A Personal Memoir

Laura Blanchard

For more than a year, Carole Rike and I have been talking about doing a special feature on the manuscript genealogy of Richard’s brother, Edward IV, that has been restored to its fifteenth-century splendor with the financial assistance of the Richard III Society.

With the deadline rapidly approaching, I find I’m pressed for time for the best of reasons: I am working on text that will be used on a CD-ROM and a web site about this manuscript, and the deadline for that project is in conflict with the deadline for the *Register*. In fact, when Carole’s deadline comes up I will be at the British Library doing research on similar manuscripts. So I thought that, instead, *Register* readers might enjoy the story of how I came to discover this manuscript and what it has meant to me over the last forty years.

Back in the spring of 1961, when I was barely a teenager, I became fascinated with Shakespeare’s *Richard III* after seeing the film version starring Laurence Olivier. When an encyclopedia article about the historic Richard III mentioned that he might not have had a withered arm, I was hooked. “If Shakespeare was wrong about that, what *else* might he have been wrong about?” I asked my family, who really didn’t care.

Because our neighborhood library contained less than nothing about Richard III, my father took me, one cold Saturday morning, to the main branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia. Confronted with a card catalog that filled a cave-like room, with at least a dozen entries on Richard III, I froze. What to do? Where to start? My father, a journalist by training, was there with advice. “This is a historical controversy,” he said, “so you want to get as close to the source as possible. Look for the catalog entry with the oldest copyright date.”

The oldest “copyright” date in this research library was actually pre-copyright — a first edition of Horace Walpole’s *Historic Doubts on the Life and Reign of Richard III* printed in 1768. I don’t know what my father said to the librarians to pull this off, but fifteen minutes later I found myself sitting in a reading room of the Rare Book Department with *Historic Doubts* on a bookcradle in front of me, its pages held in place by a velvet “snake” filled with buckshot. In this pre-Xerox era I read and copied, read and copied, and came back on three consecutive Saturdays.

On the third of these Saturdays the curator, whose name I never knew, brought me the precious volume but then came back some what later. “You’re interested in Richard III, aren’t you?” he asked. Startled and a little overwhelmed, I nodded.

“Come into the Manuscript Room,” he said. “There’s something here that I think you’d like to see.”

I am older now, and have been to many rare book libraries, and I know that he didn’t actually do what I remember him doing. The manuscript he showed me was kept in a red box, and I know now that he must have unrolled it very carefully and displayed the first half of the 19-foot scroll on the long table in the Manuscript Room, then rolled up the first half and unrolled the second half. But when I remember my first sight of the manuscript, by some trick of memory I see him opening the box, flicking his wrist and *whoosh!* — this magnificent document comes spinning out in front of me in exuberant abundance, spilling over the edge of the table and coming to rest on the floor below. Be that as it may — the curator explained that this the family of Richard’s elder brother Edward IV, going clear back to Adam. *But where’s Richard?* I wondered. He knew this would be my question, and he showed me the little boxes down at the bottom of the scroll that showed George and Richard and all of Edward’s sisters.

Time passed. I set aside my youthful interest in Richard III in the early 1970s and then picked it up again in the mid-1980s. Thirty years after I first saw that manuscript, in 1991, the Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter planned a trip to the Rare Book Department and I — a New Jersey resident at the time — joined them. When the tour ended I asked the librarian, Karen Lightner, why she hadn’t brought out the Edward IV scroll for my fellow Ricardians to see. *What scroll?* she asked, and I described the manuscript in its red box, and pointed to the shelf in the manuscript room where I’d remembered it being. It was still right where my old mentor the curator had left it. “Oh, now I know which one you mean!” she exclaimed, and she got it and unrolled it for us.

The memory of that second look came back to me suddenly, a few months later, and I was possessed with the overwhelming feeling that I *had* to have photographs of the manuscript. A day or two later I called to make arrangements to come down and photograph it. The librarian who answered the phone paused, then asked me how I came to know of the scroll.

When I told him the story of the curator and my experience as a girl, he said, "I know exactly who showed you that manuscript. Funny you should call today. He just died; his funeral was this morning." Wondering about the eerie coincidence — or was it? — I made the appointment, and the Reluctant Ricardian (my husband Roy) and I spent a morning photographing it.

In 1993 Ralph Griffiths (Henry VI's biographer, from the University of Swansea, and an authority on manuscripts of this type) came to Philadelphia to study on the manuscript. The South eastern Pennsylvania chapter joined him to hear his insights and view the manuscript again. Those of us who viewed it under Griffiths' tutelage feel especially privileged.

The manuscript was on private display for Ricardians again in 1996 when about thirty of us went over just before the AGM to see it. Shortly afterwards we decided to raise money for its conservation, and were successful in raising a total of \$5,000 for this project. The return on our investment can be plainly seen in before and after pictures — the illustrations are much more vivid, the writing much more easy to read. What we can't see, but what is just as important, is that we have stabilized the manuscript so that paint and ink are far less likely to flake off when it is unrolled and re-rolled.

Forty years after I first saw this manuscript it will be on public display — for possibly the first time since Edward IV's coronation — at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, one of the corner stones of a magnificent manuscript exhibition called *Leaves of Gold: Treasures of Manuscript Illumination from Philadelphia Collections*. The exhibition, sponsored jointly by the Museum and the Philadelphia Area Consortium of Special Collections Libraries, will be on display from March 10 through May 13, 2001. A special case is being constructed so that the entire 19-foot length of the scroll can be on display at once. The exhibition, including this manuscript as far as I know, will then travel to the Frist Gallery in Nashville, Tennessee, where it will be part of that gallery's grand opening exhibition, from September 27, 2001 - January 6, 2002.

The charm of this manuscript for Ricardians should be its heraldic material. There are 54 shields and banners, along with every Yorkist badge I know of — roses, suns, fetterlocks, falcons —

reinforcing the Yorkist claim to the throne of England by right of inheritance, by right of conquest, and by right of divine approval. As an added bonus, as we know, Richard III founded the College of Arms in 1484, and this manuscript is unique among the 20 genealogies of his brother that survive for its wealth of heraldic material. (Indeed, Ralph Griffiths commented that this wealth of heraldic material strongly suggests participation in its creation by someone skilled in heraldry such as John Smert, who served both Henry VI and Edward IV as Garter King of Arms.) I occasionally wonder whether the seven-year-old Richard saw this during the coronation festivities, and whether it played a role in his later decision to found the College of Arms. I imagine him tugging on his big brother's sleeve, asking when his new "Duke of Gloucester" title would be added to the roll — as indeed it was, some time after the manuscript was finished. What a perfect circle *that* would be, for us to have a hand in preserving the manuscript that sparked Richard's interest in heraldry!

What is also exciting to me, as an American Ricardian, is that this priceless treasure is in an American collection by the purest serendipity. The purchaser of this manuscript was John Lewis, a Philadelphia lawyer whose hobby was collecting the history of the book. His collection spans the earliest cuneiform tablets through materials that were on the cutting edge of publishing at the time of his death. He bought this manuscript in 1927 for 120 pounds. Even allowing for inflation, this is an incredible bargain! Besides being a beautiful manuscript, this is unquestionably the finest pedigree of Edward IV that



Even a photocopy version made from a microfilm of the manuscript can captivate Ricardians. From left: Compton Reeves, Laura Blanchard, Sharon Michalove at Kalamazoo. Photo by Janet

has survived — and the number of pedigrees of Edward IV that have survived tell us how important these manuscripts were to the Yorkists.

In the past decade this manuscript has been studied more, photographed more often, and cited in more publications than in the whole half millennium of its existence. Scholars all seem to be agreed that this is the “official” pedigree of Edward IV, commissioned to celebrate his coronation and possibly displayed in public on that triumphant occasion. It has been mentioned and catalogued in surveys of late medieval English manuscripts, in Society publications, in other publications about Richard III’s books and about the reburial of Richard duke of York, and in publications by heralds (notably the most recent visitation of Wales).

The manuscript has taken such an important place in next spring’s exhibition that it will be one of just seven manuscripts to receive in-depth treatment in the CD-ROM being produced about the exhibition. And, as if that weren’t enough, the Free Library of Philadelphia is planning to devote a special web site section to the manuscript and its historical and heraldic context. (And, yes, the CD-ROM will be available for purchase!) The Richard III Society’s role in conserving the manuscript will be mentioned in the printed exhibition catalog, the CD-ROM, and on the web site.

As Ricardians, we can be very proud of our role in safeguarding this manuscript for generations to come. Carole Rike has very generously agreed to produce a full-color supplement to this issue of the *Register*. On it you can see, in miniature, a facsimile of the entire manuscript. It begins with a magnificent equestrian portrait of Edward IV, continues with a history of the world from the Creation, and traces the lines of descent of the nobility of Britain, the Saxon kingdoms, France, Spain, Aquitaine, and Normandy. Illuminated roundels illustrate God in Majesty, the Fall of Man, and the Flood. A diagrammatic map in the shape of a Yorkist rose shows the seven Saxon kingdoms. Seven charming half-portraits show the Princes of Wales, the Dukes of Cornwall, Aquitaine and Normandy, and the Kings of England, France and Castile/Leon.

Throughout the manuscript, Edward’s white rose and his motto “comfort et liesse” (comfort and joy) and the badges of the sun in splendor and the fetterlock reinforce Yorkist imagery. The badges of the white hart (Richard II), black bull (earls of Clare) and white lion (earl of March) telegraph to a later-medieval audience Edward IV’s right to inheritance from Richard II through the Mortimer line. All the “gold letter” captions of the manuscript illustrations are direct quotations or paraphrases from the

Vulgate, reinforcing the idea that it was divine will that Edward IV should be king.

I hope that if you are anywhere near Philadelphia or Nashville on the dates of the exhibition you will take the time to see this wonderful manuscript. If you cannot visit the exhibition, I hope you will purchase or borrow the CD-ROM, or visit the exhibition’s web site, which should be accessible from the Museum’s announcement page at <http://www.philamuseum.org/exhibitions/exhibits/leavesgold.shtml>

This project is very special to me because it reaches back through time and touches a thirteen-year-old girl who stood open-mouthed before a half-comprehended manuscript. I hope that I have been able to share some of my wonder and delight with my fellow Ricardians and to give a belated tribute to a kindly librarian who made such an important impact on my life.

Further reading about the manuscript and similar manuscripts:

- Allan, Allison, “Yorkist propaganda: Pedigree, prophecy and the ‘British history’ in the Reign of Edward IV,” in C. D. Ross (ed.) *Patronage, Pedigree and Power in Later Medieval England*. Alan Sutton, 1979.
- Blanchard, Laura, “Pedigree Propaganda: The Genealogy of Edward IV,” *Ricardian Register XVIII*(3) Fall 1993.
- Ralph A. Griffiths, “The Sense of Dynasty in the Reign of Henry VI,” in C. D. Ross (ed.) *Patronage, Pedigree and Power in Later Medieval England*, Alan Sutton, 1979.
- P.W. Hammond, A. F. Sutton and L. Visser-Fuchs, “The Reburial of Richard, Duke of York, 21-30 July 1476,” *The Ricardian* vol. 10 (December 1994), pp. 122-165, note 58, and subsequent Society publication with the same title, 1996.
- Pollard, A.J. *Richard III and the Princes in the Tower*, Sutton Publishing/St. Martin’s Press, 1991. A more typical example of an Edward IV genealogy is pictured on Page 30; scenes from the other atypical genealogy, British Library Harleian Ms 7353, are found on pages 40, 41, and 53.
- Ross, Charles D., “Rumour, propaganda and popular opinion during the Wars of the Roses,” in Ralph A. Griffiths (ed.), *Patronage, the Crown and the Provinces in Later Medieval England*. Alan Sutton, 1981.
- Kathleen Scott, *Later Gothic Manuscripts, 1390-1490*, A Survey of Manuscripts Illuminated in the British Isles, vol. 6 (London: Harvey Miller, 1996), vol. 2, pp. 288-89, no. 104.
- Kathleen L. Scott, “The Edward IV Roll.” *Leaves of Gold: Treasures of Manuscript Illumination from Philadelphia Collections*. Philadelphia Museum of Art, 2001 (forthcoming).
- Anne F. Sutton and Livia Visser-Fuchs, “Richard III’s Books: Ancestry and ‘True Nobility,’” *The Ricardian* vol. 9 (December 1992), pp. 343-58, note 18.

Library Display for Richard's Birth Month

Society member Rania Melhem recently created a library display with a selection of Ricardian books and mementos. She anchored the display with a colorful poster of Richard's coat of arms as Duke of Gloucester. The display greeted visitors to the Jefferson Parish West Bank Regional Library as soon as they walked into the main area of the Library. Society brochures and bookmarks were available for library patrons to take.

The books displayed came from Rania's personal collection as well as the Library's collection, and the selection had visual appeal as well as intellectual appeal because of the covers. After a quick glance, one viewer commented that "All the covers are the same." The reason: many Ricardian books' covers feature some version of the NPG portrait. Check your own Ricardian book shelf to verify this. A notable exception to this rule in the display was Bertram Fields' *Royal Blood*.

The Ricardian materials were displayed during the month of October, 2000. At the same time, Rania also had a display in the Special Collections section of the Library, on genealogy resources available to Jefferson Parish Library patrons. The Library is located in Harvey, Louisiana, where Rania is employed as a reference librarian.

Rania is available to advise members who would like to create a display for their local libraries at rmelhem@aol.com.

The Plantagenet Connection

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Voice: (303) 420-4888 Fax: (303) 420-4845
E-mail: KHF333@AOL.com

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AGM 2000: Diane Bath accepts Dickon Award as Past Chairman Compton Reeves looks on

ONE TOO MANY TIMES

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RICARDIAN POST

Dear Carole:

I am following the 'belt and braces' idea of copying this to both of you, for your AGM. Mes sage as fol lows:

Greetings to the American Branch of the Society on the occasion of its Annual General Meeting, from the 'parent Society,' in the UK. As usual the year seems to have gone faster than ever, and what have we all to show for it? Steadily increasing membership, due in no small part to our websites. The American Branch site continues to be an inspiration to all other branches, and to the 'parent' site. It is amazingly useful to be able to refer aspiring students to the site, in the happy certainty that they will find what they were looking for, as well as, probably, material they didn't know they needed to know!

The current activity exercising our collective Ricardian minds is the 'Sale of the Century', which after a rather fraught genesis, has now got off the ground, and is, RIMMS report, going very well - so, overseas members, don't delay - it won't happen again!

We conclude with thanks to you all for all your work in support of Richard and the Society during the past year, and our good wishes for the forthcoming year.

Loyaulte me Lie.

EM Nokes,

Secretary, Richard III Society

Dear Carole:

Such a pleasant surprise to know that John Ottiker continues to be an ad vo cate for Rich ard III in Peru! My hus band and I met John in Lima many years ago, and that en coun ter is still one of our fa vor ite travel an ecdotes.

We arranged to meet John in our hotel lounge to make that tra di ti onal toast to Rich ard III. John came up to us, and with so lem nity, grandly pre sented him self as "the Sec re tary, Treas urer, Pres i dent, Vice Pres i dent, and the En tire Mem ber ship of the Rich ard III So ci ety of Lima, Peru!" (Which he was.)

On that note of enlighten ment, he gra ciously in troduced us to the de lights of "Pisco Sours" with which we all hap pily toasted Rich ard III!

At lunch the next day we met John and his lovely spouse to enjoy more talk about Richard and more

Pisco Sours — the latter of which, no doubt, partly accounts for that warm glow with which we still re gard this oc ca sion. (For the un ini ti ated, a Pisco Sour is a Margarita's grown-up big sis ter!)

As for John's comments about Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon (Ricardian post Fall 2000 is sue), he is quite right — they were cou s ins, as were most of Eu ro pean roy alty (see my ar ti cle, "The ories of Rel a tivity," in *Ricardian Register*, Sum mer, 1999).

Using my trusty "Cousin Finder" I find that Henry and Catherine were "cousins" of several degrees through differ ent lines. The sim plest re la ti on ship was that of 4th cou s ins once re moved us ing Ed ward III as the com mon an ces tor, i.e. Edmund of Langley to Richard, Earl of Cambridge to Richard of York to Edward IV to Elizabeth to Henry VIII; and John (Constance) to Catherine (Henry III of Castile) to John II of Castile to Isabel I (Ferdinand) to Catherine. Going through son Lionel (to Philippa to Roger Mortimer to Anne Mortimer to Richard of York, to Ed ward IV to Eliz a beth to Henry VIII) they are 4th cou s ins, 3 times re moved.

Using Ed ward III's son, John of Gaunt, as the com mon an ces tor, Henry VIII and Catherine are 3rd cou s ins, once re moved, i.e. (through Catherine Swynford): John Beau fort to John (Mar ga ret Beauchamp) to Mar ga ret (Tu dor) to Henry VII to Henry VIII; or through John and Catherine Swynford's daughter, Joan (Neville) to Cecily (Rich ard of York) to Ed ward IV to Eliz a beth to Henry VIII and (through Con stance) to Catherine (Henry III of Castile) to John II of Castile to Isabel I (Ferdinand) to Catherine.

Just for fun they are also 4th cou s ins, once re moved us ing Pedro I, the Cruel of Castile and Leon as both Constance of Castile, wife of John of Gaunt, and Isabel of Castile, wife of Edmund of Langley are his il le git i mate daugh ters through his mis tress, Maria de Padilla.

As stated before, they all are cousins to some de gree and it's en ter tain ing to try on labels. Just con sider, Ed ward IV was the grand fa ther of Henry VIII as well as the 2nd cousin of Isabel who sent Co lum bus on his way! If there is any in ter est in my "cousin find ers," I'm will ing to share. Daugh ter Bonnie has been work ing on ge ne a log i cal charts of de scen dants of Ed ward III up to the 18th cen tury, along with charts for the French kings and some of the lead ing fam i lies that

married into the English royalty. The relationships are intriguing! If interested in the genealogical charts please contact her.

Mary Jane Battaglia

Hi Carole:

I discovered the Society from Valerie Anand's *The King's Bed* and joined in 1992. My fascination with Richard and his times has inspired me to write several novels, which were recently published by Domhan Books: a four-book saga beginning in Richard's time, and I also have a time-travel scheduled for early '01 release: *One Too Many Times*, where King Edward IV, George, and Richard travel to the present and try to change history.

I invite all fellow Ricardians to visit me at www.dianarubino.com, and would like to hear from other Ricardians; you can Email me from my website. I'd like to share experiences traveling through Ricardian sites in England, and general chat ter.

Diana Rubino

Dear Ms. Rike (Carole):

In the last issue of the *Ricardian Register*, which I thoroughly enjoyed reading, you printed a picture of a member with a piece of needlework with a Ricardian theme.

Would you be able to give me any information as to how I could obtain such an item that I could work on myself? I don't mean an item for a church (I am not such an expert) but one that I could work and perhaps make into a pillow for myself or a family member. While I have worked on some with a medieval theme, as one who has had a life-long interest in and sympathy for the House of York, it would give me real joy to do one or more with a Ricardian theme.

Mrs. Margaret Mayce (Peggy)

8 Musket Drive

Kendall Park, New Jersey 08824

(732) 297-6804 • PMAYCE@AOL.COM

[Editor's Note: I placed this message on the R3 online list and received several responses. There appears to be a good bit of interest in the subject, including among the Australian Ricardians, who mention they may post some patterns on their website. What's needed here is a Leader to serve as a contact for needlework. Hint, hint!]

Online response from Laura Blanchard:

I believe that Herrschners (<http://www.herrschners.com>) sells a piece of software that will convert any photograph into a needlepoint or counted cross stitch pattern. If it will do that for a photograph, I see no reason it shouldn't do it with a portrait.

Carole:

I have forwarded a copy of your enquiry onto some members here in Qld. A number of our members were involved with the late Joyce Melhuish's Fotheringhay Kneeler Program, and also have made designs for things like White Rose cushion covers.

Blair Martin

Australia

Hi!

I just called Lillian Barker to tell her that you printed her letter — as far as she can recall, Bill Snyder's wife was in charge of the project for the needlepoint.

Carol Bessette

[Ed: Now we know, it was Joyce Melhuish in England and Carolyn Snyder in the U.S. who spearheaded this project.]

John of Gaunt Genealogy Clarification

Correspondence in the Fall "Ricardian Post" referred to the genealogy of descendants of John of Gaunt that graced the inside cover of Kathleen Spaltro's recent Index to the Ricardian Register. This genealogy was produced (as noted on the Index cover) by Cheryl Rothwell.

This chart was limited by the necessities of publication, with the intent to include people listed in the index and show their relationships. Cheryl has a more complete chart of John of Gaunt's descendants posted on-line at: yorkisthome.mindspring.com/gaunt.

(But she says, "Can't promise it will be there forever.")

[Ed: After seeing the number of entries on this chart, we can't help wondering who worked more: Cheryl making the chart, or John doing the procreating.]

A member who joined recently wrote:

Thank you for the information you sent me. ... I enjoyed reading the pamphlets, and one of the articles reminded me of my trip to Bosworth Field, and how inspiring I found it — I was the only one there on a cold, clear February morning. I loved that I was alone, and I loved seeing where Richard had his camp, and where Stanley (that traitor) held his troops. I'll never forget that day.

Thanks for your "welcome" material.

Joellen Pickens

Among the small joys accruing to the Membership Chair are the spontaneous comments that often accompany members' renewals. For instance, from Donna Boggs, who sent a card in the shape of a bowl containing a fish wearing glasses, which inside bore the message "I like the way you see things." To which she added: "I just needed to tell somebody how very more than happy I am to be a member of the Richard III Society!"

Eileen Prinsen, Membership Chair

An Idea Whose Time Has Come?

Accompanying member Jim Calvagna's renewal came the comment: "I am proud of my membership in the Society. Can't we have some sort of membership card (or something) so that we can show non-members what we are about and what we stand for?"

Which leads us to ask two or three other questions:

1). How many of you would like to have some kind of visual "proof" of membership in the Richard III Society? 2). Would a membership card fulfill this need? Or would a visual symbol be more effective — something in the way of an inexpensive lapel pin, for instance, featuring "RIII" or "Loyaulte me Lie." 3). Perhaps an inexpensive symbol might be made available to new and renewing members who would like one, simply by enclosing a stamped and addressed envelope with their checks.

Please submit your comments — pro and con — to Eileen Prinsen: e-mail epinsen@mediaone.net, or to 16151 Longmeadow, Dearborn, MI 48120.

From R3 mail list:

When I told my husband that I was interested in Richard III and the War of the Roses, he went out and bought me a video on the subject.

You guessed it. Danny De Vito! He does TRY, bless his heart. I showed him *Richard III*, with Ian McKellen on DVD, and he got very confused. I quote, "I didn't know that Richard had TANKS! I thought he was looking for a horse!"

And you think you're married to a reluctant Ricardian???

*Loyaulte me lie,
Pamela Mills*

Also from the mail list:

Some of my recent readings have raised a few questions about Richard and his times. I am hoping someone might be able to enlighten me or at least point me towards a source for some researching. Here are the questions:

1. In the novel *Under the Hog* the author states that many Yorkists had doubts about the legitimacy of the

Lancasterian kings because John of Gaunt's legitimacy was questionable. Is there any truth that many believed John of Gaunt was a bastard? If so what is the source of this rumor?

2. In *The Buckingham Rebellion* the author states that the weakness of Richard's claim and hold on throne is evidenced by 1) the great number of oaths of allegiance administered after the rising and 2) the harsh wording of his orders for the marshaling of troops to repulse Tudor's invasion in 1485. I had always assumed that both examples must have been very commonplace. Weren't similar oaths administered by Henry VI and Edward IV? Weren't most calls to muster by Henry VI and Edward IV ordered with implied threats for those who didn't comply?
3. In Michael Hicks' *Richard II the Man Behind the Myth* it is suggested that Richard was a driving force in the destruction of his brother George. For proof he suggests that Richard lobbied for and received grants that had been held by George such as the lordship of Ogmores in Wales. I don't know enough about this to draw a firm conclusion one way or another. Was the granting of such a lordship an indicator that Richard was actively pulling for the overthrow of his brother so that he might gain more power or was it housekeeping by Edward to balance the Warwick inheritance and the power of his brothers?
4. Hicks also states that Edward had no treasure when he died, stating that he had only 490 pounds in the Exchequer and 710 pounds in his chamber which was not enough to pay for his expenses. We hear rumors of Edward Woodville running off with all of the treasure that was in the Tower or half of it, with the queen taking the other half with her into sanctuary. Are there any good guesses concerning the existence or non-existence of the treasure?

I would be very interested to hear anyone's musings on any or all of these topics.

Gary Connelly

And from Webmaster Laura Blanchard:

Now that I'm back and less jet-lagged, I wanted to take a moment to tell everyone how very much I enjoyed last Sunday's motor coach trip to Fotheringhay. There were four Americans in the party — Roy and me, plus Tony and Belinda Collins from the Washington D.C. area. Our English hosts had thoughtfully reserved the front seats of the motor coach for us so that we would have the best view of the English countryside.

It would be hard to say what was the best part of the trip. The luncheon was superb (imagine 60-70 Ricardians snapping their Christmas crackers and

donning their crepe-paper crowns — the food was excellent, too!) and the service of lessons and carols at the church was very moving. The entire day appeared, to me at least, to be supremely well-organized.

I suppose that some of the highlights for me included having the clouds vanish while we had lunch, so that my first view of the church was bathed in that incredible December sunlight. I am a little regretful that I didn't shout "stop the coach!" and leap out to get a photo graph, because the sun was once again behind the clouds as we arrived. The Nene had burst its regular boundaries and filled the floodplain but presented no threat to the church.

As far as I can tell, Fotheringhay is a very small group of houses dominated by the twin reminders of its medieval past — the church and the castle mound. The church itself can be seen from miles away.

Something else I hadn't realized until after the service is that the Parish Church Council wisely invested in outside lights, so that the church is bathed in light even at night — shining like a beacon over the flat Cambridgeshire/Northamptonshire fields.

There are excellent photos of the church on the web, at both the Society site — www.richardiii.net/fotheringhay.htm — and at Professor David Postles' "churches of the midlands" site — www.le.ac.uk/elh/pot/leics/around.html. Be sure to look at the photos of the pulpit, which is believed to be a gift to the church from Edward IV and possibly of his brothers, as well. Postles has some close-ups of the arms and the bull and boar supporters at his site.

I had been asked to read the fifth lesson, and I can't begin to describe how moving an experience it was to read St. Luke's account of the Annunciation in the

Yorkist dynasty's own church — or, indeed, to hear the readings of parish members and other Society members. After the service, Phil Stone very kindly broke away from his responsibilities as organizer of the event to give me a tour of some of the most significant aspects of the church.

The famous lantern tower is under scaffolding now because it is structurally weakened, and this small parish will need to raise 50,000 pounds for its repair -- a daunting challenge for a parish so small that it shares a vicar with three others and is used for worship only once a month. It was quite obvious to me that the congregation is pleased to be partnered with our Society in the preservation of a place that means so much to all of us.

Laura Blanchard

More from e-mail list:

I wonder whether you would be interested in indicating to your members two resources that may be of interest to them within the University of York Centre for Medieval Studies web pages?

www.york.ac.uk/inst/cms/resources/index provides access to a gazetteer of medieval guilds in Yorkshire and to a family history database of medieval Yorkshire residents (the latter can be searched on payment of a fee).

*Mark Ormrod
Director
Centre for Medieval Studies
University of York*



*New York AGM revelers: Laura Blanchard, Diedre Williamson,
Janet Trim bath and Bonnie Battaglia*

Third Fifteenth Century Studies Conference

April 29-May 2, 2001

Sponsored by the Richard III Society,
American Branch and the Department of
History, University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign

The Keynote Address will be given by Professor Richard Helmholtz, College of Law, University of Chicago "The English Church in the Fifteenth Century: A Legal Perspective on Recent Scholarship." As a prequel to the International Medieval Congress in Kalamazoo, join the American Branch of the Richard III Society and the Department of History at the University of Illinois at the Allerton Park Conference Center for the third Fifteenth-Century Studies Conference. This is a state-of-the-art working conference with consecutive sessions so that the participants will be involved in the discussion of all of the papers.

Scholars from North America and Europe will give a variety of presentations in history, literature, and art history. Some space is available for interested members.

Interested attendees may contact Laura Blanchard, who will be handling registration.



AGM 2000: Maria Elena Torres and Anne Smith.
Anne directed the staged reading of Maria's Play, Loyalties Lies.



2000 AGM: Richard (Kurt Elfman) and Anne (Beth Greene) converse during the reading of Loyalties Lies, a play by Maria Elena Torres. Among the players were Bruce Barton as Hastings, Roy Blanchard as John Morton, Jeanne Faubell as Elizabeth Woodville and Barbara Underwood as Stanley.

Susan Dexter : Artist

Susan Dexter has painted Richard III, drawn him, stitched him, sculpted him in bread dough, put him on t-shirts and sweatshirts and used him as a character in her fourth novel, *The Wizard's Shadow*. Her art has appeared in various science fiction and fantasy magazines, several AGMs and the World Fantasy Convention Art Show.

The acrylic portrait shown below was on display at the 2000 Annual General Meeting and is available directly from Susan.

When the *Ricardian Register* was re-established after a period of non-publication, Susan offered her art services and has continued to do so since. There was at the time no capacity to reproduce photos, so she used her commercial art experience (18 years working as fashion and line artist for a regional discount department store chain) to turn her photos of Ricardian sites into pen and ink drawings. During her participation in the Quincentenary Tour of England in 1985, she shot fourteen rolls of film for use in these drawings. Two of our 2000 issues of the *Register* have sported her covers, Spring (The Neville Sisters) and Fall (Richard and the Percys).

She has served as our Staff Artist as long as I have been Editor, years which I now am unable to count.

Susan first discovered Richard in Rosemary Jarman's *We Speak no Treason*, while still a high school student. Suspecting the existence of the Society from a book dedication, she looked up the address in an encyclopedia of organizations at the public library. (Susan comments she is possibly the only one to ever try this approach — never has been able to understand why people think the Society is hard to find!) She joined the Society in 1983.

Many thanks to Susan for her tireless efforts on behalf of the Society. She has been one of the mainstays for the *Register* these past years.



The Middleham Portrait by Susan Dexter

Two-Year Member Profiles

(Compiled by Eileen Prinsen)

Richard III reigned for only a little over two years. In commemoration of that fact, this regular column profiles people who are near the two-year anniversary of their membership in the Society. We thank the members below who shared their information with us — it's a pleasure to get to know you better!

Shirley G. Dillon, at age 83, says: "I can't remember when I wasn't interested." Over the years she has traveled to many places in England, and London, associated with Richard III. The accidental discovery of the Society in the *Almanac Listing of Societies* was of great excitement to the retired Louisville, KY schoolteacher, but her biggest regret is that she is unable to attend any of the AGM meetings as she no longer drives long distances. An avid reader, Shirley is especially interested in historical fiction, and English history, and would like to find someone in her area with similar tastes. (502-459-0530)

Jean Reyes of Baltimore, MD, an Administrative Assistant in the Division of Nuclear Medicine at Johns Hopkins Hospital, had seen references made to the Society in her reading, but found the membership information on the Internet. She has made one trip to England and "can't wait to go back." Among her many interests she lists music, traveling, art and "a pug puppy named Queen;" reading, however, seems to take preference over all. A great admirer of King Richard III, she loves British history and especially that of the 15th century. (JeanReyes@aol.com; 410-426-2654)

Elizabeth Wadsworth, puppeteer and freelance costumer from Preston, CT, was "immediately hooked" at the age of 16 after reading *The Daughter of Time* for a school assignment. Although aware of the Society for some time, she was frustrated in her efforts to connect with us until recently, while researching Medieval sites on the web, she "on an impulse, decided to search under the name of Richard III," where she "discovered the Society's web page and promptly joined." With a particular interest in Medieval costuming and food, Elizabeth would be interested in "carrying on email correspondence with other Society members who have similar interests." (LizTick@aol.com).

Juliet V. Waldron read *The Daughter of Time* when she was just ten years old. As she says: "This early conversation stuck." Like many people, the Hershey, PA, resident, who describes herself as "writer cum gen. Factotum" made contact with the Society through the Internet, "a little late in life, but not too late to be enjoyed!" Juliet is an E-book pioneer and invites us to view her "thoroughly researched historical "Mozart's Wife" on the net at: www.onlineoriginals.com. (ogygiajw@aol.com)

Frances E. Westerfield of Compton, CA, whose leisure interests include painting and reading, says: "I heard about you many years ago, but it was not until I accessed the Internet that I found you. My interest started with a little book by Josephine Tey...."

Daniel Wright, Professor of English Literature, from Vancouver, WA says, "As one who is persuaded that the works of Shakes-peare* are the pseudonymous creations of Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford, I have always suspected that depictions by Shakes-peare of historical characters were governed by political considerations, and "no other historical character in Shakespeare is so altered from what much evidence suggests he actually was than Richard III."

Professor Wright is also the Director of the Edward de Vere Studies Conference which is: "an international consortium of scholars and other interested persons who gather on the campus of Concordia University in Portland, Oregon, to explore recent research into the original texts of the Shakespeare* canon." (dwright@cuportland.edu).

**Janet Trimboth (see note below), to whom we appealed for an explanation of Professor Wright's use of the hyphen in Shakespeare's name, refers us to a quote from Diana Price's book *Shakespeare's Unorthodox Biography*: "Many anti-Stratfordians consider the hyphen a red flag signifying that Shake-speare was a made-up name, a non-de-plume used to represent the unnamed author."*

(Editor's note : Members will be interested to know that two Michigan Chapter members were recently involved in the Shakespearean Symposium II held at the Marriott Hotel, Romulus, MI, October 7, 2000. Janet Trimboth, "Ragged Staff" editor, helped organize and hosted the activity, while Dianne Batch, Society Secretary, was a luncheon presenter speaking on "The Faces of Richard III").



Phyllis Adorno
Heike Athayde
Hector Banda
Armando R Basulto
Elizabeth A. Bauer
Sharon Brough
Roger L. Busbice
John Darco
Kathy and Rusty Davis
Josh Dohrer
Amber Eudy
Rhoda Fairman
Jefferson F. Flood
Stafford R. Goldsmith
Jeremy Granade
James Horton
Margaret R. Kiever
Maryjayne Mack
Sharon McBride
Margaret M. McPherson
James Meader
Karin Merrihew

Linda L. Mobley
Marilee Mongello
Vickie L. Morgan
Kate Padden
Matilda Parr
Linda Pessar-Cowan
Sara Eve Polsky
Heather Kerkhove Reinschmidt
Carol Rondou
Richard E. Rosol
Stephen J. Sanders
Elizabeth Schulmeister
Angela M. Shrader
Paula Sink
Joseph Smigelski
Karen Staszak
F. Hamilton Stickney
Roger Thomsen
Allison Moorman Trandem
Susan D. and James A. Ward

Moving or Temporarily Away?

Your quarterly Ricardian publications are mailed with the request to the U.S. Post Office to notify the Society of changes of address and for forwarding addresses. This service costs the Society extra money, but we think it's worth it to ensure that as many members as possible receive the publications to which they are entitled.

A recent issue of the Ricardian Register "rewarded" us with an unusual number of postal returns marked "Temporarily Away" or "Moved – Left No Forwarding Address," greatly adding to the consternation and perplexity of those of us who must deal with these cases.

So, please, please, *if you are moving, let us know your new address as soon as possible.*

If you will be away temporarily, please ask your Post Office to hold your mail for you. If you miss an issue because your Post Office returned it to us, please notify the Editor of the *Ricardian Register* when you are able to receive mail, so that your issue can be re-mailed.

Mail that is returned to us as "Temporarily Away" or "No Forwarding Address" costs the Society \$2.97 for the return, plus approximately \$2.53 to mail it to you a second time. Donations to cover these extra costs are, of course, welcomed.

Your change of address notices should go directly to the Membership Chair: *Eileen Prinsen, 16151 Longmeadow, Dearborn MI, 48120*, or e-mail address changes to membership@r3.org. Please don't forget to include other changes that help us contact you, such as new telephone number, new e-mail address, or name changes.



Ricardian Reading

All books reviewed here can be purchased at www.r3.org/sales.

Myrna Smith

*Every lad and every gal
That's born into the world alive,
Is either a little liberal,
Or a little conservative.*

- Gilbert & Sullivan, *Iolanthe*.

Man is by nature a political animal.

- Aristotle

When I face an issue of great import . . . I engage in deep deliberation and quiet contemplation. I wait to the last possible minute and then I always vote with the losers. Because, my friend, the winners never remember and the losers never forget.

- Sen. Everett Dirksen

As I write this, what has been referred to as the "Election from Hell" is still ongoing. It occurred to me to ask myself: What would the statesmen and sages of the past have to say about this situation? Researching my books of quotations, I found a number that might fit, not only current events, but those of 500 years ago.

The thing to do is supply light and not heat.

- Woodrow Wilson

He that can have patience can have what he will.

- Benjamin Franklin

📖 *A Trail of Blood* - Jeremy Potter,
The McCall Publishing Co., NY, c1970

available through www.bibliofind.com or used book stores

This novel, set during the Dissolution of the monasteries, tells the tale of Brother Thomas, a monk of Croyland Abbey, and his search for the truth behind the disappearance of the Princes in the Tower over 50 years previously. As he travels for the first time to London, Bosworth and Stoke, among other places, the mystery begins to unravel. It is also the tale of Catholics still devoted to their faith, who rise up in protest against the destruction of the abbeys and the monasteries, and the desire of one man to topple Henry VIII and return the throne to the Plantagenets.

I found Brother Thomas a likeable, earnest, pious monk who was also a historian seeking to solve one of the greatest mysteries of English history. He believes

he does solve it, and his solution is a surprising one. I was also glad to see Sir Frances Lovell in the story, as he is one of my favorites from his story.

- Anne Marie Gazzolo, Illinois

Bedfellows make strange politics.

- Anon

📖 *His Lady Bride* - Shelly Bradley, Zebra Books, NY,
2000 ISBN: 082176665

Ricardians will want to steer clear of Shelly Bradley's historical romance *His Lady Bride*, despite its interesting plot, good pacing, strong characterization and image-rich description.

The first book in Ms. Bradley's "Brothers in Arms" trilogy published by Zebra, it tells the tale of Aric Neville, the White Lion, who withdraws from court life after discovering that the Princes in the Tower had been murdered on the orders of Richard III, and Gwyneth de Auburd, a Cinderella-like heroine who learns that there's more to life than being a lady. Though many aspects of this story are appealing, it is rife with historical errors that are hard to ignore for anyone acquainted with the history of the Wars of the Roses.

In her Author's Note Ms. Bradley says "I have borrowed Ms. Weir's interpretation of the actions leading up to and directly following the disappearance and deaths of the two royal children. Any misunderstanding of these events is purely my own. My apologies to the Richard III Society, for I know you disagree with this analysis." I fully understand the need for authors to take artistic licence. To be honest, casting Richard as the villain did not bother me nearly as much as the apparently sloppy research, since, for fictional purposes, the Shakespearean Richard is an extremely useful device.

Unfortunately, the author's reliance on the questionable work of Ms. Weir becomes obvious in one of the errors that really jarred. Ms. Bradley makes no mention of the fact that Richard Plantagenet and Anne Neville were cousins-once-removed, and that, by extension, her hero (a fictional Neville) is also Richard's cousin. I puzzled over this, then looked at the genealogical table in Weir's *The Princes In The Tower*. There I discovered that Ms. Weir's table

shows Anne Mortimer and Richard, Earl of Cambridge, Richard III's *grandparents*, as his parents!

Other errors include the hero thinking about how hard his uncle, Warwick, fought for a match between Anne and Richard, portraying Sir Thomas More as an adult in 1485, having a character mention that Queen Anne is still alive (though ill) at the end of April 1485, and referring to the Garden Tower as the Bloody Tower (according to the Tower of London website the change in name didn't happen till the 16th century). There are more, but I won't list them here. Suffice it to say that the romance in this story far outweighs the history. Not all historical romances are like this — a good example being Isolde Martyn's award-winning novel *The Maiden and The Unicorn*. (See *Ricardian Register*, Summer 2000)

While the hero is extremely appealing and strikes me as fairly true to the period, the heroine is very much a 20th century woman dropped into the Middle Ages. She spends much of the novel swearing lustily at the hero and whining about being denied her true status as a lady by her selfish uncle and aunt. I had little sympathy for her and soon grew tired of her constant stream of foul language and childish behavior.

It is in deed unfortunate that Ms. Bradley took so many liberties with the established historical facts and created a thoroughly (at least to my mind) modern and often irritating heroine, as her writing style is engaging and her storytelling abilities more than adequate. Readers who enjoy a good love story might still find this book a good read, but those who prefer an accurate historical background should probably leave it on the shelf.

- Teresa Eckford, Ottawa, Canada

*Get thee glass eyes/ And like a scurvy politician, seem/
To see the things thou dost not.*

- William Shakespeare

Some feedback on Geoffrey Richardson's *The Popinjays*: *The Popinjays* is a delightful addition to Geoffrey's other books. We are all aware of Elizabeth Woodville's greed and ambition and that of her family, but to have her actions listed in print is still something of a surprise. Jacquetta's influence over Edward IV is even more surprising. I thought he had more sense, but Edward seldom used his brain when his pleasure was involved.

Richard is treated gently and respectfully and the blame for the deaths of his nephews is placed where it probably belongs — on *The Deceivers*. (See previous Richardson work.)

Even though Elizabeth Woodville was the ultimate in greed, her end was sad. The mother of the Queen, she had "no close relatives of sufficient means or

generosity" to give her a proper burial. Another example of Tudor justice.

The book continues past Elizabeth Woodville to Henry Grey, Duke of Suffolk, and Lady Jane Grey. Suffolk was a typical Popinjay — a fop and a wastrel whose ambition was greater than his intelligence.

One piece of information gleaned from this book convinces me that Edward set Richard up for failure and death. Sir Gilbert Talbot, a relative of Lady Eleanor Butler, rode against Richard at Bosworth.

I have long believed that if Edward had been fair to John Neville, he would have not joined with Warwick and would have been in Percy's place at Bosworth. With that stalwart soldier on his side, Richard might have won the battle and gone on to prove himself one of England's finest kings.

Edward indulged his wife's greed out of laziness or guilt, and executed his own brother to protect his bigamous relationship, thereby creating enmity between Elizabeth Woodville and Richard by turning the Prince of Wales completely over to Woodville influence. He allowed dissent to resolve it.

Edward receives praise for his statesmanship in establishing his independence from Warwick, but his weapon of choice was the hateful and hated Woodvilles (Popinjays).

I was interested to learn that EW's DNA can be garnered today from Sarah, Duchess of York, and Camilla Parker-Bowles. Fergie remarked that her DNA would prove that she came "from somewhere and not from the dregs." Let's hope for her peace of mind that she doesn't read *The Popinjays*.

- Dale Summers, TX

As usual [the opposition] offer a mixture of sound and original ideas. Unfortunately none of the sound ideas is original and none of the original ideas is sound.

- Harold Macmillan

📖 *Richard III and Buckingham's Rebellion* - Louise Gill, Sutton Publishing Company, Shroud, Gloucestershire, 1999

Anti-Ricardians, and particularly those with scholarly credentials, have their own special Crusade: they are called to save the world from Ricardian "romanticism." This self-imposed duty, however, takes its toll on some basic principles of historical study and, worse, passes its defects to the next generation through the training of graduate students. Such is the case with Louise Gill's study of the Buckingham Rebellion for her Ph.D. thesis at the University of Tasmania. By failing to question the traditional bias against Richard III, Gill cannot effectively evaluate either causes or results of the Rebellion of 1483. Dense prose and a tendency toward

complicated run-on sentences make the book difficult to read.

Yet, taken with a large dose of patience (or just plain determination), Gill's work has rewards even for committed Ricardians. For understanding the social relationships among the great noble families, the lesser gentry, and the knights and gentlemen, this is a valuable work. Similarly, for writers of history or fiction, the book makes a handy reference work for the names, identities, and social status of individuals, as well as their standing with the king.

But readers must also be warned: this author has little sympathy for Richard III and apparently little awareness of her own prejudices. Gill assumes Richard's guilt for most of the evil acts laid at his door, and, like A.J. Pollard and Desmond Seward, she damns the king with probabilities in lieu of evidence. Once in a while and particularly with Buckingham, Gill can admit that the rebels harbored certain less-than-noble impulses, such as hope for personal gain. In a way normal among anti-Ricardians, however, she works hard to attribute pure and selfless motives to Richard's enemies as she accepts the worst possible reasons for the king's actions.

The best example of Gill's spurious reasoning is her conclusion that Buckingham's Rebellion grew out of the southern gentry's desire for "effective rule" and "good government." This despite the fact that Richard III had been king for only two months. Within such a time frame, Richard had hardly begun to rule. In addition, Gill seems unaware that Charles Ross has raised serious questions with regard to Edward IV's inability or unwillingness to enforce the law against his aristocratic friends. If the rebels in deed expressed their objective as "good government," we must ask what, in view of Ross's findings, "effective rule" meant to them.

The question invites speculation. Years before he took the throne, Richard had a reputation for working to bring justice to the common people, even when their interests were in conflict with the local nobility. While Edward could be "laid back" and easy-going, Richard was more conscientious, possibly methodical, and less likely to let something slide or to look the other way. Would lords and knights accustomed to an agreeable, even malleable, king have welcomed such a reign as Richard's was likely to be? More over, simply within the normal course of things, the southerners had to know that, sooner or later, any new king would bring his own closest supporters into local as well as national governing. With Richard III, a number of those "new men" would naturally be northerners, whom, Gill too often allows herself to forget, the southern lords and gentry disdained and dreaded as "wild."

In a number of passages, Gill also fails to distinguish between late-medieval and modern political concepts. She seems to view Buckingham's Rebellion as a kind of groundswell of resistance to Richard. To be sure, any number of peasant revolts during the Middle Ages seem to have been spontaneous uprisings caused by suffering and injustice. But few people at the privileged levels of society were in any position to protest very loudly. Everyone owed lands, offices, titles, income, and status to someone higher in the social hierarchy. The gentry knew, to put it simply, where and how their bread was buttered.

While every political movement draws a few genuinely idealistic members, Gill's own evidence raises questions about the idealism of the rebels in 1483. Without leadership, rebellions go nowhere. Over and over, Gill notes the dependence of the rebel knights and gentlemen (and even of the defectors from Richard's own household) upon specific members of the nobility. Certain names predominate among those identified as recipients of allegiance from the rebels: Beaufort, Morton, Oxford, Woodville. With this roster of leaders, spontaneity was hardly a factor.

In addition to seeing the Rebellion as a heartfelt and what we would call a "grass roots" uprising,

Gill relies on loyalty to Edward's children as another major motivation for treason. But particularly in the later chapters, where she tries to show that the Rebellion did much to cause Richard's eventual defeat, the frequent appearance of these names raises another problem that Gill never recognizes: the effects of constant, determined plotting against the king. Richard could have avoided the persistent intrigue by executing Morton, Oxford and various Woodvilles when he had them in his power. He could have sent Margaret Beaufort to a nunnery, or as his Tudor successors would have done for much less, could have sent her to the block with the others. Anthony Cheetham may be right that, given the situation and the times, Richard was not ruthless enough for his own good!

Gill's failure to notice such an obvious thread in her own research illustrates the tendency of anti-Ricardians to isolate Richard III from the routine conditions of his times, to treat him as unique rather than one of a sequence of rulers. Removing Richard from the historical context is one way the anti-Ricardian scholars manage to avoid coming to terms with the complicated, elusive realities of the king's life and reign.

- Elizabeth York Enstam, TX

... Prime ministers are wedded to the truth, but like other married couples they sometimes live apart

- Saki

From the state of Washington, Beverlee Weston sends a recommendation for Jaques Barzun's *From Dawn To Decadence, 1500 To The Present*, which she says is "full of great stuff," including this reference to Richard III and Thomas More:

. . . More either invented, or allowed himself to propagate in a work of his own, the "big lie" in favor of the Tudors whom he served - the lie that Richard III. . . was a deformed monster who murdered his nephews, the young princes in the Tower. Ever since Horace Walpole in the late 18C raised doubts, a number of scholars have come to believe that Richard was the very opposite of the legend - handsome, able, and innocent of blood. It is not remembered, either, that the phrase "a man for all seasons," now applied to More as a compliment, was used in the past to mean an opportunist.

Barzun is a brilliant writer, whatever his subject, and it's good to have him on our side. Check this one out!

In politics, if you want anything said, ask a man. If you want anything done, ask a woman.

- Margaret Thatcher

What is life without a good Medieval/Renaissance mystery to pass the time away? Kathy Lynn Emerson's *Face Down In The Marrow-Bone Pie* (Kensington, NY, 1997) will do fine as an introduction to Susanna, Lady Appleton, herbalist and loyal subject of Elizabeth I. The sudden death of the steward on her husband's home estate draws Lady Appleton to the site of his death, not so much to detect as to refurbish the house — a daunting enough prospect, even without a spot of ghost-busting thrown in. Robert Appleton is not best pleased at having his wife nosing around; he is afraid of what she might discover. His "secret" might not look like much to modern eyes, but in the context of his times, it is very understandable why he would want to keep it to himself. At any rate, there is little he can do, being in France on the Queen's business until the very end of the book. All is resolved in a rather melodramatic way, but the fun is getting there. The reader will learn much, not only of herbs, but of life style and living in the 16th century — how many and what sort of servants were required to operate a moderate estate, for instance — and all in a painless and enjoyable way.

Politics is almost as exciting as war; and quite as dangerous. In war you can only be killed once, but in politics many times.

- Winston Churchill

A week is a long time in politics.

- Harold Wilson

Presumed Guilty, by Evelyn Rosenthal (Vantage Press, NY, 1982) concerns itself with The Mystery: What happened to the Princes in the Tower? Rosenthal uses the device of multiple narrators, among them Buckingham, Frances Lovell, Elizabeth of York, and Margaret of Burgundy, but it is John Morton who ties it all together, giving a well-reasoned answer to the question. Want to make a guess as to who really is guilty? I gave this a laudatory review some years back in the *Register*, but a whole new generation of Ricardians has come up since then. I can recommend this to them, if they will but search the used book stores, public libraries, or inter-library loans.

I am always ready to learn, though I do not always like being taught.

- Winston Churchill

Add to Unexpected Defences of Richard III: In *Evan and Elle*, by Rhys Bowen (St Martin's Minotaur, NY, 2000) the author has a character say: "When I got a place at university I was sure I was going on to get my PhD and then I'd write brilliant papers proving that King Richard didn't really kill the princes in the Tower. Instead I wound up here." (as a schoolteacher — what's wrong with that?) Actually, now that I look at that again, it says 'princess,' an obvious typo. Leaving aside the odd printer's glitch, the books in this series — *Evanly Choirs*, *Evans Above*, and *Evan Help Us* — are very enjoyable, especially if you like M. C. Beaton's Hamish MacBeth mysteries, to which these bear some resemblance. One difference: unlike MacBeth, Evans does not have a snobbish girl-friend. Most of the characters, perhaps a larger proportion that would be usual in real life, are truly nice people. An amusing sidelight in these stories relates to Welsh nomenclature. Our hero, Constable Evans, is called Evans-the-law to distinguish him from Evanses-the-Meat, -Milk, and -Post. My husband, for example, might be called Smith-the-Bucket, though as the only Smiths around seem to be "foreigners" (i.e. English) he probably wouldn't need a sobriquet. (Sobriquet and nomenclature in the same paragraph, no less! Sometimes I amaze myself.)

Now this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning.

- Winston Churchill

No, it ~~is~~ the end, until next time!

- m.s.



*AGM 2000: Hastings, Elizabeth Woodville, Thomas Stanley and John Morton
conspire in Loyaulte Lies by Maria Elena Torres*

Shakespeare in England

Long term member Carol Bessette is sharing with us once again her information on a variety of classes to be held July 15-28, 2001 in Cambridge, England. Carol has been attending these classes for over ten years, and reports that there is a great variety of topics over the years, one of the reasons that there is a very high percentage of "alumni" returning to the program each year.

In 2001, the courses will be held at Downing College, one of the "newer" of the Cambridge colleges (founded in 1800). It is the most spacious of the central colleges, and is a neo-classical oasis of tranquility with its vast lawns. After having sampled three of the colleges, Carol has a special fondness for Downing.

The following courses are scheduled for 2001; the courses can be taken for graduate or under-graduate credit. Most of the classes will feature field trips to appropriate course-related sites.

Shakespeare's World is a study of the development of Shakespeare's plays through the comedies and history plays to the major tragedies and a late romance.

The Evolution of the British Garden will focus on design styles in the context of garden history, and on key gardens, gardeners and designers.

Tudor/Stuart Age will examine the age from Elizabeth I's accession to the trial and execution of Charles I.

The Crusades: Europe's Holy Wars is a survey of the origins of the crusading movement and its development in the 12th and 13th centuries.

Anglo American Espionage and the Cold War will review several intelligence operations of the Cold War period, and will examine the role and value of intelligence in sustaining the Soviet Empire and its final collapse.

For further information, contact Carol at jcbessette@aol.com, (703) 569-1875, or at 8251 Taunton Place, Springfield, VA 22152. She will be happy to discuss her experiences at Cambridge with you.

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