



Greetings!

Congratulations to Roxane Murph, recipient of this year's Dickon award!

Now that the 1990 AGM is behind us, we can look forward to the 1991 AGM. It will be hosted by the Southern California Chapter, and will be held at Barnaby's Hotel, in Manhattan Beach, on October 4-6, 1991. I have a few copies of an eight minute promotional tape (VHS format) of Barnaby's for chapter presidents or designates, for use at chapter meetings.

Future AGM's are: 1992: New Orleans, October 2-4, hosted by the Southwest Chapter; 1993: October 1-3, hosted by the New Jersey Chapter; 1994: September 30-October 2, hosted by the Michigan Chapter.

The host chapter for 1995 has yet to be selected; the AGM will be on September 29-October 1. If your chapter hasn't hosted an AGM yet, think about it! It is an excellent way to build chapter cohesion, attract members and get to meet and know other members of the society. If you don't belong to a chapter, then either join the nearest one (chapter contacts are listed further along in this issue) or form one. Ideally, we would like to have at least one chapter in every state or state sized region (e.g., New England, mid-Atlantic).

We now have at least one member in every state and territory, and half of the states have ten members or more. As we currently have only twelve chapters, that means that we could almost instantly have fourteen new chapters! States that are good candidates for chapters are Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut (currently part of New England), Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, Rhode Island, (currently part of New England), South Carolina and Wisconsin. Write to the Chapter Coordinator, Mary Miller: She will tell you how to go about forming a chapter.

There are two tours this year of interest to members of the American Branch. Our officially sponsored tour, conducted by Linda Treybig of the Ohio Chapter, will take place from June 24 to July 6. Linda made a video tape of last year's tour, which she donated to the Society Library. I have heard nothing but rave reviews about last year's tour. This year's tour should be even better. Linda can be contacted at 1-800-523-9560.

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The second tour, which you may have seen advertised in the Fall Register, is sponsored by the University of Washington and the Society Research Office. Mallory Paxton, our Research Officer, has been working with the University of Washington for some time on this tour. You can contact the University of Washington Travel Study Office at 1-206-543-2300 ext 405 or 411.

I'm happy to report that membership continues to increase, up almost fifty percent over this time last year. This is due in large part to the efforts of each of you. At the AGM, I asked that we try to double our membership by next year's AGM. This should be easy to do; each of us need only bring in one new member in the next year. Surely you know at least one person who knows that you are a Ricardian and is just ever so slightly interested in also becoming a member. All they need is to be asked. We would like to have at least one member on every library staff; at least one member in every English Department (Junior High, High, College); at least one member in every History Department; at least one member in every travel office (to answer the question "We're going on a two week vacation to England. Where are some places we should visit?").

There are some personnel actions you may be interested in. The Board recently created two new positions, Endowments Coordinator and Speakers Coordinator. The Endowments Coordinator is Tony Collins, of the Mid

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Crown and the Tower, to the Society. This is a continuing source of revenue for the sales office.

Linda McLatchie

Nominating Committee

This year's Nominating Committee consisted of Joyce Hollins of the Southern California Chapter, Chairman, Carol Bessette of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter and Mary Donermeyer of the New England Chapter. 202 total ballots were returned, one of which was blank.

There was some confusion over the use of the word "proxy" on the ballot. The words on the ballot are consistent with the corporation laws of the State of New York, the state in which we are incorporated as a non-profit corporation.

Joyce Hollins

1990-91 Budget Report

In previous years, your Society has been small enough to operate almost on a cash basis. The major sources of funds have been dues, sales by the National Sales Officer and the kind generosity of Mrs. Schallek. The major uses of these funds have been publication of the Register and scholarships. To handle these uses, we have three funds, or accounts: the General Fund, the Scholarship Fund, and the Scholarship Endowment. Current sources of the Scholarship Fund are interest from the Scholarship Endowment, transfer from the General Fund and contributions by members and chapters. In the coming year we

hope to formalize this budget process and introduce a very simple management control system, so we can provide you with an annual financial picture: an income statement and a balance sheet.

When making donations for use in scholarships, you may want to consider making the donation to the Scholarship Endowment, rather than the Scholarship Fund. Gifts to the endowment will, by generating interest, continue to support scholarships beyond the year in which the gift was made; gifts to the Scholarship Fund will be used in the gift year of the following year. A wise use of your gift is to the Scholarship Endowment.

Eugene McManus

Southwest Chapter

The Southwest Chapter met four times during the year. We had business/program meetings in April and October and social meetings (potluck suppers) in January and August. We generally have between 10-15 members and friends at the meetings.

Our programs take the form of book reviews, talks on various aspects of 15th century history and related matters, or slide or film presentations.

The Southwest chapter has donated a prize for the AGM raffle each year for the past three years. This year, we presented a copy of the video of the Battle of Mortimer's Cross.

Roxane C. Murph



Southern California Chapter

Social events included the annual Birthday Luncheon in October and Twelfth Night Feast in January. Attendance was especially high (30+) at the latter.

Educational events included:

Medieval Spinning and Weaving, a program given by Therese Griffin and Debbie Coyle, members of the Southern California Handweavers Guild and the SCA.

Overview of Letter press Printing from Caxton's Time. Speaker, Dr. Diana Thomas, UCLA Graduate School of Library and Information Science, at UCLA's Andrew Horn Printing Chappel.

Cosmetics in History. Speaker, Joyce Hiller at Merle Norman Cosmetic Studio, Hawthorne, CA.

The Chapter is increasingly occupied with preparations for the 1991 National AGM which we will host at Barnabey's Hotel, Manhattan Beach, CA in October, 1991. There will be a number of workshops, a medieval fashion show, and a banquet; we have not yet engaged a speaker. Plans for the regular meetings include a Birthday Luncheon October 14, 1990 (also at Barnabey's); the Twelfth Night Feast; a visit to the Elmer Belt Library of Leonard da Vinciana; and possibly the Huntington Library in Pasadena.

Diana Waggoner

Ricardian Register

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Official Publication of the American Branch

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The Richard III Society is a non-profit, educational corporation. Dues, grants, and contributions are tax-deductable to the extent allowed by law.

Dues are \$25.00 annually. Each additional family member is \$5. Members of the American Society are also members of the English Society. All Society publications and items for sale may be purchased either direct at the U.K. member's rate, or via the U.S. Society, when available. Papers may be borrowed from the English Librarian, but books are not sent overseas. When a U.S. member visits the U.K., all meetings, expeditions, and other activities are open, including the AGM, where U.S. members are welcome to cast a vote.

The Ricardian Register is published quarterly as a service to members.

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Greetings (continued)

Atlantic Chapter. Tony is tasked with getting funds from whatever source (individual, private, public) for the Scholarship Endowment. If you wish to make a donation, or know of possible sources of funds, contact either our Treasurer, Joe Ann Ricca or Tony.

The Speakers Coordinator will act as a Society resource for speakers, maintain a list of Society members who are available for speaking at organizations and act as the Society focal point for inquiries about speakers. We are looking for someone who would like to do this. We would print your name on the inside of the front cover. If you are interested, please contact me.

The position of Publicity Director, previously held by Tony Collins, has been filled by Laura Blanchard, of the New Jersey Chapter. Laura is tasked with getting favorable publicity for the Society (articles, interviews, points of view) in the general and popular media, plus supporting local chapter efforts.

The Society's beloved Jeremy Potter, writing in the September 1990 *Ricardian Bulletin* (page 19), describes a debate by two undergraduate societies in England concerning Richard, and goes on to suggest that such debates elsewhere in England and in the USA might be beneficial, of great publicity value and could go a long way toward having the Ricardian point of view presented. How might such debates be set up here in "the States"? We need some volunteers to come forward to develop this project.

Chapter Chairman, Society Officers and appropriate functions are reminded that quarterly reports are to be submitted to the Chairman and to the editor of the *Register*; how else is our membership to know what we are doing? For the present, please submit your reports to be in accordance with the *Register's* deadlines.

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

As of this writing, 63% of our 1989-90 members have renewed. While I am encouraged by that, I can't help reflecting that topping the 300 mark was a much smaller percentage in our peak years. Our numbers seemed to expand almost by osmosis then, when so much was being published and so many anniversaries being marked.

What happened to those who swelled our ranks, many of whom have stayed to effectively lend their time and talents to our efforts, but some of whom have, apparently, vanished? Did they become disillusioned, or merely apathetic? Did their Ricardian convictions waver, or even reverse? Did we fail them, or was their interest merely cursory? Does anyone know where they are, or how we might lure them back?

In the coming months, you'll be hearing more about a new member campaign which is now only in the planning stages. Laura Blanchard, our new Public Relations Coordinator, and myself have great hopes for that. Thanks to her considerable expertise, we should see a wealth of advertising and publicity to stimulate the interest of the general public, but none of that will be particularly effective if we continue our backward slide. Each and every one of you can help prevent that, even steadily expand our membership. It takes only your collective enthusiasm, creativity, dedication and determination. Together, I know we can make 1990-91 a banner year, a bright beacon of activity, interest, and *esprit de corps* to illuminate a future where growth and public recognition will be the by-words.

Contact those Ricardian friends who seem to have backed off, or even vanished, and let me know what I can do to help. Success is, after all, a team effort.

Judie Gall

ROYAL PATRONAGE

We are delighted to be able to advise members that we have received from Major Nicholas Barne, Comptroller to HRH The Duke of Gloucester, the following communication:

I am writing to tell you that the Duke of Gloucester would be pleased to continue as your Society's Patron for a further five years...

The Committee stresses to all members that the continuance of the Patronage is a great privilege, which does require appropriate behaviour by the Society. It has always been an unwritten rule, of common sense and courtesy, that all communications with Kensington Palace is conducted through the Committee.

Two recent examples of direct contact to Kensington Palace have made it necessary to promulgate this, at the AGM. Please note that all communication with Kensington Palace **must** be conducted through the Committee, which is best placed to know of all appropriate events which might be offered for the Duke's attendance.

E. M. Nokes
General Secretary



1991 American Branch Ricardian Tour of Britain

24 June-6 July, 1991
Linda & David Treybig,
Escorts

Mark your calendars now! We have a great tour planned for next summer. In addition to the city of York, Middleham and Bosworth Field (with outstanding guided tour), we will take in some lesser known but intriguing Ricardian sites, explore one of the loveliest parts of Wales, visit sites of great interest in Northumberland (including Lindisfarne), and even spend some time investigating Hadrian's Wall.

Our travel will carry us to some of the most scenic areas and fascinating sites in all Britain. We will share many special moments with English Ricardian friends and our accommodations will be in charming, small hotels located in attractive market towns that just invite exploring on foot!

Tour includes:

- 13 full days of touring
- 12 nights hotel accommodation
- All breakfasts
- All dinners
- 6 pub lunches
- All admissions
- All fees, baggage, handling, service charges and Value Added Tax
- Transportation by motor coach with experienced driver/courier

Why not join our very friendly small group for a tour you won't forget? You are sure to return with many wonderful memories, all captured on a fine video film for your enjoyment in years to come. All Ricardians (and friends of Richard) are most cordially invited to join us for the experience of a lifetime.

For further information, call Linda Treybig at 800-423-9244.

1990 Dickon Award

The year's recipient of the annual Dickon award is our Immediate Past Chairman, Roxane Murph.

The award is for outstanding service to the Society.

This year's vote was somewhat complicated by the fact that the recipient was a member of the board, and thus was aware of the search for candidates. Hopefully, the vote and actions were kept somewhat secret. Whenever the agenda item came up at Board Meetings, the Chairman would usually mumble something about "we're working on it."

It finally became necessary to reveal the recipient when a phone call in September asked whose name should be engraved on the award. Gene McManus had no choice but to say, "Put your own name on it, Roxane." (This is only one of the small jobs Roxane takes on each year.) Congratulations to Roxane and to the Board on their most appropriate selection.

Certificates of Appreciation

This year, the Board elected to institute Certificates of Appreciation as a way to recognize the efforts of those who have served the Society, or are continuing to serve in some outstanding way. The certificates are meant to be a small appreciation and remembrance.

Linda McLatchie, our Sales Officer, generously designed and had printed the award certificate and Glenda Motley hand-lettered in the names and dates. They are 8 1/2 x 11 and suitable for framing.

This year's certificates were awarded to outgoing Board members: Jacqueline Bloomquist, Alan Dixler, and Carole Rike, as well as our former Register Editor, Judie Gall.

Tips for Recruiting & Keeping Chapter Members

Every member of a chapter should be committed to recruiting new members and making them feel a part of the group once they have joined. The chapter must also make membership worth the time, effort, and expense.

What does your chapter have to offer to prospective members? Fellowship, programming, projects, journals and newsletters, travel opportunities, and connection with a national and international organization. Members of the national Society may know something about your group and its activities, while newcomers to Ricard's cause will be surprised that you even exist. Tailor your message for the people you are trying to reach.

The first step is to take a close look at your chapter. What are your strengths and weaknesses? Assemble a fact sheet about the chapter. What was your membership five years ago? one year ago? now? If there has been a decrease, can you pinpoint the reason(s)? What can you do about the reasons for decline? How many members are active? inactive? What can you do to get the current members more involved? What has your chapter accomplished? How do current members feel about the chapter?

You may want to do a survey of current members, active and inactive. Send return-postpaid cards. Use an * to identify the cards of active members, but don't ask for the cards to be signed. Possible questions: 1. Why did you join the chapter? 2. What part of the chapter's activities has appealed to you most? 3. What changes do you suggest? A few changes may make members happier. But a sparse return of cards indicates a lack of interest and signals serious problems.

Mary Miller

RICHARD III, OXFORD, AND SHAKESPEARE

Linda B. McLatchie

A Shadowy Figure

If you read a standard biography of, say, Queen Elizabeth or Lord Burghley, Oxford appears only as a shadowy figure. Such biographies dismiss him as an irreful, arrogant wastrel. It is understandable that most historians of the Elizabethan period have overlooked Oxford, because so much of his correspondence and papers were destroyed by the Cecils. However, with careful scrutiny, Oxford emerges from the shadows and appears as a myriad-talented, multi-faceted Renaissance man.

Edward de Vere (1550-1604), 17th Earl of Oxford, was born into one of the oldest and proudest families of English nobility. He was the ranking earl of the realm and hereditary Lord Great Chamberlain. He received classical education from Arthur Golding (his uncle and translator of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*) and was by all accounts a bookworm. He received master's degrees from both Cambridge and Oxford universities, and studied law at Gray's Inn. When his father died suddenly in 1562, he became the ward of William Cecil (later Lord Burghley), Queen Elizabeth's most influential minister. Oxford married Cecil's daughter Anne and had three daughters by her; their son died in infancy. Unlike Richard III's marriage, however, Oxford's was not a happy union; for a great portion of the marriage, he was estranged from his wife.

In 1575-1576, Oxford received permission from Queen Elizabeth to travel to France and Italy; this trip was to have a profound impact on him. He became so enthralled with Italy and the burgeoning Italian culture that, upon his return to England, he was described as a rather "Italianate" gentleman.

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He was born in the middle of the century to a proud and noble family that played a prominent role in the Wars of the Roses and that could trace its lineage to the time of William the Conqueror. When he was just a boy his father died suddenly. He was then placed in the household of the man who, next to the monarch, was the most influential person in the realm.

Although small of stature, he was well skilled in the martial arts. He idolized his fair-haired monarch and was, in turn, well-beloved by his liege. He served that monarch loyally, placing his finest talents at his sovereign's disposal. However, he was despised by certain grasping factions at court, most notably the monarch's consort. He had particular reason to loathe Henry Tudor. Toward the last few years of his life, he was intimately touched by a crisis involving two "Princes in the Tower."

He married Anne, the daughter of the man in whose household he had been reared. Their son died young, and Anne followed to the grave not long after. His device was the boar.

History has not treated him kindly. However, in the 20th century, a society bearing his name was formed to expose the lies and distortions that have been told about him. His supporters have been described as "cranks" and "fanatics," and have been ridiculed by A.L. Rowse. His followers believe he is deserving of burial in Westminster Abbey, along with his peers.

His name is inextricably linked with Shakespeare, and his life has all the makings of tragedy. The truth of his life is one of the most hotly debated mysteries of English history.

Parallel Lives

Am I speaking of Richard III? Yes, in part. But I am also speaking of Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford. When I began to write this article, I was struck by the many parallels between the lives of Richard III and the 17th Earl of Oxford; I realized that it is not impossible to admire both.

*With scholarship,
research, and
perseverance, we can
rectify wounds that
were inflicted on
reputations several
centuries ago.*

Lest Ricardians recoil at the mere mention of the de Veres, let us remember that they too were bound by loyalty, albeit to the Lancastrian cause. In the many battles of the Wars of the Roses, they were not turncoats, nor did they sit on the sidelines to see which way the winds blew.

For those of us lucky enough to have heard Charles Boyle's fascinating talk on "Richard, Oxford, and Shakespeare" at the 1990 AGM, we know that there can be a great bond between Ricardians and Oxfordians (as the supporters of Edward de Vere are known). Charles Boyle is a trustee of the Shakespeare Oxford Society, a non-profit educational organization whose purpose is to document the life and accomplishments of Edward de Vere, and to establish him as the author behind the pen-name of William Shakespeare.

He sponsored a company of actors and was patron to well-known writers of the day. Lyly, Munday, Marlowe, and Kyd were either within his orbit or in his employ. He was a champion joustier and an accomplished dancer and musician. In 1586, Elizabeth gave him a grant of 1,000 pounds, fully 1% of the national budget; the grant was renewed annually until Oxford's death. Because the monies were given out of Secret Service funds, he never had to give an accounting to the Exchequer (most people receiving grants from the notoriously tight-fisted Elizabeth had to account for funds down to the last farthing). Oxfordians believe that the grant was given to assist Oxford in producing the unabashedly nationalistic Shakespearean history plays, which proved to be rousing propaganda during England's decades-long hostilities with Catholic Spain.

Finances were to be a concern for Oxford throughout his life. The decline of the family's fortunes began during the reign of Henry VII, who heavily fined the 13th earl for having too many men in livery. (Remember that in Shakespeare's history plays, portraying the reigns of Richard III to Henry VIII, only the reign of Henry VII is omitted.) The 17th earl's finances were plundered by William Cecil, who, as Master of the Court of Wards, took full advantage of his position to strip his ward Oxford of much of his fortune. (Another of Cecil's wards, the 3rd Earl of Southampton, was similarly exploited.) Oxford lost a substantial investment in the unsuccessful Frobisher voyage to find the Northwest Passage. Finally, his theatrical activities took their financial toll; he spent much of his family fortune as a patron of writers and actors.

Fellow writers lauded Oxford, likening him to Pallas Athena, the "spear-shaker." (In addition to the blue boar, another of Oxford's devices was a spear-shaking lion.) While contemporaries described him as the best writer of comedies of the period, none of these comedies survive—at least not under his own name. The poetry that survives

under his name was all written in his youth. No mature poetry—under his own name—survives. The *Encyclopedia Britannica* (1975) describes Oxford as "the strongest candidate proposed (next to Shakespeare [i.e., the Stratford man] himself) for the authorship of Shakespeare's plays."

De Vere's personal life was as messy as his finances. During his long estrangement from his wife, he had a tempestuous affair with the dark-haired, dark-eyed Anne Vavasour. His adulterous union with her produced an illegitimate son (for which transgression Elizabeth imprisoned Oxford briefly in the Tower) and led to violent swordfights with her kinsmen, the Knyvets, in the streets of London. Oxford also clashed with various persons at court, most notably the Leicester/Sidney faction, his rapacious father-in-law Cecil, and Christopher Hatton (one of Elizabeth's favorites).

Oxford, as ranking earl of the realm, served on the tribunals for two important treason trials: against Mary, Queen of Scots, and against the earls of Essex and Southampton for their abortive rebellion in 1601.

As Ricardians well know, it is the winners who get to rewrite history. By destroying so many of the papers and correspondence of Oxford, the powerful Cecils managed to consign Oxford to near-oblivion. By selectively choosing which of Oxford's papers would survive, the Cecils edited history to suit their own agenda. But recent research into Oxford sheds light onto this heretofore ignored nobleman. Even if we cannot accept Oxford as Shakespeare, once we part the curtains of history, we find a man who was the center of an explosion of literary and theatrical output not seen before or since in Britain.

Oxford—the Man Behind Shakespeare's Mask?

The arguments in favor of Edward de Vere's being the author of the Shakespearean canon are intriguing and complex, and I will not attempt to summarize them here. Knowing that Ricardians love to poke around in a historical mystery, I direct you to two seminal works:

1. "Shakespeare" Identified in Edward de Vere, the Seventeenth Earl of Oxford by J. Thomas Looney. This is the pioneering work (written in

1920) that first presented the case for Oxford as the author of the Shakespearean plays and sonnets. Looney (pronounced "Loney") approached the problem as a detective would. He asked: What qualities are apparent in the works of Shakespeare and what person of the period possessed all those characteristics?

2. *The Mysterious William Shakespeare* (also published as *The Mystery of William Shakespeare*) by Charlton Ogburn. Writing 65 years later, Ogburn had access to documents not available to Looney in 1920. His intricately researched book makes the argument for Oxford even stronger.

There are myriad reasons to believe that Oxford wrote the Shakespeare plays, or at least had a substantial hand in their creation, but for me there is one piece of evidence that is the intellectual equivalent of a "smoking gun." Hamlet was Shakespeare's greatest and most obviously autobiographical work. Even diehard Stratfordians (those who believe that William Shaksper of Stratford was the author) agree that Polonius is a mocking caricature of the ponderous, circumlocutious William Cecil, the great Lord Burghley. This caricature would have been apparent to both the nobility at court and the intelligentsia. At this time it was illegal to portray living persons on the stage, and, as the most powerful minister in Elizabeth's reign, Burghley would have had no compunctions about punishing the offending playwright. Yet "Shakespeare" was never brought before the Star Chamber; the play was never seized and destroyed. Why would Burghley have allowed a saucy playwright to lampoon him so mercilessly? If William Shaksper of Stratford had been the author, he would have been imprisoned quicker than you can say "Alas, poor Yorick," but if we take Oxford to be the author of *Hamlet*, then there are three very good reasons why he was allowed to tweak Burghley's nose so flagrantly: (1) Oxford was Burghley's son-in-law and father to Burghley's grandchildren; (2) Oxford was the premier earl of

the realm; and (3) Oxford was a favorite of the Queen. It was obviously more politic for Burghley to allow the madcap earl to have his fun than to risk alienating both his son-in-law and his Queen.

Now it becomes clear why Oxford would have had to write under a pseudonym. If the true identity of the author was suppressed, the link would be broken between the characters in the plays and the real-life characters at court who were being satirized. Only those at court would be privy to all the "inside jokes." (Another, less important reason for the use of a pseudonym was that it was considered *infra dignitatem* for a member of the nobility to be seen as a working playwright and poet.)

Why audiences over the years have taken Richard III seriously as history is incomprehensible since the author so obviously meant the play to be a comical, if rather diabolical, satire.

Forgiving Shakespeare

Ricardians tend to have ambivalent feelings toward Shakespeare. On the one hand, *Richard III* has done immeasurable damage to Richard's reputation; on the other hand, Shakespeare's play created the main impetus for the formation of the Richard III Society. Although the Lancastrian Oxford had antagonistic feelings toward the Yorkists, he must have known he was butchering history (assuming he was the author of the play). He was first and foremost writing a propaganda piece; if Richard is portrayed as a villain, then the Tudor usurpation can only be seen as a blessing.

Why audiences over the years have taken *Richard III* seriously as history is incomprehensible since the author so obviously meant the play to be a comical, if rather diabolical, satire. Shakespeare's Richard III is so vile, heaped with so many crimes, burdened with so many deformities, that he is a parody, pure and simple (the seduction of Anne is a wickedly funny scene, if played right). Olivier saw the comic potential of Richard—look at the twinkle in his eye as he plans his villainies. It is only at the end that he becomes a tragic figure, when he must face the consequences of all his machinations. Satirical comedies that develop into tragedies are the most affecting of all.

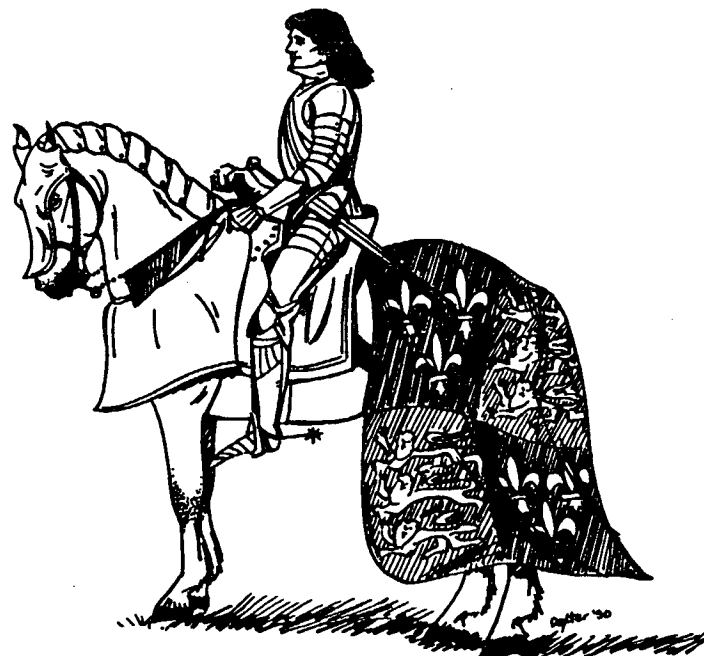
If we take Oxford as the author, we can also see in Richard a veiled caricature of Oxford's brother-in-law, Robert Cecil (Lord Burghley's son). Robert Cecil was a hunchback and Machiavellian schemer. Oxford skewered Cecil with the only means at his disposal—his pen and his wit. If we see Richard thus as both caricature and satire, and not as a literal portrayal of the man, perhaps we are well on our way to forgiving Shakespeare for all the liberties he took with history.

Report My Cause Aright

As both a loyal Ricardian and a confirmed Oxfordian, I find special poignancy in Hamlet's dying words to Horatio:

... Horatio, I am dead;
Thou liv'st; report me and my
cause aright
To the unsatisfied . . .
O, good Horatio, what a
wounded name,
Things standing thus unknown,
shall live behind me!

Hamlet's dying words are, in their own way, a rallying cry for both the supporters of Richard and the supporters of Oxford. With scholarship, research, and perseverance, we can rectify wounds that were inflicted on reputations several centuries ago. Truth can indeed be the daughter of time.



A REPORT ON THE AMERICAN BRANCH RICARDIAN TOUR-1990

Linda Treybig

GROUP MEMBERS: Linda Treybig - Escort; Anabel Barker, PA; Harriet Dannenhauer, NY; Marion Garrette, CA; Arthur & Lois Griffiths, ME; Mary Mannino, MI; Lorilee McDowell, LA; John Price, OH; Janet Sweet, OH; Sally Yenkinson, PA; David Treybig, OH.

Our enthusiastic group of 12 met before 9:00 A.M. near Victoria Coach Station on June 25th, most of us having become acquainted over dinner at a London hotel the previous night. From the beginning, we were a most relaxed convivial group, and we had a lovely sunny day for the beginning of what was to be a wonderful tour experience for each of us. We were first escorted on an excellent walking tour of medieval Cambridge by the local tourist office guide who just happened to be a rather jolly Ricardian! After a pub lunch beside the River Cam with its punters, we traveled on to the lovely old city of Norwich with its cobbled streets and attractive cathedral. Our day ended in the market town of Wymondham nearby at the charming and blessedly quiet Abbey Hotel. Just across the road from our hotel lies the interesting abbey church which, as a result of a quarrel between the monks and the townspeople, sports a large tower at both the east and west ends! It is today quite an active parish church.

On our second day (sunny and warm again), we made a morning visit to Framlingham Castle where, within the castle walls, large tents were being raised for a village fete. The castle is most impressive from its exterior, and one is able to walk around its walls. However, there was no information displayed in the castle about the Howards (or the Mowbray family). Next on our agenda, we visited one of the loveliest cathedrals in England (in the writer's opinion) - Ely Cathedral, in its undeniably English setting. Some

of us explored the ancient monk's chapel in the close (after wandering into one of the schoolboys' dorms in search of the key). We ended our day with a visit to Fotheringhay church - always a favorite with Ricardians. Our next two nights were spent in beautiful Stamford, one of the finest market towns in England.

We were favored with yet another warm, sunny day for our annual visit to Bosworth Field, stopping enroute in Leicester to view Richard's statue (lamentably now minus crown as well as sword plus some lettering on the plinth. One would think this problem could be eliminated by a generous application of "super glue"! After a brief visit to the Bosworth exhibition at the Jewry Wall Museum, we enjoyed a relaxing pub lunch in Market Bosworth. We were taken on a 1 1/2 hour tour around Bosworth Field by a wonderfully knowledgeable and sympathetic battlefield guide - one of the highlights of the entire tour for us all! At Sutton Cheney church, we examined the various bouquets and wreaths left by Ricardians from all over the world and were suitably impressed by the fine needlework donated by Society members. Following dinner in our hotel, many of us strolled about Stamford, absorbing its pleasant ambience and fine medieval to 18th-19th c. architecture.

On Thursday morning, we set out through the Lincolnshire Wolds to Crowland, where we visited the remains of the abbey, the choir and much of the nave now serving as the parish church and beautifully decorated with that special floral flair of the English for a wedding. Lunch today was at the Angel & Royal in Grantham where, dining in the medieval room, we were surrounded by echoes of Richard III who was a guest here at the time of Buckingham's uprising. Then, on to

Lincoln, where our coach neatly deposited us near the entrance to the cathedral. Although there was a large service in progress, we were able to stroll around most of the cathedral and enjoyed especially the fine wood carvings including the Lincoln Imp. Some of us spent time shopping, while others took in the castle (now a museum) with its wide-sweeping views over the city and adjoining countryside. A short drive brought us to the justifiably famous city of York. Upon check-in at our hotel and a hearty dinner, most of us were ready for an early turn-in, but some took part in an enjoyable "ghost walk" of the city.

Friday morning commenced with a walking tour beginning at the city archives, where we were allowed to view many important medieval documents including the death roll from Bosworth, and had a short talk and question/answer session led by the archivist and Cris Reay, our outstanding guide. Our tour took in some most rewarding early sites in York, ending with a stroll through the Shambles to the glory to York Minster. The group enjoyed a light lunch at St. William's College refectory by the cathedral before boarding our coach again for the trek to Sheriff Hutton church to visit the tomb believed by many to be that of Richard's son, Edward (although we have heard strong and valid arguments to the contrary from various members of the Yorkshire Branch). The remainder of the afternoon was spent wandering through majestic Castle Howard, its lovely grounds and gardens - a visit of particular interest to fans of "Brideshead Revisited," although this home of the Howard family would impress even the most casual visitor.

Saturday morning, having walked across a sizeable field full of sheep (with our eyes downcast for obvious reasons!), we were joined by

several Yorkshire Branch members at the little medieval Lead Chapel near Towton battlefield. Scowan Sykes, a most enthusiastic new member from W. Yorks., led us to the site of the battle where all learned a great deal about the events of that day. (Scowan began as a small child with an avid interest in the Dacres and, from there, got into things Ricardian.) We all shared a great pub lunch (with the largest Yorkshire puddings anyone had ever seen and some hilarious conversation) before our return to York. Here our fine weather came to an end for a couple of days, as the rain came pouring down, necessitating the cancellation of a "mystery tour" planned for that evening.

Checking out of our hotel in still rather doubtful weather on Sunday, we drove up through the Vale of York and through a bit of Wensleydale to that marvel - our old stronghold of Lord Scrope and one-time prison of Mary, Queen of Scots, Bolton Castle. The castle is still remarkably intact, and we all had a great time exploring its nooks and crannies and taking in the breathtaking views in all directions from its upper levels. Now, amid threatening clouds and high winds, we made our way to Barnard Castle - possibly one of the coldest places in England during the summer months. Here, wrapped in their warmest clothing, our gallant bunch barely managed 15 to 20 of their allotted 45 minutes before scrambling back on the coach with teeth chattering. Our last site of the day was Raby Castle which, in spite of its medieval appearing exterior is now mostly 18th-19th century inside except for the kitchen. (No shades of Cecily Neville to be found!) The next two nights were spent in the charming, comfortable King's Head, an old coaching inn in Richmond. (The bathrooms were positively luxurious!) Richmond is, in the opinion of many, the loveliest market town in the north. Beautiful views are to be had from its early keep and from an attractive walk around the castle walls, looking far down into the sweep of the River Swale.

Monday morning dawned bright and sunny for our visit to Mid-

dleham. Joined once again by our friend, Cris Reay, who lives nearby, the group thoroughly explored the castle and visited the parish church during the morning. After another fine pub lunch in the town of Masham, famous for its Old Peculier brew, we traveled on to the outstanding remains of Fountains Abbey, largest and wealthiest of the northern Cistercian abbeys. Its cloisters are a real medieval work of art. In the course of the day, we suffered a slight misfortune as our coach developed clutch problems, and we were to be parted from Tony, our wonderfully witty driver, and our coach for 2 days while the coach underwent repairs.

The next morning, George, a native of S. Yorkshire, was at our hotel bright and early to fill in for Tony, so the tour was able to proceed as planned, and we left Richmond for a trip southwest through the gorgeous Yorkshire Dales. On our way to Skipton, we visited one of the loveliest secret little Yorkshire villages with a small but impressive waterfall and stopped almost halfway along our drive at Kettlewell as well. In Skipton, a lively market town with good shops, we visited the parish church whose roof was partially funded by Richard, as well as Skipton Castle (in Richard's ownership a short time before its eventual return to the Clifford family). From Skipton, it was but a short drive to Chester, where we arrived before 4:00 P.M. There was time for a little shopping and exploring before dinner, following which many of the group took the walk all round the city walls, descending at places to stroll through old Chester with its medieval tiered shops called the "Rows." Nighttime Chester is peaceful after the bustle of the day, and we were still taking fine photographs until after 9:30 at night!

On Wednesday, we woke once again to a light rain (which dampened no one's spirits a whit) and made our way into Shropshire, where we visited the charming remains of Wenlock Priory (first a 9th c. or earlier nunnery and later a Benedictine priory) and its ancient parish church where the church organist was feverishly practicing for an upcoming wedding and the fa-

ther of the bride was making some small repairs to the church porch. Here we shared the favorite pub lunch of quite a few of the group at the local George & Dragon. By the time we reached Ludlow Castle, the weather had become more sunny and we all enjoyed exploring the castle and fine medieval town. We ended our day with a visit to Little and Great Malvern priory churches and were here reunited with Tony and our good-as-new coach. Our hotel, located high in the Malvern Hills, enjoyed stunning views over the town and for miles around. Following dinner, we were joined by about 10 members of the Herefordshire & Worcestershire Group and were engaged in a lively and most interesting conversation for almost 2 hours. One of the main subjects was the proposed visitors' centre at Middleham Castle. It seems that English Ricardians are quite sharply divided on this issue!

Thursday morning included a visit to Tewkesbury Abbey, where we were treated to a fine guided tour of the abbey by its sacristan, Don Freeman. No one could have been better qualified as a guide, since Mr. Freeman's connections with the abbey began as a 9-year old choir-boy there, and he is a native of Tewkesbury, in addition to which he had an engaging sense of humour and was full of little anecdotes about the abbey. Much enjoyed by all! After a luncheon stop at the Cotswolds market town of Stow-on-the-Wold, our day's actual touring ended at Minster Lovell. Surely there are few more romantic spots in England - the lovely composition of church and Hall remains by the side of the River Windrush. This is one place where one can easily reconstruct in the mind's eye the appearance of the place in Francis Lovell's time. This evening, we shared our last dinner together and, while it was indeed a very enjoyable experience, most of us were beginning to feel a little sad that the tour was soon to end.

On our final day, we first paid a visit to ancient Glastonbury Abbey and, after a leisurely exploration of the abbey and town, had our final lunch together at the George & Pilgrims, once a 13th century pilgrims' hos-

pice for the abbey, which still has its sagging ceiling beams and mullion windows. Our last stop before returning to London was magnificent Wells Cathedral, which is a real paradise for cathedral fanciers, complete with its old and new bishop's palaces and Vicar's Close, a little 14th century gem of a street whose medieval cottages appear entirely unchanged by the passing centuries.

The way back to London was occupied by last-minute diary entries, the exchange of addresses and fervent good wishes among our small group, many of whom formed lasting friendships on the tour. What an unforgettable experience! Some of the comments from our group: "I never expected to have such a wonderful time traveling with a group." "Marvelous!" "This was a really great tour!" "You did a fine job, lady!" I, as escort was really gratified that everyone had such a happy experience. And, perhaps best of all, at least 3 of our group have committed themselves to the 1991 tour.

A really fine audio-visual film was made of the tour, and a copy is available to all interested members by contacting Marie Martinelli, our Audio Visual Librarian at 3911 Fauquier Avenue, Richmond, VA 23227, telephone (804) 262-4592.

When you view this film, I believe you will see why we think touring with a small group of really compatible persons, exploring corners of England that the average visitor never sees and staying in the charming, small hotels away from the hustle and bustle of the usual package tour groups is such a rewarding experience.

Add to this the special knowledge passed along to us by local Ricardians at the various Ricardian sites which further enrich the tour.

We hope many of you will want to join us next year and bring home with you a special living memento of your own Ricardian tour!

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Orange, CA 92668

Southwest

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If you have an interest in forming a Chapter in your area, contact Mary Miller (Chapter Coordinator for the Society) at 6831 Longwood, Canton, MI 48187.

SCATTERED STANDARDS

Michigan Chapter

Fourteen Ricardians and guests met at Genitti's Hole-in-the-Wall Italian Restaurant on July 6 to celebrate Richard's coronation. The meal is served family-style and the owner acts as host and Master of Ceremonies. He went from table to table asking people where they were from and why they were there. When he came to our table, I responded that we were celebrating the anniversary of King Richard III's coronation. He was taken aback at the answer and asked us to tell him more about Richard. A few jokes were made on what kind of people would do such a thing.

An enjoyable time was had by all present. After the meal, some of us adjourned to the home of Linda Leedy to discuss books, the AGM, and our next meeting.

Mary Miller

Middle Atlantic Chapter

Almost two dozen Chapter members and guests met for a Greek feast on Capitol Hill on Saturday, October 20, 1990. We were particularly pleased to be joined by three members of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter. Following dinner, the group attended the much-lauded presentation of *Richard III* at the Shakespeare Theater at the Folger.

This presentation, starring Stacey Keach, has been the "hottest item" on the Washington cultural scene this autumn. Keach's performance has received national attention—and even international coverage. (The *Manchester Guardian* did a piece on it, and at least one review called Keach "the foremost American Shakespearean of our time.")

Thanks to the efforts of Tony Collins, the Society has a full page notice in the program—a very tasteful and well-done display which will reach over 2,500 people.

The Chapter has had a number of inquiries resulting from this notice, as well as mention in the *Washington Post* background article on Stacey Keach and his portrayal of Richard.

The next Chapter meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 26, 1991. Liza Henderson, the Dramaturge from the Folger Theater, will discuss how she researched the role of Richard III and how she used her research of historical precedents to assist Stacey Keach with his interpretation of the role.

Meanwhile, our year of library displays will conclude with the sixth display of the year within Northern Virginia. "Expansion plans" include displays in Washington, D.C. and Maryland.

Carol Bessette

New Jersey Chapter:

On November 17, the New Jersey Chapter celebrated its first year.

The members who joined me on the 18th of November in 1989 are now joined by others. Our chapter stands at 24 strong and still growing.

A lot of members in the chapter do a lot for the cause. I wanted to show my appreciation, so borrowing something that National does—I decided to award a Middleham Award for the Most Valuable Member. The decision was hard: there are many in the chapter who go that extra mile except for one who always finds the time, never says no and is always there to lend a helping hand. A tradition was started in the New Jersey Chapter. It gave me great pleasure to present our first certificate to Susan Mahoney.

I'm hoping Susan's dedication to the chapter and Ricard's cause will be an inspiration to our membership to go and do more.

Joe Ann Ricca

Northern California/Bay Area Chapter

Exploratory meeting will be held February 2, 1991 at 3:00 P.M. Meeting place will be announced. Help rebuild the Northern California Chapter! Please join us and bring your ideas and enthusiasm.

RSVP to Ellen Ekstrom Fernandez at 415-6526-3943.

Northwest Chapter

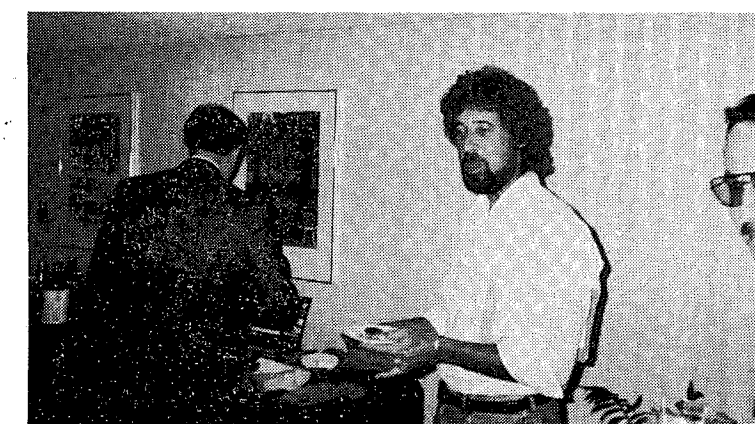
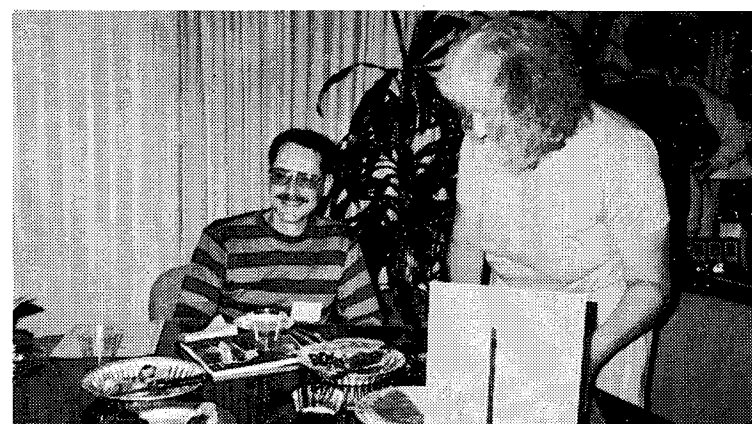
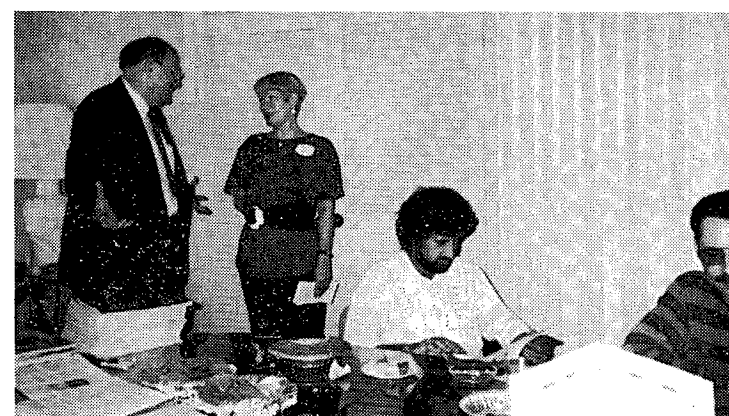
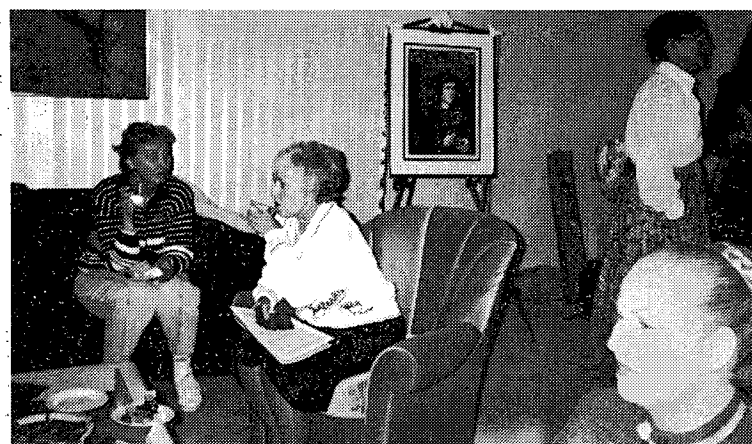
The Northwest Chapter has 18 members. We meet five times per year, average member attendance is eight. Our newsletter is available by subscription and comes out a few weeks prior to meetings to encourage attendance.

1988-90 officers were: President Mallory Paxton (Seattle), Secretary-Treasurer Margaret Nelson (Federal Way), Librarian Barbara Woods (Seattle). Our 1990-92 officers are: President Rahne Kirkham (Seattle), Secretary-Treasurer Beverlee Weston (Tacoma), Librarian Barbara Woods (Seattle).

Since our last annual report we have had programs on; Crosby Hall, the Battle of Mortimer's Cross, Ricardian Britain, Vlad Tepes, and Arthur Plantagenet. We have also discussed sponsoring an AGM, but decided we did not have the manpower or treasury to do one right. Instead we decided to set up an information booth at the Pacific Northwest Highland Games this August. In two days, over 75 people signed up for more information. We sent them follow-up letters containing the Society and our Chapter brochures, along with a list of our 1990 meeting dates and contacts, and expect to see some of them at our next meeting.

Publicizing the 1991 University of Washington/Richard III Society sponsored trip to England attracted lots of interest at the booth and we plan to attend the first public Uni-

continued, page 14



Scenes from the

Boston AGM

Scattered Standards *(continued)*

versity meeting armed with our brochures! This University/Society trip should result in more Chapter members, and the Chapter is proud of Mallory for having obtained the prestigious University sponsorship!

Margaret Nelson

Ohio Chapter

On Saturday, July 14, the Chapter met in North Olmsted, to celebrate our fourth anniversary. Sixteen members were present, six of whom had attended the initial meeting held at Nancy and Matt's.

Chairman Spencer Northup conducted a detailed and informative business meeting. We are extremely proud of Ohio members who will be contributing to the AGM in Boston: Kely Ferjutz, who will be conducting a workshop and Susan Dexter, who has donated a beautiful painting of Richard, mounted in armor, as f the raffle prizes. Our primary activities continue to be participation in medieval faires and we will have a booth at the Baycrafters' Faire in Cleveland.

Following the business portion of the meeting, John Moosmiller gave an interesting and informative presentation on *Roman Britain: Its Influence on 15th Century England*. Following the adjournment of the meeting, most of the members gathered at a nearby oriental restaurant before starting their journeys home. As always, it was a wonderful Ricardian day, one that would have been even more fun with a larger crowd!

On Sunday, October 14, 1990, the Ohio Chapter met at the home of Patty Miller in Springfield, Ohio. Twenty members and their guests were in attendance.

Janet Sweet, who attended AGM '90, gave a brief report concluded with an intriguing remark. Ohio is being considered to host AGM '94, but many details have to be resolved and the membership polled before we commit ourselves to another AGM. The idea was not totally rejected by the members present,

though. For the time being, the Chapter is concentrating on a scholastic endeavor that it is hoped will be accepted by Ohio schools in 1992, when there will be so much emphasis on the late fifteenth century. Under the direction of Chapter School Coordinator Tom Coles, the project should be both interesting and fulfilling for those who wish to help with preparation of something that can be presented to the schools for insertion in the World History curricula. The Chapter will be making a contribution to the Middleham Endowment Fund, sponsored by the New Jersey Chapter and the baton of responsibility was passed from one committee chairman to another. Janet Sweet promised to do her best to fill retiring Program Chairman Cindy Northup's shoes! Our treasury is healthier than it's ever been, thanks to profits from the OSU Ren/Fest and Baycrafters' Faire.

Following the business meeting, Chapter member Dennis Howard and Terry Bono of historic Jamestown Settlement presented a program on the growing popularity of historic reenactment. Terry appeared in a wonderful, 16th-century costume, which drew raves from all our costume experts.

Judie Gail

Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter

On September 25, the medieval dance demonstration sponsored by our chapter came off without a hitch — or should I say a mis-step? In any case, members of the Society for Creative Anachronism performed beautifully. The Ricardians, at a table accented by a portrait of Richard and a vase of white roses, answered questions, gave out literature about the Richard III Society and — most importantly — enjoyed the dancing.

This event, plus our "In Memoriam" notices for Richard on August 22, resulted in some welcome publicity for the chapter. We met with reporters three times in September and October; Sally Yenkinson was even

courageous enough to field one interview by herself! Three articles were eventually written about us, and all were done well; they appeared in the *Philadelphia Daily News* (September 21), *News of Delaware County* (October 3) and *Town Talk* (October 10).

The *Town Talk* article focused on our first library program, which consisted of an exhibit on display through October and a public lecture on Shakespeare's *Richard III* by Rose Ann Messersmith. Rose Ann's presentation was smooth and interesting; as her "opening act" Jeff Collins did a nice job of explaining the genealogy of York and Lancaster. The talk went so well that Rose Ann and Jeff have agreed to do it again; our next library program is scheduled for January.

There was a chapter meeting on October 27 at Sally's house. We had a brief business discussion, highlighted by the news that our AGM sales table was a success. Special thanks for this has to go to Dot Keenan, who procured the Plantagenet T-shirts for us to sell, and to Jeff Collins, who designed and crafted boar stamps and White Rose of York stamps. At the meeting we decided to continue offering the stamps for sale; the boar will be \$4.50 and the White Rose \$2.50. Our members were encouraged to let their friends in other chapters know that these are available.

We then watched a videotape of the 1990 Ricardian tour of England — a welcome treat for those of us who had wished to go but could only manage it in spirit.

Regina Jones

Fallen Standard

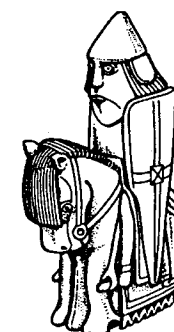
It is my sad duty to report the death of Mary Lucille Goss Mannino. She died of heart failure in Bristol, England, on July 7, 1990. Mrs. Mannino was on the Ricardian summer tour. She had fallen early in the tour, but managed to continue until the end of the tour. Her body was cremated and returned to Michigan for a memorial service.

I had met Mrs. Mannino only twice. The first time was at the 1989 AGM in Cleveland. I discussed the possibility of forming a Michigan Chapter and she was very supportive. She was one of the first to join the chapter in the winter. Mrs. Mannino came to our January meeting and I had more time to visit with her. She was a retired school teacher with a lively wit who enjoyed travel. She urged those at the meeting to go on the Ricardian tour, as she hoped to do. She had been on one a few years before and had enjoyed it tremendously. Her energy and enthusiasm for Richard III were impressive. We will miss having her support and knowledge at chapter meetings.

The *Detroit News* and the *Detroit Free Press* both carried prominent obituaries about Mrs. Mannino that featured Richard III in the headlines. Her children mentioned in the accompanying stories that she was devoted to Richard's cause and died as she would have wished.

To those of Mary's friends who might wish to write to her family, her address was: 3590 Lake George Road, Lake Orion, Michigan 48035.

Mary Miller



Some odds & ends which you might be able to use in the *Register* — and a question about an article in the Fall 1990 issue.

1. Our influence is being felt! We have a friend at the English magazine *Majesty*. In an article titled "A Convincing Prince" (about Perken Warbeck) there is, on page 35, a caption to a painting of Prince Edward and the Duke of York as follows: "Henry VII sent Prince Edward and the Duke of York (Edward IV's sons) to the Tower of London to prevent them from challenging his right to the throne. But uncertainty about their fate led to a number of politically motivated impostors."

July 1990 issue

2. Quoted by T. M. Bernstein in a 1958 book *Watch Your Language* (a book about journalistic style) is this headline by Werner Wiskare.

"Soft you now, Richard III
Friends gather to Battle
'Lies' Long Fouling your Name"

Does anyone know what Chapter is referred to — or what newspaper the headline appeared in?

3. Then in Baring-Gould's annotated *Mother Goose*, I found this without "annotation." Does anyone know its genesis? It has the cadence of "Gingham Dog & Calico Cat" but why the Bosworth reference?

"Huff the talbot and our cat Tib
They took up sword & shield
Tib for the red rose, Huff for the white
To fight upon Bosworth field."

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

Low lay Huff & long may he lie!
But our Tib took little harm:
He was up and away at dawn of day
With the rose-bush under his arm."

Ricardian Post

Do the animal names have historic relevance? Or is Bosworth a popular synonym for a deadly Battle?

4. And last — the question.

I would be interested to know the evidence which supports Professor Bisceglia's first "fact" that "Henry VII did not murder the Princes in the Tower." I understood such evidence has not been found, and I am intrigued to know what he has learned. Especially so since this assertion was made ten years ago, and other scholars have not appeared to be influenced by his data.

I am enjoying my association with the Society. Thank you.

Margaret Drake

Just a note to mention a reference to Richard III in a current best-selling mystery novel.

Well-Schooled in Murder by Elizabeth George portrays her lead character, Inspector Lynley, as a revisionist Ricardian hostile to Henry Tudor (begins page 86, hardcover only). Very nicely treated, sympathetic point of view, appealing character. Now I'm more of a Lynley fan than before!

Carol A. Frisbie

Notice:

The letter printed in the Fall Ricardian *Register* from Elizabeth Nokes to John Duffer was a private letter, not intended for publication and was published without the necessary permission having been obtained from its writer.

We apologize for this breach of good editorial conduct, to which Miss Nokes has rightly registered a complaint.

IN THE PUBLIC EYE

Laura Blanchard

Reaching the Unaffiliated Ricardian

For a society with just over 500 members, the American Branch of the Richard III Society is remarkably active—with a quarterly newsletter, a three-day annual meeting, a scholarship program, two lending libraries, and a flourishing chapter network.

Just imagine, then, how much more effective we could be with more members, more money available for scholarship assistance and other society projects, more people providing a larger talent pool within the Society.

That's why I've accepted the assignments of publicity director and advertising manager for *The Register*.

We need to be more visible, both to the general public and to the academic community. The general public needs to be aware that we exist and know how to reach us. Take me, for an example: I've been a Ricardian since 1961, but it took me until 1988 to locate the Society.

For every one of us who's a member, there are two, three, maybe even ten Ricardians out there who don't know how to reach us. Our challenge is to reach those Ricardians through the press, through libraries, and through schools—so that anyone with an interest in Richard III can easily make contact with us.

The academic community, in particular, needs to know about our efforts. We offer substantial resources to the scholar of 15th century English history—an extensive lending library, a scholarship program, publication outlets. To establish our credentials as advocates of serious research and scholarship, we need to communicate our resources to the academic community at large.

To these ends, we'll be working on an integrated PR campaign to embrace the general press and to work with our library and school coordinators to build membership, to encourage scholarship, and to tap the talents and enthusiasm that seem to be the hallmark of the Ricardian.

Everyone's a Ricardian PR agent

Many of you are already public relations activists, either as individuals or as part of a chapter. Please don't stop! Instead, just keep on doing what you're doing—and keep me posted.

Let me know what works for you. And what doesn't. Tell me about the presentations you've given, how they were received, and whether you'd be willing to share your notes or A/V materials with other Ricardians. Alert me to local press people who are especially sympathetic—I'll see that they get on our mailing list.

Send me copies of your news clippings when you get PR "hit." Or clippings when you see a Ricardian article in *Newsweek* or your local paper—apparently out of the blue. It's the only way I'll know how well our PR efforts are paying off.

And, if you need help—brainstorming, networking, research, what-have-you—give me a call or drop me a line. That's what I'm here for.

Advertising in *The Register*

In the last issue, Carole hinted at an upcoming change in format for *The Register*. The issue you hold in your hands represents the first step in this change.

The new format gives the editor new layout flexibility, so that *The Register* can be an even livelier publication. It also allows us to accept advertisements that companies

have prepared for standard publications.

If you read the fine print in the last issue of *The Register*, you may recall that I've accepted the position of advertising manager. Every dollar we receive in advertising revenue will reduce our costs for printing and mailing *The Register*, freeing up our membership dues for other worthwhile uses.

By the time this issue goes to press, I'll be starting to solicit advertising for 1991 issues. Please make an effort to support our advertisers—buy from them and let them know you saw their ad in *The Register*.

And if you have a favorite Ricardian supplier, such as an out-of-print book dealer who sells via mail order, a supplier of medieval replica jewelry or fine calligraphic supplies, and so forth, drop me a line with their name and address. I'll approach them for advertising.

This is the first of a regular series of columns on our publicity efforts that will appear in *The Register*. Next issue we'll take a look at some of our PR plans for National, as well as some tips on relatively easy and inexpensive "guerrilla Ricardianism" techniques our fellow Ricardians are putting to use across the country.

Laura Blanchard welcomes questions or comments, tips or hints on publicity and advertising matters. Please correspond directly to 12 Bolfmar Avenue, Cranbury NJ 08512 (609) 799-1824, FAX (609) 275-9096.

RICARDIAN READING

Myrna Smith

Greetings!

That background noise you hear is me, jumping at the chance to be your Reading Editor with a whoop and a holler. Reading, and sharing my opinions about what I read, is seldom a chore for me, and I hope the enjoyment I get out of it will be shared by you.

And I want the task to be shared. I do not plan to run this department like a private fiefdom. I want and need input from all of you, not just the few who customarily write reviews, welcome—and necessary—though their contributions are. If you have read something you have a comment about, and don't feel qualified to write a review (though I'm proof that you don't need qualifications, just nerve), then send a post card with the title of the book and your comment, even if its only "Great!" or "Yech!". This may be printed as an addition to, or substitute for, a full-scale review. I'll print your name or omit it, as you wish. And keep those full-scale reviews coming, too.

As for what to review, I would say (though of course the Editor has the final say) just about anything with a Medieval slant. Those of specific Ricardian interest will have priority, of course, but when we have room we can print reviews on other books with a Medieval or Renaissance background—even about the Tudors! Examples might be Ellis Peters' Brother Cadfael mysteries or those written by Leonard Tourney with an Elizabethan merchant as detective. Fiction, non-fiction, reference books, good books, trashy books, old books, new books, children's books, art books—all is grist to the mill.

So take pen, typewriter, or word processor in hand, and let me hear from you—SOON!

Myrna Smith

Margaret of York, Duchess of Burgundy

Christine Weightman, St. Martin's Press, New York, 1989

The women of medieval days have been given short shrift by historians, meriting mention only in relation to famous relatives with little or no notice of their personal triumphs. Christine Weightman's scholarly, yet so very readable, biography of Margaret of York, however, comes as a refreshing departure from this.

Mrs. Weightman has researched the Dutch and Belgian archives as well as English sources for details about this sister of Edward IV and Richard III. Margaret's political impact, her intense loyalty to her brothers, and her other remarkable qualities make her a woman much to be admired, even in our own time.

Married at the advanced age of 22 to Charles the Bold of Burgundy (whom the French prefer to call Charles the Rash), Margaret worked for economic and political stability in both England and Burgundy while her war-loving husband was off fighting. She brought both dignity and respect to the ducal throne. Moreover, this was in spite of the fact that she bore no children. Her mother, Cecily Neville, had been one of 22 siblings, while her father, the Duke of York, was the lone heir to two sets of descendents of Edward III. She inherited her father's genes in many ways.

Margaret's excellent relationship with her 70-year old mother-in-law and with her 11-year old step-daughter were elements in her affectionate acceptance by the Burgundians. Her support of the pretenders to the throne of Henry VII, especially Perkin Warbeck, further endeared her to many people in England. Henry Tudor, on the other hand, called her "this diabolical duchess."

This book tells Margaret's story from her birth in 1446 to her death in 1503, the scarcity of details balanced by carefully researched extrapolations. The reader gets a vivid picture of the late Middle Ages and meets a person well worth knowing.

The author also gives us a different aspect of the often maligned Elizabeth Woodville. A stickler for royal ceremony and meticulous household management, Edward's queen served as a role model for Margaret who was one of her chief ladies-in-waiting. The queen was also instrumental in bringing Margaret together with Duke Charles in a brilliant match celebrated by the "wedding of the century." Mrs. Weightman's descriptions of this unmatched spectacle are well worth the price of the book.

A recent review inspired me to ask my local bookstore to get this biography for me. At \$35.00 (perhaps more by this time), it is expensive for its 217 pages, but, to my mind, a good value for the money. Both scholars and interested laymen should find this a wonderful "read."

Helen Curé

The English Noble Household 1250-1600

Kate Mertes, Basil Blackwell Ltd, Oxford, 1988

By examining the records of more than 150 noble households, large, small, and in-between, Ms. Mertes has been able to paint a canvas of Medieval and post-Medieval life that smashes a few myths. To wit:

1. That castles had a large population of buxom servant wenches. Strictly Hollywood, out of Restoration drama. Except for nursemaids, the lady's personal attendants (and their attendants), and laundresses and ale-makers (the latter two living

continued, page 18

out), noble households were male bastions.

2. Or, on the other hand, that servants were forbidden to marry. It was true that single men generally rose higher and faster, but many did marry, and it is possible to find a wife of a steward or other official serving in his place when he died.

3. That the noble household was self-sufficient. It was a consuming community, though it did raise some of its own consumables, and sold some of the excess.

4. That the noble household was gluttonous. Averaged out over a weekly period, each member ate only about a quarter-pound of meat a day. In practice, this would be slightly more, because of fast-days.

5. That most retainers had nothing to do. In the large households, most of the gentleman-retainers must have been underemployed, but they were expected to, and did, turn a hand in any department at a moment's notice. Of course, one couldn't expect them to do any really dirty work, like cleaning out the stables. This was done by those on the bottom rungs of the hierarchy, the grooms and 'boys.'

6. That ordinary servants were underpaid. On the contrary, wages in service compared very well with similar work 'on the outside' and there was room and board in addition. Privacy was lacking, but nobody expected that.

This is just a sampling. Mertes research should be useful, not only to the scholar, but to anyone with an interest in the daily life of the period.

Myrna Smith

By Honor Bound

Scotney St. James, Avon Books, N.Y., 1989 \$3.95

The heroine is spunky, but she has brown hair rather than blond or red. The hero is dark and handsome, but less violent and obnoxious than most of his breed. The plot is fairly predictable, but on occasion it is funny on purpose, which is unusual

for this type of book. Morganna, our leading lady, is a poor, wrong-side-of-the-blanket relation of the Tudors, but don't hold that against her. Since Margaret Beaufort has rescued her from the bleakness of a convent, she feels obligated to spy on Richard III at Aunt Margaret's request, however reluctantly. She is caught, through no fault of her own, and remanded by Richard to the custody of John Rathburn, our hero. Of course, they hate each other, and of course she tries to escape at every opportunity. At one point he has to handcuff himself to her (or vice-versa), not thinking how this is going to interfere with his love-life. But we know who the love of his life is going to be, don't we?

There is a good sense of place here, the place being the North of England. But it's not necessarily Richard's North: more that of James Herriot. There is one character who is a clone of Mrs. Hall, on *All Creatures Great and Small*. Richard and his nephews appear prominently and sympathetically. There is the obligatory sex, but at least 'fathomless eyes' are avoided.

It has long been my contention that many of these bodice-rippers are written by committee. This one actually was written by a committee, or consitorium, of two Kansans, Lynda Varner and Charlotte Hoy. Maybe two heads are better than one, as this book is well above average for its type.

Myrna Smith

The Spitfire

Bertrice Small, Ballantine Books, N.Y., 1990 \$8.95

Someone must have told Bertrice Small that the way to begin a novel is to get sex, action, religion, mystery, and royalty in the very first paragraph. ("Hell," said the duchess, "is that your hand on my knee, Bishop?") She certainly tries, for this is the way *The Spitfire* starts:

"By the body of Christ crucified!" swore Tavis Stewart, the black-browed Earl of Dunmor. "By the body of Christ, and by the tears his blessed mother Mary shed upon the

hill of Calvary, I will be avenged!" He stood among the smoking ruins of Culcain House, his nostrils burning with the acrid scent of death.

No sex in that, but it will be along soon. Ms. Small is not called "Lust's Leading Lady" for nothing. After this promising start, the scene shifts to Middleham Castle, where Richard III is arranging the marriage of the title character, Arabella, a poor relation of the Nevilles, to Sir Jasper Keane. Unbeknownst to Richard, who is entirely sympathetic here, this Sir Jasper is the same man who is guilty not only of the arson in the first paragraph, but also of gang rape, murder, and cattle-rustling in the prologue alone. But really, Richard should have known. How can a character named "Sir Jasper Keane" be anything but a villain? I mean, Jasper Tudor, all right; a neutral, even faintly comic name. But Sir Jasper Keane, heh-heh-heh? The author may have missed a good bet by not making him the murderer of the two princes, but he only aids and abets. Perhaps it would not be playing fair to have "real" persons killed by a fictional character. Among his other fine qualities, Sir Jasper is a coward and a hypocrite, so he gets away with his crimes — for a time. Our heroine is saved from marrying him in the nick of time, is kidnapped, married, divorced, remarried, becomes a secret agent — although the book is 487 pages long, it goes quickly. One has to read on to find out what Arabella will be up to next.

The history is mostly factual, but there are inaccuracies. The Scotsmen in the story all wear the kilt, which hadn't been invented in the 15th century, and was never worn on the Borders, where the setting is. But a Scot in trousers, or even doublet and hose, just isn't that romantic. At one point the heroine criticizes her Scots hosts because, among other reasons, "the peasants still live in turf houses because they . . . cannot, or will not, build warmer, safer stone houses . . ." Safer, no doubt, but common sense should tell her they're certainly not warmer.

However, the main fault of the story comes in the last few pages, where the author allows a young child who has been a major character to die of

the 'spotting sickness.' It's always upsetting when a child character dies quite unnecessarily. Granted, sometimes it is necessary, as in the case of the Princes (who do not actually appear in the book). Granted, children did often die young in the Middle Ages; granted, they still do. But such things in real life cannot be controlled by any individual; in fiction, they can be controlled by the author — and should not be allowed to happen. Literary licence can cover a kilt, but shouldn't extend that far.

Myrna Smith

Heraldry For the Designer

William Metzger Van Mostrand Reinhold Company, New York City, 1969 137 pp.

This is not the usual run-of-the-mill dissertation on heraldry. Much historical information is accompanied by concise and clearly-defined line drawings of various terms used in the beautiful artwork throughout.

It is not a "how-to" book either, although a considerable amount of information contained in the text could easily be put to this purpose. It is more a book of "art for art's sake" to use a well-worn cliché, but well worth a thumbing if one happens to chance upon it.

Glenda S. Motley



NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUICIDE THEORY SHEDS NEW LIGHT ON 500 YEAR-OLD UNSOLVED ROYAL DOUBLE MURDER

Shakespeare's Tale of Smothering in Doubt

WASHINGTON, D.C. (December 3, 1990) - The Princes in the Tower, immortalized by Shakespeare as the victims of their wicked uncle, Richard III, may not have been murdered at all. Instead, the boys, aged thirteen and ten, may have committed suicide, according to American University history professor Terence R. Murphy.

"The hypothesis of a royal double suicide seems utterly outrageous only in the absence of scholarly knowledge about childhood suicide in history" explains Dr. Murphy, an expert in historical thanatology and suicidology and co-author of a recently-released book on suicide in late medieval and early modern England. In that time, childhood and adolescent suicide was much more common than it is today, accounting for 36% of all suicides.

Dr. Murphy based the suicide theory on fourteen years of research that incorporates a "psychological autopsy" on events in the last months of the lives of the princes, and on evidence concerning the skeletons of two children unearthed at the Tower of London some 200 years after their deaths. In a presentation to the annual meeting of the Richard III Society in October, Dr. Murphy outlined life events which left the boys profoundly depressed, isolated, and powerless—all predisposing factors for a suicidal state.

The Princes—Edward V and his brother Richard, Duke of York—were sent to the Tower of London, then a royal residence, to await young Edward's coronation following the April 1483 death of their father, Edward IV. In the political struggle for the regency, Edward V's guardians and advisers were dismissed. In June 1483 it was claimed that their father's marriage was invalid and the Princes were, therefore, bastards and ineligible for the throne. Shortly thereafter, their uncle was proclaimed King Richard III and the Princes disappeared from public view. According to Shakespeare's perennially-popular play, Richard III had his nephews smothered and secretly buried in the Tower of London.

In 1674, workmen at the Tower unearthed a wooden box containing the skeletons of two children of approximately the ages of the Princes. According to Dr. Murphy, the circumstances of the burial point strongly to a double suicide: the burial took place in profane ground; the children were buried face-to-face with one child buried face-down; mirror injuries to the chest region suggest a stake may have been driven through both bodies; and the burial place—at the foot of a heavily-traveled staircase—was, along with burial at a crossroads or the foot of a bridge, a customary burial site for suicides in medieval England.

The suicide hypothesis, if accepted, would clear the name of Richard III from the last of a long list of crimes with which he has been associated. Historians writing in the era of Richard's successors, the Tudor dynasty, accused Richard of a series of murders and treacherous acts, most of which have been discredited by modern historians.

Editor's note: The foregoing is a reprint of a release prepared by Laura Blanchard that may be of interest to members for its mention of the suicide theory. *The Wall Street Journal* has expressed interest in an interview as a result of Laura's efforts.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE RICHARD III SOCIETY

October 6, 1990

The business meeting, which followed the luncheon and talk by Dr. Terence Murphy of Washington University, Washington, D. C., was called to order at 3 P.M. at the Stouffer Bedford Glen Hotel, Bedford, Massachusetts, by chairman Eugene McManus. The chairman announced that our greetings to the English Society were delivered by Marti Vogel, and he then read their greetings to the American Branch, sent by Elizabeth Nokes.

The chairman called for a motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the last AGM. The motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

The chairman's, board officers', and committee chairmen's reports, which are printed in the *Register* following the minutes, were given, or read by the chairman if the officer or chairman was not present.

The chairman acknowledged previous recipients of the annual Dickon award who were present: Linda McLatchie, Libby Haynes, and Joyce Hollins, and presented this year's award to Roxane Murph. He then awarded certificates of appreciation to retiring board members Jacqueline Bloomquist, Alan Dixler, Carole Rike, and to Judie Gall for her past service as editor of the *Register*, and to Roxane Murph for service as chairman.

Reports from 2 of the 3 new chapters were read by Joe Ann Ricca for the New Jersey Chapter, and Regina Jones for the Southeast Pennsylvania Chapter.

Joyce Hollins, chairman of the nominating/election committee gave the results of the balloting, which are printed in this issue.

At the 1989 AGM Mary Donermeyer had moved that the Society hold biennial, rather than

annual elections, and the motion was approved, subject to its legality. Gene McManus announced that the motion had been ruled legal, and that in order to ensure continuity on the board the board members will work out a system for staggered terms.

New Business

Nancy Aronson announced that the next AGM will be held in Los Angeles, and that she had distributed video cassettes furnished by the hotel to chapter representatives for showing at chapter meetings.

Joyce Hollins announced that she has some calendars left for sale. Each year the Southern California Chapter uses the calendar sales as their major fundraiser, and donates a large percentage of the profits to the Society scholarship fund. This year they will also use some of the profits to fund the 1991 AGM. The theme of the 1991 calendar is Women in the Middle Ages.

Joe Ann Ricca noted that new members need to know where chapter contacts are listed in the *Register*, and that chapters need to get quarterly reports in each issue.

Laura Blanchard presented a check to the Schalleck Memorial Fund.

Beverlee Weston announced that the University of Washington, Seattle, was sponsoring a Ricardian tour next year. There will be more information in the *Register*.

Lillian Barker announced that the Mid-Atlantic Chapter had put a full page ad in the program of the Folger's production of *Richard III*.

The Middleham Appeal raffle drawing was held by Roxane Murph, in the absence of Mallory Paxton, who is the American representative of English Heritage. Elizabeth Ray won

the grand prize of the glass triptych donated by Mr. Ted Seaton. She will decide whether to pay the shipping charges of 450-500 pounds, or to donate the piece to the Middleham Visitors' Centre, with a plaque listing her as donor to be provided by English Heritage.

Several other prizes, donated by Mallory Paxton, were raffled off to other winners. A total of \$91.00 was raised for the Appeal from the raffle.

The raffle to benefit the scholarship fund was held by Linda McLatchie. The ceramic knight, donated by Glenda Motley, was won by Barbara Magruder, and Joyce Hollins won the painting of Richard donated by Susan Dexter.

The following people or groups donated door prizes: Mary Donermeyer, Mary Bearor, Carole Bell, Ellen Perlman, Linda McLatchie, Roxane Murph, Michigan Chapter, Mid-Atlantic Chapter, New England Chapter, Northwest Chapter, Middleham Restoration Endowment, Southeast Pennsylvania Chapter, and Southwest Chapter.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxane Murph

ANNUAL REPORTS

The Chairman

Nineteen ninety was a good year for your Society. The Board made the conscious decision to increase the focus of the Society's efforts. Accordingly, the positions of Schools Coordinator and Libraries Coordinator were created to enable the Society to zero in on schools and libraries. Anne Vineyard, of the Southwest Chapter, agreed to take on the task of Schools Coordinator, and she has been very busy. You may have seen her table prior to the workshops.

We have yet to fill the position of Libraries Coordinator, but we have been active in the library area. Joe Ann Ricca and the New Jersey Chapter have attacked libraries with zeal. I hope that their work will become the model for what we want to do nationally.

Professor Compton Reeves, who was the keynote speaker in Cleveland last year, was appointed Society Representative to the Medieval Conference. We will now have an official presence there, and we expect to begin having papers presented there.

Membership is up, our General Fund is up. But we need to do more. I have written a very ambitious set of goals for the Board to strive for in the next year. We have additional organizational improvements to be made. However, in one very important area, membership, we need your help.

We want to double the membership in the next year. This should be easy to do; each of us needs to recruit just one new member. Surely each of us knows at least one person who is interested in our Society and is just waiting to be asked to join. Ask them!

I look forward to next year's meeting, when we will hear a membership report of a doubling of our membership.

Eugene McManus

Secretary

My activities this year consisted of taking notes at the Board Meetings and answering the many, many telephone calls from people who had "discovered" the Richard III Society. In the past the calls were isolated, perhaps three a year, but this year the interest was quite high with over 15 calls. Since this was my last year as Secretary I was happy about this renewed interest in the Society.

I have enjoyed serving on the Board and being a member of the Society and I wish my successor the same satisfaction that I had.

Jacqueline Bloomquist

Immediate Past Chairman

Since my position on the Board is that of Immediate Past Chairman, with no defined duties, what I have done during the past year is at the request of the Chairman, and occasionally other board members. I have mainly been working to secure permission from the Humanities Research Center at the University of Texas at Austin for the Society to publish *Richard and Anne*, an unpublished play by Maxwell Anderson, and we are in negotiation at the present time.

I have also, at the request of the board, selected and written an introduction for a book of pieces from the *Register*, which the Society plans to publish this year. This book will be sold to members, libraries, and others so that we can publicize both our cause and the Society. All of the copy is now ready and will be mailed to Carole Rike for printing within the next few days.

Roxane C. Murph

Membership Chairman

As of November 1989, membership was at 356 paid. As of August 26, 1990 membership was at 535 paid.

The last few months of the year have seen a steady increase in inquiries

and interest in the Society. The Chairman's goal of doubling our membership is a feasible one that calls for the support of all Ricardians.

This is the end of my fifth year on the Board of Directors, first as Treasurer and then as Membership Chairman. I have enjoyed my time on the Board and have welcomed the opportunity to work to make the Society a viable and on-going entity.

Thanks to so many of you for your past graciousness and support, but in particular Roxane Murph, Morris McGee and Gene McManus.

Carole Rike

Society Counsel

Legal advice has been and will continue to be made available to the Society on an "as needed" basis. These services are free of charge to the Society. Legal issues in such areas as intellectual property, corporation law and taxation have arisen in the past and will be the most likely areas of inquiry in the future.

Alan Dixler

Scholarship Committee

The Scholarship Fund stood at only \$900 on September 15, 1990. This was because virtually all funds on hand had been awarded during the prior year. In order to regain financial health, no scholarship gifts were awarded during the current year. Income from the endowment and gifts to the fund were therefore accumulated. On 9/15/90, the Fund had strengthened to \$2400. By way of contrast, the Fund had \$4000 on 9/15/87. We expect to award gifts in the upcoming year.

Additionally, during the past year a publicity mailing was developed and automated, so mailings should be more automatic than in the past.

Alan Dixler

ANNUAL REPORTS (continued)

Research Librarian

The research library has been in something of a holding pattern during this past year. A small core of regular users continues to keep me busy, but I would be glad to hear from more members. The library list is being updated and will be available on request. All regular library users will receive a copy automatically.

Silent Auction III held last winter was less successful than the previous ones; however, Silent Auction IV promises to have a broader selection that includes some very interesting items.

Since the last AGM the library had acquired eleven books through donations and purchase. There are some new books out or soon-to-be-published that look very interesting. I expect to continue the library's slow but steady growth through some purchases this winter.

Helen Maurer

Fiction and Audio-Visual Librarian

Three books have been donated to the library this year.

From October 1989 to September 1990, 64 items have been circulated.

Marie Martinelli

Chapter Coordinator

The past year has been another year of growth for chapters of the Society. As a direct result of last year's meeting in Cleveland, a new chapter was started in Michigan. January saw the beginning of a Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter. The New Jersey Chapter, which was started in August 1989, has grown quickly and is absorbing some members of the defunct New York chapter. At this time we have ten active chapters. The status of the Northern California chapter is unknown. Approximately

215 Society members belong to Chapters.

Some problems faced by the Society as a whole are also problems on the chapter level. For example, how do you raise funds as painlessly as possible without raising dues? How do you recruit new members? How do you get chapter members to become more active and take leadership roles in the organization? Unfortunately, there are no easy answers to these questions. Too many chapters depend on the efforts of one or two members who are willing to make the effort to keep the chapter going. As the chapters find solutions to some of these problems, it should help the Society as a whole.

This year the Board suggested that each chapter appoint people to take on the jobs of Schools Coordinator and Library Coordinator. Although the chapter responses were not enthusiastic, many of the chapters are already doing some of the suggested activities on an informal basis. I plan to put together some suggestions for how to do a library exhibit in the next few months.

More chapters are becoming involved with representations at medieval fairs. The Ohio chapter participates in two each year. This year the Northwest chapter participated in a Highland Games festival. These kinds of activities are an excellent way of reaching the public.

My goals for the coming year are to increase inter-chapter communication, develop some guidelines for library outreach, and address problems of chapter leadership.

Mary Miller

Schools Coordinator for Chapters

The opening phase of the newly created Schools Coordinator post entailed deciding what role is to be played and which tactics to employ to initiate interest. Contact with the Chairman, Eugene McManus, in-

volved issuing proposals to ascertain their worth. It was decided by the Coordinator and the chairman that a slow-but-steady method was the best.

The Coordinator contacted (by letter) representatives of the chapters with a list of initial ideas and asked that each chapter appoint a chairman to provide contact with and feedback from each chapter. As of this date only two responses have been received. The Coordinator humbly requests HELP! from the chapter contacts.

In the coming year, beginning with this AGM, the Coordinator will attempt to publicize our efforts and to recruit volunteers to provide suggestions for the role of the Schools Coordinator.

- 1. Publicity table at the AGM with information sheets requesting a survey response on ideas already submitted.
- 2. Continued efforts to recruit chapter volunteers willing to provide contact with the Coordinator and with schools in their areas.
- 3. Long-term goal: Essay contest

Portioning funding for a contest open to high school juniors and seniors writing on a topic chosen by the Society for that school year. Cash awards of \$500 for 1st place, \$250 for 2nd, and \$100 for 3rd. Ten honorable mentions.

Society publication of the winning essays each year in a separate publication.

The purpose of the Schools Coordinator and local chapters under this umbrella is to enlighten students about Richard III. Keeping in mind that it is a systematic attempt to alter public opinion, we do prefer Society propaganda to Tudor!

Anne Vineyard

Advertising Sales Manager

Our objective for 1991 is to build an advertising base for the Register. As our first benchmark, we expect the sale of advertising space to cover the cost of postage by the end of 1991.

To this end, we will prepare an advertising rate card, listing rate, circulation, mechanical requirements and closing dates for 1991 issues. We will also assemble a list of potential advertisers from such sources as British Heritage magazine, Tournaments Illuminated, Ricardian referrals and other sources. Twenty-five prospects on this list will be designated as target accounts for intensive sales efforts. An initial mailing of a rate card and sales letter will be mailed to the entire prospect list (estimated at 100 names), followed by telephone calls to the target accounts. This procedure will be repeated about five weeks prior to the closing date for each issue. After the second issue is published, we will evaluate the results of the initial sales effort and make the appropriate adjustments.

Laura V. Blanchard

Research Office

In the past year I have answered five research questions from the membership and two from outsiders. I have also sent one letter to a periodical, so far without reply.

In addition, the 1988 Research Office Survey has spawned two group projects, Buckingham facilitated by Maggie Corchnoy, and Richard and the North, facilitated by Joe Ann Ricca. It is hoped that these projects will result in an AGM workshop or an article in one of the Society publications. Both groups would welcome more volunteers.

Most of my energies have been directed towards planning the 1991 research tour with Peter and Carolyn Hammond and the University of Washington, and I am happy to announce that this tour is now open for booking. The dates are 8-25 August, and the price of the land tour will be about \$2300, depending on the number of participants. The pri-

Sales Officer

This year's sales figures showed another year of decline; they were 86% of last year's. In part, this is due to the fact that our market is saturated; perhaps our slowing economy was another factor. My thanks to all Ricardians who supported the sales office.

This year I was able to transfer \$1,900 to the General Treasury, \$1400 more than last year.

Special thanks to Anne Vineyard, who donated the proceeds of the sale of "Oh, Tey, Can You See?" to the Scholarship Fund. If you want to start students thinking and reading about the real Richard—I suggest you donate a copy of this curriculum plan to your local high school history department.

And as always, my thanks to Bill Snyder for donating the proceeds of the first printing of his book, The

Mallory Paxton

Treasurer's Report

The Treasury was reasonably strong on 9/15/90. The figures do not, however, account for the latest Ricardians, which will charge the General Fund for approximately \$4,000, bringing it down to \$7,900, its approximate strength at the same time in 1989.

Given the depletion of the Scholarship Fund the prior year, the decision was made to accumulate funds in order to give scholarships the next year. As a result, the Scholarship Fund now has \$2,000 as of 9/15/90. Due to the kind generosity of Mrs. Schalleck, the Endowment is now at \$7,300, the highest level. It can be expected to generate about \$300 a year of interest for scholarships.

I hope the attached four-year review covering my period of service as Treasurer is informative.

Four Year Summary

	9/90	9/89	9/88	9/87
General Fund	11900	7500	9000	9000
Scholarship Fund	2400	900	4500	2900
Scholarship Endowment	7300	5300	4500	3000
Total:	21600	13700	18000	15800

Alan Dixer