

Financial Aid for Medieval Studies

Schallek Memorial Awards Support Studies in Late Fifteenth-Century English History and Culture

The Richard III Society is pleased to announce the availability of one or more William Schallek Memorial Graduate Fellowship Awards for the 1991-1992 academic year.

The awards, in the amount of \$500 or more, are available to graduate students pursuing studies in late fifteenth-century English history and culture. In prior years, Schallek Awards have been granted for studies as diverse as an inquiry into demographic trends as evidenced by Yorkshire church records and a study of brewing during the reign of King Edward IV.

Scholars of the period may also be interested in membership in the Richard III Society, which is devoted to a reassessment of Richard III's reputation based on an unbiased review of contemporary historical sources, and to research into the life and customs of England in the Yorkist and early Tudor eras. The Society publishes a widely-respected quarterly journal, funds the Schallek Awards, maintains an ongoing monograph publication committee, participates in the annual Medieval Conference, sponsors the publication of important source documents such as *Harleian Mss. 433*, and maintains extensive nonfiction, fiction, and audiovisual lending libraries for member use.

Deadline for Schallek Award Applications:

JUNE 1, 1991

For an award application or membership information, contact:

THE RICHARD III SOCIETY, INC.
P. O. Box 13786
New Orleans, Louisiana 70185

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Photo: Geoffrey Wheeler

Ricardian Register



Richard III, Society, Inc.

Volume XV No. 1

Spring, 1991

Greetings!

Welcome to this, our second full size issue of the Register! Some of us like the new format and new layout and some of us don't. Some of us liked the old format and style and some of us didn't. There's no pleasing everybody!

"Just because it's (the Register's format) new doesn't mean it's better!"

I couldn't agree more! Now that we have these pages, we need to fill them with material and information. We need to have chapter reports appear; we need to have chapter meeting notices and schedules appear, so that members in the area can know about and attend chapter meetings; we need to have more articles and pieces reflecting what you, the membership, are doing. We are having library exhibits, articles and interviews in newspapers and the media, shows and exhibits and fairs and such; almost none of our members are hearing about these activities, but they can now, because we have the pages in which this information can be reported.

We went to this new size so as to be able to carry advertising. We want to carry advertising so that the Register can support itself, and not be supported by your dues. Your dues should go toward more useful activities, such as scholarships and research and publishing and education, all related to Richard. So, as time passes, you will most likely see some advertising begin to enter the Register's pages. Support our advertisers; they are supporting your society, aren't they?

Welcome to the revitalized Northern California Chapter. Ms. Ellen Ekstrom Fernandez informs me that they had their formation meeting in February, and that they are now off and running on projects for Richard and the Society. I think you can find her report elsewhere in this issue.

Are you a member of a chapter? The chapter contacts are listed in this issue. Too far to go for a chapter meeting? Then get together with other Ricardians in your area, and form a chapter. It only takes five members, a set of bylaws, and some correspondence with the Chapter Coordinator!

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I'm happy to report that our membership continues to climb. That means that you, the members, are doing a successful job of convincing people that the Society is a serious organization, with some useful and important objectives.

For those of you who haven't recruited a member yet, keep trying! Persistence is one of the crowning traits which we can choose to possess, along with loyalty, honor, truthfulness, and courtesy.

Some personnel actions of interest. Mallory Paxton has resigned her two positions, Research Officer and Society Secretary. The position of Research Officer has been filled by Dr. David Treybig, of the Ohio Chapter. The position of Society Secretary will require a board vote; at this point it is unfilled. The position of Chairman, Schallek Scholarship Committee, held by Alan Dixler, has been filled by Dr. Terence Murphy, the keynote speaker at the 1990 AGM.

We continue to look for volunteers interested in filling a slot on our growing organization chart.

The year 1992 will be an election year for your Society. As such, two things are needed: a Nominating Committee, and candidates. I would like to announce the members of the nominating committee at the AGM in

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Ricardian Register

THE RICHARD III SOCIETY, INC.
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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.

In accordance with the policy of the Society in England, members are requested to communicate with H.R.H. the Duke of Gloucester, as Patron of the Society, through the Committee of the English Branch.

Greetings (continued)

California in September, so that they, and the membership will have a chance to interact and produce a slate of candidates.

On that slate of candidates we would like to have at least two candidates for each position: Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Membership Chairman, Secretary.

If you would like to serve on the nominating committee, please drop me a line or give me a call, and your name will be put on the list from which the committee will be selected.

If you would like to be a candidate for one of the offices, you can also contact me, anonymously if you wish, and I will forward your unopened letter to the nominating committee. Mark on the cover "for Nominating Committee." You can also contact the nominating committee directly, if you wish, once it has been selected and publicized.

Gene McManus
Chairman

Richard III Society Balance Sheet — Unaudited January 3, 1991

Assets	
General Fund	\$24,923.42
Library Fund	71.00
Endowment Fund*	250.00
Endowment Fund - CD	7,000.00
Wm. Shallek Scholarship**	936.00
UK Fund	52.00
Total	<u>\$33,232.42</u>
Liabilities	
Accrued Expenses	\$3,748.33
Fund Balances	
Current Operating Fund	\$26,232.42
Current Reserve Fund	7,000.00
Total Equity Fund	<u>\$33,232.42</u>

* Donations from membership as of 10/90

** Donations from membership as of 10/90

TREASURER'S REPORT

January 3, 1991

In my first quarter as treasurer, I have had the opportunity to review the financial status of the Society. As the year unfolds, I intend to inform you on what we have done, where we are and where we hope to be by year-end.

I wish to reiterate the importance of supporting our scholarship and endowment funds. In the past years, we have seen a decline in contributions. We must continue to support these two important assets of the Society. Our scholarship is the one area which truly separates the Society from other organizations. We can pride ourselves in helping the student who needs our support in obtaining a degree in medieval studies. The students of today represent the future of the Richard III Society.

The Endowment area, headed by our new coordinator, Tony Collins, needs your support. We have received continuous contributions due to the generosity of Mrs. Maryloo Schallek. Should you have any questions or suggestions, on these areas, do not hesitate to call on Tony or myself for assistance. We are here to promote a productive and positive year.

Respectfully submitted,
Joe Ann Ricca



Richard III as depicted on the front cover of the Wall Street Journal, March 13, 1991

WILLIAM B. SCHALLEK

Our Man of Renown

Joe Ann Ricca

I recently had the pleasure of meeting with Mrs. Maryloo Schallek. In mid-December, I had received a letter from her complimenting the New Jersey Chapter on one of its recent library exhibits. I was curious as to how the Schallek Scholarship originated, and was pleased and surprised when Mrs. Schallek agreed to meet with me and explain just how the scholarship came to pass.

Originally from the Mid-West, Mrs. Schallek first became interested in Richard when Mr. Schallek and she viewed the Shakespeare chronicle "Age of Kings." She then went on to read *Daughter of Time*, read a memorial notice on Richard in the New York Times, joined the Society, and as they say, the "rest is history."

Mr. Schallek, a Harvard graduate with a Ph.D. in Biology, was always keenly aware of aiming the Society towards an academic and intellectual arena. In the late 70's, he put into action his plan to create an endowment. He, and a number of donors, would yearly contribute to an endowment whereby the interest could be utilized to award a scholarship. The Society changed the name to the "William B. Schallek Memorial Scholarship Endowment" in honour of her husband.

Today, Mrs. Schallek continues to support the goal so important to her husband. But, as Mrs. Schallek stated "the responsibility to help further the student striving in medieval studies is everyone's in as far as contributing to the endowment."

Before I departed, I thanked Mrs. Schallek for her hospitality and extended to her on behalf of the New Jersey Chapter a Lifetime Honorary Membership. In meeting with Mrs. Schallek, I became keenly aware of the importance of the scholarship, the man who was behind it, and how I wished I had had the pleasure of meeting one of the Society's acclaimed assets.

EDITORIAL LICENSE

For most of 1991 I seem to have been a practicing interviewee—talk shows, the *Montreal Gazette*, an Associated Press Reporter, a reporter from the *Wall Street Journal*, a call from *Harper's Magazine* and more. All of this reflects the excellent job Laura Blanchard has done of getting the word out and in reinforcing that the Society is a newsworthy and interesting organization.

Being repeatedly asked in interviews to account for how I became interested in Richard III, who I feel killed the princes in the Tower, why do I think Richard captures the imagina-

tion of so many . . . all of the questions we all field at one time or another . . . I realized anew one principle most of us share: I like Richard. Scrap away the scholarly arguments, disregard the sense of commitment towards a fair assessment of his history, and the basic fact is that I feel comfortable with his personage in a way that other historical characters are unable to inspire. I just know that if I were alive in the fifteenth century I could borrow a cup of sugar from Richard without putting my life on the line.

SPEAKERS SOUGHT

Pam Milavec

I am very pleased to have a chance to serve the Society as Speakers Coordinator. Living in a state where there is no chapter (yet!) with which to become involved, I have been a somewhat isolated Ricardian.

This is a new position which will serve mainly as an information source for inquiries about speakers within the Society.

I am now involved in compiling a list of those members who are interested in acting as Society spokespersons at various functions both inside and outside the Society . . . there is only one minor problem. . . . I need names!

I understand that there are many of you who are already serving the Society in this manner. The purpose of this list is to simplify an organization or a chapter's search for a speaker.

Please contact me if there are any of you who are interested in having your name added to this list, or if you have any comments or suggestions. I am also interested in hearing from any fellow Ricardians within the Colorado area who are interested in forming a chapter.

Carole Rikè

It's nice to be able to continue working with the Society on Richard's behalf. Let's not forget that is what we are all doing!

How about a little help with the *Register* by way of letters, articles, book reviews, poetry, Ricardian trivia, pictures or whatever?

All of you Ricardians have one thing in common: opinions. Let's hear them!

THE SOLAR ECLIPSE OF 1485

Gene McManus, New England Chapter

What was the solar eclipse of 1485 like? Where did it occur in the sky? How much of the sun was eclipsed? Was it seen? Could it have been seen?

Some tradition holds that Anne Neville died at the peak of the eclipse; others report that the eclipse occurred shortly after her death, to show God's displeasure with her husband Richard. Some chroniclers report that the sky darkened as if at night; stars shone; fear came over the land. Some tradition and chroniclers hold that the eclipse occurred 'around noon'¹.

There are two types of eclipses: solar eclipses and lunar eclipses. Both refer to what we observe to be eclipsed, or shadowed. A solar eclipse occurs when the moon comes between the earth and the sun; the moon's shadow obscures the sun. A lunar eclipse occurs when the earth passes between the moon and the sun; the earth's shadow obscures the moon (Figure 1). Astronomers understand eclipses thoroughly enough to be able to predict them with great precision. The following, summarized from Bowditch², explains them clearly.

The moon's orbit around the earth approximately follows the equator. The yearly path of the sun in the sky, called the ecliptic, moves from north of the equator to south of the equator, so that the two orbits, as seen from the earth, appear to be inclined with respect to each other (Figure 2). Because of this inclination of the moon's orbit with respect to the ecliptic, the sun, earth and moon are usually not so nearly in line that either the earth or moon passes through the shadow of the other. When this does occur, an eclipse takes place. Since the sun and moon appear to an observer on the earth to be approximately the same size, approximately one half a degree, an eclipse is a much more spectacular occurrence than when an interior planet appears to pass across the

face of the sun, or when a star or planet is shadowed by the sun or moon.

When conditions are suitable, the moon passes between the sun and earth, as shown in Figure 1. If the moon's apparent diameter is slightly larger than that of the sun its shadow reaches the earth as a nearly round dot only a few miles in diameter. The dot moves rapidly across the earth, from west to east, as the moon continues its orbit. Within the dot, the sun is completely hidden from view, and a total eclipse of the sun occurs. For a considerable distance around the shadow, part of the surface of the sun is obscured, and a partial eclipse occurs. In the line of travel of the shadow a partial eclipse occurs as the round disk of the moon appears to move slowly across the surface of the sun, hiding an ever increasing part of it, until the total eclipse occurs. As the last light from the sun is cut off, the solar corona or envelope of thin, illuminated gas around the sun, becomes visible. Wisps of more dense gas may appear as solar prominences. The only light reaching the observer is that diffused by the atmosphere surrounding the shadow. As the moon appears to continue on across the face of the sun, the sun appears to merge from an ever widening crescent until no part of its surface is

obscured by the moon. The duration of a total eclipse depends upon how nearly the moon crosses the center of the sun, the location of the shadow on the earth, the relative orbital speeds of the moon and the earth, and principally the relative apparent diameters of the sun and moon. The maximum length that can occur is a little more than seven minutes.

If the apparent diameter of the moon is slightly less than that of the sun, its shadow does not quite reach the earth. Over a small area of the earth directly in line with the moon and sun, the moon appears as a black disk almost covering the surface of the sun, but with a thin ring of the sun around its edge. This is an annular eclipse, and occurs a little more often than a total eclipse.

If the shadow of the moon passes close to the earth, but not directly in line with it, a partial eclipse may occur without a total or annular eclipse.

During any one year there may be as many as five solar eclipses, and there are always at least two. There may be as many as three lunar eclipses, or none. The total number of eclipses, solar and lunar, during a single year does not exceed seven, and can be as few as two. There are

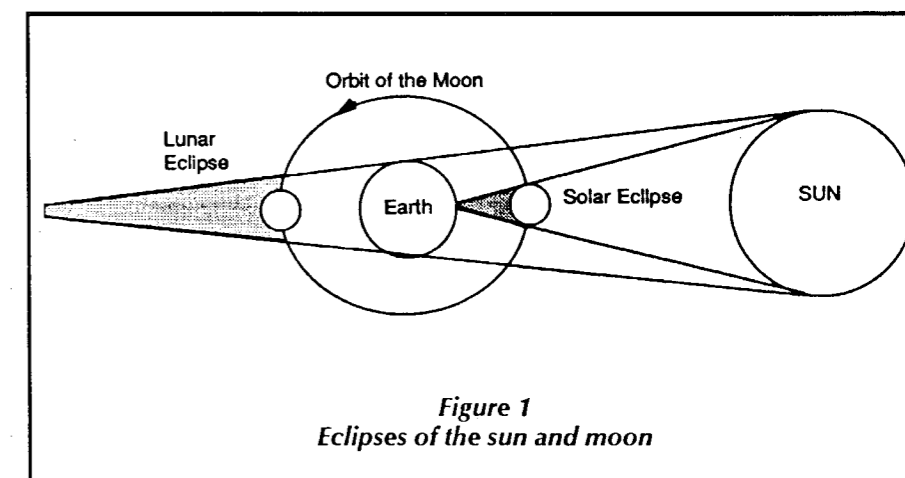


Figure 1
Eclipses of the sun and moon

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THE SOLAR ECLIPSE OF 1485 (Continued)

more solar eclipses than lunar eclipses, but lunar eclipses are more numerous at any one place because of the restricted areas over which solar eclipses are visible.

To find out when the eclipse occurred, I wrote to the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, submitting the question to them. It seemed to me that the determination of the date and time should be straightforward, requiring only some small amount of time on a computer by an undergraduate. The determination of the date was straightforward, but for the determination of the time, I was mistaken. Apparently the calculation is beyond an undergraduate, and beyond most graduate students³. Part of the complication in the calculation is that the earth, not being perfectly round, 'wobbles' as it goes around the sun. This wobbling is influenced by where the moon is, and by where other planets, such as Mars, Mercury, Jupiter and Saturn may be. This wobbling, over the centuries, translates into an uncertainty in time as to exactly when an event in the past, governed by the laws of physics and orbital mechanics, actually occurred. Besides wobbling, the speed at which the earth travels around the sun in its orbit is also influenced by the nearby presence of planets. Both of these factors introduce time uncertainties into the calculations. They referred me to Professor Jean Meeus.

Professor Jean Meeus of Belgium is a world authority on eclipses, and has calculated and published eclipse data on all eclipses since the year 2000 BC, as well as eclipses far into the future. Professor Meeus sent me a very clear and complete summary of the characteristics of the eclipse⁴, from which I now quote.

The eclipse indeed took place on March 16 of the year 1485 (Julian calendar). At London, first contact occurred at 14:38 Universal Time. The Sun was then 31 degrees above the horizon. Maximum eclipse took place at 15:43 UT, 23

degrees above the horizon; at that moment, the magnitude was 0.852. This means that 85.2% of the Sun's diameter (NOT surface) was covered by the Moon. The zenith angle of the Moon was Z = 113 degrees-see the sketch (Figure 3). Finally, last contact took place at 16:44 UT, at an altitude of 14 degrees.

These values have been calculated using the value of +328 seconds for the difference between the uniform Dynamical Time and the Universal Time, which is based on the (variable) rotation of the earth. However, for other values of this time difference, the results do not vary much, and in any case the eclipse was an important one at London (though having certainly not the 'effect' of a total one):

London time diff. = +100s time diff. = +600s

first contact:	14:42 UT	14:43 UT
maximum eclipse:	15:47	15:37
last contact:	16:48	16:39
magnitude:	0.858	0.845

To sum up, one can tell with certainty that on that date the magnitude of the eclipse at London was 85 %, in the afternoon, about 23

degrees above the horizon. The dimming of daylight must have been visible, but it went certainly NOT dark!

Universal Time is based on a twenty four hour clock; 12:00 corresponds to noon, and 24:00 corresponds to midnight. Professor Meeus is telling us that the eclipse occurred somewhere between 2:38 PM and 4:44 PM, peaking at 3:43 PM. The uncertainty in his calculations is about five to six minutes either way.

The magnitude of the eclipse, 85%, means that 85% of the sun's diameter was obscured. A bit of geometry shows that an 85% diameter obscuration converts into an 80% area, or light obscuration. For those familiar with photography, this is not quite 2 1/2 /f stops reduction in aperture.

The track, or path of the eclipse across the planet is of some interest. Figure 4 shows the path for total eclipse, and the upper and lower limits. Notice that the track goes through southern Spain and southern France at Nice. When viewed from southern France (Aquitaine, Gascony, Auvergne, Languedoc,

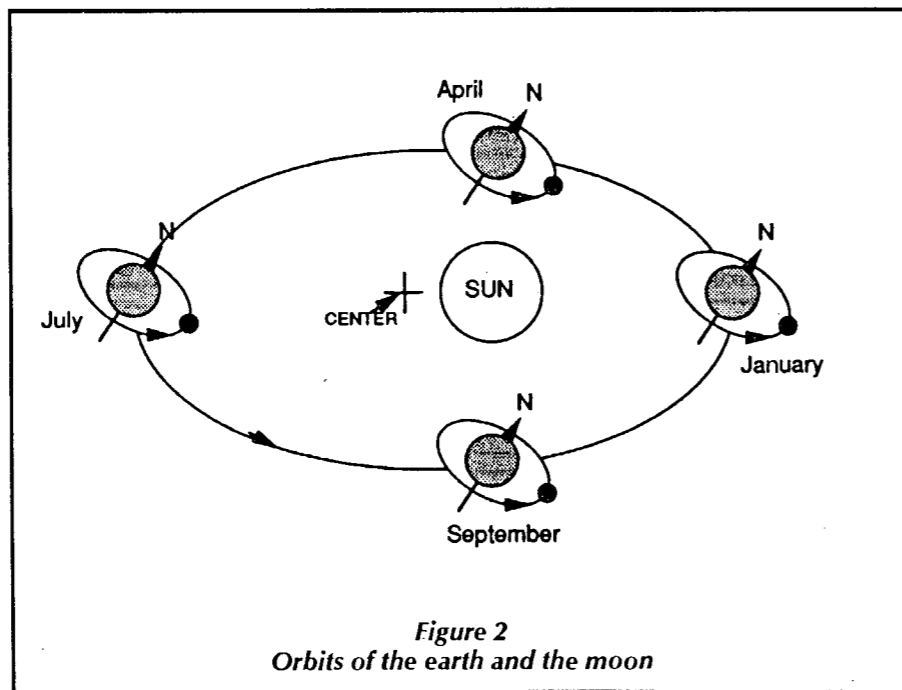


Figure 2
Orbits of the earth and the moon

Dauphine, Bourbon) the eclipse would appear to be almost total, becoming less total the further north one would be. As neither the general populace nor chroniclers in the fifteenth century had an understanding of why solar eclipses occurred, a natural assumption of the period most likely would be that whatever was seen in one place was also seen in other places. From this we can infer that chroniclers purporting to be in London at the time who reported the eclipse as 'complete', or total probably weren't in London, but were somewhere else. This somewhere else was either in southern France or in Spain. This reported intensity of the eclipse can be used as a 'veracity test' of a chronicler's report. If the eclipse in London was reported to have been 'complete', or 'to cause the stars to shine', then it is highly unlikely that the reporter was in fact in London. We can take with some degree of skepticism whatever else that reporter wrote about events in London around the time of the eclipse. If on the other hand a reporter mentioned the eclipse and described the sun as partly obscured, then that reporter most likely was in London at the time. Accordingly we might want to add some degree of credence to such a reporter's statements about other events in London that the reporter might have reported.

On what day of the week did the eclipse occur? This is straightforward, knowing the Julian date. We need only find a universal Julian date calendar selector, look up 1485, and find the appropriate calendar⁵. It is a non leap year, with January 1 occurring on a Saturday. As a matter of interest, there were no leap years in the Julian calendar; that is why the Gregorian calendar was invented. A computer-generated calendar for 1485 is shown in Figure 5.

Given that the sun was darkened but not completely eclipsed, did the weather permit viewing of the eclipse, or was the whole event obscured by clouds? To answer this question, it would be desirable to have actual meteorological observations, taken at London, for March 16, 1485. It is my understanding that the British Admiralty did not start making daily observations until

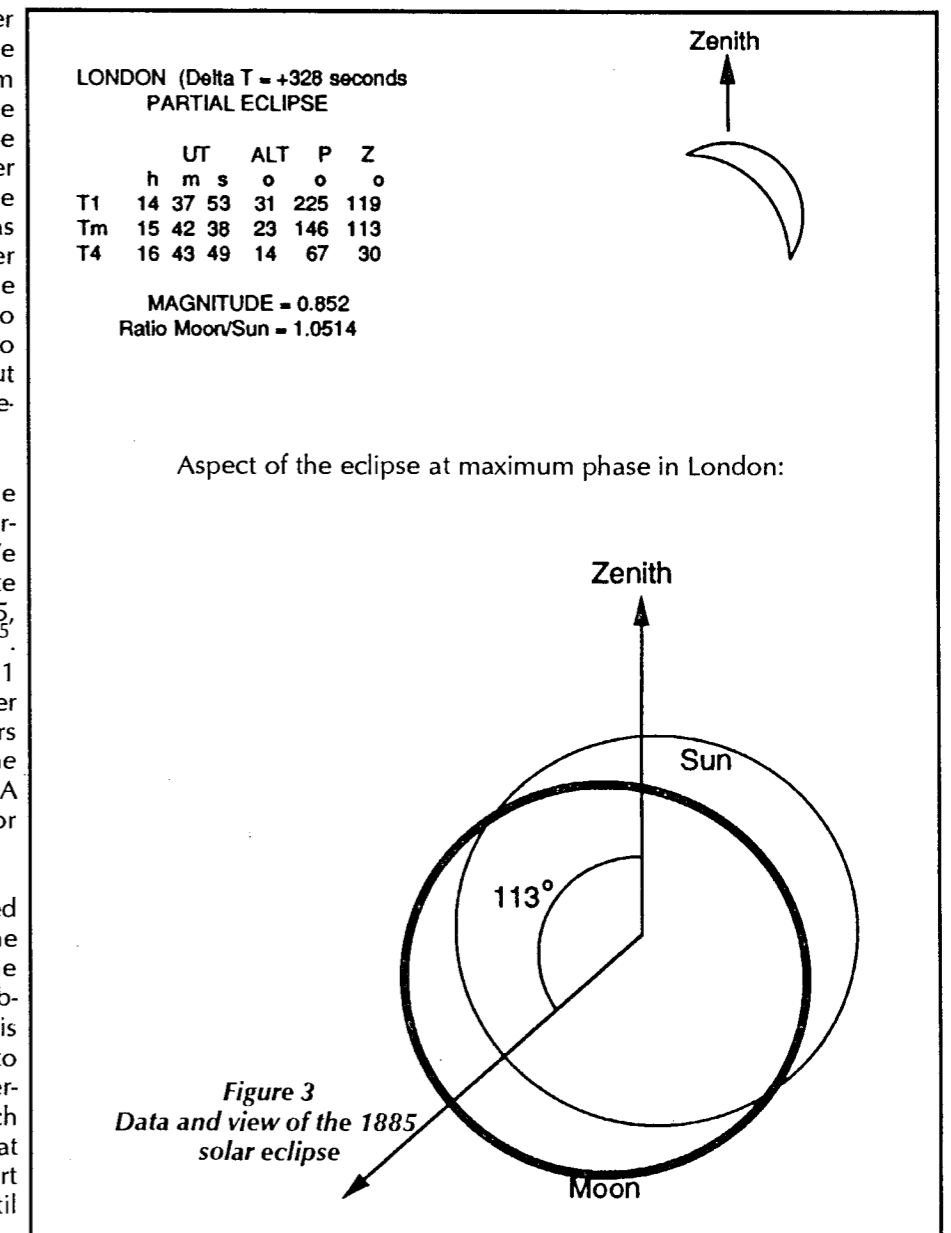
sometime in the sixteenth century, so that most likely routinely collected, daily observations are not available, but someone who has or could gain access to the British Admiralty's meteorological records might want to pursue this.

The Admiralty Board was established in 1832 and absorbed into the Ministry of Defense in 1964. It was preceded by the Navy Board, established 1546, the successor to the Office of Keeper of the King's Ships. It is doubtful this office kept meteorological records.

Short of having the actual observations, estimates can be made. The Handbook of Applied Meteorology⁶

gives summary monthly data for London. This reference states that, for London, in March, there are, on average, 10 days in which more than a trace of precipitation (rain) occurs. This can be used to estimate that the probability of rain on a given day in March in London is approximately 1/3. The probability of no rain is 1 minus 1/3, or 2/3. The reference also gives the average total number of hours of sunlight for London in March as 113. Dividing this number by 31, the number of days in March, gives 3.65 hours of sunlight per day, on the average. As the eclipse occurred near the time of the equinox (mid March), the period of sunlight (or daytime) will approximately equal (within a few

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Aspect of the eclipse at maximum phase in London:

Figure 3
Data and view of the 1485 solar eclipse

THE SOLAR ECLIPSE OF 1485 (Continued)

minutes) the period of darkness (or of night time). This means that there should be twelve hours of sunlight during the day. However the meteorological data suggests only 3.65 hours of sunlight. Dividing 3.65 by 12 produces 0.30, an estimate of the probability of sunlight on a given day in March, in London. The probability of no sunlight is minus 0.30, or 0.70.

From the above, the following hypotheses can be inferred: (1) there is a 2/3 chance, or a probability of 0.67, that it was not raining on the day of the eclipse, and (2) there is a 0.70 probability that the sun was not seen on the day of the eclipse. Stated more simply, the day was probably cloudy or overcast, with no rain. This reference also gives the average temperature for London in March as 6 degrees C (43 degrees F) with a mean standard deviation of 1 degree C (1.8 degrees F). This means there is a total three sigma spread from 3 degrees C (37 degrees F) to 9 degrees C (48 degrees F). Published U.S. Navy/U.S. Air Force weather data show similar statistics for the London area: Heathrow Airport and Gatwick Airport⁷. The day was not only probably overcast, but probably cold or chilly as well.

If the sky were overcast as suggested, how would the eclipse appear to people in London? Neither the sun nor the moon would be visible. As the moon's shadow began to move across the sun's disk some time around 2:40 in the afternoon, the overcast would slowly darken, as if at the onset of rain or of a storm. This decrease in light level would continue until about 3:43 PM, at which time the light level would begin to increase until about 4:45 PM. Shortly thereafter the light level would again begin to decrease, as the sun began to set below the horizon at around 6:00 PM, and night came on. The entire event could be attributed to an approaching rain or storm which never materialized.

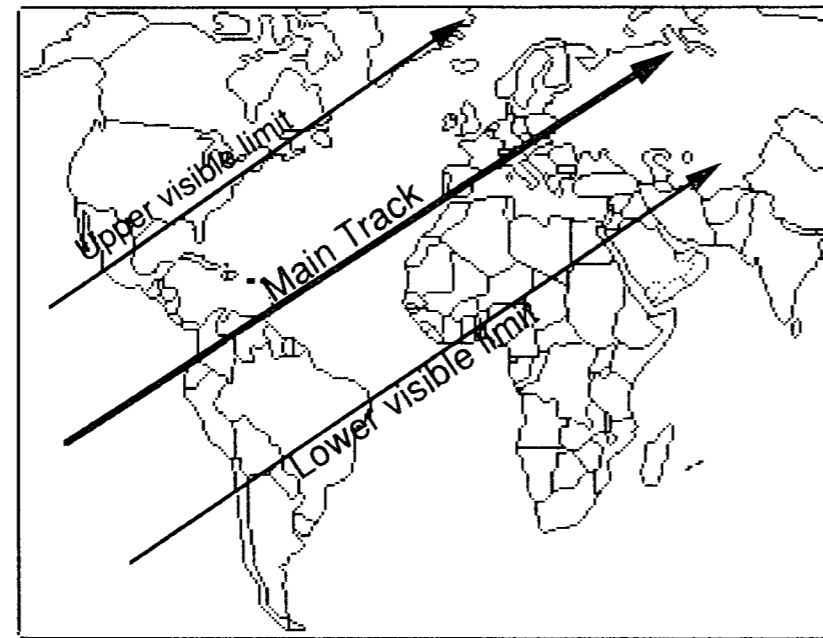


Figure 4
Sketch of Eclipse Track

If the weather were rainy, the sun most likely was not seen, and the event would be similar to an overcast sky, the darkness being attributed to an increase in the intensity of the rain or storm.

If the sky were partially overcast or partially cloudy, so that the sun was occasionally visible, the onset of the eclipse, at 2:40 PM would probably not be noticed, the obscuration of the sun being more likely attributed to the passing of an occasional cloud. Only if the peak of the eclipse occurred while the sun was visible would there be any consternation amongst the populace. For a partially overcast or partially cloudy day, the sun would have to be visible sometime well before the peak of the eclipse, during the six to seven minutes of the eclipse, and for sometime after the peak.

The meteorological data used to make these estimates and draw these weather conclusions is twentieth century data. How well can twentieth century data be used to make estimates and surmises about other centuries? These data would probably be optimistic in estimating weather conditions in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, if

what we read in Dickens, Disraeli, Hardy and others is to be believed, as the Industrial Revolution and its associated air pollution problems was in ascendancy then. Before the seventeenth century? The geophysics which influence and govern the weather in England (the Gulf Stream, the Atlantic Ocean, the Trade Winds, the English Channel and the North Sea) have not changed significantly in the past five hundred years, so that the forces of nature acting to influence the weather in London are almost the same now as they were in 1485.

There is a need for someone to delve into the available data in England and either determine the actual weather conditions for March 16, 1485, or barring that, produce weather statistics more representative of the year 1485.

REFERENCES AND NOTES

1. See, for example, Sharon K. Penman, *The Sunne in Splendour*, Penguin Books, 1982; p 811. While references are not quoted in an historical novel, it is overwhelmingly likely that the refer-

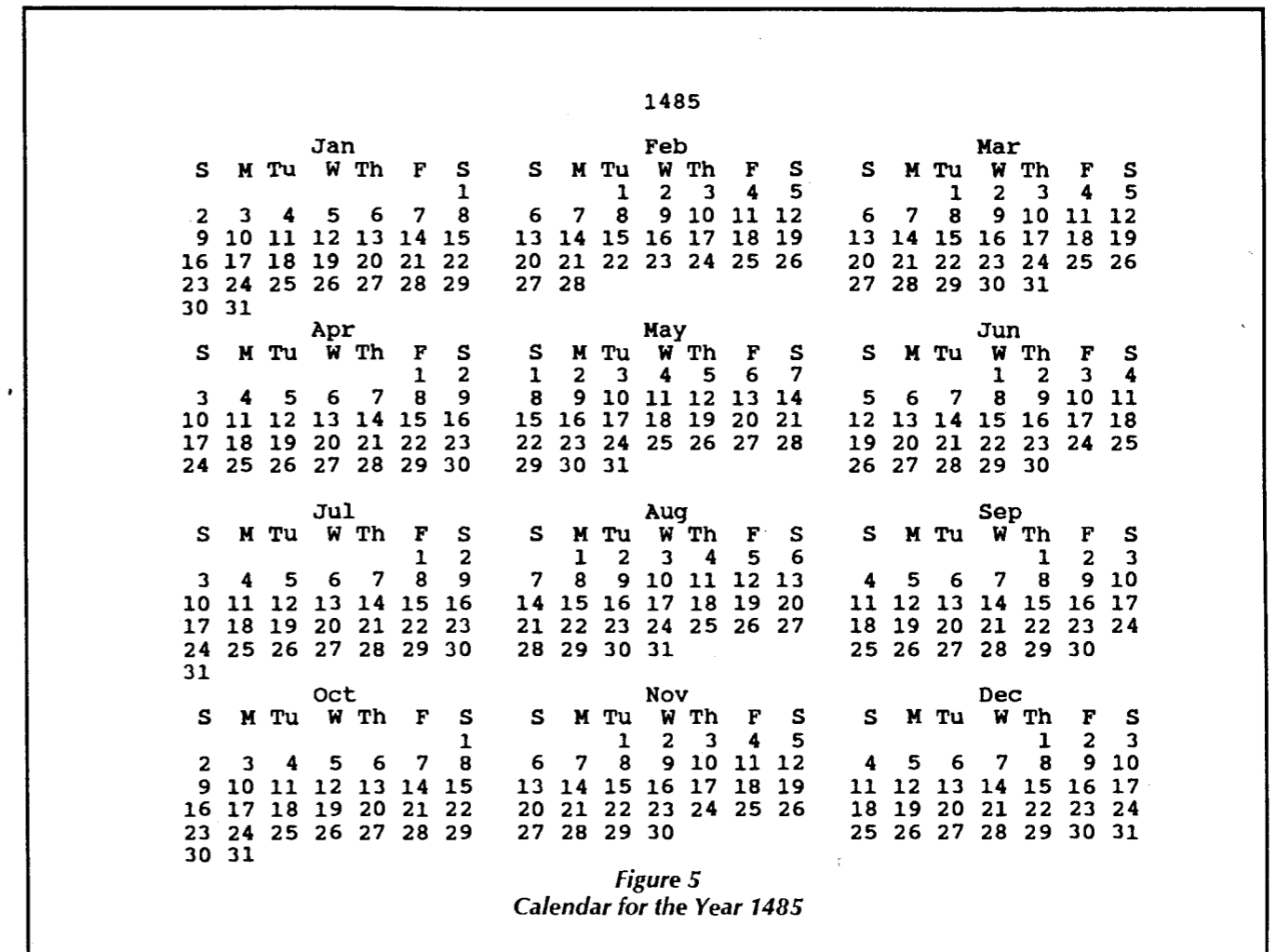


Figure 5
Calendar for the Year 1485

ences exist to support Ms. Penman's descriptions.

2. U.S. Defense Mapping Agency Hydrographic/Topographic Center: Publication Number 9; Nathaniel Bowditch, *American Practical Navigator*, Vol. 1, 1984, pages 384-386.

3. Since that correspondence occurred, software has come into existence that allows these calculations to be made routinely. Titled Solar System Calculator, it is available from Heizer Software, P.O. Box 232019, Pleasant Hill, California 94523, for \$25. Both PC and Macintosh versions are available; the software uses the software spreadsheet Excel to do the calculations. Alternative software that calculates only sun and moon events, but specifically addresses eclipses as a specific cal-

culational, is Sun and Moon Events, also for \$25, available from the same source. It also uses Excel to do the calculations.

I used Solar System Calculator to calculate and plot the 1485 eclipse over a forty minute period. The sun and moon can clearly be seen passing near each other. Unfortunately, the positions are plotted as points rather than as disks, so the actual eclipse cannot be plotted.

4. J. Meeus, Private communication, November 24, 1988.
5. Any World Almanac and Book of Facts will do. I used the 1981 edition because that is the latest one I have. The pertinent discussion is on page 787 of that edition. The calendar of interest is displayed on page 788, as Calendar 7.

Other years having the same calendar are 1825, 1831, 1842, 1853, 1859, 1870, 1881, 1887, 1898, 1910, 1921, 1927, 1938, 1949, 1955, 1966, 1977, 1963, 1994, 2005, 2011, 2022, 2033, 2039, 2050, 2061, 2067, 2078.

6. David D. Houghton, (Editor), *Handbook of Applied Meteorology*, John Wiley & Sons, 1985; Appendix B, pages 1369-1372 and page 1413.
7. *World Wide Airfield Climatic Data*, Volume X, part 2, Europe (Low Countries and British Isles); USAF Environmental Technical Application Center, Building 159, Navy Yard Annex, Washington, D.C., 20333. Available from the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), Springfield, Virginia 22151 (AD-719-908). Pages 450-453.



IN THE PUBLIC EYE

Countdown to Bosworth

Laura Blanchard

In a morbid, backhanded way, Henry Tudor did me a favor when he delayed his 1485 invasion until late summer: he put the anniversary of Richard's death in battle in the middle of the "silly season."

The "silly season" is an old newspaperman's term for the dog days of August—when, usually, not too much is happening. Clubs and organizations are taking their summer breaks, the society pages are bereft of faces, regular media hounds are on vacation, and editors are hurting for news. Hot, itchy, and bored, they give coverage to hoaxes, fads, and other chronicles of the variegated insanity of the human race.

The Silly Season is good news for me as PR manager for the Society, because I've got just the thing to fill those empty pages in late August—a story about 4,000 history lovers committed to restoring the reputation of a king who's been dead for over 500 years. The Silly Season can be good news for you, too, if you're interested in promoting the Society at the local level.

Why am I writing about a late-August feature in early spring?—you may ask. Because, frankly, we haven't got any time to spare. One excellent area to place a feature like that is a metropolitan or regional magazine (*The Washingtonian*, *New Jersey Monthly*, *Scottsdale Scene*, etc.). Most of these are monthlies, and most of them work some time in advance. For an August issue article, for example, the magazine writer's deadline may be June 1 or earlier. This means the release needs to go out in early May to allow time to pique the editor's interest, give him or her time to gather information and conduct interviews or arrange for a photo session.

On a National level, I'll be doing a Bosworth release in late April for

mailing to monthly magazines in early May, to newspapers in early August. My list, though, includes only a few regional magazines or papers.

You can help extend the reach of our message by doing some "silly season" PR for your chapter or just for yourself. All you need is access to a photocopier, envelopes, and stamps.

Just send me a note, including a self-addressed business-size envelope with \$.77 in postage. I'll send you a copy of our Bosworth-anniversary press release and cover letter, which you can use verbatim or adapt for your area, together with an address list of newspapers for your state and some tips on editorial contact, giving interviews, and photo opportunities.

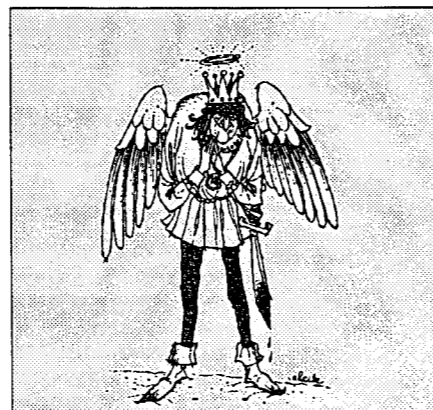
I'd also like to hear from you if you have an amusing, touching, irritating, or just plain interesting "war story" about getting an in-memoriam notice into the papers. I'll need material for the press release—or to feed to any writers who want to write a feature story on the society.

PR "hits"

Last issue *The Register* carried the text of a press release based on Dr. Terence Murphy's 1990 AGM address. We've had expressions of interest from two publications, and I hope to be able to report positively on both of them in my next column.

In the meantime, if you see any news items about unsolved royal double murders that were actually teen suicides, please let me know.

Recently, I had occasion to help out with a mailing in support of the Schallek Awards. I'm delighted to report that this effort has resulted in publicity for both the Awards and the Society in the prestigious Medi-



Wall Street Journal, Associated Press Discover Richard!

As we go to press, we've learned of two significant pieces of press coverage for the Society:

The Wall Street Journal featured Richard III in a front page article, including his portrait, on March 13. The article generated a lot of interest. Even before it ran, says Cynthia Crossen, who wrote the story, her colleagues at the paper were asking her for more information. The day the story appeared she was busy referring calls. The story was written in a lighthearted vein, but Richard and his society were given sympathetic treatment.

A few weeks before, the Associated Press compiled a feature article which was released to its subscriber newspapers on February 24. It included the humorous illustration shown here.

Carole Rike's husband spotted it in a paper in Anchorage Alaska; a friend of Morris McGee's saw it in Maine. Please let Laura know if you've seen it in your local paper.

eval Academy of America's February 1991 newsletter. The Academy has helped us bring our message to its audience of more than 5,000 medievalists.

Guerrilla Ricardianism

Someday I'm going to write an article with this title. Its subtitle will be "ten easy, cheap, or enjoyable things you can do to further the cause." In the meantime, here are a couple ideas, based on things I've observed savvy Ricardians doing in my travels.

Libraries. Don't you get steamed every time you find a copy of a book like Desmond Seward's *Richard III: England's Black Legend* in a library? Don't get mad—get even! Find the page where he says we're a bunch of repressed lady novelists. Insert a slip of paper with the name and address of the Society—either National headquarters or a local chapter contact. I find this a soothing

activity when I have an afternoon to kill in a strange town.

Used book stores and yard sales. Watching New England chapter member Mary Donermeyer in action at the 1990 AGM, I got a whole new perspective on the value of the used book store. Mary must haunt these places. She sees her opportunities and she strikes. The result? A used-book sales table that does a brisk business and raises funds for her chapter . . . a source of donations for raffles and door prizes at the business luncheon. (Mary modestly says that the real used book store pro is Myrna Smith.) Other uses for those used books: donations to local libraries in conjunction with library exhibits . . . or to our own Society library.

Faires and Festivals. Some chapters, especially Ohio, have developed faire participation to a high art. They could probably write a whole article on this subject alone. On the other

hand, the southeastern Pennsylvania chapter has developed a more laid-back approach to faires and festivals—especially good for impromptu attendance by small groups. They simply attend—clad in Richard III T-shirts, wearing Richard III buttons, and carrying Society literature. I'm tempted to try a variant at the next opportunity—wear medieval garb, sit on a blanket under a White Boar standard, and see what develops.

Next issue: our friend, Bill Shakespeare.

Have a PR question? A Guerrilla Ricardian Tip? Or a PR triumph? Pick up the phone—drop me a note—send me a FAX. Laura Blanchard, 12 Bolfmar Avenue, Cranbury, NJ 08512, 609-799-1824, FAX 609-275-9096.

1991 AGM

Due to difficulties with Barnaby's, the location of the AGM in Los Angeles is being changed. A contract was negotiated with the staff, which subsequently changed, and the new management refused to honor the old contract.

Negotiations are underway for another location, but the new contract had not been signed at press time. Please watch the mail for a notice announcing the new venue.

1993 AGM

In the name of the King
To our noble Lords and Ladies, we grete you wele and bid you to partake in the gathering of workshops for the 1993 AGM. Kindly submit your thought via parchment, carrier or the latest invention telephone to Joe Ann Ricca, 638B Sixth Street, Carlstadt, NJ 07072 (201) 933-6861.

A gripping novel about a young boy haunted by the ghost of Richard III

Knight on Horseback

Ann Rabinowitz

Macmillan Fiction; 176 pp, full color jacket by Sherilyn van Valkenburg. Ages 8-12, grades 3-7.

Asthmatic thirteen-year-old Eddy Newby has a hard enough time trying to measure up to his father's expectations without starting to imagine he's being followed—by the ghost of King Richard III. But he soon realizes it is not his imagination.

From the time he finds a small carved figure of a knight on horseback in a London antique store, Eddy's vacation in England takes on a new dimension as he is pulled back into the fifteenth century by the ghost. Richard, longing for his own son Edward, thinks Eddy is that boy. He takes Eddy hunting, on a raid across the Scottish border, and at last calls Eddy "home" to his castle in Middleham. There, Eddy must make the agonizing decision about where he truly belongs.

In this gripping novel that blends history and suspense, a boy must come to terms with his feelings about himself and his family.

\$11.00 postpaid. Order from:

ANN RABINOWITZ
169 Highfield Lane, Nutley, NJ 07110
201-667-8123, FAX 201-667-8562

Ann Rabinowitz is a member of the Richard III Society

1991 American Branch Ricardian Tour of Britain

24 June-6 July, 1991

We have a great tour planned for 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

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.

Other than an opportunity to tour England and Ricardian sites with individuals who share your interest, this is an excellent opportunity to meet other Ricardians, American and English.

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

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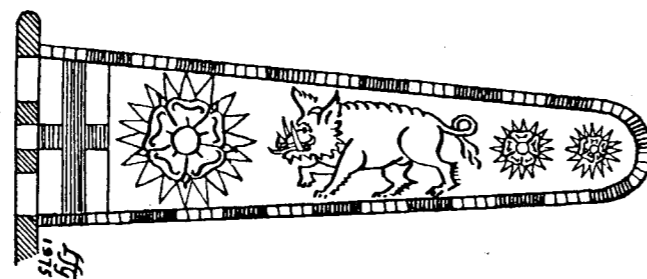
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Southwest

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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

Northern California/Bay Area Chapter

The "exploratory" meeting of the Northern California/Bay Area Chapter of the Richard III Society, Inc. was called to order at 3:05 p.m. on Saturday, February 2, 1991 and was held at the South Branch of the Berkeley Public Library in Berkeley, California. Attending were Glenna Bryant of Oakland, Mary Jane and Angelo Battaglia of Placerville, Bonnie Battaglia of Placerville, Verna Wilson of San Francisco, Charlotte Blackmer of Oakland, Colette Bolech of Cupertino and Ellen Ekstrom Fernandez of Berkeley.

Chapter Coordinator Ellen Ekstrom Fernandez opened the meeting, which included a brief history of the Northern California Chapter given by Mary Jane Battaglia. A motion was enthusiastically passed to revive the chapter. A general discussion on favorite aspects of Ricardiana was followed by Mary Jane's suggestion for a chapter project: an anthology on Ricardian women written by interested chapter members, as well as holding a "reading group" for members to share favorite books on Richard III. It was also suggested that we invite a speaker from the University of California to present a program at the next meeting on April 7, 1991. Ideas for spreading interest in the Society were library exhibits and speaking to schools. By-laws were adopted and the election of officers was postponed to a future meeting. Ellen will make the arrangements for the April 7, 1991 meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Ellen Ekstrom Fernandez

Middle Atlantic Chapter

Almost two dozen members and guests met on Sunday evening, February 3, 1991 at a Greek restaurant on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. Our very special guest speaker was Liza Henderson, Dramaturg of the Shakespeare Theater at the Folger in

Washington. Liza worked closely with Stacey Keach in the preparation of the Folger's recent highly acclaimed production of *Richard III*. She shared with us her thoughts on her research of historical interpretations of the role of Richard, as well as insights into Keach's approach to the role. There was much give-and-take with the Chapter members, and it was one time when the evening "just flew by."

Our next meeting is tentatively planned for early May; we plan to focus on medieval music. For further information, contact Carol Bessette, (703) 569-1875.

New Jersey Chapter

This has been a very busy year for the New Jersey Chapter. Highlights of the past year have included a trial of Richard III in May (he was, of course, acquitted); an outing to Medieval Times Dinner Theater in honour of the anniversary of Richard's coronation; our first birthday in August, which was celebrated with a cake, a lovely toast by John Duffer, and the viewing of a videotape of the Quincentenary celebrations in Middleham; and, in February 1991, an informative and frequently hilarious presentation on late 15th Century manners by Margaret Gurowitz.

We have had great success in recruiting new members and publicizing Richard's cause with our library exhibits. Over the past year we have had over a dozen exhibits, several of which resulted in press coverage, and also some speaking engagements. In the coming year we hope to continue our library exhibits and expand our school outreach program. We are also hard at work planning the 1993 AGM.

Maggie Corchnoy

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.

continued, page 14

Scattered Standards (continued)

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.

Our next meeting will be at the Philadelphia Museum of Art on January 26; we plan to tour their medieval collection and then go out for dinner in Center City.

Regina Jones

The Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter began the new year with its second library exhibit. This was at the Landsdowne Library in (logically enough) Landsdowne, Pa.

Once again we spiced up the exhibit with a special presentation. On January 16 our library coordinator, Rose Ann Messersmith, lectured on Dis-proving a Villain: Shakespeare's Richard III and Jeff Collins spoke on the genealogy of the houses of York and Lancaster. The attendance was gratifying: 18 people showed up for the talks! Sadly, the Gulf War began minutes before the program started and this dampened the evening considerably.

On January 26 we had a chapter meeting at the Philadelphia Museum of Art and a tour afterwards of the medieval art and armour collections of the Museum. The armor section was especially fun, since we were permitted to handle some of the pieces. We'll definitely do this again, as a two-hour tour was not nearly long enough.

The day ended with dinner at the Dickens Inn in downtown Philadelphia. On behalf of the chapter and in celebration of its first anniversary, Jeff gave Sally Yenkinson and Regina Jones beautifully calligraphed certificates actually signed by King Richard! In recognition of their efforts in organizing the chapter.

Our next meeting, featuring a Ricardian Trivia contest, will be March 23 at the home of Jeff and Tony Collins in Landowner.

Regina Jones

CROSBY HALL LONDON RESIDENCE OF RICHARD, DUKE OF GLOUCESTER

Marge Nelson, Northwest Chapter

Crosby Hall was leased to Richard III while Duke and later Protector. In the fifteenth century it was located at 38 Bishopsgate, just north of St. Helen's Church, London. Old maps such as those published in *The A to Z of Elizabethan London* actually picture the building, and show it was four sided, with an inner courtyard, and set back from Bishopsgate itself.

Crosby Hall was a very modern house when it was built in 1466 for a rich merchant, Sir John Crosby. The first floor consisted of a great chamber, parlour, great hall, kitchen and chapel along three of the four courtyard sides, leaving the fourth, inner wall free for minor storage buildings. The gatehouse wall was nearest to the street and there were probably buildings like stores and offices built immediately adjacent to the outer wall as well. Both the great chamber and great hall had oriel windows facing the courtyard. Richard seemed to like these as he had them installed in several of his northern castles. Both rooms were two stories high. Besides the provisions for an open hearth in the great hall (look up at the ceiling when you're there so that you can see the smoke escape hole), a very modern fireplace was in place when Richard lived there. A fan vaulted ceiling, wooden and painted gold, red and green, was designed to cover the otherwise bare roof timbers and was also a modern touch at the time. We know nothing about the second story rooms or cellars.

Such a luxurious house was later used to house ambassadors and other people of note. The building was spared when the Great London fire stopped just blocks away. It was later converted into a restaurant, and then a warehouse. A new door was cut, large enough to allow carriages and wagons to pass through the building, and the great hall was subdivided into two floors. By 1800, only the great hall, great chamber and parlour were intact. In 1910 the great hall was moved to Chelsea where it is part of the buildings of the British Federation of University Women who permit visitors to the Hall when it is not in use.

Nothing is known of the fate of the rest of the building, but since the rest of the Bishopsgate neighborhood suffered in the Blitz, the move probably saved the great hall.

Considering the destruction or modernization of so many of the buildings Richard knew, it is refreshing to be able to view his hall in its restored state and to be able to then imagine what it was like when occupied by the Duke of Gloucester or to overhear some of the meetings that took place there during the Protectorate.

Cheyne Walk, SW3 London Tel: 01 352 9663

Directions: the nearest Underground station for Crosby Hall is South Kensington on the Circle, District and Piccadilly Lines, and for 38 Bishopsgate is Liverpool Street on the Central, Circle and Metropolitan Lines.

Open: Weekdays 10am-12 noon, 2:15pm - 5pm
Sundays 2:15 - 5pm
No admission charge.

BRASS RUBBING

Helen Curé, Southern California Chapter

Anyone who has visited Britain knows the unique charm of the English churches with their patina of age and their reverence for the past. Many of you have had the pleasure of making brass rubbings from the memorial plaques of the 13th through the 17th centuries. Fewer and fewer of the brasses are now available anywhere for rubbing, however, due to potential damage to the comparatively few originals.

But on the bright side, since 1977 it has been possible to enjoy this intriguing art form here in the United States. That was the year that Richard Etches, his wife Ann, and their four children left their London home to set up a Brass Rubbing Centre in our National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

They prepared long- and short-term exhibits of facsimile brasses and arranged to have them distributed nationwide. These exhibits were hosted by museums, art and science centers, libraries, universities, schools, and churches, and became immensely popular.

In the fall of 1990, St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Long Beach, California, hosted one of the exhibits for the fourth time in as many years. The church itself, rebuilt after the 1933 earthquake, is a charming example of Tudor Gothic architecture with an ample courtyard and a "great hall" within its complex. The medieval ambience was accented by armorial hangings and the number of people who chose to work or visit in costumes of the Middle Ages.

One example of this was a young man who is a member of the Society for Creative Anachronism who had made his own chain mail armor and worked with church members in presentations to adults and to school children who responded enthusiastically to the unique history lesson.

Originally intended as an appendage to the annual Scottish Festival,

the brass rubbing exhibit quickly took on a life of its own and soon became a major fund raising project for the church.

In its fourth year, the exhibit opened with two evenings of a "Pastyme with good Companye." Guests gathered in the courtyard for the "First Remove" — time-honored libations, pâtés, and cheeses. A theatre piece in the church itself followed, consisting of a scene from a village parish called *Life in the Middle Ages*, a dramatic and entertaining portrayal of Chaucer's *Wife of Bath*, and an original playlet entitled *The Knight*.

Following these presentations, the banquet in the great hall began with cockaleekie soup and continued with ribs of beef and game hens among other tasty and historically authentic items. Pumpkin bread and cream ended the meal, throughout which dancers and madrigal singers entertained.

During the six weeks that the brass rubbing was taking place, a proper English tea was served to groups and

to individuals who made reservations. Each guest had several small sandwiches, and hot, home-made scones with clotted cream and jam, along with other delights. Costumed docents addressed the guests, explaining the intricacies of what they were wearing and the details of the brasses. They explained the simple techniques to be used and accompanied the guests to get them started with their rubbings.

While the brass rubbing exhibit proved to be a lucrative fund raiser for the church, the community goodwill that it inspired was even more important.

Visitors made rubbings for their homes and for gifts. School children experienced history, hands on, in a different light. The volunteers who worked on the project enjoyed the camaraderie of old friends and made many new ones.

To encourage interest in the Middle Ages, among many other reasons, such an exhibit might well serve as a vehicle for members of the Rich-



The head table at "A Pastyme with Good Companye"

Brass Rubbing *(continued)*



Helen Curé, dressed as Margaret of York, Duchess of Burgundy, and Centre Chairman Barbara Newton in a costume showing Italian influence

ard III Society, perhaps in association with another group. It would be necessary to have space enough for twelve 8-foot tables, and wall space for hanging the display brasses and rubbings. No exhibit fee is asked, but charges are made for brass rubbing materials and for the sale of an excellent choice of educational merchandise. These proceeds are shared between the host group and the organizer.

We had a wonderful time with this in Long beach. I had a chance to mention the Richard III Society to many people and thoroughly enjoyed my association with this project. I am not a member of St. Luke's Church, nor do I have any connection with Mr. Etches, except to note that he is a most pleasant gentleman who was extremely gracious in giving me information and photographs for a magazine article I wrote about the exhibit. I made my "Margaret of York" costume and have had a number of occasions to wear it. There's no question that "Margaret" will be at next year's festivities. She felt right at home in this medieval setting.

For further information, you can contact Mr. Richard A. Etches, The London Brass Rubbing Centre,

11808 Silent Valley Lane, Gaithersburg, MD 20878, (301) 279-7046. Each exhibit is exclusive to the area in which it appears and a six-months notice is requested.

For more details on the highly successful St. Luke's project, contact Chairman "Lady" Barbara Newton, 4429 Hazelbrook, Long Beach, CA 90808.

This year the Brass Rubbing Banquets will be held on October 11th and 12th, with the six weeks of rubbing to follow hard upon. The public may attend starting October 16, though groups may make reservations for the 15th, if they wish

If you are planning to be in the area after the 1991 AGM, you might want to be put on the mailing list for brass rubbing information. Write St. Luke's Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 20038, Long Beach, CA 90801 or contact Mrs. (Michael S.) Newton for special arrangements and reservations. Manhattan Beach is less than 15 miles from Long Beach via the Artesia Freeway (91) and the San Diego Freeway (405) with easy access to the church.



"Lady" Barbara Newton, Chairman of St. Luke's Brass Rubbing Centre, prepares a brass for a visitor



Betty Kroner and her sister, Barbara Newton, Chairman of the Centre, enjoy their medieval costumes



Hoosick Falls,
NY

I received my latest *Ricardian*, *Bulletin*, and *Register*, and I think I can finally be of some help! If nobody else has claimed it, I should like to try my hand at solving the puzzle of the Mother Goose poem (submitted by Margaret Drake). Poetry happens to be one of my stronger suits.

Even without research, this poem, especially when paired with *The Duel* (AKA *The Gingham Dog and the Calico Cat*) by Eugene Field, is fascinating! Consider for a moment:

1)The fight between Field's "Gingham Dog and Calico Cat" is told as *HEARSAY!* The author takes great pains to tell us he didn't see it but was told by "the Chinese Plate" or "the Old Dutch Clock."

2)Historically, many so-called "nursery rhymes" were actually political satire. (Example: "the Farmer's Wife" in "Three Blind Mice" is said to be the Queen of George III.) In those days, there wasn't the free speech we enjoy today, so satire found itself safely tucked away in the nursery. Therefore, the reference to Bosworth is likely quite deliberate.

3)The assignment of animal to standard is *most* intriguing. Since cats have suffered from nearly as bad a reputation as Richard, and with the chance to make reference to William Catesby, one would have expected Tib the Cat to be given the White Rose. But instead, the author chooses "man's best friend," the dog. And to complicate matters, Huff is described as a "talbot" (a type of hound, originally called "talhund," but also the last name of one of Henry's commanders: Sir Gilbert Talbot). Note too that Huff is called "brave" while Tib is referred to as "fierce."

4)The myth about cats having nine lives would be the reason that Tib would have "taken little harm." But

RICARDIAN POST

a Lancastrian Cat walking away with his funeral flowers under his arm? That sounds like an act of defiance. ("You can't get rid of me that easily.")

I will try to find out more about the origins of the poem. Dating it would prove most valuable, because it should be relatively easy to place *The Duel*. If the poem was well known enough to be included in Mother Goose and yet not be annotated, one could guess that it might be quite old. I will let you know anything I find out.

*Loyaulte Me Lie,
Michaela Ann Charron*

Beverly Hills, CA

I must comment on Linda McLathie's piece on the Earl of Oxford in your Winter, 1990 issue, for I believe that her "smoking gun" is pointing in the wrong direction. She says that "it was illegal to portray living persons on the stage" and that Lord Burghley, caricatured as Polonius in *Hamlet*, "would have had no compunctions about punishing the offending playwright". But Burghley, as any encyclopedia will tell you, died in 1598 and the earliest date accepted for the production of *Hamlet* is 1600—some say 1601.

Ms. McLathie's other arguments all rest on the same, long-exploded myths about Shakespeare—that he was too well-educated, too well-traveled, etc. to be the glover's son of Stratford. On the contrary, his errors in matters of history, geography, etc., argue most strongly for his lack of aristocratic background. The myths have always struck me as being based on the worst kind of snobbery; genius is not confined to members of the upper classes.

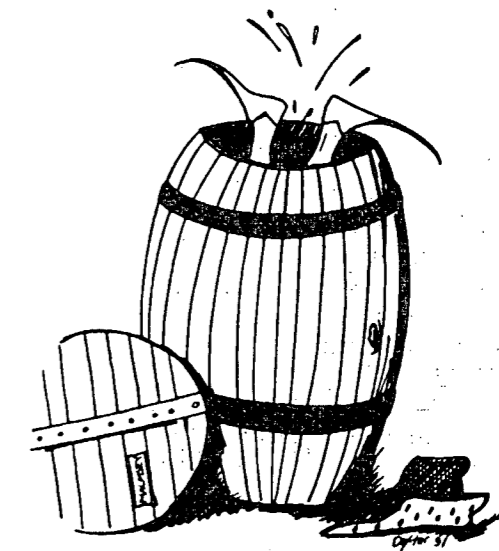
If Ben Jonson's word that Shakespeare was "Shakespeare" isn't good enough, whose is?

*Yours sincerely,
Diana Waggoner*

Carlstadt, NJ

As you are aware, I'm the chairman of the New Jersey Chapter. I also started an organization called the Middleham Restoration Endowment of which I also am the chairman. We have a staff of people who work in conjunction with English Heritage. Our purpose is to help them raise funds for the preservation of Middleham Castle's fabric. We are not affiliated with the Society, nor sponsored by the NJ Chapter.

Joe Ann Ricca



RICARDIAN READING

Myrna Smith

A few Golden Oldies this time or 'mouldy oldies', as some may call them. Check your libraries or used bookstores for these.

The Heir Of Hascombe Hall

E. Everett-Green, Th. Nelson & Sons, London & NY, 1900

Yorkist lord, forced to go into exile after Bosworth, leaves his baby son in fosterage with a miller and his wife, who have a boy of the same age. Not long thereafter, the miller's wife and the two babies become ill, and when they are all recovered, she can no longer identify the genuine 'heir of Hascombe Hall.' The question becomes critical when Lord Hascombe returns from exile, complete with wicked stepmother (the heir's, that is). Very Victorian ("Glad May-time was once more upon the world . . ."); very chauvinistically English (Hascombe sends his half-Italian children back to Italy with no more than a 'good riddance'); very Protestant.

A Trusty Rebel, or A Follower of Warbeck

Mrs. Henry Clarke, Th. Nelson & Sons, London, NY

The volume I read was an award for 'general proficiency and industry' to a schoolboy in 1908, and no doubt he enjoyed it, as it is a fine story for boys, very little dated. The heroine, though plucky, doesn't come on till around page 100 and has the good sense to remain mostly offstage after that. Fairly realistic (when hit over the head, the hero doesn't spring into action again; he just wants to lie there for a bit); well characterized—he leaves Warbeck after becoming disillusioned with the pretender—but also full of action and disguises and all sorts of derring-do, and very little preaching.



Mid Rival Roses

H.O.M. Estrange, Selwyn & Blound, London, 1922

1922? The Jazz Age? It's hard to believe. Listen to this: "To all outward seeming, Richard, Duke of Gloucester, . . . appeared to be as well-proportioned, as handsome, and as manly-limbed as woman's eyes or woman's heart could ever wish in lover. With determination and keen intelligence stamped on his dark and regular features, there was withal in his manner a courtliness and deferential grace which well accounted at once for his lofty place in manly counsels and in ladies' favours."

At one point he actually "exclaims": "God's death! Again foiled!" and if he had a mustache, would no doubt have twirled it. Have no fear, the fair heroine does not meet with a fate worse than death, and all the plots and subplots are resolved, the good rewarded and the bad punished. In short, a pure-dee old mellerdramah.

Child Of Promise

Cicely Ashton-Jinks, Cassell & Co, London, 1944.

The child of promise is Richard, for he is born as the result of a promise made by Duchess Cicely to her chaplain, to be reconciled with her unfaithful husband. Written in an archaic thee-and-thou style yet somehow indefinably 1940s.

Although Richard kills Edward of Lancaster in a fit of anger, and is at least partly responsible, through inaction, in the death of George, he is treated sympathetically. Anne Neville learns of the first murder and turns against her husband. Finally Richard strikes a bargain with God. If Anne will forgive him before she dies, he promises to take the blame for the one crime he did not commit, thereby giving a double meaning to the title.

Merchant Of The Ruby

Alice Harwood, Bobbs-Merrill, NY, 1950

The eternal triangle, with its angles being Perkin Warbeck, his wife, and Henry VII. Written in a rather old-fashioned style, and everybody is so noble you can hardly stand them, but otherwise not bad. Pro-Tudor, though.

My Brother Lambert

Phillip Rush, Pheonix House, London, 1957

Lambert Simnel, in this children's book, is a silly, vain little boy, although he is all of 14. It's his (fictional) sister Blanche, three years older, who is the central character. Written to give children (girls especially, one would imagine) an idea of the battle of Stoke and its background. Pro-Tudor, but not violently so.

The Lady In The Castle

William Gaunt, W.H. Allen, London, 1956

Story of Margaret Maultby and her husband, John Paston—history with dialogue—too much history and not enough dialogue.

The Marriage Made In Blood

Hugh Ross Williamson, Michael Joseph, London, 1968

Although the marriage of the title is that of Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon, this is about Margaret Plantagenet, daughter of George of Clarence, to the time when she becomes Princess Mary's governess. Or rather, it started out, apparently, to be a history, when the author realized he was putting too much speculation into it, and he fictionalized his book somewhat. So what we have is a novel with footnotes, not just one or two, but on almost every page. The best description of this book is this: it's the kind of novel that has footnotes.

The Clandestine Queen

Alice Harwood, Robert Hale, London, 1979

Unless one is a connoisseur of trashy literature (that's an oxymoron, isn't it?), one may not know what a "regency romance" is. This is one, done up in 15th century dress. Genteel regency: the characters say things like "the d_____ he does." It's about Elizabeth Woodville through the early years of her marriage to Edward IV, and highly sympathetic to Elizabeth and her family. Can you see Edward as a Regency Buck? Come to think of it, yes.

Samaritana

N.B. Hammond, Robert Hale, London, 1979

More a novella than a novel, this brief story concerns the eponymous heroine, who reluctantly marries Richard, Earl of Crediton, even though he is brave and handsome. Of course, you know this isn't going to last; she will learn to love him, and of course she does. The plot, such as it is, is helped along, or complicated, by the fact that the Earl is Lancastrian and the year is 1459. The couple goes into exile, and he stays in France until his death. Smart man.

Daughter Of Violence

Paula Simonds, Robert Hale, London, 1981.

Story of Anne Neville from the time she goes to France with her father until her marriage to Richard. Realistic and sometimes violent, as promised in the title. Thomas Malory, very much down on his luck, makes an appearance, aiding Richard. The latter is a little more playful than he is usually portrayed. And Anne is a bit more strong and resourceful than she is generally depicted.

Dearest Of Princes

Marilyn Carabet, Robert Hale, 1981.

This is about the Tunstall family, progenitors of the 16th century cleric-scholar, Cuthbert Tunstall, and of the author of this book, who was born a Tunstall. The male characters are certainly far from the macho types of most romantic fiction—maybe a little too far. Granted that 15th century people were less inhibited about showing their emotions, and the hero is impulsive and emotional even by those standards (and it gets him into a lot of trouble), it's hard to believe they could have been that weepy.

However, there are some good and original ideas here. For example, Richard's nightmares at Bosworth turn out to have been an attack of the 'megrim's' (migraine—which makes nightmares pleasant by comparison) to which he is subject. And his death is a result more or less of mistaken identity.

Cry "God For Richard"

Jean Allison-Williams, Robert Hale, London, 1981

The author uses the device of multiple narrators—well, two anyhow: Lord Lovell and his presumed sister Eleanor, presumed mother of John of Gloucester. There seems to be no particular reason for this, as the two halves poorly mesh, and John and Eleanor scarcely appear in the latter part. Another thing neglected is marks of punctuation, but that's not uncommon in Robert Hale books.

However, there are some good points, such as the scene where Richard, out of curiosity, goes to see the tomb of King John, and marvels at how short John was. Not important, but a very human touch. Incidentally, the author has moved the date of the murder of the princes to after the death of Richard's son.

Uneasy Lies The Head

Jean Plaidy, Robert Hale, London, 1982

The uneasy head belongs to Henry Tudor. The author is not sympathetic to him, although he's not an out and out villain, just dull. Jean Plaidy is capable of writing better than this, and does, as Victoria Holt. This must be the name she uses to get the bad writing out of her system.

He Who Plays The King

Mary Hocking, Chatto & Windus, London, 1980

Follows the careers of Richard of Gloucester and Henry of Richmond from childhood to Bosworth Field, also those of two fictional characters, Henry's servant and a priest. A very balanced view; no good guys in white hats, baddies in black, etc. However, the characters' personalities seem to set very early in life and do not change thereafter. People are changed by their circumstances to some extent. Anyway, it's quite interesting and skillfully written.

The Rose and The Thorn: The Lives of Mary And Margaret Tudor

Nancy Lenz Harvey, Macmillan Publishing Co, Inc; New York City, 1975. 270 Pp.

This book, a volume of Tudor history, was one of this reviewer's bargain-bonanza specials. It is surprisingly well-written, and most clearly documented through reprints of personal letters between the two sisters, their father, and their degenerate brother, Henry VIII.

In truth, Mary and Margaret Tudor were both pawns in a political power struggle that was waged like

a game of blackjack in a Las Vegas casino. Henry VII played his two "Roses" with a gambler's instinct for survival. By wedding Mary to the ailing Louis XII of France, who died 82 days following his marriage to the frisky filly, he thought to renew a power-base in a country that had no love lost for either Henry or his nubile offspring.

As for dumpy little Margaret—short, stout and plain—she was married at age 12 to James IV to seal a peace between England and Scotland. The plan failed, however, and after James was slaughtered at Flodden Field (It seems to this reviewer that the Tudor had a thing about killing anointed kings . . .), Margaret's reign as a Scots queen of English descent was constantly challenged by rival chieftains. Her royal brother ignored her repeated pleas for help and in desperation she made two reckless marriages—first to Archibald Douglass, Earl of Angus; the second to Henry Stewart, Lord Methven. Both marriages disintegrated into a power-struggle that Margaret was ill-equipped to handle, and she lost all—power, love and finally her infant son. Alienated from her brother, her friends and her subjects, she reveals her bitterness and confusion in her letters as she sinks into solitary despair.

This book is a well-researched documentation of 16th century public life. The author brings to the front two lesser-known Tudors and gives them life for all to see.

Glenda A. Motley

(Note: Was it Henry VII or Henry VIII who arraigned the French marriage? Didn't Mary's Poppa have an alliance with Charles V as his pet project at one time? M.S.)

Under The White Boar

Mary Dogden Few. *Droke House/Hallux*; Anderson, SC. 1971. 219 Pp. Available from the Richard III Society Fiction Library.

This novel deals with Richard's life as a romantic legend. He is given a life seldom found in a work of such short span, and the depth he receives is a pleasant surprise.

Pictured here is the tale of the child, the youth and the man, rather than the soldier, the Duke and the King. Family relationships form the base of the plot: Richard's love for Edward; his exasperated devotion to the ever-exasperating George, and his absolute worship of Anne. However, one character not faring well at all is Cecily Neville, who is presented as a hybrid between Atilla the Hun and Catherine D'Medici. The Duchess of York does not present a pleasing face at all. In fact, she is even given the "credit" for doing away with the Princes in the Tower. A mite preposterous, this.

All-in-all, the book is well worth reading, and is available from the Fiction Library.

Glenda A. Motley

The White Pawn and The White Queen

Frances Irwin. *Robert Hale and Company*, 1972 and 1974. 188 Pp. & 190 Pp, respectively. Available from the Richard III Society Fiction Library.

This pair of books dealing with the life of Anne Neville is given a sensitive treatment. The texts remain very true to historical fact, and the descriptive passages are well written. For pure enjoyment, they are an excellent choice.

PAWN starts with Richard's arrival at Middleham and continues at a rapid pace until the marriage of Anne and Richard in 1472. The incidents of history occurring in that time are mentioned in a concise manner and deal nearly always with the way they affected the Kingmaker's daughter. The legend of Anne and the cook-shop is charmingly stated, and the rescue scene is one of the reviewer's favorites.

QUEEN continues immediately where the first book ends. This sequel deals with the married life of the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, and finally with their personal lives as King and Queen. The rapidly-changing face of Lady History is given much the same treatment as in the first book, in a brief but re-

sonably accurate manner. It ends with Anne's death in 1485.

Glenda A. Motley

The Crimson Crown

Edith Layton, *Penguin Books, London and N.Y.*, 1990. 387 Pp. \$4.95

At first glance, this would appear to be a typical historical bodice-ripper, but the true follower of the genre will note a number of differences. For one thing, would you expect to find a hero who is not only blond, but a bottle blond? Our lad admits to having picked up the habit during his stay in Italy, and don't be misled into thinking him insufficiently macho for his status. He is quite capable of ripping a bodice or two, an endeavor which I am reliably informed required a great deal of strength. He does, however, refrain from doing so, at least as far as the heroine is concerned, until more than three-quarters of the way through the story. The story, in brief, is that of Lucas Lovat, employed by Henry VII to spy on Katherine Warbeck and her household. Since Henry doesn't completely trust him—and is well advised not to—he has Lady Megan, one of Katherine's ladies-in-waiting, spy on the spy. The plot thickens, to nobody's surprise, but the story that parallels the love story does have a few surprises. Who is Perkin Warbeck? Did the Princes in the Tower survive? Read it and find out, but I will tell you this: Ms. Layton is unlikely to be accused of plagiarism.

Although the author's usual forte is Regency romance, her excursion into fresh fields is well-researched, and the few "mistakes" may be fictional license. For example, the child born to Henry and Elizabeth of York in 1499 is changed from a boy to a girl. Since this has no bearing on the plot at all, one would think it a simple error if the book weren't otherwise so well-crafted. Maybe it is intended to serve as a clue that this is purely fiction and not intended to be taken as history—which it isn't, but very enjoyable nonetheless.

Myrna Smith

BOARD CHRONICLES

November 4, 1990

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm, PST, by Chairman Gene McManus, with Bob Doolittle, Judie Gall, Roxane Murph, Mallory Paxton and Joe Ann Ricca also in attendance.

1. The minutes of the previous Board meeting were approved as read, with a caveat from Gene McManus that the IRS requires the retention of records for six years, rather than the three agreed upon.
2. Treasurer Joe Ann Ricca reported the following monies on hand:

General Fund	\$22,766.48
Endowment Fund	7,100.00
Scholarship Fund	439.00
Total	\$30,305.48

In addition, Joe Ann reported another \$592.00 allocated on membership cards for memorials and \$36.00 for events in England.

3. No membership report was available, as membership records were still in transition.
4. Old Business

- A. Publications
 - a) Publication of material from *The Register*: Roxane is attempting to coordinate a private publisher.
 - b) Monographs: AGM speaker Dr. Murphy has been asked to expand his talk, and Roxane has put him in touch with James Moore. Last year's talk by Compton Reeves is available through the Sales Officer.

B. Scholarships: Joe Ann agreed to check with Alan Dixler re application dates and the placement of an ad in *The Journal of Higher Education*.

5. New Business

- A. Finance Committee: A unanimous ballot was cast for the formation of a Finance Committee, consisting of the Chairman and the Treasurer; the functions of said committee being to prepare an annual budget for the Society; to generate for the AGM an annual report, consisting of an income statement, a balance sheet for the previous year, and other financial information as may be useful to the membership; to prepare New York and Federal Tax returns; and to focus on and report to the Board such other financial matters as may come before the Society.

- B. Donations Coordinator: A unanimous ballot was cast for the creation of the position of Donations Coordinator; the duty of this position being to seek donations of any amount, with an immediate goal of establishing an endowment level of \$100,000.00 or more. Tony Collins was appointed to this position.

- C. Letter from Elizabeth Nokes re our Patron: It was decided to print Elizabeth Nokes' letter of 28th September, 1990, in the next *Register*, together with the following statement, which will thereafter appear on the inside front page of each issue:

In accordance with the policy of the Society in England, members are requested to communicate with H.R.H. the Duke of Gloucester, as Patron of the Society, through the Committee of the English Branch.

Gene will inform Elizabeth of this decision.

- D. Publicity Chairman: Laura Blanchard was appointed to this position.
- E. Tour Coordinator: Linda Treybig was appointed to this position for 1991. Gene will contact the University of Washington regarding the scholarship fund donations for the Research Office tour.
- F. Speakers Coordinator: This position was approved but no name proposed yet.
- G. AGM: The New Jersey Chapter will host the 1993 AGM. The Michigan Chapter will host the 1994 AGM.
- H. Back issues of *The Register* presently housed by the Weitendorfs will be stored by Judie Gall.
- I. M-compatible computers were proposed for the Membership Secretary and Treasurer. Gene will obtain prices by the next meeting.

The date of the next meeting will be 6 January, 1991.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:11 pm, PST.

Respectfully submitted,
Mallory Paxton



BOARD CHRONICLES

January 6, 1991.

The meeting was called to order at 4 P.M. EST, 3 P.M. CST by Chairman Gene McManus, with Bob Doolittle, Joe Ann Ricca, Judie Gall, and Roxane Murph in attendance. Mallory Paxton has resigned as secretary of the board and as research officer.

Treasurer's report:

Joe Ann reported that we have \$24,923.42 in the general fund, \$250.00 in the uninvested scholarship endowment, \$7,000.00 invested in CDs in the endowment fund, \$936.00 in the scholarship fund, \$52.00 in the fund to contribute to appeals in the UK, and \$71.00 in the library fund, for a total of \$33,232.42. There are no outstanding bills. \$2,600.00 were disbursed in December for the Ricardians, letterheads, membership cards, and other expenses.

Membership report:

Judie reported that we have 352 individual members and 58 additional family members for a total of 410.

David Treybig of the Ohio chapter is putting the membership list on a computer disc so that Judie will be able to generate mailing lists.

Old Business:

A. Publications:

1. The material for the book of *Register* pieces is ready and Roxane will take it around to printers this week to find out about format and costs. We may be able to advertise it at low rates in the small press advertising section of *The New York Times Book Review*.
2. Jim Moore is in touch with Terence Murphy about the possibility of publishing his AGM talk as a monograph.

3. Roxane has received an encouraging letter from Maxwell Anderson's son in regard to the Society publishing *Richard and Anne*. He promised to get back to her with more details in a month or so.

B. Scholarships:

Joe Ann will ask Laura Blanchard, our publicity chairman, to place an ad in *Speculum* where the rates are cheaper than those in the *Journal of Higher Education*, where our scholarship ads had been placed.

A poster and cover letter will be sent to the English and History departments of 20 colleges and universities which offer degrees in medieval history or literature advertising our scholarships. The letters will be coded at the bottom so that we can determine which ones get the best response.

Dr. Terence Murphy of American University in Washington, D. C. has accepted the position of chairman of the scholarship committee.

New Business:

A. New membership categories:

The board decided not to reinstate the student membership, since it is not cost-effective. Institutional memberships were also discussed, and the board agreed to consider charging dues of between \$100.00-\$200.00 for institutions, but they will not qualify for an advertising discount in the *Register*.

B. Computer purchase:

The board discussed the computer costs which Gene had sent to each member. After much discussion the board voted to approve the purchase of one computer and printer at a cost of \$1,114.00 for the use of the treasurer. The vote was 4 in favor and one abstention. The Hyundai 286 will be compatible with that used by David Treybig for the membership lists, and should be in place by June.

C. Filling the position of secretary:

Gene has 5 nominations to fill the position left vacant by the resignation of Mallory Paxton. The Board will choose someone for this position at the next meeting, after Gene has had a chance to talk to each nominee.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 3, 1991.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 P.M. CST.

Respectfully submitted,
Roxane C. Murph



BOARD CHRONICLES

March 3, 1991

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 P.M. CST by chairman Gene McManus, with Bob Doolittle, Judie Gall, Joe Ann Ricca, and Roxane Murph in attendance.

Joe Ann reported that the Society has \$24,923.42 in the general fund, \$71.00 in the library fund, \$7,250.00 in the scholarship endowment fund, \$936.00 in the scholarship fund, and \$52.00 in the U.K. fund, for a total of \$33,232.42.

Judie reported that we have 420 members.

Roxane reported that publishing the pieces from the *Register* will be more costly than she had thought. The total cost for publishing and publicity, which includes direct marketing to college and university libraries, will be about \$18,000.00. Roxane is in the process of finding and applying for grants to cover as much of the costs as possible, and she suggested that we delay publication for the time being. The board concurred.

Joe Ann reported on a meeting she had with Mrs. Schallek, who has announced her intention to donate \$1,000.00 to the scholarship endowment this year, as she has for the past several years. Joe Ann has sent letters to colleges and universities, announcing the scholarship, and asking for applicants. The application form deadline is February 28, and this will be changed to June 1. Dr. Murphy, the new chairman of the scholarship committee, is revising the form.

Gene reported that he had managed to contact 3 of the 5 candidates for secretary, but only one of these was eager to accept the position. The board voted unanimously to appoint this candidate, Toni Collins of Northeastern Pennsylvania, to the post.

Bob Doolittle's term as vice-chairman will expire on October 31, and the board will ask for nominations from the members through the *Register*.

Several chapters have asked that they be allowed to purchase books and other items from the sales office at cost, so that they can be donated to libraries. There was some opposition from board members who felt that, since other chapters and individual members had paid full price for books to be donated to local libraries, and the Society relies on the profits from such sales, this would set a bad precedent.

Joe Ann brought up the fact that some chapter members feel that the Society does not give them enough help, and she thought that this help should, in part, be financial. There was heated opposition to this idea, with other members expressing the opinion that the chapters existed, in part, to help the Society, not the reverse. Gene asked Judie and Bob to explore the idea of discount sales and the discussion was terminated.

The next meeting is set for May 7, 1991.

Respectfully submitted,
Roxane C. Murph

Membership Application

Individual Membership \$25.00 \$ _____
Family Membership \$ _____

Contributing & Sponsoring Membership:

(50% to the William Schallek Memorial Graduate Fellowship)

Honorary Fotheringay Member: \$ 75 \$ _____
Honorary Middleham Member: \$180 \$ _____
Honorary Bosworth Member: \$300 \$ _____
Plantagenet Angel: \$500 \$ _____
Plantagenet Family Member: \$500+ \$ _____

Contributions:*

Schallek Fellowship Awards \$ _____
General Fund (publicity, mailings, library, etc) \$ _____
Memorials (Publications and events in England) \$ _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Individual Membership \$25
Family Membership \$25 for yourself, plus \$5 for each additional family member residing at same address
Please list family members other than yourself:

Mail to P. O. Box 13786, New Orleans, LA 70185-3786

Mr. Mrs. Miss

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Country: _____

Phone: _____