

Richard III Society, inc.

Volume XVII No. 3

Fall, 1992



### Sutton Cheney Church, where Richard III took his last communion

"Remember before God Richard III, King of England, and those who fell at Bosworth Field, having kept faith, 22nd August, 1485."

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### EDITORIAL LICENSE

In our Summer issue, I asked you to share your pictures, slides, and personal experiences or knowledge of the events of August **22**, **1485** for this issue. Included here are the responses I received and the award goes to Morris McGee for his straight forward, feeling portrayal of the events of the battle. However, because I hate leaving anyone out and appreciate all of the responses, the award promised will go to Laura Blanchard, Judy Pimental, and Morris. I'll be sending them some Ricardian bookplates and notecards.

The constraints of time prohibit my being able to contact each of you personally, so please forgive the broadcast plea: I am still looking for your ideas, your shared thoughts, your research -be it amateur or otherwise.

The primary purpose of our newsletter is to keep the membership informed about events within the Society, but we also need the participation of our membership! I've never known a Ricardian to be at a loss for words on the subject, so please share some of those words with the rest of us.

Carole Rike

### HELP SPREAD THE WORD

Elsewhere in this issue you'll find a copy of this year's Schallek Award announcement poster. As you know, this award honors the scholarship program's founder, Dr. William B. Schallek, and is granted to a U.S. graduate student pursuing studies relating to late fifteenth-century English history and culture.

The poster contains important information on eligibility and procedures for potential applicants, as well as some basic information on the Society. To avoid the confusion of two addresses, this poster directs all inquiries to our public information (PR) officer, who will direct them to the proper individual(s) in the society.

Help spread the word about the scholarship program and the Society! Distribute photocopies at your local college or university. If you'd like a supply for distribution, contact Laura Blanchard.

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# BOSWORTH FIELD — AUGUST 22, 1485

### Morris G. McGee

A meeting of two armies on August **22**, **1485**, a few miles West of Leicester, England at a place later called Bosworth Field had as prize the Crown.

The invaders were lead by Henry Tudor, the Earl of Richmond. His claim to the Crown was feeble. He was son to Edmund Tudor, a child born of the. liaison between the widow of King Henry V, Catherine of France and her Welsh Keeper-of-Horse Owen Tudor. Their bastards were recognized by Henry VI and given titles. Henry Tudor's mother was Lady Margaret Beaufort, a descendant of John of Gaunt and Catherine Swynford who produced a clutch of little Beauforts without benefit of clergy until long after the birth of the little bastards. The Beauforts were later declared legitimate by their half brother, King Henry IV, with provison that they never be considered in line for the Crown.

The defender was King Richard III who had taken the throne just over two years before, replacing his young nephew, Edward V, by Act of Parliament that barred the young man because his parents marriage was invalid under canon law. There was much more, of course; the country had had its fill of infighting, military and political, during the minority of young monarchs.

The stage was set when Henry Tudor sailed from France on August 1st with 2000 French mercenaries financed by the King of France. With Tudor was a contingent of **Scots**, a few Welsh, and English followers. He landed late on Sunday August 7th at Milford Haven, an isolated port in far Western Wales. The Constable of nearby Pembroke Castle heard of the landing and rode at once to the East to warn King Richard who was at Nottingham Castle in the middle of England.

Henry Tudor unfurled his Standard, the Red Dragon of Wales, and recruited Welsh troops as he marched via Cardigan, Aberystwyth, and Welshpool. By August 15th he had crossed into England and arrived at Shrewsbury.

Meanwhile, by August 11 th, King Richard received word of the landing and sent to his supporters orders to come at once. By the 13th forces were organizing. John Howard, Duke of Norfolk, set August 16th as meeting time at Bury St. Edmunds.

By the **15th**, King Richard had been told by his hostage, George Stanley, Lord Strange, that there was to be treachery from his uncle, Sir William Stanley and his father, Lord Thomas Stanley, the Earl of Chester. It was ironic, yet predictable, that the Stanleys would turn traitor. Two years before Richard had forgiven the Stanleys and honored Lord Stanley at the Coronation by allowing him to lead the cortege carrying the Great Sword of State. Stanley's wife was also in a place of honor carrying the train of Richard's Queen Anne. Stanley's wife, the several times married Lady Margaret Beaufort, was mother to Henry Tudor.

Probably by August 17th the Stanleys made contact with Henry Tudor. Sir William met with him at Stafford.

By the 19th the city of York sent a contingent to the King. That same day the Duke of Norfolk and his son the Earl of Surrey arrived outside Leicester. A short time later Sir Robert Brackenbury, Constable of the Tower of London galloped in with his men. Late on the 20th King Richard came with his troops from Nottingham. He sent urgent dispatches to the Earl of Northumberland to hurry since a battle appeared imminent.

On the 20th Henry Tudor met with the Stanleys again.

On the 2 1st the armies moved into position. About 6,000 were with Richard; 5,500 with the Tudor. The balance, the Stanleys, were positioned to the sides of both armies, Sir William to the north with about 1,800 men and Lord Thomas to the south with about 2,400. During the short summer night, a few leaders moved with their men to the Tudor's camp.



--Richard III, Paul Murray Kendall, W. W. Norton

At first light on the **22nd**, the armies prepared for battle. If one could have flown above the field there would be Tudor's force to the West of marshy ground near Sandeford. To the east, Richard's troops near the little church at Sutton Cheyney with Norfolk in the van and Northumberland to the rear. Less than a mile north: Sir William Stanley; less than a mile south: Lord Thomas Stanley -both waiting.

First light in the middle of England is about **3:00** or **3:30** in the morning. A few cannons fired from both armies. Then Norfolk's troops moved forward. A shower of arrows rose from both armies then the first blows were struck.

Richard received the first bad news: his friend Norfolk was killed, Norfolk's son, Surrey, badly wounded. Then more bad news — Northumberland was not moving.

Tudor, who had never seen a battle, waited and watched as his forward troops under the Earl of Oxford were pushed back coward his main body.

Richard sent urgent orders to Lord Thomas and Sir William Stanley and to Northumberland that they moved forward.

King Richard moved forward with about forty of his household knights to the top of the rise. One of his aides pointed to the dragon standard of Henry Tudor. King Richard stood up in his stirrups, shouted to his men that this was the time to end it at once. He spurred his horse and his men followed at full tilt toward the enemy leader.

The crash of the charge broke through the thin line of troops. Richard swung his great axe and killed **Brandon**, Tudor's Standard Bearer. Another blow unhorsed Sir John Cheney only a short distance from Tudor.

Richard should have won but he did not see or hear the forces of Sir William Stanley who crashed into his flank, cutting down his men, surrounding him. Richard screamed out, "Treason!" and went down under a



----Richard III, Paul Murray Kendall, W. W. Norton

hundred blows. Even his worst enemies, Tudor hired historians, admitted that he went down "... fighting manfully under the press of his foes. .."

The body of dead King Richard was mutilated, then the naked body was tied to the back of a horse and borne into the center of Leicester and thrown in the public square. It was left for a few days for all to spit upon. Finally it was buried in the Franciscan Church, perhaps under the altar. (Stories of the body being taken and tossed into the river Soar may or may not be true. I suspect that Richard's **body is** still there — under the body of Cardinal Wolsey.)

Thus the end of the last Plantagenet, King Richard III. He was only 32 years and about 10 months old. He had been King for a day over two years and two months. It was to the advantage of the new King and his followers to Blacken Richard's name — and, to their shame, they did.

### THE LAST TIME I SAW BOSWORTH ...

### Carole Rike

I love the stories told by our long-time Ricardian members, who visited Bosworth and King Richard's Well by climbing over barbed wire fences, dodging cows and bramble bushes and irate farmers. By the time of my first visit in 1975, Bosworth was a **sign**posted battlefield with standards flying and the Well fenced off with a identifying plaque; a memorial stone stood where Richard fell, garlanded with wreaths. We did still manage to climb over some turnstiles and dodge a few cowpaddies.

The last time I saw Bosworth was in 1985. My husband and I prepared ourselves to handle the possible crowds of the 500th Anniversary by staying near Leicester at a country hotel. However, this adjacent lodging did not help us; we were caught in the most horrendous traffic jam I have seen anywhere, on a two-lane country road much like our Farm-to-Market roads. We entirely missed the services at Sutton Cheny and arrived at the Battlefield to find a carnival atmosphere -jugglers and joisting and tents and tour buses crowding the parking areas.

At a Society tea later in Leicester, the crowds were a major topic of conversation. One British friend lamented that he was almost sorry we had told the world about Richard III as it was now impossible to observe the anniversary of Richard's defeat at Bosworth for all of these vacationing hordes and unwashed public! This comment was made with a musing tone, and both of us knew it was not literally true: thanks in large measure to the tireless efforts of Ricardians around the world, Richard's banner surely flies a little higher.

Give yourself a pat on the back.

# IN SEARCH OF...BOSWORTH FIELD

In the summer of 1981, having completed a couple of life's major rites of passage, I quit my job, more or less abandoned my children, and visited England for three months. I had been to England only once before for three weeks, which, I am sure any non-British-resident Anglophile, Ricardian or English history buff will agree, is not nearly long enough. I traveled mostly by train and with a significant other. Train schedules and another's interests limited distances and scope.

My 1981 trip was for me alone, and once I reached England and left London, transportation was by bicycle. Distances, while a consideration, were not material. I had a tentative route in my mind and a flexible timetable. When I got home in October of that year, I had seen most of the places and things I had set out to see (I did miss or overlook a few, including some important Ricardian sites, to my eternal regret).

One of my goals for the trip was to visit as many places with Ricardian associations as possible. **Bos**worth was naturally one of the primary must-sees. About three weeks into my trip, I hit Leicester and found a place to stay. I got "bad **vibes" from** Leicester, but what can you say for a town with a large Holiday Inn? I found the park with the statue of Richard and spent some time there, contemplating. I did not look for the Bow Bridge, since I understood it had been dismantled.

Next morning, I set off for Bosworth Field. I had no trouble finding the town of Market Bosworth. Although it was prominently sign-posted along the way, finding Bosworth Field was another story altogether. I often observed during my odyssey that the British were wonderful about giving directions such as "Bosworth Field this way" but were never good about saying "This is it." I wandered back and forth along the road for some time trying to find the place. I even went back into Market Bosworth, stopped at the post office/general store and found a "better" map. I still got lost. While I was (almost tearfully) deciding to go back to Market Bosworth yet another time, a kind motorist stopped and gave me assistance; I followed him up to the very entrance - I had only been about a quarter-mile away. Did I feel silly? Most assuredly.

I locked my bicycle and walked toward the field. I encountered a group of British tourists who looked at me somewhat askance. I got bad vibes from them, too. Perhaps they were reincarnated Lancastrians, although honesty compels me to admit that my appearance in bike helmet (not used much in England at the time) and sunglasses excited not-always-favorable comment elsewhere on my journey. Since we were following the same route, I ran afoul of them several times that morning.

### Judith A. Pimental

I spent some time at **Dickon's** Well, and then walked on to the Visitor Centre, which appeared to be of recent vintage and was, unfortunately, not open until much later in the afternoon. I was pleased to see it because there were some very informative outdoor exhibits, but mostly it meant that Richard was being given some "official" recognition.

It was at Bosworth that I "found" Richard. I felt his presence at no other Ricardian site I visited, not even Middleham, and definitely not at Fotheringhay. There was **an** aura of great sadness surrounding the little alabaster tomb in the church at Sheriff Hutton, but it may not have been Richard's or Anne's.

I walked along the perimeter of the Field, stopping to read the exhibits. It was a gray, overcast, breezeless morning.

The heraldic pennons were simply hanging without a flutter. I tried to take an interest in the exhibits reconstructing the deployment of the forces at the Battle, but military whys and wherefores have never interested me. In this instance, only the known outcome was important and it had taken place almost five hundred years before. Cries of "Treason!" and "Treachery!" reverberated through my mind.

I sat for some time in the little dell where stands the monument marking the spot where Richard is said to have been slain. I sadly contemplated the stone marker and wondered about what might have been had Richard been victorious that day long ago. The only justification I have ever been able to make for the debacle of Bosworth is the fact that in the next century, England needed an Elizabeth I. If Richard had lived, there might not have been one.

My meditations were first interrupted by sounds of a conversation nearby. I looked around, expecting to **find** other visitors, but saw no one. The sounds seemed to come from above and behind me. I climbed the small rise and found, to my amazement, one of England's many canals. There was a narrowboat, and on board was the party of reincarnated Lancastrians.

I went back to my spot, but shortly heard a commotion in the nearby roadway. I was treated to one of the more engaging sights on my visit: a slow-moving pickup truck was being followed by five or six creatures of the bovine persuasion. They were in turn followed and kept in order by a border collie. This encounter cheered me up a bit, so I decided to tear myself away and continue on my journey.

I never really found Richard again on that trip, and I was unfortunately not able to visit England in **August** 1985, as I hoped to do.

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# SILENT AUCTION V

We're back with more books. Thanks to Margaret Drake, Dorothy Marsden and Lois Rosenberg, whose donations have made it possible. To bid, write Helen Maurer, 24001 Salero Lane, Mission Viejo, CA 92691. Indicate which book(s) you want and how much you bid on each. SEND NO MONEY. You will be notified of the auction results. Condition of the books and original or resale prices (where known) are indicated. DEADLINE FOR BIDS: November 15, 1992.

- Harry Elmer Barnes, A History of Historical Writing. Dover Publications '2nd rev. ed 1963: softcover, 4.50 pp. From ancient times to the present. Very good condition (cover has protective film which is coming loose). \$2.25.
- □ Jean Benedetti, *Gilles de Rais*. Stein & Day 1972: hardcover with jacket, 207 pp. Biography: jacket subtitle: "A Biography of Bluebeard." Very good to excellent condition (jacket edges worn). \$6.95.
- □ Margaret Brentnall, *The Cinque Ports and Romney Ma&i*, John Gifford Ltd. 1972: hardcover with jacket, 266 pp. Historic background and description, towns and churches: B&W pictures, foldout map. Very good to excellent condition (jacket slightly rubbed). "L1.70" penciled in.
- □ Herbert Butterfield, *Man on His Past: the Study of the History of Historical Scholarship*, Beacon Press 1966 (orig. pub. 1955): paperback, 238 pp. Very good condition (cover a bit smudgy). \$1.49 stamped inside.
- EC. Copleston, *Medievai Philosophy*, Harper Torchbook 1961 (orig. pub. 1952); paperback, 194 pp. Brief survey. Fair condition (pages & binding sound; some underlining and notes; cover very dirty). \$1.35.
- o A.C. Crombie, *Medieval and Early Modern Science*, vol. I: 5th-13th c., Falcon Press 19.59; paperback, '296 pp. Good condition (some corners and edges of cover a bit worn). \$.95.
- *o* Laurabelle Dietrick and Joseph Franz-Walsh, *The Merry Ballads of Robin Hood*, Macmillan Co. 1931: hardcover, 87 pp. Text of 17 ballads; no analysis. Good condition (cover worn; binding & contents very good).
- **o** PC. Doherty, *The Fate of the Princess*, St. Martin's Press 1991; hardcover with jacket, 192 pp. Historical fiction: mystery. Excellent condition. \$15.95.
- Alfred Duggan, The Lady for Ransom, Faber & Faber Ltd. 1953; hardcover with jacket, 280 pp. Historical fiction of the Crusades. Good condition (jacket dirty and slightly worn). 15s.

- Roberta Ellis, *Knight's Honor*, Playboy 1964; paperback, 370 pp. Historical fiction: bodice ripper, tempus Henry II. Pretty good condition.
- O Gutierre Diaz de Games, ed. by G.G. Coulton and Eileen Power, *The Unconquered Knight: A Chronicle* of the Deeds of Don Pero Nino. George Routledge & Sons Ltd. 1928; hardcover, 232 pp. Biography by the standard bearer of a 15th c. Spanish count. Fair condition (cover worn &very battered at edges and corners, binding beginning to crack). "4.00" penciled in.
- Otto Gierke, tr. Frederic W. Maitland, *Political Theories of the Middle Age*, Cambridge U. Press 1938 (orig. pub. 1900); hardcover, 197 pp. Extensive notes, index. Poor condition (binding coming loose, cover very worn and stained, pages water stained). "\$25" penciled in.
- □ Jean Gimpel, tr. by Teresa Waugh, *The Cathedral Builders*, Harper Colophon 1980; softcover, 163 pp. Combines social/religious history with architecture and construction techniques; profusely illustrated in B&W. Excellent condition. **\$8.95**.
- □ M.J. Guest, rev. by EH. Underwood, A Handbook of English History, Macmillan & Co. 1906 (orig. pub. 1894); hardcover, 614 pp. Survey from prehistoric times to later 19th c., based on Guest's lectures; maps. Poor condition (cover detached &very worn; content pretty good).
- **o** Francis B. **Gummere,** *Old English Ballads*, Athenaeum Press 1894; hardcover, 380 pp. Texts of 54 ballads with notes, glossary. Very good condition for age: binding sound, some wear on spine &corners, some yellowing, last page (unprinted) torn.
- □ Gene Gurney, *Kingdoms of Europe: An Illustrated E ncyclopedia of Ruling Monarchs from Ancient Time to the Present*, Crown Publishers 1982; hardcover with dust jacket, 627 pp. Profuse B&W illustrations, maps, family trees. Excellent condition (slight wear on jacket). \$20.00.
- R.A.R. Hartridge, A History of Vicarages in the Middle Ages, Barnes & Noble 1968; (orig. pub. 1930), 273 pp. Primarily English & Scottish, some French. Very good to excellent condition (spot on cover).
- □ John Bell Henneman, *Royal Taxation in Fourteen*. *Century France: The Development of War Financing 1322-1356*, Princeton U. Press 1971; hardcoverwith jacket, 388 pp. French crown finances, war levies, fiscal policies, Hundred Years' War to Poitiers, politics. Excellent condition (jacket slightly discolored). \$15.00.

- Bernard F. Huppe, *The Web of Words*, State U. of New York Press 1970; softcover, 197 pp. "Structural Analyses of the Old English poem Vainglory, The Wonder of Creation, The Dream of the Rood, and Judith; with texts and translations." Very good condition (pages slightly bent). \$7.50.
- Thomas Keneally, *Blood Red, Sister Rose*, Viking Press 1974; hardcover with jacket, 384 pp. Historical fiction: Joan of Arc. Good condition (jacket torn & dirty; edges pretty dirty, otherwise fine). \$8.95.
- □ D.B. Wyndam Lewis, *Francois Villon*, Literary Guild 1928; hardcover, 407 pp.. Biography, late 15th c. Paris. Fair condition (cover very faded & worn, inside sound). "5.00" penciled in.
- □ Thomas Madox, History and Antiquities of the Exchequer of the Kings of England in Two Periods: Vol I: Norman Conquest to the End of the Reign of King John. Vol II: End of Reign of K. John to End of the Reign of King Edward II taken from records together with a Correct Copy of the Ancient Dialogue concerning the Exchequer generally ascribed to Gervasius Tilburiensis and a Dissertation concerning the most ancient Great Roll of the Exchequer commonly styled the Roll of Quinto Regis Stephani. Orig. Pub. 1769; Greenwood Press repr. 1969. Hardcover, about 800 pp. per volume. Both Latin and English translation; extensive index. Excellent condition.
- Nicole Nobody, *The Duchess of Bedford*, Doubleday & Co. 1974; hardcover with jacket, 408 pp. Autobiography. Very good condition (jacket somewhat rubbed). Book Club edition.
- 0 Vesey Norman, *Arms and Armour*, Octopus Books 1972; hardcover with jacket, % pp. 130 illustrations in color and B&W. Survey of development, use and obsolescence. Excellent condition. "5" and "2.98" pencilled in.
- o Loretto O'Connor, R.S.M., Shared Harvest: Prose of Medieval England in Modern Version, University Press of America 1982; softcover, 162 pp. Modern English translations of Latin, French and medieval English prose from 1100 to 1485. Good condition (corners a little bent, couple of spots on cover).
- Rowland Parker, Men of Dunwich, Granada Publishing 1980, paperback, 272 pp. Account from records of an East Anglian medieval town, since vanished. Good condition (some loose pages; otherwise would be near-excellent). \$5.95.
- □ A.F. Pollard, Wolsey: Church and State in Sixteenth-Century England, Harper Torchbook 1966, with intro. by A.G. Dickens (orig. pub. 1929); paperback, 393 pp. Biography, political history. Good condition (front cover & first few pages have been bent, slight wear on spine). \$2.95.

- □ James M. Powell, *The Liber Augustalis or Constitutions* of *Melfi* Promulgated by the Emperor Frederick II for the Kingdom of Sicily in 1231, Syracuse U. Press 1971; hardcover with jacket, 163 pp. In English. Very good to excellent condition (jacket a little smudgy). \$1.49 stamped inside.
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- □ G. J. Renier, *History, Its Purpose and Method*, Harper Torchbook 1965 (orig. pub. 1950); paperback, 272 pp. The historian's method. Very good condition (cover a little dirty). \$1.75.
- o J. Lee Schneidman, The Rise of the Aragonese-Catalan Empire, 1200-1350: Vol I: Nobility, politics, government. Vol II: Foreign policy, Jews, fiscal policy, bibliography. New York U. Press 1970; hardcover with jacket, 624 pp. total both volumes. Extensive notes, bibliography, index. Excellent condition (jacket very slightly worn).
- *o* Edith Simon, *The Golden Hand*, Ballantine Books 1952; paperback, 5.55 pp. Historical fiction, 14th c. England. Fair to good (some yellowing, cover marked & dirty). \$.95.
- R.B. Smith, Land and Politics in the Englandof Henry VIII: The West Riding of Yorkshire 1530-1546, Clarendon Press 1970; hardcover with jacket, 319 pp. Economy, social structure, institutions & politics. Statistical analysis of land ownership and social structure. Pilgrimage of Grace & Dissolution. Very good to excellent condition (cover worn at edges).
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- Joan Thirsk, *Tudor Enclosures*, Routledge & Kegan Paul 1959; Historical Association pamphlet 41, 22 pp. Agrarian history, 16th c. enclosures. Pretty good condition (edges worn&cover marked). 2s 6d.
- The Tower of London, Minister-y of Works Guidebook 1959, 55 pp. with foldout plan. B&W illustrations. Good condition (cover a bit worn). 2s.
- **0** Guy M. Townsend, *To Prove a Villain*, Perseverance Press 1985; softcover, 190 pp.. Fiction: contemporary mystery; anti-Ricardian **subtext**. Very good to excellent condition (corners very slightly bent). **\$6.95**.

### Silent Auction (continued,,

- □ Geoffrey Trease, *The Red Towers of Granada*, Vanguard Press 1966; hardcover with jacket, 186 pp. Historical fiction: late 12th c. England & Spain. Very good condition (despite its being an ex-library book). \$3.95.
- □ Wagner's Parsifal, as retold by Oliver Huckel, Thomas J. Crowell & Co. 1903; hardcover, 71 pp. In English, verse. Good condition (cover somewhat rubbed & spotted; contents excellent).
- "Flora gave me fairest flowers," English madrigal by the Cambridge Singers, on cassette. Collegium Records COLC 105.



### PROMOTION POSTER FOR RICHARD III

The Society has created a promotional poster entitled "Richard III: Monster or Maligned Monarch?." The poster was originally printed to accompany Ian McKellen's American tour of *Richard III.* 

The 3-color poster, which measures 19"x25", gives some brief information abour Richard and the Society, as well as the Society's corporate address. The poster is illustrated with the NPG portrait and the Leicester statue.

The poster is an ideal way to publicize the Society at regional or college productions of **Richard III.** When displayed in the theater lobby (be sure to get the theater manager's permission!), it is sure to generate inquiries and new members.

We are offering the poster co members at cost: \$6.50 plus \$2.50 shipping, for a total of \$9.00. If you would like to order, make your **check payable** to **Richard III Society, Inc., and send your order** to:

> Linda B. McLatchie, Sales Officer 330 Cedar Street Ashland, MA 01721

### BANGED AND BRUISED BOOKS ON SALE

The Sales Officer has some books for sale that have suffered a few "slings and arrows." These books are all new and readable, but the covers are bent or slightly torn or "squished." To get them out of my basement, I am offering them at discount from their regular prices. Quantities are very limited (number of copies available are in parentheses), so be sure to order early.

- □ **Richard III:** The Road to Bosworth Field (1 copy) by Peter W. Hammond and Anne F. Sutton. A life of Richard, telling the story by means of contemporary personal and official documents. 239 pp. Hardcover. Regularly \$25.00. ON SALE: \$21.00, plus \$2.00 shipping.
- □ To Prove A Villain (5 copies) compiled by Taylor Littleton and Robert R. Rea. A useful collection of Ricardian material, including Shakespeare's Richard III and Tev's Daughter of Time, as well as extracts from More, Bacon, Walpole, Vergil, etc. 206 pp. Softcover. Regularly \$14.00. ON SALE: \$11.00, plus \$2.00 shipping.
- □ The Crown and the Tower (6 copies) researched and edited by William H. Snyder. A condensation of Halsted's importantant biography of 1844, **Richard** *III as Duke of Gloucester and King of England*, with the views of other authors and additional commentary. Includes the text of **Titulus** Regius. 295 pp. Softcover. Regularly \$18.50. ON SALE: \$14.00, plus \$2.00 shipping.
- **0** *Ricardian Britain* (1 copy) by Carolyn Hammond. A guide to places connected with Richard III, including information on times of opening, travel directions and historical background, plus index and map. 58 pp. Softcover. Regularly \$7.00. ON SALE: \$6.00, plus \$1.00 shipping.
- □ *Daughter of Time* (1 copy) by Josephine Tey. A 20th century detective novel. From his hospital bed, Police Inspector Alan Grant investigates the disappearance of the Princes. 189 pp. Softcover. Regularly \$9.00. ON SALE: \$7.00, plus \$2.00 shipping.
- **0** *Richard III* (1 copy) by Paul Murray Kendall. This classic biography, praised for its literary merit and sound scholarship, has been reissued in paperback. 514 pp. Softcover. Regularly \$20.00. ON SALE: \$16.00, plus \$2.00 shipping.

Please make your checks payable to **the** Richard III Society, Inc., and mail your order to:

### Linda B. McLatchie, Sales Officer 330 Cedar Street Ashland, MA 01721

# SIR IAN MCKELLAN AS RICHARD III

### Jacqueline Bloomquist

Sir Ian McKellan arrived in San Francisco with England's touring Royal National Theatre for a four week run of an updated 1930's version of Shakespeare's Richard III.

In another interesting one-man show McKellan gives us a Richard III who is a ruthless military man drunk with power and villainy. Though surrounded by a stellar cast they have little to do. McKellan sets us up at the beginning of Act One when he enters the stage in a cloud of smoke and begins his "now is the winter of our discontent" soliloquy by snapping out each word as if it were a pistol shot and with a glint in his eye that lasts throughout the 3 hour and 15 minute production. He struts, snarls, frets, bellows, sneers, twitches and foams at the mouth. Richard is crazed by the absolute power that he clawed his way to achieve. McKellan's Richard is evil; despite the deformities there are those both male and female who are smitten with him. Ruthless people tend to be attractive and McKellan's Richard is certainly that. From the right he is a normal handsome man, from the left deformed. The left side of McKellan's head has been shaved giving him a look of having mange, his left arm damaged and kept clenched in his pocket, brought out to use against those who would oppose him. His stiff left leg causes him to lurch and limp across the stage.

Richard wallows in his own villainy, misdeeds and intrigues. His courtship of Lady Anne is awesome. He marches in, pushing aside her guards and ignores the fact that she is mourning the death of her husband. Richard takes over and damn the consequences. Lady Anne quivers and tries to fight him but hasn't a chance. At her coronation she is bowed down by sorrow and doomed with every step she takes. Richard waves her aside like someone he can no longer be bothered with. Hastings and Clarence are not able to see that Richard plots to do away with them and both are dispatched in a bloody and graphic manner. When the bloody head of Hastings is delivered to Richard in a water bucket, he casually plays with a lock of hair and then sticks his fingers into the bucket; when they emerge bloody he studies the hand as if it isn't his, then casually wipes his fingers with a handkerchief.

Queen Elizabeth, the only other strong performance in the play, knows that Richard is up to no good and doesn't trust him. In the end Richard is so sure of himself that he wins her over and she allows him to take her son Richard, Duke of York, away to join his brother in the Tower. Richard's own mother ignores him and Richard in turn ignores Margaret of Anjou, who clearly bores him. He cannot ignore Elizabeth; in one scene he kisses her hand but then turns quickly away and wipes his mouth on his sleeve. Elizabeth meanwhile looks at her hand as if she had just been kissed by a leper. A stronger Buckingham would have tempered McKellan's performance the way Ralph Richardson's did in Olivier's *Richard III* but in this production we don't get one.

The updating of the production to 1930's London with the cast dressed in black shirts, black tie and tails, black overcoats and boots against a stark black background unrelieved by industrial lighting is very effective. For color there are **armbands** featuring a boar on the cross of St. George. Richard's scenes include the morgue where Richard courts Lady Anne over her husband's bloody body; a banquet hall with Richard smoking and slurping soup while Edward IV tries to restore harmony; a tall platform that raises Richard above the crowd as he accepts the crown, a backdrop of a photo of Bosworth Field and a Nazi-era painting of Richard as St. George.

Some critics have found the end of the play disconcerting when soldiers suddenly don medieval armor and pick up swords. The change is so abrupt that we are suddenly thrust back into Shakespeare's era and the line "my kingdom for a horse" is a throwaway. Richmond, the nobleman who wins the day at Bosworth despite his speech about the bloody dog being dead, has instant corruption stamped all over him and gives a smart Nazi salute as the play ends. McKellan has explained that Hitler dressed in medieval armor and that the Royal Family wears medieval clothing at their Coronations. While he would have preferred modern dress throughout the play, he didn't see that it could have been done anyway else and still be effective. "It's only a play, for God's sake, anything goes," he has said and indeed it does.

This is a star turn, a part that is really a grand parody of villainy and a role that demands of its star a virtuoso performance — and Sir Ian McKellan gives us that.

I saw the production the day after it opened its official run and the audience seemed to appreciate it. Our local theatre critic loved McKellan's performance but wasn't so sure about the play. He had trouble believing anyone would follow such an obvious mad man. Perhaps it will be useful in an election year to be reminded once again, that some people will do anything to get power.

I sat next to a woman who had driven all the way from her home in Portland, Oregon to see this production of Richard III and Sir Ian after reading both an interview with our own Ellen Fernandez and one with Sir Ian. She was pleased to meet and be seated next to a member of the Society and we had a nice chat about Richard, the play and the goals of the Society.

### A MODERN RICHARD FOR MODERN TIMES

William Shakespeare's *Richard III*, as performed nationwide recently by the Royal National Theatre, is not the Richard we love to hate, as the part is so often portrayed. From his first emergence in a swirl of black fog, dressed in a **Facist** uniform and barking the opening "Now is the winter of our discontent. ...", Sir Ian **McKellen's** Richard is a sinister, menacing, cold-blooded murderer. He evokes no sympathy; he does not charm — nor does he intend to. The black, harsh staging, the 30's costuming and the ruthlessness of a world in the grip of a demonic madman all come together in a powerful and unsettling interpretation of Shakespeare's melodrama.

This was not a Richard you liked but it was excellent theatre!

Sir Ian played him as the Devil himself — one almost expected to spy cloven hooves and a red forked tail under the impeccable evening clothes. There is only a mild suggestion of a humpback. The withered arm is kept in a pocket — indeed, Sir Ian enacts the entire play one-handed. He makes the props and costumes about him seem almost to move with a sinister life of their own: a glove slithers on and off his hand; his military greatcoat, jacket and Sam Brown belt not only are removed for the wooing scene but then are put on again at its conclusion! Try buckling a Sam Brown belt one-handed! Richard extinguishes the dinner candles one by one as he enumerates those whom he will destroy; when Hastings' head is presented to him in a fire bucket, he dips his hand into the mess and plays with it, licking his fingers afterward! Even his voice grates upon the ear. No, this is not a pleasing Richard! He is a disturbing one and one who will not be soon forgotten!

Some of my fellow Ricardians were upset by this rendering of that play; memories of Sir Lawrence Olivier's film and more recent productions came to mind. It was not the director's intent to follow in the footsteps of another man's Richard but instead to break new ground, to present a new and disturbing interpretation. It is not a Richard you love to hate but a Richard you hate to like. Others disliked the modern dress, yet when the Lord Chamberlain's Men first performed it 400 years ago, it also was done in "modern dress." And finally, the all-burning question that was so often asked: how can Ricardians actually want to see such an unsympathetic Richard III? Because the Royal National Tour fulfills one of the primary reasons for theatre -it moves one to "pity and tears;" it makes one think, it rocks the commonplace. There is nothing common about Sir Ian's Richard III - it is a tour de force of Evil.

One more thought: if Shakespeare had not written that play, there would be no Richard III Society!



### Mary Schaller

# **COAST-TO-COAST COVERAGE**

# Sir Ian **McKellen** may have mesmerized audiences across the country by lamenting the winter of his discontent, but it was hardly the summer of our discontent from a public relations perspective.

Virtually every stop on the Royal National **Thea**tre's tour was complemented by press coverage of the Richard III Society, and favorable coverage at that.

The Royal National Theatre's publicity firm provided invaluable assistance by giving us their mailing list of New York-based and national drama critics. As a result, every drama critic in the New York **metropoli**tan area now knows about the Society. Some of them even mentioned us in connection with their reviews: there was a box about us in the *New York Daily News* along with a review of the play. And the **Newhouse** newspaper chain's critic, Bill Raidy, did a special Sunday feature on the Society that included our address. Of the 21 **Newhouse** newspapers, with a total circulation of over **3,000,000**, I know of at least three where it appeared; and it was also released on their wire service.

At the Washington, DC stop, the Middle Atlantic branch's special guest was *Washington Post* columnist Mary **McGrory**. Mary is something of a legend in American journalism as a result of her coverage of the McCarthy hearings. She read *The Daughter of Time* last summer and couldn't see how we Ricardians could bear to "subject ourselves to such painful slanders." Her thank-you note was a reference to the Society, specifically blasting Shakespeare as a Tudor propagandist, in her June 30 column. Thank you, Mary.

West of the Mississippi, Ricardians-on-the-spot took over the publicist chores. Pam Milavec (Denver) and Ellen Fernandez (San Francisco) both did lengthy interviews with the major newspapers in their areas. Ellen's interview, printed in the August 16 San Francisco Examiner, reached almost 750,000 readers and brought us a flood of inquiries. And in Southern California, Helen Curé is probably crossing her fingers and praying even as I write this, waiting to see what kind of coverage she's managed to stir up. All three of these committed Ricardians deserve our thanks for a job well done!

### New York Times Nixes Bosworth Ad

Last year I called the *New* York *Times* and placed a brief in *memoriam* notice for August 22. It ran without incident and brought us a number inquiries.

This year, when I called to repeat the ad, the acceptability department rejected it as an *in memo-*

### Laura Blanchard

**riam**, citing some hi-jinks by pranksters in the past which brought them complaints from the more recently bereaved. They offered us an ad in the public notices section, which I declined, being reluctant to place us among the bankruptcy notices.

The Richard III Society places an annual notice in the *London Times*, of course, and for years the American branch's New *York Times* notice was an August institution. I'm casting about for an alternative to the New *York Times* for an annual American branch ad, and would welcome suggestions.

### Tearsheets, Please!

Copies of articles on the Society help me get a sense of where (and how) the American branch is getting publicity. When a newspaper chain syndicates an article and sends it over the wire service, it may show up in all kinds of unexpected places and we'd never know unless someone sends me a clipping.

I also send copies to Geoffrey Wheeler in London — Geoff keeps copies of all press notices on Richard III worldwide on behalf of the parent Society.

Please -if you see a newspaper article on Richard, or on the Society, whether it's about the American branch or a local chapter — send me a copy. I'm also gathering reviews of Ian **McKellen's** Royal National Theatre tour for Geoff, so please send those along as well.

Got a **PR** question? Or maybe something to brag about? Give me a call, drop me a note, send me a fax: Laura Blanchard, 303 Vine Street, Suite 106, Philadelphia, PA 19106-1143 (215) 574-1570 voice, (215) 574-1571 fax.



### ENCYCLOPEDIA AMERICANA EMBRACES REVISIONIST STANCE IN 1992 EDITION

Who says we're not making progress in the academic community? Chapters coordinator Janet Sweet was browsing the current *Encyclopedia Americana*, and what should she find but a full column of compliments plus the NPG portrait!

We probably can't call a university professor a "freelance Ricardian," but Robert Warth (University of Kentucky) has certainly proven himself a true friend to Richard. Here are some of the choicer bits from the article:

"(Richard) remained a faithful supporter during (Edward IV's) turbulent reign and fled with him to Holland in 1470 when the Earl of Warwick, the Kingmaker, led a successful revolt against the king. Returning to England with Edward the next year, he fought with distinction at Bamet and Tewkesbury. Not yet 19, Richard became the king's first general and his most trusted adviser. He later campaigned in France and in Scotland and pacified the turbulent and unruly north of England and brought order and effective royal authority to the region. ..."

"Meanwhile it was disclosed that Edward IV's marriage to Elizabeth Woodville had apparently been illegal, thereby making their offspring illegitimate and Edward V's accession to the throne invalid. Although Richard may not have actively plotted to seize the crown, he accepted the advice of his councilors ... Popular opinion has ascribed (the murder of the Princes) to Richard, but conclusive evidence that he was responsible is lacking ..."

"... During his brief reign Richard showed promise of becoming an outstanding monarch. But the "Tudor myth," fostered especially by Sir Thomas More's History *of King Richard III* (written in about 1512), blackened his character and reputation. He emerged as a hunchbacked tyrant, a monster of villainy, and the epitome of evil. Shakespeare added further embellishments in his *Richard III*, and thus the legend was permanently enshrined in popular opinion."

Janet thinks we should send him a white rose at the very least. She's probably right.



### MEANWHILE, RICHMOND STABS RICHARD IN THE BACK — AGAIN —

The July 1992 issue of *History Today* carried a lavishly-illustrated but highly anti-Ricardian article on propaganda during the Wars of the Roses written by Colin Richmond (University of Keele). Last seen in the pages of the *Ricardian* commenting that "the Yorkists were a rum, wild, and bad bunch," Richmond has the following perjorative and propagandistic things to say in his concluding two paragraphs:

"There is no **difficulty** in recognizing (in Richard's June 1485 anti-Tudor proclamation) the hysterical language of modem times. No doubt, if Richard had won Bosworth he would have commissioned a pamphlet something like the Arrival in format, but utterly unlike it in tone and temper, for it was bound to have shown how he had saved England from political chaos, social collapse **and** moral debasement. Fortunately it was a battle he unexpectedly lost. Just as every schoolchild knows Richard lost it and his kingdom for lack of a horse, so does he know the most famous piece of propaganda not only of the Wars of the Roses but possibly of all English time. Richard knew it too and exacted the full rigour of the law on its author. For pinning to the doors of St. Paul's the rhyme "The Cat, the Rat and Love11 our Dog rule all England under the Hog" William Collingboume esquire of Wiltshire was castrated and disembowelled as well as hanged.

"With Ricardian propaganda and Ricardian punishments English government entered into modernity as Thomas More realized, and stopped writing his History of the Reign of Richard III when the realization dawned on him. Some corner seems to have been turned between 1459 and 1485, not in the way England was governed, but in the way in which England's governors related to the governed. We would say (in today's jargon) governments saw they had to sell themselves better. The watershed was 1469-71. Fear and loathing of those who were less than enthusiastic for either Lancaster or York drove both sides to new departures: is it not mounting contempt for the consumer which leads to innovation in advertising? English royal Propaganda was the product of such contempt. Bosworth was the premature death of a salesman."

An anonymous contributor is offering a first edition of Paul Murray Kendall's *Richard the Third* for the best rebuttal of Richmond's comments suitable for publication in a family newsletter. Deadline is December 31, 1992, limit 500 words plus references. (Contestants may not continue their arguments in the footnotes!) Send your entry to the Editor, *Ricardian Register.* 



# RICARDIAN POST

Springfield, VA

In July, two Ricardians (a relatively new member and one of almost twenty years standing) had an unexpected meeting in Cambridge, England.

For the second year in a row, I attended the Summer Study Program at the University of Cambridge. One of the very first evenings, I spoke with a very personable woman, Vicki Johnston, from Lexington, Kentucky. I eventually asked her how she had heard about the Cambridge program. She began a long tale of having read of it in the publication of an organization that "no one has ever heard of-the Richard III Society"!!!

It turned out that Vicki had seen my mention of the program in the *Register* last year, sent for the information, and our paths eventually crossed in England. She was astonished that I had heard of the Society, much less was a member, much less the author of the article in the *Register*. I was astonished that someone had read the article and acted on it.

The Summer Study Program for Adults will be offered again July **4-17**, **1993** at Emmanuel College in Cambridge. There are several courses of interest to Ricardians, including **The** Tudor Age and The Archeology of Britain. Other courses include The English Country House, 20th Century British Politics, Shakespeare's World, and Dickens in the Victorian Age. For further information, contact:

> Dr. Joann Painter Office of Cooperating Colleges 714 Sassafras Street Erie, PA 16501 (814) 456-0757

There is just one problem with these courses: they're addictive! I may well be back there for the third straight year.

Carol Bessett

To The Editor:

A small but significant error crept into my article on Professor Wood ("His Majesty's Loyal Opposition, Summer 1992). The following passage is a direct quotation from Wood's *Joan of* Arc *and Richard III* and should have been marked as such with quotation marks or indention (my fault, probable, as I'm not good at translating computer text from one program to another):

Philadelphia, PA

"Historians have often assumed that the parliament of the later Middle Ages had little practical authority and that its chief purpose in the kingmaking process was merely to lend an air of specious legality to accessions that were, in truth, no more than the brutal results of conquest. If so, though, the parliamentary legitimation of a usurper should have had no effect on the conduct of those opposed to him, whereas the present case shows just the opposite. Once parliament had declared Richard to be England's legal king, Elizabeth concluded that the game was lost, dubious though everyone knew his title to be. She would take what she could get, and in so doing, she demonstrated that she too, believed that 'the court of parliament is of such authority ... that manifestation and declaration of any truth or right, made by the three estates of this realm assembled in parliament..., maketh before all things, most faith and certainty' .. small wonder, then, that Richard should have so doggedly sought a meeting of parliament, for even a man of his limited political perceptions had to recognize that in its approval lay his best hopes for long term success." [Joan and Richard, pp. 197-198]

My apologies to Professor Wood for this inadvertent plagiarization. And, since some of the views expressed in this paragraph do not entirely coincide with my personal assessment of Richard's claims or abilities, I am particularly eager to make this clarification.

Laura Blanchard

# **BOSWORTH FIELD: AUGUST 22, 1485**

Editor's Note: The following is a reprint of a slide show given by Bill Hatchett at the 1976 Annual General Meeting of the American Branch in New York City. This address appeared in its entirety in the September-October, 1976 Register. It has been edited here to remove direct references, when? possible, to slides being viewed.

In 1485, the King of England was Richard III, descended from the Plantagenet family, one of the most famous of whom had been, centuries before, the almost legendary Richard the Lion Heart.

Richard III was a younger son of the Duke of York, who had made several unsuccessful attempts in his time to gain the crown of England, rightfully his, from the powerful family of Lancaster. The Yorkist emblem of a white rose, and the Lancastrian of a red rose, gives us our somewhat romantic title for years of vicious fighting, the War of the Roses.

Richard's father had failed in his efforts, and had lost his life. But finally, Richard's older brother Edward had fought his way to the throne, and had been followed there by Richard.

Richard was a good king. Some of his more beautiful building projects are still in evidence, such as the chapel of King's College at Cambridge University, certainly one of the high points of medieval Gothic architecture.

In law, especially in a reform of parliament, he made some remarkable achievements. In Westminster Hall, about all that Richard would recognize of the parliament buildings of his day, he even gave us one of our most cherished rights in any democracy, the right to trial by jury. And yet, Richard's memory, even now, is clouded by one particular event, or alleged event, which was rumored by his Lancastrian enemies. Supposedly, the episode took place in the Tower of London.

It's a beautiful castle today, but in the Middle Ages it was a rather grim fortress — a royal residence, true, but also a royal prison Certainly the forbidding exterior walls do look as if they might conceal all sorts of mysteries within.

Richard is not particularly associated with this building, the so-called White Tower, which gives us the name, the Tower of London, but rather with this small square tower, there on the left, known to this day as the Bloody Tower. In this very room, according to Richard's enemies, Richard had had smothered to death in their beds his two little nephews, sons of his late brother, because he feared their claim to the throne — a highly doubtful motive, since Parliament had already proclaimed the boys illegitimate. But, tourists still come to look, and weep, over the cruel fate of the Two Little Princes, murdered by the traditional wicked uncle of fairly tales.

But, the propaganda worked well enough at the time. Landing on the western coast of England, at Milford Haven, was a long-time enemy of Richard's, Henry Tudor, Earl of Richmond, coming from exile in France with a claim to the throne that would have been laughable - his grandfather, a Welsh landowner, had married, or at least lived with, the widow of an earlier king - would have been laughable, that is, except that Henry had an army, and he marched it inland, along the route marked here in red, cutting across Wales in order to gather still more troops. By the time he reached Shrewsbury, he had perhaps live or six thousand men, including many vengeful Lancastrians and stayed for awhile in this structure, still preserved. Richard was in Nottingham, in the north, when he got word of Henry's invasion — a medieval Nottingham long since vanished except for a few memories such as this inn, The Trip to Jerusalem, oldest in England, opened in 1189.

Promptly, Richard sent commands to all parts of his kingdom for his armies to gather, and marched south, to intercept the enemy. Down through Sherwood Forest they went, partly without roads at all, partly over what were little more than tracks at the time.

Henry's prize objective, of course, was London, in the southeastern corner of your map, and he was already starting to bear south. The armies were destined to collide near a little village named Market Bosworth, not much then, and not much now, but enough to give its name to a historic and tragic battle, the Battle of Bosworth Field.

Richard at **first** quartered his men in Leicester something of the medieval town still remains — and then set out, across Bow Bridge, of which this is a nineteenth century replacement, over the River Soar, now marked with a plaque which relates Richard's crossing the river at this point at the head of his army.

In the evening, Richard came to a tiny village named Sutton Cheney, and at this church he attended what were to be his last services. It's a remarkably preserved medieval church in that nearly all the exterior fabric has been untouched, except by time. Inside is the altar where Richard took his last communion, and memorials to Richard, erected by a group known in America as the Richard The Third Society and in England as the Brotherhood of the Boar, from Richard's emblem, the white boar.

The principal plaque reads: "Remember before God Richard III, King of England, and those who fell at Bosworth Field, having kept faith, **22nd** August, 1485." At the bottom of the plaque, the white roses of York.

Viewing the terrain, Richard realized, as any good general would, that his immediate mission was to

### Bosworth Field (continued)

"take the high ground." There was a steep hill just to the west, Ambion Hill, protected on the south by what was, five hundred years ago, an impenetrable marsh. guaranteeing, if Richard could protect the north, that Henry's army, known to be nearby, could approach from one direction only, the west. Promptly, Richard placed his forces atop the hill, with Richard in command of the northern flank, and his most trusted officer, the Duke of Norfolk, in command of the southern flank. To the north there had arrived, near Market Bosworth, the armies of Sir William Stanley and his brother, Lord Thomas Stanley, giving Richard a large numerical superiority over Henry. However, the Stanleys were doubtful in their loyalty; but, Richard had to trust them, and trust them he did. It was the only mistake he made.

Richard put his standard at the very top of the hi!l, and as you climb that hill today, and get higher and higher, your realize, indeed, Richard's excellent observation point, and that with the marsh to the south, and the Stanleys to the north, Henry, if he chose to make a light of it, would have to come from the **west**and, not just by accident on Richard's part, would have the sun in his men's eyes on the morning of the battle.

The top of the hill is fairly flat, and Richard had plenty of time to organize his forces, pitch his tents for the night, and plan for the battle he expected the next day. He was probably quite content that at least he would be able to meet his enemies man to man. This was on a Sunday, by the way, so Richard had no fear whatever of a surprise attack. Men did not begin a battle, in those days, on the Sabbath.

A memorial now marks the location of Richard's own tent, near a spring which is still called "King Richard's Well." The Latin inscription reads in part: "Richard Third, King of England, slaked his thirst with water drawn from this well when engaged in most bitter and furious battle with Henry, Earl of Richmond, and before being deprived of both his life and his sceptre."

What did the men look like, who fought for Richard, and for Henry? Well, we can get a good idea of their armor from effigies. A fully armored knight — and don't forget, his horse had to be armored too — was indeed a formidable opponent.

Keeping watch the next morning, Richard was not disappointed. Henry Tudor had arrived. The main force of his army, to the south, was commanded by the Earl of Oxford; Henry, who was not an experienced battle commander, stationed himself in the north, and slightly to the rear, with a comparatively small body of men. The first move of the battle was instigated by Richard, determined to go at once on the offensive. Without hesitation, he ordered Norfolk to attack the hill, break Oxford's army, and leave nothing left to do but mop up the lesser force of Henry. Unfortunately, however, Norfolk's attack ended in tragedy and stalemate when Norfolk was killed, and Oxford's troops did not break. The second move was Henry's. With a small bodyguard, he started toward the Stanleys — Lord Stanley was, after all, Henry's stepfather -hoping that he could convince the **Stan**leys to fight for him, instead of for their rightful king.

Richard, from his vantage point on the hill, saw the movement. Henry's battleflag, the red dragon of Wales, was unmistakable, and Richard immediately realized that his enemy was making one of the most fatal moves possible during combat - breaking away, with a much smaller force, from the main strength of his army.

Quickly and brilliantly, Richard ordered an attack directly down the northwestern slope of the hill, to be led by Richard himself, and intended to cut off and destroy Henry before he could reach the Stanleys to communicate with them. Henry's death, Richard knew, would almost certainly end it all.

From Henry's startled viewpoint, with Richard and a thousand superb horsemen charging directly towards him, it must have been a terrifying spectacle indeed. Richard was no fool -he knew the doubtful loyalty of the Stanleys, and he knew that his charge would take them directly across their front, a risky business, if they chose treason instead of honor.

They chose treason, and the trap was sprung. Striking viciously at Richard's unprotected right, the **Stan**leys quickly destroyed Richard's detachment. The king himself, though begged to do so, refused to flee, and, flighting with incredible bravery against overwhelming odds, shouting "Treason, treason," hurled himself directly towards Henry, killing Henry's standard bearer in the impetus of his charge and, some say, actually crossing swords with Henry himself, before being crushed down by literally hundreds of horse and foot solders, and stabbed to death. He was the last King of England to die in battle.

Richard died at a spot which is now a nicely kept little field, with a stone marker at the place of his death. We know that this is the spot because, not long after the battle, Henry, in a proclamation, said that Richard, who "termed himself" King of England was slain "near a brook at a place men call **Sandeford"** and this little brook, forded by a road in the background, was in the Middle Ages, near a sand pit.

Just outside this area, known today as "Richard's Field", there is a wooden sign which reads: "You may use this little field for rest and quietness, even picnic on it, but please treat it with the respect due to a brave king who died, sword in hand." The marker itself reads: "Richard, the last Plantagenet king of England, was slain here, **22nd** August 1485." But surely his finest epitaph is the entry which can still be read in the Minute Book of the City of York: "King Richard, late lawfully reigning over us, through great treason, with many other lords and nobility. .. was piteously slain and murdered, to the great heaviness of this city."

Richard's bleeding body was stripped naked, thrown across a pack horse, and carried into Leicester over the same bridge across which he had led his army the day before. After being exposed to public view for two days, Richard's body was finally claimed by the Franciscan Friars of Greyfriars Monastery, and buried there.

Today, only a few foundation walls of the monastery remain; and so, in an irony of history, the dust of King Richard the Third, the last Plantagenet, lies somewhere — no one know where — beneath the pavement of what is, today, just a parking lot in Leicester.

There are, in a small museum in Leicester, a few relics of Bosworth Field — a broken sword, a broken lance, little else; and Henry Tudor, as King Henry the Seventh, turned out to be a great king. His son was the famous Henry the Eighty and *his* daughter the illustrious Queen Elizabeth the First. Under the Tudors, exploration flourished, **particulary** of the New World; England became a supreme power and began laying the foundations of her empire; and, of course, there came a masterful age of literature, with men like Kyd, Spenser, Marlowe, Shakespeare. The world, indeed, did change at Bosworth Field.

But somehow, I prefer to stand on Bosworth Field in the evening, and imagine the ground as it was on August the **21st**, 1485, the day before the battle, and look at the spot where a brave, and good, and rightful king of England raised his battleflag of the white boar and the white rose, and watched, in what was truly the twilight of the Plantagenets, the last evening he was ever to see, gather upon him.

Richard the Third was only thirty-two years old when he died. His motto was: "Loyaulte me lie" — Loyalty binds me.

It is fitting that Richard's Great Seal shows on one side Richard in full armor, on horseback, charging against his enemies.

#### Editor's Note: In response to questions raised at the AGM, Mr. Hatchett offered additional remarks, which include:

To the lady who doubted my statement on the tape narration that Richard made his final charge with a thousand knights: I think she is probably right, and am changing the narration to "hundreds." My various sources gave anywhere from fifty to fifteen **hundred** each extreme being absurd-nd the middle ground I tried to strike was just too high.

To the lady who gave the opinion that Richard was buried in Leicester's church of St. **Mary-in-the-Ne**warke: my research shows that the body was indeed publicly displayed there for a couple of days, but was then buried in the friary church, where the parking lot now is. Perhaps the most convincing reason for so believing is the fact that St. Mary's was a Lancastrian foundation.

### The Portuguese Princess's Dream

### A BOSWORTH TALE

### Laura Blanchard

One of the most haunting tales about Bosworth **field** is a little-known story about the Portuguese princess Richard sought to marry after the death of Anne Neville.

Writing in the March 1983 Ricardian,, J. M. Barrie explains that within a week of Anne's death, negotiators were dispatched to Portugal with the offer of a double marriage: Richard would marry Princess Joanna of Portugal, fairly senior among the lineal (and legitimate) descendent of John of Gaunt; and Elizabeth of York would marry Manuel, Duke of Beja. The double marriage would offer a "Union of the Roses" between Richard and the Lancastrian-descended Joanna, and would at the same time offer an honorable alliance for Elizabeth of York (and would in fact have made her Queen of Portugal, as Manuel succeeded King John as King of Portugal). These negotiations were originally carried out by Edward Brampton and subsequently, it appears, by the Earl of Scales (presumably Edward Woodville).

Joanna's preference for the religious life, however, had earned her the title "The Holy Princess" in her own country, and she had already turned down offers of marriage with Maximillian, heir to the Holy Roman Empire (1472) and the young king of France, Charles VIII (1845), for whom she was rather too old in any case, being one year older than Richard himself.

In August of 148.5, the Ricardian negotiations came to a climax, according to Barrie. The Portuguese Council of State urged Joanna's brother, King John, to accept Richard's offer. King John tried bullying; his aunt, Philippa, tried persuasion. The response, as Barry explains, was dramatic:

"Joanna retired for a night of prayer and meditation. She had either a vision or a dream of a 'beautiful young man' who told her that Richard "had gone from among the living." Next morning, she gave her brother a firm answer: If Richard were still alive, she would go to England to marry him. If he were indeed dead, the King was not to press her again to marry. It is not necessary to believe in the supernatural to accept that Joanna may have had a premonitory dream of Richard's death. Within days of her decision, news of **Bos**worth reached Portugal."

Barrie's source for this tale appears to be a work by Domingos Mauricio Gomes dos Santos, 0 Mostelro de Jesus de Avlero. The complete reference was unfortunately omitted from the notes which accompanied the article.

# EXTRACT FROM ADDRESS To DR. A. L. ROWSE

### 24 March, 1968

Editor's note: The following is reprinted from The Richardian, No. 21, May, 1968. Bill Hogarth arranged for every Ricardian's least favorite historian, A. L. Rowse, to address a gathering of Ricardians on March 24, 1968. Jean Di Meglio's moving remarks, which she delivered to Dr. Rowse on that occasion, follow below:

Knowing of your interest in and respect for folk history, I would be interested in your comments on the attitudes still prevalent among the country people living in the villages around Bosworth Field. I was born in one of those villages and grew up there, being in fact one of those country people.

Richard III first came to my notice as the King Dick of King Dick's Well, a place of interest pointed out to me by my father when I was a little girl. The affectionate diminutive was used exclusively in speaking of him, so that only when I was about nine years old and studying the War of the Roses in the village school did I find that he was actually King Richard III. At the same time I also learned of King Henry VII who until that time was known to me only as "That There Henry Tudor" who came over the Brockey Fields in August, ruining the ripened wheat — instead of marching his men up **Barwell** Lane as any decent man would have done!

Under their "King Dick" the country people had begun to recover from years of civil strife; they had expected to reap their harvest, and the bitterness of their disappointment when Henry Tudor destroyed the crops has lasted for five hundred years.

My village of Earl Shilton sent men to Bosworth for Richard and although the common grave of those who died is only an unevenness in a green field near the church, it is still said that there is where the men of Bosworth lie.

A neighboring hamlet, Elmesthorpe, was one of those wiped out by the battle. The barrows of those Elmesthorpe dead are adjacent to the church there. The unmarked mounds were pointed out to me as a child as the graves of the men who went to **fight** for their King and died in vain. Richard III was their King -Henry VII, the upstart who ruined the crops. Tudor politicians may have reached the minds of men at court, but not the hearts of simple country folk whose only criterion was the effect of the law of the land on their daily lives.

My history lessons about the Wars of the Roses were given in the village school by a teacher who encouraged us to take sides. Some of us went so far as to wear roses -mostly white! The "Red Roses" were, in the main, children whose older brothers and sisters had "told them the winner" and who were of a mind to be on the winning side. I find it interesting in retrospect to see how few of us were swayed by this "advanced information." With those high ideals of childhood, we did not care so much about being on the winning side as being "for the right." We had, seemingly, no question about which was the right side.

I recall that we were a little ashamed of the innkeeper of the "White Boar" in Leicester, who, on learning the outcome of the Battle of Bosworth, painted his inn sign blue. We wondered, as children will, if indeed the battle might not have been lost but for the misfortune of the old crone on the Soar Bridge cursing Richard for disturbing her sleep as his entourage passed by.

I feel, Dr. Rowse, that such affection and veneration for his memory would not have been passed down through 500 years had King Dick been a tyrant and a villain.

Indeed, since he lost the crown, and it is the nature of man to turn to the winner, King Richard III must have been well loved in his day to be remembered as he is.

Thank you.

Jean Di Meglio, American Branch

# SCATTERED STANDARDS

#### **Middle Atlantic Chapter**

One June 27th, thirty-five members and friends of the Middle Atlantic Chapter attended the Royal National Tour's production of *Richard III* at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Members from as far away as Charleston, SC and Lennox, MA joined our merry band. Special guest, arranged by Laura Blanchard, was the *Washington Post* columnist, Mary McGory, who is very pro-Richard.

We met for lunch at the waterside restaurant, Tony & Jo's, where excellent seafood was enjoyed by all. The Chapter had sent white roses, tied with blue and murray ribbons, backstage on their opening night, June 23rd. While the interpretation of the play disturbed some of our group, all agreed it was a wonderful afternoon for the Chapter.

Ms. McGory interviewed Laura, Mike Donnelly and Mary Schaller and we hope there will be a story forthcoming in the *Post*.

In the meantime, the Chapter is making plans to attend the Maryland Renaissance Festival sometime in September.

Mary Schaller

### **New Jersey Chapter**

The New Jersey chapter celebrated their third anniversary at their August 1 lth meeting and did so with grand style, starting with a moment of silence during which we each remembered the events of August 22nd in our own way.

During a brief business meeting we discussed upcoming New Jersey Chapter elections and the status of our 1993 AGM. Plans were announced for a medieval Halloween party scheduled for the end of October.

We blew up 32 balloons (one for each year of Richard's life) and filled them with a Ricardian message. We wanted to let them loose outside but the weather conspired against us! Our hearts, however, were in the right place.

Joe Ann Ricca, representing the Middleham Restoration Endowment, then gave us a guided tour of Middleham Castle and its surrounding town. Aided by maps, drawings and personal photos, Joe Ann provided us with great insight into not only how the castle appears now but also how it looked in Richard's time. We learned a lot of this favorite home of **Richard's**. After a delicious potluck lunch we took advantage of the gloomy day by lighting 32 candles and relating 15th century ghost stories! Members also told of some of their own ghostly experiences and set our spines to tingling.

#### Southern California Chapter

The Southern California Chapter's latest meeting was held on June 7, 1992, at Helen Coveney's home in Torrance, CA. Fifteen members gathered to discuss the life and times of Richard III. The theme of the program was "Richard III - Back to Basics." The session went into a general discussion of many of the questions and controversies regarding Richard III. Several of the new members had questions **concern**ing such aspects as Hasting's execution, the bones in the tower, and the reliability of Thomas More's work on Richard III. The group **was fortunate to have the resources of the Society Librarian, Helen Maurer, and Thomas Coveney to lead the discussions.** 

The next Chapter program is scheduled for August 9, 1992, where the group will have a showing of the video "The Trial of Richard III." Plans are also underway for Chapter members to attend the upcoming production of *Richard III* in West Los Angeles as a group.

### Karen Vogel

### Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter

Our most elegant meeting to date took place on June 13, at the Four Seasons Hotel in Philadelphia. Wendy Logan made arrangements for us to have high tea; some business was discussed but mainly it was a social occasion. Nine members attended, and the comments on the food and the surroundings were overwhelmingly positive.

The next meeting should be especially stimulating: it will feature a presentation on "Child Rulers and Their Regents" by Miriam Biddle. This will be on August 29, at Miriam's home in Feasterville, PA.

The Chapter is placing memorial notices for Richard in two newspapers on August 22. Laura Blanchard is handling these, and she will also send some publicity material to local papers.

Sally Yenkinson has scheduled the next library exhibit; it will be at Middleton Library during September.

Regina Jones



# RICARDIAN READING

### Myrna Smith

This quarter's reviews are devoted mostly to specialized genres, mostly, but not exclusively, children's. You may skip over those you are not especial/y interested in, but I recommendthatyou do not. You never can tell where a jewel might turn up - even though it might turn out to be fool's gold.

### Knight On Horseback -Ann Rabinowitz, Macmillan, NY, 1987

Mrs. Rabionwitz's intention was to write a story about a "real" ghost, not one which crumbles when logic is applied. Her audience was represented by her thirteen-year-old son and his friends. He must be an intelligent and well-read boy, as the book assumes a great deal of knowledge and vocabulary in the reader, but the protagonist undergoes the mood swings and family irritations typical of his age.

Eddy **Newby** is in London on vacation with his parents and sister. In a shop he finds an exquisitely carved knight on horseback, meets an elderly lady from Yorkshire, and is startled by a man in a cape, so much so that he runs out of the shop with the carving in his hand. The cloaked man (Richard) follows him. He appeals to Eddy: "Edward, Edward, when will you come home?"

The family tour takes them to Bosworth, where they learn that local traditions differ sharply from the Shakespearean version. In Middleham, Eddy experiences the two opposites of Richard's life, the warm domesticity and the violence of the warrior. He and Richard share some exciting adventures.

The Big Question of guilt or innocence is approached with compassion and common sense. If Richard ordered the deaths of the sons of his beloved brother, it was under grave duress, and a tragic decision to be forced to make.

The author's language is varied and clear, and the character of Richard is sympathetic but not sentimental.

### Dale Summers, Texas

### **The Sprig Of Broom** — Barbara Willard, **Longman** Group Ltd, London, 1971

Tying in with the author's Mantlemass series, this is the story of Medley Plashet (a slurred form of Plantagenet) and his father Dick. Ac the time the main body of the story opens (1506), Dick has managed to survive the various rebellions of the previous years, and to make a living for his family as Mantlemass's resident Jack-of-all-trades. Then he is visited by several mysterious strangers, and is convinced his life is in danger from the Tudors. Soon he disappears. After his mother dies, Medley begins his search for his father. Eventually, after many adventures and an incidental, but wholly innocent, love story, he does **find** him.

The story is well-written and well-researched, but because the character of Dick is so cold and unfeeling it is hard to get interested in him. No matter how much he felt he was endangering his family by staying with them, he could have at least said a few words of farewell. But perhaps many young readers can identify such a personality with their own fathers.

## Puzzlebone Wood — Paul Higgins, Bachman & Turner Ltd, London, 1979

This is a children's book of the time-travel **sub**genre and quite good of its kind. It revolves about three modern children, two boys and a girl, a mysterious elderly widow, a dagger with a mysterious carving -all the usual and obligatory trappings. The youngsters find themselves at the Battle of **Towton**, where they save the day, and save the life of one Richard Plantagenet, the author having used his literary license to move him to where he was not. Young Richard is depicted as warlike and brave — except around water, of which he has a "deathly fear".

There are several illustrations by Alan Hepburn, and the end papers depict the battlefield then and now.

# The Rose Of Raby — Guy Paget, Collins, London, 1937

Not intended as a children's book, this would probably qualify, by today's standards, as a book for teenagers. Mr. **Paget** was obviously one of those who fought in the Great War, for the characters spend a good share of their time, when not actually fighting, discussing tactics and politics, and **Cecily** Neville (the Rose of the title) can talk about these subjects as knowledgeably as anyone. Our heroine is virtuous, but she has her faults, and at the end she has to realize that her own ambition helped to drive her husband to his death.

If you are fortunate enough to find a copy with the dust jacket intact, you will note that it has a chessboard pattern, and many of the chapters have headings like "Red takes Queen." This is not the book referred to in Tey's *The Daughter Of Time*, but it is worth reading on its own merits.

A Book Dragon — Donn Kushner, Henry Holt & Co., NY, 1987

Not exactly Dungeons & Dragons, though the central character is a dragon, and he begins life in a cavern, if not a dungeon. Just a toddler dragon at the time of the Wars of the Roses, he learns a special trick to survive unnoticed (almost). After way-stops in the Dissolution of the Monasteries and the Great Plague and Fire, he at last finds himself across the Atlantic, in a book shop somewhere on the East coast. There he manages to save the day for the owners, and they all live happily ever after. The illustrations and decorations, by Nancy Ruth Jackson, are done in the style of Medieval illuminations, and, all-in-all, the book is good value for the money and a pleasant read. It is not really Ricardian in the meaning of the act.

For those readers who are interested in fantasy and science fiction, may I recommend Terry Prachett's trilogy, *Truckers, Diggers, and Fliers.* Not at all **Ricardian**, these have a modern setting, and are about nomes. (That's right, no "g".) Not cutesy, either, but very interesting, even for adults.

### Lass **Of Silver, Lad of Gold** — Catherine Darby, Robert Hale, London, 1982.

This I found in the Large Print section of the library. I've reached an age where I'm not at all ashamed to be seen browsing in that area and not averse to having a little help to see. Written by romance author Maureen Peters under another name, it is a retelling of the Tristan legend as if it happened in the historical fifteenth century. Although it starts "A cold eyed Tudor sits now upon the English throne.." outside events only occasionally impinge on the story, told by Palomides the Saracen. Unusual and interesting.

# Now to turn from fantasy and legend to cold historical fact (?), and to introduce new chums to a book all Ricardians should read.

*The Betrayal of Richard III* — V.B. Lamb, Revised ed. of 1990, Alan Sutton, Wolfeboro Falls N H

This is an old friend to most Ricardian readers, but the Revised Edition does cover some points not touched upon in the First Edition of 1959.

The only criticism I can offer as a reviewer is that sometimes the author lets her heart out-think her head, and she colors a little too-shiny picture of Richard. Hard fact is laid aside for hard-headedness. Now available in America from the above mentioned publisher, it is well worth the investment, and readers who missed the first edition will **find** this one in every way equal to its predecessor.

The book is only 112 pages, so don't put off reading it for lack of time.

### Glenda Motley, Va.

I had planned to include a nomination or two for the Hall of Shame, but unless I want this column to run to 112 pages, I had better leave it for next time. Perhaps we will have a few more of that description by then, and will be able to devote an entire section to them. I'm sure you can hardly wait!

Editor's note: I have a **xerox** copy of the Preface and title page for Harper & Brothers, NY, 1886, *Makers of History: Richard III* by Jacob Abbott. I have unfortunately managed to lose track of which member sent me this little jewel; if that member is reading this column and has the book, you might consider a followup to Myrna Smith on the overall content of the book. The preface appears to place the author in the early ranks of historical psychotherapists (?), crediting Richard with an unflawed nature which became warped by his environment. What would be even more interesting would be to see what the same man has to say about Henry Tudor, whose environment must also have had a stunning effect!

The Preface is quoted below:

"King Richard The Third, known commonly in history as Richard the Usurper, was perhaps as bad a man as the principle of hereditary sovereignty ever raised to the throne, or perhaps it should rather be said, as the principle of hereditary sovereignty ever made. There is no evidence that his natural disposition was marked with any perculiar depravity. He was made reckless, unscrupulous, and cruel by the influences which surrounded him, and the circumstances in which he lived, and by being habituated to believe, from. his earliest childhood, that the family to which he belonged were born to live in luxury and splendor, and to reign, while the millions that formed the great mass of the community were created only to toil and to obey. The manner in which the principles of pride, ambition, and desperate love of power, which were instilled into his mind in his earliest years, brought forth in the end their legitimate fruits, is clearly seen by the following narrative."

Wouldn't you like to know what comes next?

Carole Rike

# **BOARD CHRONICLES**

### July 12, 1992

**In attendance:** Chairman Gene McManus; Vice-Chairman Ellen Ekstrom Fernandez; Treasurer Joe Ann Ricca; Membership Chairman Carole Rike Secretary Toni Collins

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as read.

### Treasurer's Report (Joe Ann Ricca):

Joe Ann reviewed her report, previously submitted to the Board. Total assets as of 7/4/92 stand at \$40,679.47. The Shallek Fund is currently \$14,132.46.

Joe Ann is continuing to investigate new customs charges. She is also concerned that we itemize all costs related to the printing of *Under The Hog.* 

MOTION: As the Board has some concerns about current arrangements with Paine-Webber, the Treasurer is requested to present potential alternatives. MOTION PASSED.

### Membership Report (Carole Rike):

Carole is concerned that *The Ricardian* is arriving, or leaving England, later than in the past, making our quarterly mailings late.

Total membership is currently 670 with lots of inquiries due to the hard work of Laura Blanchard.

Discussion emphasized the importance of **up-to**date membership for all chapter officers. It was agreed that the Board will refer this issue to the Chapter Coordinator for resolution.

### Old Business: Publications (Gene McManus)

Roxane and Linda McLatchie are working on a brochure to announce the pending publication of *Under the Hog.* Roxane will also be assembling a mailing list of scholarly publications.

Gene also announced that work on **Richard and Anne** is on track.

### Scholarship (Joe Ann Ricca):

Joe Ann recommended that in the future it be our policy, reflected in our scholarship application, that the Richard III Society American Branch write scholarship checks payable to the recipient and the school with specific notation that the tuition account of the recipient be credited. The Board accepted this recommendation, with the additional suggestion that we require an invoice from the college or university, along with confirmation of enrollment and completion of course.

#### AGM Subsidy of Board Members:

Ellen is preparing a written report which she will submit at the next Board meeting.

### 2992 AGM (Carole Rike):

Roxane has worked to complete the workshops, and registration materials should be going out right away.

There was discussion concerning whose names should appear on the ballot for 1993. The question will be referred to the Nominating Committee.

#### New Business: Request to Sponsor an AGM

The Rocky Mountain chapter has volunteered to hold an AGM. The Board is grateful for the enthusiasm and commitment of valiant volunteers. The Board will ask both Northern California and Rocky Mountain to submit proposals.

#### **Recommendations of the Treasurer:**

Joe Ann, in a previously submitted report, recommended that the Board employ an outside CPA to oversee our books at the end of the year. Her search completed, she has chosen Mr. Frank Di Maria, a CPA licensed in the State of New York in practice since 1970. His fee is \$250.00 per year.

MOTION: To accept the Treasurer. PASSED

Joe Ann has recommended that the Board obtain a liability insurance policy. This is a standard practice for not-for-profit Boards. Joe Ann and Toni will investigate this. They will also look at events insurance.

Joe Ann would also like the Board to consider a video project concerning the Society's purpose. The Board was asked to consider such issues as method and cost. To be discussed at the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 PM. Eastern

Due to the Labor Day holiday, the next meeting will take place on Sunday, August 30 at 4:00 PM. Eastern.

Respec tfully submit ted, Toni E. Collins Secretary

### **BACK ISSUES**

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# **Graduate Awards for Fifteenth-Century English Studies**

### Schallek Memorial Awards Support Studies Across A Wide Range of Scholarly Disciplines

The Richard III Society, American Branch, is pleased to announce the availability of one or more William B. Schallek Memorial Graduate Fellowship Awards for the 1993-1994 academic *year*.

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

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Scholars of the period may be interested in membership in the Richard III Society. The Society publishes a quarterly journal; funds the Schallek Award in the United States and bursaries at the University of York and London University in Great Britain; funds the publication of editions of fifteenth-century source documents and works of current scholarship; and sponsors an annual session on fifteenth-century England at the annual Medieval Congress in Kalamazoo.

### Deadline for Applications: FEBRUARY 28, 1993

Winners announced June 1. For an award **application**, contact:

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