

Ricardian Register



Richard III Society, III

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National Portrait Gallery, London

RICHARD III: A MAN OF HIS TIMES
Annual General Meeting
October 1-3, 1993
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Your ad in the *Ricardian Register* will reach an audience of over 750 Society members and colleagues — demonstrated mail buyers and prime prospects for books relating to the late medieval era, as well as for gift items and other merchandise relating to this period. They are also prospects for lodging, tours, and other services related to travel in England and on the continent.

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EDITORIAL CONFESSION

Carole Rike

Thanks to the efforts of Chairman Joe Ann Ricca and Laura Blanchard, this issue goes to press with a little more than usual material. However, two weeks ago I had almost none.

It's Confession Time: the truth is that I get this newsletter out four times a year by the seat of my pants. As I grow older, I find that time does not slow down at all — there just seems to be less of it! Thus, I am hard-pressed to do the type of editorial sleuthing and background work which would assure me of a continuous flow of material for our members. I headlined this "Confession" and put it near the front because I felt this might get me some readers and some attention — if only those who are in search of immodest musings from this quarter!

Sorry, folks. This is just the usual old-fashioned plea for your contributions — in whatever form you may be comfortable with. Many of you will be travelling to sites of interest to our membership this year; your recollections and your photographs are sought to share with us. Perhaps you know of an English-style pub in your hometown or you import Old Peculiar and others of us would like to know how you do it. Perhaps you just wish to reflect on some aspect of the Ricardian mystery, the Ricardian period, or follow the development of historical impertinence towards Richard III.

I've heard a few second-hand complaints that the same people always write in the *Register*. Well, where is your stuff?

On the bright side: the Board has agreed to undertake an official history of the American Chapter of the Society, much as George Awbry did for the English Society. I am fortunate enough to be in charge of that effort. If you have old clippings, information, pictures, or just a rumor you could share I would love to hear from you. This project is likely to take some time, be subject to revision, but of great interest to us all.

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Joe Ann Ricca

Recently I was asked, "What's so special about being in the Richard III Society?" Ten minutes later, as we were waiting for tea to be served, I was proudly informing our potential new member why the Society is so special, and why she should become a part of the Society. Here are some of the things that I told her:

Our scholarship area is doing exceptionally well. The Schallek Advisory Committee had to cope with nine problems this year; we received nine highly qualified applications. We were able to award two scholarships, but I wish we were able to award several more.

Our Monograph Committee is continuously on the lookout for papers to publish. Can you imagine if the society were able to publish a book? Can you imagine the prestige the society would receive? I can.

Compton Reeves, who chairs our session at the International Congress on Medieval Studies, is to be highly commended for the outstanding job that he has done with the Twenty-Eighth Annual Congress recently held in Kalamazoo. It was standing room only as four presenters read original papers representing the Society.

Margaret Gurowitz, our new Research Officer, is busy working on organizing research projects for those members who expressed interest in research. If you have a specific question on Richard and his times, please contact her.

Are you ready for the 1993 AGM? The '93 AGM Committee is! Our Annual General Meetings get better with each passing year. This year should prove to be no exception. The AGM will officially open Friday evening with the traditional "welcome reception" and end on Sunday morning with breakfast and other entertainment. Be prepared for entertainment, informative workshops, heaping platters of food, meeting new friends and renewing old acquaintances. If you think AGM excitement winds down on Sunday, stay tuned for the '94 AGM hosted by the Michigan Chapter and the '95 AGM, hosted by the Northwest Chapter. Where will we be in '96? Our destination location is open, perhaps Orlando, perhaps Philadelphia.

The Arts and Entertainment Network recently approved a channel dedicated to history. Appropriately called the History Channel, or H-TV, this exciting new venture is spearheaded by Mr. Charlie

Maday. The network hopes to have its debut in late summer/early fall of '94. I have forwarded an information package to the network, along with an invitation to join us at the AGM where they can see the Society shine. I would ask that you contact them encouraging them to do a feature story on Richard and the Society, a documentary or mini-series. Mr. Maday can be reached at the Arts and Entertainment Network, 235 East 45th Street, New York, New York 10017.

The 1993 tour, sponsored by Lord Addison Travel, Ltd., is offering a wonderful itinerary to our members who plan to visit England this year. Whether you are a first time or frequent visitor, you can be assured of returning with a lot of memories. Thanks to the full cooperation we have received from Lord Addison's staff, we have even acquired a new member — Judith Dickson from Connecticut. Welcome to the Society, Judy. Elizabeth Nokes has been kind enough to invite our tour participants to join with fellow Ricardians in England to participate in a special service at Sutton Cheney Church and the Bosworth Battlefield Centre.

Who can talk about the activities and benefits of the Society without mentioning our newsletter, the *Ricardian Register*? Carole Rike, our editor, had done, and continues to do a superb job. Carole has changed our newsletter into a lively and informative publication. The feedback that I have received from our members is that they get one issue and they can hardly wait to receive the next. Surely a sign of excellence from our esteemed editor.

Last, but not least, the most impressive area to me are the members of the Society. Whatever success we have enjoyed in the past, and whatever success we will enjoy in the future, we owe to our members.

As my meeting was drawing to a close, I was wondering how successful I was in winning over another person to Richard's cause. What other question could she possibly have? As we exited the tearoom, she paused and asked — "Why is there a Richard III Society? Why should you care about a king from England, who has been dead over 500 years?" For me, the answer is always very simple, the reputation of a man — regardless of time — is important; *truth matters*. As we departed, we shook hands and I was left with a membership check.

Chris, Welcome to Richard's Society!

EXCITEMENT BUILDS FOR 1993 AGM

October 1-3, 1993
Newark, New Jersey

How does \$75.00 a night for a hotel room sound to you? How does a five-minute, *free* limo ride from the airport, with limos departing every ten minutes, sound to you?

How does a nonstop round of receptions, parties, Ricardian videos, workshops, parties, strolling players, and more parties sound? (Oh, yes . . . we're squeezing in a business meeting, too.)

Then mark your calendars and make your travel arrangements now to be sure you won't miss any of the exciting events the Whyte Rose Chapter has planned for us.

Early birds can call the Newark Airport Marriott at 800-228-9290 to make their hotel reservations. Be sure to tell them you're a member of the Richard III Society so they'll give you the special \$75.00 rate.

The workshop lineup is more-or-less final, with a total of *twelve* presentations to choose from. And the festivities spill over into Sunday morning, with the special Schallek breakfast followed by even more entertainment.

The list of door prizes and raffle items is growing. Grand prizes to date include a soft sculpture by Ricardian artist Susan Dexter. And, the American office of Alan Sutton Publishing has hinted that they may provide a very special raffle item indeed!

If you can possibly manage it, schedule some extra time before or afterwards to tour The Cloisters, the special medieval collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Located at the northern end of Manhattan Island, it's easy to drive to — even for the person who gets a rash thinking about New York driving. Since we're right at the airport, it's easy to rent a car on the spur of the moment. And, there's plenty of public transportation into New York, too.

Registration information will be mailed to all members later this summer. Meanwhile, if you need any questions answered immediately, call Joc Ann Ricca at 201-525-1323.

HELP RICHARD'S MIDDLEHAM

Middleham Castle was home to Richard III, more than any other place in England, in his youth and for most of his adult life. In Middleham, as nowhere else in England, Richard is still remembered, respected — and loved.

Because Middleham was Richard's castle, Middleham shared his fate. Shunned by the Tudors, ravaged by Cromwell, the castle stands today as reminder of the splendour that it once was, and represents a part of history that is a bitter legacy of betrayal.

Today, Middleham is under the protection of English Heritage. To help English Heritage with their work, the Middleham Restoration Endowment Inc. is working in conjunction with English Heritage for the sole purpose of raising funds for the fabric of the castle so they may continue their ongoing restoration and preservation of this important Ricardian history. You can help us support our work with a donation or the purchase of the following items:

Middleham T-Shirt or Sweat Shirt
Medium blue w/dk. blue castle design, S, M, L, XL
T-Shirt - \$15.00 Sweat-Shirt - \$25.00

New Design
Richard III T-Shirt or Sweat Shirt
Royal Blue w/ drawing of Richard, S, M, L, XL
T-Shirt - \$15.00 Sweat Shirt \$25.00

New Item
Tote Bag (19 x 15) w/drawing of Richard \$13.95

Notecards (set of 12) \$4.75

Note Pads \$2.00

From the Castle of Ricardius Rex

Silver Stickers/*Loyaulte Me Lie* \$1.10 dz.

Pennants (Standard of Richard III) \$2.00

Pendant (pewter boar) \$24.95

Paperweight (pewter w/crystal) \$29.95

Seal of King Richard III

(Shipping/Handling \$3.00.) Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. Make checks payable to *Middleham Restoration Endowment, Inc.*

Middleham Restoration Endowment, Inc.
106 Longview Avenue
Hackensack, NJ 07601

LET'S DO A PROJECT ON RICHARD

Kay Janis and Nina Fleming

"Let's do a project on Richard!" We forget which one of us originally suggested it. We have ventured out on Richard's behalf before. On a trip to England several years ago, our first stop was the Portrait Gallery to see the portrait. While we were paying our respects, a dreadful man came dashing through with his young daughter in tow and declared, "Now there's Richard III; he was a real rotter!" He didn't get away. Having dealt with our fair share of unruly students, we had no qualms about telling him to "sit!" (He did... and he and his daughter had a little lesson in history.) Then there was the time on the four-day coach tour. The guide made the mistake on the first day of making unkind remarks about Richard; by the second day he was carrying a long stemmed white silk rose. It wasn't until we finally found and joined The Richard III Society (thanks to Laura Blanchard's letter to *Time* magazine) that we realized our efforts had been paltry compared to the wonderful things other Ricardians do.

It seemed so easy. We both teach at the same high school, and between us we have the entire group of accelerated juniors in "British Survey." Last year we did a modest project with just a few students and were so pleased that we planned to do it with all of them this year. Deciding that we needed to purchase 50 copies of *To Prove a Villain*, we submitted our budget request and the adventure began.

Richard III Society Members To The Rescue

Our budget request was immediately denied. The money just wasn't there. (As you may know, Rhode Island is still reeling from the closing of credit unions and an extremely bleak economic climate). Undaunted, we thought we could manage if the students had copies of *Richard III* and *Daughter of Time* and we were confident that we could persuade the students to buy their own copies. Wrong! Before we even tried, our efforts were thwarted by an administrative directive prohibiting all teachers from requiring students to purchase any supplementary materials. We then appealed to everyone from the superintendent on down for some help, but to no avail. Discouraged, but still unwilling to admit total defeat, Kay called Laura Blanchard to commiserate. Laura doesn't commiserate; she finds solutions. She spent an evening writing some letters to fellow Ricardians telling of our plight and soon amazing things began to happen. Within days,

packages from all over the country started arriving! Unaccustomed as we were to public begging, we never knew how much fun it could be. Copies of *Richard III*, *Daughter of Time*, *The Final Trial of Richard III*! Old copies, new copies, in-between copies!!! The packages also contained wonderful notes expressing interest and encouragement. Our little collection soon grew: one copy, five copies, ten copies, thirty copies! Thanks to Laura's ingenuity and generosity of so many interested fellow Ricardians, our project was underway.

Among Friends At The Town Library

Once we had the basic texts, we wanted to check out the resources at the town library to see if they could support the type of research we had in mind and whether or not they would permit us to have some sort of modest exhibit. If we could have just one wish for fellow Ricardians trying to do some sort of local project, it would be to have access to the staff at North Kinstown Town Library. They enthusiastically welcomed the idea of participating in the project and before we left that day, we had compiled a rather impressive list of texts (many available only through the Society) which they promptly ordered. The exhibit? We were thinking in terms of perhaps a bookcase? Why not the whole foyer, 3 bookcases and an entire hallway? Would we be interested in having them sponsor a special evening program on *Richard III* with a guest lecturer from Holy Cross to coincide with the exhibit? Would we mind if they publicized our study unit, the new library texts, the exhibit, and the guest lecturer in their monthly newsletter *Among Friends*? Would we like them to get in touch with local paper to do a feature article? This extraordinary interest, assistance and enthusiasm continued throughout the entire project. As we went along, we realized that one of the nicest aspects of the whole endeavor was the sense of collaboration we felt with the members of The Richard III Society and the North Kinstown Town Library.

Working Richard Into The Curriculum

We do have a curriculum to follow and heretofore Richard wasn't a part of the approved curriculum. However, all students at this level are expected to do a "major research project" and learn the complexities of thesis statements, notecards, outlines, footnotes, bibliographies... etc. After some background ma-

terial on the The War of the Roses, the students read *Richard III*; this was followed by research into More and Holinshed. They had to trace the allegations of Richard's physical deformities, heinous acts, and enjoyment of his villainy from More to Holinshed to Shakespeare and document all references. Then we turned the corner and encountered the controversy. They started with the short anonymous excerpt from *To Prove a Villain* entitled "The Praise of King Richard the Third" which is believed to be the earliest published defense of Richard. We worked our way through the centuries with excerpts from Walpole and Markham and finished this portion with *Daughter of Time*. Ever mindful of the curriculum requirements, we developed thesis statements, notecards, outlines, and formal bibliographies. After finishing *Daughter of Time*, and *The Final Trial of Richard III*, the students were sputtering about what had happened to Richard and we began the second phase of the project. They worked in small groups doing rather intensive research on specific related topics. At this point they were gathering at the town library almost daily. They delved into *Titulus Regius*, the bones in the tower, Stanley's treachery at the Battle of Bosworth, Richard's Parliament of 1584, his life as a loyal brother and "Lord of the North," Henry's atrocities, Buckingham as a suspect, Perkin Warbeck and other "feigned boys" . . . etc. When the reports were completed, they had to share their research and scholarship with each other in a "seminar" type setting. We were extremely pleased with the quality of these reports and the enthusiasm the students showed as we progressed through the unit. High school students are a great audience for Richard's story. They have a very keen sense of fairness and once interested, they really do care about this long ago king. After the reports, it was time, as they say, to "mount the exhibit."

The Exhibit

We had no idea! The foyer, 3 bookcases, and an enormous hallway sounded great but what exactly do we do? Fortunately, Laura Blanchard sent us a package of assorted text, helpful hints, and the magic words "use freely." Husbands were dispatched to art supply stores, Nina developed neck spasms from so many hours at the computer, Kay glued her knuckles together with rubber cement, and we all discovered the wonders of our local Copy Center people who could make gorgeous color reproductions of just about everything. We ended up with an easel in the foyer with Richard's framed portrait. Close by was a bookcase with our introduction to the exhibit, some Society brochures, and some other text and memorabilia. Another bookcase contained the students' reports and the third housed the li-



North Kingston High School students display the NGP Portrait of Richard III

Photograph by Maribeth Reilly, Standard Times

brary's collection of Ricardian texts. Five large panels were mounted on the walls of the hallway. Each panel had a different theme and we tried to balance an attractive visual display with the right amount of text. The librarians reported that many patrons of the library expressed great interest in the display, actually read the text, and were signing up for some of the Ricardian books as soon as they were released from the display. "Fortune favors the foolish" certainly pertains to our exhibit. Had we known what we were doing, we never would have done it! For anyone planning a rather extensive library exhibit, know that it will be much more work than you can possibly imagine. Know also that it will all be worth it.

One Good Thing Leads To Another

As a result of the library exhibit, the entire project received front page coverage in our local paper. It was a bit scary turning the students loose with a reporter for over an hour, but we were pleased with the article. There were a few glitches in historical accuracy, but the students made up for that with their obvious interest and enthusiasm. Except for making sure the Richard III Society was properly

credited, we basically stayed out of the interview. As a result of the exhibit and the article, we were invited by Phi Alpha Theta to present our exhibit at the University of Rhode Island. And so it goes.

It has been about a year now since one of us said "Let's do a project on Richard!" We'll do it again next year and thanks to the generosity of so many Ricardians, it will be much easier. Truth may, indeed, be the Daughter of Time, as Josephine Tey states in her novel, but with Time for a father, Truth still needs a mother to do the hard work: once again, we thank the members of The Richard III Society, the staff of the North Kingstown Town Library, and especially Laura Blanchard for all her help and encouragement.

We'll end this report as we ended the exhibit: with a quotation from one of our students. "Propaganda is Powerful. Truth is elusive. A man's reputation is fragile." That was true in Richard's time and it is equally true today. Somehow we think this is a rather important lesson.

Nina Fleming and Kay Janis teach English at North Kingstown High School, North Kingstown, Rhode Island. Friends for years, they share an ardent interest in Richard III and became members of the Ricard III Society in February, 1992.

CALL FOR DOOR PRIZES FOR THE AGM

**Gift Certificates Available from
Society Sales Officer**

A reminder: we need door prizes and raffle items for the 1993 AGM. Send door prizes (or a note telling us you'll be bringing one to the AGM, so we'll know what to expect) to Laura Blanchard, 303 Vine Street, Suite 106, Philadelphia, PA 19106.

If you'd like to donate a prize but aren't sure exactly what to get, consider a gift certificate from our Sales Officer. Just send Linda McLatchie a check and she'll take it from there.

THE MIDDLEHAM RING

Joe Ann Ricca

A gold medieval ring of outstanding historical importance was found at Middleham, North Yorkshire in September, 1990. The ring subsequently sold at auction in October 1991 for £38,000 and an application has been made for an export licence to take the ring abroad. The licence is being withheld until April 16 to give a museum opportunity to raise the necessary sums to save the ring for Britain. The Yorkshire Museum is now seeking to raise £45,980 (auction price plus auctioneers and dealers commissions) to save the ring from export.

The Middleham ring dates to the late 14th or early 15th century. The exterior is decorated with a continuous line of letters S, reserved against a background of enamel, traces of which remain. The SS motif was the insignia used by the Lancastrian kings of England (Henry IV and VI) and dates back to the time of John of Gaunt, father of Henry of Lancaster, later to become Henry IV. It was used by him from the 1390s when Earl of Derby and on his accession to the throne in 1400 by Act of Parliament, part of the official Lancastrian livery. The SS insignia can be seen on the collars of a number of alabaster effigies and brasses of Lancastrian supporters. The Middleham ring is the only piece of gold jewellery with the SS decoration to survive.

The interior of the gold ring is engraved with the word "sovereynly" in gothic or black letter script. The inscription relates to the motto *souvereyne* used by Henry Earl of Derby from 1385 until 1413. It will be noted that on the ring the word is used in adverbial form rather than as a noun, suggesting that the ring was owned by a member of the court or a leading noble, not a member of the royal family.

The discovery of the ring at Middleham suggests that it might be connected to the Neville family who owned and lived at Middleham Castle. Ralph de Neville was one of the prominent supporters of Henry of Lancaster, later Henry IV, and was married to the daughter of John of Gaunt. The high quality of the ring points to an association with the family or circle of Ralph de Neville.



RICARDIAN TRAVELS

Heather Albright

I began reading about Richard III over 10 years ago. I dreamt of a far off time when, no longer a student, I would be able to visit England. I kept notes of what I'd read and drew maps of places to visit. The 1400's had become more real to me than modern England. My excuses for (finally!) going to England in October '92 were the incredible airfares and a wish to see a production of *Hamlet* on tour. My cousin Edis and I decided we needed an adventure, so we planned this trip as a reward to ourselves for surviving a difficult year in our careers.

I explained to Edis how I wanted to find Prince Edward's tomb and other Ricardian sites which I had read about but whose exact location I was not sure. She had read Josephine Tey's book and was not adverse to my Ricardian desires and she added two non-Ricardian objectives. These vague goals appealed to our sense of being on a quest, so we purposefully left route details vague. We read and re-read everything we could get our hands on, each of us making notes of where we wanted to go and why (lest we forget once we got there). I even reviewed my Latin and re-read the Society journals I had stored in the garage. When I ordered a Mid-dleham sweatshirt from the Society, Jo Ann Ricca called me and we had a wonderful phone chat after which she sent me many maps and much helpful advice. There were so many tempting things to see that we initially over-planned our 8-day trip, agreeing to cutback and consolidate as we saw how our plans lay in Yorkshire and Northumbria. During this planning time, I frequently dialed into CompuServe and from people I met online I acquired valuable information about B&B's, sight-seeing, film, and a good deal on our rental-car. With our notebooks, xeroxed tour guides, 12 rolls of film, all my photography equipment, and a rough itinerary, we felt we were well prepared.

For the next 8 days we were to find ourselves the only foreign tourists in the villages and B&B's, and frequently we had entire historical sites to ourselves. York, however, was busy and had a mixture of Americans and English visitors. Since it was mid October the trees had begun to change, and the temperatures were nicely cool.

We landed at Manchester and made our way to Bradford. After our night at the theatre in Green Gates, we were on our way to York. We found a room

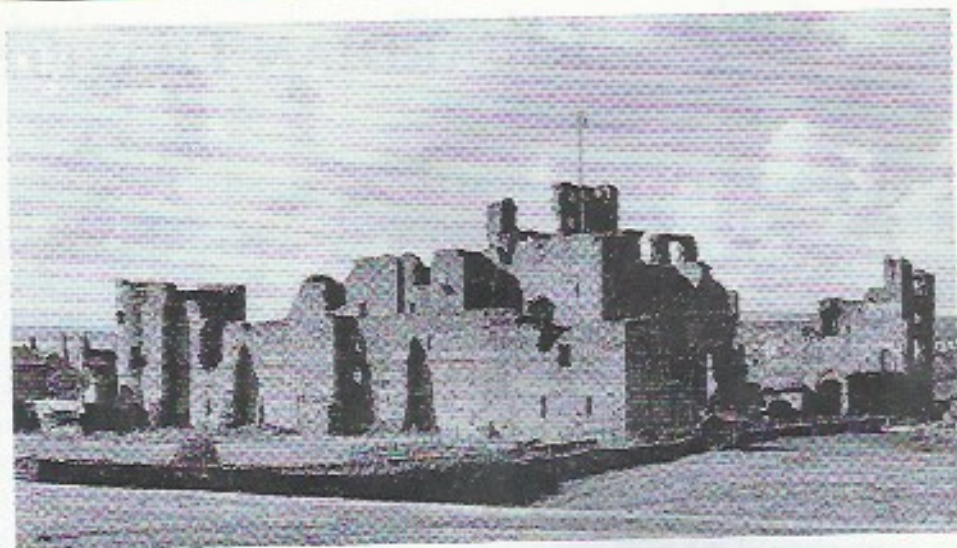
in a B&B just outside the walls, parked the car and spent the rest of the weekend on foot. York was even more wonderful than the tour books had said. I felt as if I were walking with the citizenry of the late 1400's, and if I looked in the right places, I felt I could catch a glimpse of them.

We arrived in town late Saturday, and by the time we were settled, and out on foot, it was evening. The streets were emptying and most stores were closed. We were awed and amazed to be walking these medieval streets; it seemed we couldn't take it all in. Later that evening we walked the walls, circumnavigating the old town. Looking over the rooftops gives you a nice perspective of the old and the new. Of course the Minster dominates York. Since we stayed only a few blocks from it, we walked by the Minster almost every time we entered or left town. When we needed to get back to our room, we navigated the tiny streets of York by aiming for the Minster's central tower.

We were out early the next day, Sunday morning, and were accompanied through an empty York by the chiming of the Minster's bells. One guide book mentioned a tour by the local Richard III Society on Sunday afternoons. As we window shopped we watched the time so that we would not forget to be at the Library Square at 2. That is when we met Dorothy Mitchell and as her only tour members we were treated to a marvelous private tour of Richard's York. She asked what we had already seen, and then led us into the Merchant Adventurer's Hall and several other places we had not yet been. Since we knew the basics of Richard's history, she tailored her talk and told us many stories that we have not heard anywhere else. Her company was delightful and her tour was an informative way to spend Sunday afternoon.

The museum at Micklegate Bar was a joy. It has a nice Ricardian corner, and covers the life in and around the Bar over the ages. If Brian is on duty he will tell you tales about the people who visit. At the bar I bought a poster for a friend. For the rest of the day I kept putting it down in stores and leaving it. Later we would retrace our steps to find the shop owners watching for our return. Each one of them had found my abandoned poster and had carefully set it aside. This hospitality made us feel well looked after.

That night, on a tip from another guide book, we went to the King's Arms, a pub on the River Ouse, to take the Ghost Tour of York. We were nicely surprised to see that the King was Richard, and that his portrait was painted on the pub's sign. Except for beginning at the King's Arms, the tour is not Ricardian. However it was a whimsical way to see and hear stories of York's past.



Richard's Middleham today

After York, we headed northwest looking for Sheriff-Hutton. With the aid of the Landranger Ordnance Survey maps, we gladly left the more travelled roads. I had picked up a tape of the York Waits playing music from the late 1400's. The period music provided atmosphere and background as we drove into Yorkshire.

Sheriff Hutton is a small charming village. The Ordnance maps indicate the village buildings with such detail that we had no problem finding the little church. It is a wonderfully warm, inviting church, making you wish you lived there if only to be a part of it's life. The inside was chilly, but not dark. There are many arches connecting the central tower to the wings added in later centuries. The tower and side-chapels are full of windows and the sunlight seems to be everywhere. Two tombs, Prince Edward's and Sir Edmund Thweng's, lie head to toe in the far corner, along the wall in the chapel of St. Nicholas. The restoration on Edward's alabaster is easy to find, if you look for it. But if you don't, the work does not at all lessen the poignancy of the boy's figure on top. There are shields and a kneeling man (Richard?) carved on the sides of the tomb, but all details are gone. A large framed story of Richard III and Edward lies above the tomb. It is hand-calligraphied, and gives an even-handed account of the controversy and history of the little tomb. On a table in the Church entryway, the church's story and notecards of the tomb and church were for sale. I was glad to offer a contribution toward the church's upkeep, and I now treasure the brochure and cards.

After Sheriff Hutton we hastened on north to Rievaulx. Though not explicitly connected with Richard, we felt we could not miss it. We had the site almost to ourselves. We felt a kinship with the ruined walls as we had just been in the York Minster,

and we could imagine the splendour Rievaulx had once been.

Our day was quickly dwindling away, and we still had Middleham to see. The tourist office at Thirsk told us not to hurry as Middleham Castle was not open on Mondays. So, relieved of our extreme urgency, we continued on towards Middleham and Leyburn, enjoying the scenery, as we looked for lodgings. The approach to Middleham gives you a breath-taking silhouette of the castle on a hill above the village. The walls, flagpole and pennant looked exactly like the sweatshirt I was wearing! We drove through town slowly, agreeing to reserve Middleham's pleasures until Tuesday morning. After staying the night in Leyburn, we returned to Middleham, drove back over the whimsical crenelated bridge, and parked in the square. It was quite early and nothing was open, so we window-shopped, trying not to stare too hard at the gorgeous racehorses being led past us. The village is quite proud of Richard, you can see it in the store names — The White Boar Bookstore and Richard's Family Butcher. When it was finally time for the castle to open, we began wondering just exactly where the castle was! We had not yet looked UP to see it's walls looming above the roofs around us. No signs (that we saw) lead you to the castle entrance, so we began walking up the alleys between the houses, looking up as we needed to, until we came to the edge of the moat. I remembered reading in the Society's journal of a new gift shop inside the castle walls. I was so looking forward to Middleham and I hoped the shop wouldn't stand out as a piece of 20th century among the 15th. To my relief, it was small, unobtrusive and blended into the castle walls. The morning was chilly and the shop was a nice warm place to begin our tour. It was only 10 a.m. and we had the

entire castle to ourselves. First we climbed the keep, marvelling at the stone-work, the view, and the size of the Great Hall. The pamphlet and map of the castle brought the entire place to life for us. Then we separated, wandering our own ways, each of us immersed in the walls, and the castle's story. I explored all the rooms, drawn by the fine stone work details I could pick out with my zoom lens. I even used the camera flash to illuminate some dark corners; I wanted to see everything. The Prince's Tower, where Prince Edward supposedly died, still looks like a small pleasant domestic chamber. A narrow curving staircase, leading to the chamber, winds in and out of the ruined walls. That staircase really got to me. It was one of the few "human scale" items left in the castle and I could almost see someone climbing them to the chamber. It is in the corners such as this that ghosts hide. Of all the places we visited on that trip, Middleham is where I wished to stay.

As we drove north through County Durham, we began looking for the first of Edis's quests, the Penshaw Monument, and we found it between Durham and Sunderland. I was expecting a needle or such, yet it turned out to be a large Parthenon-like structure on a prominent hill. I don't think we were supposed to, but we saw no 'stay off' signs, so we climbed the trail to the monument. Edis had told me about Lord Penshaw and I wonder if, 400 years from now, his monument's columns would continue to draw the curious as Middleham had drawn us.

Later in the day we continued on Edis's second quest, looking for Hadrian's Wall. We prepared ourselves by visiting the Antiquities Museum at the Univ. of Newcastle. It provided us a wonderful introduction to the Romans in northern England, especially its model of the entire Wall. We spent the whole next day along the Wall between Corbridge and Twice Brewed, walking the Wall when we could, and climbing the crag at Steel Rig. We even hiked off the road to see the Mithraeum at Carrawburgh. The museums at Chester's Fort and Housesteads gave us a good picture of Roman life, an interesting contrast to the late 1400's. Having finally placed myself 500-some years ago, immersed in the late 1400's, it was difficult to conceive that I was standing by masonry almost 1800 years old. It was here that we finally lost the sunny days of the past week and encountered dark skies and blowing rain. Some-

how the weather fit the location. You wouldn't expect the skies to be blue and cheery at the end of the empire as you face north into other-lands.

For our last day, we headed down to Bosworth. At home I often drive to my cousin's house, 200 miles roundtrip. But here in England, those miles covered more than just territory. Overwhelmed by the sights of the modern highway, away from the villages and open space we had become used to, we seemed to be lost in time, passing turn-offs with familiar names, un-rooted in our surroundings.

Stopping at Bosworth we reconnected with the 1400's, our last chance on the trip. While feasting on the displays we rested from the long drive and learned an incredible amount about the times and events preceding Bosworth. Outside we found small but clear yellow signs marked with a helmet pointing out the walking tour of the battle site. That is when we met the other party touring the battle lines. Edis was taking my picture by the big battle-field sign when they remarked that "At least you're on the winning side!". Sure enough, I was standing by Tudor's crest! Astonished, I quickly ran to stand by the white boar. They seemed perplexed at my defiant move — I guess you can find Tudors anywhere! We followed the Battle Model sheet provided by the Museum and found it was quite easy to visualize the day that two armies met here. That day there were only cattle under Richard's standard on the summit of Ambion Hill, but you could see the strategic position he commanded. Because of archaeologists in the family, Edis and I have seen more than our share of battlefields & museums, and when we had to leave, Edis commented that Bosworth presented the best museum and adaptation she had seen. I too was impressed. We wished we could have spent more time walking the battle lines, but we needed to be in Manchester, near the airport, for our last night.

Throughout the trip, I felt that I was chasing the 1400's, that the past was just outside the tangible "now". It was as if I was surrounded by the people who once lived where I was standing. I was certain that if I listened closely, or looked softly enough, I would see the ghosts I felt. I've heard that in England you can find what you are looking for — indeed — I found the late 1400's.

It lives in the shadows of ruined walls.

EDWARD IV'S WILL

Helen Petrik

On April 9, 1483 the life of Edward IV, the first king of the House of York, was drawing to its close. A man who had enjoyed robust good health and had not reached his forty-first year would have few intimations of this own mortality. In his last hours Edward must have assessed the court around him — the intriguers, the time servers, the smoldering power struggle waiting to erupt when his regal strength, charm and amiability were removed from the scene and realized that he was leaving his minor heir a scabrous inheritance.

Knowing that his time to rectify this situation was limited, he called together the eight executors of his will — five prelates and three lords — and added three nuncupative (oral) codicils to his will. The first two codicils were standard nuncupative codicils dealing with payments of just debts and generous bequests to the poor. The third codicil was perhaps the most important nuncupative codicil ever added to an English king's will. In the third codicil, Edward IV bequeathed his minor heir, Edward, Prince of Wales, and his realm to the protection of his brother, Richard, Duke of Gloucester.

It is the premise of this article that many of the crises that the duke of Gloucester had to deal with to assume legal assumption of the Protectorship may be traced to the illegal machinations of the executors of Edward IV's will and Edward's council.

Law has evolved through the ages and fifteenth century English law was an amalgam of Roman law, Anglo-Saxon and Norman law. As society changes, the laws change to reflect the new moral concepts of society. One of the oldest areas of legal development is bequest and inheritance. Roman law early on set strict ground rules protecting the testator and heirs. The executor was identified with the heirs of Roman law by civil and canon lawyers who sat in Ecclesiastical courts. That is, in essence, that without the appointment of an executor there can be no will. The nuncupative will was the *ultimate voluntas*, given by a testator in great peril or dying in the presence of two witnesses of good character who were not beneficiaries. In some areas of England it was traditional that the parish priest be presented a nuncupative dispersal of property both real and personal. The courts recognized the legality of a nuncupative will by the appointment of an admin-

istrator had the testator neglected to name executors or had been unable to do so.

Secondly, the executors were to immediately inventory the assets of the estate and provide for the security and safety of the assets.

This would mean sealing Edward's personal treasury in the Tower of London and this was not done, allowing the Marquess of Dorset, Deputy Constable of the Tower, to plunder the treasury and divide the theft with his mother, Elizabeth Woodville, and his uncle, Sir Edward Woodville. This audacious theft by Dorset deprived his half-sisters of monies left to them for their dowries and provided the Woodvilles with funds to support whatever political adventuring they might be thinking of embarking upon.

In February, 1483, Anthony, Earl Rivers, wrote to his London lawyer, Andrew Dymmock, from Ludlow, asking that he be relieved of his position as Deputy Constable of the tower and that his nephew, Dorset, be named in his place. Dymmock was to inform the constable, Hohn, Lord Dudley, of this transfer of office. Rivers also asked that the letters patent appointing him governor of the Prince of Wales be revised, giving him the right to furnish every man at Ludlow with horse and armor and to raise an army to be paid for out of the revenues of the Prince of Wales. A copy of these revised letters patent was to be sent to Rivers. The inference in these letters was that Edward IV was not to be informed of these changes — political adventuring indeed.

Thirdly, the assets of the estate were to be put in escrow until probate. The probate of the will established once and for all the validity of the will. In view of the actions of Edward IV's executors and their laxness in the execution of these duties spelled out in laws, we can well assume a studied dereliction of duties, or, more seriously, malfeasance.

A king's council did not have an autonomous existence. It was a group of men appointed by the king to advise him on the business of government, law, church affairs, trade, etcetera. It did not have executive authority or extremely limited authority. The chancellor, treasurer, and keeper of the privy seal were ex-officio members of the council and were present at all council meetings.

They could oppose the wishes of the king, but not too strongly — witness the fall from power of George Neville, Archbishop of York.

After the death of a king, his council was traditionally dissolved, and had the Duke of Gloucester been informed in due time of the death of this brother, Richard as Lord Protector could have dismissed the illegal sitting council and appointed an inter regnum council in the name of Edward V to carry on the day to day business of government.

With Richard at Middleham, a group or groups were stonewalling Gloucester's legal assumption of the Protectorship and also buying themselves some precious time. The most telling omission was Elizabeth Woodville's failure to inform Richard by any means that his beloved brother was dead. It was typical of the stupid, mean-spiritedness of the queen and turned Richard's distaste for her into enmity. This illegal council had had its duties taken over by the Woodvilles. Elizabeth Woodville attended the council meetings, sitting in as Queen Regent. There had never been a Queen Regent in English history. Joan of Kent was extremely popular, as was her family, and she was shunted aside from any position of authority during the minority of Richard II.

There were many illegalities perpetrated by the council such as empowering Sir Edward Woodville to strengthen the navy — a navy that could as well have been used against London as against a phantom French navy and financed by Dorset's treasury raid. The ultimate illegal act of the council was to appoint county commissions to collect tax on aliens voted by Edward's last Parliament and to have the audacity to name their own commissioners.

I might mention in passing that William, Lord Hastings headed the seven commissions — Hastings, ever the unprincipled opportunist. To be fair to Hastings, one could assume that these seven commissions were thrown to Hastings by the Woodvilles as a sop — not likely, but in being fair we cannot dismiss it. The letters patent to the commissions were sent in the names of the Marquess of Dorset and Earl Rivers. They did not have the authority to do this. The name of the Protector, the Duke of Gloucester, was not mentioned in the letters patent. Hunting with hounds and running with the fox is an exceedingly dangerous game. Certainly an experienced court power broker such as Hastings would realize that should the Lord Protector come up the winner, he, Hastings, would have expended what

credibility he had with Gloucester by entering into a criminal activity with the Woodvilles. His greed dictated his choice and we can assume, knowing what we do of the ethical character of the Duke of Gloucester, that he was well aware of what had motivated Hastings. In a letter of calm tenor written by Gloucester from the north to the illegal council sitting at Westminster, it was made plain to the council that his position as Lord Protector of the realm was his according to law and Edward IV's inviolate will. The letter ended with a stern note of warning: nothing contrary to the laws and Edward's will could be acted upon without the members of the council being held to strict accountability. This was an important letter as it forced the members of the council to reassess their alliances within the two warring factions. The Woodvilles in the council held a tenuous majority, and Woodville influence was on the wane. Dorset was unable to raise troops to take Edward V from Richard's protection. His efforts to raise an army were treated with contempt, derision, and open hostility. In short, as aspirants for the ultimate power, the Woodvilles had reached their nadir.

The defining of the crime of treason had great fluidity in fifteenth century England. Plotting against the life of a king or a lord's life did not have to have the harmful result planned but "compassing" and "imagining" to produce it did constitute treason, a capital crime. Earl Rivers, Lord Richard Grey and Sir Thomas Vaughan set a dangerous trap for Gloucester at North Hampton and Richard adroitly sidestepped the snare. By suborning the provisions of Edward's will and "compassing" the death of the Protector, Lord Grey, Rivers and Vaughan were guilty of treason and Richard was quite within his rights to send them to the north to await trial for treason.

This cabal had seriously underestimated their adversary:

Thomas Rotheram
Thomas Kemp
William Wainfleet
Robert Stillington
John Alcock
Edward Story
John Ruffel
John Morton
Edmund Audley

KALAMAZOO MEDIEVAL CONGRESS

Dr. A. Compton Reeves

The session of papers sponsored by the American Branch of the Richard III Society at the most recent International Congress on Medieval Studies was a resounding success. The session took place in a classroom with 50 seats, all of which were occupied, and with other listeners standing.

Fittingly for the goal of the Society to promote scholarship, it happened that all four presenters in the session were offering their first paper at a Congress.

The following papers were presented:

- *The Gentry and the Priesthood: Obtaining a Benefice in Late Fifteenth-Century England*
Virginia Davis, Queen Mary and Westfield College, University of London
- *John Benet's Chronicle and the 'Treason Conspiracy' of 1462*
Shelley A. Sinclair, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse
- *Captain of Calais: Giles Daubeney, Henry VII, and the Security of the Realm*
Sharon D. Michalove, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
- *Cultivating the Roses: Contributions of the Richard III Society to Fifteenth-Century Studies*
Laura V. Blanchard, Richard III Society

The three papers by academic historians were based on original research and were very well presented. I am pleased to have selected them for inclusion in the session of papers, and they reflect nicely on the Society. Blanchard's paper was an instructional offering on the activities of the Society to promote scholarship, and was charmingly presented: I recommend that it be published in the *Register* for the benefit of the membership of the American Branch.

Information brochures and membership applications for the Society were distributed at the Session, as were single-page handouts listing academic programs and giving membership information about the Society.

A NONSCHOLARLY VIEW OF KALAMAZOO

Laura Blanchard

The twenty-eighth annual International Congress on Medieval Studies was held at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo from May 6-9, 1993. That's one way of looking at it.

Here's another: 2,700 medievalists and a handful of interested "general readers" slept in single beds in cinder-block walled dorm rooms, shared bathrooms with total strangers, made jokes about the dorm food, and carried on late into the night.

Say "academic" and many Ricardians get defensive; and the thought of a four-day medieval conference was daunting to more than one Ricardian who decided to attend this year's meeting. The real surprise to all of us was the warm welcome we received from scholars across a wide variety of disciplines.

Compton Reeves has submitted a report on the Society-sponsored session; and at last report Michigan Ricardians Dianne Batch and Eileen Printsen had planned to share their perspectives on the meetings.

But the question I heard from most of the Ricardians I've spoken to since I got back is: what about the British historians? What were they like? What did they talk about? How did they react to Ricardians in their midst? This, then, is a brief report on a Society of the White Hart session: "Power People at Work and Play," which included presentations by Henry VI's biographer Ralph Griffiths and Richard's biographer A.J. Pollard, as well as our own A. Compton Reeves.

The first speaker was Ralph Griffiths of the University College of Wales, speaking on "How to Bury an English King." He began by comparing the modest burial of William the Conqueror, complete with fetid corpse, to the elaborate ritual of Edward IV's funeral. Then, he launched into a wide-ranging overview of the burials of most of the English kings in between — and a few, like Richard III, before or after. The messy deaths of Edward II and Richard II, the problematic resting places of Edward V and Richard III, the posthumous peregrinations of Henry V, Henry VI, and Richard Duke of York all came in for their share of attention in a fascinating presentation that seemed over almost before it had begun.

A.J. Pollard of the University of Teesside brought slides and expertise on the topic of the Middleham Jewel. Ricardians will remember that this intricately

engraved gold and sapphire object was found on a footpath near Middleham Castle in 1985 by metal-detector-wielding treasure hunters. Sold to a private collector, it was finally ransomed by the Yorkshire Museum for 2.5 million pounds following a world-wide fund-raising appeal (American Ricardians kicked in something over \$1,700 to help out). Pollard is one of a team assembled by the Yorkshire Museum to study the Jewel.

The Jewel, probably fabricated during the period 1460-1475, is of a type called an *Agnus Dei*, and probably originally carried a wax replica of the Host. It carries the representation of fifteen saints along the border of one side. Not all of the saints have been identified to date; among those mentioned by Pollard are Peter, Paul, Jerome, Anne, possibly Brigid, possibly John, George, Mary Magdalene, Dorothy, Catherine, Margaret and Barbara.

Pollard then reviewed some of the symbolism behind the imagery. The four virgin saints are called upon to prevent sudden death, relating to the home and to childbirth. The Jewel includes a large sapphire, traditionally effective against sore eyes, migraines, and treachery. Some of the writing on the Jewel symbolizes an awakening, such as from a seizure. Taking the imagery *in toto*, Pollard quipped, suggests that it was owned by "a paranoid epileptic married woman with eye trouble." More seriously, he suggested, it was likely to have been owned by a wealthy woman. He explored the possibility of it having been owned by Cecily Neville, but ultimately discarded it and left us with the tantalizing suggestion that it may have belonged to Isabel Neville, the luckless wife of George, Duke of Clarence.

Next up was Kate Mertes, "Household Retainers and Such Folk," who presented an incredible range of domestic misbehaviors among the hired help — backbiting and character assassination, sniping, nasty letters, and out-and-out fisticuffs. It fell to the lot of the lady of the house, most often, to keep this fractious bunch of household hooligans in line — and the worst of the uproar tended to break loose when the mistress was away from home. Mertes' presentation suggests that life among the servants was of a piece with much of the freewheeling, brawling fifteenth century pictured in the Paston Letters and other sources.

Compton Reeves of the University of Ohio brought the session to a close with "Pampered Pets and Pleasurable Plants." One of Professor Reeves' particular virtues is his continual reminder that there *was* a gentle, pleasant side to the turbulent and treacherous fifteenth century. His keynote address at our 1989 Annual General Meeting addressed this

theme, as will a forthcoming book from Alan Sutton Publishing. In this paper, he spoke of the pleasure fifteenth-century English men and women took in their animals — dogs as companions in the nunnery; pet squirrels; birds such as magpies, popinjays (parrots), nightingales, and larks. Plants, too, were reviewed — the flowery meads that took the place of lawns, and the useful plants that provided food and fragrance as well as visual satisfactions.

We Ricardians were fortunate to be able to spend time with both Griffiths and Pollard during the Congress. What we discovered surprised us. They rather like us! Whether they happen to agree with us about Richard or not, they are genuinely pleased to see our interest in history and genuinely delighted to share some of their researches with an audience of interested laymen. Indeed, Pollard especially was very interested to hear that we have so many regional chapters. If he is in the United States again, he says, and he has some spare time, he'd like to look up the Ricardians in the area he happens to be visiting. And he's sure there are many other British scholars who feel the same.

If you're wondering what your reception would be if you go to a future meeting in Kalamazoo, I think all the Ricardians in attendance would be unanimous in our answer. You'll find a warm welcome from fellow friends of the middle ages, no matter how many degrees (or how few) you have after your name.

A RICARDIAN ACTIVITY OPEN TO ALL

In Memoriam notices aren't restricted to the Society's "official" publications or official wording, of course. We would be immeasurably impoverished as a society if they were.

The annual placing of In Memoriam notices by individual Ricardians is one of the most endearing traits of our members. It is a spontaneous expression of warmth and sympathy on the parts of individuals around the country, as well as an important binding ritual and recruitment tool for area chapters.

Deprived of the focus of a final resting place by the tragic circumstances of Richard's death and the posthumous indignities heaped on his body, we use our In Memoriams as a way to reach out across the centuries to say, "rest in peace."

KALAMAZOO CONGRESS OFFERS MUCH FOR ALL

Diane Batch

The month of May is occasionally lovely in the Wolverine State. On one of the most memorable weekends in my memory, the weather behaved itself beautifully and enhanced the occasion of the 28th International Congress on Medieval Studies. I had to write and tell the Society members of the opportunity for camaraderie and highest-level scholarship that is available to us.

For the past 27 years, Western Michigan University, in Kalamazoo, Michigan, has sponsored this Congress on the campus, which is all rolling hills, elegant lecture halls and mediocre food. This year, Eileen Prinsen and I from the Michigan Branch joined the more than 2500 others for three days of intensive lectures and papers, conversation and socializing. The presentations were generally comprehensible to us (both committed Ricardians, but hardly scholars) and, moreover, gave us a view into the working lives of those who are tops in their field.

The sessions I attended were varied: Medieval Literature (Piers Plowman, et. al.), Women Through Their Own Eyes, Aspects of Tudor Drama, The Medieval Landscape, 15th Century English History (the Session sponsored by the Society, which was well-attended and which featured a concise account of the Richard III Society's role in scholarship presented by Laura Blanchard!!!) We attended several sessions sponsored by The Society of the White Hart (Richard II) and even horned in (pun intended) on their evening out at Carlos Murphy's, where we met the most interesting people in congenial surroundings. As I told them, "You're the wrong era, but the right Family!" They responded, "We love to have a few crashing boars come join us!" (So much for puns!)

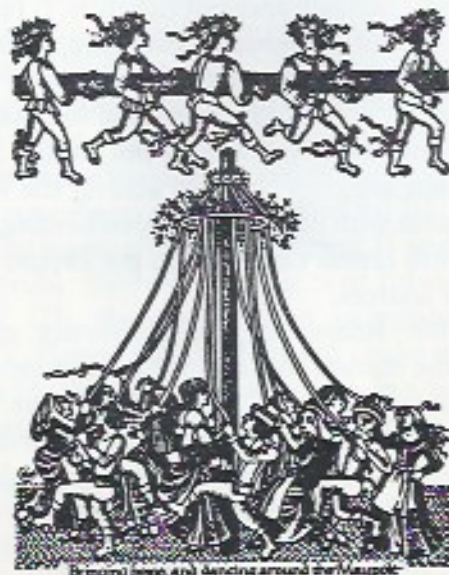
The papers ranged over many subjects. Many sessions concerned Medieval poetry, art, music and drama. The Orient and the Mediterranean cultures were well represented, and European civilizations were examined in detail! I developed a brand-new interest in the works of Virginia Woolf (who was fascinated with the Medieval period) learned to appreciate the role of computer-based data in generating resource material, gained insights into the job opportunities of 14th Century priests (not good) and examined the significant changes in the wool trade over the period 1350-1450. A.J. Pollard gave a presentation on the appearance and significance of the Middleham Jewel (and I got his autograph!) Many fascinating aspects of the lives and times drew

good audiences. I took copious notes and tried to ask a few intelligent questions — Eileen overdosed on Chaucer and Langland and joined me for several historical sessions — we soaked it up like sponges!

There were lots of booksellers showing their wares, most of them willing to give a good discount. I even found time to drive into Kalamazoo to a good used book store! Lots of socializing parties were found each evening — wine and cheese being very popular. All meals were opportunities to meet and discuss their work with these interesting, intelligent people. We reluctantly drove home Saturday night, all primed to come again next year.

I strongly urge all midwestern members of the Society to join in on the Congress next year. Details have been announced: The 29th Congress will be held on May 5-8, 1994. The Society is planning to sponsor another session, I understand. Address inquiries to: The Medieval Institute, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI, 49008 and they will put you on their mailing list. If you are in the Chicago area or Indiana, Ohio or Michigan (even Kentucky or Wisconsin) it would be an easy drive up. Of course, you have to put up with dorm rooms and dorm food, but they were both clean and adequate. Motels are also available in the area if you must have air-conditioning.

Do come and help spread the word about the Society. We found everyone very friendly and willing to chat about the era and the Plantagenets. Just bring credit cards for the book displays! Hope to see lots of Blue Boar badges next year ... yes, we wore ours!



Bringing wine and dancing around the Maypole



RICARDIAN POST

29 October 1992
Providence, Rhode Island

Dear Carole Rike:

I write you in response to your editor's note in the fall issue of the *Register*. Jacob Abbott is well known to me, or at least he used to be, and I thought you might like to know something about him.

There were, in fact, two Abbotts, father and son. I'm not sure which Jacob was, but I assume the son since the *Makers of History* series began in the 1850's and my memory is that by the 1870s the son had taken over completely. So if Richards III's copyright is 1886, he must be the son.

In any event, the Abbotts lived in Concord, Massachusetts, where the father, at least, was a Congregational minister, though I'm pretty sure the son was too. But they must have spent precious little time on pastoral care since there are at least 70-80 volumes in the *Makers of History* series, about 40 of which I used to own back in the 1940s. My dad had earlier given me two or three that he had kept from his Maine childhood, and in 1943 I remember the joy I had in discovering another 30 or so in a Duluth, Minnesota, used book store priced at ten cents a volume. Others came in later, and I read them all. Indeed, I've often claimed that that was why I became a historian—though given the unpopularity of my views in Ricardian circles I should hasten to add that I've neither seen or read Abbott's *Richard III*.

The range of the series is suggested by the ones I remember, starting with *Darius the Great* and *Xerxes*, continuing down through *William the Conqueror* and *Richard the Lionhearted*, and culminating with *Napoleon*. And yes, there was a *Henry VII*. You'll be happy to know that I remember his as being rather a narrow-minded bigot, not to mention a cold-hearted skinflint.

Apparently history wasn't enough to keep the Abbotts busy, though, for they were also the authors

of the so-called Rollo series of novels for adolescent boys, the same market at which *Makers of History* was aimed. Rollo was city youth from Boston who each year found his morals being corrupted by city ways, his lungs polluted by city air, and general health diminished by city food. Luckily, however, Rollo had a cousin on a Concord farm with whom he stayed every summer. By fall, country virtue, air, and food had so revived him that he could safely return to Boston for another winter. Marvelous stuff, actually, whiffs from another age, and when I was an under-graduate, I actually had a professor in a Government course who claimed that the rationale for Federal farm subsidies was rooted in that myth of the moral superiority of the farmer that had been widely popularized by, specifically, the Rollo series.

In short, the member who sent you the *Richard III* Preface should know that he or she is the proud owner not just of a wonderful piece of Ricardiana, but of Americana as well. It should be guarded appropriately.

Charles T. Wood

Addendum/Correction on Shelley Sinclair

In my last column I gave a list of our Schallek Scholars. Shelley A. Sinclair, one of our 1985 scholars, has pointed out that I used an earlier working title of her dissertation topic.

For those of you who may be using that column as reference, please note that the correct title is: *'This Arm' of Lancaster? The Vere Earls of Oxford in Fifteenth-Century England*.

Laura Blanchard

IT'S BOSWORTH TIME AGAIN!

Laura Blanchard

The New York Times turned down our In Memoriam notice last year.

More accurately, they declined to run it with the other In Memoriams. We could run it as a personal ad, they said.

NYT Advertising Acceptability Department folklore says they booted Richard out of the In Memoriam columns some years back, when some pranksters started placing In Memoriams for Attila the Hun, Genghis Khan and other notables on August 22. Representatives of the more-recently bereaved, understandably indignant at the levity in the In Memoriam columns, complained.

This is a problem for us, of course: *The New York Times*, like the *London Times*, is the place you'd expect to find our notice... and the Society has been publicized extensively as the result of this practice.

This year, I plan to make a written request for an exception to the NYT policy for the American Branch's modest and inoffensive notice ("PLANTAGENET, Richard, 1452-1485. Affectionately remembered by The Richard III Society, American Branch, P. O. Box 13786, New Orleans, LA 70185").

If they refuse: well, doesn't it strike you as ironic that this bastion of the free press denies our remembrance of a king whose only Parliament exempted the products of scribes, booksellers and printers from protectionist tariffs? A man who, in other words, was one of the earliest supporters of the free exchange of ideas? Surely more than one newspaper will find this delicious irony to be a good basis for a sympathetic feature on the Society!

Those of you planning to run In Memoriams in your own newspapers have an excellent chance of getting an article on the Society in the paper, as well, if you write the editors and let them know the ad is running. If you'd like some help, including a copy of this year's Bosworth press release, just send me a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Meanwhile, here's an assortment of In Memoriam background. Some of this comes from Jeremy Potter's *Good King Richard?*, Bill Hogarth's and Lorraine Attreed's 1984 article on the Society, and the personal recollections of Hon. Secretary Elizabeth M. Nokes. Most of it, though, comes from archivist Mary Donermeyer, who did a microfilm search some years ago and thought I'd be interested in her findings.

A History of In-Memoriams in *The New York Times*

The earliest references Mary found in the U.S. press followed an In Memoriam in the August 22, 1953 *London Times*: "At Battle Bosworth August 22, 1485, there fell, fighting bravely, Richard III of England. King. Statesman. Soldier. Gentleman. Deeply mourned. 'From distant shores, pale dusty ghost. One grain of sand salutes your memory.'"

The ad was placed by The Company of Memories, headed by Dr. Eugene Horsfall-Ertz, tutor at the Colebrook School, Bognor Regis, Sussex. It piqued the interest of both *The New York Times* (August 30, 1953) and *Time Magazine* (September 14, 1953). Additional information on the Company of Memories would be welcomed.

Richard's next August appearance in *The New York Times* was in the form of a news article on theatrical doings, not on Bosworth. An August 19, 1955 article reported on a rumor that Maxwell Anderson's new play would have as its central character Richard III. "Instead of depicting him as the bloody king of popular conception," the article continues, "he emerges in the untitled script as a maligned hero."

Possibly the first *New York Times* In Memoriam was placed by C. Dewar Simons, a New York member of the Fellowship of the White Boar. His notice read: "Richard Plantagenet - Duke of York and king of England, who died in battle on this date at Bosworth, A.D. 1485, Founder of the College of Arms, Patron of Caxton, of Cambridge University and a great benefactor of the Church." The notice sparked an article in the August 22, 1960 issue in which the notice appeared.

The next three years — 1961, 1962, and 1963 — each saw the publication of two notices. Interestingly, 1963 carried notices from both the Fellowship of the White Boar (C. Dewar Simons) and the Friends of Richard III (L. Stanley Kahn, the financier who provided the reference material for Maxwell Anderson's *Richard and Anne*.)

The year 1964 saw the beginnings of the proliferation of NYT Ricardian notices, with five for Richard himself, and one for Sir Robert Brackenbury, placed by one of Brackenbury's descendants and reading "BRACKENBURY - Sir Robert. Died, beside his King on Bosworth Field. His memory maligned by Henry Tudor." The year 1964 also

marked the In Memoriam debut of the elusive "Junior Brands Society," who also took out pro-Richard notices in 1966 and 1967 and then vanished as mysteriously as they'd appeared.

The seven notices in 1965 included a poignant triple In Memoriam. "PLANTAGENET — Richard. Betrayed at the Battle of Bosworth, 22d August 1485. There fell bravely Richard III, King, soldier, statesman, gentleman. This notice is placed in memory of Maxwell Anderson and L. Stanley Kahn, who were dedicated to clearing his name."

The New York Times carried seven In Memoriam notices for Richard in 1966 and eight in 1967. Mary's microfilm search then skips forward to 1974, where the five Plantagenet notices included this provocative anti-Richard entry: "PLANTAGENET — Edward (King Edward V); Richard, Duke of York; Stafford, Henry, Duke of Buckingham; Hastings, William, Lord; St. Leger, Thomas, Sir; Grey, Richard, Lord; Woodville, Anthony, Earl Rivers; Vaughn, Thomas, Sir; Colynbourne, William."

The advertisement, unsigned, had been placed by a resident of the East Side, not far from Tudor City, according to a report in the next day's paper. An indignant New York Ricardian, Marta Orbach, called the classified ad department, who referred her to the news department. The article continued, "William Hogarth... former chairman of the American branch... was more philosophical about it. It must be somebody who had a bit of devilment," he said. "I wish it had been signed... We've had people riding on our coattails before, with ads like ours, but never anything like this."

Perhaps the most famous of the NYT In Memoriam notices was the one written by noted crime writer Rex Stout for the August 22, 1970 edition: "PLANTAGENET — Richard, great king and true friend of the rights of man, died at Bosworth Field on August 22, 1485. Murdered by traitors and, dead, maligned by knaves and ignored by Laodiceans, he merits our devoted remembrance." Jeremy Potter explains further, in *Good King Richard?* "As every schoolboy no longer knows, the Laodiceans were members of one of the seven early Christian churches of Asia, condemned in the Book of Revelation for being lukewarm. They were to be spewed out because they were neither hot nor cold."

During these years, it appears *The New York Times* had viewed the Society with some warmth, as sympathetic news coverage coincided with our annual notices in 1960, 1961, 1965, 1966, 1974, and 1976. Mary's microfilm search appears to have ended in 1976; I hope to complete it before I do my Bosworth mailing.

Meanwhile, in the U.K.

recently I wrote to Elizabeth Nokes about the parent Society's In Memoriam activities. She wrote back that, pressed for time, she'd not been able to do any formal research on the English efforts.

However, she notes that their In Memoriam appears in what are considered the four "quality" English papers — the *Times*, *Telegraph*, *Guardian*, and *Independent*. This has been done, as Elizabeth puts it, since time immemorial — at least since Isolde Wigram's days as Hon. Secretary [1956-1965, 1966-1968 according to George Awdry's 1975 account of the history of the Society].

The problems the parent Society has had are relatively minor, such as typos like "Richard II" for "Richard III," for which the Society immediately demands (and gets) a make-good repeat. The last serious problem, Elizabeth recalls, was the year the *Times* insisted on placing Richard in the "In Memoriam - War" column.

The official Society In Memoriam text is: "PLANTAGENET, Richard. Remember before God, Richard III, King of England, and those who fell at Bosworth Field, 22nd August 1485, having kept faith. Loyaulte me Lie." This is followed by "The Richard III Society," with Elizabeth Nokes' address. She comments, "Each year it nets a variable number of enquiries. It depends on how much other publicity there has been around: if a good deal, I/M enquiries are down, if a quieter period, they are up."

Elizabeth points out a by-product of the In Memoriams that both she and Society librarian Carolyn Hammond find particularly exasperating: "people who write 'thank goodness for the In Mem. ... at last I've found you ... I've been searching for years ...' — when all they need to do is ask in their local library, where the staff can look us up in the Directory of British Associations — where we follow 'The Rice Society.'"

Exasperating though this may be to Nokes and Hammond, it highlights an important point for us to remember: many would-be members *don't* think to look for us in a standard reference work. What's more, many newspapers won't include an address in their articles on the Society. Here in the U.S., we're listed in the *Encyclopedia of Associations*. If we can get this fact mentioned in press coverage, then would-be members are given the clue they need to track us down.

I am indebted beyond measure to Mary Donermeyer, whose unexpected gift of copies of her NYT microfilm file was the genesis of this article.

SCATTERED STANDARDS

(Chapter News & Updates)

Northern California Chapter

The January 9, 1993 meeting was held at the Circus Pub in Kensington. Members in attendance were Ellen Ekstrom Fernandez, Jacqueline Bloomquist, Andrew Knight, Helaine Gann, new members Valerie Fitzalan DeClare and Barbara Oberg, and Judy Pimental.

The election results were confirmed. Ellen Ekstrom Fernandez remains Chairman of the Chapter; Jacqueline Bloomquist remains Treasurer; Judy Pimental was elected as Secretary. Andrew Knight, outgoing Secretary, will remain as Managing Editor of the Chapter newsletter.

The chapter Executive Board and the Managing Editor will work to revamp the newsletter with a view towards publishing it quarterly and making it more relevant to Ricardian issues.

The members discussed various media resources, including the Society's libraries. It was suggested that Chapter members could make contributions to the "Chapter library" and survey their own collections to make more resources immediately available to other members.

The members had a lively discussion based on the selected topic "Gloucester and Hastings."

The April 18, 1993 meeting was held in the home of Valerie DeClare in San Leandro. Members in attendance were Jacqueline Bloomquist, Andrew Knight, Angelo Battaglia, Bonnie Battaglia, Valerie DeClare, Barbara Oberg and Judy Pimental. Candace Valpando, a guest of Bonnie Battaglia, also attended.

Andrew Knight is resigned as Managing Editor of the Chapter newsletter. Judy Pimental will be acting as editor for the current time.

Andrew Knight presented a recent cover of *The New Republic* showing Robert Dole decked out as Richard III; the accompanying article drew no comparisons, however. Andrew also read reviews of recent productions of Hamlet and Richard III from another edition of *The New Republic*.

Due to the absence of topic moderator Helaine Gann and chairman Ellen Fernandez, the discussion of "Cicely" was necessarily brief. Helaine had sent notes, read by Andrew Knight, but there was little to add to what everyone already knew about Cicely.

Judith A. Pimental

Middle Atlantic Chapter

For the past five months, the Middle Atlantic Chapter has been enjoying our trips Back To The Future. In early December we attended a performance of the Christmas Revels in Washington, D.C. This is a song, dance, mime, story-telling production which celebrates the Winter Solstice and is not unlike the Christmas Masques enjoyed by Edward IV and Richard III at their courts. The Christmas Revels perform in several large cities throughout the U.S. every December and if you have the chance to attend one, we highly recommend it.

In February, we conquered the Winter Doldrums by having a pot-luck Medieval Feast. The menu, which highlighted "Roste Fowle" (chicken), was interesting, varied and delicious. The Grande Finale was the Society motto and emblem done up in marzipan. Entertainment was provided by an excellent group of Madrigals singers and by John Besette, spouse of Carol, who recounted the History of Richard III in a way that unique, funny, and slightly fractured.

Springtime in the Middle Atlantic States is a riot of blossoms and our Chapter will be savoring the delightful gardens and Tudor-style houses of Agcroft Hall and the Virginia House, both in Richmond, VA, in early June. Both manor homes were brought over from England during the early twentieth century and re-constructed on the banks of the James River. We are looking forward to a lovely afternoon with members of our far-flung chapter.

Ohio Chapter

On Sunday, April 18, 1993, the Ohio Chapter held their Spring meeting at the Kingwood Garden Center in Mansfield, Ohio. There were 8 members and 7 guests present.

John Moosmiller gave a wonderful slide presentation on "The Medieval Walled City & Their Origins." The slides were from the Moosmiller's trips across Europe and included several cities in Germany and England (some of York of course). John noted that since England is an island, the emphasis on walled cities was less than in Europe. John has prepared a hand-out that explained the evolution of the walled city, complete with maps and pictures.

During the business portion of the meeting, participation in the upcoming Renaissance Festival in Columbus was discussed. A new T-shirt design,

done by member, Susan Dexter, was presented and approved. It was also decided to raffle a museum replica of a medieval dagger (provided by Tom Coles) at the Festival. Janet Sweet will pursue further information on a production of Shakespeare's *Richard the Third*, which will be in Columbus in June. Perhaps they will allow us to set up a display in the lobby area. Tom Coles will check into doing another library display in the Columbus area. Gillie Lehmann will be Nominating Chairman for the upcoming Fall election of chapter officers. Gillie also proposed that the chapter make a contribution to the Schallek Fund. It was decided to vote on this at future time. Compton Reeves will be hosting the Fall meeting in Athens, Ohio. Gillie is going to try to set up a picnic at Stan Hywet Hall in Akron, Ohio for the summer meeting. Tedd Trimbath resigned as Chapter Secretary and stated he would be attending future meetings as a guest. After the meeting most everyone met at a nearby restaurant for an evening meal before heading for home.

On Saturday, May 1, 1993, members Tom and Pat Coles, Gillic Lehmann, and Kathie Releigh represented the Ohio Chapter at the Columbus Renaissance Festival. This was the 7th year that the chapter has participated in this event. The chapter set up a display booth which provided information on the life and times of Richard and The Richard III Society. The new T-shirt sold very well and the dagger raffle was a huge success. Kathie received a lot of compliments on her dress (costume) which she had worked so hard on, the weather was perfect, and all and all it turned out to be another good day for the Ohio Chapter.

The next meeting will be held at Stan Hywet Hall and Garden Center in Akron, Ohio on Sunday, August 1, 1993. It will be a summer picnic and Gillic Lehmann will give a guided tour of the Siberling's Tudor-Revival home.

HELP WANTED! ADVERTISING MANAGER

The Society is currently looking for an Advertising Manager. This position would involve maintaining the current list of advertisers as well as soliciting an acceptable level of new advertisers for the *Ricardian Register*. While experience in this area is desirable, the capacity to follow through is important to this important and exciting area of the Society. If interested, please contact the Chairman at 201-525-1323 or write Joe Ann Ricca, Chairman, 106 Longview Avenue, Hackensack, NJ 07601.

Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter

Ten members attended our March meeting, at the home of Sally Yenkinson. We watched *The Sun in Splendour*, a film about the battle of Mortimer's Cross. We also enjoyed our first look at the official Chapter scrapbook, compiled by Rose Ann Messersmith.

Wendy Logan's March 19 talk to the local chapter of the Romance Writers of America was a success. The audience was very knowledgeable, and generally sympathetic to the Society's view: Wendy's presentation was well-received.

The April issue of our Chapter newsletter was the first effort by new editor, Nancy Griggs, and guest editor, Laura Blanchard. They did such an impressive job that the Chapter received lots of positive feedback about the Market Cross, and no wonder: this issue was absolutely stunning!

Members are still raving about our May meeting! A record attendance of 29 members and guests met at the Free Library of Philadelphia to see MS. E201, a 15th-century scroll depicting the genealogy of Edward IV. Professor Ralph Griffiths, a noted scholar from the University of Wales, gave a lively presentation on the manuscript and answered everyone's questions about it. A special "thank you" goes to Laura Blanchard, who made all the arrangements for this meeting, including the invitation to Dr. Griffiths — by all accounts a very charming special guest.

The next Chapter meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 7, at Nancy Griggs' home in Langhorne, Pa.

Regina Jones

ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE EXHIBITION CATALOG

The catalog of the Society's Royal National Theatre Exhibition, *"To Prove a Villain" - The Real Richard III*, is now available. Produced by Geoffrey Wheeler and Laura Blanchard, the catalog contains 22 black-and-white photos of the exhibit cases and the full text of all exhibit panels.

Half of the sale price will be donated to the Richard III and Yorkist History Trust, which funds the publication of important Ricardian documents such as *The York House Books*, *Crowland Chronicle*, and *The Beauchamp Pageant*.

For further details and ordering information, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Laura Blanchard, 303 Vine Street, Suite 106, Philadelphia, PA 19106.



RICARDIAN READING

Myrna Smith

I'm afraid I must renege on my promise to bring you reviews of more and better trash. The books which have come to my attention this quarter fall short of the standards for trash or for the Hall of Shame, but I feel it is my duty to show where their authors have gone wrong and how they can attain this status the next time.

The Rose at Twilight — Amanda Scott, Dell Publishing, NY, 1993 (pb)

It's just post-Bosworth, and the Yorkist Lady Alys is greeted by the Lancastrian Sir Nicholas with bad news. Her father and mother are dead of the sweating sickness, and so is one of her younger brothers. The other one has simply disappeared. Since her younger brothers died years before, she knows something is very wrong — and you, Gentle Readers, are way ahead of me here, aren't you? You know who Lady Alys is going to end up with, and you know who the missing boy is. In a good trash novel, Alys would do something to affect the course of history; even if she did not succeed, she would try. In this story, she is not able to, which brings a touch of realism to the plot — something which has no place in a bodice-ripper. In trashlit, there would be a vile villain menacing our heroine for 300 of the 388 pages. There is a villain here, but he comes on only briefly, and is gotten rid of quickly (by the heroine, not Sir Nick). The sex scenes are fairly conservative for this type of book. We can award Ms. Scott an A for effort, but if her aim was to write a truly trashy bodice-ripper, she didn't quite make it this time.

The Reluctant Queen — Jean Plaidy, G.P. Putnam's Sons, NY

The world of romance-novel readers is divided into two parts: those who are devoted followers of Jean Plaidy and those who can't understand why Plaidy is not writing trash, because (a) she is published in hardback, and (b) there is no sex in her novels — none, zilch, zero. Is this novel about Anne Neville a Hall-of-Shamer then?

Not quite, I think. For one thing, it is pro-Richard, and I hate to put any book of that type into competition. Although it is written in a very simple, even simplistic, style, this somehow fits the narrator (Anne herself). There are no major anachronisms,

and all the historical events of Richard and Anne's lives are recounted. In fact, it would be an adequate introduction for someone who had no knowledge of the period or personages involved. Plaidy is a completist, achieving with this novel and *The Queen's Secret* her goal of writing about every queen of England from the Conquest to Victoria. If you, too, are a completist, by all means get this book. Otherwise, it's your call.

I thought I could rely on you faithful readers to come up with a few more Hall-of-Shamers, but you have let me down. Nothing but accolades do I find, e.g. the following.

Richard III: A Study of Service — Rosemary Horrox, Cambridge Press, 1989

No one involved with the Richard III Society would dispute the fact that Richard, more than any other medieval English king, generated much emotion and controversy. Shakespeare's arresting portrayal of Richard as evil incarnate is a case in point. The Crowland Chronicler was especially vehement on the regime dominated by Northerners which he believed Richard established in Southern England.

Dr. Rosemary Horrox's scholarly report concentrates attention on patronage and the role of the king's servants during the turbulent years of Richard's reign. Richard, as Duke of Gloucester, built up a powerful affinity in the North, and ruled fairly. During that period when he was both Constable and Admiral, he was active on a totally national scale, and his loyalty was never doubted. When he seized the throne in 1483, the most conspicuous feature about his early months as king was the degree of continuity he maintained with what had been done during Edward's reign. The critical event and turning point for Richard's fortunes was Buckingham's rebellion. The rebellion of October 1483 was less to recover lost political power and more an expression of outrage at the alleged murder of Edward V and his brother. At that time his brother's men deserted Richard in large numbers. Continuity of service was now broken and although Richard tried to broaden his base of support, he was increasingly aware of dependency upon his northern sup-

porters. Dissatisfaction after the 1483 rebellion caused Richard to be caught in a vicious circle of his own making. He had to rely more on trusted Northerners, which then led to more dissatisfaction.

Complexities of the Yorkist political society make it hard to deal with questions of influence in separate parts of the country. Contradictions of evidence show Richard's creation of a coherent program of legal acts and an active promotion of his subjects' well-being, and, on the other side, a picture of a man who seemed to seize the initiative because he tended to act first and think afterwards. The combination of misguided motives and abundant self-deception was detrimental to winning the confidence of the country at large.

Dr. Horrox is considered by many English historians to have made a most original contribution to the history of Richard III and his reign while scrupulously maintaining objectivity. Certainly the point of departure she employs in this excellent book is unique.

—Madelyn K. Ribnick, *Mid-Atlantic Chapter*

The above book has been reviewed before, though not for some time, but a good book can't have too many good reviews. This also applies to the somewhat lighter reading which follow:

Janet Sweet has a few kind and well-deserved words about Dame Frevisse, of *The Novice's Tale* (Margaret Frazer, Jove Books, 1992, pb):

... Like her predecessor at Shrewsbury Abbey, she possesses all the talents and personality traits necessary for mystery-solving. Like Brother Cadfael, she has been named to a position in her community (hosteler) where she can exercise these abilities pretty much unimpeded by the rules of her semi-cloistered Benedictine Order...

Good thing, too, since in this first novel, Dame Frevisse is kept busy unraveling the mysteries surrounding two deaths that occur at St. Frideswide's.

Brother Cadfael fans will enjoy this "wanna-be" and Ricardians will appreciate the time frame. *The Novice's Tale* is set in 1431. This opens up lots of possibilities for Dame Frevisse's future. Will she be Yorkist or Lancastrian? Will she know Richard III? Perhaps in a future outing Dame Frevisse will find out what really happened to the Princes in the Tower... Perhaps we could even influence Dame Frevisse's political leanings by enlisting Margaret Frazer in Richard's cause!

A couple of passing observations: Ms Frazer has cleverly dropped hints about Dame Frevisse's past,

while revealing very little. Sneaky way to get us to read the forthcoming books in the series! I would do that anyway, but I'm not complaining.

Also, in case you have been on a religious retreat, or otherwise out of touch, the new Brother Cadfael, *The Holy Thief*, is in the bookstores and libraries. Unlike *Summer of the Danes*, this is a return to the classic detective story. If any of you would like to review these books, or have any comment on them, I want to hear from you, pretty please.

Ellen Perlman gives a précis of the story of *Death and the Chapman* (Kate Sedley, St. Martins Press, 1991):

The year is 1471... The Yorkists and Lancastrians are doing battle, but we know which side our chapman is on, because his mother had told him that he "and the lord Richard were born on the very same day." Roger actually catches a glimpse of his birth brother and... decides that "... whatever the reason, my loyalty to, and my sense of affinity with, Richard of Gloucester began in that moment and has never since been eroded..."

Roger's first encounter with mystery... is in Bristol, where he discovers that Clement, the son of Alderman Weaver, had disappeared in London. Clement was to have lodged at the Crossed Hands Inn, but he never arrived at this Medieval motel, which had ties with George, Duke of Clarence. By the time Roger has sold his wares from Bristol to Canterbury and reached London, he has become embroiled in murder, furtive assignations, a fine wine cellar, the roily Thames, and a surprising escape from death...

We'll look forward to the chapman's new wares and new mysteries.

Ellen also sends a review of a novel set a little later than our period, but which should be of interest to many Ricardians.

Firedrake's Eye — Patricia Finney, St Martin's Press, NY, 1992

Patricia Finney's tale of an attempt by Catholic fanatics to assassinate the Protestant Queen Elizabeth I on her day of Accession is a fascinating depiction of Elizabethan London. The flavor of her language flows with 16-century sights and smells and creates a murky underworld intrigue beneath the pageantry of the court.

There is some difficulty initially in adjusting to



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the voice of the narrator, Ralph "Tom O'Bedlam" Strangways. It is a voice that speaks of angels during Tom's periods of madness, and at other times with great clarity. Once the reader adapts, however, the author's style becomes quite intriguing.

Accession Day is to be celebrated by a parade with huge floats called "firedrakes," one of which is in the form of a dragon. Through the eye of the dragon a poisoned arrow will be aimed at the Queen. And just imagine who created the wondrous mechanism! The master builder is Richard Broom — Richard Planta Genesta, himself — grandson of our Richard whose bastard son had produced this man who "held out his left hand as a fist and I saw the gold ring, with the worn shape of a white boar enameled upon it."

Ms Finney has added an historical note, unfortunately located toward the back of the book, which should perhaps be read before starting the novel. She also includes a "Cast of Characters," noting the ones who are historical, as well as a Glossary to help define terms like "winding up a jack." If you want to savor the taste of life in England four hundred years ago, *Firedrake's Eye* will provide a feast.

—Ellen L. Perlman, *Mid-Atlantic Chapter*.

Finally, a four-for-the-price-of-one review:

Niccolo Rising; The Spring of the Ram; The Race of Scorpions; The Scales of Gold — Dorothy Dunnett

These works trace the development of Claes, 19-year-old Bruges dyer's apprentice, into Nicholas vander Poele, successful trading merchant and

owner of a bank in Venice. The first book takes Nicholas into the mercantile world of the Italian city-states, where he discovers a genius for numbers and business. The second takes him on a dangerous venture into the Byzantine Empire. In the third, his mercenary army fights for James de Luisigan against his sister Carlotta in Cyprus. And lastly he penetrates the mysteries of Africa. The background struggle is between Genoa and Venice.

The plots are intricately constructed, the characters numerous, and the action fast though often not well introduced. This saga is interesting in that it presents what is happening in parts of the world that an ardent Anglophile might have ignored. The contrast in living conditions between northern and southern Europe is striking.

Dunnett is a superb writer and has done massive historical research, giving a scope to each book which is broad and detailed. Maps line the covers of the books to help orient the reader, and a long list of characters is organized by geographic area, with a star beside the names of historical figures. The descriptions are poetic prose, but the text must be read carefully because Dunnett is addicted to complex sentences with clauses stuck in the middle of the basic thought, and she is careless about the antecedents of her pronouns. Nevertheless, the books are well worth reading. In fact, there could indeed be a fifth book. Several threads are left unresolved, and on the last page of the fourth book, Nicholas speaks of plans to go north on business. North from Bruges could be . . . England?

—Dale Summers, *Southwest Chapter*

IN MEMORIAM: PEGGY UTHE

Pam Milavec

It was Peggy Uthe's wish to be remembered with laughter — nonetheless, it is with great sorrow that the Rocky Mountain Chapter announces her passing. Peggy will have to forgive some of our tears — they are not as much for Peggy as they are for ourselves and the fact that we will no longer hear her laughter at our meetings.

Peggy had been a Ricardian since her teenage years and a member of the Richard III Society since the Rocky Mountain Chapter's foundation two years ago. A resident of Manor Care nursing home in Boulder, CO, Peggy was unable to attend chapter meetings until this past October when Peggy and Manor Care hosted our meeting. It was

at that meeting that we decided to meet monthly at Manor Care. Though her body was ravaged by the effects of multiple sclerosis, Peggy's zest for life and for the Ricardian cause remained intact. Peggy truly brought new life to the Rocky Mountain Chapter.

Typical of Peggy, she requested that we hold our final meeting at Manor Care after her passing. That meeting was held on 25 April — four days after her death. Activity Director of Manor Care and Ricardian Sympathizer, Anne Rognstad delivered Peggy's final message to us . . . "Na Na Na Na Na Na — Now I know the truth before you do!!!"

SURPRISE \$7,000 GIFT

Thanks to the good offices of Southeast Pennsylvania Chapter member Wendy Logan — and to the posthumous generosity of a longtime Philadelphia resident — our Schallek Endowment Campaign has met its goal eighteen months ahead of schedule. A \$7,000 bequest from the estate of Mrs. Edna Kean put the campaign over its \$25,000 goal this spring.

The late Maurice and Edna Kean, Philadelphia merchant tailors, left a considerable estate. According to their attorney, Frank Hahn, they had no close relatives. And so, after making provision for one niece, they asked that their residual estate be distributed among charitable organizations at the discretion of the executors.

In planning the disbursements, Hahn asked his colleague Wendy Logan if she could suggest an organization to receive a portion of the estate. A recent Schallek contributor herself, Logan suggested the Schallek Fund and explained that we still needed \$7,000 to meet our campaign goal. Hahn consulted with executor Philip Margolis; and Schallek was subsequently added to the list for a contribution.

Wendy Logan and Laura Blanchard met with Hahn and Margolis in April to thank them for completing our endowment campaign in such a generous fashion and to explain something about the Society, the Schallek Awards program, and our other activities. At that meeting, Hahn explained that he had done a little preliminary research on Richard III beforehand. In addition to the traditional pejoratives heaped on Richard's reputation, Hahn found descriptive terms such as "fair-minded," "well-intentioned" and "conscientious." These views of Richard inclined him to a favorable assessment of the aims of the Society.

Maurice Kean was a good friend to Hahn and Margolis as well as a client. Reflecting on the times they'd spent in conversation, and on the Kean's lively interest in the humanities and in broad social issues, Hahn observed, "I think Maury would be tickled at the thought that one of the bequests was to the Society. I'm sure he would have liked it."

So, thanks in large measure to the generosity of Maurice and Edna Kean — and to the good offices of Wendy Logan and new Society members Frank Hahn and Philip Margolis — the Schallek Fund can enjoy a base level of endowment income for annual scholarships for years to come.

RESEARCH OFFICER UPDATE

Margaret Gurowitz

Two projects are coming up on the Research agenda, designed to outline background sources on Richard III's life, times and career. They are a pair of syllabuses, one dealing with Richard III and specifically Ricardian subjects, and the other dealing more generally with the fifteenth century. They will comprise book listings, brief descriptions of each book and hints on where to find them.

The first syllabus will deal specifically with Richard III, his family and retainers. It will include standards like the Kendall and Ross biographies and sources like the Croyland Chronicle, as well as more obscure works. The second syllabus will list general sources on the fifteenth century, encompassing art, culture, religion, political, social and governmental developments, and more. It is designed to provide general background on Richard III's times. The syllabuses will be updated periodically when new materials are published. If anyone has books or articles they want me to include in the listings, please drop me a line and let me know!

Some Society members indicated their interest in research on the recent membership survey. I will be contacting them to discuss their interests, to talk about possible topics, and to set up research groups. Members who did not mention research in the survey, but who nevertheless are interested, should feel free to contact me.

Trivia question: Who was Richard Croft, and how did he know Edward IV?

Send your answers to me at 27 Horizon Drive, Edison, NJ 08817. If you answer correctly, your name will be published in the *Register*. Good luck!



TWO OUTSTANDING SCHALLEK SCHOLARS FOR 1993-94

"This was the best crop of applicants I remember seeing, and this year's choice was the hardest I've ever had to make," commented long-time Schallek Committee member Morris McGee as he relayed his choices for the 1993-94 Schallek Scholars.

The Schallek Committee received nine applications this year, from graduate students across the country, with theses spanning a broad range of research topics. With a total of just \$1,000 in award money, the problem became one of choosing two of these outstanding scholars to receive awards of \$500 each.

The Committee's final choices were James Landman, at the University of Minnesota, and Claire M. Valente, of Harvard University. Noting that the Executive Board approved the Committee's recommendations at its May 9 meeting, American Branch chair Joe Ann Ricca observed, "We were fortunate to have so many first-rate applicants this year, and it's a pleasure to make these awards to two such impressive scholars."

The William B. Schallek Memorial Graduate Fellowship Award, a program established in 1978, provides funding assistance to graduate students pursuing subjects in fields relating to the life and times of Richard III. Awards are granted in multiples of \$500 subject to funding availability, up to a maximum of \$2,000 in the case of a remarkably outstanding applicant. In addition to providing financial assistance to worthy scholars, the program helps build recognition and respect for the Society within the academic community.

Thanks are due to the members of the Academic Advisory Board — Lorraine C. Attreed, Mary Donermeyer, Morris G. McGee, Shelley A. Sinclair, and Charles T. Wood — for taking the time to review this year's bumper crop of applications.

James H. Landman: When Law Meets Literature

Landman's topic is ambitious. What's more, as a former practicing attorney, he is uniquely qualified to pursue it. Over the course of the next academic year, he will hold a one-year position as a research student at Cambridge University, supported by a Fulbright grant.

Landman's thesis proposes direct links between the formation of the English institutions and practices of the common law and equity in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries and contemporary trends in English literary theory and practice. The first aspect of his proposal involves tracing assump-

tions regarding interpretive authority, laymen's interpretive capacities, and the right to engage in public discourse through the surviving records of legal practice and comparing these assumptions to the assumptions underlying late medieval literary texts and literary debates (especially the debate prompted by the Lollard heresy's call for translation of Scripture into the vernacular).

The second aspect of his proposal focuses on attempts to defend these assumptions in mid to late fifteenth-century texts, specifically Bishop Reginald Pecock's *Repressor of Over Much Blaming of the Clergy* and Sir John Fortescue's *De laudibus legum Angliae*. He will be reading Pecock in comparison with William Thorpe's narrative of his testimony in response to charges of Lollardy, and reading Fortescue in comparison with the "Tale of Beryn," an anonymous fifteenth-century continuation of the *Canterbury Tales* which tells the adventures of a legally illiterate protagonist's attempts to negotiate the convoluted legal world of False Town.

Landman's year of research will include work with the plea rolls for the Court of Common Pleas and the Year Books, with their depiction of professional control over the framing of litigants' narratives, supplemented by research in Chancery petitions — a forum for complaints by elements of English society such as servants or apprentices not typically represented in other royal court records. Landman comments that the difficulties of the "Tale of Beryn" protagonist suggest that Chancery, like other forums, may have become increasingly closed to direct access by laymen as the fifteenth century progressed.

"The intersection of the 'letter of the law' and its application to real, human situations, is a vital topic in medieval history," commented Professor Lorraine Attreed in reviewing Landman's application. "I believe he deserves financial encouragement to explore it."

Claire M. Valente: The Nature of Rebellion

Claire Valente's thesis explores the changing nature of rebellion in England from Simon de Montfort in 1258 to Henry Tudor in 1485. Her specific focus will be on attitudes to rebellion, which she plans to examine chiefly from the popular perspective, since the majority of actual participants were non-noble.

Valente already has more than a passing acquaintance with the two ends of her time-frame: her

...and her MA thesis at Oxford explored the cult of Simon de Montfort.

"Why did men rebel?" asks Valente. "What was sufficient cause for them to do so? How were the categories of legitimate protest versus illegitimate revolt defined, and how did the boundaries between these change? How violent were revolts and the repressions which followed them, and what does this tell us about forms of political action? By what means were the goals of rebellions preserved after the failure of revolt, and what effect did they have on the political language of more peaceful times?"

Valente's research will use not only what she terms "the literature of revolt, in its chronicle and poetic forms," but also the legal record of revolts, the accusations and prosecutions of rebels once peace had been restored. These legal records are only available in their original form, as indictments or records of cases on court rolls preserved in the Public Record Office in London.

NEW APPOINTMENTS: AUDIOVISUAL DIRECTOR

Sandra Gresbrecht has been appointed as our first Audio/Visual Director.

Sandra is a member of the Northwest Chapter. Originally from Victoria, B.C., Sandra grew up in Portland, WA and Los Angeles, CA. She became interested in Richard III by way of her British parents. She was given a copy of *Daughter of Time* and the rest — as they say — is history.

Sandra has a keen interest in the aspects of Edward IV and Richard III as modern rulers and the subsequent roles they played in the upwardly mobile middle class in Yorkist England.

Sandra has extensive experience in audio/visual production. Members are encouraged to contact her for a listing of the various films and tapes available. We will have an opportunity to see Sandra's craft at work as she films the '93 Ricardian Tour and the '93 AGM in Newark.

Many plans are in the works to promote Richard and the Society through the visual medium.



support of Valente's candidacy, has commented, "She wants to get at popular views of rebellion and to compare English rebellions over a turbulent span of generations, neither of which has been done by historians. Her period is one in which popular attitudes become ever more visible, in sources increasingly abundant. This is a significant study which will make a valuable book."

Or, as Valente herself puts it: "I hope that my questions, in addition to being interesting to modern readers, have been and will be formulated with medieval categories and conceptions in mind. Reconstructing historical individuals and societies through their mind-set is the goal of my work. History does not simply happen, like a freak thunderstorm: people live it. I would like to help bring people back to history, both by asking their questions, and by bringing a more 'popular' focus to political history."

WOOD TO ADDRESS FUND-RAISING BREAKFAST

It was twenty-five years ago that Dartmouth history professor Charles T. Wood made his Ricardian debut, at the 1968 Annual General Meeting of the American Branch in New York City.

This October, Professor Wood will address us for the second time, this time at a special Sunday AGM benefit breakfast to raise funds for the Schallek Awards.

Since that first AGM presentation in 1968, Professor Wood has written and lectured on Richard extensively, not always to the satisfaction of Society Members who take exception to his views. Nevertheless, he has been a good friend to the Society for many years, in addition to helping arrange for other AGM speakers and performing a number of large and small services.

Here's your opportunity to listen to a well respected medievalist who, though he may be a questionable friend of Richard's, has certainly been a long-term friend to the Society. Plan on attending the Sunday Schallek Breakfast — it's for a good Ricardian cause.

BOARD CHRONICLES

January 10, 1993

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Joe Ann Ricca at 4:00 P.M. EST. Present: Joe Ann Ricca, Chairman; Ellen Ekstrom Fernandez, Vice Chairman; Roxane Murph, Immediate Past Chairman; Carole Rike, Membership Chairman; Tedd Trimbath, Treasurer; Toni Collins, Secretary

Treasurer's Report (Tedd Trimbath)

The Treasurer's report was previously submitted to the Board. Net assets as of 12/31/92 stand at \$50,815.70.

Membership (Carole Rike)

Current membership total is 643. Carole is planning a renewal notice mailing this month. It was noted the Board must locate and appoint an advertising manager.

Publications (Roxane Murph)

We have 132 American responses to the *Under the Hog* brochure. Other publicity issues were discussed, including book jobbers, *National American Library Association Journal*, and *Publisher's Weekly*. Work on *Richard and Anne* is proceeding.

Bylaws and Policies (Ellen Ekstrom Fernandez)

Work is in progress. Report tabled until March meeting.

Tour Co-ordinator (Joe Ann Ricca)

Dale Summers, has accepted the position of tour director. Dale has recommended the 14-day Lord Addison tour.

Lord Addison will advertise to their clientele on out letterhead, and for every person who goes, Lord Addison will give \$200 to the American Branch.

AGM Reports

1993 - Joe Ann presented a question from the New Jersey chapter regarding a Sunday morning fundraiser for Shallek fund. The Board reaffirmed the policy regarding sales tables at the AGM. The cost of a table is 10% of sales. Chapters are not required to spend their own money on an AGM. 1994 - Diane Batch is working hard, and has requested input from Joe Ann. 1995 - The Mid-Atlantic chapter has graciously offered to host the 1995 AGM.

Membership Survey (Joe Ann Ricca)

The goals of the membership survey is to get to know our members, to find out what their interests are, and to get new people involved. Theoretically, any information received would be put into a membership data base kept by Carole.

Ricardian Paintings — A generous donation of two oil paintings has been offered by Marion Nichols. These are reproductions of the English National Portrait Gallery paintings of Richard III and Henry VII. They will make a fine addition to a Ricardian exhibit.

Membership Application

Individual Membership \$30.00 \$ _____
Individual Membership Non-US \$35.00 \$ _____
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) \$ _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

* Family Membership \$30 for yourself, plus \$5 for each additional family member residing at same address. Please list family members other than yourself.

Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Miss _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Country: _____

Phone: _____

Contributions are fully deductible to the extent allowed by law. The Richard III Society, Inc. is a not-for-profit corporation with 501 C-3 designation.

Make all checks payable to: Richard III Society, Inc.
Mail to P.O. Box 13786, New Orleans, LA 70185