

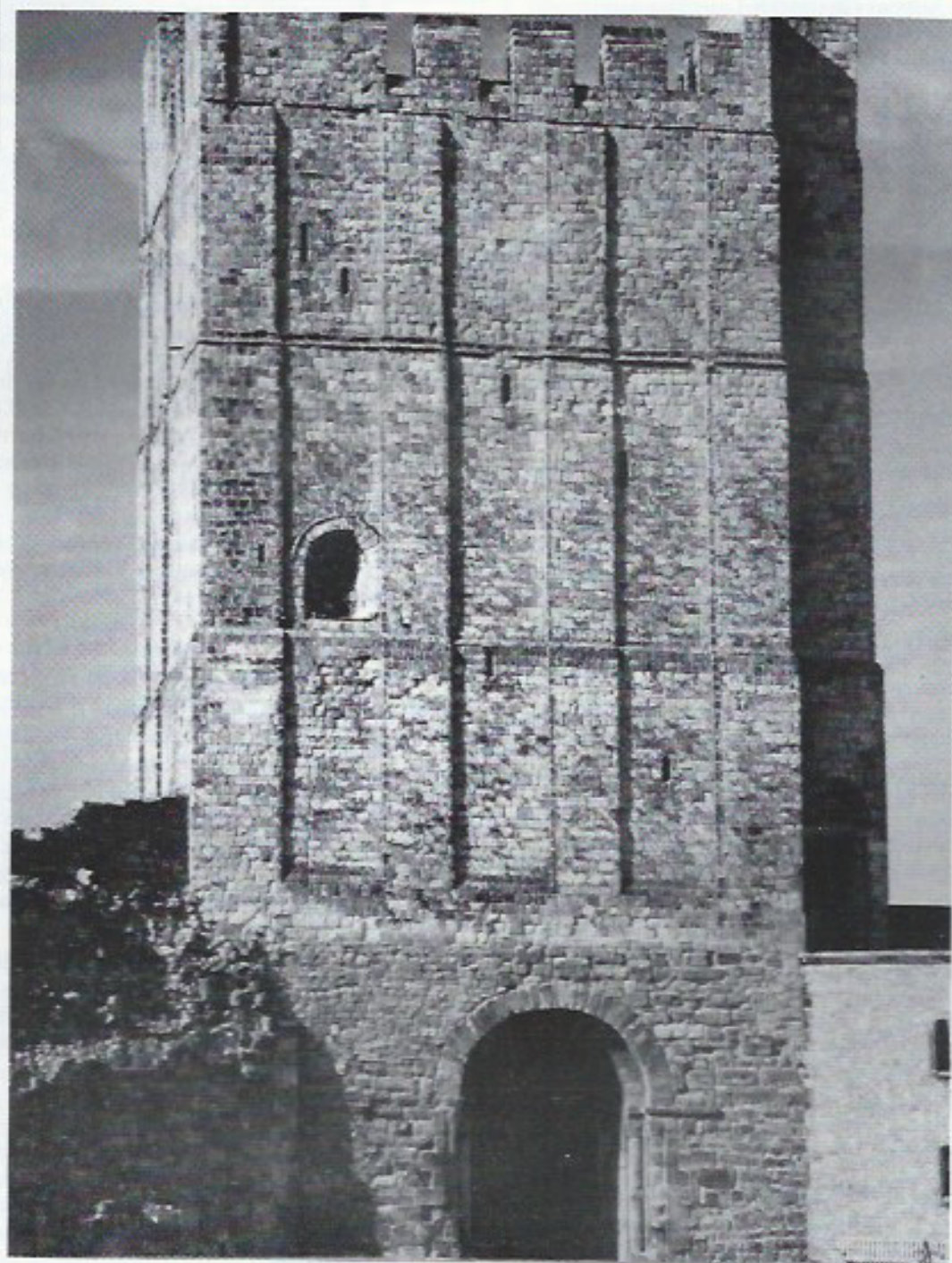
# Ricardian Register



Richard III Society, III

Volume XIV No. 3

Fall, 1994



THE KEEP AT RICHMOND CASTLE

— Photo by Dale Summers



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

Dues are \$30.00 annually. Each additional family member is \$5. Members of the American Society are also members of the English Society. All Society publications and items for sale may be purchased either direct at the U.K. member's rate, or via the U.S. Society, when available. Papers may be borrowed from the English Librarian, but books are not sent overseas. When a U.S. member visits the U.K., all meetings, expeditions, and other activities are open, including the AGM, where U.S. members are welcome to cast a vote.

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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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# WE NEED HELP AND ADVICE

Laura Blanchard

As I write this, the Annual General Meeting and a new Ricardian year are rapidly approaching. Our volunteer hosts and presenters are busy getting ready to treat our AGM attendees to a superlative weekend.

Behind the scenes, other volunteers are keeping the regular business of the Society moving forward — maintaining our three libraries, stocking the sales office, keeping our archives, coordinating outreach through chapters, schools, and the media, and, of course, keeping our membership records, meeting records, financial records. Finally, we all owe a great debt to our contributors to the *Ricardian Register*; and to Carole Rike, who continues to make our newsletter look like a magazine.

There comes a time, though, that some of our volunteers must relinquish their assignments to care for other priorities in their lives: careers, family, community. We have three committee members who feel the time has come to resign, and so we are asking for volunteers to take on these important Ricardian tasks.

## Sales Officer

After a great deal of soul-searching, Linda McLatchie has decided she must relinquish this position, which she has filled ably and with gracious good humor for a decade. Linda will be stepping down in January (or earlier, if a volunteer shows up quickly). She has prepared a "help wanted" ad, which you can find elsewhere in this issue. Since storage of the sales inventory may be a problem for would-be volunteers, we are prepared to consider innovative approaches that may involve two or more people working as a team. In the meantime, I would urge you to order from Linda now to help us reduce our inventory and minimize the cost of shipping merchandise from one Sales Officer to another.

## Archivist

Those of us who know Mary Donermeyer know her as a conscientious Ricardian with a strong sense of family. Mary is now committed to providing child-care for a new generation of Donermeyers and, not surprisingly, finds she needs to reduce her outside obligations. The Archivist needs to be able to store about seven cartons of Ricardian materials in an area which is relatively clean, dry, and cool; to receive new materials and take the appropriate steps to preserve them for use by future generations; and to respond to requests for information from the Archives by making photocopies as necessary. Mary reports that the volume of requests has been very light, so the position is primarily custodial. Mary also observes that a future Archivist could be more proactive by seeking out references to Richard III or the Society in the press.

## Chapter Coordinator

Janet Trimboth (new name, new house, new job) would like to pass this position on to a new volunteer. At minimum, the chapter coordinator would provide information packages to organizers of new potential chapters; maintain a listing of current chapter officers and contacts; and compile an annual report of chapter activities and concerns for the Board. The Board would be receptive to any thoughts a new volunteer might have on expansion of this position. Carole recently remarked that it would help her if the Chapter Coordinator could collect Scattered Standards and updates on names of chapter contacts and provide her with a computer diskette for each issue of the *Register*.

If you are interested in any of these three positions, you are welcome to contact the incumbents for additional guidance, or to contact either the incoming chair or me.

## Needed: Insurance for Our Libraries!

Once upon a time, the entire American Branch library could fit comfortably on one bookshelf. Today, of course, our libraries represent one of our most valuable assets.

We'd like to insure them against catastrophic loss, but no one on the Board is an insurance expert. Our first efforts at seeking coverage resulted in quotations with annual premiums of \$1,000 or more, even with a high deductible, which would create havoc with our budget. Any member who can give us some guidance on ways to safeguard the precious resource our libraries represent — without breaking the bank — should contact our treasurer, Peggy Allen. Since Peggy has been wrestling with this problem ever since she took over, you'll earn her undying gratitude.



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## ENGLISH HERITAGE TO MOVE BOSWORTH FIELD

Morris McGee has passed along a newspaper article, sent to him by an English friend, with important news about this Ricardian site.

"According to a register of battlefields to be published this week by English Heritage," writes Greg Neale in *The Sunday Telegraph*, "this Leicestershire site traditionally associated with Bosworth is at least half a mile from where the battle of August 22, 1485 actually took place."

"Since 1974 much time and money has been invested by Leicestershire County Council in a public presentation of the battlefield which depends exclusively on one interpretation of the course of the fighting," says English Heritage document quoted in the article. More than 100,000 people a year visit the battlefield center with its series of battlefield trails and interpretive display panels.

Andrew Brown, secretary to the battlefields register panel, and English Heritage's Midlands ancient monuments inspector, said yesterday: "I have little doubt that the battle was fought away from the southwest slopes of Ambion Hill." Although English Heritage is to list both sites in its register, "I expect that entry to shrink back to the new site southwest of Ambion Hill when we publish in the New Year," Dr. Brown observes.

The article cites the controversy among historians and quotes Colin Richmond, "who himself raised the

banner for a battle site nearer the parish of Dadlington" in an article for the magazine *History Today*. According to Neale, Richmond commented, "It may not have any greater significance, but you have got to get these things right. That may not be so important for a mediaeval battle, but in Eastern Europe some of the killing fields of the Second World War are already being built over. In 30 years' time there is a danger people will forget what happened there."

Meanwhile, Leicester County Council continues to support its site. "When we bought the site in 1974 we commissioned an historian to assess the best evidence then available," a spokesman said. "We are always willing to look at any new interpretation of the evidence but we're certain we are not far off." According to Neale, he added, "There's general agreement on where the battle started and where it ended; the only differences of opinion are the routes the fighting took."

*[Editor's Note: A small Bosworth controversy that vexes an editor is the spelling of Ambien/Ambion Hill. All three of Richard III's best-known recent biographers — Paul Murray Kendall, Charles Ross, and A.J. Pollard — use "Ambien." The newspaper article and the Bosworth Battlefield Centre leaflet both use "Ambion." If memory serves me correctly, we have used both in this publication.]*

### icardian etakes:

#### A Contemporary Look at Late Medieval England

June 26 - July 6, 1995

A delightfully specialized tour on an intimate scale for Ricardians and friends, our tour will visit many sites associated with Richard III, including: the castles at Ludlow, Middleham, Castle Bolton, Conisburgh and Framlingham; Fotheringay and Wingfield churches; and an intelligent, personalized tour of Bosworth Field. Tour also includes the medieval cities of York, Wells and Norwich, as well as Durham Cathedral, along with famous prehistoric Stonehenge; Chedworth Villa and Hadrian's Wall from Roman England; Lindisfarne (Holy Island), the cradle of English Christianity; and much more! Our small group will travel by comfortable mini-coach and stay in smaller cozy, traditional British hotels. There will 11 full days of touring, and all breakfasts and most evening meals will be included in the very affordable price. Your tour escort will be Linda Treybig, a member of the Richard III Society since 1979, the escort of 6 previous tours for Ricardians, and a qualified travel agent. Group size is limited to a minimum of 7 and a maximum of 15 tour members. We hope you will join other friendly Ricardians on our exciting tour! For further details and brochure, please call:

BRITISH & EUROPEAN TOURS (800) 548-5339  
or Linda Treybig, Escort (216) 243-3325



## NEWS FROM ENGLAND

Every two years, the Society holds a meeting of branch, group and committee representatives in England. The following items from the minutes of the June 18, 1994 meeting may be of interest to members of the American branch, illustrating English members' approaches to some of the issues which are also common to us or giving information on exciting new activities:

**Report from the Research Officer:** Peter Hammond outlined the wills project, which would involve a number of members, produce an end product of value to historians, and present the Society in a favorable light. The project followed on from the April Research Weekend, on 15th century wills, and the paleography course. [This course, "Paleography by Post," is taught by Rosemary Horrox and was described in the December 1991 *Ricardian Bulletin*.—Ed.] The first wills to be transcribed would be from the Canterbury PCC register of 1479-1486, comprising some 600 wills; the deadline for the project was 2000. In addition an index would be created to all published 15th century wills, and the co-ordinators for the whole project would be John Saunders and Wendy Moorhen. There would be notes in the September and December issues of the *Bulletin*, and the project would have its own newsletter. This is an exciting project and there may be a way the American Branch can participate.

**Report from the Librarian:** Carolyn Hammond concentrated on ways in which the Library could be useful to branches and groups to provide material for meetings. It contained a number of videos, which could be borrowed, as also could the set of 48 slides, which complemented the 'Speakers' Notes' and could be supplemented by members' own slides. [The American Branch is considering ordering a duplicate set of these slides for member/chapter use.] Play texts could be borrowed, and supplemented by interlibrary loan of multiple sets, for play reading evenings.

**1996 Activities:** The Pageant of Margaret of York's Wedding will be given in Bruges again in August 1996. Joyce Melhuish proposes to take a group rather than having a July university-based weekend in England. American Ricardians planning a 1996 trip to England may want to consider a side-trip to Bruges for the pageant. The next branch/group/committee meeting will be held in 1996, probably at Oxford. If a college venue is to be booked, it is likely that the meeting will be earlier in the year. Perhaps we can have an American Branch representative at the 1996 meeting!

## FORMER CHAIRMAN SYNDER TAKEN ILL

Word has reached us that former American Branch chairman Bill Snyder was recently released from the hospital after a serious illness.

Snyder, who chaired the American Branch in the 1970s and early 1980s, is also the author of the Branch's first publication. His book, *The Crown and the Tower*, is an edited condensation of Caroline Hallsted's 1844 biography of Richard III. An appendix contains transcriptions of fifteenth-century source documents which were not widely available at the time of the book's publication. Snyder donated the royalties from the publication to the American Branch, and to this day his work continues to enrich the treasury as well as our imaginations. While Bill chaired the society, his wife Jan was active in her own way, chairing the American Branch's committee to provide needlepoint kneelers for Ricardian churches.

Snyder was quoted extensively in a 1978 article in the *Washington Star*: to Snyder, "the fascinating thing about the whole story is that there's no final answer. There are lots of known facts, and we can study the acts of the principal people involved and then each of us make up our own mind. Life has different answers for each of us, and I think Richard III is much like that. Another fascination is that it was one of the biggest mysteries of history, maybe the greatest." He made a reasoned and reasonable case for the Society in the *Wall Street Journal* as well: "We aren't devoted to whitewashing Richard, but we are devoted to portraying the facts. We're interested in discovering what's propaganda and what's truth."

Snyder has recently made the decision to donate his personal Ricardian library to the branch, enriching us in yet another way. His son Dan tells us that both Bill and Jan Snyder would enjoy hearing from long-time Ricardian friends. You can write them at: William and Janet Snyder, Box 142, Crosslands, Kennett Square, PA 19348.

*We bet Hastings  
thought so, too!*

"Catesby — a tiresome little man,  
always running other people's errands."

—Papa Shakespeare, from  
*The African Company  
Presents Richard III*

[submitted by Laura  
Blanchard]





## LOOKING ON HIS IMAGES

Dale Summers

[Ed. Note: Poor Dale Summers, forced to spend 85 days in England! As a result of space limitations, it was necessary to condense her very comprehensive tour report. But, as you can see, Richard is everywhere: on advertising posters, street signs, and — of course — in gift shops all over England. Read on for a Dale's-eye view of Ricardian Britain...]

Before the Ricardian tour arrived, I took two long weekend tours sponsored by English Heritage and was pleasantly surprised to find that the courier of the Northern tour was a Ricardian and that many of my companions though not moved to join the society had independently dismissed the image of the ogre uncle with the hunchback and withered arm and had recognized the well-intentioned and able administrator and the potential for greatness in Richard III.

The Society is making an impact. For instance, Richard is being used as a marketing technique. Rather than the pale, weary king in the National Portrait Gallery, the Leicestershire County Council has developed a new, strong and vigorous, image, dressed in a surcoat bearing the royal arms and holding a sword. This image has been borrowed in Leicester. He stared down at me in a subway with potatoes piled in front of him and a caption which read, "Richard III spent his last night here but King Edwards have never looked better." The Friargate Wax Museum in York prints, sells, and displays in the Tourist Information Center a poster bearing another representation of Richard, also strong but in a less warrior-like, more traditional pose and having laugh lines around his eyes. The caption reads, "Truly a Yorkshireman." English Heritage has a third concept of Richard displayed at Middleham Castle and I assume other places urging people to join. The lady in the Middleham Visitors' Center and I agreed that it must depict a young Richard because there are no lines in his face to give it character and strength. But a young Richard at Middleham would be appropriate.

Before describing the Ricardian tour, I will describe a few of the places I visited independently. Nothing remains of Nottingham, Richard's Castle of Care, except outer walls and the gatehouse, now a gift shop on one side and a replication of the castle on the other. There was no mention of Richard anywhere but I bought an artist's conception of the castle as it was in 1491 and I don't imagine much had changed.

The cathedral in Gloucester retains its medieval glory but the only specific ties to Richard are his arms in the Tourist Information Center and a map of the shire referring to Richard's grant of incorporation in 1483.

Alnwick Castle, the seat of the Percy family, is intact and is a formidable medieval structure, very well cared for over the centuries. The guidebook has the fourth earl fighting at the side of Edward IV at Barnet. His betrayal of Richard is not mentioned. However, in the

gift shop among the other pewter Military Masters figures is Richard in full armor, bearing a battleaxe, no hump, no withered arm. The description on the box calls attention to the crown and the weapon but ignores his reputation.

Caerleon is predominantly a Roman site recently excavated. But the baths would have been in existence when Richard came here on his first military mission as a teenager. The ancient Priory Hotel across the street from the baths would have been his headquarters if it is indeed part of a former priory.

Cardiff Castle was modernized in 1881 and the imagination of architect William Burges given full flight. Many of its motifs are extravagantly Moorish. However, deference is properly paid to former owners of the castle from Robert of Gloucester through Richard of Gloucester and beyond. The castle came to Richard through his marriage and he and Anne are depicted in stained glass in the banqueting hall. A facsimile of Richard was available though not of Anne. It was interesting to note that in 1485 Anne Beauchamp applied for the return of the castle since it was part of her dowry to Richard Neville. The guidebook is not specific but says she was successful. However, I supposed she was punished for Lambert Simnel because in 1487 she abrogated all rights to it. The ancient keep high on its motte is in ruins and is roofless but is the only part untouched by Burges.

A plaque on the Debenhams department store in Salisbury commemorates the execution of Buckingham in 1483 and in the precincts of the cathedral is the lovely old King's House. According to the guidebook it is so called because James I stayed there. However, it could easily have been Richard's temporary residence that fateful year.

I had read that the staircase and leaded windows from Fotheringhay Castle were in the Talbot Hotel in Oundle near Peterborough and inspired by Dana Huntley of Lord Addison Travel I made a pilgrimage to see them. The newel posts and railings are massive and the stairs as steep as one could expect in a castle. The design is far more utilitarian than I expected. But it seems well documented that Mary Queen of Scots descended these stairs to her execution and if they were in existence in 1587, they could well have been in existence more than a hundred years earlier.

Berkhamsted was another destination that I could reach and return from in a day trip. Cecily Neville's home for many years, the castle was robbed of its stone by its owner in the early 1600s to furnish material for the house he was building. Then the railroad appropriated the outer gate and drawbridge. What is left is the flint and mortar which filled the space between the two rows of dressed stone to form the walls. Erosion has reduced that. All that remains of the keep is a well on top of the motte. Sections of wall and mown grass provide a pleasant area for mothers to bring their small children and for school



age children to gather. Owned once by the Black Prince, the castle was traditionally a residence of the Prince of Wales, until Edward IV gave it to his mother. An artist's concept of the site at that time shows a gracious and comfortable dwelling within strong defenses.

I wanted more pictures in Leicester than there is time to take on a tour and I wanted to do some leisurely personal exploring. The present city is a very busy shopping center with the traditional market and a large complex of modern, chic stores. There is a surprisingly large Asian community. I dropped in to thank the florist who does our beautiful wreaths for Sutton Cheney. I made many attempts to photograph the beautiful black memorial stone to Richard at the altar of the cathedral. I discovered two relevant pubs side-by-side, the Richard III with the NPG portrait and the Blue Boar which admits that the original inn was about 100 yards nearer the market cross but doesn't know that the original was originally the White Boar. I photographed three road signs, Richard III Road, King Richard's Road (a large dual carriageway) and Henry Tudor Road. After revisiting Bow Bridge and the statue in Castle Gardens, I decided to see exactly what remains of the castle. The Victorian buildings on the motte are set on the foundations of the keep. The Great Hall remains but has "an elegant facade of red brick" but according to a sign outside, the interior is unchanged. St. Mary de Castro church would probably have been within the walls and appears unchanged from the outside. Some restoration inside had a very strong petroleum smell and scaffolding cluttered the area. The only original part that was obvious was the gate that remains near the church and great hall. As I photographed it, a gentleman made a passing comment, and on hearing my accent, stopped to talk. Richard's name came up in the conversation as it so often does. (I really don't understand that. Would I introduce it in conversation with a stranger?) I tried to explain my interest and used the word "maligned." "And he certainly was very maligned!" exclaimed my new friend, going on to say that both More and Shakespeare were writing something other than history and would have been risking their lives had they written the truth. That was worth the extra trip to Leicester.

My last pretour excursion was to Great Malvern where Richard gave the West Window and where his coat of arms is displayed in stained glass. "Henry had to outdo Richard and give a bigger window," said the lady in the gift shop with an air of disapproval.

Another indication of the Society's impact is a list of activities in Richard's name. English Heritage sponsors several historic theme events presented at various historic theme events presented at various properties. "Music and Archery from the Age of Richard III," was presented six times in as many months. The City of York has Ricardian tours and seminars, a Richard III Museum on all three floor of Monk-Bar, and celebrates Richard's coronation with a feast twice a year. Costume is optional. The Leicestershire County Council had a Richard III Trail on August 21, a lecture by David Baldwin of Leicester University on Richard III and the Princes in the Tower on August 22 and a Richard III Medieval Banquet on August 26. Presenting Richard in a more modern light, question-

ing the old myth must be good business because Madam Toussaud is actively participating. The Richard III Society's exhibit, "To Prove a Villain", is set up at Warwick Castle. The new exhibit is "1471" which while centering on Richard Neville nevertheless celebrates an event in Richard's life. Information on Richard and the Society is displayed in a strategic place—outside the main restaurant. In the second restaurant Richard's arms take up one wall.

### *The Tour Begins*

The eight tour members met at the Kenilworth Hotel in London on August 5. About half were not yet Ricardians but may be now. The first afternoon was free time and a good thing for me. I left my hotel in Stratford at 9:00 a.m. and finally arrived at the Kenilworth about 5:00, hot and tired. We met in the lounge for a glass of wine and introductions, dining in the hotel carvery. The group, all women (except for Lord Addison's Dana Huntley, our courier and Chas, our driver), proved to be almost instantly compatible. In fact as the tour progressed we became so compatible that we disturbed other guests in our hotel with our jollity.

On Saturday morning we drove around London seeing the sights. One of the most intriguing to me is Lambeth Palace, the London home of the Archbishop of Canterbury and an ancient structure which cannot have changed much since Richard's time. Several of us stayed at the Tower but no one took the formal tour and so could not report on the Beefeaters' treatment of Richard. That evening we ate a pub supper at The Cross Keys and walked the short distance to the Prince Edward Theatre for *Lady Windermere's Fan* starring Francesca Annis. The old theater is very comfortable, our seats were great, the acoustics were excellent, the sets and costumes were lavish and beautiful.



*Richard III and Henry VII at Madame Tussaud's*

—Photo by David Coombs



On Sunday morning we arrived at Minster Lovell as the congregation gathered for church services. So we could not visit the church. It is small and cozy and seems more warmly inviting than many little country churches. We viewed the spot where the famous skeleton had been found, watched the fish in the Windrush and visited the dovecote. The ruins still possess great elegance. The house must have been very lovely.

Our next stop was Tewkesbury, a general favorite. We ate lunch at Guphill Manor where Margaret of Anjou rested before the battle. It was a manor house then and is a pub now but it retains a certain dignity. The sign at Guphill bears a mounted knight in full armor with a gold circlet around his helm. White roses balance the design. After lunch we toured the Abbey, the museum and the Bloody Field. Some of us spent a lot of time in the gift shop.

We made an impromptu stop at Upton-on-Severn, a lovely and interesting town, and proceeded to Great Malvern. At Little Malvern, the living of John Alcock, one of Richard's councillors, Dana [Ed. note: *Lord Addison Travel courier Dana Huntley*] graciously stopped for pictures. Little Malvern is even smaller after the Dissolution cost it its aisles. We stayed at the Abbey Hotel, a Victorian vintage Gothic, graceful and ivy covered. The priory church is very beautiful with its colored stone and massive square tower. Several of us attended evensong that evening. The glass in the West window is modern. Richard's gift was shattered in a storm but pieces of that glass have been placed in other windows. Henry's window in the North transept is not whole either and may contain some of Richard's glass.

The Malvern hills are very beautiful, thickly wooded to a certain point and then covered with grass and gorse. They are the oldest rock in England and rise sharply out of the surrounding plain. There is an Iron Age fortress on top which will call to me until I return. The Abbey Hotel was our base for three nights and we thoroughly enjoyed our stay. Dinner was the occasion for a lot of laughter.

### *Unexpected Pleasures at Ludlow*

Spontaneous is an apt description of the tour. We tried to reach St. Ann's Well up in the hills but the road became a foot path that even driver Chas could not negotiate. So we went on to Ludlow, passing what must have been a Saxon church, very small, unembellished, with few and very narrow windows. We crossed the medieval bridge at Ludlow but avoided the medieval gate. It was market day and the square was full of booths. The castle ruins are still very impressive. It is large and appears to have been very comfortable as befits a major seat of the York family. The chapel is a round building detached from the living quarters and still contains some of the stone carving which made it beautiful. The parish church of St. Lawrence is larger than the usual parish church and has some lovely carvings. There is a stained glass window depicting Richard, Duke of York; Edward IV, Edward V and Arthur, the Tudor Prince of Wales. Richard III is not represented. The glass is Victorian and the Society had not been formed. Whoever installed the glass

obviously believed the myth. I suppose we can be grateful that they left Richard out. In those times he would have had a hump back, withered arm and nasty sneer.

We ate lunch at Dr. Grey's Cafe, a relatively new place only dating from 1570 and serving delicious food. After lunch Dana had promised us a surprise. I thought it would be Mortimer's Cross because I had considered asking for a stop there but we made three stops and I was surprised and delighted. Our first stop was at Wigmore, the Mortimer seat. It was through the Mortimer Earls of March that Richard, Duke of York based his claim to the throne. The village is tiny, a church and a few houses. The church did not appear to be regularly used and the castle ruins were within camera range but reachable only by a long footpath open to the blazing sun.

We decided to gaze from afar and proceed to our next destination, still part of the surprise. Mortimer's Cross (meaning intersection) is marked with a pub commemorating the battle. Dana explained the battle strategy and why the battle took place at the intersection. This was the site of the appearance of the three suns and the "Sunne in Splendour." Jasper Tudor escaped but Owen was captured by the citizens of Kingland two miles away. A monument marks the Yorkist victory.

The next morning we drove through the fertile Vale of Evesham into the Cotswolds. We took back roads, some of them not marked on the maps, roads not possible for a larger coach. One of the unusual sights was a man herding sheep in a Range Rover. We drove through Stow-on-the-Wold and stopped at Bourton-on-the-Water to shop, a favorite activity. Sudeley Castle belonged to Richard for a time. Although he traded it for Richmond Castle to strengthen his influence in the North, there is evidence that he either built or improved the Great Hall. I like to think he put in the large traceried window over the fireplace. That arca is roped off now and a large, rather regal stone chair sits at an angle to the hearth, rather like the royal owner has just risen from it and will return shortly. The state rooms at Sudeley contain tastefully arranged memorabilia of more recent owners. The fifteenth century chapel is the burial place of Katherine Parr. There are two sites of great beauty, the formal gardens planted with old roses and graced by a fountain and the ruins of the tithe barn planted with many varieties of flowers with a reflecting pool in front of it.

### *Society Exhibit, Barnet Exhibit at Warwick*

Our next stop was Warwick Castle. We stopped at the castle and Dana showed us the door that gave access to the town. Warwick is a charming town with many medieval buildings still in use. The Castle's newest exhibit, "1471," shows Warwick the King-maker preparing for his last battle and is extremely effective. The figures are very realistic, their features and expressions obviously drawn from life. The horse in the stable (which has a faint but authentic odor) blinks and swishes his tail. Water drips from the garment being wrung out by the washerwoman. I fell



into conversation with a docent and suggested that a very bad painting in the state rooms should have a disclaimer, stating that it was the artist's concept and bore no relationship to truth. She knew exactly which one I meant and exclaimed, "Oh, we don't believe that about him. He was a very decent man and would have been a great king had he lived." (I'll let you guess the subject of the painting and the identity of "he.") There were tiny lapel pins representing the former owners of the castle. I found Richard Neville and George, Duke of Clarence but Richard was not among them. One of our tour members asked about the missing pin and the clerk replied that they were sold out of Richard's image. "He's very popular."

We drove to Leicester by way of King Richard's Road making short stops at Kenilworth Castle and Coventry. The tour information had included a map of Leicester with relevant sites marked. My roommate and I visited the important ones and were shown another by another tour member. On Grey Friars Lane there is a plaque commemorating Richard's burial. We had dinner in the carvery of our hotel, The Grand, an old Victorian hotel of elaborate design. The next morning the wreath of white roses was delivered and we set off for Sutton Cheney. But Dana had another surprise for us. The prior evening we had passed road signs for Kirby Muxloe, a red brick fortified manor house under construction by Lord Hastings but he was executed and it was never completed; we stopped there for a brief unscheduled look. At Sutton Cheney we hung the wreath over the plaque to Richard and explored the church.

We went on then to Bosworth. The exhibition at the Visitors' Center has been greatly expanded, giving a great deal of background information about daily life in the fifteenth century. A large diorama of the battlefield showed the placement of troops and Sir Laurence Olivier wept with frustration that the loss of his horse meant the loss of his kingdom. Last year I was very pleased at the variety and reasonable cost of the mementoes. To those had been added some

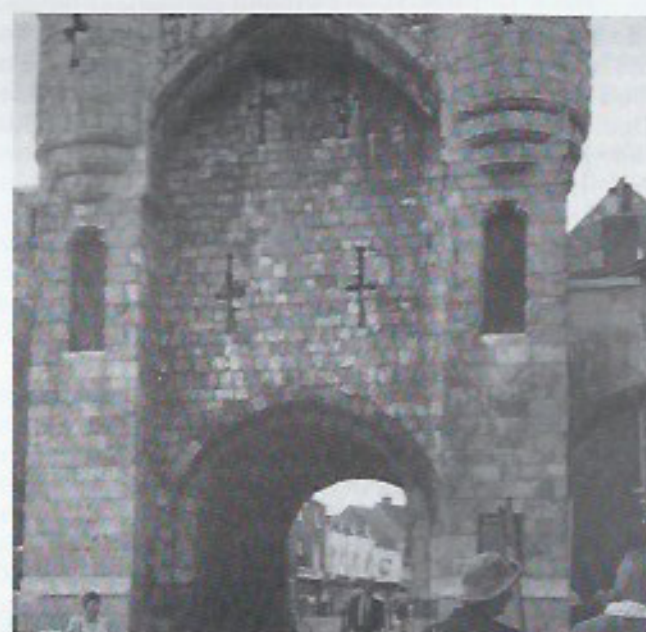
larger and far more expensive items, the most expensive being a statue of Richard, a new design for £300. Richard's banner flapped in the breeze as our group toured the battleground following the posted route.

After Bosworth we stopped at the thirteenth century manor house, Donnington-le-Heath because we believed Richard's traveling bed was there. The bed was a disappointment because it had been restored almost out of existence. What was there was mainly sixteenth and seventeenth century work. But the house was delightful with spacious rooms, authentic furniture and little nooks. It gave excellent insight into medieval life. On our return to Leicester there was time for more exploration or shopping before dinner in the carvery.

The next morning was our last on the tour. We left The Grand after an excellent English breakfast and visited Fotheringhay, Richard's birthplace. Nothing is left of the castle except a very large hunk of masonry — I thought. But information in the exquisite parish church revealed that a large gateway that I had noticed on other trips had been built by Edward IV as part of the castle. We went on to Croyland now Crowland, home of the chronicler and site of the ruined monastery attached to the parish church. Also in Crowland is Trinity Bridge which once spanned the confluence of three streams and now stands on dry land at village center. Over this bridge Edward and Richard escaped to the Continent when Warwick revolted. Lord Addison left me in Peterborough and I visited York and Middleham independently.

On August 20, I reluctantly boarded a British Airways flight bound for Dallas. I had had 85 days of discovery and renewal in England. My brain is bubbling over with suggestions for the 1995 Ricardian Tour. For instance...

*[Ed. Note: Both the 1994 Ricardian Tour and the upcoming 1995 Ricardian tour were planned by Dale Summers in conjunction with Lord Addison Travel, P. O. Box 3307, Peterborough NH 03458 603-352-6217]*



*Richard III Museum, Monks Bar, York*

—Photos by David Coombs



Kenneth G. Madison is Assistant Professor of History at Iowa State University. He delivered a presentation on the fourteenth-century Woodvilles at the Twenty-Ninth Annual Congress on Medieval Studies at Kalamazoo last May.

Recently (*Ricardian Register*, XIV, No. 2 [Summer, 1994], p. 29), Helen Curé made "A Modest Proposal" suggesting that had King Edward VIII remained king and childless, this Society's patron, H.R.H. Richard, Duke of Gloucester, would be the current United Kingdom monarch as Richard IV. Unfortunately, for this proposal, British law would still have Elizabeth II as the present queen. The question of the succession to the various thrones upon which she sits has been a matter of some dispute in each of her kingdoms in the past. This fact comes as no surprise to the members of this Society, as its namesake is the center of one of these debates. To understand the succession question in this century, one must examine a series of parliamentary enactments from the years 1689, 1701, 1707, and 1800. Since the reign of Henry IV of England, the throne could be held by either a male or a female who was descended from this particular king. Henry IV's succession laws excluded John of Gaunt's female heirs by his first wife, Blanche of Lancaster, as well as all heirs by his second and third wives, Constance of Castile and Catherine Swynford, respectively. For a fine introduction to the English succession question from Edward III to Elizabeth I, see: Mortimer Levine, *Tudor Dynastic Problems 1460-1571* (London & New York, 1973).

When the Tudors came to the throne, their claims derived from Gaunt and Catherine Swynford through Margaret Beaufort, who, if her son, Henry VII, could be king, should have preceded him as queen in her own right. In 1485, Henry VII and parliament limited the succession to "King Harry VII and in the heirs of his body lawfully come, perpetually with the grace of God so to endure, and in none other" (See Levine, Doc. 8.). Note that the throne was not restricted to only Henry VII's heirs male. And, as we all know, two (or three, if one counts Jane Grey) of the Tudor monarchs were women. The Stuart succession to Elizabeth I Tudor in 1603 resulted from Margaret Tudor, daughter of Henry VII, having married James IV of Scotland in 1503 — once again the English crown was transmitted through a female as the 1485 law allowed.

Twentieth-century United Kingdom practice comes from the *Bill of Rights* (1689) and the *Act of Settlement* (1701), whose enactments have been passed on to the present day by the *Act of Union* (1707) and *An Act for the Union of Great Britain and Ireland* (1800). The first three may be conveniently consulted in Andrew Browning, ed. *English Historical Documents, 1660-1714* (New York, 1953), Nos. 40, 43, and 270, respectively, and the last in A. Aspinall and E. Anthony Smith, eds. *English Historical Documents, 1783-1832* (New York, 1959), No. 142. The *Bill of Rights* (1689) limited the throne first to the heirs of Queen Mary II,

second to those of Princess Anne (Mary's sister), and third to those of William III (Mary's husband). By 1701, Queen Mary II had died as well as had the last surviving child of Princess Anne. In the *Act of Settlement* (1701) the succession was extended to Princess Sophia of Hanover, the granddaughter of James I of England through his daughter Elizabeth, and Sophia's heirs. Both acts excluded non-Protestants from the succession. The descendants of Sophia's son, George I, still "rule" in England as the monarch. The arrangements governing the British succession were continued by the Scottish (1707) and the Irish (1800) acts of union on to today. Explicit in the 1689 and 1701 acts is that the throne passed to all of the heirs of the body of an individual before it went to a sibling of that individual. This practice would control the two identical situations that occurred at the death of William IV and the non-abdicated Edward VIII of Helen Curé's proposal. When both William IV (d. 1837) and Edward VIII (d. 1972) died their next brother, Edward of Kent (d. 1820) and George of York, a.k.a. George VI (d. 1952), respectively, was already dead. Each did have a surviving younger brother: Ernest of Cumberland (d. 1851) and Henry of Gloucester (d. 1974), respectively. But, Edward of Kent and George of York had at least one living daughter — actually the latter had two. As Edward of Kent had died, when William IV did so, the crown went to Victoria as Duke Edward's only heir. She, of course, would reign from 1837 to 1901. Because the kingdom of Hanover could not be ruled by a woman, its throne went to Duke Ernest of Cumberland. Ms. Curé's proposal, in fact, fits what happened with the Hanoverian crown in 1837.

Because of the parliamentary acts mentioned above, women can inherit the British throne. Had the non-abdicated and childless Edward VIII reigned until 1972, his actual death year, under the present British law, Elizabeth, daughter of George of York, would have succeeded her uncle instead of her father as queen. The events of 1837 had shown exactly how to handle the proposed 1972 succession. So, Ms. Curé's suggestion was not legally possible and, therefore, could not have happened.

If the monarchs of England, etc., are limited to only men, the present royal house died out with Henry I (1100-35), who attempted to have his daughter, Matilda, follow him as queen. King Stephen, Matilda's rival, was the son of Adela, the daughter of William the Conqueror. And, Henry II was Matilda's son. From Henry II's time until 1485, the kingship did pass from male to male without any intervening female. Note this is true for both the Lancastrian and the Yorkist lines. Henry VII's claim, as noticed above, came through his Beaufort mother in 1485. Keeping with just male succession and ignoring bastardy, the most likely candidate for the throne is the present Duke of Beaufort. He is descended from Charles Somerset, Earl of Worcester (d. 1526) and illegitimate son of Henry Beaufort, third Duke of Beaufort (d. 1464).



## CONTEMPORARY RUMOR OF HENRY VII'S ILLEGITIMACY!

Claire M. Valente

My year in England has been a great success as research for my thesis, now tentatively called "The Heyday of Revolt: Rebellion and Political Society in High and Late Medieval England." Using both the British Library and the Public Record Office (the medieval documents mercifully still being at Chancery Lane), I mainly worked through the court records of prosecution of rebels, both in the central coram rege and in the special eyres and commissions of oyer and terminer sent out to pacify the countryside. As time permitted, I also went through related material and some quirkier documents.

Most of my primary research covered the Barons' Revolt, the revolts of Thomas of Lancaster and the deposition of Edward II, and the various revolts and conspiracies in the reigns of Henry VI and early Henry V. Although I mainly was finding and transcribing cases, and thus have not yet had time for much cogitation, I have been able to come to some preliminary conclusions, some expected, some surprising. First, I have confirmed my previous ideas as to the depth of knowledge and interest in political events in English society, a knowledge present throughout the period but manifesting itself in different ways. Early on, political activity and protest on the part of the lesser tenantry and townsmen was carried out in the context of collectivities. In the reign of Edward II, individual lords and their grievances start to take control, and the system of maintenance and private war so prominent in the later fifteenth century already makes its appearance in the context of rebellion. By the reign of Henry IV, rebellion is always on behalf of one lord or small group of allies, and thus fragmented and unsuccessful. Yet parallel to this is increasing awareness of such revolts by individuals of lower social rank, and increasingly willingness to conspire secretly against the king in the hopes of furthering such revolts.

Unfortunately, I did not have the time to do much primary research in late fifteenth-century history,

which I know is of first interest to members of the Society. I did, however, manage to find some things relating to how much lower-downs knew, including a garbled version of the story of Catherine of Valois' marriage to Owen Tudor, resulting in the accusation that Henry VII was the bastard son of a Welsh squire and thus ineligible to rule England. As I am unsure of whether it was printed, I thought I would give a summary here. The original can be found in B.L. MS Stowe 144, ff. 3-4 (with modern transcription at ff. 100-102), in the handwriting of Henry VIII's reign.

### Rumors of Bastardy

Roger Ireland, age 18, a resident of Colchester, was examined before John Christerow and George Seigner, bailiffs to the king, August 14, 1518. He claimed that on Sunday, February 14 and Sunday, February 21, 1518, in the evening, in the house of Nicholas Fox, tailor of St. James's, Fox told the following tale.

The king's grandmother was a widow and had a servant and horsekeeper by name Bryan Todder, and that a certain time in unhorsing the lady, his knee went between her legs. From that time on he wore gold cloth on that knee, and jackcloth on the other. Later, while they were dancing, she saw this, and asked why. He told her, and she replied that she would make both knees worthy. And so she went to be with him, "like a very drunken whore," at which time was begot our king's father [i.e., Henry VII], who was sent to Queen Margaret to raise. When Richard [III] banished the duke of Buckingham, the duke had Todder's son brought over to claim the crown, and "verify his motions"; Queen Margaret and the south of Wales and earl Shrewsbury supported him at the first field, and at the second field he won, and so won the Crown, "and had no right to it, nor this king being his son hath none right to it."

The story is fascinating for a number of reasons, chief of which is the way in which the real history became garbled over several generations. Clearly, foreshortening has occurred, so that the "king's grandmother, Margaret Beaufort, through whom Henry VII obtained whatever claim to the throne he had, is conflated with her mother-in-law, Queen Katherine, widow of Henry V. Katherine had married, perfectly legitimately if somewhat beneath her, Owen Tudor, her steward, and her eldest son Edmund was earl of Richmond and the father of Henry VII. Also confused is the account of Richard III's defeat and deposition. Buckingham is given a prominently successful role, when in reality his rebellion against his friend was short-lived and disastrous.

The (inaccurate) tradition of Queen Margaret surviving all her foes to witness their downfall, later found in Shakespeare, also makes here an early appearance.

### Curé Proposal (continued from page 10)

But, in the case of the Beauforts, their right to succeed to the throne is further clouded by whether the family of John of Gaunt and Catherine Swynford had this right or not (see Levine, pp. 16 and 33-34). Remember, Henry VII solved this issue by simply winning the kingdom on the battlefield and not through any legal action. In my opinion, if the United Kingdom desires a new king with the name of Richard IV, Brian Blessed is the best candidate for the position. He can reprise his *Blackadder* role as Richard IV — but this time in Buckingham Palace.



— continued, page 12



Moreover, this tale of illegitimacy, of birth and of kingship, helps to illuminate what some historians have considered the paranoid attitude of Henry VIII towards the surviving Yorkist heirs. If such stories as these were circulating, and believed, in 1518, then perhaps Henry's vicious executions of the genealogically proper heirs to the throne are explicable, if never justifiable.

#### Other Findings of Interest to Ricardians

I also took some time to research Henry VI's sanctity, and Richard Duke of York's "reappearance" as Perkin Warbeck, as part of a paper on veneration of the defeated which I presented at the University of Reading's history seminar. Finally, much of what I found for the reign of Henry IV, including commonplace statements that Henry IV was ineligible to rule, and conspiracies desirous of including the young earl of March in their plans, has important implications for the "legitimacy" debate with reference to the Wars of the Roses. I think it is clear that from early on and continuously throughout Henry IV's reign and even into Henry V's, common people, peasants and townsmen, had their doubts about their new king, and knew who the proper heir should have been.

I cannot thank the Richard III Society enough for having helped make my research in England possible. I hope the thesis which results from it will be of interest to professional and amateur historians, and a credit to the Schallek award.



#### Neil Simon rewrites scene about gay man

After the producers of "The Goodbye Girl" received four letters of protest from people who had seen the musical in its pre-Broadway try-out in Chicago, the playwright Neil

Simon rewrote a key scene, eliminating all references to homosexuals. As originally written (and played in the movie by Richard Dreyfuss, who was fetching in pink), an actor named Elliot Garfield, at the behest of a loony director, portrays Shakespeare's Richard III, with an obviously stereotypical flourish, as a gay man.



After a meeting with the producer, Simon decided to rewrite the scene. The director of "Richard III" now insists that the character be played as a woman. Elliot asks him, "So what do you need me for?" The director's response is to disdain the many times that men have played women and vice versa. "But a man playing a woman playing a man — that's innovation!"

[submitted by Susan Dexter]

## We're looking for a NEW SALES OFFICER

Have you ever thought about running a mail-order business? Well, here's your chance!

After over 10 years as sales officer, other commitments are sadly forcing me to resign. The Society is looking for a new sales officer who can make a long-term commitment to the position.

This is an enormously rewarding and enjoyable position. As sales officer, not only do you have contact with fellow Ricardians from all over the country, but at the same time you have a chance to financially benefit the Society.

If you are interested in volunteering for this position, your duties will be to:

1. Fill and ship orders as they come in.
2. Maintain inventory and order new inventory from suppliers.
3. Keep an up-to-date price list.
4. Keep meticulous income/expense records and maintain the sales office checking account.
5. Provide an annual financial report.
6. Prepare advertisements for publication in the *Register*.

I spend anywhere from 2 to 6 hours per week in this position, depending on the level of sales activity. You must have a substantial amount of space to store inventory and mailing supplies (approximately one-half of my basement is devoted to storage of sales items, but a medium-size bedroom or study will suffice also). You should be able to get to the post office about twice a week.

If you would like more details about the requirements or duties of the job, please write to me:

Linda B. McLatchie  
330 Cedar Street  
Ashland, MA 01721

If you would like to volunteer, please write to:

Laura Blanchard  
303 Vine Street, #106  
Philadelphia, PA 19106-1143



# FICTION LIBRARY SILENT AUCTION

Mary Miller, Fiction Librarian

The fiction library has more copies than it needs of certain books. Therefore it is time for a Silent Auction. Condition of the books and the original price (where known) are indicated. Send no money with your bid. You will be notified of auction results.

To bid on a book, write to Mary Miller, 1577 Killdeer Drive, Naperville, IL 60565 by November 30, 1994. Indicate which books you want and the amount you are willing to bid for each.

- ☐ Abbey, Margaret, *Sun of York* (also known as *The Crowned Boar*), Pinnacle, 1971. Fair condition. Paperback. Tape on inside front cover. Pages are yellowing. Price: \$95
- ☐ Bowden, Susan, *In The Shadow of the Crown*, Bantam, 1987. Excellent condition. Paperback. Price \$4.50.
- ☐ Bowen, Marjorie, *Dickon*, Beagle Books, 1971. Good condition. Paperback. Slight yellowing of pages. Price \$1.25.
- ☐ Dickon, Fontana, 1971. Fair condition. Paperback. Price 30p
- ☐ Brandewyne, Rebecca, *Rose of Rapture*, Warner, 1984. Good condition. Standard paperback, not oversize trade edition. Price \$3.95.
- ☐ Bulwer-Lytton, Edward, *The Last of the Barrons*, Illustrated by E. Pollak, Volumes I and II. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1902. Good condition. Frontspiece of Volume I is loose. Price unknown.
- ☐ Eckerson, Olive, *The Golden Yoke*, Coward McCann, 1961. Fair condition. Hardback. Binding is starting to come apart. Price unknown.
- ☐ Edwards, Rhoda, *Some Touch of Pity*, Arrow, 1977. Good condition. Paperback. Price 90p. 2 copies.
- ☐ Ford, John M., *The Dragon Waiting*, Avon 1983. Fair condition. Paperback. First part of book appears to have slight water damage. Price \$3.50.
- ☐ Jarman, Rosemary Hawley, *Crown in Candlelight*, Little, Brown & Co., 1978. Excellent condition. Hardback. Dust jacket is missing. Original price with cover \$9.95.
- ☐ Jarman, Rosemary Hawley, *The King's Grey Mare*, Popular Library, 1973. Good condition. Paperback. Price \$1.50.
- ☐ Jarman, Rosemary Hawley, *We Speak No Treason*, Collins, 1971. Excellent to good condition. Hardback. Light pencil marks on genealogy charts on inside covers. Photography of Rosemary Hawley Jarman taped to title page. Price 2.10p.
- ☐ Miall, Wendy, *John of Gloucester*, Robert Hale, 1968. Good condition. Hardback. Dust jacket is worn. Price 18 shillings.
- ☐ Morgan, Denise, *Kingmaker's Knight*, Robert Hale, 1981. Good condition. hardback. Plastic cover over dust jacket is unattractive. Price 6.25p.
- ☐ Peters, Maureen, *The Woodville Wench* (also titled *The Queen Who Never Was*), Fontana, 1973. Good condition. Paperback. Pages are yellowing. Price 30p.
- ☐ Peters, Maureen, *The Queen Who Never Was* (also titled *The Woodville Wench*), Pinnacle, 1972. Good condition. Paperback. Pages are yellowing. Writing on cover. Price \$95.
- ☐ Plaidy, Jean, *The Goldsmith's Wife*, Pan, 1970. Fair to good condition. Paperback. Book spine is taped. Pages are yellow. Otherwise it is in good condition. Price 30p.
- ☐ Rabinowitz, Ann, *Knight on Horseback*, Macmillan, 1987. Excellent condition. hardback. Autographed. Price \$13.95.
- ☐ Stevenson, Robert Louis, *The Black Arrow*, Illustrated by Frances Brundage, Saalfeld Publishing Co., 1926. Good condition. Hardback. Frontspiece in color, others line drawings. Price unknown.
- ☐ Stevenson, Robert Louis, *The Black Arrow*, illustrated by Cheslie D'Andrea, Pocket Book, 1950. Good condition. Paperback. The cover is a bit worn, but the book is in excellent shape for a book this old. The pages are white, no yellowing. Price unknown.

## We didn't know Middleham Castle had "steps of death"



Geoff Wheeler sent us a clip from one of the English suburban newspapers, dating back to the reopening of the spiral staircase in the keep and proving that sleaze journalism spares no member of the royal family, no matter how long dead. Although the clip is a few years old, the scandalous spin on events is certainly fully contemporary.

"The staircase on which Edward, son of Richard III, may have met his death, will give the public an aerial view of the keep," reports the paper breathlessly, adding that "it was at banquets in the keep's Great Hall that Warwick the Kingmaker conducted his intrigues in the 15th century."

More prosaically, the paper goes on to report that the opening was attended by town mayor Peter Hibbard in period costume and conducted by Robert Hardy, who plays Siegfried in *All Creatures Great and Small*.





# RICARDIAN POST

Dear Carole:

If you need fill-in for the "Ricardian Watch" and don't think they're too silly, here are a couple of things from my scrapbook of Ricardiana:

- The Friday, May 1, 1992 crossword puzzle from *The Washington Post* offered the clue at 60 across for: King of England, and the answer was RICHARD III.
- A May, 1994 puzzle from the *New York Times* had a clue at 29 Across of: Kingdom's worth, to Richard III, which was HORSE.

And, of course, the really big puzzle to all members of the Society is what in the world happened to Joe Ann Ricca? Minutes from the Board meetings added to the mystery of her disappearance and left me with an ominous feeling of hanky-pankyness. Is it possible, in a future issue, to dispel all foreboding and guesswork, by publishing the reasons for Joe Ann's resignation?

Ellen Perlman  
Delray Beach, Florida

*Ed. Note: Finding herself in disagreement with two other members of the Board of Directors over a combination of personal and policy issues, Joe Ann Ricca felt that her best course was to resign her position. Her decision pained all of her fellow board members, none of whom had suggested that such a course would be necessary. But certainly no member of the Society should be left with the impression that Joe Ann was involved in any sort of "hanky-pankyness" or malfeasance, as this was absolutely not the case. Even those who disagreed with Joe Ann respected her dedication and her appetite for hard work.*

To Whom It May Concern:

It has apparently become part of my mother's family history that our earliest ancestor, Thomas of Rice, was the Welsh soldier (?) responsible for the death of Richard III. Does your Society know anything about that?

Winthrop Smith  
New York, NY

*Ed. Note: Every family has one! What do the rest of you know?*

To Whom It May Concern:

Thanks to Eileen Prinson whom I met at Elderhostel I am delighted to be able to join your society. Six years ago I attended Malice Domestic — a mystery conference held in Washington-Maryland. One hun-

dred people in one room with a panel discussion were shouting at one another. Never have I seen or heard such enthusiasm. Richard's guilt or innocence was the topic. A coin was tossed and it was in favor of Richard.

I am so happy to be supportive of the Richard III Society.

Jeanne Lavelle  
Woburn, MA

*Ed. Note: Richard should have been so lucky in politics as he is in coin-tossing!*

Dear Carole:

Just a note to let you know how much I've enjoyed the *Ricardian Register*. The last issue was outstanding. Also, quite belatedly, I really enjoyed the New Orleans AGM and the beautiful City of New Orleans itself. I can't remember having such a wonderful time anywhere in years and I had a chance to visit several places I'd only dreamed of. Charm must be New Orleans' middle name because people were so helpful and kind.

I seem to remember that a fellow Ricardian was wondering how you would pronounce Fotheringhay and while watching a Jeeves and Wooster rerun on TV, the actor Stephen Fry, who plays Jeeves, mentioned the rather odd way the British have of pronouncing names and cited as an example that Fotheringhay was pronounced FUNGY. I'd always wondered how to pronounce St. Ledger, it's SELINGER. I imagine we offer the British no end of amusement when we ask for directions!

Jacqueline Bloomquist  
Berkley, CA

*Ed. Note: Thanks, Jacqueline. Charm we have, but I'm not sure what else. I always thought it was FATHERING GAY. Has anyone else heard FUNGY? I dare say I have entertained quite a few Brits with my mispronunciations, but the best was my husband who insisted Balmoral was BAL MORE OWL [with an East-Texas accent]. But that's okay — I get the British everytime when they come to New Orleans. None of them ever know about the British being trounced in the Battle of New Orleans!*

One Ricardian's Opinion: A Response  
A Richard III Fan Club?

I know! You can be Lovell, and Fred can be Clarence and Gertrude can be Elizabeth Woodville and who is going to take us seriously then? Yes, I know that no one has actually suggested such a thing but I was irrepressibly reminded of the entertaining mystery, *The Murders of Richard III* by Elizabeth Peters. The schismatic society in the novel propounded a dogma,



and look where it got them. They ended up writing maudlin ballads about the Brave Young King worthy of a nine-year-old in the throes of her first crush.

I have only been a Society member for three years, but have considered myself in sympathy for decades. It was the injustice being fought that has drawn me to the Society, not some romantic notion of gallant King Richard. It is my understanding that the purpose of the Society is to unearth facts; facts about the Wars of the Roses, facts about the society Richard lived in, facts about the man himself, and to apply these facts to our understanding of the man and his time — even if, from time to time, some of them may be ambiguous or unpalatable. Barring the discovery of a diary in Richard's own handwriting, the chances of ever learning his side of the story are slim. All we have to go on are pitifully few of these facts, and a mountain of Tudor embroidery.

The thought of a Ricardian doctrine or dogma scares me. If we are to be taken seriously at all we must maintain a high level of objectivity, lest we degenerate into the sort of buffoonery practiced by the "heretical" schism of the aforementioned novel. I may seem over sensitive, but the first time I heard of the Richard III Society was in a high school history class, where it was presented as a bunch of crackpots, predominantly female because "women are suckers for a monster," who in the face of the evidence, believed that Richard was innocent, not out of any logical process of thought, but rather as an article of faith. This is the image that we have to avoid.

Unless we are willing to accept Weir's definition of Revisionists as people who simply believe Richard innocent of the murder of his nephews, we cannot allow the Society to degenerate into a Richard III Fan Club. When asked about the Society badge, which I wear constantly, I sometimes get the response: "Oh, you're the people who think he didn't do it," to which I reply gently, "No, we are the people who don't think that there is enough evidence to prove that he did do it." If they are interested enough to listen, I add that there is evidence that Richard was a just and enlightened ruler, and that the version in the history books was written by Tudor historians (read propagandists). No one can accuse the Tudors of being enlightened rulers. Efficient, yes — but not enlightened, or even particularly just.

I fiercely agree with Laura Blanchard that the Society itself must remain neutral, thus allowing all of the members the liberty to form opinions, to discuss them, and to change them if new evidence or argument sways us. I have my own opinion about who killed the boys, and when, and why, but they are opinions, nothing more or less, and I wouldn't dream of requiring anyone else to support them, or even necessarily listen to them.

As an afterthought, I would like to add that Alison Weir's simplistic definitions of Traditionalist and Revisionist quoted by Laura Blanchard adds another heavy straw to the already over-burdened camel's back of her shoddy scholarship.

Siobhan M. Burke  
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Ed. Note: Hear! Hear!

Dear Carole:

The purpose of my letter is to address the issue raised in the article written by Laura Blanchard in the Summer issue of the *Ricardian Register*.

I have recently left my local chapter of the Society, largely because of this issue. I left because the Society did not meet my needs. The people were really nice, but mostly female and mostly wound up in this romantic notion of Richard. As a forty-something male interested in the scholarly pursuit of the Wars of the Roses, it was often difficult to find common ground. Again, I want to stress that these were really nice people, and our parting was amicable, it was simply a case of divergent interests. I remain a member of the national fellowship, and relish getting the fine English and American publications filled with scholarly and interesting articles. I also enjoy an occasional historical novel about Richard.

To my way of thinking, it matters not one whit whether Richard did or did not commit the crimes of which he is accused. What matters is the question itself and the ensuing study that follows.

In my opinion, the Society should reach out to new members by offering the Society as a focus for the study of the late medieval and early renaissance times. Chapters can choose a topic such as clothes of the era, music of the era, research one of the major players and report on them, round table discussions can be held on Ricardian themes. Meetings could have a little less Society "business" and a little more discussion on interesting topics. Above all, let us discard labels such as "traditionalist" and even "Ricardian," and concentrate on being students of history.

Myrtle H. Hughes

Dear Editor:

I would like to comment on the article, "What Is A Traditionalist, What Is A Ricardian?" by Laura Blanchard. While Ms. Blanchard certainly makes some valid points, from this Ricardian's perspective, she doesn't seem to understand that "put Richard first" means different things to different people.

These are some of the things that "put Richard first" represents to me: 1) Putting "revisionism" (however one defines it) ahead of word processors, E-mail, urban elitism, private power trips, and one's own personal little agenda; 2) realizing that people in small towns and rural areas might not have been as exposed to the Tudor Myth and might be a good source of recruitment; 3) That there may actually be more than one right way of "getting the word out" that Richard might not have been such a bad guy after all.

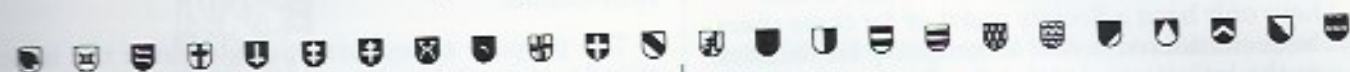
I'm all for "putting Richard first." But, to quote a line from an obscure 1960's movie, "Why should anyone listen to me? Why should I speak? Since I know nothing."

Michaela Ann Charron  
Hoosick Falls, NY 12090



# SCATTERED STANDARDS

## (Chapter News & Updates)



### Illinois Chapter

The August 21, 1994 meeting was held in the home of President, Mary Miller.

We were gratified to hear that Joseph and Frances Gies would be at the AGM and we examined copies of some of their books, of which most of us are indeed fans. Mary had a catalog from the Detroit Institute of the Arts which discussed some of the many treasures there; we can contact fellow Ricardian Kim Dziurman at the Institute for a tour of the facilities.

Mary reported that her book discussion at the Addison Library was well attended and that all participants were in total accord with Josephine Tey's theories. Maggie Cantrall gave two courses at the College of Du Page County last winter, and she found that her students were pretty well divided (50-50) for and against the idea that Richard was responsible for murdering the princes. Maggie's courses are given for academic credits and are very well attended.

Looking ahead to the fall season, there seem to be some good exhibits and displays on currently in the nearby communities. Dawn Benedetto had a brochure from the University Club of Chicago on Michigan Avenue which pictured their grand banqueting hall; this is an exact replica of the great hall at Crosby Place, built by John Crosby in the 15th century and leased by Richard from Sir John's window to use as his quarters when in London.

Our program was a discussion of the Battle of Bosworth and Mary had much information to pass around — pictures of the battlefield and diagrams of the battle. Several of our members have been there and were able to add first-hand descriptions.

Joan Marshall, Secretary

### Ohio Chapter

The summer meeting was held at Squire's Castle, in the Cleveland area. Everyone attending enjoyed a delicious cookout with Gary Bailey as the Chef. A short business meeting was brought to order by Chairman, Tom Coles. Treasurer, Gary Bailey, reported that our raffle of a 12th century battle axe did very well at this year's Renn Fest at Ohio State in May.

Tom announced to everyone that our Chapter has been invited to participate in the Kyng's Company 1994 Renaissance Faire in Peninsula, Ohio.

Following the business meeting, we were treated to a lecture by historian John Bellamy which included a discussion of Alison Weir's *The Princes in the Tower*.

Kathie A. Raleigh

### Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter

Congratulations to Laura Blanchard, who became the new chapter chairman in January. Sally Yenkinson and Regina Jones remain as Vice-Chairman/Treasurer and Secretary, respectively.

On January 24, Borders Bookstore hosted an appearance by Allison Weir, author of the uncomplimentary *Princes in the Tower*. Laura Blanchard, Dick and Kathleen Grant, Wendy Logan, and Bonnie and Michael Dillard braved the winter cold to insure that there was a pro-Ricardian element in the audience. They made their presence felt in the question-and-answer session at the end of the presentation. Thanks to everyone who went to present "our side" — it was a really great turn-out on relatively short notice. The Chapter appreciates it!

The January meeting took place at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, where members took a guided tour of the newly-renovated medieval wing. We had a very personable guide who, in deference to our group, focused the tour on the fifteenth century. We met for an informal lunch first and had a very pleasant and worthwhile afternoon.

Medieval magic occurred once again at our March 26 meeting. The occasion was our second annual medieval feast, hosted by Michael and Bonnie Dillard. Nine of the 13 guests wore medieval dress; this — together with the mead! — created an enchanting ambience. The costumes were effective conversation starters, as was the food: we were served roast pig, artfully presented, and a tasty venison stew. Salmon and fruit tarts were the other "removes."

Our library exhibits are making a comeback. In April, we had a display at the Penn Wood Library in Langhorne, Pa., and in May we had our exhibit at the Margaret Grundy Library in Bristol, Pa. Thanks so much to Dick Grant, Kathleen Grant, and Nancy Griggs for scheduling these, and for setting up and taking down the displays.

Our June meeting was a "Rowse Roast," when members heard a tape of the infamous 1968 lecture given by A.L. Rowse to the American Branch in New York. The meeting was at Laura Blanchard's house in Philadelphia and was also our first AGM planning session. Our chapter will be hosting the '96 AGM!

Upcoming meetings will be on Saturday, September 11, at International House on the University of Pennsylvania campus; Saturday, November 3 at the home of Wendy Logan in Haverford; and Saturday, January 28 at the home of Dave Macool in Upper Darby. We encourage area Ricardians and their guests to join us.

Regina Jones





# RICARDIAN READING

Myrna Smith

## Non-fiction Department

### Women Of The Renaissance

University of Chicago Press, 1991

*Women of The Renaissance* covers the subjects of women in the family, women and religion, and women and high culture, during the period of 1350-1650 in Western Europe. To a certain extent, these demarcations, like the time period, are arbitrary, although useful for organizational purposes. Her main purpose is to discover whether feminist historian Joan Kelly, who asked whether women had a Renaissance, was correct in answering No. Her conclusion is that while Kelly is correct in pointing out that women's lives were "a continuation . . . of the disabilities and prejudices inherited from the Middle Ages . . .", she is sympathetic to the argument of David Herlihy, a historian of medieval and Renaissance Italy, that "Something changed during the Renaissance in women's sense of themselves, even if very little changed . . . in their social condition."

King's introduction shows a great deal of promise. She acknowledges the variety in women's lives and the great differences between north and south, rich and poor. Unfortunately she is not adept in pointing out these problems when telling her story. King is a historian of Renaissance Italy and much of her evidence comes from that part of Europe. 1350-1650 as the Renaissance works reasonably well in that framework, but for Northern Europe the boundaries are a bit wide. Calling Julian of Norwich, the 14th-century mystic and anchorite, a Renaissance woman is certainly a misnomer. Humanism began making an impact in England by the second quarter of the 15th century, flowering in the 16th. To push the Renaissance back into the 14th century in England is ahistorical. This is one of the weaknesses of King's book — she attempts to cover too long a time period over too wide an area. Frequently she does not consider the vast differences between the beginning of her period and the end. And while she does mention the differences between northern and southern areas, she does not make enough of these distinctions when pursuing a particular argument.

The book describes women's lives in a variety of ways dealing with such issues as marriage, dowry, childbirth and child-rearing, and widowhood. Here the discontinuities between Italy and England are striking. Italian women had very little control over their lives or their wealth. English women, on the other hand, could inherit property and manage it themselves. While their families could browbeat them, they couldn't always control these independent Englishwomen the way that Italian women could be con-

trolled by both their natal and marital families.

In the section on religion, King spends a great deal of time on the Beguine movement as well as that of the Poor Clares. Neither of these movements was Renaissance in time period or inspiration. They were expressions of medieval spirituality, and while they might have questioned traditional women's roles, they did not question fundamental medieval assumptions about religion or society.

The third part of the book deals with education, culture, and power. Like male Renaissance humanists, she tends to devalue the education of women who did not learn Greek and Latin. Many of the important contributions that women made to learning in these centuries were made in the vernacular — including those of Margaret Beaufort, who is cited by King as an example of a learned Englishwoman. Christine de Pizan, whom King discusses at length, wrote most of her influential books and essays in French, even though she knew Latin. Her audience, the aristocracy of France and England, found the vernacular more congenial. Again, the preponderance of Italian examples skews the presentation.

King makes various generalizations that become meaningless since they are frequently undermined by specific evidence that she presents after the generalizations. For example, she cites the contemporary classifications of women workers, and calls the term *femme sole* "illusory." This may have been true for Italy, but the evidence for England — "In London in 1319, such women . . . accounted for 4% of the city's taxpayers" — and Germany shows that many women functioned as *femmes sole*. She states that Elizabeth I "was the only woman to hold sovereign power during the Renaissance" before going on to discuss such notable female rulers as Isabella of Castile, Christiana of Sweden, Mary of Scotland, and Mary Tudor. Another blanket statement without any foundation is "Poor women, like poor men, received no formal education whatsoever . . ." (pg. 164). Later she undercuts this statement with information on the education of poor orphans, on charity schools, and on large-scale civic education, especially with the coming of the Reformation. This is not to argue that all poor children were educated but to point out that educational opportunities were in some cases available to the poor, both male and female.

These unconsidered generalizations undermine what is a very useful survey. King marshals a great deal of information from secondary studies and primary works and weaves them into a narrative that gives an impression of the possibilities and restrictions of women's lives during the Renaissance. She sees the period in contradictory ways — offering new opportunities in learning while perpetuating the misogynis-



tic attitudes of the ancient philosophers, early church fathers, and medieval scholastics. She writes of religion both as offering possibilities for self-expression and as a prison for unwilling nuns. Both attitudes were true in the Renaissance, as they were in the preceding centuries. Continuity as well as innovation was a hallmark of this era.

—Sharon D. Michalove, IL

## Feedback Department

— or further comment on books recently reviewed here — or at least within living memory.

### The Wizard's Shadow

Susan Dexter, New York: Ballantine Books, 1993

In the opinion of many readers, it has been possible in recent months to find fantasy masquerading as history. (See Alison Weir's *The Princes In The Tower*.) With Susan Dexter's novel, the opposite is equally possible.

*The Wizard's Shadow* introduces an imaginary late-medieval world in which the practice of magic is a recognized skill. That is an environment readily familiar to anyone who has encountered the works of Tolkien or Terry Brooks. Yet one does not have to be an avid reader of that genre to recognize the plot, involving a beautiful but evil mother, her son and heir to the throne, and an admirably dedicated uncle.

By directly borrowing from the conflict between Elizabeth Woodville and Richard of Gloucester, the author has plenty of heroic and villainous actions from which to choose. She throws in enough fantasy elements to keep the plot from being a strict duplication of history. Nevertheless the broad outlines are familiar and will provide enjoyment for anyone seeking to match events and characters in the novel with their historical counterparts.

—Richard Oberdorfer, VA

Mr. Oberdorfer has included this book, along with John Ford's *The Dragon Waiting*, and several others, in a bibliography he has prepared for possible use in schools. This too should provide some enjoyment. What titles would you choose?

Dale Summers has some favorable comments on Valerie Anand's *Crown of Roses*: The author has great skill in creating characters . . . this Richard is no perfect prince, no pale, idealized hero who could do no wrong. He is a vigorous Plantagenet with strong passions. His dynastic fury leads him into a situation that Henry II could have understood . . . Elizabeth Woodville at first seems to be sympathetically drawn . . . But as the story develops the picture of the Woodville queen is the most damning this reviewer has ever seen. Not evil, cold or heartless . . . (she) is driven by terror . . . Anne Neville grows from childish defiance through tragedy and happiness into a woman of resolute courage . . . A fresh approach to a story familiar to all Ricardians, this book will please society members who search beneath the whitewash

of some of the revisionists for a "real" Richard.

Dale, who purchased this book during a visit to Middleham Castle, tells us that future Ricardian tours will be connected with Bishop John Alcock, who has a prominent role in the book. Both in the book and in history, Alcock continued to support Richard III after the disappearance of the Princes. Surely this must mean something, suggests Dale.

## Police Department

### The White Rose Dies

Miles Tudor, Surbiton, Surrey: Tudor Sovereign Publications, 1991

Miles Tudor is the pseudonym of a retired Chief Inspector of the London Metropolitan Police, and Tudor Sovereign Publishing is an off-shoot of his touring company and his passion for history. The book is only 27 pages, easily read because of its clarity of style.

Tudor approaches the question of the murder of the princes like a logical, scientific policeman. He recognizes that the evidence is all circumstantial and therefore unreliable. A sense of fair play, he says, is essential. He reviews the events (dated in bold print to aid the reader) in chronological sequence. Events which are especially significant are in bold italics. The result is a fair and balanced judgment.

The record of familiar arguments is complete and Tudor adds some new information and a new slant on some familiar facts. Tudor believes the boys were murdered, and considers Richard, Buckingham, and Henry VII as suspects. Buckingham was ambitious and motivated, and had the opportunity as Constable of the Tower. But had he done so, he would have told Morton. Richard had a history of not killing people who were a threat to him. That leaves Henry VII, and the author builds what he terms a complete *prima facie* case against him.

This book was purchased at the Visitor's Centre at Bosworth Field.

—Dale Summers, TX

## Plainclothes Division

Mary Monica Pulver, who is one-half of the team writing the Sister Fevrisse stories, has also written a series of novels about policeman Peter Brichter and his wife Kori, who belong to the Society for Creative Anachronism. Since some Ricardians also belong to this organization (at least one that I know of) *Murder At The Wars* should be of interest. If you don't belong, you might want to consider joining. It sounds like fun! (The book is titled *Knight's Fall* in paperback.) In a prequel, *The Unforgiving Minutes*, Ms. Pulver devotes a couple of pages to Richard III, showing where her sympathies lie. Another, *Original Sin*, is not even remotely Ricardian or medieval, but has a plot that Dame Agatha would be proud of. If your tastes are toward the cozy/classic, I think you will enjoy these.



Not particularly cozy are the stories of Elizabeth George, but she is on the side of the angels also. Although Richard is not mentioned in *Well-Schooled In Murder*, the story is set in a school founded, for fictional purposes, by Henry VII, and — er — graced by a statue of the founder in the quad, "facing north, toward Bosworth Field." (For some reason this is not shown on the endpaper maps.) Much of the plot centers around loyalty, however misplaced. Perhaps only an outsider (in this case an American) could write about the British class system without condescending or satirizing one side or the other. Mind you, a little satire might lighten the tone a bit. Her books are rather deeper than the customary lawn-chair read, but well worth a little application.

Look for these in your local library, or ask for an interlibrary loan, if they are no longer in print.

## "Most Wanted" Division

Last time out we printed a review of *The Sheriff Of Nottingham*, by Richard Kliger. For balance, here's a book about his arch-rival.

### Lady of the Forest

Jennifer Roberson, NY: Kensington Publishing Group, 1992

There have been a number of re-tellings of the Robin Hood Legend in recent years, and in my opinion this is one of the finest. All the requisite characters are here, but freshly drawn, vigorous people, not the cardboard cutouts that one might expect to find in a story so often told. We have a tortured Robin, just back from the crusades, trying, as many a veteran before and since, to fit back into a community he no longer believes in, or has perhaps outgrown. There is Marian, her father dead in the same crusade, trying to keep both her dignity and her independence in a society that affords women precious little of either. The Sheriff of Nottingham is presented as neither villain nor hero, but a man of his times, trying to make the best life for himself that he can. Even Prince John, venal and treacherous, avoids dropping into caricature.

The story that unfolds is a human drama, set against a detailed portrayal of the time, giving the reader a glimpse of day-to-day life in the 12th century. At one point there is a tremendous storm, and a vivid description of the clean-up involved — everything from replacing the soggy rushes and mending the torn thatch, to re-seating the cobbles in the courtyard; an edifying look at some of the less romantic duties of the Lady of the Manor. The author, however, avoids becoming bogged down in these details, adding enough for texture and color while keeping the plot interesting. Furthermore, she resists preaching a sermon, either moral or political. It is, above all, a tale of circumstance.

This is not a historical novel, per se, and there are a few liberties taken with facts (it is, after all, legend)

but it is an excellent read, a book to be savored again and again.

— Siobhan Burke, NS, Canada

## Hall of Shame Department

There are no Hall of Shame candidates this quarter. What can be wrong?

## Capsule Comment Department

### Good King Richard? An Account of Richard III and His Reputation

Jeremy Potter, London: Constable & Company, Ltd, 1983

An overview of Richard's life as well as a detailed analysis of the centuries-old dispute between those who condemn and those who defend him. Because the author is identified as Chairman of the Richard III society, one might expect a partisan slant; but the book is thorough, balanced, and scholarly.

—Richard Oberdorfer, VA

### A Medieval Book of Seasons

Marie Collins and Virginia Davis (publishing information not available)

A coffee-table book, beautifully illustrated with pictures from books of hours. Though it probably contains little that is new to a long-time medievalist, it can provide a pleasant and useful introduction to the period.

—M. S.

### Cathedral, Forge, and Waterwheel

Frances and Joseph Gies, NY: Harper Collins Publishers, 1994

While *Seasons* concentrates on life on the land, this considers the growth of technology in what the authors call "the not so dark ages" and later. Both books are recent and may still be in bookstores; if not, try the library.

—M.S.

## Change-of-address Department

If this column appears a little disjointed, put it down to the fact that I am trying to learn a new software while going slightly crazy while trying to move my mother by August 19 and trying to move ourselves by September 1.

If my new address did not make it into the masthead, I'll include a convenience address here: 2305-B Pinson, Texarkana, AR 75502. Fax: 501/772-5818. By the time this reaches print, I should be settled, or completely off my rocker.

Either way, I'll be ready for a new round of contributions . . .



## NEW BOOKS

A number of new books have been added to the Research Library since the previous list update, as well as many new articles and papers (too many to enumerate here). Gratitude is due first to Judy Weinsoft, who furnished some of the books and whose generous bequest will continue to provide the library with much good reading matter. I would like also to specially acknowledge the effort and enthusiasm of Toby Friendberg, who completed her third, and final, Bunnet update, on Sir Robert Brackenbury. I will miss both of these good women. Finally, my thanks to Laura Blanchard, C. C. Garcia Jr., Margaret Gurowitz, James Madden, Judith Pimental, Charles T. Wood and Joyce Wulff for their donations to the library. A fully revised list is now available. Write to me at 24001 Salero Lane, Mission Viejo, CA 92691.

- Judith H. Anderson, *Biographical Truth: the Representation of Historical Persons in Tudor-Stuart Writing* (1984)
- Mabel E. Christie, *Henry VI* (1922)
- Scott Colley, *Richard's Himself Again: A Stage History of Richard III* (1992)
- David R. Cook, *Lancastrians and Yorkists: The Wars of the Roses* (1984)
- Anne Crawford, intro., *The Household Books of John Howard, Duke of Norfolk, 1462-1471, 1481-1483* (1992)
- P. W. Hammond, *Food and Feast in Medieval England* (1993)
- Michael K. Jones and Malcolm G. Underwood, *The King's Mother: Lady Margaret Beaufort, Countess of Richmond and Derby* (1992)
- V. B. Lamb, *The Betrayal of Richard III*, new edition with intro. and notes by P. W. Hammond (1990)
- Roger Lockyer, *Tudor and Stuart Britain 1471-1714* (1964)
- David MacGibbon, *Elizabeth Woodville 1437-1492* (1938)
- Robin Neillands, *The Wars of the Roses* (1992)
- Colin Richmond, *The Paston Family in the Fifteenth Century: the First Phase* (1990)
- Joel T. Rosenthal, *Late Medieval England (1337-1485): A Bibliography of Historical Scholarship, 1975-89* (1994)
- Anthony Sher, *Year of the King: An Actor's Diary and Sketchbook* (1985)
- David Smurthwaite, *The Complete Guide to the Battlefields of Britain* (1984)
- W. L. Warren, *Henry II* (1973)
- Alison Weir, *The Princes in the Tower* (1992)

## SILENT AUCTION VI

We're back. After a hiatus Silent Auction is here again, thanks to a generous donation of books by Judy Weinsoft. All proceeds will go to the Weinsoft Library Fund, where they will help to purchase new books for the Research Library. Yes, some of these books are also available from our Sales Officer, but hey . . . To bid, write to Helen Maurer, 24001 Salero Lane, Mission Viejo, CA 92691. Indicate which book(s) you want and how much you bid on each by November 30. Send no money. You will be notified of the auction results.

- Margaret Aston, *The Fifteenth Century: the Prospect of Europe*, Harcourt, Brace & World, Inc., 1968; softcover, 214 pp. Social/cultural history; the emergence of a modern European outlook and identity. Very good condition; a few unobtrusive underlinings or marginal markings. \$2.95 stamped inside.
- Keith Dockray, *Richard III: A Reader in History*, Alan Sutton, 1988; softcover, 16 pp. Introduction to controversy, and to primary and secondary sources. Excellent condition, except pages slightly yellowed at edges. \$5.95 (currently \$18 new here).
- Paul Murray Kendall, *Richard The Third*, W. W. Norton & Co., Inc., 1955, 1956; hardcover, 602 pp. Well-documented biography; novelistic style. Very good condition except dustjacket, which is worn and discolored. \$7.50 when new; purchased for \$12.250 (currently \$20 for new softcover).
- Taylor Littleton and Robert R. Rea, *To Prove A Villian: The Case of Richard III*, The Macmillan Co. 1964; softcover, 206 pp. Textbook, using Shakespeare, Tey and others to teach critical thinking and analysis. Pretty good condition: sound, but somewhat rubbed and worn. A few, mostly very unobtrusive markings. \$4.00; currently \$14 if new.
- Roxane C. Murph, *Richard III: The Making of A Legend*, The Scarecrow Press, Inc., 1977; hardcover, 148 pp. Historiography of the Ricardian legend, including its fictional treatment. Very good to excellent condition (the tops of a few pages are bent). Currently \$15 new.
- Jeremy Potter, *Good King Richard? An Account of Richard III and His Reputation*, Constable and Company Ltd. 1983; hardcover, 287 pp. Primarily an account of Richard's posthumous reputation. Excellent condition, including dustjacket. \$10.95; currently \$22 new here.
- Charles Ross, *Richard III*, University of California Press 1981; softcover, 265 pp. Scholarly biography; thematic approach. Good condition (cover has come loose at back binding; can be reglued; otherwise excellent); a few small, faint check marks in margin of Introduction. It was \$10.95 new.



- Peter Saccio, *Richard III: Player-King*, Richard III Society, Inc. 1985; pamphlet, 17 pp. Based on talk on Shakespeare's Richard presented at 1984 AGM. Very good condition. Current price \$3.
- Geoffrey Wheeler, et al, *To Prove A Villain — The Real Richard III*; 1993; 68 pp. Catalogue of the 1991 exhibition at the Royal National Theatre, London, compiled by Laura Blanchard. Very good condition; cover a little mashed. Price unknown.



## Highlights from Chapter Newsletters

Mid-Atlantic Chapter, Carol Bessette, Editor

### *If God is an Englishman, R. F. Delderfield must be a Ricardian*

On pp. 344-45 of R. F. Delderfield's *God is an Englishman*, one of the 19th-century empire builder protagonist Swann's women employees, a Yorkshire woman, points out Middleham, once the seat of the great Neville family. "Full of ghosts, is Wensleydale, and one of them royal." To continue:

"Who was that?" he [Swann] asked. . . . She replied lightly, "Ah, now, there's a tomfool question from a man who has earned the Queen's shilling. The last king we had. The last real king, that is, Richard, the one labelled by that liar Shakespeare, and others who shall remain nameless. King Dick spent the happiest days of his life hereabouts and fell in love for good measure."

"He was a blackhearted scoundrel, none the less, . . ."

"Stuff and nonsense," she said, "you've swallowed all that stinking fish they left lying about. I don't know as he murdered his nephews, but I do know he loved England and died for it. Which is more than can be said of the misers and weaklings who succeeded him."

. . . He remembered that the man [Richard] had been respected up here, and his habit of driving himself and his adherents was in keeping with her own drive and self-sufficiency.'

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Further evidence of Delderfield's good opinion of Richard is that the protagonist Swann's main officials in the buildup of his corporate empire, and men of great integrity, were named Catesby, Ratcliff, Lovell, and Tyrrell!

### *Hump? What Hump?*

A fleeting reference to Richard occurs in the rock star Sting's movie version of *The Bride of Frankenstein*, in which Sting as Dr. Frankenstein attempts to convert the young 'woman' into a paragon of the European learned aristocrat. At her first outing to a very aristocratic tea party, the young lady refers to her reading of Shakespeare. In the background a conversation ensues between two gentlemen, in which one refers to the lies in Shakespeare's *Richard III*. The other gentleman states that the Tudors were forced to blacken Richard's reputation to bolster their weak claim to the throne.

[Ed. Note: Sting, a native of the North of England, shares a birthday with Richard III.]

### *We Have a Hunch It's Gonna Flop*

In the comic movie *The Tall Guy*, in which Jeff Goldblum stars as an American actor in London playing the lead in a particularly horrible musical theater version of the Elephant Man, two actors at rehearsal refer to an upcoming musical version of *Richard III* called "Dirty Dick." The opening number is to be a song entitled "I Have a Hunch Someday I'm Gonna Be King."



# THE VERY STRANGE STORY OF RICHARD PLANTAGENET

*From The Kings of England: Kent, by Arthur Mee*

## Eastwell, Kent

*The church is now a ruin brought about by damage caused by bombing during the last war; pre-war, however, it was a palace of beauty and great historical interest.*

*There were three tombs about the altar, one was the magnificent tomb of Sir Moyle and Elizabeth Finch. He was one of Elizabeth's Privy Councillors, and his wife was the first Countess of Winchelsea. By them is another tomb in which lies Sir Thomas Moyle, who rebuilt Eastwell House. He was the Speaker of the House of Commons and died an old man in the early years of Queen Elizabeth, but we are interested in him because there lies within a few feet of him an old man he knew who was buried here in 1550. He lies in a nameless tomb of rough Kent marble inside the altar rails, and the story is that Sir Thomas Moyle, finding him working as a bricklayer here, discovered him to be the last of the Plantagenets. By the great house in the park is a tiny cottage which is said to mark the place where Richard Plantagenet lived.*

The story is that Sir Thomas Moyle, building his great house here, was much struck by a white-bearded man his mates called Richard. There was a mystery about him. In the rest hour, while the others talked or threw dice, this old man would go apart and read a book. Now, there were very few working men who could read in 1545 and Sir Thomas did not rest until he had won the confidence of the men and got his story from him.

Richard told Sir Thomas that he was brought up by a schoolmaster. From time to time a gentleman came who paid for his food and schooling and asked many questions to discover if he was well cared for. One day, when the boy was in his early teens, the gentleman said he was going to take Richard for a visit. It must have been a very exciting journey, made on horseback across 15th century England to an unknown goal. At length, they came to a vast camp all a-buzz with knights and bowmen. The boy was brought to a tent, where he saw a stately man in a rich suit of armour.

He put his hands on the boy's shoulders and, gazing at him, said: "Richard, I am your father, and if I prevail in tomorrow's battle, I will provide for you as befits your blood. But it may be that I shall be defeated, killed: that I shall not see you again."

The boy asked, stammering: "Sir, Father, who are you?"

"I am the King of England today!" said the man, "but only Heaven knows what I may be tomorrow, for the rebels are strong. If the Earl of Richmond wins the day, he will seek out Plantagenets and crush them. Tell no one who you are unless I am victorious."

The next day a man came riding from the battle crying: "The King has lost." The reign of the Plantage-



nets was over. The Tudors' had begun. It was the end of the long civil wars. Each time the crown had changed hands there had been wholesale murder among all the boys and men related to the king just dead. So Richard went in terror of rope or axe, poison or dagger. He obeyed his father's bidding. Never did he breathe a word of his birth. He described himself as a poor orphan. He had been happy. He had been able to earn, by honest toil, enough money to give him lodgings and bread; he had found much consolation from reading; and he gained truer friends than princes usually have.

Sir Thomas Moyle listened to this wonderful story, determined that the last Plantagenet should not want in his old age. He had a little house built for him in the park, and instructed his steward to provide for it every day. Richard was able to spend his last years in reading and walking about the lanes of Eastwell. He is lost in history, but he is in the register of burials here.

Addendum from Mr. Daniels: The Arthur Mee book of Kent was published in 1936; the edition I am quoting from is dated 1954 and states that it has not been thought desirable to note the changes war brought about in some churches. In the case of Eastwell Church, it received damage during the war; the major part of the church collapsed after the war. The tombs of the Moyles are in the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, but the tomb of the Plantagenet, believed illegitimate son of Richard III, is still next to the site of the altar in the now cleared ruins of Eastwell Church. The burial records of Richard Plantagenet are now kept in Maidstone.

*Ed. Note: Thanks to Linda Treybig, who submitted the above material. The story came from Mr. A. W. Daniels of Sidcup, Kent, who passed it along to Linda during the 1992 Ricardian tour. It was read aloud during their visit to Eastwell Church. The book from which this was taken (The Kings of England by Arthur Mee) was volume one of a series.*



## FROM YOUR EDITOR:

The planned feature for our Winter Issue is Middleham, Richard's castle of care.

If you have photos, slides, drawings, or information you wish to provide as part of this coverage, please send them on to me.

Additionally, if you have ideas for special coverage, I would be most receptive and grateful.

Carole



*This is Dr. Morris McGee  
(Are we having fun yet?)*



*This is Robert Baker  
(We're about to start having fun!)*

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