

Ricardian Register



Richard III Society, III

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"OUR CASTELL OF MIDDLEHAM"

*Middleham Castle with Swine Cross in the foreground, portrait of Richard III
and facsimile of Richard's signature as Duke of Gloucester*

— Photomontage by Geoffrey Wheeler

*"Here with Kendall's Richard you might rediscover the native
spirit of your soul as you contemplate the vast sweep of the
landscape . . ."*

see page 4 this issue

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I want to express my gratitude to the membership of the American Branch for electing me to a term as Chair. I look forward to working with and serving the membership as best I am able. In a volunteer organization like the Richard III Society, it is important that as many as are in the position to do so offer their time and talents to the pursuit of our common interest in the history of fifteenth-century England. Please do not be bashful about telling officers of the Society if you are willing to take on a task, and remember as well that as volunteers we can expect to have fun as we participate in the activities of the Society.

As a volunteer organization made up overwhelmingly of non-academics, the American branch is nonetheless undertaking some noteworthy academic activities in addition to its usually more private and often more recreational enterprises. Soon there will be named new recipients of the William B. Schallek Memorial Graduate Fellowship Awards. The graduate students engaged in academic training in fifteenth-century English studies who will benefit from Schallek Fellowships will push forward the frontiers of knowledge, and members of the Society should take satisfaction in this effort of the American Branch. In the spring of 1995 the American Branch will be sponsoring scholarly activities in a pair of venues and any Ricardians who can attend are encouraged to do so. A group of British and North American historians will be gathering on the campus of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign from 29 April to 1 May to present papers and engage in discussion about topics of fifteenth-century English history, and it is the tentative plan to publish these papers under the auspices of the American Branch. A few days later, from 4 to 7 May, the Thirtieth International Congress on Medieval Studies will take place on the campus of Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. The American Branch will be acting as sponsor of a session of papers at the International Congress.

The Richard III Society is setting an example of ways in which "town" and "gown" can beneficially be linked together.

*Gothic forever,
Compton Reeves*

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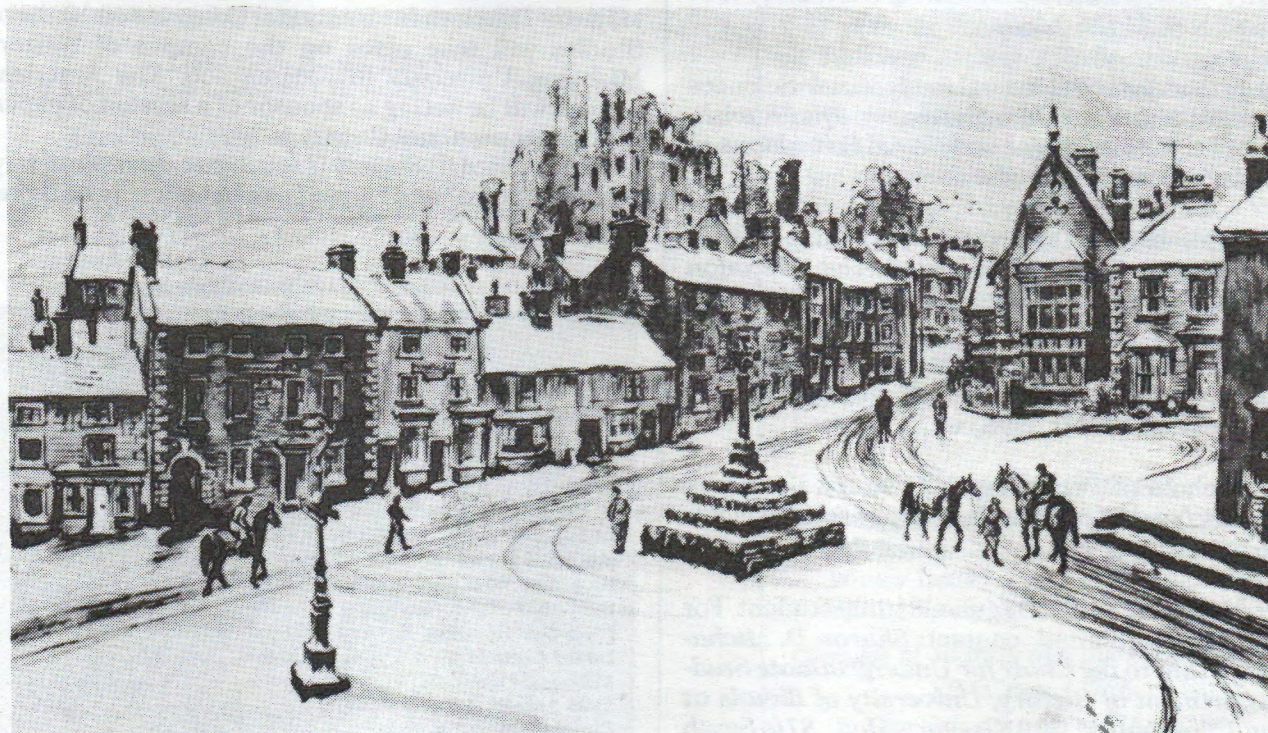
It is only in recent years that Middleham has taken on the mantle of *the* Ricardian point of pilgrimage. Once upon a time, before Kendall, it was just a remote northern town, known more for its racehorse training and *Neville* connections. It is the late twentieth-century rediscovery of Richard III's northernness, allied to the grandeur of the castle ruins, which has really put it on the map. That and some cunning marketing by English Heritage and the town council led by its indefatigable mayor, Peter Hibbard. Perhaps the turning point was the summer of 1983 during which the people of the town mounted a highly successful festival to celebrate their most famous (adopted) son.

We ought to bear in mind therefore that Richard III's Middleham is really a modern invention. Yes, Richard III did his bit for it; yes, he set up a collegiate church there; yes, he used its resources to recruit followers in the region. But then Richard did his bit for all sorts of places, south as well as north; once he was king he turned to York Minister for a far grander chantry chapel; and, if equivalent documentation had survived for elsewhere, the 'Middleham Connection' would not stand out as much. Besides which, he didn't stay there that often: not at all in the year 1473-4 for which a bundle of estate documents has survived. He is to be found more frequently at Pontefract, and as often at Barnard Castle to the north upon which, literally, he left a more lasting mark.

But then nothing beats Middleham as a place to visit. Come over from Catterick garrison and the moors to the north. The view as you drop into Wensleydale is superb. Moreover, as you approach up the

hill from the river, you get an unmistakable sense of a hill-town in south-western France. Until recently you would have been welcomed in the square by 'Richards Butchers.' No, not an indication of a Yorkshire sense of humor, but actually the surname of the butcher. Now it is the 'Middleham Butchers,' which is not as evocative. But the Black Swan next door is still as welcoming; there is no need to visit any other pub in the town. You must however visit the 'Old School Arts Workshop' up the hill where there will be an exhibition of local artists' work on display, some books to buy, a cup of tea to be had, and, if you feel inclined, a lesson in sculpture from one of Henry Moore's pupils. The church is disappointingly Victorian, but now displays a replica of the Jewel unearthed nearby in 1985 in addition to the sentimental glass window put up by the Richard III Society.

But of course it is the castle looming up behind the market square which is the high point of the visit. Remember that in the fifteenth century there were no buildings between it and the market place. Remember, too, as you go round the lawns cut every morning with nail scissors that this is not the interior aspect of the castle Richard III knew. At ground level it would have been cramped, dark and dingy — as it still can be on winter days. But this murky zone is where only the menials mingled; literally below stairs. To go with the lord of the castle and his entourage, you need to go up the great flight of steps on the side of the keep. There at the top lay the chapel on the left, the great hall on the right. And it might have been Richard who raised the roof to create the clerestory. And then the



Middleham in Winter, from 1950's Illustrated London News

private and guest apartments were mainly in the curtain walls, linked by wooden passages that bridged the yard below. To get the sense of Middleham as it was lived in you have to be on the first floor, not down in the basements.

English Heritage has recently opened up access to the oratory off the main hall; you might like to imagine Richard himself, and his duchess, withdrawing there with their primers and books of hours: Richard himself seeking protection from all those enemies lurking in the crannies. And you must go up to the new viewpoint on the battlements of the keep. Here with Kendall's Richard you might rediscover the native spirit of your soul as you contemplate the vast sweep of the landscape. And you never know: you might also catch the glint of gold glistening in a furrow recently turned by a farmer.

Middleham was other things than a residence in the fifteenth century. The north range, holding the auditor's chamber, reminds us that it was the administrative centre of an extensive lordship, and for most of the fifteenth century the de facto heart of the honor of Richmond which the lords of Middleham controlled. Councilors, lawyers and accountants met here to execute their lord's business, often of a highly sensitive kind, such as agreeing to rise in rebellion against Henry VI in 1458. Even Henry VII, the earl of Richmond himself, continued to use it as an office block long after 1485.

Its massive walls and secure gate fitted the castle for another purpose. Edward IV was twice a guest of Warwick the Kingmaker: on the second occasion, for two months in 1469, unwillingly. The unfortunate Anne, Countess of Warwick, spent ten years of her life staying as her son-in-law's guest; and her nephew, George Neville, the degraded son of John Neville, also enjoyed a grace and favor apartment there; on the other hand, the widowed countess of Oxford seems to have preferred to transfer her estates to Richard of Gloucester, rather than spend a winter holiday in Wensleydale in 1473, an offer she did refuse.

Not all of Richard III's contemporaries appreciated Middleham in the same way as we do today. To us in the twentieth century Middleham is a romantic spot in unspoilt countryside; a vestige of Merrie England, and all that was good before 22 August 1485. Then it was a residence, an office block and a prison, the headquarters of a mighty lord and a grim reminder of the immense power wielded by him over the inhabitants of the district.

[A.J. Pollard, professor of history at the University of Teesside, is the author of *The Middleham Connection, North-Eastern England During the Wars of the Roses*, and *Richard III and the Princes in the Tower*, and is widely regarded as the leading authority on the history of the region during the Yorkist era.]

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RICARDIANS IN MIDDLEHAM: SIXTY YEARS OF SUPPORT

Laura Blanchard

Middleham and its environs have held a special fascination for the supporters of Richard III for well over a century (his Victorian biographer, Caroline Halsted, went on to marry the rector of the church at Middleham). A list of the Richard III Society's accomplishment begins with a Middleham memorial — a stained glass window in the Church of St. Mary and St. Alkelda in the town of Middleham.

In the left light is displayed St. Richard of Chichester, with his emblem of an ox; the right light shows St. Anne teaching the Virgin to read. At the base can be seen the kneeling figures of Prince Edward, King Richard III, and Queen Anne. The background panes of diamond quarries bear numerous badges of York and Neville. The window was unveiled in 1934 by Marjorie Bowen, the first of many memorials dedicated to the King.

The "Elder Fellowship," as George Awdry describes the original group of organized Ricardians, also gave the church a replica of Richard's Great Seal. "This had now been stolen, to great local indignation," wrote Awdry about the "Reconstituted" Fellowship's activities in 1959, "and we set about replacing it."

As most Ricardians know, the "Elder Fellowship" became inactive with the approach of World War II, enjoying a rebirth in the 1950s. Middleham became an early focus of the Society's attentions.

In fact, the very first sentence of the very first issue of *The Ricardian* (October 1961) was about Middleham. Introducing the issue, the editors wrote, "When we roughed out this page, we were in the Windsor of the North, Middleham, Richard's home for so many years. It seemed peculiarly significant to us that we should be carrying out a part of this new idea just where Richard put so many of his into practice.... If you would like us to do so, we will devote a future issue to Yorkshire in general and Middleham in particular." This offer was apparently received with some enthusiasm, and the second issue of *The Ricardian* (January 1962) carried a three-article section on Yorkshire Ricardian sites, Middleham, and the church at Middleham, along with advice for Ricardian tourists to the region.

Middleham was also very much on the minds of those who attended the 1961 AGM in London. George Awdry writes: "Clearly, we should be doing something to help a church in which Richard had taken such an interest. But the problem was, just what to do. We had replaced the stolen replica of Richard's Great Seal; we now thought of a box to contain it. Of a Visitor's Book, perhaps a guide, and Joyce Melhuish set about writing this, and had all but finished when we learned that the Rector was writing his own. He had installed the seal copy appropriately and saw no need for a Visitors' Book. But, like all incumbents, he had restoration problems.... [Ricardian editor Christal Cook] came back with a list of the church's needs, from which we

could pick an item that seemed to us both suitable and within our reach in cost."

The result was the Trinity Altar Frontal. "The tactical advantage of this," Awdry continues, "is that it hangs on the altar for more than half the year, particularly from just after Whitsunday to the beginning of Advent, throughout the traditional tourist season, in fact. So Isolde [Wigram] sketched a proposal for this, and we took it to the 1961 Annual General Meeting, which liked it too."

The resulting design caused seven successive professional embroiderers and makers of church vestments to decline the commission or to offer astronomically high bids. "All pronounced that our design called for much gold thread; that this was expensive, slow and difficult to work with; that the charges on the two coats of arms were vastly complicated, in one case running into seven separate quarterings, which in their turn were sub-divided; and that they could not possibly do the work for anything approaching the sum our small society could raise from its members," explained Joyce Melhuish in the May 1963 issue of *The Ricardian*.

Materials for the frontal proved difficult to locate — the green fabric is silk damask hand-woven with a "St. Nicholas" pattern of palmettes and arabesques. A trip to the firm that produces the Queen's Garter robes produced satin of the right colors but the wrong weight for the appliqué. The amount of gold in the final design was so considerable that embroidery was rejected in favor of appliqué of gold lamé. To make it work, Melhuish and the embroideress found themselves inventing an entirely new appliqué technique — "minor history in the embroidery world." Melhuish's description of the frontal follows:



Prince Edward and Richard III, modern glass from window, Church of St. Mary and St. Alkelda, Middleham.

Photo by Jeffrey Wheeler

The super-frontal (the flap which runs across the top edge) is finished with a heavy gold lurex braid and fringe. It carries the words "REX REGUM ET DOMINUS DOMINANTUM" ("King of Kings and Lord of Lords") which beyond their obvious meaning, refer to the royal connection with Middleham, and the patronage of its church by so many generations of Neville lords.

The frontal itself has a central cross tressé in gold. On a slightly lower plane, and flanking the cross on either side, are two coats of arms, surmounted by crowns of the type shown in the Rous Roll — on the right (facing outwards, the arms of England, and on the left the Neville coat of seven quarters for Newburgh, Beauchamp, Montague, Monthermer, Neville, Clare and Despencer. These are the arms borne by Warwick the King Maker, and placed above the figure of Queen Anne Nevill in the Rous Roll. They also appear, impaled with England, on her memorial, erected by the Society in Westminster Abbey.

The Trinity Altar Frontal was installed in the Collegiate Church of St. Mary and St. Alkelda, Middleham, on Trinity Sunday, June 8, 1963. Editors Heather Bennett and Christal Cook wrote in the October 1963 *Ricardian*: "The frontal itself is very beautiful; we feel it is a gift after King Richard's heart, and we hope it will serve those who use this church as well as Richard served his people, both as Lord of the North and as King of England."

The next Middleham project undertaken by the Society concerns the Swine Cross. This cross is thought to commemorate the grant obtained for Middleham in 1479 of a fair and market twice yearly, in Whitsun Week and at the feast of St. Simon and St. Jude, by Richard as Duke of Gloucester. The heraldic



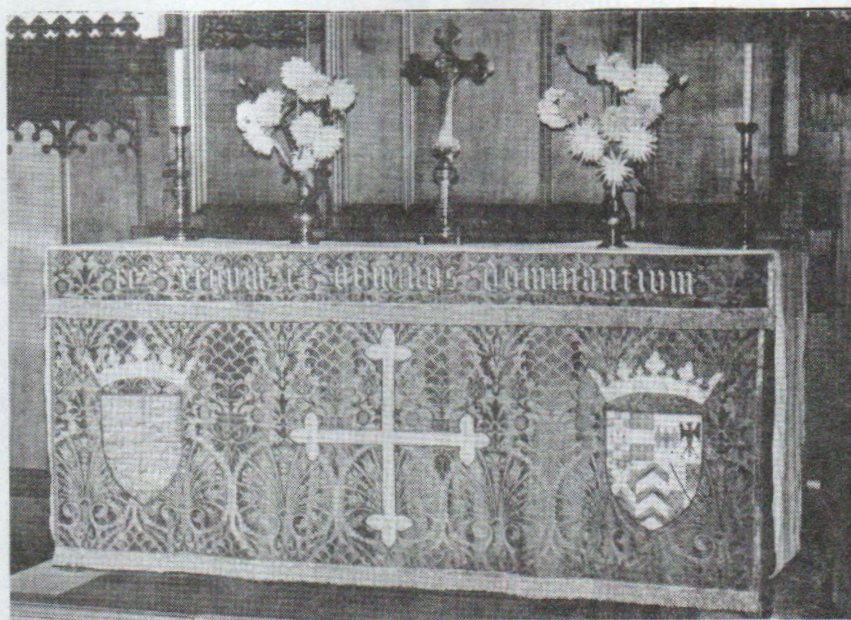
Queen Anne Neville from the Middleham Window

Photo by Geoffrey Wheeler

animal on the cross may be Richard's own cognizance of the White Boar, or the emblem of the Nevilles.

As Awdry explains, "[In 1964] the Swine Cross at Middleham was in urgent need of restoration; local resources could not cover the cost. We agreed to help. We learned next that the Ministry of Public Building and Works...was meeting half the cost. With this backing, and what the Parish Council succeeded in getting from other concerned local authorities, the cost not covered was small enough for us to meet half of it."

In his career as Lord of the North, Richard Duke of Gloucester showed his good lordship to the people and the church at Middleham. As Ricardians, we can be proud of the Society's contributions at this important Ricardian site.



Trinity Altar Frontal, showing arms of Richard III and Anne Neville, presented to Church of St. Mary and St. Alkelda, Middleham, by the Richard III Society in 1963.

Photo by Geoffrey Wheeler

VIEWS OF MIDDLEHAM

"For my part I cannot pass by Middleham without a shudder; for over all the knightly and the noble recollections of the Nevilles there broods the most terrible of all figures in our English history, the shade of Richard, Duke of Gloucester, a man in many ways so wise and strong, so clear-sighted and so brave in action that in him villainy was seen surely at its best... I cannot see past this terrible figure of King Richard the Third..."

Arthur H. Norway,
Highways & Byways in Yorkshire,
Travel guide series, 1899

"The Castle of Pomfret was not the only abode of Richard Duke of Gloucester. This fortress, indeed, appears to have been his state residence in virtue of his extensive offices; but Middleham, which he is said to have ever regarded with such warm interest, was his domestic home. This castle and lordship was bestowed upon him by King Edward IV, probably at his earnest request, shortly after the death and attainder of the Earl of Warwick; and its association with every leading point of interest connected with the spring-time of his life, and that of the Lady Anne, explains fully, when taken in conjunction with his energetic temperament, the cause of his predilection for the spot, and of its being selected after their marriage as their fixed home and private dwelling-place."

Caroline Amelia Halsted
*Richard III. as Duke of Gloucester and
King of England*,
Biography, 1844

"Its gray stone walls and towers planted solidly on the southern slope of Wensleydale, Middleham Castle had already dominated the valley for three hundred years when Richard rode up the steep slope through the market place of the village and entered its inner ward by the northern drawbridge and gate. Before him rose one of the largest keeps in England.... Behind the castle, to the south, the moors rolled upward to the sky; there was yet visible on the slope the remains of an earlier Norman 'motte and bailey' fortress which had perhaps been raised on the site of a Saxon or Roman or even an ancient Celtic earthwork. To the north, the land fell steeply past the village to the swift-flowing Ure. Beyond, rose the farther slopes of the dale and the moors..."

"Wensleydale was less subdued to man than the softer countryside which Richard had known in the south: a land of scattered castles and abbeys, their villages and fields huddled about them amidst the great wild sweep of moor. The hills seemed to have been rounded by the stamp of Roman legions and of Celtic kings. The earth was gigantic, elemental — leading men's thoughts to God, teaching men the necessity of human ties, confirming men in their feeling for old ways and old things. The people were directly swayed by their instincts, quick to take arms in a quarrel, slow to shift loyalties, earnest in their convictions. Here young Richard, in those impression-

able years between nine and thirteen, discovered the native country of his spirit, a country which half created, half affirmed the kind of man he was to be."

Paul Murray Kendall
Richard the Third
Biography, 1955

"The sky was a deep midnight-blue, spangled with stars. Richard leaned against the battlement, gazed out across the moonlit shadows that hid the landscape he so loved. Wensleydale had been ablaze with autumn bracken when he'd first laid eyes upon Middleham, a nervous nine-year-old consigned to his cousin the Kingmaker's care. The happiest years of his boyhood had been spent within these walls. And here he'd brought Anne, his bride of a week. Over the years, they'd spent time at other castles: Sheriff Hutton, Pontefract, Skipton. But Middleham had retained its hold upon his heart. Middleham had been home."

Sharon K. Penman
The Sunne in Splendour
Novel, 1982



Richard III Memorial Window, Church of St. Mary
and St. Alkelda, Middleham.

Photo by Geoffrey Wheeler

"I cannot bear to think of those happy times at Middleham, but when I breathe the corruption down there —' and [Richard] gestured fiercely in the direction of the Great Hall — 'then I mind how sweet were the cold moors of Wensleydale with their sharp cleansing gales and haunted mists. There a man could come close to God and know himself at last. Here . . . there is naught but greed and spite and lechery . . .'"

Rosemary Hawley Jarman
We Speak No Treason
Novel, 1971

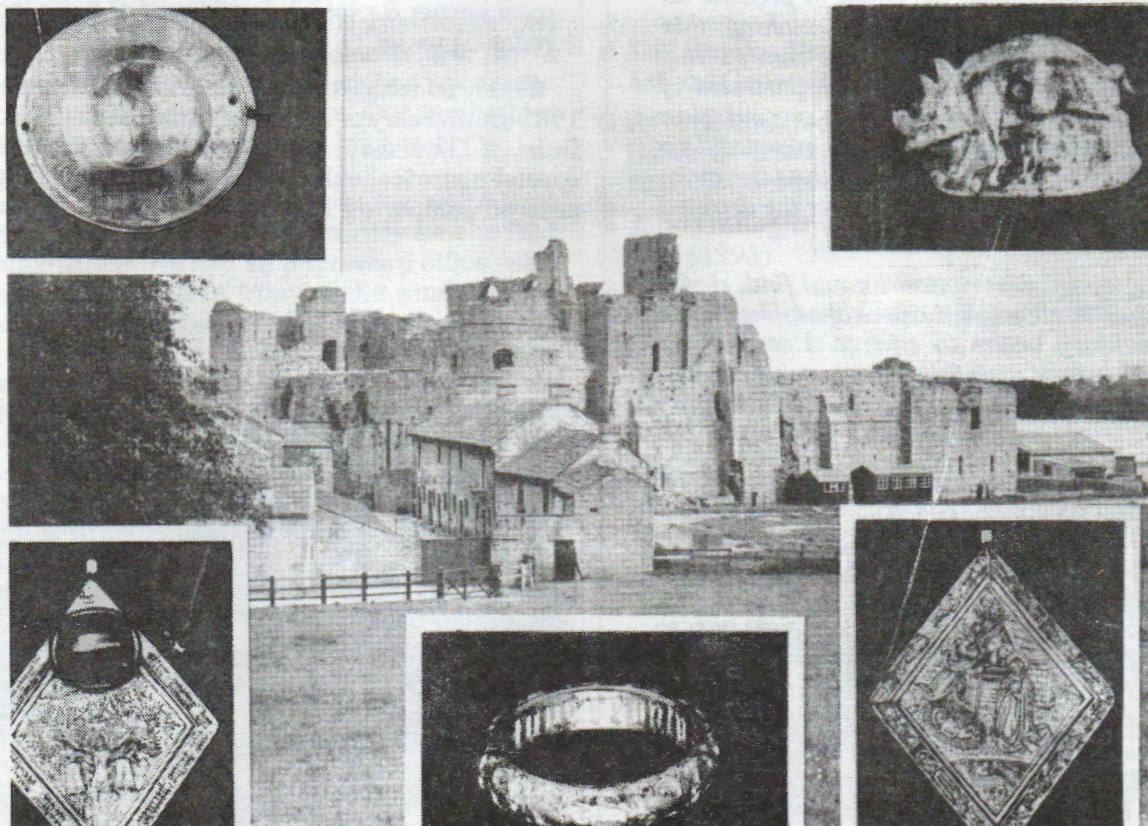
"[Richard's] castles of Middleham and Sheriff Hutton — and it is a reasonable assumption that much of the young Richard's time was spent there — were thus the centres of patronage, influence and aristocratic social life for the counties north of Trent. It is a fair presumption that here Richard, in his formative years, made the acquaintance of his future wife, Warwick's younger daughter, Anne Nevill, and one of his closest friends and most loyal supporters in later life, Warwick's ward, Francis, Lord Lovell. No less important was Richard's introduction to the large circle of northern noblemen and gentry — Scropes, FitzHughs, Greystokes, Dacres — who revolved round the regional courts of the Nevills in the early years of Edward's reign... Northern society was tightly clanish, independent and resentful of outside control,

but by 1471 Richard was in its eyes no unknown and alien southerner."

Charles Ross
Richard III
Biography, 1981

"Richard's was not an open nor a friendly personality, yet it was said of him that where he was most known he was most liked. Middleham shares something of his withdrawn, introspective character. The Norman keep is closely bounded by an impressive curtain wall with ranges of gaunt and blackened buildings filling most of the bailey and giving a rather claustrophobic feeling. The curtain wall is thirteenth century, heightened in the late fourteenth century-early fifteenth century when the gatehouse was added in the north-east corner. The castle stands on the edge of the moor and the village occupies the outer bailey. The road between Middleham and Richmond has some magnificent scenery, especially fine in the autumn, and the delightful castellated Middleham bridge, a suspension bridge of c. 1830, acts as a prologue to the Castle."

Lord Montagu of Beaulieu
English Heritage
Coffee-table book, 1987



View of the castle ruins from the South, with details of the medieval finds unearthed in recent years: circular gilt latten plaque, with R and A initials and motto 'A Vo Plaisir' (top left). Gilt latten boar badge (top right), both discovered in the moat 1930-31. Bottom: 'The Middleham Jewel,' excavated 1985 with, centre, the 'Middleham Ring,' composed of a continuous line of S's, as in the Lancastrian livery collar, with the inscription "sovereynly," found in 1990.

Photo montage by Geoffrey Wheeler

MIDDLEHAM: A MODEL OF RESTORATION

Viewing the stark grandeur of the ruins of Middleham Castle, many are moved to wonder how it would have looked in Richard's time. English Heritage, which has the care of the site, quite properly refrains from any conjectural restoration work; and yet, the question continues to entice us.

Fenton, Michigan Ricardian T. Michael Trout was one such inquisitive Ricardian, and commissioned a conjectural restoration on a small scale — a scale where people are one-inch tall, to be precise. The model, executed by Ian Weekly, was displayed at the town of Middleham's Richard III 500th Anniversary celebrations in July 1983, and made a guest appearance at this year's American Branch AGM. Its photograph is also on the cover of A.J. Pollard's monograph, "The Middleham Connection."

"I was asked to produce a model of Middleham Castle as it might have looked in about 1483 when Richard Duke of Gloucester became King Richard III," writes Weekly. "For the first time, I was faced with the problem of a fairly massive reconstruction. It was to be the largest model to be made so far!" Weekly continues:

On a bleak January day my stepson and I drove up to North Yorkshire with cameras and film, tape measures and notebooks. Next day, in spite of very dark weather conditions, we photographed every angle of the castle we could to provide as much reference as possible for making this scratch-built model suitable for 20 mm (1 in.) figures. A leaflet published by the Department of the Environment had an excellent ground plan which was to be invaluable. We also measured up certain obvious details like the width of the main gateway, the length of the bridge over the drained moat and so on.

By reading every description I could find, a picture of what it all might have looked like in the fifteenth century began to emerge. I studied an eighteenth-century painting of the ruins, which was in a friend's collection, The Victoria County History....

A reasonable sized base for the model to include the moat and its banks was 96.5 x 117 cm (38 x 46 inches)... Using 3 mm (1/8 in.) plywood I cut out and assembled the north range of buildings, which included the gatehouse — the best preserved section, and, therefore, the easiest part to start on! Having cut my teeth on this fairly successfully, I then went round the corner and constructed the west range of buildings, which formed the curtain wall and were also reasonably preserved, although as with all the walls and buildings 1.5-2 m (6-8 ft.) of the original top floors and battlements had long crumbled away.

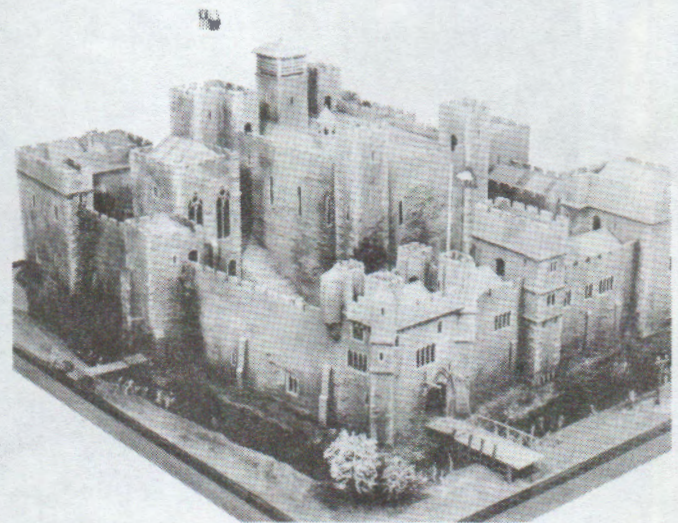
With growing confidence I then tackled the Norman keep built in 1170 by Robert FitzRalph, Lord of Middleham. This was fairly straightforward, but I had to reconstruct the bell-tower and dovecote, the tallest features on the model, from a

sixteenth-century description. The keep was also much decayed on its eastern side, so I had to proceed carefully, checking facts with photographs all the time. Against this east wall of the keep I 'rebuilt' the long flight of stone steps which ran up to the doorway of the Great Hall on the first floor. This door is masked and the steps partly so by the tall chapel built in the fifteenth century. This is a ruin, with remnants of the ground floor only today. It was described as having tall gothic windows and these were duly made and the chapel built. At this stage I kept all the ranges of buildings separate, partly for ease in painting and texturing and also, of course, in case I had made some mistake and surgery might be needed!

Such buildings as may have existed on the east had long gone and the wall here is fragmentary and, apart from a short length still standing, is largely a matter of clearly marked foundations. In the centre here, I recreated a small tower set at an odd angle to the wall, in which was a postern gate and small drawbridge across the moat.

A wall was also constructed running south/north linking the postern gate tower to the gatehouse built at the north-east corner in the fourteenth century. The only round tower, or rather half-round tower, was the Prince's Tower at the south-west corner for which I used part of a cardboard roller as usual.

Weekly concludes with a description of some of the 1983 anniversary celebrations attended by H.R.H. the Duke of Gloucester. "This model formed part of [a special historical exhibition] and His Royal Highness enjoyed comparing it with the original!"



Model of Middleham Castle as it appeared in the fifteenth century, commissioned by Michigan member T. Michael Trout and created by Ian Weekly. View from northeast.

Photo by Geoffrey Wheeler

IN MEMORIAM: WILLIAM H. SNYDER

William H. Snyder, past chairman of the Richard III Society, died at Crosslands Retirement Community, Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, on November 7, 1994. He is survived by his wife, Janet Battey Snyder of Crosslands; two sons, William B. of Middletown, MD, Daniel H. and his wife, Joan Neely of Swarthmore, PA; a sister, Anne Mandel of Dallas, TX; a nephew, Jerry Kriss and a niece, Phyllis Prager, also of Dallas; another nephew, Alan Mandel and his family of Pittsburgh, PA.

From Linda McLatchie comes this tribute: "To all of us who had the pleasure of knowing him, Bill will be remembered as a man of warmth and gentle wit. He was the embodiment of a gentleman and a scholar. As Chairman, Bill ran the Society and chaired meetings with a wonderful combination of humor and efficiency.

"The Society is greatly indebted to Bill, both intellectually and financially. After painstaking years of research at the Folger Library and elsewhere, Bill wrote a condensation of Halsted's important 1844 biography, *Richard III as Duke of Gloucester and King of England*. He supplemented the text with the views of other authors and additional commentary. Bill generously donated the proceeds of the first printing of his book, entitled *The Crown and the Tower: The Legend of Richard III*, to the Society.

"Bill was generous in sharing his knowledge (his interests extended far beyond Richard) and had a great sense of fun. He will be missed, but will always be remembered with great fondness. Our sympathies are extended to his wife Janet and his family."

Libby Haynes recalls, "At the time of his retirement from civil service, Bill was chief attorney for the Post Office Department. He had an impressive office, with a large mahogany desk in front of the windows; the American and Departmental flags stood on either side. On the walls flanking the windows were portraits of Benjamin Franklin and Richard III. When people asked him who that man was and why he was there, Bill reminded them that Franklin was the first Postmaster General of the United States. At the beginning of the Nation, mail was moved by coastal trading schooners, entrusted to their captains for delivery. Franklin, in England, learned how mail traveled by government coach along the Great North Road, since Richard had improved the road and instituted public mail service with posting and delivery at local taverns. When Franklin returned, he lobbied for construction of the Boston Post Road (now highway U.S. 1) to move the mail by road. Thus you might say that U.S. 1 and its parallel Interstate 95 are a trans-Atlantic continuation of the Great North Road, based on Richard III's concept of government-provided, inexpensive mail service for all citizens."

And from long-time friend Dr. Morris McGee, "He was a gentle man and a gentleman."

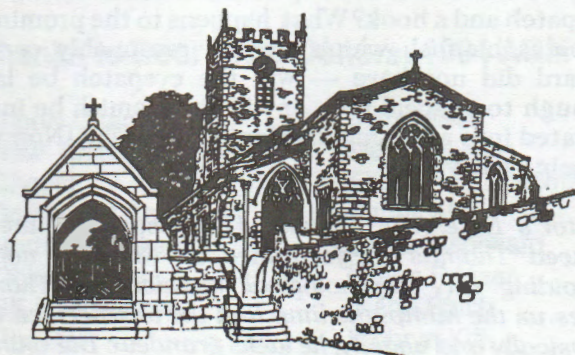


Janet and Bill Snyder

ADDITIONS TO THE RESEARCH LIBRARY

- F. W. Brooks, *The Council of the North* (The Historical Assoc., General Sries, no. 25, rev. ed. 1966)
- P. W. Hammond, H. G. Shearring & G. Wheeler, *Battle of Tewkesbury, 4th May 1471* (Tewkesbury Festival Committee, 1971)
- John Gillingham, ed., *Richard III: A Medieval Kingship* (1993)

The first two were gifts from Bill Synder.



St. Mary & St. Alkelda Church, Middleham

ET TU, JOHN-BOY — OR RICHARD, WE HARDLY KNEW YE!

*From Rampant Boar, Newsletter of the No.
California Chapter of the Richard III Society*

It would seem that Richard III has replaced Hamlet as the thinking (or unthinking) actor's Shakespearean role of choice. Add to the growing list of potential or actual portrayers of Richard (including Branagh and Pacino) the erstwhile John-Boy Walton, Richard Thomas. The following is culled from an August issue of the Alameda Times Star's regular page 2 feature, *The Passing Show*, which is itself culled from wire reports about the doings of the rich and (in) famous:



Richard Thomas says he's been preparing since he was a youngster to take on the role of Richard III, Shakespeare's famously deformed king. "You think I waited 30 years to play this role and I'm going to do it without a hump?" Thomas said, laughing. "Two humps! And a patch over my eye — and a hook. I've been pretty long enough."

Thomas, who gained fame as the clean-cut John Boy of TV's "The Waltons," says in Tuesday's New York Times that he's wanted to play Richard since 1964. That's when he portrayed young Prince Edward in an American Shakespeare Festival production of the play. At the time, he thought, "I can do that," Thomas said. "I suppose it was a 13-year-old actor's hubris." Richard III opens later this month at the Hartford State in Hartford, Conn..

I read the article to Valerie [de Clare] over the phone. She thought about it for a bit and said, "I don't remember seeing any description of Richard that calls for a [reference made to the *soi-disant* 'pretty' Thomas' own prominent blemish]." Well, it *was* catty but what the heck! He deserved it! Two humps indeed!

We don't really know what Thomas knows, but it appears that someone has informed him that Richard may not have had a hump at all. Whence cometh an eyepatch and a hook? What happens to the prominent Thomas blemish which we can reasonably certain Ricard did not have — will the eyepatch be large enough to conceal it — or will the blemish be incorporated into a ridiculously large eyepatch? [Now who is being catty?]

Editor's Note: The October 17th issue of Time reviewed Thomas' performance as Richard, noting: "Avoiding any psychological revisionism, Thomas gives us the hump, the limp and the unredeemed evil. Physically and vocally, he lacks grandeur. But with his spiky hair and pasty-faced sneer, he's deliciously twisted — a street punk on a power jag." Thankfully, only one hump.

MEDIEVAL TIMES DINNER AND TOURNAMENT

Ellen L. Perlman

"Return to the days of chivalry, knighthood and honor in an 11th-century European-style castle as you experience a glorious evening of feasting, revelry and pagentry. Cheer your knight on to victory as he competes on horseback in medieval tournament games, jousting matches and sword-to-sword combat. It's truly a knight to remember for the entire family!"

Enticed by the ad and lured north to Orlando, Florida by another meeting, we returned to the days of chivalry at the Medieval Times castle and tested its feasting and pagentry. The castle, located on Highway 192 in Kissimmee, sports a moat, a drawbridge and a great hall with frescoed walls in the Matthew Paris style.

Trumpeters announce dinner and the hungry hordes mount the stairs and continue along a passageway lined with a painted Bayeaux tapestry. Each guest is handed a cardboard crown which designates both the table seating and the colors of the knight to be cheered. The Lord or Lady of the Castle greets the guests, and a photographer records the moment.

When you enter the huge rectangular room and find your place along the tiers of long tables lining two sides of the jousting area which is a giant sandbox, your nose crinkles at the smell of horse. How will dinner go down, considering the closeness of the steeds? But the excitement of the thousand other diners, all wearing crowns of black and white or blue and green, is infectious and anticipation replaces the anxious moment. There are no utensils near your pewter plate, but there is a napkin, with the promise, made by the waiter-cum-serf, of more to come. Let the pageant begin!

And begin it does, when a regal Master of Ceremonies introduces the marvelous white horses, equally regal in their dressage patterns and each knight (the yellow knight — ray, rah!; the blue knight — boo, hiss!). Again, the trumpets blare. The Count and Countess take their seats in the balcony and the tournaments begin in earnest. Squires set the stage. Knights on horseback break lances. They battle with swords and maces and axes. The victorious ones present flowers. Others, like our yellow knight, are carried out, to fight another day.

While all this is going on, you are served dinner: a little pizza appetizer and sangria; soup, in a handled bowl; a whole small chicken, nicely herbed and roasted; spare ribs; a baked potato; beer or soda; coffee and a pastry.

It was a fun evening, filled with great artistry and skill. When planning your next trip to the Sunshine State, you might want to include Medieval Times in your itinerary. The address is P. O. Box 422385, Kissimmee, Florida 34742.



RICARDIAN POST

November 29, 1994
Toronto, Canada

November 16, 1994
Long Beach, CA

Dear Carole:

I was pleased that Professor Kenneth Madison of Iowa State University had read my "modest proposal" in the Summer Issue of the *Ricardian Register*. His erudite analysis was most impressive and no doubt he is quite correct in his conclusions. I, too, am a Blackadder fan, so his final suggestion would work as far as I am concerned.

To set the record straight, however, as much as I would like to have thought of this myself, I have to give credit, as I did in my article, to A. N. Wilson, authority of *The Rise and Fall of the House of Windsor*, W. W. Norton & Co., New York, 1993. The theory is his and he is supported by Anthony Holden in *The Turnished Crown*, Random House, NY, 1993.

The intricacies of the 18th century acts were, perhaps, not available to these writers, and the appeal of "our" Duke of Gloucester might have been just too much to resist.

In any case, Professor Madison's article showed extensive research and a remarkable grasp of medieval political history. It was a pleasure to read. And if Author Wilson's favorite son does make it as king, it was still a lovely thought for us Ricardians, don't you agree?

Very best wishes,
Helen Curé

Florham Park, NJ

To My Fellow Ricardians:

I just want to express a word of thanks for the Dickon Award. It was totally unexpected, and I am truly honored to receive it.

As a lawyer, I have been interested in conventional history having convicted King Richard of multiple murder on such scanty evidence. Further, the Wars of the Roses and the practices of the English monarchy informed the drafting of key provisions of the Constitution of the United States (e.g., the narrow definition of treason; the prohibition of cruel and unusual punishments; the prohibition of bills of attainder) and, of course, in forming our republican form of government.

Thanks again!

Sincerely,
Alan O. Dixler

Dear Carole:

From time to time I notice letters to the editor from members who live up here in Canada.

Would you be so kind as to put a notice in the Register reminding people that there is an active branch up her?

The contact person is Noreen Armstrong, Membership Secretary, 331 Rose Park Drive, Toronto, Ontario M4T 1R8, Canada.

Thanks and happy holidays to all.

Sincerely,
Sheilah O'Connor

LIFE IN THE MIDDLE AGES

Once again, the University of Cambridge Summer Study Program for Adults in England will feature a course of particular interest to Ricardians. Next summer's programs (July 9-22, 1995) will include a seminar on Life in the Middle Ages; other courses are The English Country House, Contemporary British Politics and Government, Shakespeare in His World and Ours, and The Novel in the Victorian Age.

All courses include appropriate and stimulating field trips; optional trips to English cultural sites and attractions are available on the weekend. For information, contact:

Dr. Joann Painter

Office of Cooperating Colleges (Dept C)
714 Sassafras Street • Erie, PA 16501
(814) 456-0757 • Fax: (814) 453-5502

Carol Bessette of the Middle Atlantic Chapter is a four-time participant in this program and will be happy to discuss it with interested readers. She can be reached at (703) 569-1875.

Thanks to Door Prize Donors: 1994 AGM

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Joan Marshall

Mary Miller
Mary Schaller
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Eileen Prinsen
Diane Batch
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Gillie Lehman



SCATTERED STANDARDS

(Chapter News & Updates)



Illinois Chapter

The meeting was held in the home of Mary Miller on November 13, 1994.

Mary has a list of titles available for borrowing from our Society Research Library which the non-Fiction/Research Librarian, Helen Maurer, sent.

Dawn Benedetto, Mary Bourke (and husband), Joan Marshall and Mary Miller had attended the AGM in Dearborn and as we all seemed to have attended different workshops, someone was able to give a report on each of the presentations offered. They all were fascinating.

The current officers will each serve another year in their same post: Mary Miller, President; Lynne McLean, Treasurer, and Joan Marshall, Secretary.

Janice Weiner, who puts together a superb newsletter for The Scotland Yarders, a Sherlockian scion society of the Baker Street Irregulars, felt that she could do one for our chapter and kindly offered to do so. We're now the proud possessors of our own newsletter!

Some good news for American mystery fans: from January 12 through February 2, 1995 (check local dates) the BBC will be airing four Brother Cadfael mysteries with Derek Jacobi in the role of Brother Cadfael. Mary noted that the 20th Brother Cadfael novel is out now — it harks, in tone, back to *Virgin in the Ice*, which is one of Ellis Peter's best, many of us felt.

The Theatre of the College of Du Page County is putting on *The Canterbury Tales* starting April 12, 1995.

Mary Miller has spoken with the University Club of Chicago about the possibility of our having a meal/meeting in the Cathedral Hall there — the banqueting hall which is a replica of that at Crosby Hall in London (now closed to the public). We would have to be sponsored by a member of the University Club. Mary has also spoken with Karen Smith of the Newberry Library about our taking a tour of that remarkable facility.

Joan Marshall

Ohio Chapter

The spring meeting was held on April 16 in Columbus Ohio at the downtown library. While lunching on delicious sandwiches a short business meeting was held in the library's meeting room. Treasurer Gary Bailey presented updated chapter brochures in several bright, catchy new colors. Members also discussed the importance of our fund raising. For this year's raffle at the Ohio State Renn Fair, to be held on May 7th, Gary presented a replica of a 12th century battle axe.

Chairman Tom Coles passed around a copy of member Susan Dexter's new book, *The Prince of Ill Luck*.

A BIG topic of conversation was the latest book by Alison Weir, *The Princes in the Tower*. Members were not shy in voicing their feelings on this book.

The next meeting will be back in the Cleveland area with a review of Audrey Williamson's book *The Mystery of the Princes* by historian John Bellamy in July.

After the business meeting, members and guests made their way to the Santa Maria, a full-sized replica of Christopher Columbus' original, which is docked in downtown Columbus. We were treated to a very informative guide by Spencer Northup and other guides.

Afterwards, we gathered at the Spaghetti Warehouse for a delicious meal and friendly conversation.

The fall meeting was called to order in the Westerville, Ohio home of John and Bobbie Moosemiller. Chairman Tom Coles gave a report on the 1994 AGM. Two Ohio Chapter members, Janet Trimbath and Tom Coles, presented workshops on Saturday morning. After the luncheon, during the business meeting fellow Ohio Chapter member, Compton Reeves, was installed as Chairman of the American Branch. Everyone enjoyed the masked ball held Saturday evening. Many thanks to the Michigan Chapter for a wonderful weekend.

Members shared reviews of their favorite Ricardian/Medieval books, which included various topics from *King Richard III* by William Shakespeare, *Death and the Chapman* by Kate Sedley, to *Food and Feast in Medieval England* by P. W. Hammond.

Afterwards members and guests supped at Schmidt's on German cuisine and their famous cream puffs.

Kathie A. Raleigh

RICHARD III SOCIETY 1995 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

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RICARDIAN READING

Myrna Smith

NON COMPOS MENTIS

In the last issue, I said that I would either be settled in a new home by now, or altogether off my rocker. Well, we are not yet settled, so draw your own conclusions.

I work in Texarkana, AR, which makes me probably the only Arkansas member of the Society, and live in Hooks, TX. I know I am the only Hooker — er, Hooksican — who is a member. During all this confusion, I have tried to keep all reviews ready to hand, but if you do not see your contribution after a reasonable time, please let me know.

Now to business:

ARS LONGA VITA BREVIS

The Art Of Conversation — Peter Burke, Cornell University Press, 1993, \$13.95

In *The Art of Conversation*, Peter Burke applies the theories of sociolinguistics to social history. Burke has collected a series of essays and papers and revises them into a disquisition on the importance of understanding people through the language they use and how they use that language.

He looks at Latin in the Renaissance and early modern Europe to discover whether it was indeed a dead language or whether, contrary to most historical opinion, the insistence by humanists of purifying Latin actually killed a living language. He sees two forms of Latin prevalent: academic Latin and pragmatic Latin. By translating vernacular writing, academic practitioners of Latin allowed this literature to reach an international audience. It was also the *lingua franca* of scholars and it continued to confer status as a mark of an educated man. Some schools continued to teach in Latin into the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and some scholarly journals were published in Latin. Pragmatic Latin allowed diplomats to converse in a common tongue.

Burke illustrates the utility of Latin in government with the well-known story of George I, who knew no English, and his minister Robert Walpole, who knew no German, conducting their conversations in Latin. In addition, countries on the fringe of Europe, such as Iceland, were able to use Latin as a *lingua franca*, because it was unlikely that visitors to Iceland would have known Icelandic. Rather than discuss what killed Latin (if anything did), Burke finds a discussion of why Latin remained popular of much more interest. He argues that the usefulness of Latin prolonged its use long after vernaculars were the standard. But this convenience came at a price, widening the gap be-

tween elite and popular culture and excluding women to a great extent from high culture.

If Latin allowed its users to form a certain identity, then presumably vernacular languages did as well. Burke's next subject is whether or not national identity is shaped by language. He points out that a discussion of language as an indicator of social class is of particular interest to the English because their language is tied to class markers. However, Italians identified most strongly with their city, region, or even quarter of town. Burke sees language and national identity coming together only at the end of the eighteenth century in Italy.

Moving on to the art of conversation, Burke sees the theoretical discussion moving from sixteenth-century Italy (*The Courtier*) to seventeenth-century France (*De La Maniere De Bien Parler*) to eighteenth-century England (*Essay on Conversation*). His sources are the guides to conversation that proliferated, giving rules on what should and should not constitute polite conversation. His main argument is that printing, by making these treatises available, slowly changed the cultural norms for conversation through example.

In the end, having considered some of the implications of verbal expression, Burke turns to its opposite — silence. He points out the many possible meanings of silence, from religious reverence to "dumb insolence." The cautions in some manuals of conversation against being too silent as a mark of rudeness is mentioned, as is the converse — talking instead of eating leads the host to believe you are not enjoying the food. He sees the amount of silence as culturally conditioned, with the French and Italians seeing the English as unnaturally silent, the English thinking the same of the Swedes, and the Swedes awarding the palm to the Finns. Who the Finns might think of as unnaturally silent is passed over in — well — silence.

Burke argues that the emphasis on self-control in manuals of behavior in early modern Europe encouraged the increase of silence. He also speculates that, as in so many other ways, northern and southern Europe diverged in their attitudes about silence in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Self-control, while promoted all over Europe, may have been particularly successful in Protestant areas widening the gap between the more silent, self-controlled, individualistic, democratic, capitalist, cold north, and the more talkative, spontaneous, disorderly, familistic, feudal, warm south.

But enough of speculation. The rest, as Hamlet said, is silence.

Sharon D. Michalove, IL

ULTIMA RATIO REGNUM

Richard III: A Medieval Kingship — London, Collins & Brown, 1993

This little volume is a collection of eight essays by a variety of scholars interpreting Richard's personality and career. In terms of readability, every account is direct, approachable, and easy for an interested novice to follow. In a few cases, however, prior exposure to the subject matter can be useful.

The writers do not adopt a consistent position in the Ricardian debate. The most negative, Colin Richmond and Michael Hicks, presume Richard's ruthlessness from the outset. Hicks labels him a "formidable egoist," while Richmond's portrait suggests paranoia and declares "Richard was as hard and devious as they come.." Their chapters seem to be justifications of their assumptions and offer very little that is new.

Likewise, John Gillingham's introduction, which presents Richard as a de-stabilizing influence, does not shed any new light on the subject; and Rosemary Horrox, while less hostile to her subject, only concludes that there was nothing revolutionary about Richard's government.

The contributions of Anne F. Sutton, Michael P. Jones, and Alexander Grant are altogether different; for their essays highlight elements that are too often glossed over with assumptions. Sutton's contribution, entitled "The Court and its Culture in the Reign of Richard III," explains that the King sought to present the kind of ceremonial image expected of all monarchs. Her conclusion that there was nothing distinctly Ricardian about the court's culture refutes the charges of extravagance leveled at Richard. Jones analyzes "Richard III as a Soldier" and suggests that he was more a fighter with limited experience than a strategist. He feels that Edward IV's ruthless pragmatism was a greater influence on his brother than the traditions of chivalry. Grant's account of Richard's foreign policy shows that the Tudor invasion was the outcome of unsuccessful and perhaps impulsive strategies dealing with Scotland, Brittany, and France. Indeed, he asserts that credit for Henry's victory really goes to his seasoned French troops.

The Richard that ultimately emerges from these accounts is impetuous, ruthless at times, and perhaps somewhat politically naive. Yet he also displays piety, unquestioned bravery, and a desire for justice and culture. P.W. Hammond, in the last of the essays, meticulously analyzes the continuing dispute over the king's reputation, concluding in favor of complex believability rather than the traditional extreme of pure evil or the revisionist extreme of pure goodness.

Readers who are seeking depth as well as balance should find most of the essays in this collection to be valuable additions to Ricardian literature.

Richard Oberdorfer, VA

AB OVUM

The roots of what happened in 1485 go back almost a century, when another Richard (II) was displaced by

another Henry (Bolingbroke). Bryan Bevan has written a biography of the later (*Henry IV*, St Martin's, 1994). Would Ricardians find it worthwhile? Only, suggests A.C. Reeves, in airport terminals. Bevan seems to have been more interested in the "naughty bits" than in serious history. If that's what you want, fine; if not, Reeves recommends J.L. Kirby's *Henry IV of England* (London, 1970) or Peter McNiven's *Heresy and Politics In The Reign of Henry IV* (Woodbridge, 1987)

RICHARDUS REX

Richard's Himself Again: A Stage History Of Richard III — Scott Colley, Greenwood Press, NY, 1992

Colley surveys all the many selves that the title character of Shakespeare's play has presented over the years, from Cibber and Garrick to today: Richard as juvenile (delinquent) and dirty old man; Richard as acrobat and as declaiming "teapot;" comic Richards, neurotic Richards, almost revisionist Richards; Richard as Hitler/Jed Harris/Big Bad Wolf (Olivier's interpretation); gentlemanly Richards and punk ones. Anthony Sher was not the first to draw inspiration from the arachnids. It's no easy task to examine something so ephemeral as a stage presentation, which may differ from night to night. Critics' opinions may be affected by their own moods, or politics, or sacrificed to the temptation to get off a snappy witticism. Colley quotes some of the best of these, e.g. John Simon on Al Pacino's production: "...disproves two charges frequently brought against American companies: that they cannot do accents and that they are incapable of ensemble work. In this *Richard III* there are accents aplenty — every kind of accent you have heard in your life, except one that has anything to do with Shakespeare. As for ensemble work, everyone from star to walk-on — absolutely without exception — manages to give a bad performance." Colley also comes up with a few snappy one-liners of his own. My favorite is this chapter heading: *The Persecution and Assassination of Richard III by Inmates of the Three Stratfords*.

The author also livens his accounts with backstage anecdotes. *Richard III* seems to have had more than its share of real, as well as fictional, violence — some accidental, some quite intentional. Actors square off with stagehands, agents, and each other. (In this corner, Laurence Olivier; the challenger, in black tights, Ralph Richardson).

If you are at all interested in actors and acting, or have a little bit of ham in your own soul, you will truly enjoy this. -m.s.

One final note on matters thespian: Karen Friedman sends a clipping from a New York magazine on a play titled: *The African Company Presents "Richard III,"* which seems to have little to do with Shakespeare's Richard, but somewhat to do with Shakespeare. The playwright, Carlyle Brown, likens him to a griot.

TRUDITUR DIES DIE

The Founding - Cynthia Harrod-Eagles, London,
Warner Books, 1993

First published in 1980, this book is the first in a series of fifteen on the Morland family. That the series proved highly popular in the UK is indicated by the number of volumes and reprintings.

In this beginning, Eleanor, a penniless orphan of good family, is given in a loveless marriage to the son of a wealthy sheepman from Yorkshire, a rather common situation. Through strength of will, force of personality, and a weak husband, Eleanor becomes the wealthy matriarch of the Morland family. Her heart, however, belongs hopelessly to Richard, Duke of York. The author grounds her events in solid historical fact. She has, as well, a keen awareness of social customs. The characters are sharply drawn as individuals, though there are so many children and grandchildren that in the third generation the reader is hard pressed to keep up.

The historical character presented in the most vivid detail is Richard, Duke of Gloucester and King of England. This portrait of Richard is very attractive, and, to my not unbiased eye, highly accurate. Like his father, he is a sincere, honest man of action, a loving husband and father, a dispenser of even-handed justice, a strong, disciplined military leader, a loyal friend and patron. Far from being ambitious and hungry for power, Richard is reluctant to become king, realizing what a burden it will create for his fragile wife and hating to leave the security and happiness he has found in the north. Though perhaps a bit too good to be true, this Richard comes closest to my idea of what kind of man the real Richard was, and is certainly worth the attention of members of the society that commemorates him.

Dale Summers, TX

CALEDONIA — ESTO PERPETUA

Monarchs of Scotland — Stewart Ross, 1990, Facts
on File, NY

As one would expect, this book takes a dim view of Scotland's early historic relationship with Merrie Olde England. In fact, this author goes so far as to hint that the 1707 Act of Union with England was a colossal mistake. No doubt, a few of Scots descent will probably agree with him.

The book is well-written, concise and definitely biased towards the Scots end of the stick—for better or worse, the author has the courage of his convictions to stand behind his facts and opinions.

The book is beautifully illustrated throughout, and worth the investment for the artistic value alone. But the sometimes astringent criticisms of the then-seated king or queen also makes the reading worthwhile. Most of the time it's a case of "make the best of what ya got" and, if he or she doesn't work, throw the benighted fool out and enthrone another one.

An interesting volume, and most entertaining.

Glenda Moody, VA

DOLCE FAR NIENTE

Most of the books reviewed this time have been pretty serious, so here is something lighter, both literally and figuratively.

Jane Austen's The History of England —

Introduction by A.S. Bryant, with a note on the text by Deidre Le Faye, Algonquin Books, Chapel Hill, 1993

Composing is what composers do and playing is what musicians do. Most of us would agree that composing is the more creative act, while playing is the more interpretative act. Sometimes we are pleasantly or unpleasantly surprised to discover how creative the interpretative act can be. Such is the case, for example, when we hear Bach or Tellemann on period instruments after being accustomed to hearing them through electronically processed modern instruments. Even more interesting is when composers play and musicians compose.

In a similar way, literature is what writers do and history is what historians do. Again most would agree that writing is the more creative act and history is the more interpretative act. Many historians have tried their hand at literature, and writers have given us creative interpretations of history. Which brings us to this exquisite little volume. Written in the Fall of 1791, her sixteenth year, 'by a partial, prejudiced and ignorant historian,' it is 'a complete facsimile of the original text with illustrations by her sister Cassandra.' Spanning the period from Henry IV to Charles I, the manuscript covers 34 pages; when reduced to print, it covers twelve. Yet her writer's eye arrows her to telling insights. Here are the opening words concerning Henry VII: "This monarch soon after his accession married the Princess Elizabeth of York, by which alliance he plainly proved that he thought his own right inferior to hers, tho' he pretended to the contrary." The cameo illustration of Henry might be mistaken for the Wolfman.

But let us read her opening words on Richard III: "The character of this Prince has been in general very severely treated by Historians, but as he was a York, I am rather inclined to suppose him a very respectable man." She believes Richard did not have the princes killed. The sketch by her sister shows a handsome if somewhat plump Richard, albeit with a slight hump.

Might Miss Austen be a Ricardian, if she were alive today? This is an interesting speculation; based on this little book, I would conclude yes. It would be most fascinating to meet with her at an AGM or chapter meeting and chat about the monarchy, past and present.

Eugene McManus, MA

Or here's something a little more up-to-date:

Chronicle of The Royal Family, From Alfred the Great to Elizabeth II — Derrik Mercer, Jacques Legrand, Chronicle Communications, Ltd, 154 Clerkenwell Rd, London EC1R 5AD England

I found this fascinating book in the library of the Noordam, a Holland-American ship returning from Alaska, and could hardly put it down. Written in the

and events from what we know now, not necessarily from a contemporary point of view. Its treatment of Richard III is, of course of special interest.

Headline: "Duke of Gloucester marries Anne Neville after bitter wrangle in royal family." In the North, Richard is described as popular and "his bills given to parliament have promised improved justice for all."

Richard is characterized as an "enigmatic king whose marital interests are combined with a zest for learning." Later, his reputation suffers, the "death of the princes steadily undermining his credibility, however enlightened his rule." There is a fine 16th century portrait of him, no doubt influenced by the one we usually see, that shows him with clear eyes, a slight smile, and looking younger than in other pictures. A heroic painting of the king wearing his crown at Bosworth is thrilling, in marked contrast to the usual dour, pinch-faced portrait of Henry VII from the Flemish School.

The text tells us "The popular picture of Richard as a cruel and cynical usurper is contradicted by his interest in religion and scholarship..." The last headline in this section reads: "Henry Tudor slays Richard

III at Bosworth Field." Not entirely accurate, but it does reinforce the idea that the winners write the histories.

This heavy volume comes with an impressive list of writers and consultants, but keeps its cheery, journalistic flavor with such headlines as "King" (in this case, Henry III) "takes a shine to Joan of Naples." The book is a delight and should be in every Anglophile's and history buff's library. I can't wait to find a copy for myself.

Helen Curé, CA

Note: If you love the royal family, or if you hate them, you will enjoy *Royal Crimes* (Ed. Maxim Jakubowski and Martin Greenberg, Signet, 1994, \$4.99), thankfully still fiction — we hope. (Richard is mentioned in passing.)

QUID NUNC?

Next time: some feedback on Jean Plaidy's *Reluctant Queen*, by a reluctant reader; a survey on the art of biography, featuring More and Bacon, among others; and more, etcetra, etcetra. Until then, *Vale*.

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

Knight on Horseback

ANN RABINOWITZ



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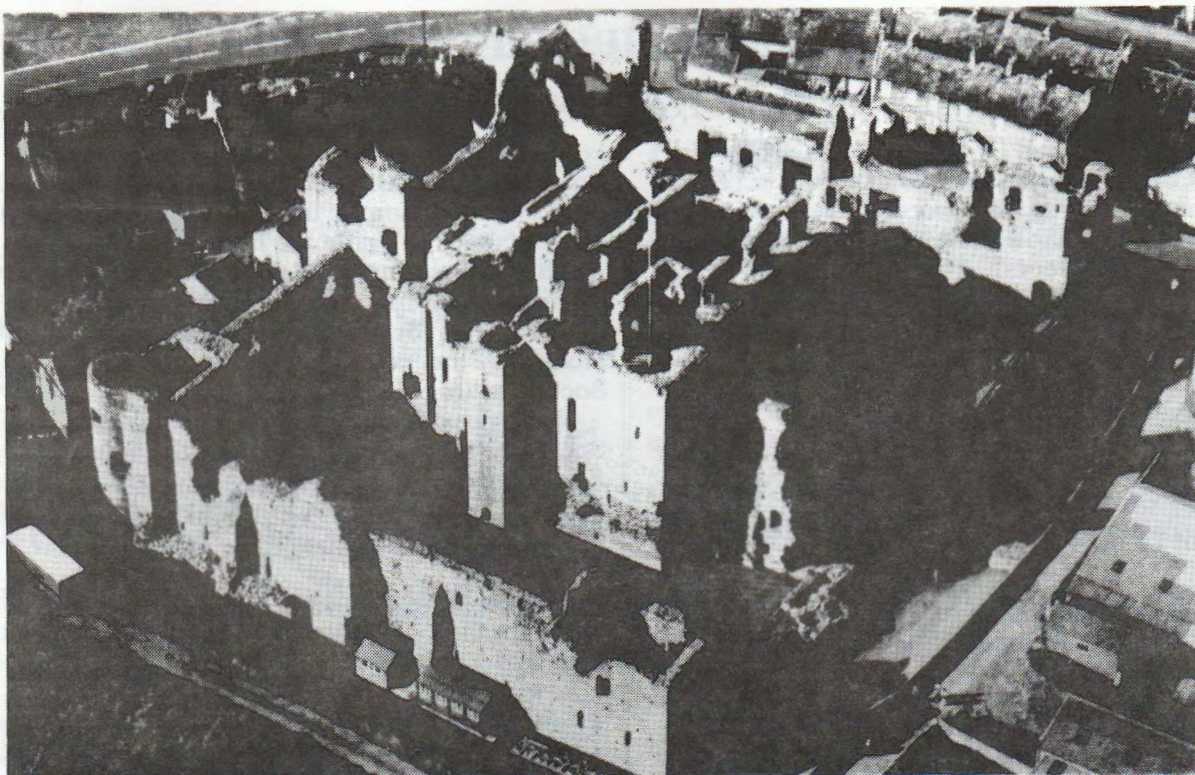
From the time he finds a small carved figure of a knight on horseback in a London antique store, Eddy's vacation in England takes on a new dimension as he is pulled back into the fifteenth century by the ghost. Richard, longing for his own son Edward, who died at the age of thirteen, thinks Eddy is that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

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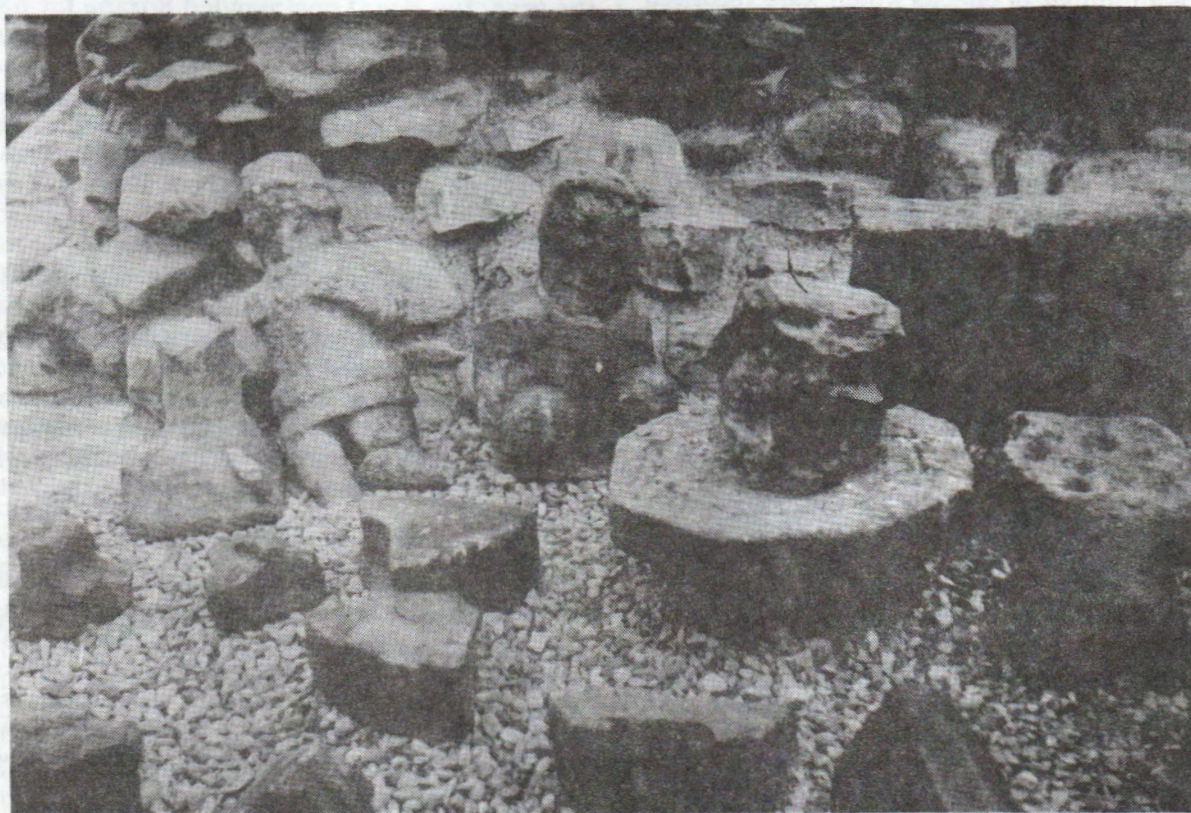
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Aerial view of Middleham Castle. View from south.

Photo by Geoffrey Wheeler

Middleham Castle



Stone fragments from Middleham Castle include a fourteenth century armed knight, a female figure, gargoyle and a great helm, with the Neville bull's head crest.

Photo by Geoffrey Wheeler

BOARD CHRONICLES

Sunday, September 11, 1994

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m., E.D.T. on September 11, 1994. Members in attendance were Laura Blanchard, Carole Rike, Peggy Allen, Roxane Murph and Judy Pimental.

Minutes of Last Meeting. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as submitted.

Membership Report. Carole Rike gave the membership report. The current paid membership is 515, not counting family members. With family members added, membership is 575. Of last quarter expirations, 55 of 78 have renewed.

Treasurer's Report. Peggy Allen gave the Treasurer's Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Upon motion duly seconded and unanimously approved, it was RESOLVED, that the Treasurer's Report become a part of the official minutes of each regular meeting of the Board.

Old Business

Budget. The revenue from the 1993 Ricardian tour is dedicated to the Monograph Fund. Lord Addison reported that only three Society members were on this year's trip, but that the agency had other tourists.

Peggy Allen noted that Paine Webber had billed \$30 for each of a number of checks which were returned for insufficient funds, but that Paine Webber had not returned the items to her. The Board decided that the NSF checks must be returned to the Treasurer.

Laura mentioned that the Budget must go up by \$100 for the *New York Times* memoriam and that \$750 must be budgeted for the 1995 AGM, a \$250 speaker fee and \$500 to defray the Chairman's air fare.

The issue of insuring the Society's libraries was put on hold. The Board will look for someone with insurance experience, and will try to get a lower premium. The issue of insuring "other people's property" was discussed. The non-fiction research library is currently worth about \$25,000. The Board discussed the possibility of setting up a fund to insure the libraries.

Committee Reports and Job Descriptions. To date, only the Research Librarian has furnished her job description. Others will be contacted again.

Resignation of Sales Officer. Linda McLatchie is definitely resigning as the Society's Sales Officer, effective January 1, 1995 (she would prefer December 1, 1994, if possible). She prepared an advertisement for her replacement for the position, which the Board approved for publication in the *Ricardian Register*. The Board discussed the possibility of having the various responsibilities of the Sales Officer taken over by more than one person. With the idea of reducing inventory prior to shipping to a new location, on motion duly seconded and unanimously approved, the

Board RESOLVED, that the outgoing Sales Officer may offer a discount of up to 20% on all in-stock items except copies of *Under the Hog*.

After discussing Linda's service to the Society, upon motion duly seconded and unanimously approved, the Board RESOLVED, that Linda B. McLatchie be commended for her service to the Society as its Sales Officer.

With respect to retention of back issues of the Society's various publications for the Sales Office, the Board decided that 25 copies was about the optimum number. The Board discussed the possibility of returning the back issues to Carole Rike for the time being.

Elections. The Board discussed the matter of the elections for 1994. Laura contacted Toni Collins, who said that 110 ballots had been returned to date.

Library Acquisition Policy. Discussion of this matter was postponed until the 1994 elections are completed and the incoming Chairman can consider this policy. This discussion involves the matter of Judy Weinsoft's bequest to the Society.

New Business

Richard and Anne. Roxane Murph announced that Maxwell Anderson's play *Richard and Anne*, will be published again, probably by Christmas or the first of the year. The Board commended Roxane for her unstinting efforts to bring this about.

First Weinsoft Acquisition. The Society has made its first acquisition for the Research Library, a bibliography of scholarship for the period 1377-1485 published during 1974-1989. The bookplate will say that it is a gift of the Judy Weinsoft Fund.

Guidelines for Investment of the Weinsoft Fund. Laura Blanchard informed the Board that the Weinsoft bequest is currently invested in the Calvert Funds. It was also discussed that Ms. Weinsoft wished her bequest to be always invested in a socially-responsible fund. The funds will be expended in accordance with a definite library acquisitions policy. There will be regular reports on books acquired with the Weinsoft bequest.

Possible Offer of Other Acquisitions. The Society has been approached by Stanley Dance, an Englishman living in California, with an offer to sell his collection of approximately 400 books, which he wants to sell as a unit and for which he is asking approximately \$5,000. A copy of the book list will be sent to the Research Librarian for consideration and recommendation.

Next Meeting. The next meeting of the Board will be held on October 1, 1994, following the Business meeting at the AGM in Dearborn.

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Dearborn, Michigan

October 1, 1994

Call to Order. The business meeting was called to order by Laura Blanchard, Vice Chairman, at 2:25 p.m. E.D.T. Laura read the notice of the first meeting of the U.S. Branch of the Society, which was held in 1961. Attending that meeting were six members and two guests.

Board members in attendance at the 1994 AGM were: A. Compton Reeves, Chairman (incoming); Laura Blanchard, Vice Chairman; Roxane Murph, Immediate Past Chairman; Peggy Allen, Treasurer; and Judith A. Pimental, Recording Secretary (incoming).

Minutes of Last Meeting. The minutes of the last meeting of the general membership were not available and were not previously printed in the *Ricardian Register*. Upon motion duly seconded and carried, the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting was tabled.

Chairman's Report. Laura Blanchard gave the Chairman's Report. She read the greetings from the British Society. Laura offered thanks to Michigan Chapter for getting the 1994 AGM together. Thanks were also given to Board and Committee members, especially to Peggy Allen, Carole Rike, the Society's librarians — Helen Maurer, Mary Miller and Sandra Giesbrecht, as well as to Chapter members and volunteers.

Laura also advised the membership about the pending vacancies among Society committees and officers: Sales Chairman, Monograph Chairman and Archivist.

Treasurer's Report. Peggy Allen gave the Treasurer's Report. She presented the 1994-1995 budget, which did not include Schallek scholarship funds. Peggy also presented the accounting covering the period January 1, 1994 to August 31, 1994. The biggest non-recurring item was Judy Weinsoft's bequest to the library funds. She hopes that this will be an inspiration to other contributors. The largest single expense was the underwriting of *Under the Hog*. After payment of all costs of the publication, profits will be donated to the Maxwell Anderson Scholarship Fund.

Committee Reports:

The various committee reports were read and are incorporated by reference into these Minutes.

Address by Incoming Chairman

A. Compton Reeves, the newly-elected Chairman, gave an inspiring address to the assembled members. Among other important things, he wished to thank Laura Blanchard for her efforts in building the Schallek Scholarship endowment. He noted that the Society consists of a varied membership with a variety of interests, and that the Society works because of volunteer efforts. The North American Branch sponsors and/or participates in a number of activities which put the Society before the scholarly public.

Reeves noted that his own keynote address before the 1989 AGM was published to benefit the Schallek fund and came to the attention of a publisher, who issued a contract to develop a book to be published in the summer of 1995. Reeves noted that no one person can run the Society — we are all needed. Reeves will coordinate activities to see that there is no duplicated effort. Reeves wishes the Society to inform the next generation that the world did not begin with The Beatles. It is the Society's duty to introduce to them the wonderful enigma and mystery of Richard III.

Recognition

Alan O. Dixler is the recipient of the Dickon Award for ten years of service to the Society. He offered his lawyerly skills in the 1988 bylaws revision. He acted as Treasurer during a transitional period. He is still giving unofficial legal services.

Laura Blanchard informed the membership that long-time member William Snyder is in poor health. The royalties of Snyder's *Crown and Tower* were donated to the American Branch. Mrs. Snyder coordinated the production of needlepoint kneelers for Ricardian churches. The Snyders' personal library was donated to the American Branch.

In Memoriam

Karl Bobeck died during the 1993-94 Ricardian year. Diana Waggoner wrote a tribute to Karl which was read by Carol Mitchell. It was noted that the devastating Southern California earthquake took place on the day of Karl's funeral. Contributions to the Schallek Fund have been made in Karl's name.

The members watched a tape of a speech that Judy Weinsoft made. Judy's bequest to the Society is to be named the "FretNot" Fund, a term of significance in Judy's life. Phil Goldsmith, Judy's husband, presented to Compton Reeves the Fund's first acquisition, a bibliography of medieval scholarship from 1975 to 1989 by Joel T. Rosenthal.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m. E.D.T.

WISHING YOU A
*Prosperous
New Year*

1994 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Welcome to the thirty-fourth annual meeting of the American Branch of the Richard III Society! Just last week I found a set of meeting minutes from an October 1, 1961 meeting at the Plaza Hotel in New York. They began "The first meeting of the American members of the Richard III Society," so I know I'm on solid ground here. Six members and two guests attended, and the parent Society sent a telegram of congratulations. I sent the original on to the incoming chairman, but here's a copy — it says CHAIRMAN AND COMMITTEE RICHARD 3RD SOCIETY GREET AMERICAN MEMBERS COMMEMORATING KING RICHARDS BIRTHDAY IN NEWYORK. They voted to collect dues — a dollar a year. Out of those dues, five shillings went to the parent Society in England.

Much has changed since then, but a lot has stayed exactly the same. There are probably ten times as many members gathered here today as in 1961, and dues have gone up a little. Still, once again we gather in a hotel (which certainly rivals the elegance of the Plaza), and once again we will be hearing greetings from the Committee in London.

This has been a year of change — change and accomplishment. Once again we will welcome a new chairman and await the stimulating effect that new leadership always brings. We celebrate growth in our scholarship program, a significant new milestone in our publishing efforts, the establishment of a new lending library. We stop to recognize the accomplishments of officers and committee members, those who remain and those who are stepping down — and we pause again to mourn the passing of some of our good Ricardian friends.

Reflecting on the events of the past year, I can certainly say that there was rather more change than this Acting Chair bargained for, and the faster this meeting is conducted, the faster the election results will be official and I can turn the gavel over to the new chairman.

Chairman's Report

Let me begin the Chairman's report by reading the Greetings from the Committee in London:

"Greetings from the Society in the UK to the America Branch.

"Congratulations on your achievements during the past year, in scholarship awards and publication, and good wishes for your 1994 A.G.M. We hope that for both American members, and members world wide, 1994-1995 will prove another fruitful Society year, when we may have occasion to make a real contribution to the continuing debate on Richard III."

I don't want to talk too much about last year's accomplishments because that would steal the thunder of our officers, committee chairs and other volunteers. Instead, I'd like to spend just a minute thanking some of the people who worked so hard to bring today's meeting about — Dianne Batch and all her colleagues in the Michigan chapter. I'd like to thank those Board and Committee members whose efforts so often go unacknowledged because the work just gets done, day-in, day-out, and they're always there, like the electricity or the water from our faucets.

I am thinking of Peggy Allen, our treasurer, who is now managing the financial affairs of a Society that spends between \$15,000 and \$20,000 a year and has about \$40,000 in endowed funds to further its aims. I'd like to thank Carole Rike, who handles easily 95% of the Society correspondence, incoming and outgoing — all the inquiries, renewals, changes of address and all our mailings. When she's not

doing that, she produces our newsletter. In the little time left over, she runs a business and has a life.

I'm thinking of all our librarians — Helen Maurer, Mary Miller, and our newest librarian, Sandra Giesbrecht — and what this resource and their efforts mean to us all. I'm thinking of Linda McLatchie, who gives her time and sacrifices her basement as sales officer. I'm thinking of scholars and writers, chapter chairs and chapter members, lone Ricardians who place an In-Memoriam, and I have no doubt that I've left some very important people out.

This year, we have three impending committee vacancies to announce: the positions of Sales Officer, Archivist, and Chapters Coordinator are available. Linda McLatchie needs her basement back; Mary Donermeyer has her hands full with a whole new generation of Donermeyers; and Janet Trimbath has a new name, a new job, and a new home in a new community. We will miss them all in their Committee capacities, and look forward to welcoming them back in new volunteer positions as soon as they've had a minute to catch their breath.

One of the things that makes us so special as a Society is that we're all volunteers. We depend on members contributing their time, their talent, and — yes — their money to make the Society work. I get more satisfaction out of my volunteer work for the Society than almost anything else I do, and I know a lot of Ricardians who feel the same way. I encourage any and all of you to consider taking on one of those committee appointments, or helping out with an existing committee, or thinking up and running with a new project. We could use financial contributions, too, of course — but more importantly, we need your time, your willing hands, and your good ideas.

I can't tell you for certain when the last time was that we presented a budget for the coming year at an Annual General Meeting, but we are presenting one today. Peggy will be explaining how she built it and the very conservative revenue projections she used. This is a more ambitious effort to forecast and manage our expenses than we've done in recent years, and we applaud Peggy's careful efforts. Meanwhile, Carole Rike's membership report will present some of the ways she's hoping we can bolster the revenue side of Peggy's ledger and give us more money to work with.

Budgeting aside, we have some very bright spots in our financial picture, too: the last year's growth in the Schallek Fund, and the significant boost to the resources of the Research Library that comes from the new endowed book fund. And there is more good news in those committee reports: some PR hits, some news about current and future publications, and some evidence that, here as in England, the Society is gaining respectability among the academic community.

Membership Report

As of September 30, 1994, we had 589 members before renewals, of which approximately 60 were family members.

Last fall, we had a drop-off of about 100 regular members who did not renew. We think this may have been a problem with mail delivery or possibly a clerical or computer error — or a combination of all three. So this summer we mailed renewal letters to everyone whose membership has lapsed since 1990. This is about 500 members, and I estimate we got about 50 renewals so far from that mailing, and they're still coming in, so I hope the numbers will be up some this year over last. We're getting inquiries from the *New York Times* In Memoriam and the feature article Margaret Gurowitz got us in the Bergen County New Jersey *Daily Record*. We have a mess of people — probably about a hundred — who inquired about the Society in the last year or so but did not join. If Peggy can find me some extra

postage money, I'll see if we can't do a mailing to them and see if some of them will come on board.

Renewal time is when most of our members make their extra contributions for our libraries, our scholarships and so on, and so this year we're sending along a letter reminding member of the need for donations. As you all know, the last time we raised dues was 1991. Even though we expect a postal hike this year, we're still holding the dues at \$30.00 — this pays for our publications and our mailings but doesn't leave a lot over for things like printing brochures or giving our libraries a budget or printing books or monographs or whatever. So when you get your renewal form — it will probably be a little late this year since I'm swamped in the shop — I hope you all will think about adding a few dollars for our special activities.

We made one other change on the renewal form this year, and that's an item that says "please check here if you do not wish to have your name supplied to other members or organizations." Many members or committees ask for our list, especially chapters, and so do organizations like the Higgins Armory Museum. Most of our members want to hear from other members, but some do not — and those members who are concerned about their privacy get very upset when they get unwanted mail. We've been pretty strict about not giving out our membership list and in fact the former chairman instructed me not to send one to anyone. This has been a problem for us, because it means that people who need the information can't get at it. The check-off box means we'll be able to make rosters available to committee members and also give (or sell) mailing labels to carefully-selected organizations.

Carole M. Rike

Report of the Sales Officer

Revenues for the Sales office for the fiscal year were \$5,734.88 (after refunds), a decline of 13% from last year's record figures. The sales office was able to transfer \$652.00 to the Schallek Scholarship Fund, from sales (both current and anticipated) of the Porcellino Christmas cards.

The main new item to be introduced this year was the Society's reprint of *Under the Hog*, which buoyed sales office revenues late in the fiscal year.

Special thanks go to several generous Ricardians:

- Bill Snyder, who donated the proceeds of the first printing of his book, *The Crown and the Tower*, to the Society.
- Anne Vineyard, who donated the proceeds of the sale of her Ricardian curriculum, "Oh, Tey, Can You See?" to the Schallek Scholarship Fund.
- Susan Dexter, who created the beautiful artwork for three Ricardian Christmas cards.

And my thanks to all members who made purchases — you are the engine that keeps the sales office moving forward.

Linda McLatchie

Report of the Editor of the Ricardian Register

Last year we probably printed more pages of *The Ricardian Register* than we ever did — fall had 28 pages, winter had 36, spring and summer each had 32. We had great cover illustrations to go with each issue's lead article, including a drawn-to-order picture of strawberries and Tower ravens by Susan Dexter for the spring cover and a picture of a Bosworth painting in a Dallas museum supplied by Geoff Wheeler from London. Geoff also sent us about half a dozen great pictures of Bosworth Field and Sutton Cheney to make our summer issue really special.

Lovely as this was, these big issues really ate our budget alive last year, and so next year we'll probably go back to the 24 pages-per-issue we're supposed to be running. As Editor,

I try to remember that some of our members are interested in serious historical research and some are interested in other areas, such as historical fiction, travel, Shakespeare and the theater and so on. Since *The Ricardian* has enough serious reading in it for most of us, I'm really happy with the variety of articles we run in the *Register*. I also enjoy the unexpected contributions — they surprise and delight me when they show up in my mailbox, so keep your stuff coming!

A word about deadlines: I allow about five weeks from my published deadlines to the time the *Register* goes in the mail. This give me time to type the contributions that don't come on disk (I really appreciate getting things on disk, by the way), proofread, do layout, and then do the printing and mailing. Figure about a week for each step, unless we're really slow in the shop. The fall issue will be delayed again this year, partly because we're swamped, and partly because the other publications have been slow to arrive from England. I expect to mail them out some time this month.

Carole M. Rike

Report of the Public Relations Chairman

1993-94 has been a good year for Ricardian public relations, with the Richard III Society appearing in both the local and national press. A press release about last year's AGM resulted in a large feature story in *The Home News*, a major central New Jersey daily newspaper, garnering two new members for the Society. In February, *BYTE Magazine* (a computer magazine) printed a letter to the editor from the Public Relations Officer, in response to an editorial mentioning Shakespeare's Richard III. Shortly afterward, the Society gained a large and very positive feature story in the Anchorage, Alaska, *Daily Times*, spurred by a production of Shakespeare's play. The reporter was interested enough to expand what had been a planned sidebar into a full-blown feature story which included the Society's address.

During the winter, the public relations office responded to Alison Weir's book tour promoting the infamous *Princes in the Tower*. Publicity was coordinated with Society members on Weir's planned stops, a press release was sent to daily and weekly newspapers in those areas, and members were contacted by telephone and encouraged to attend local appearances.

In the Spring, the Society was highlighted in *The Atlantic Monthly*, as the lead organization in a feature article about groups people belong to in their spare time. Also, at the request of the Schallek committee head, general and tailored press releases about the Schallek scholarship recipients were sent to newspapers across the country.

In August, our annual August 22 In Memoriam was placed in the *New York Times*, where it ran without incident. The Bosworth press release was coordinated with chapter members as local press contacts for the media. This release resulted in a front-page feature story on the Society in New Jersey's *Daily Record*, which appeared on August 22. Again, the story was favorable, and mentioned the Society's address.

The 1994 AGM release, coordinated with Eileen Prinsen, was sent to a comprehensive media list including radio and television. On the horizon for the upcoming Ricardian year are public relations opportunities with a U.S. tour of the Royal Shakespeare Company performing *Henry VI Part III*, and work on behalf of *Under the Hog*.

Margaret Gurowitz

Report of the Archivist

There is no job description for the Archivist. It has been mainly a storage task. I would like to see it in the hands of someone with the skill to computerize the holdings. I have added several newspaper clippings in the past year and reorganized much of the material into binders according to

subject. There have been no major expenses and the position should not require an allocation of money from the society except in rare instances.

Mary Donermeyer

Report of the Tour Coordinator

1994 Tour: August 5-13. The touring party considered of eight women, the courier and driver. Arrangements were made by Lord Addison Travel, who have been named to do the 1995 tour. Of those eight, only three were actual members of the Society. The others had an interest in Richard or in medieval history or were traveling with relatives. The non-Ricardian tour members were recruited from Lord Addison's client list. A second tour of the North had been planned by the former Chair but received little response.

Dale Summers

Report of the Chapter Coordinator

During the Ricardian year ending October 1, 1994, I performed the following tasks as Chapter coordinator:

First, I requested the Annual Reports from each of the Chapters. I received, and have with me for your review, the responses from the following Chapters: Middle Atlantic, New England, Northwest, Illinois, Southwest, Southeastern Pennsylvania.

The predominant activity still seems to be the four or five chapter meeting each year where presentations of a Ricardian nature are given by Chapter members or guest speakers.

Each chapter communicated with the "outside world" by different methods: library exhibits, in memoriam notices, book sales, attending Christmas "revels", participating in the annual Seattle Highland Games.

Membership seemed, at best, stable. In fact, this was a stated concern of two Chapters. The Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter commented, "Like other Chapters, ours would benefit from periodic lists of new members in our area." The New England Chapter stated, "We need a system of prompt communication whenever someone joins the Society, so we can invite them to join the local section." The absence of this information from the Membership Officer has been identified as a problem by the Chapters.

Second, in response to requests from individuals who want to start new Chapters, I sent out ten "new Chapter kits."

This year, two former Chapters were deleted from the ranks. The Chicagoland Chapter had not yet responded to letters and phone calls for at least the three years of my term of office. As a result of this lack of communication and participation, they were taken off the roster of active Chapters. After the resignation of Joe Ann Ricca as Chairman of the American Branch, I received a letter from Susan Mahoney, the then chairman of the Whyte Rose Chapter. In this letter, Susan stated that the Whyte Rose Chapter no longer wished to be affiliated with the American Branch of the Richard III Society.

A new chapter was formed by Mary Miller named the Illinois Chapter. They currently have 13 members and seem to be growing!

The Middle Atlantic Chapter survived a near-disaster this year when Jeanne Faubell stepped in as chairman so Mary Schaller could honor her previous commitment to the Shakespeare Folger Library. As a result, one of our largest and most active Chapters is still alive and well.

It is my observation that most Chapters are experiencing the same problems that they always have: getting new members, keeping old members, and getting any members to participate on a regular basis. The same people tend to

do the grunt work year after year until they "burnout." When that happens, there is a decline in membership and the Chapter flounders along until an energetic person steps forward to perk things up. It seems this is the "life cycle" of a Ricardian chapter.

I wish the new Chapter Coordinator luck in the coming year.

Janet Trimbath

Report of the Schools Coordinator

The Coordinator provided several members and several outside educators with materials and sources of information that could be used for educational purposes.

The Coordinator has initiated correspondence with a number of workshop cooperatives for the purpose of utilizing the Ricardian point of view in Shakespearean studies. Outcome will take some time to complete.

Anne Vineyard

Report of the Research Officer

During the 1993-94 Ricardian year, a comprehensive beginner's research guide was written and distributed to various board, chapter and committee contacts. The guide also is available to members upon request, and has been sent to the few who requested it.

A research survey was distributed to get a picture of the Society's grass-roots research background, and to learn which topics interest the membership. The results of the survey were sent directly to the database coordinator.

The quarterly column in the *Register* has featured brief re-examinations of familiar Ricardian topics, and has reviewed Alison Weir's *The Princes in the Tower*. Ricardian trivia questions, a regular feature of the column, have proved popular with the membership and have generated a good response. The questions promote research, since members must track down the answers.

Earlier in the year, the research office provided member Judy Weinsoft with materials and help in locating some references for her talk on Richard III at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival.

In May, the Research Officer responded — via letter to the editor — to a column about Shakespeare and lawyers in *The Oregon State Bar Bulletin*. The column painted Richard III as a "malevolent hunchback" and tyrant. As a result of the letter to the editor, which portrayed Richard III as an upholder of the law and an employer of lawyers, the *Bulletin* apologized to Richard III "and his descendants!"

Plans for the upcoming year include a Ricardian reading list, which will give members a broader background in both Ricardian and late medieval topics. Finally, the Research Officer would like to encourage members to write with research inquiries and questions!

Margaret Gurowitz

Report of the Library Coordinator

During the past year, I pulled together some information about previous library exhibits with the hope that I would be able to design a new, expanded exhibit for use by the members of the Society.

I also did some research into library policy upon the request of the former chairman, Joe Ann Ricca.

In June, I had a baby. During a discussion with the acting chairman, Laura Blanchard, we decided that the best role for me for the time being would be to act as a clearinghouse of information for those members requesting it. To that end, Ms. Blanchard has sent me articles, etc., that I can use to send out.

Carolyn Campbell

Report of the Audio-Visual Librarian

I have enjoyed being the audio-visual librarian for the Society this year and have met a great many members through the mail.

My main goal when I accepted this position was to enlarge the library through the solicitation of donations by members, as well as through purchase. The former method proved the more successful. We had several donations from our membership over the year, which were listed in the last issue of the *Ricardian Register*.

I was, however, a little disappointed in the purchases not made over the past year, but trust with the increase in communication between myself and the Chairman in a positive manner, as has been the case recently, that this will be remedied. There are several titles I am submitting for perusal of the chairman which I feel would be valuable to the members for their use.

One area in which I will be unable to assist the Society any further is the duplication of material. I no longer have access to the equipment needed. Should you wish to make your own copies, please feel free (within the limits of copyright law). However, I cannot provide the service.

I look forward to another year as audio-visual librarian and welcome any questions or suggestions.

Sandra Giesbrecht

Report of the Fiction Librarian

The fiction library has been used steadily in the past year. From October 1 through August 27, 61 items were borrowed. Sixteen books were donated to the library and four were purchased. A new copy of *Under the Hog* is now available. The most popular title was *My Lords Richard* by Margaret Davidson. It went out five times in the past nine months.

I have compiled a list of the plays and miscellaneous items available in addition to the fiction collection. The list can be obtained by writing to me.

I have carefully weeded the fiction collection of some of the multiple copies of certain titles. These will be available for bidding in a silent auction that will be listed in the *Ricardian Register* this fall. Funds from the auction will be used to repair and rebind some of the older books and to purchase new ones when they become available.

I am hopeful that with Peggy Allen's help we will be able to find a solution to the question of insurance for the library collection this year.

Mary Miller

Report of the Research Librarian

As all of you know, the research library received a bequest from Judy Weinsoft, which has established an endowed fund in her name to provide for future library acquisitions. This gives us the opportunity to make the library a first-rate repository of scholarship on late fifteenth-century England. To this end I propose to follow a course of gradual, but steadier than previous, expansion.

In addition to her bequest, Judy left us a boxful of books. Some have joined the library as new acquisitions; the remainder will be offered to members in a silent auction. Look for details in the winter *Register*. A list of all recent book acquisitions will also appear in that issue.

The research library list has been updated, and copies have been sent to all chapter contacts as well as to regular library users. I urge the chapters to recopy the list for redistribution among their members. Otherwise, I will be happy to furnish copies to individual members request.

Finally, a reminder: the library exists for all of us. I encourage all members to avail themselves of this resource.

Helen Maurer

Report of the Monograph Coordinator

The first monograph submitted to the committee for consideration, on Giles Daubeney, has now been reviewed by the members of the monograph committee (Ralph A. Griffiths, H.A. Kelly, Roxane Murph, and Jon Suter) and has been accepted pending revisions. The author is now in the process of making final revisions.

Both the monograph coordinator and the monograph committee chairman, Ralph Griffiths, have been exploring joint publishing arrangements with scholarly publishers for this monograph.

Sharon D. Michalove

Report of the Schallek Committee

This has been another very successful year by any measure — we've welcomed another world-renowned late-medieval scholar to the Selection Committee, given generously for the current year's award and helped build the endowment, received a record number of requests for applications and applications themselves, and given four awards.

The names and numbers can be recapped as follows:

Total number of requests for applications:	45
Number of completed applications:	14
Amount raised for current year awards:	\$2,950.50
Amount raised for endowment:	\$2,175.00

At the last Board meeting, I was told that our scholarship fund now stands at \$35,000 — quite an achievement for us in three years!

Our four Schallek Scholars for the 1994-95 academic year are: Leigh Allison Dingwall, Glasgow University, researching Cecily Neville; Sarah Kelen, Columbia University, researching fifteenth-century historiography; our own Helen Maurer, University of California at Irvine, researching Margaret of Anjou; and Kristine Lynn Rabberman, University of Pennsylvania, researching marriage patterns in fifteenth-century Herefordshire. All four Schallek Scholars are Ph.D. candidates at their institutions.

Once again, thanks are due to the more than 70 Ricardians who gave generously to support this project, and to our Selection Committee members: Lorraine C. Attreed, Barbara A. Hanawalt, Morris G. McGee, Shelley A. Sinclair, and Charles T. Wood. Finally, we should remember with gratitude William B. Schallek, whose vision established the fund in 1978, and Maryloo Schallek, who continues as a leadership donor in his memory to this day.

Election Report

179 proxy ballots were received by Election Chairman Toni Collins, and four ballots were cast at the meeting. The totals for the election were:

Chairman: A. Compton Reeves	184
Recording Secretary: Judy A. Pimental	184
Membership Secretary: Carole M. Rike	179
Treasurer: Peggy Allen	184

Toni Collins

Dickon Award

Each year we recognize the achievements of a member whose service furthers our aims and objectives in outstanding ways. This year's recipient of the Dickon Award has been giving steady and dependable Ricardian service for almost a decade. Richard III has a special fascination for lawyers — partly, I suspect, because it challenges their skills at constructing a case from insufficient evidence, and partly because of the impact of Richard's laws on our own conception of legal rights.

This particular Ricardian put his lawyerly skills at the Society's disposal in some very important ways. First, as a member of the by-laws revision committee in 1985-86, he made certain that our by-laws remained in agreement with the New York State Not-for-Profit Corporation statutes that govern the Richard III Society, Inc. Next, as Treasurer, he guided the financial affairs of the Society during an important transitional period. At the same time, he stepped in and kept the Schallek Awards program running when Morris McGee found it necessary to step down.

Finally, although he now holds no elective or appointed office, he still serves unofficially as our counsel, advising us when we need to sign contracts and other binding instruments, and helping us assure that we conduct ourselves in ways that protect our status as a not-for-profit corporation.

By now, I'm sure that many of you have guessed the name of this year's recipient of the Dickon Award: Alan O. Dixler, Esq. And I'm sure you'll all agree that this award is richly deserved.

Other Announcements

After thirty-four years of existence as a Branch, it is perhaps inevitable that we have to recognize Ricardians for reasons other than the granting of awards — ill health and death ultimately visit us all. It is only fitting that we, who place In-Memoriam notices every August 22, should remember before God those of our number who have kept faith with the last Plantagenet king half a millenium later.

Snyder

Through an amazing coincidence, I've been working with former chairman Bill Snyder's son Dan for the past three weeks. Dan tells me that his father, aged 89, is suffering from congestive heart failure and his condition continues to be grave. Although he is holding his own at the moment, he is too frail for additional surgical intervention.

Snyder, who chaired the American Branch for twelve years 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 Halsted's 1844 biography of Richard III. 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 Snyder 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."

Bill Snyder's family recently decided to donate his personal Ricardian library to the branch, enriching us in yet another way. Letters and cards of support can be sent to Bill and Jan at Box 142, Crosslands, Kennett Square, PA 19348. [Ed. Note: We have recently learned of Bill Snyder's death on November 7, 1994. He will be missed by the Ricardian community.]

Bobek

The Ricardian community mourns the loss of Karl Bobek, who died last January. The following tribute to his memory was written by Diana Waggoner in consultation with Melinda Burrill and is being read by chapter representative Carol Mitchell.

In Memory of Karl Bobek

We Ricardians are not so numerous that we can afford to lose any of our fellows; nor is the world about us so far advanced in wisdom that it can afford to lose them, either. Being Ricardians means that we sustain qualities that are not commonly valued as they should be: a love of learning, a respect for those who have gone before us, and, most of all, a hunger for truth. So it is with doubled sorrow that we remember our friend Karl Bobek, who at the still young age of 42 left us this year — doubled because the death of anyone grieves and diminishes us, but the death of one who shares our deepest values is an even deeper loss.

Karl was a quiet man, something of an enigma, perhaps because he did value the past in a world where the sheer rush of present sensation has achieved the status of the greatest good. Yet no one should think that he was cold or distant or indifferent to the friendship of others — far from it. His quietness hid an essentially sweet and generous nature, and he was easy to like, always willing to volunteer his help, always sensible and reasonable; a serious person, but not a humorless one. Thanks to Karl's efforts as treasurer, our Chapter's financial accounts became clear and easy to understand; thanks in part to his earnest work on our Calendar project we were able to increase our contribution to the Schallek fund, which he saw as the way the Society could best benefit the larger world of scholarship. And thanks to his good humor and the wine he always brought, our annual Twelfth Night feast became jollier and more convivial, a true celebration in the spirit of the medieval holiday.

But mostly, we remember Karl because he was one of us, one with us in caring about matters of learning and truth, and there is a void in our lives now that he is gone. We only wish we would tell him how much he meant to us. We can't do that now, but we can reaffirm to one another our commitment to truth, and tell one another what we should have told Karl when he was still with us, that all those who share that commitment are our dearest friends, our brothers and sisters.

The Southern California Chapter, the American Branch, and individual Ricardians have joined to make contributions to the Schallek Endowment in Karl's memory.

Weinsoft

There is only one person in this room who ever met Judy Weinsoft face to face — her husband, Phil Goldsmith. Judy had been a member of the Society for a little less than three years at the time of her death last spring. In that brief period, she researched and delivered a major lecture on Richard III at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, generated feature coverage in the *Portland Oregonian*, saw her lecture in print in the *Register* and achieved the status of footnote in a paper presented at the Popular Culture Association meeting last November, and commissioned a plaque for one of the chairs at the festival, which bears the whimsical inscription "The Oregon Chapter of the Richard III Society."

Before her declining health made it obvious that this would not be possible, Judy had looked forward to attending an AGM so that she could attach faces to familiar names. Those of us who worked with her sent her photos and videos as a sort of surrogate. It wasn't the same, but she said it helped.

Judy's lecture was titled "Strutting and Fretting His Hour Upon the Stage." It was witty, entertaining, informative, and footnoted to within an inch of its life. I know this, because I typed every one of Judy's 110 footnotes and 56 bibliographic citations when we discovered at the eleventh hour that Carole's computer couldn't read Judy's disk. When it was obvious that the thing was too big for one computer file, it seemed only natural to name the two files for their content: STRUT.TXT for the lecture itself and FRET.NOT for the footnotes and bibliography.

Judy latched onto FRET.NOT as her nickname — inaccurately, as it turns out, because Judy fretted to beat the band over this lecture and everything that went with it. Was she erudite enough? Would people laugh? Would they laugh in the right places? Would anyone ask questions? Would they ask the right questions? What about the small error she made in her question-and-answer session? Could she edit it out of the videotape, or would that be intellectually dishonest?

In her last months, Judy took anticipatory pleasure in the benefits of her final gift to the Society, which she nicknamed the FRET.NOT Fund. As you all know, income from Judy's bequest and memorial contributions from friends and family will help us build our nonfiction library into even more of a first-class research collection than it already is.

So that all of us can attach a face to Judy's name, Phil has brought the videotape of Judy's lecture, and will share a brief excerpt with us now — those of you who are captured by her sparkling delivery and rigorous scholarship are welcome to remain after the meeting and view part or all of the talk. Phil also has with him the first book purchased with money from the Judy R. Weinsoft Memorial Research Library Fund. It is a new publication, a bibliography of the research that has been published on England from Richard II to Richard III from 1974 to 1989. We think that, as a librarian, Judy would have been especially pleased with this choice. Our incoming chairman will accept it on behalf of the Society library.

Comments by Phil Goldstein

I'm here to deliver for Judy the thank you that she was never able to say to you in person. Judy would want to thank you, for she considered the gifts which you gave her to be much greater than what she did for the Society in return.

Part of this reflects her nature. But in this instance what she felt was true, for she only gave you money and what you provided her was of far greater value.

First of all, you gave her the forum at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Had she written OSF a year ago in May saying that she was a young, intelligent, right-handed female librarian with an idea for a pre-performance lecture on Richard III, there likely would have been no interest. In the last two years, all the lecturers have been academics, members of the Festival, or persons associated with an organization. Judy was given her opportunity because she could say that she was affiliated with the Richard III Society.

The second important thing that you gave her was support for her lecture. This was Judy's most significant intellectual achievement, at least since college, and she worried mightily that she was not equal to the task. Your phone calls and letters of encouragement were critical in helping her recognize her skills and abilities.

In turn, Judy developed a vision of her intellectual future. Although she had been an English major and had contemplated attending graduate school, she never before had a subject she wanted to study and write about in depth. As a result of this lecture, she knew that, if her health and energy had permitted, the depiction of Richard in modern plays was material worthy of a doctoral dissertation.

Perhaps the most important thing you helped give Judy was several months of freedom from worrying about cancer.

Normally, whenever a person who has had cancer experiences a new pain, the first thought is that the disease has returned or spread. In the three months during which Judy prepared her lecture while working part-time and undergoing chemotherapy, she had plenty of worries. Some of these Laura Blanchard has already alluded to. In addition, Judy worried that what she was doing wasn't of sufficient social significance, a concern that was much allayed when she learned from James Morre's bibliography that her Rabbi's brother had also written about Shakespeare's Richard III.

But the one thing that was never on her mind was cancer, even though, as we later learned, she was already experiencing the early stages of the metastasis to her bones. Instead, when she felt discomfort, she simply assumed that she had sat in an uncomfortable position while spending long hours before her computer working on her lecture.

Finally, some of you, most especially the person sitting to my immediate left (Laura Blanchard), kept Judy laughing until close to the end. These were all great gifts, of far more value than the money Judy left for the research library fund, and I thank you on her behalf for all of them.

I should add two things. First, Judy made a contribution to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival which enabled her to endow three seats. One of these now bears a plaque reading: "In memoriam Richard Plantagenet 1452-1485 Richard III Society, Oregon Chap." I was able to persuade her to have another read: "Strutting and fretting her hour on the stage — Judy R. Weinsoft Pre-performance lecture 8/27/93." These seats are located in the Bowmer Theater, row J, seats 26, 28 and 30. Any of you who attend the Festival may want to request sitting in them.

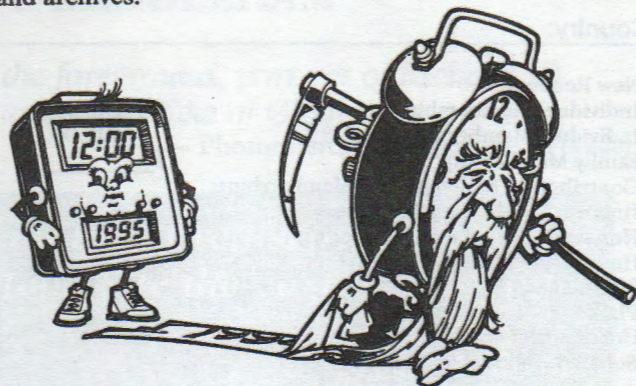
The second thing is that the Oregon Chapter, which so far has existed only as a construct in Judy's mind, will hold its initial meeting on the Friday before next year's AGM in Judy's favorite part of our yard, the native area. Those of you who wish to pay a visit to Portland before going on to Seattle may want to attend.

And now I present Comptom Reeves with the first acquisition for the research library purchased with Judy's bequest, *Late Medieval England (1377-1485): A Bibliography of Historical Scholarship, 1975-1989* by Joel T. Rosenthal. I think this choice would please Judy both as a librarian and as a researcher in this period.

Editor's Note: The Treasurer's Report, as given at the AGM, will appear in the Spring issue of this newsletter.

Minutes from 1993 AGM available

In the flurry of last-minute AGM preparations this year, we realized that minutes for the 1993 Annual General Meeting were not printed. Ordinarily these minutes appear in one of the next two issues following the meeting. Any member wishing to obtain a copy of those minutes and committee reports may send a self-addressed #10 envelope with two ounces of first-class postage to Laura Blanchard. We apologize to our members for any inconvenience. A copy of these minutes and reports will also be filed with the Winter 1993-94 *Ricardian Register* in the Society's libraries and archives.



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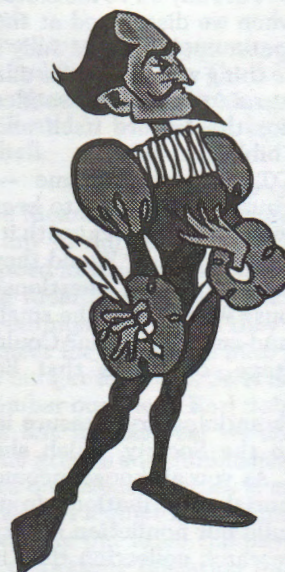
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OREGON SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

Phil Goldsmith



Ricardians attending the 1995 Annual General Meeting in Seattle may wish to attend the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, Oregon. The Festival, widely considered one of America's finest regional theaters, always has several plays in repertoire. This fall, the plays will include Shakespeare's *Richard II*, *Macbeth*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and *Twelfth Night*; Federico Garcia Lorca's *Blood Wedding*; Seamus Heamey's *The Cure at Troy*; Nagle Jackson's

This Day and Age; Kristine Thatcher's *Emma's Child*; and Thorton Wilder's *Skin of Our Teeth*.

Schedules can be obtained from and tickets ordered through the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, P. O. Box 158, Ashhland, Oregon 97520, phone (503) 482-4331. The schedule can also be obtained by calling on yours truly, Phil Goldsmith (Mr. Judy Weinsoft), at my work number (503) 224-2301.

For plays in the Angus Bowmer Theater, you may wish to consider requesting seats which Judy Weinsoft endowed, J26 (in memory of Richard Plantagenet), J28 (in honor of Judy's Richard lecture) and J30.

If you plan to travel between Ashland and the Annual General Meeting, you should figure about nine hours driving time. Ashland is served by air through the Medford airport.

Membership Application/Renewal

☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Miss

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Country:

Phone:

New Renewal	
Individual Membership	\$30.00
Individual Membership Non-US	\$35.00
Family Membership*	\$ _____
Contributing & Sponsoring Memberships:	
Honorary Fotheringay Member	\$75.00
Honorary Middleham Member	\$180.00
Honorary Bosworth Member	\$300.00
Plantagenet Angel	\$500.00
Plantagenet Family Member	\$500 \$ _____
Contributions:	
Schallek Fellowship Awards:	\$ _____

General Fund (publicity, mailings, etc) \$ _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

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

*Make all checks payable to Richard III Society, Inc.
Mail to P. O. Box 13786, New Orleans, LA 70185-3786*