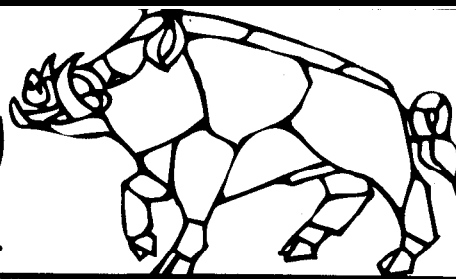


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Carole Rike

Thanks to Compton Reeves for the excellent article in this issue on Paul Murray Kendall, whose *Richard III* is a continuing favorite with Ricardians, if not the all-time standard biography of England's last Plantagenet king. Pictured on the cover of this newsletter, Mr. Kendall described himself in 1965 as "5'9" and 175 lbs." There was much more to be said for him than a modest accounting of his physical properties.

Tey's Daughter of Time introduced me to the question of Richard. Consumed with the need to view the infamous picture, I ordered Kendall's book from the local Doubleday, and went during my lunch hour to take possession. I was accompanied by a young man I was dating at the time who had little use for my eagerness and fascination with an obscure English king.

That was over 25 years ago. I barely recall the boy, but Richard III still occupies a special place in my heart. I originally wanted to see the picture, but found myself reading the book, and then reading another source, and another ... and here I am, all these years later still fascinated with the mystery of Richard III and the charisma of his times. The **first** time I stood in the National Portrait Gallery and gazed at the original painting of Richard, I thought of Kendall and thanked him for making Richard so accessible.

Kendall's book celebrates its fortieth birthday in publication this year. I am confident many of you share my pleasure in this kindly and scholarly interpretation of Richard III and suspect that the influence of Ricardians may have something to do with its continuing presence on the bookshelves. Many of us have even influenced professors to use it as a text!

We had hoped to include in this issue a feature by one of Mr. Kendall's students, our own Daphne Hamilton. Daphne's health did not allow her to complete an article before publication. We plan to bring you her insights in the near future. Should you encounter Daphne in the meantime, ask her about **Kendall**: she has many interesting stories to share with you and many kindly recollections of him as a professor.

As this issue of the *Register* arrives, **some of you are** returning **from** the Annual General Meeting in Seattle with memories of good cheer and fellowship. I sincerely regret I was unable to attend, but look forward to seeing you in Philadelphia in '96.

Please share with us your Ricardian thoughts, researches, experiences, book reviews. Let us know what you find most interesting in the publication, **and least**. We **look forward to hearing from you**.



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PAUL MURRAY KENDALL

AND THE ANNIVERSARY OF RICHARD THE THIRD

A. Compton Reeves

It would be interesting to know the percentage of today's Ricardians for whom the first non-fiction book they read about King Richard III was *Richard the Third* by Paul Murray Kendall, which first appeared in 1955. Any book that has remained in print for forty years must indeed have been a good introduction to the subject. To mark the anniversary of the publication of Kendall's study of King Richard, it seems fitting to examine briefly the career of Kendall and to note some of the early reactions to *Richard the Third*.

Kendall spent the majority of his academic career teaching English at Ohio University in Athens. The English Department and the Archives and Special Collections Department at Alden Library, Ohio University, have made it possible for me to put together for Ricardian readers this sketch of Kendall's life.

Paul Murray Kendall was born on 1 March 1911 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and graduated from Frankford High School in that city in 1928. He moved on to the University of Virginia, where he took all of his professional training: A.B. in 1932, A.M. in 1933, and Ph.D. in 1939. Before completing his doctorate, Kendall became, in 1937, an instructor in the English Department at Ohio University. His primary teaching responsibility was Renaissance literature with an emphasis upon Shakespeare. Kendall did not immediately become one of the more notable members of the faculty. It was not until 1947, for instance, that he was granted tenure, and in a letter of 14 May 1951, having recently turned fog, he expressed the hope that he might at least be considered for promotion from Associate Professor to Professor.

He had in 1950 been awarded the Marburgh Play Prize from The Johns Hopkins University for his three-act play, "The Ant Viage," and he had published some light verse in such magazines as the *Saturday Evening Post*, and had published a scholarly article on Shakespeare's *Troilus and Cressida* in a festschrift. In the 1951 letter noted above, Kendall mentioned he had "finished about a third of a fictional-biographical study of Richard III, the object of which is to show that Shakespeare's portrait of that monarch is totally unhistorical."

Kendall cannot help but have felt a vote of confidence when he was awarded a Ford Foundation Fellowship for 1952-53, and the fellowship gave a boost to the comple-

tion of *Richard the Third*, which was published by W.W. Norton in 1955. The reviews of *Richard* were entirely friendly,

E. F. Jacob, who was six years away from publishing his volume in the *Oxford History of England, The Fifteenth Century, 1399-1485*, wrote in the *Manchester Guardian* (13 January 1956), "This new life of Richard III has two principal merits: it deals with his whole career, not merely with the last two years; and it is carefully constructed from original authorities," and went on to credit Kendall with "distinguishing between genuine contemporary testimony (even if much of that is hearsay) and Tudor myth, and making it clear when resort is had to conjecture."

R. B. Dooley, writing in the *Catholic World* (November 1956) said: "In all the reams of writing in print that have been spilled by the enemies and friends of Richard III, this is actually the first objective biography."

To mention but one more early review, A.

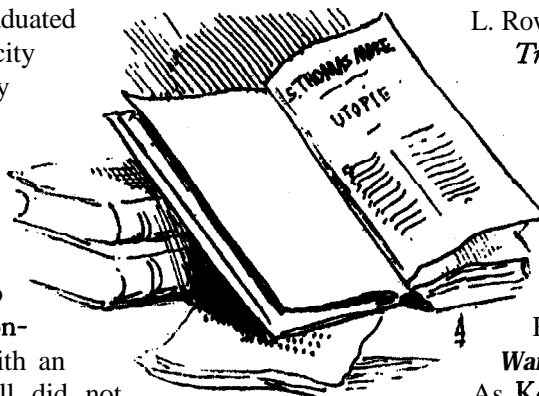
L. Rowse stated in the *Chicago Sunday Tribune* (26 August 1956) that

"Mr. Kendall has achieved the best biography of Richard III that has been written." In a review a few years later, in a demonstration of independent and unencumbered judgment, Kendall eviscerated Rowse's *Bosworth Field and the Wars of the Roses* (1966).

As Kendall's first book, *Richard the Third* had admirable reception and was a runner-up for the National Book Award in 1956 as well as being picked one of the best books of the year by the American Library Association.

Two years after *Richard*, Kendall had two more books appear: *Warwick the Kingmaker* and *History of Land Warfare*. For the academic year 1957-58 Kendall had the first of his two Guggenheim Fellowships; the second was for 1961-62. *Warwick the Kingmaker* won the Ohioana Award in 1958 as the best nonfiction book published by an Ohioan in the previous year and the *New York Times* called it one of the top biographies of 1957. By this time Kendall had been promoted to professor and in 1959 Ohio University named Kendall and two other professors the first Distinguished Professors in the history of the University.

Kendall was not yet finished with fifteenth-century England, for *The Yorkist Age* appeared in 1962 and his second Ohioana Award followed in 1963. A work edited




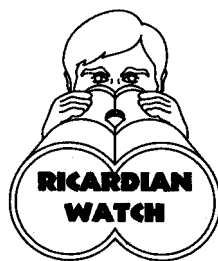
and introduced by Kendall was published in 1965: **Richard III: The Great Debate: Sir Thomas More's History of King Richard III and Horace Walpole's Historic Doubts on the Life and Reign of King Richard III**, and in the same year there appeared **The Art of Biography**, for which Kendall was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize.

Further recognition followed for Kendall. The Ohio Board of Regents named him a Regents Professor in 1966 and renewed the appointment each year until 1969 when he was named permanent Regents Professor. In 1970 Kendall retired from Ohio University, to become head, together with Professor Charleton Hinman, of the Shakespeare Institute at the University of Kansas. Kendall was continuing with other projects also, most notably his projected edition with Professor Vincent Ilardi of the University of Massachusetts of the fifteenth-century Milanese ambassadorial dispatches. It was while at Kansas, in 1971, that Kendall's final historical biography, that of King Louis XI of France, was published. Meanwhile, Ohio University, where Kendall had taught for thirty-three years, awarded its Regents Professors Emeritus and honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree.

It should be noted that Kendall was not the only author living under his roof. In 1939 Kendall married Carol Seeger, one of his students at Ohio University, and Carol Seeger Kendall was an author in her own right. She won an **Ohioana** Award in 1960 and was runner-up for the 1960 **Newberry** Award for her children's novel, **The Gamage Cup**, published the previous year. The **Kendalls** had two daughters, Carol and **Gillian**, but only the elder had been born when **Richard the Third** appeared, and hence the dedication of the book "To my two Carols."

Paul Kendall did not have long to work on the Kansas campus in Lawrence, for he died in Lawrence on 21 November 1973 at the age of sixty-two. In his career he had written extensively, and although King Richard III was not his singular passion, he did a major service for the study of Richard. He told Richard's story in a compelling fashion and, even if historians might grumble that Kendall put a major issue like the disappearance of Edward IV's sons in an appendix of **Richard the Third**, there could be no disparaging the interest Kendall stimulated in the life and reign of King Richard III.

Books by subsequent writers have deepened and made more subtle our understanding of Richard and his times, but while delving into such tomes as Charles Ross's **Richard III** (1981), I? W. Hammond's and A. F. Sutton's **Richard III: The Road to Bosworth Field** (1985), M. . Hicks's **Richard III: The Man Behind the Myth** (1991) or A. J. Pollard's **Richard III and the Princes in the Tower** (1991), we students of Richard and his era must in all fairness and candor acknowledge our debt to an Ohio University professor of English by noting the fortieth anniversary of the publication of his first book. 



From monograph chairman Ralph A. Griffiths, Professor of Medieval History, University College Swansea, comes a new addition to our research library: a Japanese-language offprint of Ono, Hisao, "The Legend and the Controversy on Richard III," **Research Bulletin of Human and Social Sciences, Narato University of Education, Volume 10 (1995)**.

Professor Griffiths explains: "Professor Ono is a contact of mine in Japan and from time to time he sends offprints — which I cannot read though his notes look familiar! — of his writings on the fifteenth-century. Isn't it a nice thought that Richard III gets such exposure in Japan!"

According to the article's English-language abstract, the treatise examines three problems: the origins and making of the Tudor Myth, the thoughts and opinions of generations from seventeenth- to nineteenth-centuries; and the making of Richard III's new image in the twentieth-century.

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YORKISTS IN GYBERSPACE : A NEW TOOL FOR TEACHING

Laura Blanchard

The capabilities of the World Wide Web offer Ricardians an opportunity to **fulfill** our mission to educate the 'general public about Richard III on a scale we'd hardly dreamed of before.

In June we launched an experimental Web site for the American Branch, using computer resources donated by The Blanchard Company. The initial site offered basic information on the Society, its programs and accomplishments, as well as information on how to join, basic reading lists, and information on other resources of interest to Ricardians. Since then we have added some new source material — Richard Oberdorfer's excellent article on approaches to teaching Richard III, Judy Weinsoff's lecture on Richard III in Shakespeare and in Gordon Daviot's *Dickon*, and a whole section on the Battle of Bosworth Field. If you'd like to see our Web site but don't have access to the Internet from home, your local library may very well be able to help you. The address of our home page is:

<http://www.webcom.com/~blanchrd/gateway.html>

More Web Development to Come

The Ohio Chapter is taking on a part of our Web site as a chapter project: they're building a section on fifteenth-century life. As I write this, the section includes a ninety-item bibliography on food, clothing, **pas**-times...an in-depth article on feasting in late **fifteenth**-century England...and Compton Reeves' keynote address from the 1989 AGM, "Delights of Life in Fifteenth-century England." By the time you read this, the Fifteenth-Century Life Section should be linked to our home page.

Our site has been linked to other sites around the world, including Georgetown University and the University of Kansas. Word appears to be spreading, too: I get a daily report from our Internet provider, and we are averaging 1.50 "hits" (requests for files) a day from 20-40 people. Interestingly, about 20% of our site visitors are from Australia, and some of our colleagues down under are getting ready to launch their own site, which will be linked to ours: truly a world wide **Ricardian** Web.

A Resource for Teachers

There's more to come: we hope to put more primary sources and works of twentieth-century scholarship on our **Web** site to make it a resource for teachers at the high

school and university levels. To provide an introduction to some basic **Ricardian** issues, we'll be publishing the initial chapters of Roxane Murph's *Richard III: The Making of a Legend* and "You Can't Tell The Players Without a Scorecard," Anne Vineyard's thumbnail sketch of the Wars of the Roses from her curriculum, "Oh, Tey, Can You See."

Eventually, we can put a wide array of primary sources on our Web site. The advantage here is that students and teachers will then have access to all the materials they need for a study unit on Richard III without spending a penny on expensive textbooks. We'll be starting with an expansion to the Bosworth Field section. Michael Bennett published all the relevant contemporary sources in an appendix to his book, *The Battle of Bosworth*, and has graciously given us permission to publish' that on the World Wide Web. Jeff Wheeler, a California student, is exploring the possibility of putting up additional primary sources as part of an independent study project.

And there's even more we can do, as the technology of the World Wide Web becomes more generally available. Even now, universities have projectors that hook up to computers, so that Web pages can be shown to a large audience. Imagine what a Web-based slide show could mean to us: any Ricardian can go into a **properly**-equipped classroom or auditorium and use this slide show to give a Ricardian presentation. Or teachers could use it as an introduction to Shakespeare's *Richard III*.

You Can Help

Building a comprehensive Web site is a project that can be a valuable collaboration between recreational and professional scholars, in which the efforts of each group benefit the other. Anyone with a computer can help with this project. The coding necessary to put materials on the Web is relatively simple — any reasonably bright and well-motivated individual (in other words, any **Ricardian**!) can learn the basics in a few hours. If you'd like to help but don't want to learn any new computer codes, we'd be grateful for anyone who can do keyboarding or scanning. There are about **half a dozen** of us who can add the coding to existing text files.

If you'd like to help out with this innovative and exciting project, please write, call, fax, or e-mail me at 303 Vine Street, #106, Philadelphia PA 19106, 215/574-1570 voice, -1571 fax, lblanchard@aol.com.

GEOFFREY WHEELER has sent along an assortment of news items of interest to Ricardians. Here's a summary:

Steam Trains, Patrick Stewart, Annette Benning in Ian McKellen's Screen Version of *Richard III*

Sir Ian McKellen's vision of a fascist *Richard III* started filming on location in Lancashire this summer, with some scenes filmed with a **1940s** vintage Pacific steam engine originally built for the German railway.

The production, which was stalled by financial woes for some months, is now underway at a reported cost of **£7.5** million. The production boasts a star-studded cast, including Sir Ian McKellen as Richard, Annette Benning as Queen Elizabeth, Patrick Stewart (of *Star Trek: The Next Generation* fame) as Clarence, and Robert Downey, Jr. as Earl Rivers, as well as Britain's Maggie Smith, Adrian Dunbar, and Nigel Hawthorne. Earlier reports had mentioned Marisa Tomei as the actress cast as Lady Anne.

The concept for the film is based on the 1991-92 Royal National Theatre production of *Richard III*, which placed the action in a **1930s-vintage** fascist England. Many U.S. Ricardians who saw the touring production found it conceptually repugnant but eerily powerful. The goose-stepping soldiers chanting "hand in hand to hell" just before the final battle are not easily forgotten.

Meanwhile, in York Dorothy Mitchell's *Richard III* Museum Makes the *Times* Educational Supplement And Mitchell Herself is Not Amused by McKellen Production

Several U.S. Ricardians have come back from trips to England with reports on the *Richard III* Museum sponsored by Dorothy Mitchell's Society of the Friends of *Richard III*. The museum and its exhibits won two paragraphs in a *Times Educational Supplement* feature on York

"[T]he Richard III Museum is a decidedly modest enterprise. Housed in the Monkgate Bar, one of the town's four imposing gateways, it sets out to undo the damage Shakespeare inflicted on Richard's reputation. It's all done with a mischievous good humour. For instance, the year 1483 — Richard's annus horribilis — is encapsulated in a series of cheeky tabloid front pages. Did he kill the princes in the Tower? You decide and record your verdict with zany comments in the book provided.

"It's an odd experience -having a bit of fun, courtesy of two murdered little boys and a war-mongering king. But then that's how those who peddle heritage have to package the past: everything has to be conveniently reduced to a series of enjoyable activities 'suitable for all the family.'"

As the fate of the McKellen project hung in the balance last spring, Mitchell, described as the organization's "formidable secretary" in a Peterborough paper, commented, "I think it's pathetic. There's no need for it. Olivier's Richard was bad enough with his false nose and dragging leg. I wish they would make a film based on the truth.. . [Richard] was well liked here and nobody pulls the wool over the eyes of a Yorkshire-man."

Ricardians Take Note: *Richard's* at Stratford This Fall

A more traditional production of *Richard III*, in contrast to the headline-grabbing McKellen film, is being staged by the Royal Shakespeare Theatre at **Stratford on Avon** with previews starting **August 31** and the production running through January 27.

Staged in Elizabethan dress, the production stars David Troughton as the "outrageously malicious, cruelly manipulative and savagely witty" Richard.

Reviews on New Books by Seward, Weir On Desmond Seward's *The Wars of the Roses*:

Lawrence James, writing in the *Evening Standard*, had many complimentary things to say about "this splendid and vividly written book." He sees the book and the Wars as very much relevant to today's political climate:

"In the course of rescuing the kingdom from Henry VI's incompetence, they feathered their own nests and got a taste for the risky but profitable business of making and unmaking kings. In one sense, this might be a tract for the times; things go badly wrong when politics become just a matter of satisfying ambition and scrambling for office."

Seward traces the course of the Wars of the Roses through the lives of five people, not all of whom survived: William Lord Hastings; the Earl of Oxford; John Morton; Lady Margaret Beaufort; and Jane Shore. James' summary of the events of **1483** probably reflects Seward's assessment: "[Richard III's] coup was a masterpiece of Machiavellian statecraft, combining assassination, official

continued, page 8

disinformation, and the calculated use of terror." Clearly, some Ricardian balance is needed here.

On Alison Weir's *Lancaster and York The Wars of the Roses*, Peter Gwyn was less kind. Writing in the *Daily Telegraph*, he concludes:

"The excuse for a work such as this is that it is 'popular' and that as a result of Weir's 'flair for narrative and ye for detail', it reaches those readers that historians never get to. But if the detail consists of such snippets as that the site of the battle of Northampton is now occupied by the Avon Cosmetics Company, one could possibly do without it. And a history in which all the confusions have been eliminated — this a stated aim of the author's — is surely no history at all."

Leslau One Step Closer to DNA Testing for His Theory on the Princes

Retired London jeweler Jack Leslau makes it into the press every summer with his theory of the princes' survival. He contends that **they** were given new identities and that Richard Duke of York, under the name of John Clements, was actually raised in the household of Sir Thomas More and married More's adopted daughter. Edward V, meanwhile, took the identity of Sir Edward **Guildford**, son of the comptroller of the King's household. Leslau developed his theory based on clues he claims to have discovered in Holbein's painting of More's household.

According to a feature in the June 8, **1995 Sunday Express**, Leslau has received permission to **perform** an endoscopic examination of a secret chamber in the vault of St. Romulus Cathedral, Mencken, Belgium, where Leslau believes John Clements was secretly buried. If it contains two lead coffins as Leslau surmises, he hopes to gain permission to perform DNA testing on the body. Further DNA testing on Edward Guildford's body **will** determine whether the two are brothers, and testing of the bodies of Edward IV or Elizabeth **Woodville** or other family members could then demonstrate a further relationship.



STUDY THE MIDDLE AGES IN ENGLAND

Carol Bessette

For the past several years, Carol Bessette of Springfield, Virginia has mentioned the University of Cambridge Summer Study Program on "Life in the Middle Ages." The course has been among the most popular in the program and, for the first time, Carol is able to give us a better idea of the subjects covered in the course.

In 1995, class sessions included:

- The Legacy of the Middle Ages
- The Age of Arthur
- Anglo-Saxon Origins
- Sutton Hoo and the Foundations of Kingship
- Bede and the Early Church
- The Viking in Britain
- The Norman Conquest
- Monasticism and Jocelin of Brakelond
- Medieval Towns and Town Planning
- Medieval Timber-Framed Houses
- Chaucer and His World
- The Medieval University
- The Black Death and Its Aftermath
- Medieval Fairs and Trade
- Castles and Moated Sites
- Medieval Parish Churches and Their Imagery.

Field trips included visits to selected sites within Cambridge, to Ely Cathedral and Castle Acre, to Castle Kedingham, Lavenham and Bury St. Edmunds and Moyses Hall Museum.

There will be a different instructor for the 1996 course (**July 7-20, 1996**), so the content may be somewhat changed but, based on Carol's experience for the past five years in other courses in the program, there will be no change in the standards of excellence. She has had a variety of courses with a variety of instructors and has found each to be stimulating, challenging, and thoroughly enjoyable.

For more information, contact:

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NEW IN THE RESEARCH LIBRARY

Helen Maurer

I would like to thank several persons for their efforts on behalf of and contributions of additional materials to the research library over the past year. They are Frederick Avansino, Ralph A. Griffiths and Cheryl Rothwell for articles; Margaret Drake for editing a Bunnett paper on Margaret, Countess of Salisbury; Doris Derickson for needed extra copies of the *Ricardian*; and Peggy Allen and Carolyn Hammond for their ongoing help in obtaining books.

We have one new book and one replaced book

📖 C. Kightly and M. Cyprien, *A Traveller's Guide to Royal Roads* (1985). Although the text does not make it into the 15th-century (it ends with the funeral progress of Queen Eleanor), it would be of interest to trip-planners. Good B&W photographs.

📖 D. M. Kleyn, *Richard of England* (1990). Perkin Warbeck; argues that he was indeed the younger son of Edward IV.

We've also been collecting a lot of new articles, excerpts and papers. In listing them I have generally followed the format used in the regular library list:

📖 M. A. Brown, "Two-and-a-Half Secrets about Richard the Third," *Georgia Review* 27, 18 pp.

📖 R. J. A. Bunnett/ed. M. Drake, "Margaret Plantagenet, wife of Sir Richard Pole; Countess of Salisbury, 1473-1541," 9 pp.

📖 J. Cannon and R. Griffiths, *The Oxford Illustrated History of the British Monarchy* (1988), 16 pp. excerpt.

📖 J. C. Halliway (ed.), *Letters of the Kings of England* (1846), 11 pp. excerpt

📖 L. Huntley, "The Nevilles of Raby Castle and of Middleham," *Yorkshire Gazette* (1904), 9 pp.

📖 A. J. Kempe, "Notes on Battle Fields and Military Works No. 1: Barnet Field," *Gentleman's Magazine* 126 (1844), 76 pp.

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RICARDIAN POST

Delray Beach, FL
June 28, 1995

Dear Carole:

Do you think this [clipping] is why some people thought Lambert Simnel was nuttier than a fruitcake? Just couldn't resist!

Ellen Perlman

Squash got name from resemblance to English fruitcake

By Charles Perry
Los Angeles Times

What's the connection between pattypan squash and the bagel? Ok, pretty remote, but it exists.

In England, there's a traditional Lenten fruitcake called a simnel, which has both a filling and a frosting of almond paste. Originally, however, the simnel was a "sodden [boiled] bread," cooked by boiling the dough awhile and then baking it, which is how pretzels and bagels are cooked.

The heyday of the simnel was the 17th and 18th centuries. By that time, it had become a fruitcake encased in a saffron-dyed crust, boiled in cloth for several hours and then brushed with egg and baked. The crust ended up as hard as wood.

The shape of a simnel, as far back as the 15th century, was a thick disk with knobs or points formed around the rim. The present day simnel has 11 balls of almond paste in place of the knobs.

With its knobby-pillow look, the pattypan squash reminded some Americans of a small pie (patty), but others of a simnel. And that's how the pattypan got its other name, which some people still use: cymling, which is a dialed pronunciation of simnel.



FROM THE SCHOOLS COORDINATOR

Anne Vineyard

Fellow Ricardians!

Richard lives not only in cyberspace but in hyperspace, too. As a follower of a dead, defiled English king, I am often said to be a bit spacey. My students have dubbed me Darth Vineyard for my love of Star Wars and other science fiction pursuits.

To my delight and wonder I discovered Richard in the dedication for *Assault at Selonia* (Book Two of the *Star Wars corellian Trilogy*) by Roger MacBride Allen.

The dedication reads:

To Beth and Mike, who taught me to believe in the innocence of Richard III, the inevitable mortality of Bluebottle, and the perils of an inside straight.

This poem was done by my World History students as a part of a presentation after a semester of the Richard III mystery study. This particular group was tasked with presenting the anti-Richard side (even though they were very pro-Richard). They began with this. original poem read by parts. Clever and pretty accurate for the anti-Richard forces.

Voice 1 The second of October **1452**,
A killer was born, though nobody knew.

Voice 2 The youngest of his Plantagenet kin,
His regal ambitions would now begin.

Voice 3 He indulged himself deeply in intelligent books,
While slowly power of the land he took.

Voice 4 Finally, with a great army behind him,
He devised a plan that would make people mind him.

Voice 1 Richard the Third, What a **Wonderful Man!**

Voice 2 How could he do this? Was it all in his plan?

Voice 3 Of course, it was. He was sly as a fox.

Voice 4 He murdered the princes ... put them in a box.

Voice 1 He killed them not from revenge or dislike,
But merely for fear that the kingdom would strike.

Voice 2 A popular leader he was not.
But that didn't matter; it was power he'd sought.

Voice 3 His ambitions ended in 1485,
When Richard fought a battle he did not survive.

Voice 4 And thus concludes a poor man's destiny,
But to this day his soul rests not any.

SCATTERED STANDARDS



Illinois

Chapter members attended a Memorial Service for Richard III at St. Andrew's Chapel of the Episcopal Cathedral of St. James on August 19. The celebrant of the Mass read a prayer from Richard's own Book of Hours as well as a prayer for those who fell at Bosworth. In the homily he touched upon the fact that an interest in truth is important to all of us. We plan to make the Memorial Service an annual event.

Following the service the group adjourned to the Newberry Library for a conducted tour. Some members were signed up to use the excellent private library for research on Richard. An exhibit on Richard is planned for the Downers Grove Library after the first of the year.

The chapter agreed to host the 1997 AGM.

Joan Marshall

Michigan

At the spring meeting of the Illinois Chapter, we discussed what we could do to commemorate Bosworth Day. We had placed an ad one time in the Chicago Tribune and received only one call in response. With the skyrocketing cost of classified ads and the multiplicity of newspapers that cover the area, it is nearly impossible for a young chapter like ours to be effective with ads. It was agreed that individual members could place ads if they wished, but the chapter would not.

That still left us with the question of what could we do as a chapter. Two members proposed that we host our own memorial service and try to draw attention to it by notifying the local papers. Maybe we could hold it in a public place and be noticed in that way. Another member suggested that we have it at a church, possibly a major church in Chicago. I mentioned that for the 500th anniversary of Bosworth I had had a mass said for Richard in my local parish. The officers decided that we would explore the possibilities and let the chapter know. Whatever was arranged would be our August meeting.

As chairman of chapter, I discussed the suggestions with the chapter secretary Joan Marshall. We decided that the Episcopal Church was the most likely to look with favor on a request from us. Joan agreed to contact the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago. I promised to write to England for information about British memorial services and look in past issues of newsletters for more information.

Joan is a wonderful letter writer and chapter secretary. She sent me copies of all her correspondence with the dean of the cathedral and the news on the progress of our

request. She was careful in her letters to emphasize that we were making a serious request and that we would behave in a dignified manner. It was agreed that we were welcome to attend the regular Saturday communion service at 9:00a.m. Whether or not anything special in recognition of the Battle of Bosworth would be included would be up to the celebrant.

In the meantime, I had received a letter from Elizabeth Nokes, secretary of the English Branch, which included a copy of the service used at Sutton Cheney in 1994. A copy of the Sutton Cheney program and notes from the "Ricardian Bulletin" in 1985 about the Quincentennial commemoration were sent to the dean's office and passed on to the assigned celebrant, the Rev. Val Littman. Joan talked to the dean's secretary and learned that Rev. Littman would probably use the prayer from Richard's book of hours.

The summer issue of our newsletter was sent out with a notice about the memorial service and tour of the Newberry Library scheduled for August 19. The response from members was good and I expected ten to twelve members and friends to be there. It would be one of our best turnouts.

On Saturday, August 19, Ricardians started gathering outside St. James Cathedral. The communion service would be held in St. Andrew's Chapel. This was a beautiful medieval-style vaulted chapel modeled on the abbot's private oratory in an abbey in Scotland. An ornate triptych on the altar depicted saints prominent in the British Isles. It was a perfect place to hold a memorial service for Richard. As the time drew near, Joan and I were watching for Ricardians outside the door to direct them to the chapel. A young woman came up and introduced herself. She asked if we were Daughters of the King. We were puzzled and replied that we were members of the Richard III Society. It was her turn to look surprised. Had we stumbled on a group that honored Henry VII and his victory at Bosworth?

When we went inside, the chapel was almost full. The service began and a few more people slipped in the back. During the homily, Rev. Littman tied Richard into the gospel readings. At the end of the service, he read Richard's prayer which includes the reference to Susannah who was falsely accused and the prayer to commemorate those who fell at Bosworth Field. It was a very inspiring service. As it came to an end, Ricardians greeted each other. Several women who were there as Daughters of the King, a prayer group that attend services together, asked us about the Society. A white rose was laid on the altar in Richard's memory.

continued, page 12

Sixteen Ricardians and family members attended the service. Most went on to **the Newberry Library a few blocks** away for a tour of their collection. Ten of us **lunched** afterwards and discussed the service. We **agreed** that it had been a wonderful event that we would like to repeat annually. Why did it work so well? As **I told one** member, what have more rituals than death and **the** monarchy? This was a service that meant **something to** those of us who participated. Richard and his men were real human beings. They were not honored in death as was their due. This service was not sentimental or silly. It was our small way of honoring Richard in a fashion he would have understood.

We had hoped to generate some publicity by holding a memorial service. A press release had been sent to the area papers, but no responses had been received. The day after the service, a columnist for a suburban paper called and talked to me for half an hour. A week after our service she printed a story about our chapter.

Ohio

The chapter held its summer meeting July 23 at the Cleveland Museum of Art with 22 in attendance. The museum has an outstanding medieval collection. A book on medieval cookery and an Ohio chapter t-shirt has been donated to the AGM in Seattle.

Fund raising items for the chapter include Ricardian bookmarks, a raffle for a statue of King Arthur at the chapter's 10th anniversary event, chapter t-shirts and a **raffle** for a Frazer miniature of the Tower of London at the Baycrafters Fayre over Labor Day.

Donations in memory of **Gillie** Lehman will be used for the **Schallek** Fund endowment. **Gillie** was a charter member of the Ohio Chapter, founding editor of the chapter newsletter and longtime chapter Vice Chairman. The fall meeting will be held at Valley Vineyards, between Cincinnati and Dayton, on October 15.

Janet Harris

Southeastern Pennsylvania

A Memorial Notice was placed in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* on August 22.

The next meeting will be held September 1.5 at the home of Regina Jones. Schallek scholar Amy Fahey will **have** a presentation on heraldry. The annual medieval banquet will be held November 4. The chapter now has a **home** page, in conjunction's with the Society's home **page**, on the World Wide Web. It can be used to contact the chapter. The url is: <http://www.webcom.com/~blanchrd/philly1.html>.

Regina Jones

SCHALLEK SCHOLAR REPORT

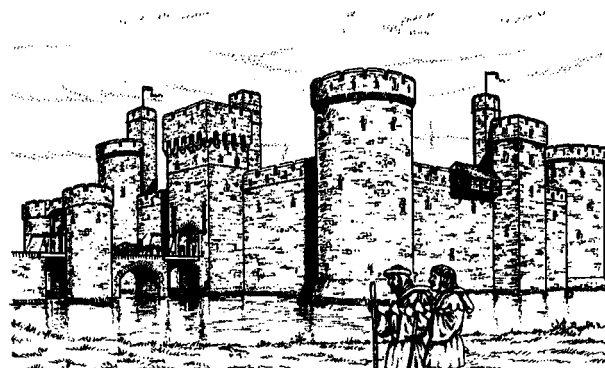
Helen Maurer

Last winter, thanks in large part to the Schallek Award, I was able to spend two months in London doing research for my dissertation on Margaret of Anjou. Most of my time was divided between the British Library, the Public Record Office, and the Corporation of London Record Office, with occasional forays into other archives as reason and opportunity **occured**.

I was also able to meet with Professor Ralph A. **Griffiths**, the foremost authority on the period, and with Dr. Rosemary Horrox, who had originally suggested Margaret as a project. Both of them graciously offered me many helpful suggestions, as well as the names of other scholars working in related fields whom I was able to contact either in person or by letter.

Finally, the trip provided the opportunity to think about my subject, unhindered and uninterrupted by other matters, in a way I had not been able to do since its inception.

The new material that I gathered along with the published sources that I had already read is **sufficient** to allow me to write (and it **encourages** me to look ahead to a possible project beyond the dissertation). Already I have incorporated some of it into a section of draft that was written prior to my research trip. The improved result has enabled me to get school funding to work on my thesis full time through **fall**. I am eager to get it done. While I cannot claim to have uncovered any previously "unknown" documents regarding Margaret, I have come upon material that seems to have been overlooked. Much depends upon the way in which the disparate pieces ultimately fit together. My understanding of Margaret of Anjou will not be unrecognizable, but it will be different from what has gone before.





RICARDIAN READING

I LOVE A MYSTERY

In response to my plea in the last issue for more books and more reviews, you Gentle Readers have done me proud, especially one Gentle Reader, who should really be named co-Reading Editor for this quarter. The presses and even the public libraries have come through also. My special thanks to all of you.

In the afterword of *The Apothecary Rose*, (doesn't everybody read afterwords first?), Candace M. Robb writes of the historical mystery writer's need "...to wear three hats ... the novelist guards the **integrity** of the form, the growth of the main character, and glories in the creation of that character's world. .. But the historian groans at anachronisms, agonizes over chronologies, and corrects descriptions according to archeological studies. .. The mystery writer doesn't want too much superfluous historical description ... has to postpone some of the revelations of the novelist in order to maintain suspense, and yearns to move things around in time and space to serve the mystery. Compromises must be made in order to finish the book in one's lifetime."

It's sometimes difficult to keep these three elements in balance, and some authors don't even try. C.L. Grace (*The Merchant of Death*, St. Martin's Press, NY, 1995) goes for the straight formula detective story, and I don't mean that in a slighting way; I like the formula detective story. All the classic elements are there: the country house or inn (in this case) with its limited cast of suspects, **all** of whom have motives for doing in the thoroughly despicable murderess; the innocent party who confesses to protect someone else; the Great Detective called in for consultation, using medical knowledge and little gray cells to solve the crime; the scene where the Great Detective brings all the suspects together for the denouement, etc. A bit of extra interest is gained by making the Great Detective a woman, who retains her warm femininity while using cool logic.

There is one not-too-flattering reference to the puissant, though rather choleric, Richard, Duke of Gloucester" who would not be too subtle in defending his brother's prerogative in Canterbury One may feel free to doubt that Richard was the realm's sole Enforcer. Like many writers, including Kate Sedley, Grace ignores the existence of George, Duke of Clarence, who was in good odor with his brother at the time. Wouldn't Edward have found something for him to do, just to keep him out of trouble? End of digression.

Because of his adherence to the formula and his choice of modern speech — after all, the people of the fifteenth-century were very modern in the fifteenth century — Grace's mysteries do not have much flavor of the period, even though he paints vivid word pictures — for instance, of the plight of lepers. The series is **fun** to read, though, at least, I find them so. You might enjoy this book more if you read it around April 15. The victim is a tax collector, nasty even beyond the norm for the fifteenth-century tax collectors.

Pretty much contemporary with Grace's Kathryn Swinbrook is Kate Sedley's Roger Chapman. **Sedley gets** much more of a medieval flavor in her hero's adventures, and it's surprising to catch her in an inaccuracy. Roger and other characters in the story comment on his great height — he is over six feet, but not as tall as Edward IV (6'3"). Medieval people had the same range of height as moderns, and a six-footer would be considered tall, certainly, but not gigantic. With that off my mind, I give you Dale Summers:

📖 Sedley, Kate — *Tie Holy Innocents* — St. Martin's Press, NY, 1995

The fourth adventure of Roger Chapman lives up to its predecessors in terms of plot complexity, quality of writing and richness of detail.

Two innocent children disappear and are later found murdered. Roger learns the story from the children's attractive nurse and decides that God has sent him to solve the mystery. The obvious suspect has an unbreakable alibi. Witchcraft is rumored, and three more corpses turn up apparently unrelated to the children's deaths. Roger's struggle to an unwanted conclusion gives creditability to his character. Though Richard III is mentioned once, in a casual way, there are references to people and events familiar to Ricardians: Duchess Anne tosses a coin to a mummer; Lord "Astings" orders a piece of jewelry from a goldsmith (not **Will Shore**!).

This is a fun series.

— d.s., TX

Going back a generation or two takes us to Sister Frevisse, who has been known to utilize a few of the Great Detective's ploys herself The setting, and the characters of Frevisse and her fellow nuns, as well as of the laity, take Margaret **Frazer's** books beyond the ordinary. Dale again:

 **Frazer, Margaret** — *The Bishop's Tale* — Berkeley Publishing Group, NY, 1994

This is the fourth in the series of the nun-sleuth, Dame Frevisse. The setting is in the early years of Henry VI's reign. The Wars of the Roses have not yet begun but are presaged by the struggle on the regents' council between **Henry** Beaufort, Lancastrian Bishop of **Winchester**, and **Duke** Humphrey of Gloucester. The author's prose is slightly complex at times, but creates scenes with striking realism. She has previously shown detailed knowledge of the ways of life for the cloistered clergy, the middle class, the humble, and even the outlawed. This work demonstrates equal knowledge of the wealthy upper class.

The book opens as Thomas Chaucer lies dying. The beloved uncle of Dame Frevisse, his social prominence as well as his affection and teaching have been of valuable assistance to her in prior mysteries. On his deathbed, Chaucer recommends his favorite niece to Bishop **Beaufort** for her intelligence, self-control, and discretion.

During the funeral feast a habitually quarrelsome man begins an argument with his neighbor and demands that God strike him down if **his** opinion is incorrect. Seemingly God does just that. Frevisse's grief is compounded by the bishop's charge to her to investigate the death, which proves, of course, to be murder. The cause of death is a modern idea — violent allergic reaction — but who of those with motive and opportunity actually added the deadly ingredient? Frevisse uncovers the culprit and in the process gains herself an even more powerful benefactor than her late uncle.

- d.s.

Just out is *The Boy's Tale*, a little more light and amusing than Sister Frevisse's usual cases. According to the Rule of her Order, the sisters must periodically change duties, and the book opens just after such a shake-up. The convent now has an infirmarian who feels faint at the sight of blood, and Frevisse as Hospitaller. Frevisse's none-too-saintly patience, already severely tried by the other-worldliness of Sister Thomasina and the various idiosyncrasies of the other sisters, is **further** stretched by the arrival of two **well-born** small boys, aged five and six. The more sentimental of the sisters think they will be nice company for the convent's one student, a meek and biddable little girl — that's what *they* think! Instead, she turns out to be the ring-leader in their pranks. It's not all fun and games, though, because these boys are **Edmond** and **Jasper** Tudor, future father and uncle of Henry VII, and their lives are in real danger. Soon their small entourage becomes even smaller.

While I'm thanking people, I wish to enter word of **gratitude** to Berkeley Press and Margaret **Frazer** for

publishing their four-star, first-run novels in an affordable paperback form. At least, they're a lot more affordable than hardbacks.

Coming a bit further forward in time, we have **Elizabethan** sleuths **Mathew** and Joan Stock, and *Frobisher's Savage* (Leonard Tournay, SMP). The Stocks are **younger** here than in their other outings; this might be **considered** Their First Case. They find themselves **opposed** by their fellow citizens when they defend two 'outsiders,' the "savage" of the title (an Inuit or Eskimo) and a mute. Realistic and rather somber, the book captures the feeling of the time well.


Still further afield, but included for its royal connection, is Peter Lovesey's *Bertie and the Crime of Passion*. **Bertie**, Prince of **Wales**, later Edward VII, is the protagonist and narrator, and for **all** his faults, only some of which **he** recognizes, one can't help liking the royal bumbler. Somehow, he manages to solve a murder in high (or **haute**) French society, with some help from the **Sûreté**, Sarah Bemhart, and Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, but no help at all from Edgar the dog, who is on the wrong scent **altogether**. Plenty of chuckles here, and in his previous adventures: *Bertie and the Seven Bodies*, and *Bertie and the Tinman*.

For American royalty, we can turn to Robert Lee Hall's *A Case of the Artful Murder* (SMP — again, my gratitude, because this is out in paperback), featuring Benjamin Franklin and his ward, who is more than a ward, and who is also the narrator of this series set in pre-revolutionary London. In these stories, Hall tries something that is difficult to pull off: writing in the style the story might have been written in at the time of its occurrence. It's a tribute to his skill that he makes it work without "writing forsoothly."

INNER SANCTUM (sound effect of creaking door)

My co-editor recommends: Don't read this next book just before going to bed.

 **Doherty, P.C.** — *An Ancient Evil* — St. Martin's Press, NY 1995

 **Forsyth, Frederick** — *The Shepherd* — Bantam Books, NY, 1992

Chaucer's pilgrims ride again — or perhaps, still. Chaucer related the tales they told to amuse each other during daylight hours. P.C. Doherty has undertaken to retell their nighttime tales, tales of mystery, terror and murder. *An Ancient Evil*, the inaugural book of the series, is the Knight's tale, set in Oxford in the fourteenth century. Whole families are murdered, their bodies drained of blood, with no sign of break-in or struggle. A local abbess petitions the king for an investigator. The

knight and the clerk who are sent **with a royal** commission are aided by an elderly blind woman with a reputation as an exorcist.

Medieval life is vividly recreated. Town and Gown quarrel, sometimes violently. Meals, both simple and elaborate, are described. Several fights are choreographed. Characters are revealed in physical, mental and emotional aspects. Over all hangs the sinister cloud of the supernatural. Every character is religious, but some worship God while others worship Satan. The tale is so compellingly told that the reader is shocked and impatient when the scene returns to the pilgrims. The knight, who is telling his own story, requires several nights. Details are recognized as truth by certain of his companions. He is still pursuing and being pursued by his enemy, the Dark Lord.

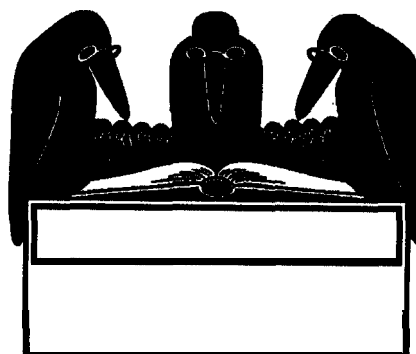
I read *The Shepherd* right after finishing *An Ancient Evil*. Both feature military men; one a medieval knight, the other a modern pilot. Both meet supernatural creatures, some to do hideous acts of evil, one to do heroic acts of good. Frederick Forsyth's story is told in the first person by an unnamed RAF pilot making a short run from Germany over the North Sea to **Suffolk**, on Christmas Eve, 1952. Suddenly he realizes that neither his compass nor his radio are operating. But emergencies have been planned for. A "shepherd" will be sent to guide him in. As he approaches the Norfolk coast, the landscape is obscured by dense fog. Facing certain death in the icy waters of the North Sea, he is relieved when another plane joins him in the sky. The shepherd plane is a Mosquito, a fighter of World War II vintage, piloted by a man wearing old-fashioned goggles. He is led to an almost deserted field, **now** used for storage. As all logical conclusions prove inaccurate, the pilot is left with the inescapable certainty that he was led to safety by an RAF officer who was lost at sea in 1943.

Forsyth describes the loneliness of the pilot of a single-seater jet and the anxiety of his situation in very vivid, almost poetic terms. Though the book is far afield for our purposes, it is an interesting and well-told story, enjoyable for Anglophiles. Because of the timing of my reading, I felt the urge to review it, even though it is outside of our era.

- d.s.

Also with a touch of the paranormal, but an entirely rational solution, is *A Time for the Death of King* ('n Dukthas a.k.a. P.C. Doherty — again. This is turning into the P.C. Doherty show). Taking a leaf from **Ellery** Queen's book, Dukthas is both the "author" and a character. A lecturer on Mary **Queen of Scots**, she is approached by a mysterious gentleman who claims to **know** the secret of the Casket Letters and the murder of Henry Darnley, the king of the title. How does he **know**? He, Nicholas Segalla, was there, and already centuries old. Well, not exactly an eyewitness, but close enough,

Rica-dim Register



as he proceeds to relate in the main story. **Dukthas/Doherty** clears Mary not only of murder but even of adultery with **Bothwell** — though she did marry him with indecent haste. Mary is depicted as charming but manic-depressive, insomniac, and migranic. Perhaps the most charitable explanation of her action is that she was just sick. The author provides a plausible explanation for some of the puzzling portions of the mystery, and a possible solution.

Mary Stuart, even more than Richard III, can **still** stir up controversy. In the copy of this book that I checked out from the library, a previous reader, no mariolater, took exception to the author's conclusions and penciled in pro-Elizabethan sentiments at key points.

YOUNG WIDDERBROWN

📖 **Walker**, Sue Sheridan, ed — *Wife and Widow in Medieval England* — Univ. of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor, 1993

This collection of essays is dedicated to the memory of Michael M. **Shehan**, who was a pioneer in **the cojoining** of family history and legal history. His study "The Influence of Canon Law on the Property Rights of Married Women in England" (1963) has been the inspiration for the historians who have come together in this volume. Except for James **Brundage's**, all of the contributions deal **with** England, most **with** widows, and legal issues predominate.

James Brundage looks at a very complicated matter in canon law — whether the remarriage of widows was morally supportable. The arguments of theologians on both sides of the issue were at odds with the social realities of the subjects under discussion. The religious issue seems to have been one of the threat of women's sexual nature **while**, Brundage argues, most widows **re-**married — if they could — for economic reasons. The incongruence between accepting remarriage and discouraging it made church law on the matter ineffective. The essay clearly states all the positions and it is not the author's fault **if**, in the end, the matter remains confused.

Joel Rosenthal takes a somewhat different approach in his essay. He sees widowhood as "a gateway of opportunity" for at least some widows. Many women had alternatives for the first time in their lives. Rosenthal finds in his search of the available materials that **half of** all widows remarried. Many were economically unable to

make any other choice. Others, particularly forceful women with considerable resources, might choose to remain widows.

The celebrated dowagers such as **Cecily Neville** and Alice Bryene illustrate the successful, powerful women who could command respect in fifteenth-century England. He concludes that while some women were **successful** in their choices, most were members of "a population of widows who were severely controlled by mutable life circumstances and callous and reflecting sexism."

Janet Loengard goes back two centuries to look at dower rights in the thirteenth-century. She sees **Magna Carta** improving widows' legal position. The fact, however, that so many women had to seek legal recourse against sons, stepsons, in-laws, and lords in order to receive their due, depicts the difficulties that women faced in receiving their rights under the law.

Sue Sheridan Walker is also interested in widows' appearances in court to sue for dower in the fourteenth century. She sees those widows as willing to vigorously pursue their rights in the royal courts but, unlike their earlier sisters, these women were more likely to use attorneys. This ability to use professional legal services, Walker states, indicates widows' **abilities** to manage their legal affairs. Walker explains the process involved in bringing suit and goes on to illustrate the types of difficulties that faced women in their proceedings.

In a sad case of women as victims of their husbands' political activities, Cynthia Neville explains the difficulties facing the widows of Edward I's Scottish enemies. These women were denied the right to inherit their husbands' estates because Edward I did not consider Scotland to be an independent kingdom. Therefore his opponents were rebellious vassals. Edward thus considered himself **free** of the normal conventions of war in the treatment of women. Two of the female supporters of Robert Bruce, his sister Mary and the countess of Buchan, were imprisoned in cages that were hung outside Berwick and Roxburgh castles.

Barbara Hanawalt is also concerned with the remarriage of widows, in this case the different options available in rural and urban environments. Generally she sees remarriage as the solution to the problems that widows faced in dealing with the raising of families, managing economic assets, and allaying the fears of those who feared for their moral well-being. She sees more freedom of choice for the lower classes than for the nobility.

Whether or not married women could legally make wills in late medieval England is the subject of Richard Helmholz's essay. Common law considered the property **of a** wife to be controlled by her husband. Helmholz cites various cases where the courts upheld a wife's right to make a will in contradiction of common law. However,

he argues that the making of **wills** by married women was uncommon after 1400. He finds two possible reasons for this decline. First, the testamentary freedom that men enjoyed in the fifteenth-century meant that wives could not necessarily expect to inherit a third of the estate and therefore women had nothing to will. Second, as trusts became more common, wills were less necessary because the trust itself would dictate the disposition of the property.

Charles Donahue, Jr., has created a statistical portrait of female plaintiffs in marriage cases in York. He has discovered that they seem to have been more persistent in pursuing their cases than male plaintiffs, even though men were more successful in obtaining judgments. Possible reasons for this are that women overestimated their chances for success or that they did not have access to the legal advice that men had (a position counter to that presented by Walker in looking at the royal courts), or because women had more to gain or less to lose than men. While he sees some evidence for the last suggestion, Donahue suggests that men were interested in enforcing a marriage when the chance of financial gain was good, and dropped cases when a successful outcome seemed improbable. Women were more likely to sue to enforce a marriage and less likely to sue to dissolve one — perhaps because marriage would have given women more security and status than it normally did for men. He also hypothesizes that fewer female plaintiffs in the fifteenth-century argues for an improvement in the status of women because their economic contributions to marriage were more equal, as social networks became more stable, wages stabilized at higher rates, and women received more in inheritance and dowry.

The collection of articles discussed above give intriguing insights into the circumstances facing wives, but more especially widows, in medieval England. While none of the essays is the last word on any aspect of women's lives, they raise thought-provoking issues

— *Sharon Michalove, IL*

(This review previously appeared in *Bryn Mawr Reviews*.)

TOWN MEETING OF THE AIR


Dale Summers sends some feedback on Maxwell Anderson's **Richard and Anne** (McFarland & Co., Jefferson, NC, 1994), praising Roxane Murph's introduction for providing "detailed and important information on Anderson, and on Richard and his times." She adds, "There is a mention, early in the play, of a group of 'displaced paranoids' who are on 'a Carrie Nation binge to right the wrongs done the last Plantagenet.' Obviously we are the 'displaced paranoids.' Anderson died in 1959. I think he would have been

pleased with the progress the Society has made and is making."

Just out is *Early Tudor Government 1485-1558* by S.J. Gunn, a fellow and tutor in Modern History at Merton College, Oxford. I want his book to be reviewed by someone with similar credentials, so I am waiting for Roxane Murph to return from overseas. I can tell you, however, that he is generally neutral about Richard III. In another context, he compares Henry VII with Ivan the Terrible of Russia, in that both of them used bonds to control their subjects, but he admits that Henry was, in most ways, not in Ivan's league!



THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD

 Penman, Sharon Kay - *When Christ and His Saints Slept* - Henry Hold & Co., NY, 1995

When the first Plantagenet king, Henry II, burst upon the scene, the air was filled with glorious promise, especially in contrast to the horrendous nineteen years which preceded his ascension. Sharon Kay Penman has called her book on this period *When Christ and His Saints Slept*, the title a quotation from *The Peterborough Chronicle*.

Although Henry I had at least 20 illegitimate offspring whom he recognized and honored, his marriage had brought him only one surviving child, a daughter. Maude (or Matilda) had been sent to Germany at the age of eight and at eleven she married the Emperor. She was reluctant to leave when she was widowed. On her return, her father married her off, kicking and screaming (in a princessly way, of course) to the son of the Count of Anjou, the fourteen-year-old Geoffrey, who was none too pleased to be foisted off on a twenty-five year old bride.

King Henry three times forced his barons to swear that they would support Maude as "Lady of England." Her cousin Stephen, another grandchild of the Conqueror, also felt royal stirrings, but he was a mere nephew of the king and not a direct heir. At Henry's death, hastened by an excess of stewed eel, Stephen learned of the "job opening" while he was near the coast. Maude was with her husband in Anjou. By the time she learned that she was queen, her cousin Stephen of Blois had already had himself crowned and was enjoying the support of those turncoat barons who had pledged to back her claim to the throne.

The Empress was not one to take such an insult calmly. Her "invasion" of England is colorfully portrayed, including her escape from Stephen's forces mid-winter, mid-storm, from a castle tower and across a frozen river, swathed in white camouflage.

Maude does not spend all her time fighting, and bears Geoffrey three sons, the eldest of whom, Henry, becomes her whole *raison d'être*. If she cannot be queen, Henry will be king. What a likable child he is! In his teens, he proves charming and effective as both a diplomat and a

warrior. His father takes him to parlay with the French king, providing the moment for one of the most delightful scenes of the 11th century. Young Henry spies a stunning woman in green enter the throne room. Finding a moment of privacy with her, he purrs, "If you are not the Queen of France, by God, you ought to be." She purrs back, "And if you are not yet King of England, by God, you will be."

The story of Eleanor's divorce from Louis VII, her return to Aquitaine, and subsequent marriage to Henry, are fascinating in themselves. The book ends on a high note as Henry and Eleanor prepare to leave for England and rule over their vast domains.

Penman also gives us information about people of lesser status. By inventing an extra illegitimate son for Henry I, **Ranulf Fitzroy**, the author lets us meet peasants, freemen, children, soldiers, Jewish peddlers, and several classes of Welsh people. Penman shows us the attitudes of people of this time toward handicapped persons by having Ranulf marry a blind woman who has quite conquered her disability. Since these characters are fictional, they can enjoy the happy ending that reality doesn't always guarantee. It provides a most charming, as well as instructive, part of the book.

Of course, there'll be a sequel about the later years of Henry II and Eleanor, and indeed a third book of this trilogy covering the reign of their son, Richard I. The "Devil's Brood" flourished, invigorating the Middle Ages until that sad day in **1485**.

I can hardly wait for the next books to continue the story.

- Helen Curé, CA

Stay tuned for our next column, which should include not only the scholarly review mentioned above, but a review of Candace Robb's *The Apothecary Rose*, destined to be part of a series. I am now in the process of reading it, and will review it then, unless someone forestalls me. Also a visit to a cooking show, and much more. Until then, Happy Trails to you!

November 6, 1994

Members in attendance were A. Compton Reeves, Laura Blanchard, Carole Rike, Peggy Allen and Judy Pimental. The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as presented. Peggy Allen gave the Treasurer's Report, a copy of which is incorporated in these minutes. Carole Rike gave the membership report.

H o t e l f o r 1 9 9 5 A G M . The Board discussed the 1995 AGM in Seattle. A contract has been made with the **Stouffer Hotel**, although space is tight. The Board discussed the possibility of moving to a different hotel, but there is a significant contingent of Pacific Northwest Chapter members who wish to stay with the Stouffer. After discussing various possibilities, it was moved, seconded and unanimously resolved that the contract with the Stouffer be honored, and the 1995 AGM held there, as previously determined. The Board then discussed **AGMs through the year 1999**. It was also mentioned that plans for the 1998 AGM were underway.

Ricardian Register/Reports from 1993 and 1994 AGMs. The Board again discussed the fact that the minutes of the 1993 AGM had not been published in the Register. It was resolved that the Society will send the 1993 minutes to any member who requests them, including a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

AGM Guidelines and Policies. The Board discussed the AGM Guidelines and policies which have been prepared by Laura Blanchard. It was noted that Roxane Murph wished to emphasize that the Chairman must sign any contract with a hotel. It was

resolved that the guidelines be accepted, subject to subsequent revisions, which will bear a publication date.

Committee Vacancies. Laura Blanchard has mentioned the Committee vacancies to her chapter. One member might be interested in the Sales Officer position. Another member expressed an interest in the Chapter coordinator position.

Library Acquisition Policy. The Board discussed the library acquisition policy. It was resolved that the Library Acquisition Policy be accepted as proposed, with Helen Maurer's proviso respecting book reviews.

Potential Acquisition of the Stanley Dance Nonfiction Collection. The Board discussed the offer of Stanley Dance to sell his entire nonfiction collection of Ricardiana. There was much discussion of the Society's current holdings. The Board decided that purchase of the entire collection would not be possible.

1995 UIUC/Ohio University Richard 111 Conference. The Board discussed and approved Society sponsorship of the 15th Century Studies Conference to take place in Spring, 1995. Any financial surplus will go to the Monograph Fund. Registration covers publicity expenses. It was resolved that Sharon Michalove may continue to make arrangements at the rates set in her proposal.

January 6, 1995

Members in attendance were A. Compton Reeves, Laura Blanchard, Roxane Murph, Peggy Allen and Judy Pimental.

Prior to beginning the agenda, Compton Reeves wanted to express the Society's appreciation of Richard Oberdorfer and Ann Vineyard in their service to the Society, and especially to Roxane Murph for her efforts in bringing about the publication of **Richard and Anne**.

Minutes of the last meeting were accepted. Peggy Allen gave the Treasurer's Report, a copy of which is incorporated in these minutes. Carole Rike was unable to attend, [she was expecting a grandchild] but her report was read into the minutes.

AGMs.

Philadelphia, located in the historic section of the city, three blocks from Independence Hall.

Richard and Anne. Roxane reported that Richard and Anne had a shipping date of February 10, 1995. The mail vote was unanimous to authorize the purchase of 100 copies for sale to Society members. The cost to members will be \$19.95 plus appropriate shipping and handling charges. McFarland and Company, the publisher, will sell the book for \$28.50. A promotional mailing was sent to approximately 60,000 libraries in the United States.

Under the Hog. Peggy reported that the Society spent \$5,500 to purchase copies. To date, sales have been less than \$2,000. Linda McLatchie will send the pre-order forms to Peggy for

comparison. Peggy will purchase reminder postcards; Roxane volunteered to help get them out. There will be a notice but no order form in the Register; Carole will take care of this.

Schallek Committee. Laura reported that notices for this year were sent out in November. Approximately 50 requests for applications have been received, but it is too early to estimate total applications. The requests for applications are ahead of last year.

Committee Vacancies. Toni and Jeff Collins are willing to take the position; he has storage and shipping capacities. Cheryl Macool is interested in the Sales Officer position; he has storage and shipping capacities. Cheryl Rothwell volunteered for the Chapter Coordinator position.

Nominating Committee. The Board considered candidates for the Nominating Committee, which will undertake finding candidates for the position of Vice Chairman.

Washington Post Article on Richard III. Laura announced that the *Washington Post* planned an article on Richard in conjunction

Members in attendance were A. Compton Reeves, Laura Blanchard, Roxane Murph, Peggy Allen, Carole Rike and Judy Pimental.

Compton Reeves commented that matters have been going smoothly within the Society and that great things are coming.

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as read.

Peggy Allen gave the Treasurer's Report, a copy of which is incorporated in these minutes. Carole Rike gave the membership report. The Board discussed the problems involved in keeping members and other trends in membership.

Richard and Anne/Under the Hog. Peggy Allen reported that 50 people who made commitments to purchase *Under the Hog* have not yet fulfilled those commitments. The English Branch ordered an additional 48 copies. Only \$1,390 of publication costs remained to be recouped.

Sales of *Richard and Anne* have been going well. The sales within the Society exceeded anticipated demands. Of 100 copies ordered, 19 copies remain. With new orders of books, the price for copies sold within the Society may have to be increased. The new Sales Officer will write to the publisher and attempt to get the "author's price" or standard bookstore discount; quantities ordered will be at the discretion of the Sales Officer. Costs to date have been recovered.

Schallek Committee. Laura reported that there have been 14 applicants. Materials will be sent to the selection committee.

Members in attendance were A. Compton Reeves, Laura Blanchard, Roxane Murph, Peggy Allen and Judy Pimental.

The review of the minutes of the last meeting was tabled, as several members had not had the opportunity to review the minutes. Peggy Allen gave the Treasurer's Report, a copy of which is incorporated in these minutes. There was no membership report. [Carole Rike was recovering from a flood in New Orleans.]

Schallek Fund Awards. The Board discussed the awards given to four candidates this year.

Dickon Award. The Board considered the Dickon Award to be made for this year. It was resolved that it be presented to Helen Maurer for her years of unstinting devotion to the Society in her capacity as Research Librarian and in other activities.

Southern California Chapter. The board discussed the continuing problems of leadership and possible dissolution of the Southern California Chapter. The chapter's treasury will be put in escrow.

Richard and Anne. There were only four copies of the book remaining. Roxane stressed that the book would not have sold as well as it did had not Peggy Allen sent out reminder postcards to those members who had previously made commitments to buy copies.

Pleasures and Pastimes in Medieval England. Compton Reeves has not yet seen a copy of his book. It will be featured by the History Book club.

Academic Conference at Urbana-Champaign. Compton Reeves noted that the first conference had been a great success. Sharon Michalove deserves a vote of appreciation for her efforts. Laura

There will be \$3,500 in funds to award. The Committee will hold back \$1,000.

Nominating Committee. Jacqueline Bloomquist has agreed to head the committee and will do the ballot mailing. She will attempt to find other committee members and arrange a notice to be published in the current *Register*.

Sales Office. Three members of Laura's chapter will split the Sales Office duties. Wendy Logan will be the official Sales Officer. David Macool will do warehousing and shipping. Nancy Griggs will do the sales office lists and ads for the Register. Laura has graciously volunteered to serve as a backup for any of the duties of the Sales Office.

Board Policy Decisions. Laura will assemble and collate the Board's written suggestions for updating and revision and will circulate them.

Academic Conference at Urbana-Champaign. Compton Reeves and Sharon Michalove have done a superb job in organizing the conference. Profits, if any, will be donated to the Monograph Fund.

Publication of book by A. Compton Reeves. Compton announced that his book, *Pleasures and Pastimes in Medieval England*, will be published by Alan Sutton around the end of April. It will be nicely illustrated, with approximately 120 illustrations, of which 8 pages will be in color.

May 14, 1995

Blanchard received a letter from Peter Hammond of the British Branch, who commented on the good lineup. Mr. Hammond asked about publishing papers.

Medieval Conference at Kalamazoo. Compton Reeves noted that there had been very good papers presented at the conference. At least one was suitable for publication in the Register: Margaret Drake presented a paper on medieval poet John Lydgate and fitting the poet into medieval history.

Possible New Publication. The University of Pennsylvania Press may publish a new casebook similar to *To Prove a Villain*. Alan Sutton has expressed interest in a possible joint venture with the University of Pennsylvania. The publication will be tied to the release of Ian McKellan's film of his production of *Richard III*. The film may be out in video as a classroom item.

Sales Office. The new Sales Office is not yet fully organized, but will be soon.



*Reprinted from The Rampant Boar,
Northern California Chapter — Judith Pimental, Editor*

First it was In **Britain**, now it's **Realm**. The May/June 1995 issue of that great magazine features an article that is billed on the cover as "Kings of Crime — Dark Tales of Royal Intrigue." It includes a full-page color reproduction of the NPG portrait of Richard, suitable for framing. Part of the introduction states:

At the outset, the ability to stamp one's authority on the country was a prime qualification for the job of monarch ... Dark deeds, notably assassination and torture, were an essential part of the business of being royal and, equally important, remaining royal ... The secret of the successful monarch, when disposing of rivals and opponents, was not, to leave incriminating evidence. But this ... was not as straightforward as it might seem.

The article leapt into an account of Henry II and Beckett, then moved on to Richard, who merited two paragraphs of text, as follows:

Richard III's complicity in the murder of the Princes in the Tower falls into the same category of royal crimes in that there is insufficient evidence on which to convict the king. But the circumstances of the deaths of the uncrowned 12-year-old Edward V and his younger brother in the Tower of London in 1483 point strongly to Richard III being the culprit.

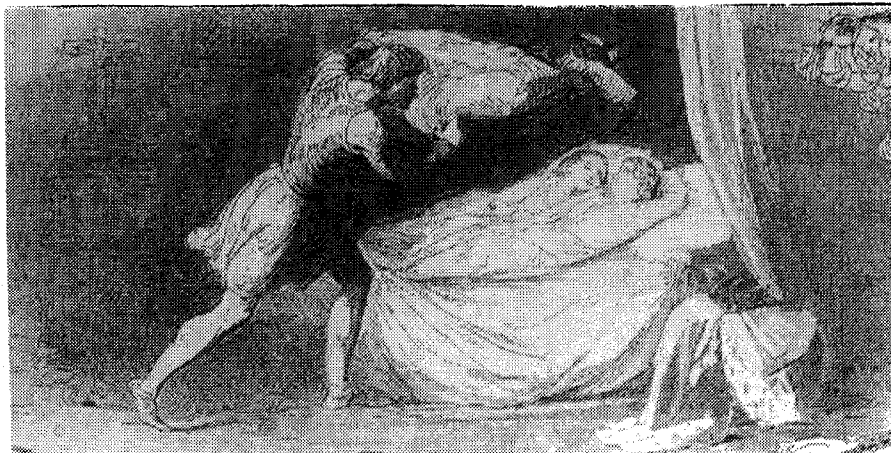
By their very existence the two boys posed a challenge to Richard's sovereignty and it would appear that Sir James Tyrell, acting for the king, had the two lads smothered in their beds and then buried clandestinely. The princes were last seen alive in the upper apartments of the White Tower.

The article is further accompanied by a reproduction of an apparent Victorian etching (which I don't recall having seen before) of the two boys **alseep** in their ornate canopy bed, looking more like Romeo and Juliet in *flagrante delicto*. Two men are standing by the bed: one, who presumably is James Tyrell (looking like my mental picture of John Knox) is holding back the bed curtain; the other, presumably Black Will Slaughter (a blond) is glaring and holding a "feather bed," comforter or pillow with striped ticking, contemplating performing the evil deed. The caption states, "A poignant portrayal of the two princes as their murderers come to smother them." The caption for Richard's portrait is "King Richard III — did he order the princes' deaths?"

I suppose striped ticking was possible in the 15th century, **if it** was woven, but I have been informed that prints on fabric are not allowable for 16th century Ren Faire costumes. Apparently there are a number of versions of the picture.

No one accepted the challenge to **identify** some inaccuracies in the **In Brituin** article. Perhaps they were too elementary, but those that I noticed were as follows:

- First, the urn containing the bones of the supposed princes is not in Elizabeth I's tomb (which she shares in eternal unrest with her sister Mary I), but are (as I recall) in the same chapel.
- Second, we do not know if the boys hated their uncle, although they may have been taught to regard him as a threat.
- Third, they were taken separately to the Tower. Fourth, we have it on fair authority, coming as it did from a Tudor source, that Richard died fighting bravely in the thick of battle.



POLLEN ANALYSIS To REVEAL, TRUE BATTLE SITE?

Archaeological excavations and pollen analysis are among the tools to be used to settle the controversy over the exact siting of the Battle of Bosworth Field, which has now gone on for over a decade.

According to Bosworth Battlefield Visitor Centre senior warden David Hardwick, English Heritage is preparing a Battlefields Register that may help protect the sites of significant battles from "any future unsuitable developments." The exact site of the Battle of Bosworth Field has been questioned, with the Visitor Centre's interpretation challenged by a number of historians, including Michael Bennett, Peter Foss and Colin Richmond. In a recent letter, Hardwick continues:

This controversy has initiated some more research which will be undertaken by English Heritage. In the coming months a more rigorous and thorough search will be made over the battle site by archaeologists using modern technology. It is also intended to use pollen analysis of soil cores dating back 500 years to try to determine the full extent of the marsh and whether it was really possible to fight a major battle in the low lying area 1/2 mile to the southwest of Ambion Hill. We are all eagerly awaiting results from this research and then perhaps this controversy will be laid to rest.

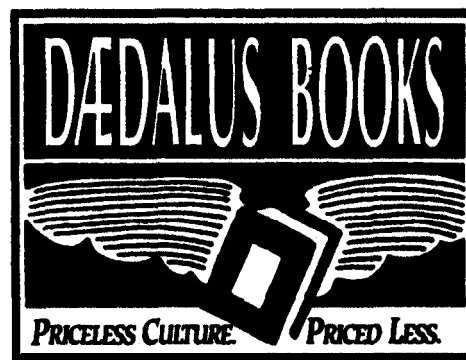


WELCOME! TO NEW MEMBERS

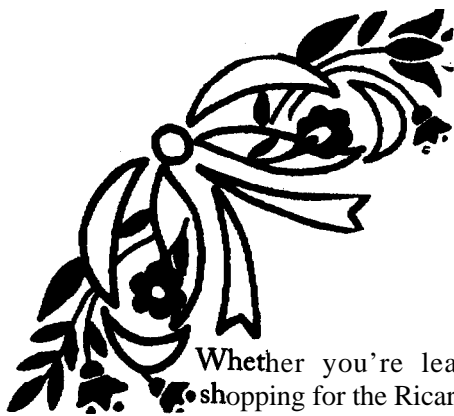
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Printed in red ink, with the greeting, "Wishing you holiday joy and good will." Proceeds donated to the general fund.



The Latest Ricardian Books

Under the Hog

For years, Ricardians have scoured used book stores looking for copies of this critically-acclaimed 1938 novel by Patrick Carleton. Now available in hard cover, printed on heavy paper with a sewn binding that will stand up to heavy Ricardian use.

Richard and Anne

The long-awaited blank-verse play by renowned American playwright Maxwell Anderson. Edited and with an introduction by Roxane C. Murph and two letters from Robert Sherwood. At last, Richard III and Henry Tudor on stage as Ricardians see them.

Pleasures and Pastimes in Medieval England.

From American Branch chairman and Ohio University professor Compton Reeves, a book described by one reviewer as "a medieval *Wonderbook of Knowledge*, a remarkable treasure-trove." Many fascinating illustrations, several in color.

Ricardian Stocking Stuffers

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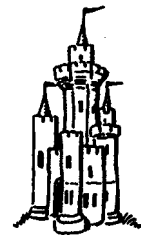
(After December 10, add \$2.50 per order; Christmas delivery not guaranteed.)

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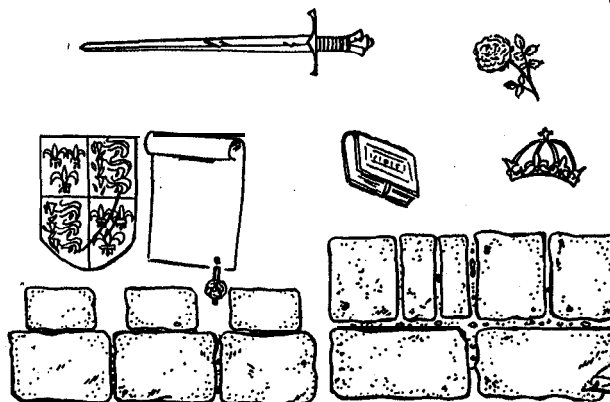
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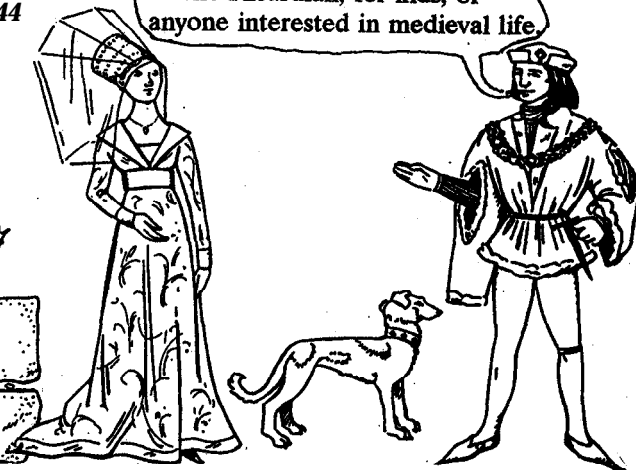


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