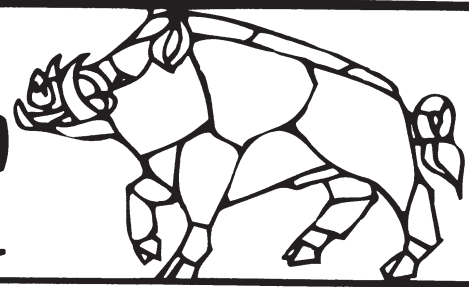


Richardian REGISTER



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THE UNSEEN ELIZABETH WOODVILLE

REGISTER STAFF

EDITOR: **Carole M. Rike**
14819 Flowerwood Drive • Houston, TX 77062
281-488-3413 • 504-952-4984 (cell)
email: carole@wordcatering.com

RICARDIAN READING EDITOR: **Myrna Smith**
2784 Avenue G • Ingleside, TX 78362
(361) 332-9363 • email: myrnasbooks@cableone.net

ARTIST: **Susan Dexter**
1510 Delaware Avenue • New Castle, PA 16105-2674

CROSSWORD: **Charlie Jordan**
cjordansprint1@earthlink.net



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In the belief that many features of the traditional accounts of the character and career of Richard III are neither supported by sufficient evidence nor reasonably tenable, the Society aims to promote in every possible way research into the life and times of Richard III, and to secure a re-assessment of the material relating to the period, and of the role in English history of this monarch

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FAX (215) 985-1446 • email: lblanchard@rblanchard.com

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(505) 856-6186 (Leave Message) • email: PamelaJButler@aol.com

RESEARCH OFFICER: Dr. Sharon D. Michalove
309 Gregory Hall • 810 Wright St. • Urbana, IL 61801
(217) 333-4145 • email: mlove@uiuc.edu

SALES OFFICER:
www.r3.org / sales • email: sales@r3.org

SCHALLEK MEMORIAL/GRAD: Laura V. Blanchard
2041 Christian St. • Philadelphia, PA 19146 • (215) 985-1445
FAX (215) 985-1446 • email: lblanchard@rblanchard.com

VOLUNTEER CO-ORDINATOR: Peggy Allen
1421 Wisteria • Metairie, LA 70005
(504) 837-0974 • email: peggyall@cox.net

WEBMASTER: Laura V. Blanchard
2041 Christian St. • Philadelphia, PA 19146 • (215) 985-1445
FAX (215) 985-1446 • email: lblanchard@rblanchard.com

EDITORIAL LICENSE

Carole Rike

As many of you are aware, our homes and businesses were decimated by the levee break in New Orleans on August 29th. We are currently camping out in Houston, trying to get our lives back together and look forward to returning to New Orleans when possible.

Through many more years than I can now recall, I have produced this newsletter, sometimes late — but never this late. And never under such extraordinary pressure. Recent events have decimated our lives in a manner that we are still struggling to understand and accept.

If you sent me anything previous to Hurricane Katrina, I no longer possess it and ask that you re-send when possible. If I have not responded, I can honestly plead guilty-due-to-circumstances. I have those emails kept on my office computer, but all files kept on my home computer are now gone.

Many, many thanks to Geoffrey Wheeler for responding so quickly to my plea for cover artwork.

‘THE UNSEEN ELIZABETH WOODVILLE **Cover Photos by Geoffrey Wheeler, London**

Key to cover illustration of just some of the images of the Queen that were not included in the recent biographies of her by David Baldwin (Sutton, 2002) and Arlene Okerlund (Tempus 2005):

1. Figure (based on 15th c. original glass, in the ‘Royal’ window, Canterbury Cathedral) by Thomas Willement (1786 – 1871) in the choir aisle opposite her tomb, St George’s Chapel, Windsor.
2. Engraving based on the standard portrait at Queens’ College, Cambridge.
3. As ‘Queen of Clubs’, from a pack of historical playing cards issued by Thomas de la Rue in 1964.
4. Playing card, designed by actor Donald Burton, based on characters in the 1963–4 Royal Shakespeare Company’s ‘Wars of the Roses’ history plays. (He played Exeter, Susan Engel was Elizabeth).
5. Modern artist’s interpretation by Charles Raymond, to illustrate an article ‘The clever widow and the King of England’ by Christopher Hibbert. ‘WM’ magazine 1966.
6. Stained glass figure by G. Kruger Gray (1936) in the Great Hall, Eltham Palace, London.

ELIZABETH WOODVILLE'S FAMILIES (1437-1492; QUEEN CONSORT TO EDWARD IV OF ENGLAND, 1464-1470, 1471-1483)

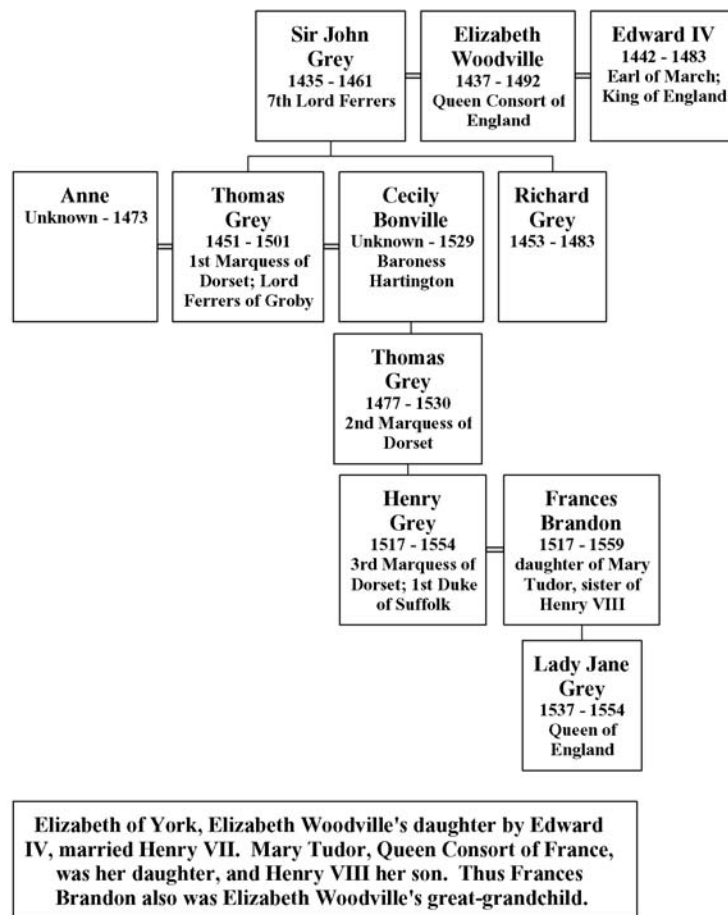
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Edward IV secretly married in 1464 the English widow Elizabeth Woodville, who thereby became the first English-born Queen Consort since the 11th Century. By marrying this subject, rather than a foreign princess, Edward IV precipitated much envy and ill-will. His Queen and her Woodville relatives won the enmity of Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick, whose consequent rebellion in 1469-71 caused Edward to lose and then to regain his throne. After Edward's restoration, the Woodville faction feuded with his brother George, Duke of Clarence. Following Clarence's execution in 1477 and Edward's early death in 1483, the Woodvilles' conflict with Richard, Duke of Gloucester (brother of Edward IV and Protector of England during the reign of Edward's minor son, Edward V), escalated into the deposition of Edward V, the accession of Gloucester as Richard III, and civil war.

Elizabeth Woodville's son had briefly reigned as Edward V and then disappeared, along with his younger brother Richard, Duke of York. Her daughter, in wedding Henry VII, became the matriarch of the new Tudor dynasty. Besides Edward V; Richard, Duke of York; Elizabeth of York; and other children of Edward IV, Elizabeth Woodville had borne two sons by her first husband. Her eldest child, Thomas Grey, Marquis of Dorset, fathered a line that eventually included Lady Jane Grey, Queen of England for nine days in the summer of 1553. Although despised as inconsequential by critics of Elizabeth Woodville as Queen Consort, the Woodvilles clearly acquired and retained importance as a family that spawned a half-Woodville King and Duke of York, a half-Woodville Queen Consort, and a Queen Regnant twice-descended from Woodvilles. Lady Jane's father, Henry Grey, a descendant of Thomas Grey, had married his second cousin, Frances Brandon, a descendant of Elizabeth of York. Elizabeth Woodville thus was Lady Jane Grey's

great-great-grandmother in both the paternal and maternal lines.

Ironically for a family so closely associated with the Yorkist dynasty, the Woodvilles originally fought for the House of Lancaster. After the deposition of Edward V and the accession of Richard III, the Woodvilles would again ally themselves with Lancastrians. The father of Elizabeth Woodville, Richard Woodville, a knight, married Jacquetta of Luxembourg, the widow of John, Duke of Bedford, paternal uncle of Henry VI. (Woodville's own father had served both Bedford and Henry V, while Woodville had served Bedford as chamberlain.) Besides serving in France and suppressing domestic rebels, Richard Woodville fought for Henry VI until after the Lancastrian defeat at Towton in 1461.



Edward IV pardoned Richard Woodville and his son Anthony (who also had fought for Henry VI at Towton). Elizabeth Woodville's first husband, Sir John Grey, had died in 1461 while fighting for Henry VI at the Second Battle of St. Albans.

After Edward IV married Elizabeth Woodville in 1464, the King elevated her father to the posts of Treasurer and Constable of England, as well as gave him the title Earl Rivers. His son John Woodville, in one of the many brilliant Woodville marriages that enraged Warwick, married Catherine Neville, Warwick's own kinswoman and a bride almost 50 years older than her groom. During Warwick's rebellion in 1469, he captured and executed both Richard Woodville, 1st Earl Rivers, and his son John. Clarence apparently countenanced these killings. Anthony then became 2nd Earl Rivers. Accusations of witchcraft also attacked Jacquetta, Duchess of Bedford, but they came to nothing in the end.

The most interesting Woodville, Anthony, fled into Continental exile with his brother-in-law and friend, Edward IV, in 1470. During the struggle to restore Edward IV, Anthony fought at Barnet and Tewkesbury and defended London. After Edward's 1471 restoration, he honored Anthony in many ways—most importantly by making him in 1473 Governor of Edward, Prince of Wales (later Edward V) at Ludlow. A man of parts, Anthony translated *Dictes and Sayenges of the Philosophers* (the first dated book printed in English on English soil by William Caxton) and won renown as a jousting in tournaments. Following Edward IV's death in 1483, Gloucester arrested and executed Anthony at Pontefract. Among many reasons to fear the Woodvilles, Gloucester knew of their powerful hold on Wales, the Marches, and the border shires. They had shown enmity to his brother Clarence, controlled the adolescent Prince of Wales who would now be King, and in their position on the Royal Council strongly resisted Gloucester's assuming full power as Protector of England. Edward IV's loyal supporter, William, Lord Hastings, with whom the Woodvilles had also feuded, warned Gloucester against them.

Elizabeth Woodville herself had sought sanctuary while Gloucester rose to power as Richard III and her sons Edward V and Richard, Duke of York disappeared. Gloucester also had ordered the execution of one of her sons by her first husband—her second child, Richard Grey, another Woodville charged by Edward IV to serve the Prince of Wales. He died with Anthony at Pontefract. Elizabeth, widow of a Yorkist King, now plotted with Margaret Beaufort, mother of a Lancastrian claimant, Henry Tudor, Earl of Richmond, to support the Duke of Buckingham's rebellion against Richard III. The Beaufort-Woodville conspiracy against Richard III included an agreement that Henry Tudor would marry Elizabeth of York.

Buckingham's rebellion failed in 1483, yet Henry Tudor eventually defeated Richard III and took his crown, and the new Henry VII married Elizabeth of York in 1486. Elizabeth Woodville had returned to life at court in 1485, but she apparently involved herself with the 1487 rising against Henry VII by Lambert Simnel, a Yorkist pretender also supported by her sister-in-law Margaret of Burgundy. That same year, she retired to convent life in Bermondsey Abbey, a far cry from her regal palaces or even the residences of the Woodvilles and the Greys. After her death five years later, Elizabeth Woodville was buried at Windsor Castle on the 27th anniversary of her coronation as Queen Consort. *Sic transit gloria mundi!*

About the Author

Kathleen Spaltro, co-author of *Royals of England: A Guide for Readers, Travelers, and Genealogists*, also compiled *Genealogy and Indexing*. An editor, writer, proofreader, and teacher of writing, she lives and works in Woodstock, Illinois

This excerpt was originally written for the forthcoming book *Royals of England: A Guide for Readers, Travelers, and Genealogists* [ISBN 0-595-37312-7], by Kathleen Spaltro and Noeline Bridge. Due to size limitations, this article was omitted in the published book. The book is due out late in 2005 or early in 2006.

On July 29, 2005 our friend and Michigan Chapter member SANDY BARTKOWIAK passed away after bravely fighting cancer for several years. Sandy had served the Michigan Area Chapter as Library Display Coordinator and as Treasurer. She was a faithful meeting attendee and loved to participate in the AGM. Sandy was always upbeat and optimistic and will be missed by all who knew her.

Sandy loved to learn about Richard III and one can only hope she now knows all the answers.

Loyaulte me lie

WOODVILLE SIBLINGS & SPOUSES

- 1 Jacquetta of Luxembourg 1416 - 1472 Duchess of Bedford
 .. +John 1389 - 1435 Duke of Bedford; Regent of France
 *2nd Husband of Jacquetta of Luxembourg:
 .. +Richard Woodville 1415 - 1469 1st Earl Rivers
 2 Anthony 1442 - 1483 2nd Earl Rivers; Lord Scales
 +Elizabeth Lady Scales 1436 - 1473
 2 Richard Unknown - 1491 3rd Earl Rivers
 2 John 1445 - 1469
 +Catherine Neville 1397 - 1483 Dowager Duchess of Norfolk
 2 Sir Edward Unknown - 1488
 2 Lionel 1447 - 1485 Bishop of Salisbury
 2 Elizabeth Woodville 1437 - 1492 Queen Consort of England
 +Sir John Grey 1435 - 1461 7th Lord Ferrers
 3 Thomas Grey 1451 - 1501 1st Marquess of Dorset; Lord Ferrers of Groby
 +Anne Unknown - 1473
 *2nd Wife of Thomas Grey:
 +Cecily Bonville Unknown - 1529 Baroness Hartington
 4 Thomas Grey 1477 - 1530 2nd Marquess of Dorset
 5 Henry Grey 1517 - 1554 3rd Marquess of Dorset; 1st Duke of Suffolk
 +Frances Brandon 1517 - 1559 daughter of Mary Tudor, sister of
 Henry VIII
 6 Lady Jane Grey 1537 - 1554 Queen of England
 3 Richard Grey 1453 - 1483
 *2nd Husband of Elizabeth Woodville:
 +Edward IV 1442 - 1483 Earl of March; King of England
 2 Jacquetta 1444 - 1509
 +John 1441 - 1479 Lord Strange of Knockin
 2 Margaret 1439 - 1491
 +Thomas 1449 - 1524 Earl of Arundel; Lord Maltravers
 2 Anne 1438 - 1489
 +William Viscount Bourchier 1427 - 1483
 *2nd Husband of Anne:
 +George Grey Unknown - 1503 Earl of Kent
 2 Catherine 1442 - 1512
 +Henry Stafford 1454 - 1483 2nd Duke of Buckingham
 *2nd Husband of Catherine:
 +Jasper Tudor 1431 - 1495 Earl of Pembroke; Duke of Bedford
 *3rd Husband of Catherine:
 +Sir Richard Wingfield 1469 - 1525
 2 Mary 1443 - 1481
 +William Herbert, Lord Dunster 1441 - 1491 2nd Earl of Pembroke; Earl of
 Huntingdon
 2 Eleanor 1452 - 1512
 +Anthony 1449 - 1480 Lord Grey of Ruthin
 2 Martha 1450 - 1500
 +Sir John Bromley 1448 - 1496

Jacquetta of Luxembourg was the daughter of Pierre, Count of St. Pol. Geoffrey Richardson's "The Popinjays" has a few dates that differ from these and displaces Eleanor altogether with Joan. His Grey data also differ in a few details.

SITES FOR ELIZABETH WOODVILLE'S FAMILIES

Noeline Bridge

See notations refer to other chapters of Royals of England.

Elizabeth was born at the Woodville home at Grafton, Northamptonshire. Grafton Regis (Regis was bestowed by Henry VIII during a visit) is a village on the A508, northwest of Milton Keynes. The Woodvilles had first settled there in the 13th century. Grafton was small, the church and manor house being the two largest buildings.

The town's website is:

mysite.wanadoo-members.co.uk/heartofengland/churches.htm

It's an attractive site which gives very little away: to read Grafton's history, you have to buy a two-CD set. Elizabeth's grandfather is represented by a brass in the church, viewed online at

www.mbs-brasses.co.uk/pic_lib/Grafton_Regis_Brass.htm

Elizabeth's father Richard Woodville, Earl Rivers, was taken prisoner at Chepstow. A town of 9000 population, Chepstow stands on the west side of the river Severn, near the Severn Road Bridge. Its castle, founded soon after the Conquest, was, unusually for the time, built in stone. Its impressive remains can be viewed at <http://www.grafton-regis.co.uk/>, along with a history and description. He was executed at Kenilworth Castle (see John of Gaunt).

Her brother John was also taken prisoner at Chepstow with his father, and executed at Kenilworth. Her other brother, Anthony, became Governor of the Prince of Wales, the future Edward V, at Ludlow. For Ludlow, see Edward V. Anthony was executed at Pontefract. For Pontefract Castle, see Richard II.

Elizabeth married Sir John Grey, probably at Grafton. They then lived at Groby manor house, just to the northwest of Leicester. The Grey family inherited the manor in 1445 when William de Ferrers died and later expanded their property by building the much larger country house



Groby Old Hall, Bradgate Park

at Bradgate Park. The manor house, now known as Groby Old Hall, still stands in the village of Groby; see it at:

<http://mysite.wanadoo-members.co.uk/heartofengland/churches.htm>;

http://members.lycos.co.uk/Hlt113690312_Hlt113690313uBM_1_BM_2_k/bradgate/groby.htm.

The Grey family also lived at Astley manor, in Warwickshire. The fortified, moated manor house (sometimes called a castle) was built c.1266 and demolished in the 16th century. It was replaced immediately, but this structure, which had been a hotel, burned down in 1978. Since then, only the ruins remain. See the manor and the local collegiate church about one-quarter through this extensive document at mysite.wanadoo-members.co.uk/heartofengland/churches.htm. Another view can be seen on a link from http://members.lycos.co.uk/Hlt113690312_Hlt113690313uBM_1_BM_2_k/bradgate/groby.htm. Astley is situated on the B4102 about 5 miles south of Nuneaton, and to the northeast of Coventry.

Sir John Grey died in 1461 at the Second Battle of St. Albans; see Henry VI. With the Grey estates forfeited to the crown, Elizabeth retreated to Grafton with her two young sons. There, legend has it, she contrived a meeting with Edward IV under an oak tree in nearby Potterspury, to plead her cause. The tree, later known as the Queen's Oak, suffered so badly from fire and drought during the 1990s that it eventually succumbed. The Queen's Oak Society has engaged on a hunt for a similar substitute. See http://www.potterspury.org.uk/vh/queens_oak.htm. This essay is part of the Potterspury village website at http://www.potterspury.org.uk/vh/queens_oak.htm; at the time of writing, its Gallery section was "coming soon."

Elizabeth's son Thomas, by Sir John Grey, is buried in the church at Astley (see above). Her other son, Richard Grey, was executed at Pontefract Castle. See Richard II for information about this castle.

Speculation as to where Elizabeth and Edward's secret marriage took place is rife, although it's usually assumed to be Grafton. She was crowned at Reading Abbey. For basic information about the abbey, see Henry I.

Elizabeth became patron and "true foundress by right of succession" of Queens' College, Cambridge University in 1465, at which stage the then-Queen's University became Queens' for herself and her predecessor, Margaret of Anjou. For background information regarding Queens' College, see Henry VI. Edward gave Sheen Palace to Elizabeth, and it became her principal home. For information about Sheen, see Edward III.

After Edward IV had fled to France, in the Sanctuary

at Westminster Abbey Elizabeth gave birth to their fourth child, Edward, later to become Edward V, in 1470. She was to go to the Sanctuary again, in 1483, after Edward IV died. The Sanctuary building stood at the end of St. Margaret's churchyard; it was demolished in 1750.

Bermondsey Abbey, where Elizabeth died in 1492, no longer exists. Founded in 1082 as a Cluniac monastery, it was demolished after Henry VIII's Dissolution of the Monasteries to make way for Bermondsey House. The church of St. Mary Magdalen survives as the oldest building in Bermondsey: built for the lay folk of the abbey, it became the parish church after Dissolution. Bermondsey lies on the south bank of the river Thames, between London Bridge and Rotherhithe. Part of it faces the Tower of London on the opposite bank. The abbey would have lain in the area of Abbey Street; Bermondsey Square would have been an inner courtyard of the abbey.

See—and take—a walking tour of Bermondsey at <http://www.london-footprints.co.uk/wkbermondsey.htm>. Click on Additional Information for more detail regarding each site. A plan of the abbey, based on a survey dating from 1679, may be viewed at:

[http://www.collectbritain.co.uk/personalisation/object.cfm?uid=0070000000000016U00038000](http://www.collectbritain.co.uk/personalisation/object.cfm?uid=007000000000016U00038000).

Sightings

Elizabeth and Edward are buried side-by-side in the north choir aisle of St. George's Chapel, Windsor, behind an ironwork grille probably made by John Tresilian. See Edward IV.

The Bridgeman Art Library contains an 18th century painting by Giovanni Battista Cipriani of Elizabeth farewelling her son Richard, Duke of York. See this at Image ID 25920. The original is in the Victoria & Albert Museum, London. At Image ID 122725, there's a painting by Fragonard of Elizabeth farewelling both her sons. To access these images, go to <http://www.collectbritain.co.uk/personalisation/object.cfm?uid=007000000000016U00038000>, and enter the Image IDs.

The famous and much-copied portrait of Elizabeth in Queens' College, Cambridge may be viewed at <http://www.quns.cam.ac.uk/Queens/Misc/Elizabeth.html>.

In Lambeth Palace Library, there's an image of Anthony Woodville presenting his book to Edward IV. Lambeth Palace Library, open to the public since 1610, contains a number of treasures. Read about it at <http://www.lambethpalacelibrary.org/>. The library forms part of Lambeth Palace; London home of the Archbishop of Canterbury since the 12th century, the Palace is a worthwhile destination in itself, although not often open to the public: when it is, the chapel should be seen for its

portraits. It's located on the south bank of the Thames, opposite Westminster; and next to Lambeth Bridge. Among other attractions is the Museum of Garden History in the very old church of St. Mary-at-Lambeth, where many archbishops are buried. Pay a virtual visit at:

<http://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/palace>

Also, by crossing Lambeth Palace Road to the river bank, you're looking across the Thames to the incomparable view of the Houses of Parliament.

About the Author

Noeline Bridge has been an armchair traveler since childhood and an actual traveler as soon as she earned money, adding virtual traveling as the World Wide Web came into being. As a librarian and freelance indexer, she has written and made presentations on the indexing of names and places, while continuing to travel and collect maps and guidebooks.



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TEWKESBURY REVISITED

Dave Luitweiler

The Tewkesbury Medieval Festival is an event that, hopefully, every Ricardian may someday experience. This past summer (July 2005) was my third consecutive visit and I left with a firm determination that next summer will be my fourth. Having previously submitted an article on this event (Celebrating the Last Yorkist Victory, Fall 2004) I considered the possibility of doing a second article that concentrated on the people who make this festival happen. The re-enactment of the Battle of Tewkesbury is the largest event of its kind in England. Every year large crowds travel to Tewkesbury for this event. One need only attend the festival once to recognize that a lot of people give of their time and efforts to make this such a success.

The festival has many aspects. There is a battle re-enactment that recreates events surrounding the Yorkist victory which took place here in May of 1471, when the troops of King Edward IV defeated the Lancastrian forces of Margaret of Anjou and secured Edward's right to the throne. However, this is more than a battle recreation. Festival visitors have the opportunity to visit numerous vendors, most of them skilled artisans in their own right, who display and sell medieval articles that range from armor to clothing. There are educational venues, including one maintained by the Worcestershire Branch of the Richard III Society, where informational material is available. Noted artist Grahmm Turner maintains a site where his medieval paintings are on display and available for sale. Visitors are entertained by a variety of musical groups that perform each year as well as various groups who perform, in period garb, various tasks and feats of military prowess.

Vendors supply a wide variety of foods that will please any and all palates, as well as a large tent where one's thirst may be extinguished.

Who are the people who do this? Why do they do it? These are not professional actors. The festival is perpetuated by people with a desire to maintain a part of their culture and heritage. With that in mind, I decided to submit a follow-up article that recognizes these folks and provides some insight on who they are, and why they do this.

On the first day of this year's festival, July 9th, I took an early morning train from Oxford where I had been staying while taking a summer course at Oxford University. After a change of trains at Worcester Shrub Hill I arrived in Tewkesbury by ten o'clock that morning. I

immediately made my way via the local bus service to the festival grounds entrance at Lincoln Green Lane.

One of the first things you notice is the large number of people who stroll the festival grounds in medieval garb. I wandered back to where the tents are set up for those who camp out for the weekend. This includes many of the battle re-enactors who set up medieval tents and campfires. When you walk through this area you have the feeling of being transported back to the era of the Wars of the Roses. There are the quaint signs posted on each walkway throughout the venue, names like "Lancaster Lane", "Edward's Esplanade", "Anjou Avenue" and "Margaret's Mall."

The opening ceremony for the 2005 festival featured two local mayors, Claire Wright, Mayor of Tewkesbury, and Terry Sutton, Mayor of Colchester, who brought a proclamation of friendship from Colchester to Tewkesbury. A formal presentation was made to Mayor Wright by Mayor Sutton, Colchester's Town Crier, Robert Needham and the Vice Chairman of the Colchester Town Watch, John Morgan. All were properly attired in their garb of office.



This year's festival was the twenty-second and full attention was paid to ensure a proper opening ceremony with festivities befitting a medieval event. A large pole was erected on the grounds with a glove attached to the top of the pole. My friend Steve Goodchild, a Tewkesbury resident and member of the Battlefield Society, advised me that this is an old custom. It pertains to the glove being a symbol of a charter fair being in "session." Steve explained that there is a lot of history to fairs,

"which had an importance both as a means of settling accounts, as in the great fairs of Champagne, and a means of making a lot of money if you were the owner of the rights, as



in the great English fairs. The glove symbolizes the suspension of common law and the existence of the fair laws, which was not necessarily a democratic move! The fair had its own court, of Pye Powder (corruption of the French for dusty feet) which was empowered to enforce the fair's law." Pete Linnell, the festival's entertainment organizer, assisted Mayor Wright in erecting the glove and pole. A sign advised all present that the glove on the pole signified that the fair was open and the operators had the power to take all measures to ensure everyone toed the line – so to speak.



Ralph Richardson

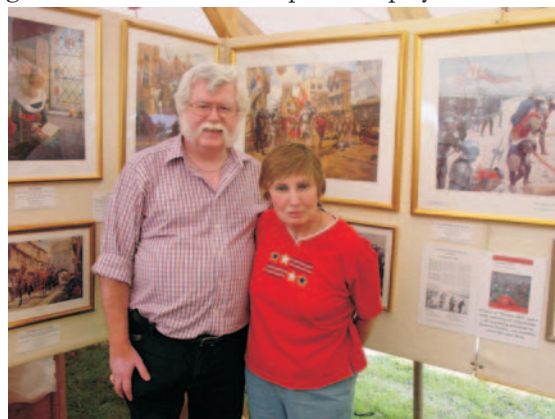
(After watching the opening ceremony, I journeyed to the large tent where the Worcestershire Branch of the Richard III Society maintains a table containing voluminous material on the history of Richard III, the Richard III Society, and, matters connected to the era of the Wars of the Roses. This was time to renew old acquaintances with some of their members, including Pam Benstead and June Tilt. I also had a chance to speak to their Branch Chairman, Ralph Richardson, a retired headmaster and devoted Ricardian. Ralph is stepping down as chair of this branch after twelve years of dedicated service. The Ricardians from the Worcestershire



June Tilt (L) and Pamela Benstead (R) examining art work of Graham Turner — he is in background

Branch do a great job and all Ricardians owe them special thanks for their annual efforts. Pam told me that next year will mark the twentieth anniversary of the founding of the Worcestershire branch. They have thirty-five active members. Although Ralph will be stepping down as Chairman, he will continue to be an active member of the group. That is good news indeed.

As fate would have it, I was not the only Ricardian visiting the Worcestershire chapter's display table. I was de-



Phil and Beth Stone

lighted to run into the Chairman of the Richard III Society, Dr. Phil Stone, and his lovely wife Beth, a native of Chicago, IL. Between Ricardian conversations, Beth and I managed a few words about another subject of considerable interest to us in July — the fate of the Chicago Cubs. It was obvious that the Yorkists were having a much better summer than the Cubs.

Not far from the society display table, and in the same tent, was an interesting display maintained by the Lance and Longbow Society, a UK-based organization that promotes a historical and war gaming interest in the medieval era, including the Wars of the Roses. I spoke to David Lanchester, from Cheshunt, Herts., the Secretary of the society. I complimented him on the representation he had constructed showing the situation of Somerset's flanking march and attack on the left flank of King Edward's army, commanded by his brother, Richard Duke of Gloucester. Those Ricardians interested in this aspect of history may want to visit the society's website at: www.lanceandlongbow.com.

As usual, my main point of contact for my roaming in Tewkesbury continues to be Steve Goodchild from the Tewkesbury Battlefield Society. I spotted Steve standing near his group's



Steve Goodchild & Jane Balaan

display in the tent, conferring with Jane Balaam, the battle coordinator. Jane is a local personnel manager. I headed over to see them with my usual request for assistance. Both of these folks put a lot of time and effort into the festival and undoubtedly never receive enough credit for all of the work they do. For this particular session, Steve was my point of contact for interviews with some of the reenactors who portray historical figures who fought at Tewkesbury. Steve and I, with Jane's blessing, were soon headed over to the Yorkist campsite.

One of the first figures I wanted to meet was, of course, our Richard. The role of the Duke of Gloucester was portrayed by Robert Bamberger, a merchant from Colchester, Essex. I asked him "why" he enjoyed portraying Richard and annually participating in the battle. He used terms like "excites the mind and body"..... "love of history"....etc. Robert explained that he had a sense of well being and satisfaction from mastering the use of medieval weaponry, "it makes you feel good about yourself." This was Robert's sixth year of participation.



*Robert Bamberger,
Duke of Gloucester*

Of course, if you interview the Duke of Gloucester you had better interview the king. Remember this is Tewkesbury and it is good policy not to have the king irritated. If you anger Edward the Abbey will not provide you adequate sanctuary. The role of Edward is performed by Simon de Montfort, a police officer from the Ministry of Defense, who is from Suffolk. Once I discovered he was a police officer we "bonded" and all concerns about sanctuary evaporated. Simon told me his full name is Simon de Montfort B. F. Howard Plantagenet. He also claimed to be a descendant of the king and stated that he relished playing this role as it was part of his family history. Like many Ricardians he believes the Yorkist cause never received a fair review from history. Simon has been playing the role of either Edward or Richard for fifteen years. He is an interesting man.



*Simon de Montfort
as Edward IV*

Another interesting Yorkist I interviewed was the much maligned George, Duke of Clarence. The Tewkesbury event is international in nature and the cause of York attracts people from areas outside of the United Kingdom. I discovered that Clarence was Stefan Peeters from Belgium, a native of Ghent. He told me that as a child he became interested in medieval times and the chivalry of knights. He has been participating in the Tewkesbury festival for many years.



George, Duke of Clarence

The battle of Tewkesbury involved far more than the king and his brothers. For example, Paul Johnson is a Tewkesbury resident who, when not participating in medieval battle reenactments, is a carpenter who specializes in restoring antiques. Paul plays the role of the Duke of Somerset in the battle. Ironically, Paul also happens to be the proud owner of a medieval execution sword that on this day will await him later in the festival when Somerset and his cohorts meet their fate. Paul has been a member of the battle cast for twenty-two years.



*Paul Johnson,
Duke of Somerset*

Another individual who has been involved with the festival since its inception is Brian de Heer, a local fellow who is a full-time trader at historic fairs. Brian holds the distinction of being the first person to play the part of Richard when the festival started in 1984. As Steve Goodchild informed me, Brian has a sharp mind and ready wit, a fact I can personally attest to after interviewing him for this article. Brian now plays the Chief Clerk at the trial of Somerset and his associates after the battle. I guess we can say, based on the outcome, that he is a "no-nonsense judge."



Brian de Heer

Bernard Willoughby, an Evesham resident who is an armour maker by profession, has been participating in the battle reenactment since 1984. This year Bernard was

acting as Lord Wenlock. I asked him what motivated him to do this every year. His reply, "Madness, I suppose." Actually, Bernie credited an intense interest in history for his involvement.

Anyone who has ever attended the Tewkesbury festival is aware that the event is far more than a battle reenactment. The festival is also one of the largest trade shows for medieval crafts held in the UK. Every year scores of artisans and skilled craft experts converge on Tewkesbury to display, sell and trade their wares. Others come to acquire medieval clothing, shoes, armour, medieval furniture, weapons, and other implements and accessories connected to medieval times. Business continued to be brisk in 2005. As in the past, I set aside some time to visit with some of the vendors and find out a little about them and why they come to Tewkesbury.

Ana Diessler is a native of Germany who resides in Treochy, Mid Glamorgan, Wales. Ana's specialty, and her passion, is medieval shoes. She operates her own business ANA – Period Shoes (www.AnaPeriodShoes.co.uk). You only need talk to Ana for five minutes to know that this is more than a business, it is a labor of love. Ana fascinated me with the quick history she provided on the development of footwear in the medieval times through the Elizabethan period. She has been attending these fairs for eight years and her tent was a popular venue with those in attendance. In her spare time Ana presents lectures on the history of footwear to interested groups and museum workshops.

Another vendor and native of Germany now residing in the UK, is Andreas Doeberiner, from Northumberland. Andreas's specialty is the long bow. This was his second time at Tewkesbury. Andreas told me he displays his wares at approximately eight events a year. He advised me that in medieval times arrows used with the long bow were steel-tipped and could pierce chain mail. However, for the festival, the reenactors use



*Bernard Willoughby
as Lord Wenlock*



Ana Diessler

rubber-tipped arrows. I guess that certainly makes sense! When asked why he participates in these events he had a ready answer: "It is good fun."

For those who prefer to make their own medieval costume, a visit to the tent of Herts Fabrics of Hatfield, Hertfordshire, is a pleasant experience. Customers can examine a wide assortment of fabrics appropriate for medieval garb. The company displays its product line at approximately thirty shows/events a year. I spoke to Anwar Ali Vas, the owner of the business. Anwar has been attending the festival for many years.



Andreas Doeberiner



Anwar Ali Vas

He really enjoys the event and he took time from a steady stream of visitors to his display to speak to me. Anyone interested in their line of textiles can check out their website: www.hertsfabrics.co.uk.

Of course, if you are not a do-it-yourself person, there are plenty of vendors who sell custom made medieval costumes. You might want to stop at the tent of Susan Fever from the Isle of Wight who makes medieval garb and her partner Les Nash, who makes and repairs medieval weapons.. They have been coming to Tewkesbury for fifteen years. They average about ten shows a year. When not participating in medieval festivals Susan is a school cook and Les is a metal worker.

The aforesaid three vendors are only a small sampling of the skilled artisans and vendors that display at Tewkesbury each year. If you want to have your hair styled in medieval fashion, add to your medieval wardrobe, or purchase some medieval furniture, the festival is the place to be.

Another highlight is the entertainment provided free of charge to festival attendees. Did I mention that there is no charge to attend the festival? This has to be the best entertainment value in the UK, if not anywhere in the world. Periodically, during the two days of the festival, there are demonstrations of medieval battle skills, fashions musicians, and skilled artisans plying their trade.

As in the past, two musical groups were a big hit with those at the festival. The Morris dance group, MYTHAGO, based in Suffolk, continues to delight with



SCHEMISH

their fantastic dance performances. When MYTHAGO is not performing, spectators are treated to the foot-stomping and lively music provided by a medieval band from Germany, known as SCHEMISH. I spent some time chatting with them while sharing a beverage near the pub tent before one of their sets. I asked their leader to describe their style of music and he jokingly replied that they were “punk rock without electrical instruments — played on medieval instruments.” However you want to describe their music it is loud, lively, and quite popular with festival goers at Tewkesbury.

There are some other folks strolling the grounds at Tewkesbury who I also try and make it a point to chat with whenever I visit. These are the folks in medieval costume who come solely to be a part of the festivities.

Typical of those who make Tewkesbury a family event was the Willoughby family from Hastings, East Sussex. I chatted with Ian Willoughby who was strolling the grounds with his wife Beckie and young daughter Ellie. All three were in medieval garb. Ian, who is involved in the computer industry, told me his family enjoys events such as the Tewkesbury festival because it allows the family to participate in events that are a “complete contrast to things like computer games and play stations.” Ian and his family were part of a larger group at this year’s festival. He told me, “I would like to add that participating in the events we are made to feel like valued members in a huge family. Our household, the Bonnivants within the Medieval Siege Society, numbers around forty members from babies to senior citizens and everyone helps and looks out for each other.”

Strolling back in the camp area I ran into Jamie and Andrea Walton from



Willoughby Family

South Wales, Lancaster adherents. Jamie, a medieval tour guide in South Wales, advised that he attends approximately fifteen events of this type every year. He complemented the “great bunch of people” who participate in the festival. I also chatted with Jo Frankel, a primary school teacher in Stirling and native of Toronto, Ontario, and her friend Cathy Holroyd from Crawley, who has been attending this event for five years. Both ladies were resplendent in their medieval garb — even though they were there in support of the House of Lancaster! They both enjoy the fun of participating in the festival and the experience of camping at the site.

If you have the opportunity to attend the Tewkesbury festival make certain to give yourself enough time to stroll through the camping area. It is like stepping back into time as you wander through the respective camps of York and Lancaster. The tents are colorful and the fragrance from the campfires and cooking pots can easily cause one to never want to leave. As the time for the battle approaches, the campsites are a scene of hurried preparations involving dressing for battle and falling into marching ranks with banners unfurled. It is quite a site and one you will not soon forget.

However, as with most good things in life, there never is enough time to see everything. This year I had to catch an early evening train to return to Oxford. I left wishing I could stay for more. On the trip back to Oxford, as the English countryside rolled by my window, I thought about the diverse and wonderful group of people who come together every year to make Tewkesbury such a success. Some are re-enactors, some vendors, some are movers and shakers behind the scene, and some are just plain folk who dress up in medieval garb and come to support either Lancaster or York. Others are folks like me, people who come to Tewkesbury every year because it is fun and a great way to relive part of a history that has meaning for us — even if it is only for a few hours.

About the Author

David M. Luitweiler is a Ricardian and a retired law enforcement official residing in Victor, New York. He previously served 32 years in the New York State Police, including tenure as head of the criminal division (BCI) before leaving in 1994 to accept a position as Executive Assistant to the Administrator of the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in Washington, DC. He served in that position until retiring in December of 1999. He remains a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police. He is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Rochester and a member of the Richard III Society since 2002.

FLIGHTS OF FANCY: MEDIEVAL EXPLORATIONS INTO MANNED FLIGHT

Joan Szechtman

In my research, I wondered whether Richard III would have known of any of Leonardo Da Vinci's writings, coda, or inventions. Da Vinci was born the same year as Richard (1452), and there was known communication between England and Italy. However, I haven't been able to determine whether Richard knew anything about Da Vinci, including his art (although, one would think Richard III might have known something about the artist, as Da Vinci was well known in the western world).

Back to flight: Da Vinci's first codex for flight was developed in the 1480's, where he designed an ornithopter. This design wasn't new to western civilization, as the Greek legend of Daedalus and Icarus bears witness. Additionally, the Chinese were experimenting with kites and other gliders about 400 BC.

In terms of known flight, it wasn't until 852 AD that Armen Firman, a Moor based in Cordoba, Spain, took his first and last flight when he leapt from a tower wearing his invention, a wing-like cloak. He had no control, and didn't fly, but floated to the ground. It acted more like a parachute, and he only suffered minor injuries from this little adventure.

This idea, that man could fly, gained a foothold in Cordoba, as twenty-three years later, in 875, Ibn-Firnas built a glider of his own design. He celebrated successfully completing its fabrication by inviting the town's people to witness his maiden flight. Quite a few climbed a nearby mountain and watched as Ibn-Firnas jumped from a tower and successfully glide in the air. However, the contraption had no tail or rudder, and the landing was rather harsh. Although he survived, Ibn-Firnas suffered severe back injuries, and died thirteen years later, possibly related to his injuries, from which he never completely recovered.

In 1010 AD, Monk Eilmer of Malmesbury brought fame to England when he strapped wings to his arms and feet and launched himself off a tower, flapping his way for about 200 yards of manned flight. Unfortunately for Eilmer, hereafter known as the flying monk, he wasn't able to control his flight, and crashed rather unceremoniously, breaking both legs. He recovered and developed a new design that included a tail rudder (perhaps from observing how birds flew) He wanted to test his new design, but his superior would not allow it.

Eilmer probably learned of the Ibn-Firnas's

invention from tales brought back by pilgrims to the Holy Land. Late in the eleventh century, William of Malmesbury recorded this flight in his book, *Gesta Regum Anglorum* (The History of the English Kings).

It wasn't until 1783 when Joseph and Jacques Montgolfier flew the first hot air balloon, and 1799 when George Cayley successfully sailed the first gliders. So that little burst of engineering creativity in the middle ages was quite astounding when one realizes it took almost another 300 years after Da Vinci and nearly a millennium after Armen Firman for man to finally get off the ground and stay aloft.

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ERRATA

The correct masthead on the cover of the Summer 2005 of the *Ricardian Register* should be
Vol. XIV, No. 2

Apologies to those librarians among you, for whom this made a considerable problem.

The Last Plantagenet King

In the Footsteps of Richard III

June 17 – 28, 2006

Ready for a delightfully different travel experience? Then, why not join our friendly little band of Ricardians as we explore the England of Richard III? This marvelous tour fits the bill perfectly if you are a sociable person with a keen interest in Richard and in medieval England! Sites we will visit having associations with Richard III include, among others, the castles at Middleham, Conisburgh, Ludlow, and Sudeley, as well as the parish churches of Middleham, Sheriff Hutton, Sutton Cheyney, and Dadlington. This year, we will also enjoy an exciting excursion into Wales, where our sightseeing will include mighty Pembroke Castle, the birthplace of Henry Tudor. You'll have a day and two nights at leisure in the ancient city of York, with ample time to explore the magnificent Minster and York's many other treasures. Our travels will also include historical Tewkesbury Abbey and Minster Lovell Hall, as well as a fascinating display of those birds of prey that would have been used by hunting parties during Richard's era. And, of course, we will make our annual pilgrimage to Bosworth Battlefield where Richard lost his crown and his life. Here we will be treated to an excellent guided tour, of even greater interest now that it has been expanded to include information on the alternative battlefield site of Dadlington. **And a final bonus** – a day in London with a special repeat visit to the British Library, where we'll be introduced to a fine selection of artifacts having Ricardian connections!

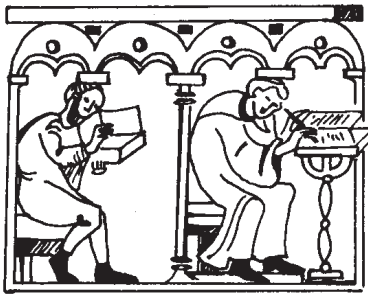
Also featured in the tour will be many other choice venues – the impressive castles at Chepstow and Goodrich, the beautiful remains of Rievaulx and Tintern abbeys, the impressive stately homes of Castle Howard and Hardwick Hall and, in the lovely country of Wales, St. David's Cathedral and its archbishops' palace, as well as the open-air Museum of Welsh Life and an appealing Welsh medieval manor house. Our journey will take us through some of Britain's most beautiful scenery in Yorkshire, the Welsh Borders and southern Wales. During the course of our travels, we will often be warmly welcomed and accompanied on our sightseeing by Ricardian friends from various English branches and groups — always special occasions for all of us!

A truly unique tour, ***The Last of the Plantagenets*** is a superb alternative to the large, impersonal "package" tour or the hassle of self-drive. Just sit back and enjoy 11 days of leisurely touring and real camaraderie in our comfortable mid-size coach. Our lodgings, mainly located in attractive market towns or villages, will be in charming smaller hotels and coaching inns where you'll be met with a cordial welcome, a comfortable room with full amenities, and delicious meals. Many of our lunches will be at picturesque village pubs that are recommended for their tasty food. Your enthusiastic tour coordinator/escort will be long-time member Linda Treybig, who has planned and led 14 previous Ricardian tours. **Note: Tour registration deadline is February 10th, and group size is limited to a maximum of 12.** Our annual tour has become quite popular and draws many repeat members. Since several persons have already expressed an interest or are actually committed to the 2006 tour, you are urged to request your brochure and further details right away!

A Final Word: Don't miss this grand opportunity for a really rewarding adventure! Traveling through England's beautiful countryside and villages with a small group of friendly fellow Ricardians who share your interest in the man called Richard III, enriching your knowledge of him and his times, exploring fascinating places off the beaten track, discovering the best of both medieval and contemporary England = **ONE UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE!** Won't you join us?

For brochure and full details, please visit the American Branch web site at www.r3.org or contact::

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RICARDIAN READING

Myrna Smith

Most books reviewed here can be purchased at www.r3.org/sales.

Ye cannot serve God and Mammon
- Matthew VI . 24

Wine maketh merry; but money answereth all
things - Ecclesiastes X. 19

 *Medici Money: banking, metaphysics and art in fifteenth-century Florence* - Tim Parks, W.W. Norton & Co. NY, 2005

When Richard III was king, there was no Medici bank in England. Losses on loans to Edward IV and some of the lords who died at Barnet and Tewkesbury forced the Medicis to close their London branch in 1472. Gherardo Canigiani, the bank manager responsible for the bad loans, became an English citizen, married, acquired a coat of arms, and settled on land Edward IV gave him in Buckinghamshire. Tomasso Portinari, manager of the Bruges branch, added the London branch's losses to the losses accumulating from bad loans to Charles the Bold. Despite the conflict of interest, Portinari served as financial advisor to Charles at the same time he was managing the Medici bank. Portinari made loans and shipping deals which helped Charles the Bold, but lost money for the bank, disobeying direct orders from Piero, head of the Medici family. Portinari's risky deals eventually forced the Bruges branch to close. Yet his personal income allowed him to commission costly paintings, where he and his family appear prominently as donors, seemingly unsullied by contact with money.

Author Tim Parks suggests that changing attitudes towards money contributed to the decline of the Medici bank. Its founder Giovanni di Bicci and his son Cosimo were involved and interested in the everyday details of banking. Cosimo said he would be a banker "even if money could be made by waving a wand." Giovanni and Cosimo were cautious lenders. While they ran the Medici bank these rules applied:

- Don't lend more than 300 florins to cardinals.
- Don't lend more than 200 florins to courtiers.
- Don't lend to any Roman merchant - unreliable.
- Don't lend to any feudal baron.
- Don't lend to Germans, because German courts won't respect your claim if the borrower defaults.
- Don't trade in wine; it's not worth it.

The Medici bank enjoyed its greatest prosperity

under Cosimo's leadership. Unfortunately his favorite son, Giovanni, although trained to take over from Cosimo, lacked his father's talent and enthusiasm; he also predeceased his father. When Cosimo died, Piero, the son trained for politics and government, had to take responsibility for the bank. Poor health and political crises contributed to bad decisions, which accelerated the bank's decline.

Piero's son Lorenzo was as uninterested in banking as his uncle Giovanni had been. Preoccupied by humanistic studies and political maneuvers, he seemed almost proud of knowing "nothing" about his family's power source. Although people called him "The Magnificent," his indifference had far from magnificent consequences for the Medici bank. Ignoring the cautious lending rules that contributed to the bank's success under Giovanni and Cosimo, Lorenzo's branch managers lent reckless amounts of money to kings, dukes, mercenaries, cardinals, and popes. Tomasso Portinari made loans to Edward IV and Charles the Bold which were never repaid. Lorenzo guesstimated that Portinari had lost the bank 70,000 florins; a more accurate audit showed losses of 100,000 florins. Lorenzo's political successes couldn't compensate for his financial failings. Under his control, six of the Medici branch banks closed between 1478 and 1489.

Attitude wasn't the only factor that brought down the Medici bank. Banking was a risky profession in 15th century Florence. Between the mid-1420s and 1470, 39 out of 72 other Florentine banks failed. Military conflicts and trade wars contributed to these failures.

As early as the mid-1430s, Cosimo felt it necessary to lend money to Francesco Sforza, the mercenary who eventually took control of Milan. Over a 30-year period, Sforza "borrowed" 190,000 florins from the Ancona branch of the Medici bank, an amount impossible to repay. Cosimo broke his own rules in order to buy protection for the city of Florence. Sforza never attacked Florence, but the Ancona branch's apparent success in buying political influence may have set a bad example to the lenders in Bruges and London.

Financial arrangements with popes were complicated by the Church's ban on usury. Complex evasions allowed

popes to deposit money for safe-keeping and receiver “gifts,” which were actually interest payments. Until the mid-1460s, loans to popes were profitable, but profits disappeared after that. Also harmful to the Medici bank was Paul II’s attempt to create a monopoly on alum, a substance necessary for drying cloth and processing leather. Pope Paul II gave the Medici bank sole rights to sell alum, threatening any Christian who bought alum from competitors with excommunication. But the monopoly attempt failed because Burgundians refused to pay monopoly prices. In spite of his permissive lending, Tomasso Portinari couldn’t persuade Charles the Bold to order his subjects to stop buying from lower priced competitors. Eventually the Medici bank found itself with three year’ worth of alum in its warehouses. Instead of making big profits, they suffered big losses.

Other losses resulted from England’s effort to become a cloth producer as well as a supplier of raw wool. During Henry VI’s reign, the English began to weave cloth to sell overseas instead of shipping their raw wool to craftsmen in Burgundy and Florence. But north-south trade was already unbalanced, and English cloth in place of raw wool made the imbalance worse. No one in Florence wanted English cloth. Medici bank managers didn’t want to accept English cloth in repayment for loans. Florentine weavers didn’t want competition from English weavers; they wanted English wool to supply Florentine looms. Florentine consumers didn’t want to buy English cloth, which they considered inferior to locally woven cloth.


Early in Edward IV’s reign, a trade war between England and Burgundy added to the Medici bank’s problems. Margaret of York’s marriage to Charles the Bold confirmed the end of the war, but it resulted in more risky loans to Edward IV. By 1472, the London branch had failed.

This review has highlighted the Medici bank’s relations with England and Burgundy. Readers will also find local and international politics, military conflicts, religious conflicts, arts and humanities, historical sources, physiological conflicts, and conflicts between appearances and reality woven into this history of the Medici bank. Some readers may want to compare this author’s interpretations with other historians’. They will find a Bibliographic Sources section, which complements the author’s comments in the text. Even those who find reason to disagree with Parks’ interpretation of events should get a good return on their investment in this book.

— Marion Davis

The royal court is an assembly of noble and distinguished beggars. – Talleyrand

 *The Lives Of The Kings And Queens Of England – Antonia Fraser, University of California Press, Berkley, 1998*

 *A Royal History Of England And Scotland – Plantagenet Somerset Fry, Dorling Kindersley, London, 1998*

 *Kings And Queens Of England – David Williamson, Konecky & Konecky, NY, 1998*

I recently received the above titles from friends. Somerset Fry and Williamson started with the Saxon kings and Fraser starts her royal history with the Conquest. For the purposes of this review, I will compare their approaches to Richard III and Edward V.

The Fraser edition’s chapter on Richard III is written by Anthony Cheetham, who has written a biography of Richard. Cheetham gives the most information, going back to Richard’s excellent reputation as Duke of Gloucester. He quotes Dominic Mancini about the esteem Richard garnered for his private life, public activities, discretion and military prowess. Cheetham thinks that Richard plotted to get the throne but that his survival depended on his ruling England. Elizabeth Woodville fired the first salvo when she pushed the council to annul the protectorship outlined in Edward’s will in favor of a regency council. Though there is no proof that Richard was responsible for the deaths of his nephews, Cheetham thinks that, again, he had no choice. To survive he had to rule alone, without rebellions in favor of the boys.

Accompanying Cheetham’s text is the ugliest picture of Richard I have ever seen. With thin, frightened face and delicate hands, he bears no resemblance to the courageous warrior that even his enemies acknowledged him to be. It is so ugly that no one claimed it. It is not listed in the picture credits.

Plantagenet Fry (how could such a name not be hyphenated?) has a section on Edward V which is accompanied by the Millais painting of Victorian times. You know the one — the two pretty boys with blonde curly hair, dressed in black velvet, clinging together with apprehension in their faces. Fry says that we will never know “who, if anyone, killed them,” points out that after Richard’s death, Henry Tudor went to great lengths to blacken Richard’s name, but did not immediately accuse him of the murder. Henry could have murdered them in secret.

Fry has little text, but the best pictures. In each section he includes a list of events in which he includes some of Richard’s accomplishments. He is the only one

of the three to credit his achievements. Somerset Fry ends his brief text with the statement “...once he (Richard) was dead, historians, clerics and even playwrights fell all over themselves to blacken his name,” all designed to further the Tudor dynasty.

Williamson covers Edward V with the offending Millais portrait and gives the official Tudor version, but he goes on to say that there is some evidence that the boys were removed to Middleham and were still alive at Richard’s death. It would follow then that their deaths were ordered by Henry VII. He then mentions *The Daughter of Time* and the Richard III Society. Williamson says no evidence exists to implicate Richard in the deaths of Edward, the Lancastrian Prince of Wales, or George, Duke of Clarence.

All three of these books are beautiful volumes. All have portraits of their subjects. Fraser’s has the best text. Somerset Fry has the most varied and attractive picture. He alone mentions Richard’s achievements. All three concentrate on Richard’s guilt in the disappearance and all three conclude that the facts will never be known, but Richard’s guilt is by no means certain. No one mentions Buckingham as the culprit, but all three say Henry Tudor must be considered as the murderer.

All these books were last published in 1998. We’ve come a long way, Baby!

— Dale Summers, TX

Somewhat along the same lines as the above, but in an altogether different style, and with a different type of illustrations, is *A Rhyming History of Britain: 55 B.C. – A.D. 1966* by James Muirden (Simon & Schuster, NY, 2003). As the cover blurb puts it:

*This cheerful poem has been written
To tell the history of Britain:
From Celts to Churchill, it relates
(With all the most Important Dates)
The country’s convoluted course...
Why Richard hollered for a horse;
Why Eleanor was such a catch;
Why no one liked the Spanish Match;
The pros and cons of Laissez-faire
Smart Georgian belles’ underwear;*

And he can keep this sort of Bellocose (that is, inspired by Hillarie Belloc) verse going for over 200 pages. Putting 2000 years of history into rhyming couplets must have been quite a task, but anyone willing to tackle the entire universe — Muirden has written several books on this subject, and makes telescopes on the side — has nerve enough for it, and his upbringing in a rather elite and intellectual boarding house gave him the background. David Eccles drawings breezily complement the

text, and contain themes that run — sometimes gallop — through the pages. The section on Richard III, for example, is illustrated by an academic type sitting at his computer and flipping a coin!

All the Important Dates and other necessary but dull bits, such as treaties, etc, appears in the form of marginal notes. The author notes: “I am not a historian. In fact, I wrote this poem in order to teach myself some history. I thought that sorting facts into verse form would concentrate my mind wonderfully. Which it did!” It may do the same for you.

His coverage stops in 1966, when he left home and set out into the world. After that, it’s current events, and somebody else’s history, or perhaps a Part II to this one.

Fortunes made in no time are like shirts made in no time; it’s ten to one if they hang together.

— Douglas Jerrold



***The Traitor’s Wife: A novel of the Reign of Edward II* – Susan Higginbotham, iUniverse Books, Lincoln, NE**

There’s nothing like starting off a story with a bang. Susan Higginbotham opens with the then-Prince Edward in bed with his lover, Piers Gaveston. (It should be said, up front, that while there are no overly explicit bedroom scenes — this is not a bodice-ripper — they are not elided. Neither are the scenes of violence, e.g. the executions.) The author takes a universal point of view, but most of the scenes are seen through the eyes of the title character, Eleanor le Despenser, called Nelly to distinguish her from the numerous other Eleanors at court. It starts with her marriage in 1306 and ends with her death in 1337. Nelly is Hugh le Despenser’s wife, Edward I’s granddaughter, the niece of Edward II, and an ancestress of Anne Neville. The wife is, as always, the last one to find out, and when Nelly finally learns of the liason between her husband and the King, she is understandably angry, and determines to give him a dose of his own medicine. The shock is with whom she chooses to retaliate.

Ms Higginbotham has an eye for detail, not always entirely accurate, as in the following: “...the ceiling was painted a brilliant blue that the English sky only occasionally attained. Down, the floor was covered in carpet so thick and soft that walking on it took a bit more effort than usual. Around, there were the goldfinches — forty-seven of them... — singing a greeting to the ladies...” I’m not an expert on this particular period, but I doubt that such luxurious carpets were in use at that time. The painted ceiling does, however; ring true: medievals were very fond of bright colors. And the goldfinches were no doubt considered a pleasant touch by those who didn’t have to clean the floor covering, whatever it was.

But there are few anachronisms, most very minor. Since the protagonists would have spoken French, or Middle English, unintelligible to modern ears, the author has chosen the option of translating their words into present-day speech.

One of the author's strengths is her depiction of character, especially of those who might be considered the less important characters. Ralph de Monithermer, Nelly's stepfather, for example, is an admirable character, without being a prig or a saint, and a beau ideal for stepfathers everywhere. (He also ends up being her brother-in-law once removed. Medieval genealogy can be complicated.!) And this is how the ladies of the court are described:

Berwick Castle was full of noblewomen...Given an emergency, all could have undergone any manner of inconvenience...But no emergency being present, all expected their accustomed comfort and had brought retainers with them, as well as greyhounds (the queen), lapdogs (most of the countesses), birds (the Lady Despenser) and even a cat (Lady Vesey). The animals did not all get along, and neither did all the noblewomen. The acerbic Lady Vesey, being somewhat older than the rest and not at all in awe of a superior title, felt free to give her opinion on any subject, no matter how irritating to the rest. The Countess of Cornwall was quick to take offense regarding her late husband, Gaveston, even when none was intended. The Countess of Surrey was quick to take offense regarding her very alive husband ... even when none was intended. The Lady Despenser was married to almost a nobody and tended, the countesses thought, to get above her place. The Countess of Pembroke, who had yet to produce a child...disliked hearing about all matters maternal, which was one of the great unifying subjects among the women. The Countess of Hereford could not be around a lapdog without sneezing, and none of the lapdogs were inclined to stay away from the Countess of Hereford.

On the other hand there were certain advantages to having a castle full of women; no one had too much wine and called her neighbor a misbegotten whorson; no one who lost at dice challenged the winner to a fight; and no one spent the evening at a brothel and then insisted on being admitted to the castle in the dead of the night.

I am assuming this is Susan Higginbotham's first novel, not having been informed to the contrary, and a worthy example of the genre it is. It is available in a variety of print and electronic media. Contact the publisher, iUniverse, at 2021 Pine Lake Road, Suite 100, Lincoln, NE 68512. (Phone is 1-800-Authors, and web page is

www.iuniverse.com).

Ms. Higginbotham's own website has links to the Richard III Society, as well as giving some of her background as a lawyer and legal writer.

Don't marry for money; you can borrow it cheaper – Scots proverb



The Seventh Son – Reay Tannahill, Headline Book Publishing, London, 2001

This also starts off with a bang:

"Sapphires for my bride-to-be and a severed head for the king my brother," said Duke Richard cheerfully. "As St. Paul pointed out, gifts may vary but the spirit is the same. In the present instance, a spirit of goodwill."

This is Richard as he will be depicted throughout: cynical (though not completely so), sardonic, brave but practical. He is not romanticized: he is not perfect and not always gentil, though his lapses from the latter are rendered understandable. He makes no bones about marrying Anne for her property, but comes to love her deeply — although he first admits it in an offhand, unconscious way. Tannahill admits, in her afterword, that she has made certain assumptions about Richard: "that he was tough, charming, self-seeking, and very much a man of his time." She adds: "I have left Richard innocent of murdering the princes in the Tower, since there is no proof whatsoever that he was responsible and their deaths would have been of no particular benefit to him." "... since it is academically unrespectable," she writes, "as well as irritating to the reader, to use such phrases as 'he may well have thought,' 'perhaps he assumed,' or 'no doubt it occurred to him,' the odds are stacked against any attempt to give the subject the psychological plausibility that turns a lay figure into a believable human being."

Reay Tannahill has beaten these odds to a remarkable degree. This book is several years old, but will reward a reading if you haven't already become acquainted with it. Try the public library or interlibrary loans.

Some small change...

Charlie Jordan sends a note about a book he acquired while visiting the Tower of London: *The Tower Of London Prisoner Book*, by Brian A. Harrison (published by the Royal Armouries in 2004). It's a listing of all prisoners in the Tower from 1100-1941. He emails a sample listing:

YEAR; 1247. PRISONER'S NAME: Abraham the Jew. REASON FOR IMPRISONMENT: Accused of sacrilege upon a Christian statue he had placed in his privy and then murdering his wife when she objected and tried to clean the statue. OUTCOME: Secured a pardon by paying the king 700 marks.

There are many appendices, floor plans, lists of executioners, etc. Not cheap — it cost 50 pounds at the Tower — and not light. Charlie says his "... 15 year old niece bleated incessantly about having to schlep it around while I drank coffee and smokes. Pitiful child .. doesn't make a good porter." Come on, Charlie, have some empathy. Not only was she getting round-shouldered from lugging this 6-pound tome around, she was being subjected to second-hand smoke, as well! But I suspect we would agree with Mr. Jordan that it is a "Nice book," and maybe he will write a full report for a future issue.

Also on Things to Come, Sandra Worth informs us that the next two books in her Ricardian series will be out in January and June of 2006. We will be looking forward to them.

And Sarah Foulkrod has come across this reference from Booklist, in its entirety: Maxwell, Robin — *To the Tower Born* — Sept. 2005. 320p, Morrow, \$24.95 (0-06-058051-9)

No word as to what or whom it is about. If anyone out there has any input, I would be pleased to learn about it.

I have one or two items in escrow for a future column, including one about the multicultural (sort of) history of Spain in the 15th century.

To wind things up, here's a quotation from a not-at-all Ricardian or Medieval book, *Great Hoaxes Of The World And The Hoaxers Behind Them*, (by Nick Yapp — is that name a hoax or at least a pseudonym?) — Robson Books Ltd, London, 1992) Mostly it deals with modern hoaxes, such as the Great Spaghetti Harvest, and such things as political hoaxes, but on the very last page of the text, the author says:

Thanks to Shakespeare, we believe in the villainy of Richard III. Thanks to Hollywood, we believe in the heroism of General Custer.

... which leads one to believe that he (Yapp) has the Right Stuff, along with all the Gentle Readers who have contributed and will contribute to this column.

A blundering king, a vengeful queen, and their ambitious lovers wreak havoc in England—and in the life of one indomitable woman.



In fourteenth-century England, Eleanor de Clare, favorite niece of King Edward II and lady-in-waiting to Queen Isabella, experiences the tumult of her beloved uncle's reign firsthand.

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The Traitor's Wife: A Novel of the Reign of Edward II
by Susan Higginbotham

ISBN: 0595359590

Available at your favorite online bookseller or by order through your local bookstore

www.thetraitorswife.com

DEM BONES

Victoria Moorshead

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When researching their roots, most genealogists and family historians begin with themselves and their parents and then move backwards to their grandparents, and hopefully far beyond, back to the beginning of reliable records.

John Ashdown-Hill instead began his research with 15th-century information and ended up in the present day.

Ashdown-Hill is a genealogist and a member of the Richard III Society. In 2003, he attended a conference in Mechelen, Belgium on Margaret of York, one of Richard III's sisters, who married Charles the Bold, duke of Burgundy. At the conference, Dr. Paul de Win presented a paper on the multiple possible remains of Margaret which had been found around her tomb site in Mechelen, and the apparent impossibility of resolving the puzzle. Ashdown-Hill decided that mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA), which is inherited only from the mother and provides an unaltered link to past generations, might solve the mystery and set about to try to find a living descendant who carried the correct mtDNA.

Ashdown-Hill says "I began following all possible female lines of descent from Richard's aunts and great-great-aunts as he had no female line great-aunts, and it is impossible to go any further back as his female line ancestry isn't documented beyond Catherine de Roet (Swynford), Duchess of Lancaster. However, I also worked on Richard's sisters, Anne and Elizabeth. Elizabeth's descendants peter out after two generations, but Anne, Duchess of Exeter has lots of descendants. I had no possible way of knowing which female line of descent would actually result in still-living descendants, so I had to try to trace them all."

As the family of Anne, Margaret and Richard was part of the royal family and then part of the nobility, it was relatively easy to trace for several generations. As time passed, the family moved further away from royalty and the records of births and marriages became more relevant and, thanks to the growth of recording keeping, easier to trace. Ashdown-Hill used documents such as baptismal records, marriage records and wills. "Wills, however," he says, "were especially important, because they often reveal the name change which took place



John Ashdown-Hill

when a girl married." In addition to the records left by Anne's descendants, Ashdown-Hill also used published genealogies, such as the Marquis of Ruvigny's Plantagenet Roll Of The Blood Royal, which purportedly traces all the descendants of Edward III down to the 19th century. According to Ashdown-Hill, "The Anne of Exeter volume of the Plantagenet Roll was a great help. The Complete Peerage was also useful, though irritating too, because it tends only to follow up male lines!"

Some of the interesting discoveries that Ashdown-Hill made along the way were that Anne, Margaret and Richard had identical mtDNA to the children of the 14th-century poet Geoffrey Chaucer whose wife, Philippa de Roet was the sister of Richard's great-grandmother, Catherine. One descendant of Anne of Exeter with identical mtDNA was Barbara Spooner, wife of the British Member of Parliament and slave-trade abolitionist William Wilberforce and therefore all Wilberforce's descendants are also descendants of the House of York. Unfortunately this female-line descent ended with his granddaughter, Barbara Wilberforce James. According to Ashdown-Hill, in the 19th century Anne of Exeter had lots of female-line descendants who died unmarried or childless. "At one point", he says, "I seriously began to wonder whether there were any living female line descendants left!"

The research took a year and Ashdown-Hill finally located a living female-line descent of Anne of Exeter: Joy Ibsen who lives in Ontario, Canada. Ibsen gave an mtDNA sample just before Christmas of 2004.

Now that Ashdown-Hill has located an mtDNA donor, the next step is find out if any of the mystery bones are indeed Margaret of York's in Belgium.

RIGHT TRUSTY AND WELL BELOVED

Callie Kendall

The keynote speaker for the 2005 AGM in Chicago was Callie Kendall. We reprint here Callie's address in its entirety. Callie is the daughter of Paul Murray Kendall, author of the definitive biography of Richard III, which celebrates its 50th anniversary this year.

In the spirit of the Wars of the Roses, it is pure nepotism that has put me on center stage today. Unfortunately, the 200 archers and 40 mounted horsemen in full armour with swords drawn and wearing the badge of the White Boar have been detained at the airport. However, like those long-ago Yorkists, I remain undaunted, and I come with family support in the person of my sister, Gillian Murray Kendall.

Gillian is not only the most intelligent, witty, funny, and generous sister one could wish for, she is also, to the rest of the world, a professor of Shakespeare and Renaissance studies at Smith College in Massachusetts. It is she who wrote the introduction to the new edition of *Richard III* published in 2002. Our family motto could certainly be Loyalty Binds Us – to Richard and to each other.

We keep people alive by remembering them. We make events matter by discussing them, by studying them, and researching them, by creating oral traditions, and by writing them down, and in some way making them a part of our lives. Between keeping people alive and making events matter, we create history. For if we don't write about and talk about and believe in the things that we know have happened and the people that we feel have in some way touched us, we have nothing.

History isn't about what happened, it is about what we selectively pass down across the years from one generation to the next, using the written word, using oral tradition, using imagination and zest to instill a freshness and excitement in what we strongly believe happened. We must use every way possible to pass on the knowledge that is important to us.

I am immensely proud, and at times overwhelmed, that Paul Murray Kendall, my father, is still considered, after 50 years, to be one of the foremost champions of Richard III. In his biography of Richard, first published 50 years ago this year, he wove together the painstakingly researched information that he had uncovered — in archives and libraries, in manuscripts, in court papers, and in letters that have somehow survived for half a millennium.

He examined the facts. He studied contemporary

accounts. He traveled to Middleham Castle and to Fotheringhay (or what is left of them), and to Ludlow and Bosworth Field and the church in Sutton Cheney where Richard may have prayed the night before his final battle. He crossed the length and breadth of England; he braved the choppy English Channel to see Calais and the other lands of what is now France, where Richard's journeys took him, absorbing into his psyche and his soul the land where Richard was born, had lived, ruled, fought and died.

He grew to know not just Richard III, King of England, but Richard Plantagenet, the man. Across 500 years, he breathed life and breath into Richard. Paul knew Richard so well, he seemed to read his mind and his heart. He knew how and what Richard felt and thought, not in the context of the 20th century, but within the dimensions and constraints of the world within which Richard lived.

Paul somehow was able to enter the 15th century, using his tremendous enthusiasm and his boundless imagination, coupled with the facts, always the facts. For the missing parts of the intricate, lacey pattern which is the past, he carried intelligent and researched conjecture to its most reasonable and likely conclusion.

In his later book, *The Art of Biography*, Paul tells us something about his experience with facts. He states:

'There are times when the biographer must query apparent facts, "scientific" evidence, in order to be true to biographical science; must build with rainbow instead of stone. Facts which mock his vision of character may turn out not to be facts or to be facts which do not say what they seem to say.

At best, fact is harsh, recalcitrant matter, as tangible as the hunk of rusty iron one trips over and yet as shapeless as a paper hat in the rain. Fact is cold stone, an inarticulate thing, dumb until something happens to it; and there is no use the biographer waiting for spontaneous combustion or miraculous alchemy. Fact must be rubbed up in the mind, placed in magnetic juxtaposition with other facts, until it begins to glow, to give off that radiance we call meaning. Fact is a biographer's only friend, and worst enemy.

Paul was not the only one in the family preoccupied with the importance and limitations of facts. My mother, a well known children's writer, credits her character Walter the Earl with the following words in her

book *The Whisper of Glocks*:

*History is based on facts.
Niggling small facts
Pothering medium facts
Whopping large facts.
And the greatest of all these
Is the fact of magic.*

— Walter the Earl

*Glorious True Facts in the History of the Minnipins
from the Beginning to the Year Gammage 880*

We, too, are concerned with fact. And that is why we are here today. We are a collective body of historians intent on passing on the knowledge so that those to come will know and remember the real Richard, Duke of Gloucester, the real Richard III. We are here to set the record straight for those who still believe in Shakespeare's portrayal of the last Plantagenet king.

Skeptics and the unwary can overlook the importance of considering Richard's life and actions in the context of his time. Without the ability to immerse ourselves in the atmosphere and the realities of the 15th century, we cannot hope to understand the man.

From the very start, Paul's biography of Richard thrusts us into the midst of the tumultuous affairs of medieval Europe with descriptions so vivid, so enthralling, we are caught up in that long ago world. We revel in the brave and exceedingly daring plan drawn up by rushlight in an inn at Northampton. Our hearts fill with pride and excitement when, as Paul writes, 'in the first light, Richard and Buckingham rode hard for Stony Stratford.' We are thrilled, for we know they are riding hard for England, and England will be saved. We live the 15th century.

The century began badly. Right in year one, three generations before Richard's birth, Henry Bolingbroke had stolen the crown from Richard II, who was murdered shortly thereafter. Near the end of this turbulent, treacherous span, in a time close to our hearts, another Henry, the so-called Earl of Richmond, an upstart opportunist, commits high treason, and for his own gain and glory kills the King of England, destroying the Yorkist peace. These were stressful times.

At the beginning of Paul's book, we are kept breathless with little rebellions, skirmishes, uprisings, border troubles, plays for power from all directions, half-hatched plots, and little suspected treasons tumbling off the page. The Duke of York and his sons, their then-ally the Earl of Warwick, and the troops that accompanied them, were riding back and forth and back and forth and up and down the kingdom, trying to

create order and hold the country together. It was exhausting and never-ending, the price to pay to build a peaceable kingdom. It was one thing after another — like trying to hold an armful of balloons beneath the water. You just about get the country under control, and then, as you're kicking off your riding boots, up pops another miscreant intent on usurping your power. No wonder Edward IV died in his early 40s. It wasn't the drink and the women, it was the constant pounding across England on a horse and hewing his way through all that armour.

Paul's *Richard III*, in all its detail and complexity, makes clear how different from our world is that of Richard. He and his relatives grappled with feudal intrigues and lived by — or flouted — unwritten laws (that is, the accepted standards of the day, which were known, though not written). They were guided by a code of ethics that bears little resemblance to the rules of play in the world of Queen Elizabeth II: he who has the power has the right — or, as Paul believes Richard saw it, he who has the merit has the right.

Life was nasty, brutish, and short. Tremendous energy was expended just to maintain the status quo. The English monarch and other males of royal blood were in great and ever-present danger. As John Thorn says in *A History of England*, 'To be born of the blood royal in late-medieval England was to invite an early death.'

In short, particularly in the arenas of power, medieval English rulers and those supporting them had unimaginably different dilemmas from the ones we face today — and viewed them from an unimaginably different perspective. We gaze soporily at heart-rending paintings by Delaroche and Millais of the two little Princes in the Tower. Whether or not Richard had anything at all to do with the deaths of the Princes, few in power in the 15th century would have shared our sentimentality. To many a fearful mind in the England of 1483, a child-king was a disaster in ermine-trimmed blue velvet. Repeatedly, Paul reminds us of the old saying, 'Woe to that land whose ruler is a child.' Writing of the impending coronation of Edward V, Paul says,

The men of power, however, did not view the coronation in the same sentimental light as did most of the commons. In the councilors' view, far from stabilizing affairs, it would offer a terrible challenge to order.

There was no 'made law,' i.e. no written precedent to refer to, and Paul goes on to say,

Like men of former times, he [that is, Richard] solved this problem of government for which the past offered no solution by consulting the Law of God and Law of

Nature. These, the 15th century knew, were written plain in the divine order of the world.

Ruling 15th-century England was physical, and it was personal. Richard knew that by the Law of Nature, his own power, as Paul puts it, 'could only be secured upon the good will of the realm.' In this, Richard was a man apart.

For those of us who know about the life of Richard III, he is an obvious subject for a biography. He was the last English king to die in battle; his life and reign were fraught with difficulty and politics; and his kingship is wrapped up in traditional stories of intrigue, murder, and the lust for power. Nevertheless, one wonders how an author narrows down a vast field of candidates and chooses a particular person to investigate — researching letters, reading between the lines, and generally rummaging around in the artifacts of a life. So what was it that brought together an English king, dead for almost half a millennium, and Paul Murray Kendall, a young English professor at Ohio University teaching Shakespeare and Elizabethan Drama?

The family consensus is that there was no single spark that ignited Paul's imagination, but rather there was more than one reason why he decided to write that particular book.

In preparation for teaching Shakespeare's play Richard III, Paul read about the real King Richard. He was immediately attracted to the character of the man. As my mother describes it, 'He saw more to the story than the casual reader; Richard the man as well as Richard the king caught his imagination.' What I say is: an indefinable glimmer from across the centuries had at last been picked up.

A biography of Richard III would be new territory — there was not much available on Richard at the time, and there was already a lot of published scholarly work on Shakespeare. The idea of writing an historical work rather than an insight into some aspect of Shakespeare's plays became more and more intriguing. A friend suggested applying for a grant and the time to gather materials for the book. The Ford Foundation generously offered enough money that he could spend 15 months — with his family — researching the biography in Britain and France, seeing for himself the places that were a part of Richard's life and death. And so it was that our relationship with Richard Plantagenet began. I like to think that Paul Kendall the biographer may be descended from John Kendall the secretary.

Back in Ohio, our house was built high on the side of a hill. The living room, and Paul's study on the floor below, were afforded a beautiful view over the Hocking River Valley. It was in this setting that my father

performed his magic with facts and words and art and soul. He was never away from his desk for long. He left his labors on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and on part of his birthday, but otherwise he worked every day of the year. Little surprise then, that when my mother realized she had not seen Paul for quite some time at a party they were giving, she would head for his study and find him standing over the desk, jotting notes or lost in thought ... he had gone to retrieve a book from the study, and on passing his desk on the return journey had just paused for a moment on his way back to the party. The pause was usually about half an hour before my mother was aware of his truancy.

And so he followed the 'paper trail' as he called it, amassing facts and information and generating vast piles of 5" x 8" file cards filled with his almost illegible handwriting. He broke a code written in 15th-century Italian that arrived on what was to me an indecipherable photostat from the archives in Milan. First he had to teach himself 15th-century Italian. Then he had to break the code. Breaking the Enigma cipher seemed to me to pale in comparison.

Occasionally our mother would breach the fortress of papers, books, rolls of photocopied 15th-century documents from Milanese archives, and assorted scraps with notations on them that were variously heaped, placed, or cascading across Paul's desk. She would take a firm line, and from the assortment of paper goods on display, remove a matchbook cover or two and consign them to the wastebasket. Out they would go. Sometimes, unfortunately, a note would be written on the inside of an empty matchbook cover pressed into use at a crucial moment when there was not a convenient piece of paper to hand. Consternation would ensue. Such is the life of a scholar when the real world interferes.

As a child, I was sure of two things when my father was researching the biography — Richard didn't murder the Princes in the Tower, and the Duke of Clarence was drowned in a vat of malmsey. A six-year-old can spend a lot of time thinking about a barrel of wine big enough to put somebody inside. The image is with me still. A year or two later, I added to my repertoire the fact that the Butler, a.k.a. the Duke of Buckingham, killed the Princes. And that was that. Anything else was extra.

Paul had always included me in his research on Richard, and had unwittingly prepared the way when I was four years old by reading to me Sir Walter Scott's *Quentin Durward*, a lengthy historical novel about 15th-century France. You won't be surprised to hear that my favorite bedtime story was *Beowulf*, told as only Paul could tell such a story.

I was lucky, and I didn't even know it.

And so, finally, when all the pieces were slotted into place, and the gaps bridged with a little history and a little ingenuity, and a great deal of wit, Paul had created a life out of nothing but a pile of index cards as high as the sky. He had somehow transposed a body of accumulated facts and lists and dates and records into a living, breathing body with a mind and a will and a soul, and an essence. And that is the magic.

There remains the question: what did Paul himself really think about Richard and the Princes in the Tower? Did he order them to be killed to assure the safety of the Crown, or was he innocent of his nephews' blood? After years of living in the saddle with the Duke of Gloucester, Paul must have developed a sixth sense. The answer is that Paul had a gut feeling about it, but, as my mother recently explained to me, 'You can't put a gut feeling into a properly researched biography.' And so, to my knowledge, very few people know that Paul, in his heart of hearts, believed Richard to be innocent.

Well, you all know so well the end of this tragic tale. Perhaps you have journeyed to Ambion Hill at

Bosworth and shielded the sun from your eyes as you looked up at Richard's standard, stretched full out, the White Boar snapping and rippling in the stiff breeze high above the gently rolling fields of Leicestershire. You may almost hear the faint jingle of harness against a horse's neck, a memory borne on the wind across the centuries from that August long ago. With Richard's death on the battlefield at Sandford, near Ambion Hill, came a new era.

It is up to us to follow in Paul Murray Kendall's footsteps, and ensure that Richard III is carried forward into the future, not as a villain, not as a hero, but as a just man of his time, unswervingly loyal to his brother the King, a brave and canny general, and a king himself, who strove to keep the peace in his rightful domain.

In my mind's eye, I can see them. Somewhere in the vault of Heaven sit those two, the scholar and the king, planning battles that never were, vigilant against those who would disturb the peace of 'this blessed plot, this earth, this realm, this England.'

GENEROUS RICARDIANS APRIL 1-SEPT. 15, 2005

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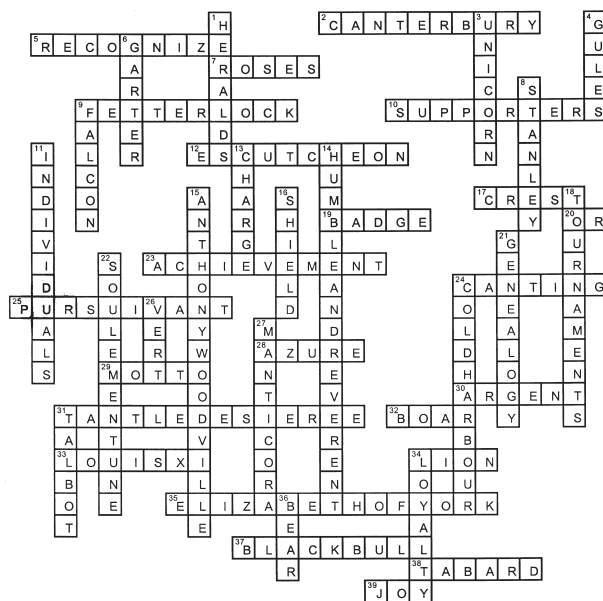
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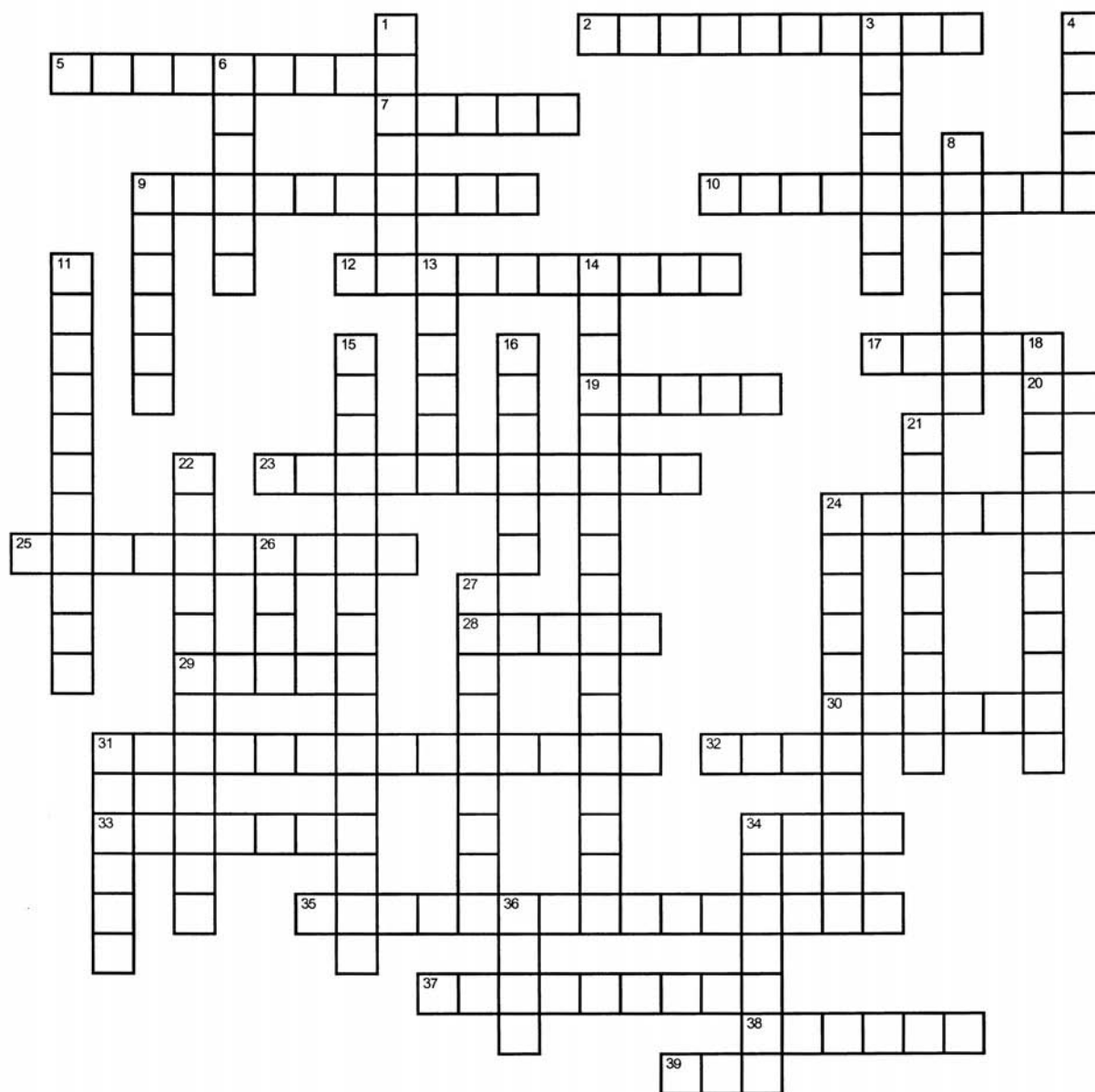


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HERALDRY

The Ricardian Puzzlers are Charlie Jordan, Lorraine Pickering, Marion Davis and Nancy Northcott. The Ricardian crossword puzzles are intended as a fun method of learning about Richard and his life and times. Each puzzle will have a theme and clues are drawn from widely-available sources. Suggestions for themes and feedback about the puzzles are welcomed; please send comments to Charlie at charlie.jordan@earthlink.net



Solution on page 25

HERALDRY

Across

2. "As It Plesse God" was the motto of Thomas Bourchier, Archbishop of _____.
5. Arms were originally a method by which combatants could _____ each other on the battlefield.
7. Ralph Fitzherbert's alabaster effigy shows the Yorkist livery collar of suns and _____.
9. Edmund of Langley used a falcon within a _____ as a badge. Also, "Within the _____" a novel by Ricardian Brian Wainwright.
10. The components of arms (as shown by two mermaids found gripping the shield in figure 1) are called _____.
12. Another term for the shield in an achievement of arms.
17. In a "coat of arms," a _____ is a three-dimensional object at the top of a helm.
19. When they weren't wearing ceremonial tabards, heralds identified themselves with a _____ of office, which was supposed to give them immunity when working in enemy territory.
20. The name of the traditional heraldic color associated with gold is _____.
23. Together all the components of one's arms are called a full _____ of arms.
24. The use of puns of names or titles symbolized in heraldic art.
25. A junior, or probationary, herald was called a _____.
28. The name of the traditional heraldic color associated with blue is _____.
29. "Loyaulte me lie" was Richard's _____.
30. The name of the traditional heraldic color associated with silver is _____.
31. In his youth, Richard III wrote this motto in his copy of "Ipomedon."
32. Richard's badge was a white _____.
33. This French king wasn't "accompanied by heralds and trumpeters as are most princes." He tricked Edward IV by sending a valet disguised as a herald to negotiate during the English invasion of

1475.

34. Edward IV used a white _____ as a badge; commonly used as a badge by the Mortimer Earls of March.
35. In Richard, Duke of Gloucester's, copy of the French prose "Tristan," _____ wrote the motto: "Without Changing" above her signature.
37. George, Duke of Clarence's animal emblem was a _____.
38. In the 15th century, a herald's ceremonial garment, bearing his master's arms, was called a _____.
39. Edward IV used this as one of his mottos - "Comfort et liesse" which translates to "Comfort and _____."

Down

1. In 1484, Richard established the _____ College or, as it's known today, the College of Arms.
3. In heraldry, this mythical beast represented "Extreme courage." Used as one supporter in the current royal arms.
4. The name of the traditional heraldic color associated with red is _____.
6. "Honi soit qui mal y pense" is the motto of the Order of the _____.
8. Which powerful northern family (known for switching sides) used an Eagle and Child as its badge?
9. One of Richard, Duke of York's animal emblems was a _____.
11. Coats of arms are not granted to families; arms are granted to _____.
13. Any design or shape placed on the shield in an achievement of arms.
14. After becoming Margaret Beaufort's daughter-in-law, Elizabeth of York used this motto: _____.
15. Widely admired as a knight and a scholar, this Yorkist used the motto: "Nulle La Vault." He was _____.

NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER REPORT

On June 17, 2005, the newly formed New England Chapter of the Richard III Society held its first meeting in Concord, Massachusetts. Efforts to reactivate the New England Chapter began in October 2004 when Kirsten Moorhead of Portland, Maine responded to Eileen Prinsen's advertisement for a Chapter Moderator.

After several months and countless emails, Eileen and Kirsten were proud to announce that the New England Chapter was ready to reactivate. To the delight of both women, thirty-four members, from four of the six states New England states, responded to their "call to arms."

Since its initial meeting in June, the New England Chapter has elected Kirsten as Moderator, Brandy Barton, Secretary, and Rhonda Tirone, Treasurer. They

have applied for a bank account, and will petition the Board of the Richard III Society, Inc. for recognition of the revival of the New England Chapter.

The Chapter's second meeting, held on September 17th, brought together Ricardians from Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine. In addition to discussing outreach, fundraising, and rules of the proposed chapter, members explored topics such as the credibility of modern forensic evidence and how the decline of Latin has effected Medieval Studies.

The New England Chapter's next meeting will be held in early December, 2005, in Concord, Massachusetts. The first meeting of 2006 will take place in Exeter, New Hampshire.

*Kirsten Moorhen, Moderator;
Brandy Barton, Secretary
Rhonda Tirone, Treasurer*

CHAPTER CONTACTS

ARIZONA

Mrs. Joan Marshall
10727 West Kelso Drive • Sun City, AZ 85351
(623) 815-6822

CALIFORNIA

Anyone looking to reactivate the California Chapter, please contact Judy Pimental at japimpan@yahoo.com

EASTERN MISSOURI

Bill Heuer
111 Minturn • Oakland, MO 63122
(314) 966-4254 • email: beejnbill@mindspring.com

ILLINOIS

Janice Weiner
6540 N. Richmond Street • Chicago, IL 60645-4209

MICHIGAN AREA

Eileen Prinsen
16151 Longmeadow St - Dearborn MI. 48120
313-271-1224. E-mail: prinsenecc@comcast.net

MINNESOTA

Margaret Anderson
3912 Minnehaha Avenue S. #29, Minneapolis, MN 55406.
(612) 729-4503. E-mail : megander@earthlink.net

NEW ENGLAND

Kirsten Moorhead
14 Bramblewood Drive • Portland, Maine, 04103-3789
E-mail: erincaceus27@earthlink.net

Tel: 207-88-8890

NEW YORK-METRO AREA

Maria Elena Torres
3216 Fillmore Avenue • Brooklyn, NY 11234
email: elena@pipeline.com

NORTHWEST

Jonathan A. Hayes
3806 West Armour Street • Seattle, WA 98199-3115
(206) 285-7967 email: chateausaurus@worldnet.att.net

ROCKY MOUNTAIN

Chapter moderator wanted
Please contact: Editor, Eileen Prinsen
16151 Longmeadow St - Dearborn MI. 48120
313-271-1224. E-mail: prinsenecc@comcast.net

SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

Joseph Wawrzyniak
3429 Chalfont Drive • Philadelphia, PA 19154
(215) 637-8538
email: jwawrzyniak@worldnet.att.net

SOUTHWEST

Roxane C. Murph
3501 Medina Avenue • Ft. Worth, TX 76133
(817) 923-5056 • email: afmurph@flash.net

If you are interested in forming a chapter, contact Eileen Prinsen, Chapter Co-ordinator (see page 3 of this issue)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Miss

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Country:

Phone:

Fax:

E-Mail:

- | | |
|--|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership | \$35.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership Non-US | \$40.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership \$35 + \$5/member | |
| | \$ _____ |

Contributing & Sponsoring Memberships:

- | | |
|---|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Honorary Fotheringhay Member | \$ 75.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Honorary Middleham Member | \$180.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Honorary Bosworth Member | \$300.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plantagenet Angel | \$500.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plantagenet Family Member \$500+ | \$ _____ |

Contributions:

- | | |
|--|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Schallek Fellowship Awards: | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Fund (publicity, mailings, etc) | |
| | \$ _____ |

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Family Membership \$35for yourself, plus \$5 for each additional family member residing at same address.

Make all checks payable to Richard III Society, Inc.
Mail to Pamela J. Butler
11000 Anaheim Ave. NE • Albuquerque, NM 87122-3102