

Vol. 4 No. 2

December, 2018

Ricardian Chronicle

Newsletter by and about members of the American Branch of the Richard III Society

Announcing 2020 GMM

Philadelphia, PA



SAVE THE DATE
October 16 - 18, 2020

Image of Liberty Bell 150th Anniversary 1926 Issue-2c stamp in in the public domain. Image and license obtained Nov. 28, 2018 at Wikimedia Commons:

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Publication schedule and submission deadlines:

The Ricardian Chronicle is published semi-annually, June and December. Submission deadlines are:

May 15th for the June issue and November 15th for the December issue.

What type of article will be published in the *Chronicle*?

The *Ricardian Chronicle* is a newsletter by and about members and chapters of the American Branch of the Richard III Society. This is the publication to share your stories about Ricardian and related trips and events. Submission guidelines:

Text: 12 pt Times New Roman, Calibri, or Arial font, document file type can be rtf, doc, docx, or odt. (Sorry, I cannot accept pdf document type or non-standard fonts.)

Please contact me at info@r3.org

[Unless otherwise noted, Joan Szechtman took the photos.] [Clicking on ~ ToC ~ returns you to this page.]

2018 Dickon Award

One element of the General Membership Meeting (GMM) is to present a Dickon Award to those members whose service to the Richard III Society, American Branch has been exemplary. The American Branch is not obligated to present an award, nor is there a limit to the number of awards that may be given. Therefore, it is with great pleasure, to honor two members: Susan Troxell and Gilda Felt.

Since Susan assumed the position of Research Librarian in 2015, she has organized, cataloged, and significantly expanded the research material available to our members. The research library includes video media. In addition to creating a significant resource for scholarly research, she is a frequent contributor of scholarly articles to the Ricardian Register. As the publication's editor, I am forever in her debt. Here's Susan receiving the award at the 2020 GMM banquet.



After serving as our Fiction Librarian, Gilda Felt retired and turned the mantel over to Jessie Hunter. Gilda did not attend the GMM, so we had to send the award to her after the fact. I contacted her for a photo of her with the award and some words about her "stint" as our Fiction Librarian. Here's what she had to say:

I was surprised! It's a real honor. I remember collecting the books in 2007. We had just moved to Michigan, so it was a nice drive to Indianapolis. It was fun, buying, selling, and lending out all those books. I'll always remember fondly my years as the fiction librarian.



 $\sim ToC \sim$

2018 General Membership Meeting

Friday, October 5 to Sunday, October 7, 2018

Our thanks to The Michigan Chapter for this year's GMM in Detroit, Michigan. I asked Dianne Batch, GMM chair, chief cook, and bottle washer, to give us a sense of the effort that went into the three-day event.

Dianne chaired and was Secretary for the GMM. She created the scripts and blocking for the York play scenes. Dianne created the flier for the play, printed most of the paperwork and picked up and collected teacups, flowers, the Boar's head, books and just about everything else. Additionally, she booked the bus tour.

Rose Wiggle was Registrar, did most of the computer work for the program, name tags, Banquet entree cards and help struggle with the budget!

Charles Fickeau and Linda Peecher stored and put all the work into the raffle items and were on the spot to sell tickets and the used books. They also helped set up the displays and provided transportation for those of us who extended our stay to visit Greenfield Village or the Ford Museum.

Thanks to Nance Crawford for the three group photos that follow.



Larry Irwin, Steering Committee, obtained the Sunday speaker, created the logo, and helped set up. Steering Committee members Eva Veller and Ken Gleason assisted with the setup. Elke Paxson, Steering Committee, did media and the Friday night prizes.



Verna Paul-Brown, Steering Committee, was responsible for the Tea that kicked off the program following the Registration. She donated the Teacups. The Grosse Ile Boar's Head Festival donated the Boar's Head on the Registration table.

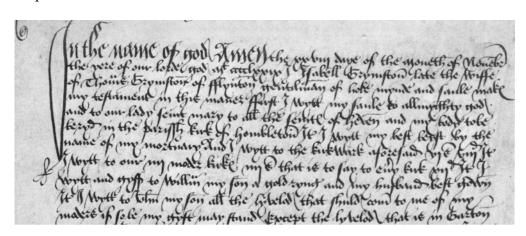
Friday, October 5:

Following the English Tea Reception, we watched the DVD of "Lost in Castles: Middleham Castle" and ate popcorn.



Saturday, October 6:

Dr. A. Compton Reeves presented "An Introduction to Paleography" The cursive sample of a will below, shows the difficulty we encounter to make sense of the abbreviations, cramped writing (to save paper) and unfamiliar letter shapes to name a few obstacles.



After a 15-minute break, Susan Troxell presented her paper "Thomas Langton: Richard III's Bishop." This paper was published in two parts in the March and June 2018 *Ricardian Bulletins*.

Erik Michaelson then spoke about the Society's Milles Project.

From National Archives

PCC Wills 1384 -1858

These records are Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC) wills in series PROB 11 made between 1384 and 12 January 1858.

These PCC wills are all registered copy wills. They are the copies of the original probates written into volumes by clerks at the church courts.

Until 12 January 1858 all wills had to be proved by the church and other courts. The PCC was the most important of these courts dealing with relatively wealthy individuals living mainly in the south of England and most of Wales.

The information found in wills includes the following:

where they lived

name of person responsible for carrying out the wishes (executor)

date of will

witnesses to the will

chief beneficiaries

After lunch, Kenneth Shepherd delivered the keynote address: "Richard III and the Teaching of History." He reviewed how history is being taught in high school today, where the students do not get much, if any exposure to Medieval history. In addition, grade school teachers have very little background in teaching history, and if not specifically interested in history, are unlikely to teach it well.

The business meeting followed the keynote, where we elected the slate of officers and presented Dickon awards to Susan Troxell and Gilda Felt (see preceding Dickon Award article for details).

Next, we were off on a bus tour of Old and New Detroit provided by Step-On Tours.

We first stopped at St. Joseph's Oratory. Founded in 1855, St. Joseph Oratory is one of Detroit's historic Catholic churches. It's in the Eastern Market/Lafayette Park neighborhood. The church is under repair and currently has scaffolding around the building's facade.

To see more images of the church, both inside and out, and to read about its history, click on this link, or copy and paste it into the address bar of your browser: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Joseph_Oratory.





Our last stop before returning to the hotel to get ready for the banquet was at the Albert Kahn Building. For more images than the entrance looking up and a section of the ceiling in the main hall, go to (http://historicdetroit.org/building/albert-kahn-building/).



The evening festivities opened with a cocktail hour followed by a banquet. We all had a chance to meet and reunite with fellow Ricardians. After the banquet, we were treated to two York Mystery plays: *Noah's Flood* and *Flight into Egypt*. Photos of the festivities follow.



The photo to the left is from Noah, and the photo to the right shows the reading of Flight into Egypt.



Sunday, October 7

Dr. Katherine French, "Interior Design In Medieval England After the Plague Years: 1350-1500" concluded the 2020 GMM.



Dr. French focused on London's merchants and artisans at home at the time of Richard III. Often these merchants lived in "shop houses" where the shops were on the ground floor and the living spaces were above the shops. By the time of Richard III, parlors would often have books and wall hangings that usually showed religious themes. If the merchant could afford it, there would be a room for counting and inventory. If the room was missing, it would be replaced by a chest for storage of items.

For those of us who didn't have to leave immediately after the Sunday breakfast, our hosts arranged a trip to the Ford Museum/Greenfield Village. A sample of some of the vehicles that can be seen at the Ford Museum follow:



Teddy Roosevelt's Brougham



1900 Wood Electric Truck



1965 Lotus-Ford



2010 Edison

For more information about Greenfield Village and Henry Ford Museum go to: https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/detroit/d37.htm

~ ToC ~

Philippa Langley's Missing Princes Project Comes to America

Sally B. Keil

This past fall the New England chapter of the Richard III Society arranged for Philippa Langley to address us, via a Skype call, at our semi-annual meeting. As ever, she was most gracious with her time and gave us a wonderful update on her work with The Missing Princes Project (revealingrichardiii.com/langley.html). Her enthusiasm is infectious!

She told us that she has over 100 lines of active inquiry pursuing the first goal of the project: hunting for primary source documents that date from the 1483-1485/1509 time period. She discussed how Henry Tudor had called for the destruction of many documents from the reign of King Richard III, most famously the Titulus Regis, and her hope is that on the Continent there may be documents that he missed. Perhaps newly discovered primary source materials, uncovered from some distant archive, might shed new light on the mystery of the missing princes.

Driving home from that meeting, I thought about us over here in the US. Obviously, we would have little to contribute to this effort...but then I remembered! There were many very wealthy Americans who were traveling to England and Europe in the mid-late 1800's, buying up a wide range of antiques, furnishings, books, art, whole collections...and also marrying their daughters to impoverished titled heirs! Maybe...just maybe...there might be items in the US of interest to The Missing Princes project.

What's the first thing many of us do when we start looking into something? Google it! I did, and lo and behold, I found that there was a listing, compiled by the U of Chicago, that built upon two previous listings, of documents located in the US and Canada that date from the pre-1600s. There are 63,000 items!

It seemed to be a great project for the American Branch of the Richard III Society to sponsor: building a team of members from all around our country, to reach out to the institutions, museums, universities, colleges, etc. listed to ask the simple question: "Do you have any items in your collection that relate specifically to the time period of 1483-1509?"

I contacted Philippa and asked her if she thought such an initiative would be worthwhile and one The Missing Princes Project would support. Her answer was a resounding yes! She did ask that I act as a coordinator for all communications so that the Missing Princes Project would have one point of contact with all of us over here in the US. I am of course happy to do that, and she has given me the guidelines for reporting back to her on the results of our work.

With the approval of the Board of the American Branch, an email blast went out a few weeks ago, inviting members to join in the search for US-based primary source documents. To date, there are now 26 of us on the team!!! I have assigned each team member a number of institutions near them, to begin the hunt. We're all pumped and excited by the possibility that there may be one letter, or one page out of a household account book, or one notation in the margin of a Book of Hours, that may be very important to the Missing Princes project.

We have a Facebook page, set up by one of the team members, that we can use for communications. I also send emails to the group, keeping us all updated on our progress. We have no deadline for our effort: **much more important to be thorough, than quick!**

Our first 'hit'—a document written within 1483 – 1509—was found by team member Denise Testa in the collection of the University of Rochester in Rochester NY. It is a promissory note from Edward Courtney, Earl of Devon, to five men, dated 1505. Edward Courtney was attainted by King Richard III in 1483, and fled to France to the circle of disaffected Lancastrians around Henry Tudor. He fought alongside him at Bosworth, and his lands and title were restored to him in 1485. His son, William Courtney, was given the hand of Catherine Plantagenet, Edward IV's daughter, but was imprisoned by Henry VII from 1503 to 1509, and attainted in 1504, for alleged complicity in Edmund de la Pole's rebellion! We are working on getting a look at this note, to see if it contains any information relevant to the Missing Princes. It is Latin on the front, English on the back. This is exciting!

If any American Branch member might like to join the team, there is still time! We have no coverage for the Midwest for example: we would love to have volunteers who are based in Michigan, Wisconsin or Ohio. Drop me an email at sallybkeil@gmail.com if you're interested.

My Bosworth Trip

Jay Leonhart

I had been to Bosworth Field in 2015 with a very nice tour organized by Bob Pfile that whetted my appetite for more. Early in 2018 I decided to go back to the site on my own. I flew overnight from Columbus, Ohio to Birmingham UK, and arrived at about noon on Saturday. I had booked a room at a Premier Inn in Leicester for Saturday night.

I rented a car since I thought I could not get to Bosworth using public transportation. I pulled out of the car rental parking lot and unfortunately merged onto the M 42—a busy expressway—soon after leaving the airport. I had gotten a navigation device from the rental car company that not only didn't it work very well, but I couldn't look at it since there was so much traffic. There were a lot of roads running together where I was and it was hard to know which way to go. I saw signs for Nottingham, but none for Leicester and I couldn't find a place to pull over and look at the map.

Later I was able to pull off of the M 42 and on to the A 5, a less busy expressway. At least at this point I was following Henry Tudor's route to Bosworth. Unlike Henry, however, I found I tended to drift left and scrape my tires on the curb. Even though I knew I was doing it, I still kept drifting left. I must have scraped the tires 30-40 times on the A 5 and on some other roads I was on later.

I exited the A 5 and went into Atherton. I STILL couldn't find a place to pull over. Also, in Atherton and other small towns, all the streets were narrow with parking on both sides of the street. I could hardly squeeze past cars coming from the other direction. I was sure I was going to have a major accident at some point. After Atherton I repeated the same pattern in other small towns for the next couple of hours.

Finally, I pulled into a small town called Hartshill. By this time, I had decided, "I just can't drive in the UK!" I found a small church parking lot and pulled in there. In the hope of avoiding an accident, I called the rental car company roadside assistance and asked if they could come and get the car and give me a ride back to the airport. They said they could only come if there was a problem with the vehicle.

It was now late in the afternoon and I was getting desperate. I walked to a tavern and asked a guy in there if somebody could take me and the car to the airport. He said, "There are people here who can help you, but they're all drunk." I did get the phone number for the "regional" police from him.

I walked back to the car, called the regional police, and asked if they could help me. They said, "We don't do that."

By now I was out of options. I thought, I'm going to have to spend the night in this parking lot. But I realized that sooner or later I was going to have to somehow get the car back to the airport. Having no other choice, I got back on the expressways and floundered around for a while, and actually got back to the airport! But when I got there I couldn't find the rental car return. I went through the airport, exited, came back again, went through again, and still couldn't find the rental car return. The second time I exited I got lost in Birmingham and couldn't find my way back to the airport.

It was now dark and I couldn't find a place to spend the night. I had to either pull up on the curb or find a parking lot. At last I stumbled upon a large parking lot by an ice rink. There were very few cars in it but there was a loud party going on in the ice rink. Even though I was parked in the middle of the large lot, several people leaving the party drove their cars right at me as if I were a target, only to veer off at the last possible second. I felt like a deer in the headlights. Shaken, I drove the car over behind a wall at the edge of the lot.

I realized I would have to spend the night there and try again in the morning. The back seat was too cramped for me to lie down, so I just sat behind the wheel. I finally dropped off to sleep and woke up in the morning feeling terrible.

I still didn't know where I was, but I started driving around looking for the airport. I saw a sign for the airport, but I couldn't get to the road because there was too much traffic. I tried to drive around the block to get back there. Instead, I ended up on a narrow street in a crummy part of town.

Then the low tire pressure light came on. I pulled over and saw the left rear tire had a screw in it and was leaking like crazy. I thought, *this is terrible*! Then I thought, *no, this is great*! I called roadside assistance and they said they would send someone. out.

Fifteen minutes later a guy named Sean showed up. He was great. He listened to my story and was really sympathetic. He fixed the tire and said I could follow him to the airport, but suggested we stop at a McDonald's around the corner, since I hadn't had anything to eat or drink for a while. Then we went to the airport.

When I returned the car, they charged me for the tire damage and for a scrape on the left front fender. I was surprised that that was the only part of the car I scraped. Fortunately, I didn't have to pay for the damage since I had been paranoid enough to buy full collision damage insurance.

Sean even gave me a ride to the Premier Inn at the airport where I had planned on staying the day before I flew out. A woman named Clare at the front desk was very helpful in getting me checked in. Sean even helped me take my luggage to my room. I tried to give him a tip or something, but he said I didn't need to. Later I told the story to Clare and she said, "He didn't have to do that."

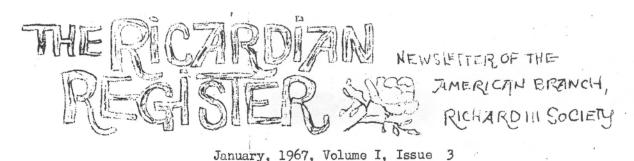
I stayed a couple of nights at the hotel, changed my flight, and flew home. Even though my trip did not turn out the way I had hoped, I was glad I was able to get home without demolishing the car or killing somebody.

~ ToC ~

From the Archive...

The January 1967 *Ricardian Register* is the third issue since the newsletter's inception. It is three letter pages long, formatted in two column and appears to be hand typed. This is pre-personal computer and unless the editor had access to (shudder) a main frame computer, or mini-computer (Digital Equipment Corporation made minis for the government and commercial enterprises and before Xerox introduced the Alto in 1973, for example), my mind boggles as to how painstaking it must have been for the editor to have created these newsletters. This article has three samples of what appeared in this *Register*: banner, IF MY UNCLE IS MY FATHER'S BROTHER..., and ANYBODY OWN A XEROX?.

Members may access this and other archived Registers on our website at Archived *Ricardian Registers* 1966-1991 on the Members Only page.



IF MY UNCLE IS MY FATHER'S BROTHER

A most interesting letter was received this month from Mrs. William Lichtenstein and a s it is of general interest, I am reprinting it in full.

Today I found my thoughts; turning to a subject which has always fascinated me. The curious family entanglements created by the limited arena for an advantageous marriage among: the great English families of the Middle Ages, and although I know the majority of our members are well versed in Richard's family tree, from the roots up, I thought some might find my private reflections interesting.

Particularly interesting to me was the awareness that Richard and his brothers, through their mother Cicely Neville, were as true descendants by blood of John, Duke of Lancaster as was Henry the Sixth, although the bar sinister rears its ugly head here as it does in the family tree of Henry Tudor. It must be remembered that John Beaufort, Earl of Sommerset, the ancestor of Margaret (Henry Tudor's' mother), was one of four children born to Katherine Swynford and John of Gaunt; during their illicit relationship and later declared legitimate by the Pope and Richard the Second, when the two married. John, Thomas—who became Earl of Exeter, Henry—later Cardinal Beaufort, and Joan, who became the second wife of Ralph Neville the fourth Baron Neville of Raby and mother of Cicely, Duchess of York.

I have always reflected with great interest, upon the fact that some tend to blame the Wars of the Roses on the (proliferation*) of Edward the Third, which may or may not have helped the situation along. When curiously enough the major combatants, King Henry the Sixth, the brothers York, and Henry Tudor were all either by maternal or paternal descent, the great grandsons, or as in the (+) of Henry Tudor, the great-great grandson of 'old John of Gaunt, time honoured Lancaster' to borrow Shakespeare's epithet.

Judith Lichtenstein

- * my guess as to the word, as much of it was illegible.
- + could not read any of the word

ANYBODY OWN A XEROX?

In our latest effort—revived—to arrange for reprints of the RICARDIAN, we need to know if, any member can beat the price of 10ϕ a sheet. At this price, the cost of the complete set is around \$30. I son't (sic) think that many of you would want to pay that, so to repeat the headline, DOES anyone out there own a Xerox (or equivilant (sic)).

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Judith Lichtenstein

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[Reviews first published in September Ricardian Register.]

Ricardian Reading

Myrna Smith

Truth is the daughter of search.—Arabic Proverb

As scarce as the truth is, the supply has always been in excess of the demand.—Josh Billings

Truth is the daughter of time, not of authority.—Sir Francis Bacon

WHEN TRUTH SLEEPS—C.J. Lock, Middletown, DE, 2018

This is an AU (Alternate Universe) novel, in which Richard III wins at the Battle of Bosworth. Henry Tudor escapes but is captured, to languish in the Tower of London. The time of the story runs from August of 1485 to January of 1486, with an Epilogue in the Real Fictional Universe. Why those particular dates? Well, that is the **Spoiler**. The outcome is hinted at, but not telegraphed.

Why doesn't Richard immediately execute Henry Tudor? The author doesn't believe that Richard was a "ruthless" man, but the story suggests that he wanted to prise some information out of his prisoner. We share Richard's puzzlement as we overhear his discussions with his friends and advisers.

Aside from Richard, the character most fully drawn is Elizabeth of York: a romantic, idealistic young woman, but also one who is willing to use her beauty, her considerable charm, and her sexuality to get what she wants. Maybe she and Henry were a good match after all.

This sub-genre of Ricardian fiction, as exemplified by novels by Joanne Larner, Matthew Lewis, and others, frequently take the long view of what English history would be like minus Tudors and find it a Golden Age. Ms. Lock takes a more nuanced view. It's hard to see how England could have avoided the religious wars of the 16th century, with or without Tudors.

As long as we are speculating, let's speculate for a moment on what might have happened if neither Richard nor Henry had won—that is, if one had died on the field, the other a little later of wounds or the sweating sickness. (Perhaps this is what the Duke of Buckingham was hoping for in 1483?) If the survivor, no matter how briefly, had been Richard, he would have been succeeded by his nephew John de la Pole, as John II, for whatever period of time. But suppose Henry had been the temporary survivor. He had no 'heirs of his body,' and had he died before Parliament met, who would have succeeded? Buckingham had a young son, but he was presumably under his father's attainder. Edward of Warwick? John, still? Well, sufficient unto the day were the troubles that actually did occur.

SEMPER FIDELIS: SQUIRE OF MIDDLEHAM—C.J. Lock, Middletown, DE, 2018

The story of Francis Lovell in the years from 1468 to 1471, no doubt the first of a trilogy, this covers frequently cultivated ground. There is some interest in the development of the friendship between Richard and Francis, and how they meet future allies, like Robert Brackenbury and James Tyrell. One caveat: Lovell is described as a few years younger than Richard, and a little older than the future Henry VII. He is rather *advanced* for his age.

There are guest stars from some of Lock's other novels. Caitlin Desmond, Richard's mistress, for example, is unrequitedly loved by Richard's squire. Caitlin is the heroine of a series of novels by Ms. Lock **DESMOND'S DAUGHTER**, the second book, opens in June of 1476. (I have not yet caught up with the first.) Caitlin is the Earl of Desmond's illegitimate daughter, lady-in-waiting to Cecily Neville and Anne Neville in turn, and the mother of Richard of Gloucester's two oldest children. There are a few little glitches, most not affecting the story: "mayhap" and "Jesu" are part of the dialogue, but so is "clamming up." Edward of Warwick is called George once. Edward IV's magnificent tomb is referred to in 1483; he had no such tomb. Thomas Howard, later Earl of Surrey and still later Duke of Norfolk, is depicted as being rather younger than he actually was, about Elizabeth of York's age. He was nearer in age to her father. But the story is an exciting and suspenseful one, in which Jasper Tudor rapes Caitlin—that's just for starters. A different explanation of what happened to the boys in the Tower is posited. Caitlin sneaks the young Duke of York out of the Tower, at Richard's request. Edward is taken to Ludlow and dies there.

Book III, **EVENTIDE**, carries the story past the battle of Bosworth Field, referred to here, correctly, as Redemore. There is a plot twist in having "Lambert Simnel" being actually the Earl of Warwick, the Earl in the Tower being a ringer. Caitlin marries Francis Lovell, though he already has a wife, who believes he is dead.

At one point in the story, Caitlin asks Elizabeth of York straight out "Do you love your husband?" Elizabeth replies simply: "He loves me."

Maybe they deserved one another. See the review of WHEN TRUTH SLEEPS, above.

Read not to contradict and confute, nor to believe and take for granted...but to weigh and consider.—Sir Francis Bacon.

RICHARD III: Brother, Protector, King-Chris Skidmore, Weidenfield & Nicholson, London, 2017

Mr. Skidmore does what I wish more historians would do, by giving a rough table of money values in the period of his history. One-pound sterling in 1480 would be equivalent to 505 in 2000; one shilling about 25 pounds, and one penny, about 2.50 pounds. He also gives some idea of the makeup of a noble household. In 1462, the young George of Clarence had four henchmen, one herald, two footmen, 76 pairs of shoes (I know he was a growing boy, but still...) and 91 "bonnets" ("hats" to us.)

But about the subject of his biography, Skidmore is somewhat more problematic. He seems to have made up his mind independently of the facts. For example, he recounts how Richard of Gloucester treated the Countess of Oxford 'shabbily,' threatening her with the dire fate of being moved to Middleham, where Richard himself lived. He is not the only historian to take this view, of course, but he may be the first to contend that "The King (Edward IV) stood by...having nothing to do with this." It seems unlikely that either Edward knew nothing about it, or that it could have been done without his tacit approval.

There were "...tensions between Richard and longstanding Northern noblemen, such as Henry Percy", which the author admits were perhaps natural. Skidmore has to acknowledge that many northerners favored Richard and sought his patronage but considers this was because they had 'an eye to the main chance.' Like the Croyland chronicler, the author finds fault with Richard for not punishing the Scots enough in the campaign of 1482. Yet he can suggest that this behavior was a facet of his "ambition" and "tyranny." Richard couldn't win—if he fought he was bad, if he didn't fight, he was bad!

What did Richard do with the lands he acquired by fair means or foul? Some of them he used to provide for religious foundations. "Instead of his lands and lordships being used for revenue, Richard chose to use the money for religious and political purposes. Any revenue obtained from Middleham was spent in retaining men in the local area." What a horrible person, giving his money away like that! In fact, Skidmore seems to believe Richard was going broke at this point in his life.

Chris Skidmore makes a serious error for an historian: thinking that as we know how things turned out, they must have known also, and that these things were meant to turn out as they did. Further, he pretends to know the motives behind all the various protagonists' actions, not just Richard's. Thomas Howard, who "escorted" Hastings to the Council meeting at the Tower, is here depicted as "ambushing" and "kidnapping" him.

Skidmore has no doubt that Edward was named as a bastard by Richard Shaa's sermon of June 22, which is reported by several sources. He adds, "But now (June 27) an entirely new basis for disinheriting Edward's children had been found." This was Bishop Stillington's claim of the pre-contract. Apparently, Richard believed Stillington and assumed that a church council would back him up. But why was another bishop, Lionel Woodville, staying at one of Buckingham's residences? Chris Skidmore calls this "bizarre" and claims (quoting Tudor chronicles) that it could only have been caused by learning Richard had killed his nephews. (Richard's, but also Lionel's). That wouldn't have been enough by itself, without Lionel's influence?

The author's biases show through in more ways than he is probably aware of. On page 315 he refers to "the king's attack against Henry Tudor." Shouldn't it be the king's defense against Henry Tudor's attack? Dorset, he says, "was caught taking a short cut across a field", as if this was somewhat unfair. Of course, maybe I'm reading too much into this simple statement. But when he brings up Queen Anne's funeral costing "only a few hundred pounds." I refer you to his own chart of equivalences, above. Even Croyland, whom he is happy to accept in other circumstances, says that she "was buried with honours no less than befitted the burial of a Queen."

In spite of the fact that he is a Conservative Member of Parliament, Skidmore obviously aimed this history at a particular segment of the population: the liberal/environmentalist/vegetarian group who will be shocked to learn

that "In 1488 [who was ruling then?] the condition of the New Forest found that 500 deer had been killed during Richard's reign by a group identified only as 'the northern men." What this has to do with anything is hardly explained, except it may be meant to prove that, forget about nephews, Richard must have been a beast, to kill poor little Bambi! That the author sees an underhanded, if not completely evil, motive behind every action of Richard and his followers, may involve a bit of projection. When it comes to politicians, after all, it takes one to know one.

Yet Chris Skidmore no doubt believes that he is an unbiased historian, and there are many that will agree with him. David Starkey, for example, calls this "exhaustively researched and scrupulously even-handed." Historian (?) Philippa Gregory comments "With forensic detail, Skidmore looks at sources as well as rumours to build a picture of the last Plantagenet monarch. What shines out from this modern biography is the author's attempt to be fair...." Most commentators agree that Skidmore is "readable." I'll give him that. But why? To what purpose?

A clever person solves a problem. A wise person avoids it.—Albert Einstein

THE COLOUR OF MURDER—Toni Mount, Made Global Publishing, 2018

It's dressed in Medieval clothing, but this is actually a classic detective story of the Golden Age, with many of the classic plot twists. One feels like greeting them as old friends: "Hello there, Locked Room. How have you been, Changed Will?" The true attraction, however, is renewing our acquaintance with our actual fictional old friends: Sebastian Foxley, illustrator/amateur detective, kindly, peace-loving, patient; his brother Jude, Coroner's deputy, who is everything Seb is not; the boy apprentices, and the new 14-year-old girl apprentice; Seb's wife Emily, who can be a bit testy at times, but truly loves him; Jude's sweetheart; and other citizens of London, including doctors, lawyers, business men and women, and nobles. No book can fully demonstrate what it was like to live in another time and place, but Ms. Mount's fiction and non-fiction come very close.

Along the way, the reader will find a possible solution to the mystery of "who done in the Duke of Clarence," as well as learning the symptoms of foxglove poisoning, painlessly. Painlessly to us, that is, not Sebastian.

Enjoy Sherlock Holmes, Dr. Fell, Mr. Monk? Add Goodman Foxley to your list. Highly recommended.

THE DEATH COLLECTOR—Toni Mount, Made Global Publishing, 2018

This is the result of an experiment by Ms. Mount with writing a Victorian melodrama, in the same serial form that many Victorian novels were written, though it is published here in one volume. She has succeeded perhaps beyond her dreams. The bad man is very, very bad, starting as a small bully, pinning insect specimens to boards without bothering to kill them humanely first, going on to murder his close relatives, and then teaching Jack the Ripper how to do it. He narrates the story in alternate chapters, with the others being told from the point of view of police detective Albert Sutton.

And what's wrong with a bit of melodrama? The Sherlock Holmes stories are basically melodramatic action-adventure stories, with the logical deduction being mainly a gimmick to draw the reader in. It forms only a small part of the stories themselves. Albert and his wife, Nell, have read these stories in <u>The Strand</u>, and decide to play Sherlock and Dr. Watson—or rather, the other way around. Nell is a former flower-seller, rescued by Albert from a workhouse. We would like to learn more of their courtship, and maybe we will, if and when future books in the series come out. Nell does a lot more than just being a good screamer and a terrible cook. Will she ever learn to make a decent breakfast? Who cares?

The author says that Albert Sutton was based on her father, whose given name was also Albert. If there seems to be a kinship with Sebastian Foxley, it may be because both characters have the same genesis. We can hope to look forward to seeing more stories about this Seb Foxley in a bowler hat and Tatterstall waistcoat, while still following the original Seb in doublet and hose.

Oh, and there is a cat, Blackstock, who is as good as a guard dog any day, and digs up a few important clues on his own.

It is generally admitted that with women the powers of intuition, of rapid perception, and perhaps of imitation, are more strongly marked than in man; but some, at least of these faculties are characteristic of the lower races.—Charles Darwin

RUE AND ROSEMARY—Mary Sturge Gretton, Hall the Printer Ltd., Oxford, 1935

The story of Katherine Gordon, mostly during the years of Henry VII's reign, and of their very strange relationship. He was surely attracted to her, as much for her intelligence as her beauty. (He is married to a "simpleton") He is gentle and patient with her, as he is with nobody else, except his "frail small daughter, Margaret." Katherine does try his patience at times, as she doesn't hold back from speaking her mind. It is suggested that Henry would have offered her denization, but he "realized that she would not accept that particular gift from the hands that had signed her Richard's (Perkin Warbeck's) death warrant." Perhaps it also had something to do with the fact that "denization" (naturalization) would have made her the King's subject, which neither of them wanted. Yet she 'was able to pardon all of [Henry VII's] doings save one. And of that unforgiven insult to the dead Richard III, she must think that, at Bosworth...he was drunk on his fortune."

After the death of the first Tudor king, Katherine continues to be a mentor to Henry VIII and his sisters, a sort of elder stateswoman who gives them the same good advice that their father and grandmother would have given. Often, they—especially Henry VIII—don't take it, and Katherine has cause to compare the young King unfavorably to his father. To be truthful, sometimes favorably as well, but on balance, she finds Hal rather foolish, especially when he dresses up in a cloth-of-gold sailor suit. Officially, Katherine serves as lady-in-waiting to Queen Catherine of Aragon and is a front-row observer of l'affaire Boleyn. She does not approve She also becomes a friend and patroness of Thomas More.

This is written in a rather ornate, but not specifically Medieval, fashion: "Never had the pair garden shown so dazzlingly fair as on the Sunday midday when the barge carrying More and his son-in-law drew alongside it." To more modern eyes, the attraction is the treatment of a very unusual, one might say odd-couple, relationship.

The difference between men and women is, that if given the choice between saving the life of an infant or catching a fly ball, a woman will automatically choose to save the infant, without even considering if there's a man on base.—Dave Barry

CECILY, DUCHESS OF YORK—J.L. Laynesmith, Bloomsbury Academie, London, 2017

This, the author tells us, is the result of twenty years of research on her subject, well annotated, with tables and genealogies. The family trees alone might well have taken up five years of that time. Even with all the tables, the complicated kinship patterns of the nobility at this period are sometimes hard to follow. Large families were the norm, but Ralph Neville's offspring by his two wives were unusually so, even though not all survived. Larger than normal, yes, but not freakishly so. Not only did all their surviving children marry into other noble families, but all of them had their own servants, supporters, stationary and traveling staff—and all of these had kin and affinities. It is little wonder that Laynesmith has to acknowledge that "Before 1483, Richard duke of Gloucester's relations with the Woodvilles seem to have been completely cordial." "Seemed to be" would be the qualifier, considering that their groups of retainers, et al, no doubt overlapped, and were the same people in some cases.

She adds, "However, the Woodvilles certainly did have powerful enemies elsewhere in the political community. Mancini implied that Henry duke of Buckingham's antagonism was due to loathing his childhood wife, the queen's sister..."

The Woodvilles did have more success in arranging family marriages than Cecily did. Perhaps with her daughters she was successful, but her sons all went their own way. The author examines what is known of Cecily's itinerary to see if she attended her daughter-in-law's more formal occasions (coronations, christenings, churchings, et al) and finds no outstanding pattern. She compares it with the same pattern of other European *grandes dames*, and sees no rules of etiquette pertaining in these cases. "Even if Mancini and More were right to assume that Cecily was initially angry at Edward's [marriage] this need not mean that the women loathed each other for the rest of their lives." Both had incentives to "make the best of things."

While Cecily's direct influence over her grown sons was limited, this is not to say she did not have indirect influence. Ms. Laynesmith believes that Elizabeth Woodville made a serious tactical error in going into Sanctuary with her family. "Richard's own childhood experience with Cecily had let him to expect a royal mother to prioritize the needs of whichever of her children were closest to the throne." His reaction to her taking her twenty-something son by her first marriage, the Marquess of Dorset, with her can be imagined. Cecily had set a high standard for motherhood, which Elizabeth could not, or would not, live up to. Laynesmith is generally sympathetic to Richard, and not just because he was Cecily's son.

The author goes into detail about Cecily's patronage of literature, and the books that she valued and left to her legatees. One of them came down in the family, to be owned by a man named John Jones—yes, his real name. He was the grandson of Cecily's grandson, Edward IV's illegitimate son, Arthur.

The author gives short shrift to the idea that Edward IV was illegitimate, by the way.

All in all, an interesting portrait of a strong and resilient woman, who was respected by kings from Henry VI to Henry VII. While she was canny enough not to stress her relationship with Edward IV and Richard III while a Tudor was on the throne, she was certainly capable of standing up for her rights, no matter who was the ruler. She actually left Henry VII properties in her will—properties which were in dispute in any case. Seems Cecily usually managed to get the last word! Like many female magnates of her time, Cecily was "lord and king" in her own lands and behaved accordingly.

Forgive your enemies, but never forget their names.—John Kennedy

THE HOUSE OF BEAUFORT: The Bastard Line that Captured the Crown—Nathan Amin, Amberly Publishing, Stroud, Gloucestershire, 2017

Nathan Amin is a Welsh-born historian of all things Tudor, but he does play fair with Richard III and his supporters, a favor many Ricardians would not return, with the possible exception of Mathew Lewis. The book covers the time-frame from the conception of the first Beauforts, (c. 1340) to about 1471, which leads me to believe there may be a further volume or volumes.

Mr. Amin runs into the same problems as the author of Cecily Neville's biography when it comes to family trees—it's more like a family thicket! He opts for what he calls "simplified" gemological charts, but can only go so far. It's not that there were so many Beauforts—only four in the original family- but they married into other noble families, such as the Hollands, the Percys, the Nevilles Joan Beaufort was at least partly responsible for the Neville baby boom. A more annoying problem was that they used the same Christian names over and over. Not till the fourth generation did they get daring and give a son the rather Frenchified name of Charles. Perhaps the author could have differentiated his subjects by number: John 1, Henry 2, etc., using Arabic numerals to distinguish them from Roman-numbered royalty. Perhaps it might be best to ignore the whole matter, as the presence of family charts may have the reader turning back to the front of the book every few pages.

When it comes to the actual meat of the author's presentation, he delivers it clearly and concisely. He is writing for laypersons, not academics, but he avoids "writing down," Sometimes he will speculate a little, but when there is so little information to be found, this can hardly be avoided. Amin can only say that Katherine Swynford seems to have been an ideal step-mother. We can't say dogmatically one way or the other, but the offspring of John of Gaunt's earlier marriages got on well with her, and vice versa. And the Beauforts were steadfastly loyal to their more legitimate half-siblings. Note: the original Beauforts were not automatically legitimized by the marriage of their parents. The Church would have fought their legitimization, as they were "gotten in double adultery." Parliament, however, could and did declare them legitimate, but they could also put conditions on the act of legitimization. The Beauforts always behaved as if they were as good as anybody and a great deal better than most, but did they really feel that way in their hearts? Could they have always been trying to prove something?

Call him a Devil's Advocate if you will, but Mr. Amie's histories will bear looking into.

You know what is a Dynasty?...It's when one Family or one gang rules a country till they get thrown out on their ear. That's a Dynasty.

We, at home, have what they call the Republican and the Democratic Dynasties. The old rulers passed out at death, ours pass out when found out.—Will Rogers

ALL ABOUT HISTORY BOOK OF THE TUDORS—Phillippa Grafton, Ed., Future Publishing Ltd, London, 2018

This is called by the publisher a "bookazine," which is an accurate name, because that is what it is, a book in slick-magazine form, with at least some of the virtues of both forms of literature. There are many charts, colorful illustrations, maps, etc. Foe example, what was on the bill of lading for a 200-man ship going to sea for a week? Among other things, 1400 gallons of beer, 200 rats, and 1 cat, usually either black or white. Want to compare Richard III and Henry VII as kings? The editors rate them with white and red roses, respectively, with Richard being well ahead on "battlefield performance," and Henry having a good lead on "dynastic record," which was mostly a matter of luck.

The authors even rate Henry VIII's wives, although on different criteria: heirs, length of reign, desirability, etc. They cover the period from the Battle of Towton in 1461 to the death of Elizabeth I. My principal criticism is of the illustrations. Those of Richard are based on the recreation of his skull, but Henry VII seems to be based on the actor Jacob Collins-Levy, with completely out-of-period facial hair. We don't need a caricature, but this is rather too matinee-idol.

A similar production from a few years ago is **ALL ABOUT HISTORY GREATEST BATTLES** (Jon White, Ed., Image Publishing, 2017) from Marathon to D-Day, with sidebars on "10 bloodiest battles" (including Towton), "25 greatest last stands," and "ten worst generals." Seem to have been a lot of them in World War I. I wish to bring up a point of order. Santa Anna may have been *un muy malo general*, but that's no reason to change his gender. His Christian name was Antonio, not Antonia. Otherwise, I can recommend these, especially for the illustrations (unfortunately non-credited), the battle maps, and the concise overview of the battles we all know, such as Gettysburg, and the ones we've never even heard of, if you are like me, such as Gaugamela. A criticism that applies to both bookazines is that the artists do not get enough credit, or indeed, any.

Play is the highest form of research.—Albert Einstein

THE ORDER OF THE WHITE BOAR—Alex Marchant, CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2017

This is aimed at young people, but is enjoyable also to a young person emeritus, such as your reviewer. It begins when York merchant's son Matthew comes to Middleham to be a page to the Duke of Gloucester, who is not in residence when he arrives. Matthew is befriended by a fellow-page, Roger, a girl, Alys, and the Duke's young son, Edward. They are all bullied by peewee-league bullies, led by a boy named Hugh. To form a protective league against him and his minions, the four of them form a 'pretend' Order of Chivalry, which they take quite seriously, with rules, ceremonies, and even a cipher.

The story takes place between Richard of Gloucester's Scottish expedition and the death of Edward IV in 1483. While there are incidents of interests, both to the characters at Middleham and in the wider historical picture, one can only feel that the greater part of the story is still to tell, and this is the case. The second book in the series, **THE KING'S MAN**, will be out soon. Perhaps our protagonists will find a use for that cipher.

Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.—Albert Einstein

SONS OF YORK—Lesley J. Nickell, Mereo Books, Cirencester, Glos, 2015

Janet Evershed, nee Wrangwysh, is of the same sturdy mercantile class as Matthew, although her mother was "of gentle blood." The Wrangwyshs are strivers, however, and will soon rise in the world. Janet is widowed early and resigns herself to being "sentenced to black" until she remarries. This is one detail about the book that doesn't ring true—we're in the 15th century, not the 19th. Otherwise, the author gives a very good picture of the milieu she has chosen to write about.

Janet will do business with the Duchess of York, running up garments for her younger children, and she will, despite her qualms of conscience, become the mistress of the Earl of March, the future Edward IV. The author does manage to keep them out of bed until past the middle of Chapter Four. It is suggested that she, not Elizabeth Woodville, was the real love of Edward's life, or maybe he just managed to make her believe that. He is certainly a charmer. The story follows their relationship over the years, as well as her relationship with the other members of Edward's family, and of her own. She is the sty who convinces George to return to his allegiance to his brother's cause, and she is the one who reveals to Richard where Anne Neville is hiding.

This is "The second volume of Sprigs of Broom." The third volume may never be written, as the writer is deceased. The last section of **SONS OF YORK** gives a hint as to what it might have been. It is titled <u>The Pretender</u>, and the next-to-last is <u>The Princes</u>. Janet and Edward's long-awaited son is named Peter, having been born at the time of the feast of St. Peter. He is not happy with the life of a merchant, and while still in his early teens, runs away from home. Janet is distraught, of course, but Edward is not too worried. He has many other children, legitimate and illegitimate. He eventually convinces Janet to leave the boy to God. When she does meet him again, at the court of Margaret of Burgundy, she hardly seems to be thankful that he has survived the dangers of being a youthful runaway. After all, he is only three years older than his cousin, Edward of Middleham.

Though King Richard doesn't approve of her lifestyle, he does trust her, and assigns her to take his (formerly) royal nephews to the low countries, where they will be safe. (Note: not to Margaret's court, which would be the

first place anyone would look.) Edward is not depicted as being sickly here, though he is thin, and it is hinted that he has "outgrown his strength." But he is lively and active, until he comes down with a bad cold, which develops into fatal pneumonia. Young Richard ("Dickon") stays with Janet as her apprentice, always being the more practical and adaptable of the two.

This is a very plausible solution to the mystery of what happened to the Princes. If the author had been able to finish the trilogy, she might have come up with a plausible explanation of how Peter ("Perkin") managed to thrive on his own. Interesting, at any rate.

Hold the fort. I am coming!—Willilalm Tecumseh Sherman, 1864

Cogley: Don't you like books?

Kirk: I like them fine, but a computer takes less space.—Captain James T. Kirk, Star Trek

I will be coming back next session, wind, weather, and family health permitting, and if the supply of Ricardian books (pro- or anti-) holds out, either in print or bytes. Adieu for now!

~ ToC ~

Continue to next page for "ex libris," followed by "Contacts" and "Membership Application/Renewal" form.



ex libris

Rare and delightful books from the non-fiction library



Annual Report from the Non-Fiction Library–[First published at the 2018 GMM.

In 2017-18, our Non-Fiction Library continued to grow as a credible source for fifteenth century medieval research and as a repository for books published on the subject of Richard III, his family, and his contemporaries. We acquired additional primary sources, as well as recently-published biographies of Richard III's father, mother, and sister Margaret. We try to stay abreast of anything that concerns the Wars of the Roses and other topics pertinent to our time period of interest. The library also successfully completed the project to digitally scan and upload its collection of *Ricardian Registers/Newsletters*, which date back to the founding of the American Branch in the 1960s. All those are now available to view under the "Members" section of our website. Hard copy backups will be retained, and we have already offered excess duplicates to members for the price of postage. A handful of members responded, and with no requests being received in the past 6 months, we will be disposing of duplicate *Registers, Ricardians*, and *Bulletins* on January 1, 2019. The Non-Fiction Libarian would like to thank Cheryl Greer, Marietta Shafer, Gilda Felt, and Elisabeth Lee for donating materials.

The following were acquired by the non-fiction library in 2017-2018:

- Chris Skidmore, "Richard III: Brother, Protector, King"
- Edward L. Meek (ed.), "The Calais Letterbook of William Lord Hastings (1477) and Late Medieval Crisis Diplomacy 1477-83"
- Peter Hammond, "The Children of Richard III"
- Amy License, "Red Roses: Blanche of Gaunt to Margaret Beaufort"
- Anthony Musson & Nigel Ramsey (eds.), "Courts of Chivalry and Admiralty in Late Medieval Europe"
- Gerald Prenderghast, "Richard III and the Princes in the Tower"
- Hollie L. S. Morgan, "Beds and Chambers in Late Medieval England"
- Susan Powell, "The Birgittines of Syon Abbey"
- J. L. Laynesmith, "Cecily Duchess of York"
- Harry Schnitker, "Margaret of York: Princess of England, Duchess of Burgundy"
- Nathan Amin, "The House of Beaufort: The Bastard Line that Captured the Crown"
- K. L. Clark, "The Nevills of Middleham: England's Most Powerful Family in the Wars of the Roses"
- Kathryn Warner, "Richard II-A True King's Fall"
- Matthew Lewis, "Richard, and Duke of York"
- Noel Fallows (trans.), "Ramon Llull's The Book of the Order of Chivalry"
- Matthew Ward, "The Livery Collar in Late Medieval England and Wales: Politics, Identity and Affinity"
- Nicholas Orme, "From Childhood to Chivalry: The education of the English kings and aristocracy 1066-1530"
- Ruth Mazo Karras, "Sexuality in Medieval Europe Doing Unto Others"
- John Ashdown-Hill, "The Private Life of Edward IV"

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