



Vol. 2 No. 2

December 2016

Ricardian Chronicle

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

To start the holiday season and this newsletter, please enjoy this musical gift by and from Ian Churchward of the Legendary Ten Seconds

THE BOARS HEAD

BRING OUT THE BOARS HEAD
POUR ME SOME WINE
EAT, DRINK, BE MERRY
AT THIS CHRISTMAS TIME

A BREW OF ALE AND SPICES
TO DRINK TO YOUR GOOD HEALTH
AS YOUR GOOD AND NOBLE LORD
THIS DAY I'LL SHARE MY WEALTH

DRINKING, SINGING, DANCING
IN MY CASTLE HALL
YOU ARE ALL WELCOME
I WELCOME YOU ALL

BRING OUT THE BOARS HEAD
AND THE CHRISTMAS PIE
EAT, DRINK, BE MERRY
AND RAISE YOUR TANKARDS HIGH

DRINKING, SINGING, DANCING
IN MY CASTLE HALL
YOU ARE ALL WELCOME
I WELCOME YOU ALL

EATING, DRINKING, DANCING
IN MY CASTLE HALL
YOU ARE ALL WELCOME
I WELCOME YOU ALL

THE FEAST OF SAINT NICHOLAS
TO THE TWELFTH NIGHT
CHRISTMAS IN MY GREAT HALL
TO FILL YOU WITH DELIGHT

DRINKING, SINGING, DANCING
IN MY CASTLE HALL
YOU ARE ALL WELCOME
I WELCOME YOU ALL



Click [Legendary Ten Seconds poster](#) to listen to The Boars Head

(Length is about three minutes.)

[Facebook](#)

EATING, DRINKING, DANCING
IN MY CASTLE HALL
YOU ARE ALL WELCOME
I WELCOME YOU ALL

Contents

2016 General Membership Meeting	3
Photos of Denver, Red Rocks, and Buffalo Bill's Grave Site	7
Heraldry	7
Discussion of Keynote Address	12
Ricardian Reviews	12
Sharon Kay Penman Interviews Joan Szechtman	20
Michigan Chapter	22
Ex-libris	23
Seasons Greetings from The Richard III Society	24
Board, Staff, and Chapter Contacts	25
Membership Application/Renewal Dues	26

Format note: Highlighted ~ ToC ~ is the link back to the Table of Contents.

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

2016 General Membership Meeting

(Shout out to Dawn Shafer for providing the text and some of the photos. Thanks also to Ian Churchward for additional photos and for the embedded music.)

The American Branch held its 2016 General Membership Meeting September 23-25 in Denver, Colorado. Dawn Shafer and Jackie Hudson of the Colorado Chapter outdid themselves in organizing an outstanding meeting. Sixty one people attended, making it the best attended meeting in quite some time.



Dawn Shafer contributed this group photo taken by Springhill Suites staff. Christina and Dominic Smee are in the right front of the photo, and Oliver the Wolfhound is on the front left.

~ ~ ~

Sally Keil got the ball rolling at the Friday evening reception with the first round of the Ricardian Jeopardy game. Attendees also had the chance to peruse the contents of the Sales Table and the items donated for the raffle.



Waiting for Ricardian Jeopardy to start (photo by Joan Szechtman).

2016 General Membership Meeting Continued

Sessions:

After breakfast on Saturday Sally Keil presented a very informative talk on “Heraldry, Blazonry and the Plantagenets”. It was a well-illustrated talk with many interesting insights into heraldry as it applied to the Plantagenet family.



(More on Heraldry follows GMM overview, [p7](#). Photo by Joan Szechtman)

Susan Troxell is the fortunate owner of a replica of the Middleham Jewel and made a fascinating presentation on the Jewel, the symbolism of its design and of the different elements in its composition. She also sketched the process of the making of the replica. Members were especially appreciative of the chance to examine the replica itself.



Jewel front—



Photos by Joan Szechtman

Business Meeting:

Outgoing Chairman Jonathan Hayes led the Branch’s business meeting. After the reports of the outgoing officers were approved, the new Board officers were announced:

Chairman, Dr. Compton Reeves,
Vice Chair Deborah Kaback,
Immediate Past Chairman, Jonathan Hayes,
Membership Chair, Cheryl Greer,
Treasurer, Joanne Smith, and
Secretary, Emily Ferro.

2016 General Membership Meeting Continued

In addition to the elected board, two staff positions were appointed to replace the outgoing officers:

Research Officer, Dr. Gilbert Bognor, and

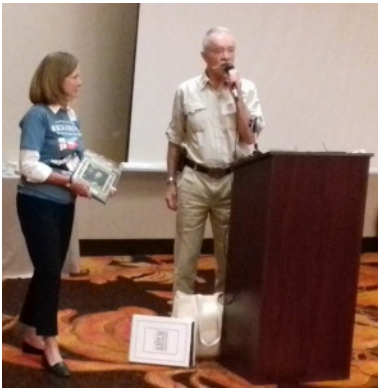
Bob Pfile, Sales Officer.

The next General Membership Meeting will be hosted by the Michigan Chapter in Detroit October 5-7, 2018.

The membership voted to establish a new award, Plantagenet Angel, to recognize significant financial contributors to the American Branch to distinguish it from the existing Dickon Award, which is for outstanding services to the Branch.

Bob Pfile, Sales Manager, requested approval of payment of a storage fee for sales inventory; which was approved.

Chairman, Compton Reeves, proposed that our Branch sponsor an academic conference. This was approved in principle—the details to be worked out later.



The business meeting ended with the presentation of the Dickon Award for outstanding services to the American Branch to Sally Keil, Membership Chair, for bringing membership services into the 21st-century.

Keynote

After lunch, Dominic Smee gave the keynote address about his scoliosis and his participation in the study of how scoliosis would have affected Richard III in battle. His candid presentation included video clips of his training and vignettes such as the additional support the medieval saddle provided him versus a more modern saddle. Dominic brought with him some of the armor used in the study and the members appreciated the opportunity to examine it.



X-Ray of Dominic Smee's spine compared to Richard III's remains

2016 General Membership Meeting Continued

Slide illustrates supposition that Alexander the Great and Tutankhamen also had scoliosis.



Samples of armor made for Dominic Smee



(Detailed notes by Anne Easter Smith follow GMM overview, [p 12.](#))

Banquet

Evening brought the traditional banquet and the chance for members to don their medieval finery. Noble lords and ladies were much in attendance, perhaps rivaling Richard's 1484 Christmas celebrations in magnificence! The Legendary Ten Seconds provided musical entertainment which was enthusiastically received.



2016 General Membership Meeting Continued

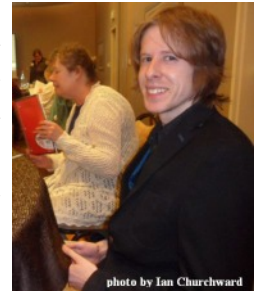
Sunday Events

The Sunday morning presentation was also of great interest as Christina Smee discussed her book “The Rose of Middleham” and her participation in the Living History Group at Bosworth along with her son, Dominic, who had acquired some Western gear in Denver and looked ready to participate in the next cattle drive to Dodge City.

The final round of the Ricardian Jeopardy game saw Ian Churchward of The Legendary Ten Seconds the winner, thereby firmly cementing his Ricardian status.

Touring Denver and Environs

Before and after the meeting, Dawn and Jackie had the privilege of escorting Dominic and Christina Smee and the members of the band The Legendary Ten Seconds, Ian and Elaine Churchward and Rob Bright around Colorado. This was the first visit to the U.S. for most of them, so excitement levels were very high. To get a flavor of the American West, we visited the Buffalo Bill grave and museum, and as mentioned before, Dom and Rob acquired cowboy attire in Denver as well. To see some of the geological history of the Rocky Mountains, we visited the Red Rocks Amphitheater’s spectacular rock formations, and the dinosaur footprints at Dinosaur Ridge. Then it was up to Breckenridge to see the continental divide and the scenery of the high mountains. Finally, we visited Rocky Mountain National Park for beautiful fall foliage and saw some elk, then to Estes Park and the Stanley Hotel which is the inspiration for Stephen King’s The Shining. Dominic took many, many pictures.



Photos of Denver, Red Rocks, and Buffalo Bill’s Grave Site

photos by Joan Szechtman



~ ToC ~

Heraldry

Sally Keil

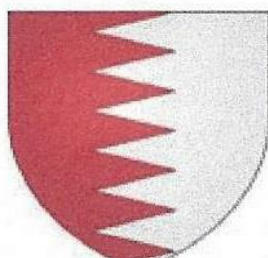
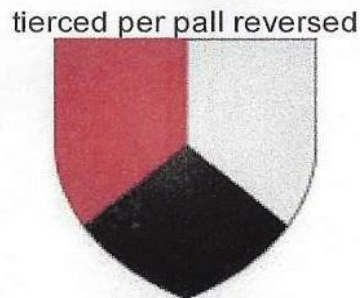
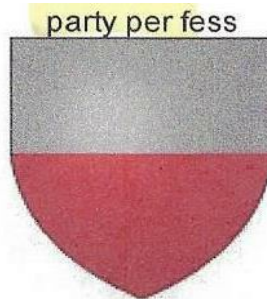
"Heraldry is an ancient craft, but still very much alive in current day England. My talk discussed the primary responsibilities of the herald, how the position came into being, and today's current members of the College of Arms who carry responsibility for many things including managing royal events such as weddings and coronations, researching pedigrees, and designing and authorizing arms. One of the key jobs of heralds back in Richard's day was to be able to identify members of the peerage by the arms they bore, as well as control the issuance and design of those arms according to the pedigree of the bearer. One very arcane skill is blazonry: 'to blazon' is to be able to describe very specifically and with great precision the graphic image of someone's arms. A lesson in basic blazonry was given, introducing everyone to the fundamental elements of a blazon. We blazoned all of the arms of the Plantagenet kings of England!"

The following handout illustrates the main points of the talk where we were shown how to read an armorial.

Heraldry, Blazonry & the Plantagenets

Blazonry step#1: Describe the field

Field Divisions - 2 (3) colors on the field 'Party per....'



Lines of division (all shown 'per fess')

per fess embattled



per fess nebuly



per fess engrailed



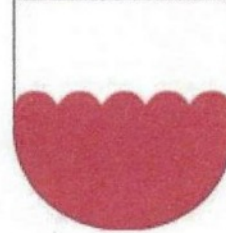
per fess potenty



per fess dovetailed



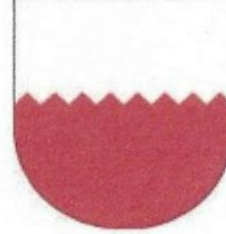
per fess invected



per fess wavy



per fess indented



Field divisions as a pattern

chequy



lozengy



fusilly



bendy of 6



fretty



Goutty (Semé of Gouttes)



Semé of roses



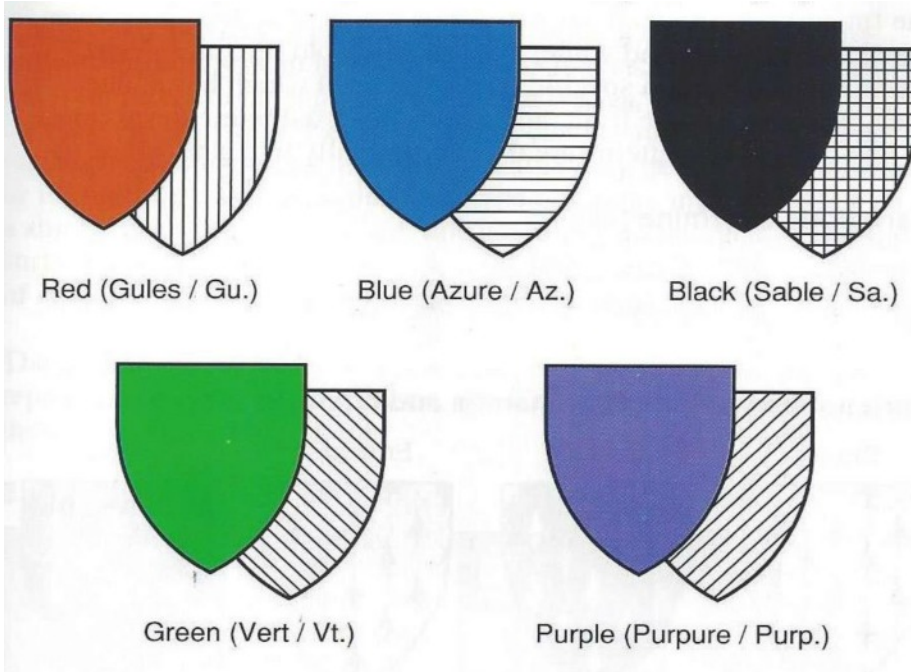
Semé of fleur de lys



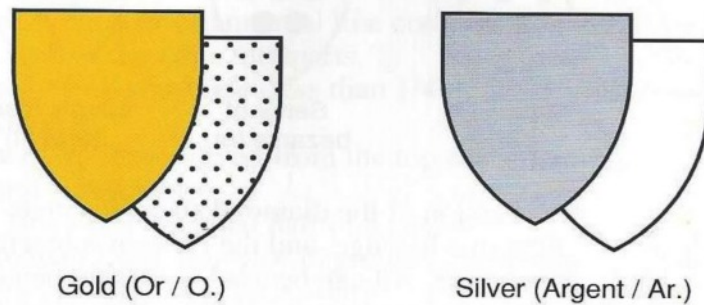
Semé of fleur de lys



Tinctures - Primary Colors



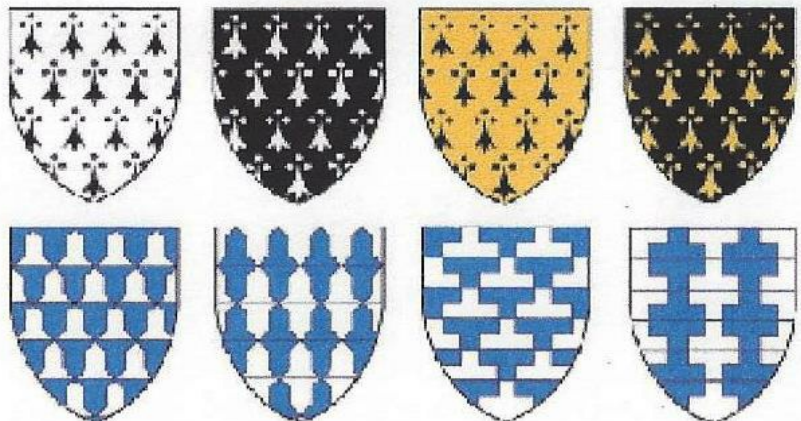
Tinctures - Metals



Tinctures - Furs

Ermine
Ermines
Erminois
Peau

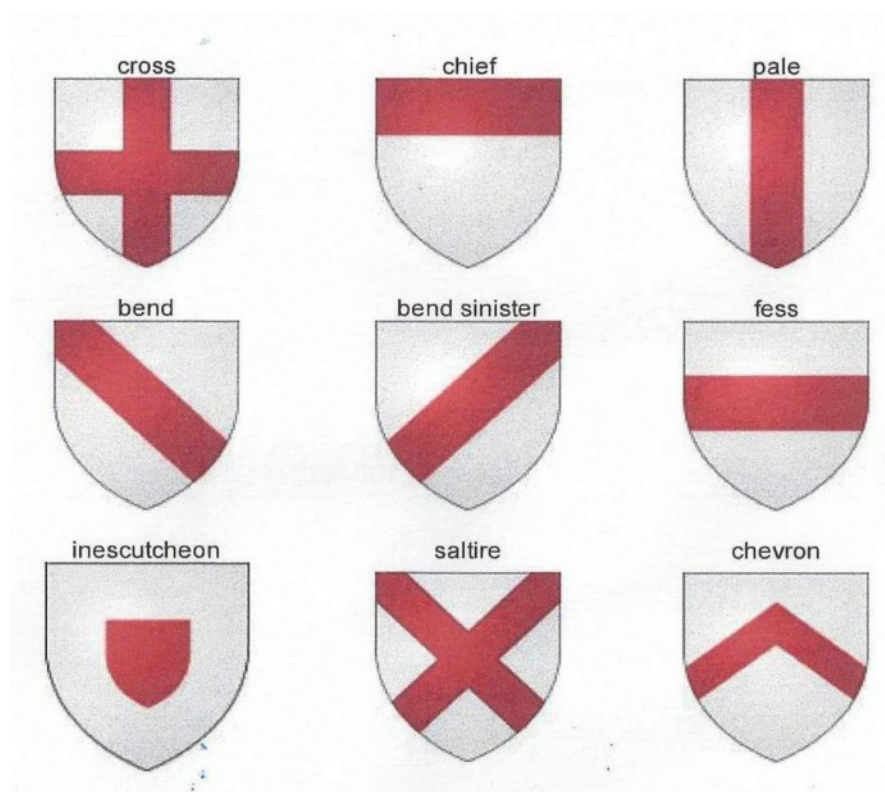
Vair
Countervair
Potent
Counterpotent



Vair and Potent are common: Countervair and Counterpotent relatively rare.

Blazonry step#2: Describe the Charges that lie on the field

Ordinaries - Primary Charges



Other charges: crosses, eagles and lions are the most popular

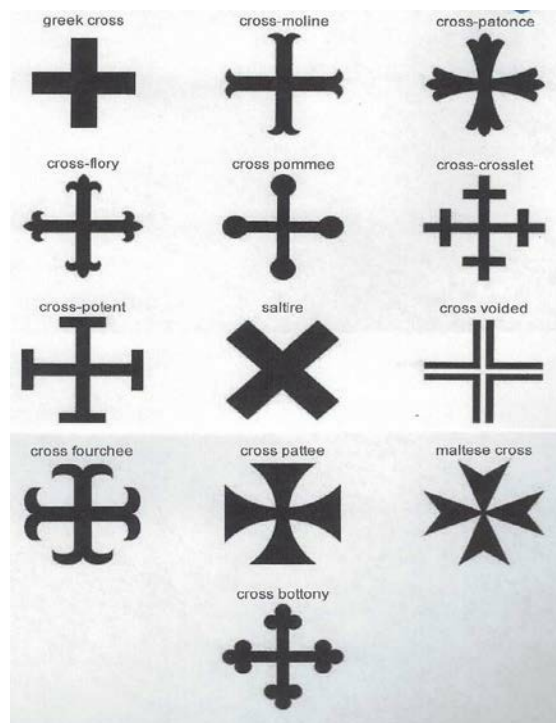
- Rampant** = rearing up facing to viewer's left, on left rear paw
- Courant** = running all four paws on the air
- Salient** = leaping with forepaws in air, rear on the ground
- Passant** = striding to viewer's left with right forepaw off ground
- Statant** = standing in profile facing left, all 4 paws on the ground
- Couchant** = lying down facing left, head raised
- Guardant** = with one of the above, facing front
- Reguardant** = facing backwards
- Dormant** = lying down facing left, head down eyes closed



Passant
guardant



Bull statant



(Return to GMM Overview, [p 4](#))

Discussion of Keynote Address

Anne Easter Smith

Our keynote speaker was the delightfully self-deprecating Dominic Smee. Dom and his mother are reenactors with *Les Routiers de Rouen*. Dominic was involved with this group long before he became a celebrity as Richard's "double" for the BBC film "Resurrecting Richard."

He told us how his scoliosis is the same as Richard's in that it is the adolescent onset, idiopathic, thoracic type, and that the curve is to the right. However, Dom's curve begins at the 4th thoracic vertebrae and Richard's at the 3rd, meaning the spine would straighten at the hips and Richard would not have limped. This allowed Richard to have better hip flexibility than Dom, and his breastplate would have sat better on his hips. He said muscle fatigue sets in a lot sooner than other people, especially sitting in a saddle with heavy armor.

Dom talked mostly about the amazing experience of making the film and being trained by Tobias Capwell. He showed out-takes of some of the scenes as well as those in the film, and he was pleased with how much he could accomplish in such a short time. He explained how a horse can feel if a body is asymmetrical on it and would veer off when Dom was on it. It needs to make adjustments, which takes time. Thus Richard and White Surrey would have had quite a bond.

He brought along the breastplate that was made for him for the film and a helmet, which was incredibly heavy. Looking through the visor, one can only see a tiny area of what faced a knight in battle. Also, Dom remarked that all the padded vestments worn under the armor made it incredibly hot and sweaty inside the harness, and so as soon as one could, a knight would need to take everything all off for fear of hypothermia.

Dom gave generously of his time throughout the conference, answering random questions and being available for photos. It was his first time in the US, and he was enjoying Colorado immensely, his said, courtesy of his hosts Dawn Shafer and Jackie Hudson.

(Return to GMM overview, [p 6](#))

~ ToC ~

Note: The following reviews were originally published in the September 2016 *Ricardian Register*.

Ricardian Reviews

Myrna Smith

...like so many book reviewers, [Cosmo] had a distressing tendency to set everybody right about everything. Strong men had often hidden behind trees when they saw Cosmo coming.—P.G. Wodehouse, A Few Quick Ones.

In which the present reviewer tries to set everyone right...

Richard III: A Ruler and His Reputation—David Horspool, 2015, Bloomsbury Press, New York and London

If it was Mr. Horspool's intent to provide a 'balanced' view of Richard III, he starts off wrong. On page one, he analyzes Richard portrait thus: "Here is a picture of nervous energy, and of gnawing conscience." Funny, all I see is a slight outdoorsman's squint. He later quotes Nicholas von Poppalu, who saw Richard in the flesh, not a portrait. "Apologists for Richard used to note that von Poppalu made no mention of any deformity... The findings that Richard suffered from quite severe scoliosis, which would have made his shoulders appear uneven, point to something different about von Poppalu's remarks. He clearly noted something unusual about the king's appearance with the contrast of delicacy and strength that he pointed out." Note first the strawman. Many Ricardians, including Paul Murray Kendall, thought that he might have had uneven shoulders, though not knowing the cause. But since they didn't know about his scoliosis before anybody could know about his scoliosis that now proves how stupid they were. Second, the fact that von Poppalu did not notice a deformity is adduced as proof that he must have noticed one! Then he casts doubt on von Poppalu's report altogether: "...the fact he mentioned that their meeting took place in Pontefract rather than Middleham, where Richard was known to have been staying... is a sign that he wasn't a stickler for accuracy." No, it merely indicates he was a foreigner who was not conversant with English geography. Horspool then goes on to commit this howler: "It may seem strange to argue that a man who was killed before he reached his thirty-second birthday was a born survivor, but given the fact that two of his older brothers had died violently, he must have learned to be one." Horspool thus feels justified in depicting Richard as a Protean character, changing as necessary. Even his birthdate. He was two months short of his 33rd birthday at Bosworth Field, not less than 32. This could have been determined simply by checking Wikipedia.

To his credit, Horspool does dispose of the argument that the marriage of Richard and Anne Neville was “incestuous” as claimed by Michael Hicks. He does not find any signs of having a guilty conscience regarding Clarence in Richard’s founding of chantries. Nor does he find the death of George Neville to be suspicious, as Terry Breverton does, though he does think Richard may have been aware of “a life-threatening illness” some time before. There is no proof that George had such an illness, nor, for that matter, that he died in an accident. Either assumption is just that—an assumption. The author admits that “In those months [before 1483] Richard was engaged in the sort of pursuits that would have assured him a relatively minor, but perfectly honourable, place in the nation’s history.”

Though he shows some effort to try to be fair in these cases, in many others he makes assumptions that tend to Richard’s guilt, without apparently being aware that they are assumptions, not facts. For example, in the Countess of Oxford affair, Horspool admits that some of the charges may have been exaggerated, and were certainly belated. “It is tendentious to argue, as one reputable historian has done, that ‘the man who maltreated the frail old Countess of Oxford was *potentially* capable of murdering the Princes in the Tower.’ Yes, and a man who hadn’t maltreated her was *potentially* capable of doing so too.” By this argument, I could be considered *potentially* capable of being involved in the assassination of JFK, because I had not committed any other crime!

Another example: “Richard’s appointment [as chief justice of Wales]...was made during the minority of Herbert’s heir...who was three years younger than Richard...but there was no guarantee that Richard’s role would not be made permanent at his expense later.” So Richard can justifiably be condemned for something he *could* have done, but did not actually do? (William Herbert served Richard faithfully, and even became his son-in-law.) In another context, the fact that Richard paid for lands that he already held is made to somehow sound nefarious.

The close ties between Richard and the city of York were, to a large degree, Horspool thinks, a matter of the city knowing on which side its bread was buttered. However, he also depicts the duke as very much a hands-on magnate, even involving himself in a dispute about church pews.

Regarding Richard’s attempt to legislate justice, Horspool states: “Historians have debated the effectiveness of Richard’s response, but there is no doubt that the intentions behind them were sensible and just; these were no mere populist gestures.” But he does find ‘populist gestures’ elsewhere, e.g. writing of the laws in English (“...how much statute law formed the reading matter of the average English subject...?”) The case for Richard as a disinterested legislator is more difficult to make with his measures against foreigners, the less palatable side of the pro-English agenda.” What a pity Richard and his contemporaries couldn’t look ahead 500 years to see what the attitudes of 20th- and 21st century historians were going to be, and adjust their actions accordingly!

“We still can’t read Richard’s mind,” yet he purports to do just that. Horspool does not necessarily believe that Richard was aiming at the crown, even when he seized the young king from Rivers “On another page: “We can only ever make educated guesses at Richard’s state of mind...it cannot have failed to occur to him that he *could* (Horspool’s italics) launch an attempt on the throne....*perhaps* (mine) he decided to see how the protectorship played out...It seems likely that more than one side of the argument is valid.”

He does give a somewhat more balanced view of the Battle of Bosworth Field: “The additional recruits that Henry made on his progress through Wales were not the result of a spontaneous flocking to his colours...The lack of support [for Richard] before Bosworth can be conceded, though the short time between Henry’s landing and the battle could account for many absences. But on the field, it may be a tactical miscalculation rather than a failure of moral leadership that really let Richard down.”

Regarding the bones: after quoting a Westminster Abbey spokeswoman about the bones in the urn (“...the mortal remains of two young children, widely believed since the 17th-century to be the princes in the tower, should not be disturbed.”), Horspool goes on to claim: “the most that we can say is that the possibility that they are the remains of Edward V and Richard of York, and that they died while Richard was king, (which as both their sovereign and the man entrusted with their care, at least makes him partly culpable for their deaths), have not been disproved by the various scientific attempts to make their bones speak.” One: there have not been various attempts—only one, in 1933. Two: Isn’t this another example of Bertrand Russell’s teapot?

Bertrand Russell’s teapot was defined by that philosopher like this: “If I were to suggest that between the Earth and Mars there is a china teapot revolving about the sun...nobody would be able to disprove my assertion, provided I was careful to add that the teapot is too small to be revealed even by our most powerful telescopes. But if I were

to go on to say that, since my assertions cannot be disproved, it is intolerable presumption on the part of human reason to doubt it, I should rightly be thought to be talking nonsense.” Horspool seems to suggest that is what Ricardians do, but aren’t three fingers pointing back at himself?

This could go on for pages, and did in my original draft. But I can’t resist adding a few more examples of convoluted reasoning and inaccurate facts.

“She (Elizabeth “Jane” Shore) was a rare example of an independent woman who apparently did not rely on marriage to secure her place in society.” A mistress is an independent woman? Seems to me she was even more dependent on a man than a wife, as she had no legal protection.

“Henry Tudor had emerged as a serious threat in France, albeit in Brittany.” Brittany was not a part of France at this point, and Henry could not be in two places at the same time.

“Urswick was immediately sent to the French court to ask whether they would receive Henry, a request that Anne of Beaujeu [the regent] enthusiastically accepted.” We have no idea of her state of mind.

“Papal dispensation could be secured [for a marriage between Richard and Elizabeth of York], as happened later in the century for Joanna of Naples and her nephew Ferrante, who were related in the same degree (she was his aunt.)” If he was her nephew, of course she was his aunt.

Even Thomas Howard, son of one of Richard’s most prominent supporters, “managed to manoeuvre his way into Henry’s affections, and after three years imprisonment, was restored to his title.” No, not until the reign of Henry VIII and after Howard had won the battle of Flodden Field.

There are some flashes of wit: “Subscriptions to a Duke of Buckingham Society would not, one suspects, raise enough for a dinner, let alone an excavation.” And: “Historians tend to enjoy demolishing other historians’ cases to make their own.” Also: “...anyone who admits to an interest in, let alone in writing a book about Richard III, consigns himself to a bombardment of Olivier impersonations. Nobody offers an Ian McKellan...an Al Pacino.”

A personal preference: It would have made for much easier reading if Horspool had transliterated the Middle English of his chroniclers into modern spelling, after duly informing us that he was doing so. There are notes and a bibliography, but NO INDEX.

I suppose there is no wilder Indian than an American publisher when he gets off the reservation. Relieved for the nonce of the nauseous daily task of interviewing American authors, most of them wearing horn-rimmed spectacles, he has an exhilarating sense of freedom. He expands. He lets himself go....in a few short hours Russell Clutterbuck got self and guest thrown out of three grillrooms and a milk bar...—ibid

Bosworth 1485—Michael Jones, Pegasus books, NY, 2015

This is a new edition of the book first published some years ago, incorporating additional material, for some of which Jones himself was responsible, as recounted in *The King’s Grave*. His new introduction depicts Richard as a “confident and aggressive commander” at Bosworth Field, contrary to Tudor propaganda, accepted unthinkingly by many historians. Though the re-issue has an American publisher, British spelling has been kept. Something that should have been changed is the reference to Richard’s bones having been lost after the dissolution of the monasteries, or thrown into the river. We now know that they were not, and this should have been updated in the text. He does provide notes, maps, genealogies, and a full index.

In the introduction to the original book, A.J. Pollard wrote: “What Jones has rebuilt is not the truth...of what really happened, or what Richard’s contemporaries knew to be the truth, or what they even believed to be the truth...[he] has crafted a marvelously imagined recreation” And that is what it is, with emphasis on ‘imagined.’ The subtitle to the original book was *The Psychology of a Battle*. Jones does give a good overview of that—geography not so much. The presumed location of the battle has changed over time, and might change again. Battle of Witherley, perhaps? You’d think they would have paid more attention.

Michael Jones is at his best when discussing the psychology of battles and the psychology of soldiers in battle. For this, he relies to a great extent on the writings of Commynes, who had first-hand experience, realizing both how an adrenaline high could cause someone “to forget to be afraid,” yet at another time, to just try to stay out of the way, or to run. Commynes does not condemn them. It was difficult for any soldier to know what was going on in another part of the battlefield, and it would be amazing to a modern soldier that Medieval and Early Modern combatants sometimes took breaks in an encounter, either by mutual consent, or on a pre-arranged signal. Well, wielding a heavy sword does get tiring.

But most of the account is not about the battle, but about Richard III. Jones sees him as having something of a father fixation. Would Richard really have a clear memory of his father, who died when he was seven? “A mythology is bigger than a memory, and Richard grew up in its shadow...” In his final charge at Bosworth, “Richard sought out his opponent on the field of battle, seeing the engagement not just as a clash of armies but as a duel between two champions. In this the son would rekindle the flame of his father’s memory with his crowning marital achievement.” Is this how Richard felt, or is it the thoughts that Michael Jones is putting in his mind? “It is hard for a modern audience to enter a world where the unbroken line of legitimacy, the transmission of the essence of a family’s identity, was of such paramount significance. But if we do enter it, we encounter a powerful yet disturbing value system in which seemingly unacceptable action may become a cruel necessity.” Yet, Richard, the strict legitimist, faithfully served the brother he knew to be a bastard (because his mother told him so) for years.

Richard, says Jones, was influenced not only by his father’s memory, but by his mother’s personality, and he does not put a very favorable light on this. A bit of a queen bee, to put it politely. Much—too much—is made of the incident when Duchess Cecily threw a hissy fit when informed of her son Edward’s marriage to Elizabeth Woodville, threatening to name him as illegitimate, with no right to the throne. She is depicted as telling her son, in effect: “How can you demean your royal blood by marrying this...this...low-born widow? And you are not so royal yourself, since Richard Plantagenet wasn’t your father!” One can imagine what Edward would have to say to that.

What is the source for that conversation? Why, Sir Thomas More. True, he was only a child at the time, but he was informed by Elizabeth (Jane) Shore, who got the story from Edward IV in person. More, who was so strict that he would not allow his male and female servants to speak to each other unless absolutely necessary, was a chum of Mistress Shore? In any case, this is third-hand evidence, prone to being embellished or edited along the way.

What was Cecily’s motive for traducing her own reputation? Simply the desire to see her one remaining son on the throne? “It is not implausible that discomfort with that fateful act, back in Rouen...may have caused Cecily to lash out at the sexual misconduct of others.” This is known as the logical error of ‘begging the question:’ assuming something not proven, and perhaps incapable of proof, as if it were fact, and building an argument on it.

Richard is, of course, guilty. “A decision by Richard to put the princes to death still remains the most likely outcome...he ordered them to be killed...sometime in August 1483. This grim scenario fits with the only account offering a date for the boys’ deaths, the reconstruction made by Sir Thomas More...” who Jones admits was hardly a firsthand witness. And certainly Thomas Cromwell, whom Jones also calls into court, is an even less reliable witness.

Yet Jones does admire his subject. He sums up in the last paragraph of the book: “Here, instead of the evil loner, we glimpse a Richard who could be the flawed, but ultimately tragic hero of the story...The tragic heroism of Richard’s last battle sheds a very different light upon a courageous, determined and energetic man caught up in a family drama and shadowed by its legacy and by what it required of him...He sought to find in the battle both an act of redemption and the symbol of a new beginning...in endeavouring to honour the legacy of his father, he found himself in a bloody re-enactment of that father’s fate.”

Regrettably, Michael Jones has not only fallen in love with the subject of his history, he has fallen in love with his own pet theory, and looked for evidence to bolster that theory instead of facts.

All publishers are sensitive, highly strung men. Knopf is. So is William Morrow. So are Simon and Schuster, Harper and Charles Scribner’s Sons.—ibid.

It was my intention to review Michael Hick’s *The Family of Richard III* (Amberley Press, Glos, 2015) and Matthew Lewis’ *The Wars of the Roses: The Key Players* (also Amberley). Fearing that they might get lost in the crowd—they deserve better than that—I am postponing them until next time. Also, I’m beginning to get reviewer’s fatigue, brought on by too many books on the same subject. As teasers or previews of coming attractions, I can’t resist adding a few notes.

Lewis: “Catesby Sr veraciously built a grand property portfolio.” I think voraciously is meant here; can’t say how truthful he was.

Re what we might call the Buck letter: "...perhaps the young Elizabeth, keen to be queen and urged on by her mother, wrote more than one letter unsobly alluding to a plan between her and the king to wed once Anne was gone." Since the letter is not now in existence, there is no proof that even one such letter was written, or if it was, that it referred to a marriage to the king.

Re the bones in Westminster Abbey: "it is important to consider what it might mean for those human remains if they were not the princes. Would they suddenly no longer deserve to be where they have rested for over 300 years? They are still the remains of someone's child." Or rather children.

Hicks: "During the Wars of the Roses cousins did kill cousins, brother-in-laws killed brothers-in-law." (Sic)

"Although the Wars of the Roses began about good governance, it degenerated into a dynastic struggle."

"...his sister's brother Suffolk." He was her husband. "...the new king's sole uncle by blood, Richard." Richard was Edward IV's sole surviving brother, but Edward V had living uncles on his mother's side.

"Richard acknowledged his own two bastards and paraded them in public." There is no proof that they were 'paraded,' or that they even lived in his household. They may have, but this is only a possibility, not a certainty.

"Cecily...married John Viscount Welles, the new king's paternal uncle." Maternal half-uncle.

"Henry VII even persuaded some French that he was the son of Henry VI." Jones has pointed out that this was more likely the idea of the French royal family, not Henry's.

Henry VII treated Elizabeth of York's sisters and nieces "almost humanely, allowing them to marry and breed." (Sic and a couple of !!)

I am not a mother myself, but I understand a mother's heart from soup to nuts. In her pride at the young plug-ugly's triumph, everything else will be forgotten.—Ibid.

***Red Rose, White Rose*—Joanna Hickson, Harper, London, 2014**

Joanna Hickson is the author of *The Agincourt Bride* (about Katherine de Valois) and *The Tudor Bride*. This volume is about the Plantagenet bride, Cecily Neville. It is her story, from the age of 17 to her early widowhood, and that of her vast extended family—22 siblings!—half of whom are feuding with the other half, and stealing from them, sometimes employing legal means, sometimes not. Makes me glad I was an only child. It is also the story of her illegitimate half-brother, devoted squire, and co-narrator, Cuthbert (Cuddy). Cuddy eventually marries a woman named Hilda—very North of England.

Cecily is kidnapped by a connection of the other side of the family, a cousin of sorts. By luck, her own efforts, and those of Cuthbert, she is returned unharmed. That is, depending on your definition of 'unharmed.' Hickson has her taking a lover, but he is not an archer. Lady Cecily wouldn't stoop so low.

The characters speak good modern English, though not anachronistic English. Neither do they have anachronistic attitudes. Cecily arranges the marriages of her children strictly according to protocol, not considering their wishes at all. Her relationship with her husband, Duke Richard of York, seems to be emotionally distant, even when he is physically present.

Ironies abound. Cecily admires the Tudor brothers, Edmund and Jasper, not least because they are Earls. She considers marrying a couple of her daughters to them, but it doesn't work out.

Much of her history is obstetric, necessarily. By the time her twelfth child, Richard, is born, she is rather fed up with childbearing. It doesn't help that the new baby is "small and curiously formed, not crippled but slightly shortened in the trunk and weakened by it..." This enables the author to foreshadow Richard's scoliosis, which didn't begin until he was perhaps 10+.

Joanna Hickson makes Cecily understandable and sympathetic and Sir Cuthbert sympathetic and admirable. His mother was a peasant, and he is not afraid to lend a hand with hay-making and other chores, nor is his wife, Hilda, who could be the model for Patient Griselda. Nevertheless, Sir Cuthbert is also a nobleman, and Cecily and most of her contemporaries have great respect for him, which the reader will share.

I am a broad-minded man and can tolerate female novelists.—ibid

Coincidentally, all of the novels in our current outing have been written by women, but are none the worse for that, especially when male writers of histories sometimes indulge in fiction, as we have seen.

***Succession*—Livi Michael, Fig Tree, UK, 2014, pb**

Rebellion—Livi Michael, Fig Tree, UK, 2015 pb

These two novels cover the Wars of the Roses from the early years through 1471, mainly through the eyes of its prominent female characters, queens and duchesses: Marguerite d'Anjou, Margaret Beaufort, Cecily Neville, and others. But it is not altogether from the woman's point of view. The Duke of York soliloquizes before his execution, about the children he has lost:

They follow you, these dead children. They never left, like the living ones. They sat with us at table or stood with us at church. They were there at the wedding of my eldest living daughter Anne. And they had grown quite tall.

Nor are all the characters and narrators of the nobility. John Coombe of Amesbury, who rescued Queen Marguerite and her son, gets a chapter to himself, as do a couple of anonymous soldiers, and the madwoman who lights a hundred candles for Owen Tudor. (His daughter-in-law thinks he is 'troll-like,' but obviously not everybody does.) For the most part, however, it is the story of these prominent women, and Ms. Michael works to give us a warts-and-all portrait. Margaret Beaufort rather coldly and curtly dismisses her devoted nurse, believing she has been working against her. She takes pride in being consulted by her mother about the estate, "preferred to her older half-brothers and even to the lawyers." No doubt, as she wouldn't let sentiment stand in her way. But her frustrations as a mother are sympathetically depicted.

If the usual Ricardian novelist—and even serious historians—have been prone to feel Cecily Neville's pain at being 'kept straightly' by her sister, Duchess Anne, Ms. Michael gives a different view. No doubt Anne was glad to be rid of her at last. Faced with an unsatisfactory tureen of soup, Cecily speaks her mind: "If I had wanted warm water, I would have asked for it." Some may think that the author goes too far in the 'warts-and-all' direction, as with her description of Edward IV's health problems. But when one is attempting a saga, or rather a tapestry, one has to include some of the drosser threads.

Some may feel that the author has taken too broad a view, in not having one main protagonist, but this is a worthy and mostly successful attempt, and worth-while for this, and for the unusual point of view.

...[His] emotions were such that only a topnotcher like Shakespeare could have slapped them down on paper, and he would have had to go all out.—Ibid

Blessop's Wife—Barbara Gaskell Denvil, Gaskell Publishing House, 2015

Summerford's Autumn—Barbara Gaskell Denvil, 2015

Blessop's wife, Tyballis, is an abused wife, both by her husband and her mother-in-law. A chance meeting with a young gentleman gives her the determination to leave her churlish husband and evil mother-in-law. She runs away from home and joins Andrew Cobham's hostel for ne'er-do-wells—prostitutes, vagabonds and people who are just down on their luck. This is not altogether free. Drew expects her to help earn her keep, but not the way you might think. He involves her, in a rather minor way, in the events of 1483. At least, he intends it to be minor. For Drew Cobham is a trusted aide to Richard III, and leads a double life.

This novel illustrates that 'the short and simple annals of the poor' are not that simple and definitely not that short. Perhaps reading it electronically made it seem even longer to an old-fashioned addict of the paper media. I don't know what I would cut, though. Some of the sex scenes? They certainly exist, but don't seem overdone. The adventures? (Tyballis gets up to plenty on her own hook, as well as on Drew's behalf.) The mystery? There is enough of that, and well-handled. I never guessed the identity of the mole in Cobham's household. We also learn something of the back-story of both protagonists. Andrew also comes from a rather dysfunctional family, but this is only gradually revealed. The descriptive passages? Not only do they set the scene, they point up the differences, and similarities, between the rarified atmosphere of the royal court and the less-rarified milieu of the lower classis, as exemplified in the Noel celebrations. Andrew's household has to make do, but they manage to enjoy themselves anyway. The humor? It is sprinkled through the book. Here is our heroine insisting that she is not drunk: "I can talk perfectly well and I know exactly what is happening. Though I'm not sure that I should be sitting on your lap and I'm not sure how I got here."

Not that the story is all laughs. There is a darker side, and a number of deaths, some of them natural. All in all, an enjoyable read, engaging the reader's interest and sympathy.

Autumn does not start off so leisurely. It begins with a violent death, presumably accidental. We are then introduced to the Earl and Countess of Summerford, and a few pages later, to our hero, Ludovic, and his brothers,

Brice, Gerald, and Humphrey. The younger brothers address each other as “my dear,” but it is meant ironically. One is in open rebellion to the Tudors, another has a mysterious source of income, which we may rightly surmise is not a legal one, and Humphrey, the heir, is unfortunately mentally challenged, and cruel with it. Even Ludovic is a bit of a snob, but his association with our heroine, Alysson Welles, will gradually cure him of that. You might think the parents, as depicted in the early part of the novel, deserve this motley bunch, but by the book’s end, you will have come to sympathize with them.

Alysson will shoot her future inamorato with a bow and arrow, then nurse him back to health, at least partly. She is not quite as low-born as she seems, her father having been mayor of Canterbury, but she does have an intimate understanding of how the other nine-tenths live.

We do get a look-in at the Tudor court, where Ludovic meets Perkin Warbeck. Lu’s sympathies, like those of his brothers, are with the Yorkist remnant, but he tries to keep them concealed, not always successfully. Someone has to stay out of trouble to get the others out of various imbroglios. But even Ludovic and Alysson get caught up in the coils of treason. The author manages to keep her leading man and lady out of bed for most of the book’s length (498 pages), but not out of trouble. There is plenty of adventure, but more character development than is usual in this type of book, and also historical accuracy.

Where Rosie M. Banks merely touches the heart strings, Cornelia Fothergill grabs them in both hands and ties them into knots.—ibid

The authors reviewed below aim less to touch the heartstrings than to tickle the funny bone or chill the spine. They aim simply for entertainment, and achieve it.

***Queen of Hearts*—Rhys Bowen, Berkeley Publishing Group, NY, 2014**

***Malice at the Palace*—Rhys Bowen, Penguin, NY, 2015**

Lady Georgiana Rannoch, 35th in line of succession to the British throne, and her actress mother, are on their way to Hollywood, where Mummy is to star as Mary I in a film about the Tudors. (There’s the connection!) First they have to get there, and their trip on the Berengaria is complicated by the presence of Wallis Simpson and a jewel thief. Georgie’s main squeeze, Darcy O’Mara, is on the trail of the latter. Once disembarked, they run into a number of Hollywood types, including a producer who seems to be based on a combination of William Randolph Hearst and Sam Goldwyn, but can’t be either one, since they both died in their beds, and Charlie Chaplin, who is based on Charlie Chaplin. All will be solved at the end, including the jewel robbery.

In *Malice*, Lady Georgie is back in London for the wedding of her cousin George, (Not the one who became George VI. That was Bertie. I know—it’s confusing.) but she is not going to be just a guest. Queen Mary wants her to take the bride-to-be, Princess Marina of Greece, around to the shops. She soon finds that an unacknowledged part of her task is to keep Marina from discovering the secrets of George’s past. There’s a murder, of course, a couple of ghosts, and some elderly, but very lively, daughters of Queen Victoria. And of course Darcy turns up again.

Some oddities: Although a character says that Charlie Chaplin had made some talkies, that was not the case at the time of the story (1934). And Chaplin’s trademark was a derby, not a pork-pie hat. Further, no American would refer to a ‘bathing costume.’ Bowen appears to know her royals better than her cinema history. The only outstanding error I found in *Malice* was reference to ‘the son of a newspaper magnet.’ Surely ‘magnate’ was meant?

This and other books in the Royal Sypness series, have some serious moments, but overall they are charming romps, so why expect strict accuracy? Good light reading.

And one closer to the ‘right’ time period:

***Cross of Vengeance*—Cora Harrison, Severn House Publishers, UK, 2013**

I seem to have missed several books in the Burren series, featuring Mara the Brehon. I’ll try to catch up soon. In the meantime, the one now being reviewed is set in 1519. Outside events impinge more than in previous stories. Christopher Columbus is mentioned in passing and Martin Luther in more than passing. The scholars of the earlier books have grown up and embarked on their own careers, but Fathman has returned to be Mara’s assistant. New boys at the law school now include, among others, Mara’s own son and grandson, the latter being somewhat the

elder. Mara is now in her mid-forties, and complains of slowing down a bit, but certainly not in brain-power. She will be put to the test physically in this volume, too.

A party of pilgrims has come to the local shrine, not all of them very respectable. There is a Welsh nun and her two secular sisters, one a widow, the other a deformed and presumably unmarriageable young woman. There are a couple of clerics, one Spanish, one Italian, and a German named Hans Kaufmann, who is suspected of being a follower of Luther. When the shrine catches fire, destroying the precious relic, he is suspected of this as well. He confesses and claims sanctuary. Case closed? Of course not. He is somehow taken out of sanctuary, stripped naked, and murdered, spread-eagled on a tomb. Mara has her work cut out for her, as all the suspects have alibis, or were physically incapable of carrying out the crime. There will be another spot of arson, and other adventures, before it is all sewn up. For fans of Sister Fidelma, or the classic detective story generally.

Nina Kefer submitted the following review:

Richard Duke of Gloucester as Lord Protector and High Constable of England—Annette Carson, 2015, Imprimis Imprimatur

In order to try and make sense of the events of 1483 that led to Richard, Duke of Gloucester being crowned King Richard III it is important to understand two things: firstly, what powers Gloucester did—and did not—have and, secondly, medieval canon law's stance on irregular marriages. In her latest book Annette Carson, author of *Richard III: The Maligned King* and member of the *Looking for Richard Project* which successfully organised the search for the King's lost grave, focuses on the first. Based on both historical sources and modern day authorities, she seeks to establish what the offices of Lord Protector and Constable of England actually entailed and then assesses Gloucester's actions against these "job descriptions". In the process, she debunks a number of myths which have been repeated for centuries.

The book is divided into three parts. In the first part, Carson explores the history of the offices of Protector and Constable and how they developed with changing requirements. She begins by explaining how 15th century England, faced with a King who was first too young and later too unwell to rule, devised a system of government which was strictly divided between a royal council, a Protector and the guardians of the King. This Protector was not a regent, but merely a chief councillor whose powers were specified—and therefore limited—by Parliament. In fact, the office was created for Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester in order to deny him the regency his bother Henry V had granted him in his will.

Moving on to the Constable of England and his court, she traces their development from a martial court with jurisdiction over matters of discipline and armorial disputes in the royal army to becoming instrumental in dealing with treason and civil unrest even when the country wasn't at war. She shows that the Constable was empowered to prosecute such cases without indictment or jury and, since at least 1467, also without trial or appeal. Finally, she looks at the changing definition of what constituted a treasonable offence, the development of attainder and what a conviction meant for the family and estate of the convicted.

In the second part of the book, Carson applies the information gathered in the first part to the events of 1483 as far as they can be gleaned from surviving documents and chronicles. The results are illuminating. She shows that foreign commentators like Dominic Mancini and Polydore Vergil misunderstood key aspects of English law and customs and demonstrates how, by accepting their claims at face value; historians have allowed their misconceptions to become part of the traditional narrative.

This includes the popular belief that Gloucester was the Protector of his nephews: as Carson points out, when the office of Protector was created in 1422, its holder was specifically excluded from having custody of the King's person. The custodians of Edward V were his Woodville relatives, who in this role were however excluded from government to preserve the balance of power between council, Protector and guardians of the King. Seen in this context, it is not surprising that their high-handed actions in the aftermath of Edward IV's death aroused suspicion in various quarters, including the council, which given the precedent of Duke Humphrey, responded by handing the guardianship to Gloucester, effectively making him regent. Carson argues convincingly that he should therefore not be viewed as a partisan aggressor, but as restorer of law and order.

Another common misconception she addresses is Mancini's claim that Gloucester held no public offices until the council confirmed him as Protector and therefore wasn't authorised to execute Anthony, Earl Rivers and his companions Grey and Vaughan. In fact, in 1469 he had been appointed Constable of England for life and Carson

suggests that their executions, as well as that of William, Lord Hastings, were not the acts of an ambitious Protector intent on removing the obstacles between himself and the throne, but those of a Constable faced with treason. Showing Richard as Constable was difficult to do because the Constable's court left no records. However, Carson was able to demonstrate, contrary to popular perception, that he did have the authority to sentence them to death and the estates of Hastings and Rivers were dealt with in a manner which reflects the sentencing pattern of the Constable's court.

All of this is meticulously referenced with footnotes and citations from primary sources, including little known details such as the fact that the council tried to persuade Elizabeth Woodville to leave sanctuary by proposing an oath—a full month before Gloucester was offered the throne and almost a year before, as King, he swore a similar oath. Additionally, the third part of the book contains some of these sources in unabridged form, namely Chancellor Russell's draft speech for Edward V's first Parliament which sets out Gloucester's expanded role in his nephew's government, Edward IV's ordinances for the household of Edward V in Ludlow outlining the responsibilities of Rivers, Grey and Vaughan and the letters patent for the appointment of all Constables and Vice Constables of England under the Yorkist Kings. The reader can compare them word for word to see that it wasn't Gloucester who, as Richard III, gave his Constables sweeping new powers to deal with opponents of his regime, as has been claimed, but his predecessor Edward IV. Some of these documents are published here for the first time and, given how crucial they are to understanding the events of 1483. One has to wonder why it took so long.

In a nutshell, this is a small, but important book which offers a much needed reassessment of Gloucester's so-called usurpation. It should be required reading for Ricardians and traditionalists alike.—*Nina Kefer*

~ ToC ~

Sharon Kay Penman Interviews Joan Szechtman

Since I did not receive a request for an interview with a Richard III Society member who is a Ricardian author for this Chronicle issue, I decided to “toot my own horn” and reprint an interview Sharon Kay Penman published on her blog in 2011.

HINT: Ricardian authors, please contact me at info@r3.org if you have Ricardian books you wish to promote on this newsletter.

Interview

The premise is very imaginative—snatching Richard from Bosworth Field at the moment before his death and transporting him to our time—and Joan executed it quite well. She dealt with issues that would be bound to come up for a medieval man suddenly finding himself in our time, both the serious (religious intolerance) and the more mundane (cars, computers, etc.). I found her Richard to be believable and likable and I am looking forward to continuing his journey in the 21st century. I am sure he will find voice mail and never-ending political campaigns every bit as annoying as the rest of us do, but he also faces a unique challenge—having to prove he did not murder his nephews!

SKP: Before we start, I hope you don't mind if I ask you how you pronounce your name.

JS: Joan? Just the way it's spelled—just kidding. Szechtman is easy if you pretend the “z” is an “h” and then pronounce it the way it's spelled. All joking aside, I'm quite honored to be doing this interview. Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity.

SKP: I understand that *LOYALTY BINDS ME* is the second book in this series after *THIS TIME*. Since this is your first interview with me, please tell us a little about both books.

JS: *THIS TIME* starts moments before Richard III loses to Henry Tudor on the field of Redemore near Leicester, England on August 22, 1485. In *THIS TIME*, a team of Ricardians substitutes an armor-clad corpse for the king and brings him into Portland, Oregon. Richard awakens August 21, 2004 to an alien world where even the English he speaks is different.

The story follows two parallel paths: the present where Richard must learn how to adjust to not only the technological advancements but also the more difficult cultural differences; and looking back at the past to solve some of the mysteries that have haunted and maligned his image for over 500 years.

The second book, *LOYALTY BINDS ME*, continues Richard III's story. Richard has married a divorcee, adopted her two daughters, and with the help of his new wife, has been able to rescue his son Edward, who

had predeceased him in the 15th-century. Richard has lived in the twenty-first century for two years, and his son has been with him for the past year. At the start of the novel, they have just arrived in London, when Richard is brought in by the Metropolitan Police for questioning about the alleged murder of Richard III's nephews in 1483. Richard must now find a way to clear his name and protect his family while concealing his true identity.

The books are written to stand by themselves; there are no cliffhangers at the end of each novel and there's enough information in the second book for a new reader to understand the story without boring those who have read the first book.

SKP: I usually don't read fictional books about one of my characters, but I was so intrigued by your premise of bringing Richard III into the 21st-century that I put aside my usual reservations. Why did you bring Richard III into the 21st-century?

JS: One of the things that really got to me about Richard III was that he was so young—only 32—when he died. I felt his story wasn't finished and I wanted to examine his character in a modern light, without forcing our modern sensibilities onto his 15th-century actions. To do this, I had to let him speak for himself. Admittedly, I could have done something akin to Connie Willis's *DOOMSDAY BOOK* and send a protagonist back in time, but I thought that by bringing Richard into the present day, I could challenge him in ways that I couldn't by writing a period piece. Additionally, I didn't feel the need to tell Richard's life story. You beat me to it. In fact, it was your book, *SUNNE IN SPLENDOR*, which put me on the Ricardian path to the point where I felt compelled to write about Richard, but from a different perspective.

SKP: Many time-travel novels ignore language differences, but you didn't. Yet, Richard was able to adjust rapidly to modern English.

JS: Richard was probably fluent in three or four languages, and although today's English would have at first sounded foreign to him, I felt that there was enough similarities—based on my reading of *THE PASTON LETTERS*, for example—between Early Modern English and today's English that he would have been able to understand a lot of what he heard fairly quickly. I also provided a linguist that was able to help him over the inevitable speed bumps.

SKP: Another rapid adjustment that Richard achieved was his ability to absorb and take advantage of today's technology. It left me a bit breathless.

JS: There have been modern instances of individuals from isolated primitive cultures being brought to technologically advanced cultures. Most of these individuals were able to use the technology quickly. The more difficult adjustment has to do with cultural differences. Such was the case for Richard. Because he was intentionally brought into the future, and not by accident, he had access to people who could help him learn how to use such things as phones, computers, cars, etc.

I also decided to advance his adjustment so that I wouldn't put the reader to sleep having him learn every single detail that we take for granted. So I tried to show him learn some things and let the reader imagine him learning the rest.

SKP: I understand that not only do you think that Richard did not kill his nephews, but that they may well have survived him.

JS: Yes. Despite the rumors the princes had met an evil end and Tudor's willingness to parley these rumors to his advantage, extant documentation and contemporary reports show only that the boys disappeared. Setting aside the lack of documentation, I also took into consideration the behaviors of both Richard III and Henry VII. Then, it was standard operating procedure to display bodies to "prove" that their reigns were without credible challenge. Despite the way Henry had Richard's body mistreated immediately after the battle, he nevertheless had it put on display to show that he was now the undisputed king. I have to think that if Henry had killed the princes or knew where their bodies were, he would have displayed them and blamed Richard for their deaths. If Richard had had them killed, he could have easily first blamed Welles for their deaths during the botched attempt to "free" them from the tower, and then later, Buckingham, when Richard had him executed for treason. Richard had far less reason to want the princes dead than did Henry. Through "Titulus Regius" parliament declared Richard the rightful king and bastardized all of Edward IV's children. As bastards, the princes could not inherit any title. Henry VII had his parliament revoke "Titulus Regius" which enabled his marriage to Edward IV's oldest daughter, Elizabeth Woodville. If the princes were alive, they now had more claim to the crown now that their impediment had been removed. In fact, based on how he handled the man he called Perkin

Warbeck, I think he was more than a little afraid that Warbeck was really Richard of York, the younger of Edward IV's two sons. Interestingly, Warbeck claimed to have been in Edward Brampton's household in Portugal. Now Brampton was a Portuguese Jew who converted soon after Edward IV first became king and served both Edward and Richard. Among the many awards that Richard gave Brampton, he knighted him in 1484—the first monarch to knight a converted Jew. As much as Richard may have liked the guy, I think there had to have been an extraordinary reason for him to grant Brampton knighthood. I think the reason was that Richard had entrusted Richard of York's care to Brampton.

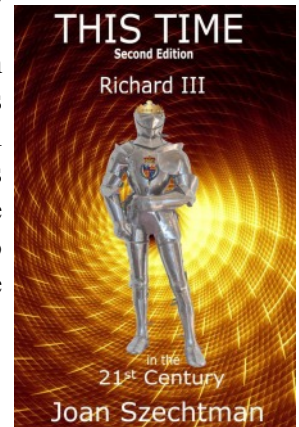
SKP: Now that you've "saved" Richard and brought him into our time, do you have any more books planned for him?

JS: There is a third book in the works with its own set of surprises. The working title is STRANGE TIMES. This one is partially about Francis Lovel—someone most Ricardians think was close to Richard's heart.

SKP: Francis was very close to my heart, too, while writing *Sunne*, for he was the only Francis in a book packed with Edwards, Richards, and Elizabeths. It sounds very intriguing. Thank you so much, Joan, for a most interesting interview about one of my favorite medieval kings.

Update: Since this interview was published, Richard III's remains were found and from them we learned that he had scoliosis, causing his spine to curve to the right. I felt this would have had a profound effect on his character given the medieval belief physical deformities reflected character deformities. Therefore, I've updated the first two books to account for how I portrayed his character and to account for the height difference (was five-eight, now five-five). The major changes are in the first book, but since I also decided to reformat to a larger size (6 X 9 in instead of 5.5 X 8.5" in), the covers have also been revised. The new cover for THIS TIME is pictured to the right.

The third book, STRANGE TIMES, is targeted for February 2017.



~ ToC ~

Michigan Chapter

Larry Irwin, moderator

The Michigan Chapter of the Richard III Society is proud to remain one of the strongest chapters of the American Branch. Our total dues paying membership holds steady at 19 to 20 members, with a regular core group of 8 to 10 members from throughout the metropolitan Detroit area who regularly attends our quarterly meetings.

Our treasury account, managed by Charles Fickeyau, has been over \$1000 since we hosted the 2010 AGM (earlier AGMs in 1994 and 2002), which generated a profit of several hundred dollars. Every year we donate \$100.00 to Little Malvern Priory as part of the Ricardian Churches Restoration Fund. We also make an annual contribution for the AGM.

Our newsletter, *The Ragged Staff*, has been produced by several different editors on a quarterly basis for more than 20 years, and we continue to have most of our quarterly meetings at the Bloomfield Township Public Library or at one of our member's offices.

A summer highlight of our year, the coronation banquet has been an annual tradition since 1993, is held on a night close to Richard III's coronation day on July 6. This year the banquet was held at The Franklin Inn in Franklin, Michigan. Our traveling library exhibit, managed by Dianne Batch and Linda Peecher, travels to at least three different public libraries in the metropolitan Detroit area and attracts a new member or two each year. We have refreshed the exhibit with new materials in recent years.

Our January meeting featured a talk by Larry Irwin on Queen Margaret of Anjou. For our April meeting, we had another successful medieval banquet at Linda Peecher's home in Dearborn. Our October meeting will include report(s) on the Denver GMM and a discussion of religious sanctuary in medieval England. We add a member or two each year thanks to the library exhibit or by persons joining a friend who is already a member. Larry Irwin is the moderator.



ex libris



Rare and delightful books from the non-fiction library

Susan Troxell

I am pleased to announce that the Non-Fiction Library has been completely restored to its “former glory” as the project to replace the books lost by the US Postal Service in 2015 has been fully executed. It was truly amazing to see 24 members donate over \$1,400 to this cause, which allowed me to purchase replacements and acquire additional new texts to expand our collection of research materials. Our library now contains a vast array of primary sources, rare and out-of-print books, and almost all those from leading scholars and writers in the field of Ricardian study.

We were also able to sell 55 surplus copies, raising \$500. This left 40 surplus titles, many of which are still being offered for sale to the public and our membership (see announcement herein). The rest of the duplicate books were donated to The Free Library of Philadelphia’s “Book Corner”, which sells used books for \$3 or less, the proceeds of which go toward one of the country’s oldest non-profit, free libraries serving the educational needs of a large and diverse population. If you would like to know more about The Free Library, please check out their website at <http://freelibrary.org>. The Free Library’s collection of ancient manuscripts contains the famous *Edward IV Roll*, the incredible genealogical roll of ancestry that was used to promote the Yorkist entitlement to the English throne. They have digitized and made public the entire roll, and have included a scholarly annotation to it. You can find it here: <http://www.freelibrary.org/medieval/edward.htm>.

It seems that, almost every month, a new book is being published about Richard III, his contemporaries, or his time period. I try my best to sift through the new titles and acquire those that would add research value to our library. However, if you see a book that you think should be added to our collection, please feel free to send me an email (researchlibrary@r3.org) and I will do my best to accommodate the request. We also accept donations of books. All you need to do is send me a list of the titles you wish to donate, and I will let you know whether they can find a new home here. I would like to make a “shout out” to members Carol Adams and Carole Bell, who recently donated many items to the Non-Fiction Library, including back issues of *The Ricardian* and James Gairdner’s multi-volume 1904 edition of *The Paston Letters*.

Currently, my focus has been on acquiring additional primary source material, such as *The Plumpton Letters*, *Jean de Wavrin’s Chroniques*, and *The Parliamentary Rolls of Edward IV*. Going forward, I hope to acquire *The 1484 Parliamentary Roll of Richard III* and *The Beauchamp Pageant*. In my opinion, primary source materials are a critical part of a research library. But I’ve also been able to acquire all the recent books about the 2012 archeological discovery of Richard III’s skeletal remains, as well as other new publications about the Wars of the Roses and the 15th century. All these, and others, are available to members for only the cost of outbound/inbound postage (usually does not exceed a total \$10 for 3 books). I am also available to answer questions, conduct research, or forward by email any selected portions of texts that can be scanned. So, please feel free to use this feature of your Society membership! Your “inner scholar” or “inquiring mind” will be deeply gratified.

Recent Acquisitions of the Non-Fiction Library:

Ashdown-Hill, John, *The Wars of the Roses* (Donated by UK R3S)

Bradfield, N., *Historical Costumes of England – 11th to 20th Century* (Donated by Carole Bell)

Davis, Norman (ed.) *Paston Letters and Papers* (3 vols.)

Gairdner, James, *The Paston Letters* (4 vols) (Donated by Carole Bell)

Gies, Frances & Joseph, *A Medieval Family: The Pastons of 15th Century England* (Donated by Carole Bell)

Goodman, Anthony, *A Traveller's Guide to Early Medieval Britain* (Donated by Carole Bell)

Horrox, Rosemary (ed.), *The Parliamentary Rolls of Edward IV* (2 vols.)

Kirby, Joan (ed.) *The Plumpton Letters & Papers*

Williamson, Audrey, *The Mystery of the Princes* (Donated by Carole Bell)

~ ToC ~

Seasons Greetings from The Richard III Society



With very best wishes for Christmas and the
New Year from the Executive Committee and
the Branches and Groups Liaison Officer
of

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