

RICHARD III SOCIETY, AMERICAN BRANCH

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

2017 Chairman's Report

Compton Reeves

The most important item which I must mention is that all seems steady and positive with the American Branch of the Society. The other officers of the American Branch have been carrying out their responsibilities with such efficiency that all I can say is "Well done!" The Board has made my job extremely easy. The American Branch is in fine financial fettle and all of our publications have appeared in a timely fashion containing good news and solid information. We can, it would seem, look forward to a General Members Meeting this next October with no crisis confronting us. The Michigan Area Chapter is experienced in putting on such gatherings, and is projecting an excellent event.

Some years ago William B. and Maryloo Spooner Schallek bequeathed a substantial endowment to the American Branch of the Richard III Society to support scholarship in our favorite period of English history. The challenge of managing those funds led in 2004 to the placing of \$1,370,700 (valued on September 30, 2017 at \$1,546,413) under the management of the Medieval Academy of America. The MAA through its Schallek Committee can award each year a Schallek Fellowship in the amount of \$30,000 and five Schallek Awards in the amount of \$2,000 each. Members of the American Branch should consider encouraging graduate students to apply for these funds to assist with their research projects. A condition placed on the management of the Schallek funds by the MAA is that applicants for the funds must be members of the MAA (\$30 a year for a student). There is no requirement that applicants be members of the Richard III Society. Is this an issue we should discuss? I may add that I have had very cordial correspondence with the MAA concerning the Schallek funding, probably assisted by my being an honorary life member of the MAA.

2017 Membership Chair Report

Cheryl Greer

My first full year as your Membership Chair is behind me, and I'd like first to thank all of you for your patience as I have learned my duties, and also to recognize Sally Keil for leaving a solid foundation that makes my job much easier.

Our membership numbers held steady with no major fluctuations; there were 365 members at end of 2017, about 50 of whom were new. At my most recent count, we have members in 44 US states. (Would anyone like to move to Hawaii?)

Most members are now enrolled in the online membership portal (<http://r3.z2systems.com>). If you aren't, I highly recommend it – email me and I will create a login for you. If you already have an account, I'd like to remind you that you may use it to update your contact information and credit card info (if you have set up auto-renewal.) We temporarily "lose" quite a few members each year due to out of date credit cards! You should also check to make sure our emails aren't going into your Spam folders.

New business this year was the introduction by the Main Branch of Membership Cards. Automatically issued to members in the UK, we here in the US can receive cards by request. The Membership Card entitles you to discounts at assorted Ricardian locales across the UK. (The Main Branch has a PDF listing all of the current discounts here: richardiii.net/downloads/membership_discount_venues.pdf)

Quite a few of you requested cards in 2017 and I'm happy to report that the process has gone smoothly. To request a card, send me an email with your name and preferred mailing address. Those with Family Memberships are eligible to receive one card per member of the household.

See you at the GMM!

2017 Annual Treasurer's Report

Joanne Smith

Income

Dues	\$21,440
Gifts General Fund	\$6,595
Gifts McGee Fund	\$0
Gifts Schalleck Fund*	\$0
Gifts Weinsoft Fund	\$100
GMM Destination	\$0
Amazon Smile	\$66
Blue Pay Transaction Fees	\$424
Investment Income unrealized gain/loss	\$1,488
Dividends	\$3,710
Interest	\$0
GMM Registration Fees	\$0
Sales Depart	\$15
Additional Registers	<u>\$0</u>

Total Income **\$33,838**

*This endowment is managed by the Medieval Academy

Expenses

Conference Calls	\$90
GMM costs	\$0
Acct Federal NY State Tax Filing Fees	\$550
Ricardian Register PPS UK Pub	\$5,503
Publications Shipping Bookmasters Sungraphics	\$4,664
UK Society Dues	\$9,327
Publicity	\$1,214
Website	\$28
Bank Fees Adjustments	\$46
Bank Wires	\$175
Blue Pay Monthly fees	\$200
Blue Pay Volume fees	\$627
Blue Pay Compliance fees	\$370
Neon Monthly fees	\$588
PayPal Transaction fees	\$71
Fiction Library expenses	\$0
Non-fiction Library expenses	\$417
Sales Office expenses	\$138
Reimbursements	<u>\$46</u>

Total Expenses **\$24,054**

Beginning Balance 1/1/2017

Vanguard Total Bond Mkt Index Fund	\$144,219
Bank of America Bus Fundamentals Checking Acct	\$48,980
PayPal	<u>\$1,028</u>
	\$194,227

Ending Balance 12/31/2017

Vanguard Total Bond Mkt Index Fund	\$149,350
Bank of America Bus Fundamentals Checking Acct	\$53,570
PayPal	<u>\$1,091</u>
	\$204,011

2017 Annual Treasurer's Report cont.

The primary expenses for the Richard III Society American Branch are publication and shipping expenses, as well as the UK dues. Of note, the UK dues for 2016 were paid in May 2017. No dues were paid in calendar 2016 due to a software changeover and new invoicing process, as communicated by the Treasurer and Business Manager of the Richard III Society UK. The 2017 UK dues were paid by the American Branch in January 2018.

For the Richard III Society American Branch, \$60 individual or \$65 family memberships are counted as dues. Any additional amount is counted as a gift. If not otherwise specified, gifts are allocated to the general fund.

Oversight of the Vanguard fund and Bank of America checking account, and preparation of financial reports are attended to by the Treasurer, with annual Federal and NY state tax filings prepared by Sandler and Co., Certified Public Accountants.

2017 Annual Non-Fiction Library Report

Susan Troxell

In 2017, 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 has also successfully completed a project to dispose of unnecessary duplicate books, first by offering them to its members and then by donating them to The Free Library of Philadelphia.

The library is now focusing on digitally archiving its collection of Ricardian Registers/Newsletters, which date back to the founding of the American Branch in the 1960s. With this project, our goal is to preserve the organizational history of our branch, and to have these older materials uploaded onto our website for members to enjoy and peruse at leisure. But they also show that our membership is incredibly energetic and comes from diverse backgrounds and disciplines. For instance, did you know that one of our members, in 1989, did a thorough astronomical analysis of the 1485 eclipse of the sun in England? That's just one small snapshot of how American branch members have contributed their efforts towards the larger goal of the Society. As always, the investigation into history is never done. It's a "work in progress". As William Faulkner said—"The past is never dead. It's not even past." Richard III would agree!

2017 Annual Fiction Library Report

Gilda Felt

Final amount made during the sale of the library's duplicates is \$299.65. The more rare copies will be kept with the library. The rest were donated to the Kentwood (Richard L. Root) branch of the Kent District Library. Thanks to everyone who made a purchase!

The book sale enabled several purchases thus expanding the fiction library to include some less readily available Ricardian fiction including: *Kingmaker: Kingdom Come*, by Toby Clements, the fourth in his *Kingmaker* series, *Rue and Rosemary*, by Mary Sturge Gretton, *The Ragged Staff* by CM Edmondston, and *The Golden Longing* by Francis Leary, which is written in such a way that you can't tell if it's supposed to be fiction or non-fiction.

2017 Editor's Report:

Joan Szechtman

In 2017 we continued the two publications: Ricardian Register in March and September with both print and digital editions; and Ricardian Chronicle in June and December as a digital edition.

The Register is oriented towards academic articles about Richard III, fifteenth-century English culture, and events around and about the Wars of the Roses. The March 2017 edition featured a reprint of an article by Compton Reeves, "THE SUMPTUARY STATUTE OF 1363: A look at the aims and effectiveness of English legislation on diet and clothing." The September 2017 edition featured two articles: A master's thesis by Andrea C. Silen-McMillin, "The Yorkist Monarchy and the Church High Politics, Piety, and Religious Policy: The House of York during the Wars of the Roses;" and "The 1471-74 Dispute Between Richard and George" by Susan L. Troxell.

The Chronicle is a newsletter that focuses on members' activities, such as meetings, interviews with members, and Ricardian travel logs. The June 2017 Chronicle contains an interview with Joanne R. Larnier, the author of "Richard Liveth Yet" trilogy; and the December 2017 Chronicle features a travel report from Susan Troxell, "A Visit to King's Cliffe Church—and its Fotheringhay Artifacts;" and an interview with Ian Churchward, "Music fit for a King."