

# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



2021 Acting Chair's Annual Report

Susan Troxell

For the American Branch, as for many of our members, the year 2021 was one of great challenges. With the Covid-19 pandemic entering its second year, we had become used to working from home, plugging into Zoom conferences, and keeping socially distant. It had become difficult, if not impossible, to organize in-person meetings, talks, and community events. But like every cloud, there were many silver linings.

We on the Executive Board were able to use the “quiet year” as time to take an inventory of the American Branch’s overall position and its immediate future. We felt that our public profile needed a refresh, so we engaged Cheryl Greer to create our new website (r3.org), using our new branding, and putting our branch news front and center. I am so proud of the result, as it is a much easier site to navigate, and reflects our past achievements and ongoing activities, without sacrificing educational content. Well done to Cheryl and all who those on the Website Redesign Team who contributed – Wayne Ingalls, Joan Szechtman, Pauline Calkin, Compton Reeves, and Colleen Goos.

We also raised the profile of the American Branch by being fully engaged in the UK Richard III Society’s long process of transitioning to its new legal status as a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG). American Branch members who had registered with the CLG were able to vote for its directors by electronic and paper ballots, and our Executive Board sent representatives to all its Branches and Groups Rules Conferences. This was a huge step forward, because in previous decades the only way an American Branch member could vote or have a say was by traveling to the UK in person for their Annual Membership Meetings. With the UK moving to a program of Zoom educational lectures, it was edifying to see so many American Branch members as participants. It really does feel like a global community now, and it’s exciting to see so much interest and enthusiasm for the Ricardian cause on our side of the Atlantic Ocean.

In terms of our membership and financial picture, we are holding steady, if not growing. As reported below, our membership has swelled by 8%. Despite gloomy world events and setbacks to financial markets, our annual income was able to cover all our expenses, although there was a shortfall of around \$2,000 which basically represented our one-time outlay of expenses to create the new website. Our financial reserve, a bond fund managed by Vanguard, is holding steady too at over \$170,000. The Schallek Endowment, managed by the Medieval Academy of America’s fund manager HSB, had a terrific 11% return on investment in 2021, and grew to \$1,900,000 by year’s end. We don’t expect that 2022 will bring the same ROI, but the interest on that fund is able to support the \$30,000 annual fellowship and five \$2,000 awards given to qualified graduate students in late medieval British studies. I would like to thank our Treasurer Deborah Kaback for being such a trustworthy and dependable steward.

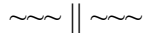
Our tireless Editor, Joan Szechtman, produced two excellent *Ricardian Registers* and two *Ricardian Chronicles*, where fascinating articles about the Mortimer origins of the Yorkist white rose, the identity of Lambert Simnel, and the surprising existence of “medieval robots” can be read with great enjoyment. Wayne Ingalls and Sally Keil contributed wonderful articles about the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the American Branch and the interesting discoveries of the Missing Princes Project in America. And our book reviewers Myrna Smith, Paulin Calkin, and Kathleen Jones continue to produce all the latest news about Ricardian books and novels.

Finally, I want to highlight the importance of team work to the existence of the American Branch. We are all volunteers who bring individual skill sets and various backgrounds. It is our strength and vitality that we are so diverse. We’ve welcomed new volunteers Pauline Calkin as our Fiction Librarian, Andy Hart as our Articles, Archives & AV Librarian, Liz Bateman as our 2022 GMM lead coordinator, and George Usher as 2022 GMM Registrar. I am especially grateful that the Executive Board entrusted me with the Chair position during such a pivotal period in our Branch’s history. I do, however, want to make a special mention of the contributions of

## 2021 Acting Chair's Annual Report Continued

Compton Reeves, who is not only a wonderful historian and educator, and our past Chair, but who has also been a great mentor to me personally and to the Board. An organization thrives on the collective commitment to a mission, and I have been utterly impressed by the commitment that I've seen demonstrated in the past year. So, on to the next year, with new horizons, and new hope for better days to come.

I would love to see you at our upcoming GMM in Washington DC on October 28-30. For details on the program and how to register for it, go to our [website](#) or look for the registration materials in your March *Ricardian Register*.



## 2021 Acting Membership Chair's Annual Report

Wayne Ingalls

Membership is growing in the Richard III Society, American Branch. As of this report, the American Branch has 357 members, an increase of 8.5% since the last report. Membership numbers had declined over the last several years, but we are close to rebounding to where the American Branch was four years ago. Of our American Branch members, virtually all are also registered members of the Richard III Society, Ltd., UK (CLG) and able to enjoy all the benefits and perks of that membership.

It has been a year since the CLG began mailing publications directly to American Branch CLG members. There have been some problems with that. Some publications have gone missing or were significantly delayed. This prompted the CLG to send me additional copies of the *Ricardian Bulletin* to distribute to American Branch CLG members who did not receive their publications or to new members who joined after the current publication had been mailed from the UK. I used all or almost all of September and December 2021 backup copies due to a combination of lost publications and new members joining the Society.

CLG Membership ID numbers are now included on the mailing label of publications sent from the UK starting with the December 2021 mailings from the UK. Although there was a glitch in the mailing address labels for the March 2022 *Bulletin*, Membership ID numbers will be included on mailing labels for UK publications going forward. The Membership ID number is used to register for CLG events and presentations conducted over the internet using Zoom. Membership ID cards were sent out to American Branch CLG members starting in December 2021.

Overall, the outlook from Membership is positive and promising.



## 2021 Acting Secretary's Annual Report

Joan Szechtman

Because of two successive resignations in 2020, of the board's secretary, the board appointed me as acting secretary August 8<sup>th</sup> during an emergency board meeting held for the purpose of filling positions left vacant. The secretarial duties include keeping an accurate record of all proceedings (mostly meeting minutes) and publishing them appropriately.



## 2021 Editor's Annual Report

Joan Szechtman

In 2021 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 2021 edition featured an article by Nina Kefer, "The White Rose of Mortimer?". The September 2021 edition celebrated the "The Sixtieth Anniversary of the American Branch." Two articles were also published in this issue, one by Matt Lewis: "Who Was Lambert Simnel?" and another by Colin Torode on "Medieval Robots!".

The *Ricardian Chronicle* is a newsletter that focuses on members' activities, such as meetings, interviews with members, and Ricardian travel logs and is an online publication on our members only page. They are published in June and December.

<b>Income</b>	<b><u>2021</u></b>	<b><u>2020</u></b>
Dues	\$ 24,233.98	\$ 23,814.00
Gift General Fund	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 3,321.00
Investment Income Unrealized Gain/Loss	\$ (6,500.28)	\$ 8,402.00
Dividends	\$ 3,585.38	\$ 4,127.00
Blue Pay Transactions	\$ -	\$ -
Amazon Smile	\$ 171.59	\$ 32.00
Interest	\$ -	\$ -
Program Service Fees	\$ -	\$ 2,451.00
Gifts in Kind - Goods	\$ 1,294.00	\$ -
Gifts McGee Fund	\$ -	\$ -
Gift Schallek Special Projects Fund	\$ -	\$ -
Gifts Weinsoft Fund	\$ -	\$ -
GMM Destination	\$ -	\$ -
GMM Registration Fees	\$ -	\$ -
Additional Registers	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>\$ 26,084.67</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 42,147.00</u></b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
UK Society Dues	\$ 9,622.73	\$ 10,290.00
Ricardian Register PPS UK Pub	\$ 5,486.96	\$ 5,852.00
Publication Shipping Bookmaster Sungraphics	\$ 4,252.61	\$ 4,164.00
Fiction Library Expense	\$ 1,294.00	\$ -
Non Fiction Library Expense	\$ 319.29	\$ 30.00
Bank Wire	\$ 26.07	\$ 216.00
Neon Monthly Fee	\$ 1,251.43	\$ 588.00
Acc Federal NY State Tax Filing Fees	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 4,171.00
Blue Pay Monthly Fees	\$ 1,083.67	\$ 1,167.00
Conference Calls & Travel	\$ 194.28	\$ -
Sales Office Expense	\$ 185.78	\$ 421.00
Blue Pay Volume Fees	\$ -	\$ -
PayPal Transaction	\$ 164.52	\$ 73.00
Printing and Copying	\$ -	\$ 506.00
Reimbursement	\$ 45.84	\$ 681.00
Speaker Fee	\$ -	\$ 134.00
Publicity	\$ -	\$ -
Website	\$ 2,719.00	\$ -
Bank Fee Adjustments	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$ 28,146.18</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 28,293.00</u></b>
<b>Net income</b>	<b>\$ (2,061.51)</b>	<b>\$ 13,854.00</b>

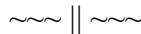
2021 Treasurer's Annual Report Continued

**Beginning Balance**

Vanguard Total Bond Market Fund Indexs	\$ 174,849.00	\$ 162,320.00
Bank of America Business Fundamentals Checking	\$ 54,263.00	\$ 55,001.00
Paypal	\$ 7,543.00	\$ 5,480.00
	<b>\$ 236,655.00</b>	<b>\$ 222,801.00</b>

**Ending Balance**

Vanguard Total Bond Market Fund Indexs	\$ 171,934.13	\$ 174,849.00
Bank of America Business Fundamentals Checking	\$ 50,044.04	\$ 54,263.00
Paypal	\$ 12,615.18	\$ 7,543.00
	<b>\$ 234,593.35</b>	<b>\$ 236,655.00</b>



2021 Research Librarian's Annual Report

Susan Troxell

In 2021, the following books were purchased for the Non-Fiction Library:

- Mark Lansdale, "The Psychology of Richard III" (2021)
- Gordon McKelvie (ed.), "Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem 1483-1485" (2021)
- Gordon McKelvie (ed.), "Bastard Feudalism, English Society, and the Law - the Statutes of Livery 1390-1520" (2020)
- Nicholas Orme, "Going to Church in Medieval England" (2021)
- Thomas Penn, "The Brothers York: A Royal Tragedy" (2020)
- Nicola Tallis, "Uncrowned Queen: Margaret Beaufort" (2020)
- Katherine Warner, "The Despensers" (2020)

Donations of the following books were received, with appreciation, from Compton Reeves:

- Compton Reeves, "The Marcher Lords" (1983)
- Compton Reeves, "Purveyors and Purveyance" (1983)
- Compton Reeves, "Lancastrian Englishmen" (1981)
- Compton Reeves (ed.), "The Wyclif Tradition" (1979)
- Compton Reeves, "The Careers of William Lyndwood" [from "Documenting the Past", Boydell Press]

A donation from member Karen Nuckolls was received, with appreciation, of the Jackdaw Series, J. Langdon-Davies' "Richard III and the Princes in the Tower".

During the creation of the new website for the American Branch, I worked with webmaster Cheryl Greer to upload the Excel spreadsheet which catalogs all the non-fiction books. Now, members will be able to browse it by going to the "For Members" Page and clicking on the "Members Library" icon for the Non-Fiction Library.

Requests to borrow books from this library continue to remain modest in number. I try to be mindful of not spending too much money, and therefore keep acquisition costs well under \$400 per year. I also tend to purchase books that are not easily available to the public, are not on Kindle or other e-reader devices, and/or are likely to become out of print. I am now working with our Fiction Librarian, Pauline Calkin, to brainstorm ideas about how to get more members interested in our libraries.

## 2022 Fiction Librarian's Annual Report Pauline Calkin

The fiction library contains 500 titles, and a complete inventory of its contents has been completed and is available to members on the Branch's website. A cautious approach has been taken in acquiring new materials both because of the lack of member requests to borrow books and because of space limitations.

In an effort to encourage members to avail themselves of this free resource, reviews of books from the library, especially those that are not readily available elsewhere have been and will continue to be published in the Ricardian Register.

Gilda Felts donated signed, first edition copies of the four novels in Eleanor Fairburn's series about Cecily Neville, published between 1971 and 1978. At the donor's suggestion, the fiction library held a contest for members, offering this set of novels as a prize. Kathryn Colvin was the winner. Only 2 members entered the contest.

### New Acquisitions:

*Richard with a Twist* by Kathy H.D. Kingsbury

*The King's Son* by Darren Harris

*Death at Hagminster Hall* by Richard Unwin

*I, Richard Plantagenet: The Prequel, Book Two A Vous Me Lie* by J.P. Reedman



## 2021 Annual Reports for Local Chapters of the American Branch

The American Branch of the Richard III Society has eight local chapters scattered across the United States The following are reports from the Illinois and Tidewater Chapters:

### Illinois Chapter

Janice Weiner

The Illinois Chapter of the Richard III Society met four times in 2021: in January (24), March (21), September (19), and December (20). Our January and March meetings were on Zoom. We have seven members who regularly attend meetings, though we have had a meeting with a former member who attended on Zoom. Generally, we have reviewed books we have read, discussed articles about Richard III himself, talked about subjects such as: our own ancestries, the possibility of weather influencing events in Richard's time, and nursery rhymes. We are hoping to plan some trips in the future to local sites as we have in the past once COVID has lessened the risk of travel.



### 2021 Tidewater Chapter

Liz Bateman

Bob Pfile, the founder and excellent Chairman of the Tidewater Chapter, has resigned after many years of great work. George Usher remains the Treasurer and Liz Bateman has been elected to be the new Chairman. The Tidewater Chapter is hosting the General Membership Meeting and Liz has been busy organizing the hotel and one of the three speakers for the hybrid GMM which will be held October 27-29 at the Hyatt Regency at Dulles in Northern Virginia. The speakers will discuss the powerful family of Richard the Third, Ammunition used during the Wars of the Roses, and Aging during Medieval times. Live professional musicians playing music from the Medieval era will also entertain us at the banquet. The Tidewater Chapter invites all fellow Ricardians to attend and have a lovely time!