

# RICARDIAN CHRONICLE



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## Board News

### From the Chair

#### **TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER**

This year, the Richard III Society in the UK celebrates its 100th anniversary from its founding in 1924 by Dr. Saxon Barton, a Liverpool surgeon, who first formed the “Fellowship of the White Boar” with a small group of enthusiastic history scholars. World War II, however, served as a wrecking ball for so much, and it knocked the nascent society off its original footing. It was Isolde Wigram who re-founded the Fellowship in the 1950s as the Richard III Society. Membership ranks soon swelled with renewed public interest after the release of Josephine Tey’s *The Daughter of Time*, Paul Murray Kendall’s *Richard III* biography, and Laurence Olivier’s movie of Shakespeare’s play.

One hundred years after Dr Barton’s first meeting, the UK Society has formalized itself as a “Company Limited by Guarantee” business organization\* and enjoys a global membership exceeding 5,000 people who all share a common mission: to promote a broad reassessment of Richard III and to promote research into his role in history and into the fifteenth century. The success of the Society is palpable. Its chair, Matt Lewis, can often be seen on TV whenever there’s a show about this king, even if his appearance is only offered in counterbalance to pro-Tudor narratives, as was the case with Lucy Worsley’s program on the “Missing Princes” recently broadcasted in America on PBS-affiliate stations. In April, The New York Times ran a cover-story about Philippa Langley’s discoveries regarding the sons of Edward IV, and their possible survival. Later this year, the Society will release its newest scholarly publication, Marie Barnfield’s much anticipated *Itinerary of Richard III as Duke of Gloucester*, a valuable companion to Rhoda Edwards’ *Itinerary of Richard III as King*. With this publication, the life of Richard III before 1483 will come into better focus.

The American Branch of the Richard III Society was granted formal affiliation status with the UK Society in 2022, after a review of our governance, membership programs, and research projects. While we were always a partner with the UK Society in pursuing a common mission, the formal affiliation attests to the power of community. As Matt Lewis has said, the branches and groups are the Society’s “boots on the ground” and help introduce new people to the pursuit of “the real Richard III.” Hundreds of American Branch members have been able to watch live broadcasts of talks from the UK through their Zoom lecture series, as well as participate in their Annual General Membership and Triennial Conference meetings. And now, with the series of Zoom talks sponsored by the American Branch, we can welcome members from as far afield as the UK, New Zealand, Australia, Europe, and Latin America. Together, we are stronger, closer, and a more vibrant community.

Hats off to the UK Richard III Society on the occasion of their 100th birthday, and may the next one hundred years prove just as productive!

\*In the UK, a Company Limited by Guarantee (sometimes designated by “Limited” or “Ltd.” after the organization’s name) is a type of corporation where the company has no share capital. Members instead act as guarantors of the company’s liabilities: each member undertakes to contribute an amount specified in the articles (typically very small) in the event of insolvency or of the winding up of the company. The Articles of the UK Richard III Society say that each member is only liable for £1 of the society’s liabilities. Just like an American corporation, a Board of Directors is voted in by its members and oversees the operations, giving periodic reports. This is the type of organizational structure that most UK non-profits adopt in order to conduct business without exposing their members, directors or officers to personal liability for the organization’s debts and obligations. It is similar to what we call a “501(c)(3)” organization in the USA.

#### **AMERICAN BRANCH CELEBRATES THE CENTENARY!**

Join us on Saturday, July 6th, at noon (Eastern Time) for a special Zoom presentation. The event will include a virtual toast to the Society on the occasion of its 100th anniversary, a brief presentation on the Society’s history, its achievements, and the American Branch’s role in supporting its mission, as well as a short lecture detailing the historic and well-documented double coronation of Richard III and Queen Anne in 1483. The link and instructions for joining will be circulated soon. (Please note that this talk is on a Saturday, rather than the usual Sunday time-slot.)

## **ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT DONATIONS TO THE AMERICAN BRANCH**

At the April 14, 2024 meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Branch, it was unanimously decided to stop soliciting donations to the Special Projects, McGee, and Weinsoft Memorial Funds, until further notice. Currently, we have over \$150,000 to support our special projects and programs, including the current project involving the Edward IV Roll at the Free Library of Philadelphia. Over the past decade or more, donations to the Special Projects, McGee, and Weinsoft funds declined to an extremely small trickle of income, and it was administratively cumbersome for our Treasurer and Membership Chair to keep an ongoing record of these gifts and their intended purposes. Rather than misrepresent how we use our donations, the Board thought it would be better to clarify that all donations henceforth will go into our General Fund to be used at the Board's discretion for improving and maintaining member benefits, supporting our volunteer staff and media presence, helping to defray expenses for our biennial General Membership Meetings, and anything else that serves our mission statement.

Of course, we understand that some members may still wish to donate cash gifts to be used for certain purposes. The Board welcomes such gifts as long as their restrictions can be reasonably implemented within a reasonable amount of time. Please contact chair Susan Troxell at [chairperson@r3.org](mailto:chairperson@r3.org) if you want to make a restricted gift. For further information about our Gift Policy, please go to the For Members section of our website ([r3.org](http://r3.org)) using the general password.

## **REPORT ON THE EDWARD IV PROJECT (FREE LIBRARY OF PHILADELPHIA, MS LEWIS E201)**

The team of young scholars at the University of Pennsylvania, along with their supervisor Professor Emily Steiner, gave a Zoom presentation about their work on the "Edward IV Roll" transcription and translation. Dot Porter, from the Schoenberg Institute of Manuscript Studies at Penn, also presented the progress made in creating a digital version of the roll using Digital Mappa software. The project is well over 75% completed, and the students will be releasing their final transcription and translation by July 1st. The team will next recruit a scholar to perform peer review of the transcription and translation, and they will work with the Free Library of Philadelphia in preparing an Introduction and Historical Context pages for the FLP website which will be built specifically for the digital roll.

The presentation was attended by members of the American Branch, including its Board of Directors, as well as members of the UK Society's Board of Directors and several of their officers. The feedback was gratifying and very positive, and it is abundantly clear that the Ricardian community is watching this project very closely. Look out for an article about the Roll in the June edition of the *Ricardian Bulletin* magazine!

## **From the Editor**

It's been a pleasure to take on the role of editor and help develop the most recent issues of the *Chronicle* and *Register*. Joan Szechtman has been an invaluable resource and friend as she passes on her insights, and I look forward to working with Branch members to put together future issues that I hope you will enjoy.

Would you like to work with me? We're currently looking for an additional assistant editor to help with publications and other mailings. If you'd like to get involved, please contact me at [info@r3.org](mailto:info@r3.org).  
—Tara Kolden

## Langley's "Missing Princes Project" Makes Front-Page News

### *Sleuth Who Found Richard III Wants to Clear Him of Murder*

By AMELIA NIERENBERG

EDINBURGH — For over 400 years, Richard III has been seen as Britain's most infamous king — a power-hungry usurper who killed his young nephews to clear the way to the throne.

In Shakespeare's "Richard III," the king tells an assassin, "I wish the bastards dead," referring to the princes Edward V and Richard. "And I would have it suddenly performed."

But the king's murderous image, drawn from history books and cemented in literature and lore, is just not true — or, at least, it has not been proved true, argues Philippa Langley, an author and independent historian.

"Maybe there is evidence," she said over a cup of tea in Edinburgh earlier this year. "But there seems to be no evidence."

Langley is, perhaps, Richard III's most dedicated living defender. A prominent member of the Richard III Society, an organization that has been working since 1924 "to secure a more balanced



SOLETTA OF ANTIQUARIES OF LONDON  
An oil on oak panel portrait of Richard III, artist unknown.

assessment of the king," she has made a career of researching — and rehabilitating — a man who ruled for two years, from 1483 to his death in 1485.

In 2012, she spearheaded a project to find his remains, which were under a parking lot in the city of Leicester, as she believed

*Continued on Page 5*

The New York Times published a lengthy article about Philippa Langley and the Missing Princes Project under the headline, "Sleuth Who Found Richard III, Wants to Clear Him of Murder." It appeared on the NYT's digital site on April 26 and on the front page of the print edition on Sunday, April 28.

The article describes how Langley spearheaded the 2012 discovery of Richard III's remains in a Leicester city parking lot, which ignited international attention and later produced a widely-viewed televised reburial in 2015. Following that success, Langley recruited hundreds of researchers in what she has named "The Missing Princes Project" to pore through archives in search of any information about the sons of Edward IV. Using modern police techniques for "missing persons" cases, Langley set out to discover whether there was any evidence of their death or survival. What her team came across were official documents in Europe suggesting that the princes had survived after 1485 and were the focus of rebellions against the Tudor usurper, Henry VII, who falsely named them "Lambert Simnel" and "Perkin Warbeck."

Skeptics of Langley's approach were quoted in the article, namely Spencer A. Strub, a humanities researcher at Princeton University, who was doubtful of the Richard III

Society's credibility: "It is frankly partisan in a war that ended more than 500 years ago," he said. The article also reports that "many also see it [her work] as fundamentally unacademic. Serious scholars do not usually probe the past to find or exonerate long-dead kings, they argue." Someone should have told that to Andrew Roberts, a Cambridge-educated historian, whose 2021 book, *The Last King of America: The Misunderstood Reign of George III*, seeks to exonerate that king in a manner that is identical to the Society's work to reassess Richard III:

But this deeply unflattering characterization is rooted in the prejudiced and brilliantly persuasive opinions of eighteenth-century revolutionaries like Thomas Paine and Thomas Jefferson, who needed to make the king appear evil in order to achieve their own political aims. After combing through hundreds of thousands of pages of never-before-published correspondence, award-winning historian Andrew Roberts has uncovered the truth: George III was in fact a wise, humane, and even enlightened monarch who was beset by talented enemies, debilitating mental illness, incompetent ministers, and disastrous luck.

Fortunately, not all academic scholars are as skeptical. Sebastian Sobekki, a professor of late medieval English literature at the University of Toronto, said of Langley's discovery of Richard III's grave: "She did very good research." Langley herself responds to her critics with grace and equilibrium. She knows what her detractors say about her, she said. She doesn't have the right credentials. She's emotional, a woman with a 15th-century crush. She had fought for legitimacy well before discovering Richard III. For decades, she has lived with chronic fatigue syndrome, a condition that has long been met with skepticism from doctors and colleagues alike. Ultimately, her work speaks for itself: She did find his grave. And now, she thinks she has cracked a major historical coverup.

Readers left hundreds of comments about the article on the NYT digital site, most of them supportive of Langley's theory that Richard III did not order the murder of the Princes in the Tower. For instance, a reader from Washington State said:

No way Richard killed his nephews. Henry VII was a horrible man. I believe he heartlessly had them murdered to clear his path to the throne. He murdered a lot of Plantagenet supporters during the beginning of his conquest of England and Wales. I am glad Ms. Langley motivated people to find Richard III's body, and see that his mortal remains were properly buried on holy ground, according to his religious beliefs as far as they are known. The evidence for the Princes' murders is scanty, and we will never know for sure, one way or the other.

Another reader from Albany, New York wrote:

I'm surprised by the comments so far claiming that the arguments against assassination by Richard have been shot down. They have not because there is zero contemporary evidence that anyone thought that Richard—or anyone—killed his nephews, and simple historical fact that the rumors began at the time of the Tudors' propaganda machine. I have always felt sorry for Richard, who in the few years he had appeared to have been trying to make England better. It would be helpful if the Abbey would let those skeletons be tested.

And someone from New Jersey remarked:

I really think she is on to something here. If the marriage between Edward IV and Elizabeth Woodville was deemed false then the princes would technically be illegitimate. Richard III was securely on the throne and from the sources I've read I got a sense that he was very loyal to his brother. All his issues seemed to lie with Edward's wife and the Rivers family. I can't imagine him loving his brother all of those years and then killing his sons. That would make him sociopathic, and I guess that's what he has been labeled as all these years! My suspicions have always remained with Henry VII because any York heirs posed a huge threat to his reign. They could always be used as a spark for revolution toward any English citizens unhappy with their current Tudor leader. Henry was also an outsider most of his life while the Yorks (primarily Edward IV) seemed to be well-loved and charming. I can't see him ever feeling safe while these two princes were alive, despite the fact they were declared illegitimate years prior.

Negative comments tended to rest on the events of May-June 1483 as being evidence damning Richard III of having the princes "forever disappeared," as someone from Florida wrote:

For the life of me, I do not understand why some people, when faced with an abundance of prima facie evidence, insist on reaching for the thinnest of possible explanations and conspiracy theories. So Shakespeare wasn't Shakespeare. Oswald didn't kill JFK. Sirhan didn't kill RFK. And Richard didn't kill the princes. Richard intercepted the princes on the way to London for the coronation. He had their escorts killed. He had them held in the Tower. Parliament declared them illegitimate. He was crowned king. They were never seen again. WHY IS THIS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND?

Finally, a large number of readers commented about how the article failed to mention Josephine Tey's *Daughter of Time*, which had convinced many of Richard III's innocence, while many others advocated for the bones in the Westminster Abbey to be DNA-tested using modern forensic techniques. Not so fast, says the article. "The view of previous deans has always been that the mortal remains of two young children, widely believed since the 17th century to be the princes in the tower, should not be disturbed," said Victoria Ribbans, a spokeswoman for the Abbey. "There are no current plans to change this."

—Susan Troxell

## When History Comes to Life



Recently in North America, it's become popular for people to take a 23andMe or Ancestry.com DNA test. In my case, one day I suggested to my mother that she should try it out in order to see where our roots originated. Up until that point, we both really did not know where we came from exactly...both of us just assuming possibly we were German, or Irish, maybe a little bit British. My mom had been told by her grandparents—and their grandparents had been told by their parents and grandparents— certain things, but honestly, there was never any real conclusive answer of any "bona fide" certainty.

Me and my mom were both very excited while we waited the two weeks for her results to come back. We were both absolutely floored by the results. Not only was my mom 85% British-Irish, and 11.5% French-German, but there on the test results was a little picture of King Richard III...and it said she was a direct maternal line J1c1b1 relative of his. We had absolutely no idea whatsoever! And growing up in America, up until that point, I had actually never even heard of King Richard or the Plantagenet family.

After I learned of this I became interested in my roots and started studying the King's genetic lineage. Believe it or not, there are numerous people out there—with, I believe, a total of seven known lineages that we are aware of in America alone—that are

possibly related to the King, with countless more in other countries. Richard's direct maternal line haplogroup is specified as J1c2c, which is the direct line stemming from his mother, Cecily Neville, and dates back 13,000 years to a specific Ice Age woman who I refer to now as "The White Queen." Over time, and in some instances in our family, this maternal haplogroup has mutated from J1c2c to J1c1b1, as can be seen for example with Wendy Duldig, or my mother, Lisa.

Richard's paternal haplogroup, classified as G-P287, passed down in the Y-chromosome from father to son, is harder to find due to the lack of surviving male Plantagenets, but I have full faith that maybe, just maybe, someday a paternal line association might surface, as more men take DNA tests and the database records grow.

So for me, The Richard III Society is much, much more than a mere historical society or even a scholarly foundation. It is even more than what its founder intended by uniting a group of loyal historians to present a much more accurate analysis of King Richard and his life and times. This Society is a family. Literally blood relatives, and also family in terms of people that have helped and united with the Plantagenets to preserve and protect England for centuries. When I read the *Bulletin* or the *Ricardian*, it is so much more to me specifically than a mere magazine of truthful and accurate recollections of history. I see people who are either direct family or *like* family. It is very different and special to me to be able to read and see something that makes me truly feel like I belong, feel like "those are my people," and care about the people involved.

It is important to note that without the Society and their work to discover King Richard's body, I wouldn't even have known that I was related to him. And furthermore, I wouldn't have ever felt a connection to Richard's purpose-driven life, or had light shed on my proud British heritage. I have only got to know and understand my British heritage—and have pride in it— because I studied King Richard's beliefs and ideology, and I can honestly say that he is my inspiration to become a better and more positive person.

It is my hope that other people find their way to the Richard III Society, not only to learn the truth of Richard's actual life, but to reconnect and feel this sense of family and unity through a direct genealogical connection. Such connections definitely bring the past to life, and remind us how the White Rose will never wither, as the Tudors intended. For those of us who are related to Richard, the story hits close to home—too close to let the lies stand. For some of us, Plantagenet loyalty and brotherhood burn fiercely inside us through our White Rose blood. Never before have I felt so much pride, not only in my family, but in my people. My British people. *Loyalty Binds Me*.

—Text and artwork by Eric Webb

## Meet Your New Chapters Coordinator

The American Branch has been without a Chapters Coordinator for several years, but no longer!

We are pleased to announce that Liz Bateman is stepping into the role. Liz is the head of the Tidewater Branch, and a past Dickon Award winner for her work in organizing the 2022 GMM in Arlington, VA.

### What does a Chapters Coordinator do?

Our Chapters Coordinator is tasked with advising any members who want to create a new regional chapter, communicating with existing chapters about their activities, keeping up-to-date contact information for chapters, and helping to select and coordinate with chapters who'd like to host a GMM.

### Meet Liz – in her own words

I'm Elizabeth (Liz) Bateman, Lead of the Tidewater Chapter of the Richard the Third Society, American Branch. How did I find myself here, having been a psych graduate from UC Davis in California, then a counselor at Western State Mental Hospital; a flight attendant for an international charter airline; a teacher of deaf/blind children; and a teacher of advanced composition in English as a second language at Northern VA Community College?

One fortuitous evening, I was at a Smithsonian lecture given by Carol Ann Lloyd Stanger on Richard III and I met Bob Phile, founder of, and George Usher, Treasurer of the Tidewater Chapter of the RIII Society. Who knew there was a Richard III Society? What fun, and how interesting! I think I'll join! Then, I read *The Daughter of Time*, watched *The White Queen*, and heard other lectures on Medieval topics. I was asked to step up for Bob, who needed a rest, and agreed. Later, I was so pleased to visit York, Leicester, and other areas near where King Richard spent much of his life. It's been fascinating to learn about the Wars of the Roses and the Medieval era in history. The Richard III Society has made history come alive with presentations and their GMMs. I'm looking forward to learning more as time goes on and others share their knowledge and expertise with me.

### Did you know?

The American Branch has regional Chapters in Virginia/Tidewater, Arizona, Florida, Illinois, Michigan, New York, the Rocky Mountains, and the Northwestern states. Any members interested in joining a Chapter should get in touch with the Chapter Head for their area — find contact information on the bottom of our Contact Us page. Want to start a Chapter in your state? Talk to Liz at [chapters@r3.org](mailto:chapters@r3.org).

## Off the Beaten Path Reviews

Since the Ricardian *Register* covers fiction and non-fiction book reviews, the newsletter's review will focus on other media. This includes art and graphic novels, puzzles, video and board games, podcasts, and of course, movies.



### Labor & Leisure in Medieval Old Age—a Zoom review

This talk by Dr. Compton Reeves focuses on Medieval life for the elderly in England and Europe.

Perhaps surprisingly, some people who were born during the Medieval era lived to ripe old age, even to their eighties and nineties. But the challenge was, they first had to survive high infant mortality, disease, war, and childbirth. Once they got past that, they had to be able to support themselves with labor that was not as physically taxing as what they'd been able to endure in their youth.

Dr. Reeves examined the prevalent attitudes, laws, and ownership. One interesting example about how people were valued was that fines for murdering a young person would be higher than for the murder of an old person, and more for a man than a woman.

In support of these attitudes and laws, or perhaps because of it, there were several theories about the ages of man. Saint Bede the Venerable defined four ages of man that coincided with the four seasons and the four humors of man. Other theories had as many as seven ages of man.

The care of the elderly varied by economic class. The wealthy had leisure time, while the poor had to survive on what they could get from begging. Dr. Reeves reviewed popular games of the time, from sports (including falconry) to board games to help stave off boredom and loneliness for those who did not have to survive by begging or tedious labor.

Music played a big role in the lives of the elderly, especially in more populated areas. Dr. Reeves devoted a fair portion of the talk to the musical instruments of the time, most of which were constructed by the musician. While classes of instruments conformed to a general look—such as horns, bagpipes, a variety of strings, and wind—they sounded different. For example, one hand-made recorder would have a different sound and tuning from another.

The aged population placed great importance on spiritual activities, which were mostly local and conformed to ritual. For individuals who were physically able, pilgrimages offered another way to demonstrate piety.

While I knew that there were elderly populations in Medieval times, I learned that old age was not necessarily grim, but given the right circumstances, old age could be enjoyable and active.

—Joan Szechtman

To view this archived video, go to [r3.org](https://www.r3.org) and select “Videos” under the “For Members” drop-down menu, then enter the password to access.

Recommended books:

- Rosenthal, Joel T. *Old Age in Late Medieval England*. 1996. University of Pennsylvania Press
- Reeves, Compton. *Pleasures & Pastimes Medieval in Medieval England*. 1998. Sutton Publishing Ltd
- Shahr, Shulamith. *Growing Old in the Middle Ages: 'Winter Clothes Us in Shadow and Pain'*. 1997. Routledge

**If you are interested in reviewing a Zoom talk on our private YouTube library, please contact the editor at [info@r3.org](mailto:info@r3.org).**



## Two songs by Ian Churchward—a music review

Ian Churchward, lead vocalist of The Legendary Ten Seconds, is currently at work on new music, including a forthcoming album, *Wonder Songs*, to be released next year. In addition, he's writing songs for a new Ricardian concept album that includes "Philippa's Song."

### "Philippa's Song"

A song for the intrepid Philippa Langley, who found King Richard III's grave under a Leicester car park, it tells of how she moved mountains to launch this project and bring it to fruition after years of searching. It mentions the movie *The Lost King*, which is not to be missed. I always enjoy Ian's deep resonant voice.

A wonderful tribute to a determined Ricardian who wouldn't give up—and changed history!

Listen to the track here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AgwpA73DJ3g>

### "Not By Divine Intervention"

With a strong steady drumbeat and Ian's mellow vocals, this song about Henry Tudor's setting sail from France to face Richard and his army at Bosworth is a first-person narrative put to music. He tells of the many history books he's read, determined to perpetuate King Richard's reputation as an evil tyrant -- and these falsehoods still prevail based on Tudor propaganda that proclaimed Richard's reign would fail by divine intervention. He then declares the truth as he and other loyal Ricardians know it, that not God, but the treacherous Stanleys with Tudor's ambitious scheme that tragically ended Richard's reign. —Diana Rubino

## "What It Was Like to Visit a Medieval Tavern" from Tasting History—a YouTube video review



From how to repair dishwashers to heartwarming animal tales to medieval life, it seems one can find everything on YouTube. Thank you, Tara Kolden, for introducing me to this delightful series about food.

During the Middle Ages, one could buy drink and food at inns, taverns, and ale houses. Max Miller, host of the channel *Tasting History*, reviews those differences, showing how they went from well-defined differences—inns offered drink, food, and lodging, taverns provided drink and food, and ale houses offered mostly ale, and perhaps bread and cheese—to overlapping services.

Interestingly, each establishment was monitored, and should they misrepresent the drink and food on offer, they ran the

risk of punishment in the form of fines, humiliation, and finally being thrown out of the guild, which put them out of business.

Through this look at history, Miller interweaves instructions for making a basic perpetual pottage that one might get at an inn—it looked delicious—citing recipe notes that these establishments might have used. These pottages were “perpetual” because an initial batch could be used to start the next batch, and so on. In theory, these pottages could be maintained for centuries as long as the basic ingredients were available.

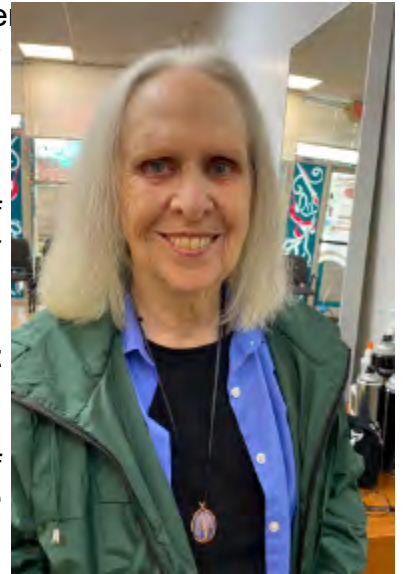
He mentioned an interesting connection to Caxton. Caxton was from the north, but established his printing press in the south, in London. In the north, eggs were called “egges,” but in the south they were

called “eyren.” Through his printing press, Caxton initiated the standardization of the English language (see the section “Caxton and the English language” in the Wikipedia article on William Caxton ([en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_Caxton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Caxton))).

Bon appétit! —Joan Szechtman

## Member Spotlight: Laura Blanchard

Laura Blanchard of Philadelphia, PA has been a long-time member of the American Branch, and recently rejoined after a hiatus of 10 years. She is on the team of volunteer digitally map and annotate the “Edward IV Roll” (MS Lewis E201) at the Free Library of Philadelphia, and has donated \$1,000 towards that project, for which the American Branch is profoundly grateful. Laura recently retired from her position as Executive Director of the Philadelphia Area Consortium of Special Collection Libraries (PACSCCL) and brought a wealth of connections to the current project now being staged at the University of Pennsylvania. Laura sat down with us “virtually” and chatted about her personal experiences with the Roll and the society.



**What made you so interested in the “Edward IV Roll” (MS Lewis E201) at the Free Library of Philadelphia, and how did you first learn about it?**

I was researching Richard III for a ninth-grade term paper in 1962-63. This led me to the Rare Books Department of the Free Library of Philadelphia, where I read Horace Walpole’s *Historic Doubts on the Life and Reign of Richard III* in one of the semi-private studies, which I invariably had to myself. (On a cradle! With buckshot-filled velvet snakes! I felt so grown-up! I am still amazed that they left me alone with a first edition of this eighteenth-century text.) One Saturday the curator came to my study and invited me into the manuscript room. “I have something I think you’d like to see.” He unrolled the manuscript and I was hooked.

**What’s been your history with this Roll over the years, including the need to preserve and make it presentable for exhibition?**

In the late 1980s I found and joined the American Branch, which rekindled my interest in the manuscript. My husband Roy (aka “The Reluctant Ricardian”) photographed it for me in 1992 and I presented a paper at the International Congress on Medieval Studies in, I think, 1993, on Yorkist uses of Ricardian imagery (meaning in this case Richard II) in a session organized by the Society of the White Hart. That same year I organized a presentation by Professor Ralph A. Griffiths, University of Swansea, at the Free Library for area Ricardians.

When PACSCCL began organizing its 2001 *Leaves of Gold* exhibition of medieval manuscripts, the opportunity to bring Lewis E201 to wider attention was obvious, as was the need for conservation — it was definitely showing its age and was stained, torn, fragile, and warped in some places from being rolled up tightly, and stuffed in a three-inch-wide box.

Raising the funds for its conservation was obviously a worthy project for the American Branch. Here was arguably the most magnificent example of a propaganda pedigree in existence, displaying all the Yorkist arguments for the legitimacy of their dynasty — lavishly illustrated and rich in legend, history, prophecy, and heraldry. And it even mentions our Richard! — which was the first thing my fourteen-year-old self asked the curator to point out all those many years ago.

The manuscript was photographed for the exhibition catalog, digitized some years later, and released to the public, free of any copyright restrictions, as part of PACSCCL’s Bibliotheca Philadelphiensis project in 2018 or thereabouts. Now, our Branch’s work has taken another step forward with the transcription, translation, and online presentation on the Digital Mappa platform.

More than 60 years ago, I first looked at the manuscript and sighed, “Oh—if only I could read it.” Now, thanks to the American Branch, I finally can.

**What kinds of things have you been doing on the current project, and what have you learned about Yorkist history or medieval manuscripts of this kind?**

Does cheerleading count? Susan Troxell and I attended an online presentation on Digital Mappa in the fall of 2022, which showcased the University of Pennsylvania MS Roll 1066, another pedigree of Edward IV that the American Branch had supported by funding a transcription. We immediately thought of E201, which Susan had asked me to talk about for the 2020 GMM (cancelled because of the pandemic, alas). So we talked with the team at Penn responsible for that project and found that, with some financial support for grad student transcribers and translators, the project was very much doable.

I've been working on providing enough context on the 54 individual shields and banners to give viewers an idea of whose shields they are, their relationship to the Yorkists, and their significance in buttressing Edward IV's claim to the throne. I am neither a medievalist nor a heraldry expert, but I am highly motivated, so I've been plugging along. Susan has been doing a nontrivial amount of contextual research as well, and we've gotten a huge boost from Joanna Laynesmith, former research officer for our parent society and incoming editor of *The Ricardian*. Joanna has done extensive research on the Mortimers. She also has a more than passing familiarity with this manuscript and has set us straight on many occasions.

I've learned a number of things in the course of this work. First: how very, very many Edward IV pedigrees there are out there. Those Yorkists were busy! Second, how complex and interwoven the great families of medieval England were. Third, how fascinating (and occasionally scurrilous) the legends of Britain's founding were. Fourth, how absolutely judgy the compilers of the manuscript were, tut-tutting about the malefactions of the mythical aborigines and the less savory branches of the family trees.

Finally, I already knew this but had it reinforced by my work on the project: how high the hurdles have been for a "general reader" to access manuscripts such as this one. First, there is the hurdle of getting to see it: for many years, if you couldn't travel to a library and present the appropriate credentials, your only choice was a blurry microfilm. Then, if you don't have skills in medieval Latin and paleography, you can't read it. One by one those hurdles have fallen: first, with the digitization of the images; next with their presentation online; and now with a transcription and translation by trained professionals that is in the process of being peer-reviewed. In this way, the playing field has been significantly leveled for people such as ordinary members of the society, who don't have the skillset or the travel budget to negotiate this complex document. I should add that by increasing the visibility of the manuscript we also open it to further scholarly inquiry, so that we can learn more about it.

And we have so much to learn! For example, we have no idea where it spent the centuries between its creation and its appearance at a London rare book dealer in the early 20th century, although Cheryl Greer has found a lead on the bookseller's records. We don't know who commissioned it, who compiled it, or who was privileged to view it. We think that some later annotators were at work in, for example, labeling the shields and banners, but we have no idea who or why.

**Can you share a little bit about why you first became a member of the Richard III Society and your history with the American Branch? Do any events or people stand out in your recollections?**

My youthful interest in Richard III was pushed aside for the business of young adulthood and motherhood. With the prospect of the empty nest looming and with the realization that there was a reference book called *The Encyclopedia of Associations* that might help me find the society, I did in fact do that, and joined in 1988 or 1990. (Why didn't I ask a reference librarian how to find the society long before then? Sheer stupidity, I guess.)

I joined the New Jersey Chapter as well and, when we moved to Philadelphia in 1992, transferred to the Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter. I rashly offered to become the PR officer back in 1989, even more rashly set my sights on placing a feature on the first page of the *Wall Street Journal*, and amazingly managed to do that. We picked up 150 new members from that one article, and kept up the barrage of publicity when Ian McKellen's film hit the theaters in the early 1990s. Then the internet happened, and I built the first rudimentary web page for the branch in 1994.

I saw the mission of the Branch as fourfold: to increase the visibility of the society so that others could find it; to level the playing field so that amateurs would have more access to research materials hidden in the Ivory Tower; to increase respect for the society from the academic community; and to

provide resources and member activities to increase their knowledge and their engagement with the topic. The opportunity to spend time with like-minded people who wouldn't roll their eyes at our obsession was a definite plus.

Plenty of other Ricardians took on these missions as well, more than I can ever name. Dozens of individual members used local library exhibits as a springboard to "local resident with an unusual interest" press coverage. I have to give a special shout-out to Judie Gall for keyboarding public-domain versions of source texts such as Croyland, Mancini, and others until her fingers bled in those days before the Internet Archives made such an effort redundant. Compton Reeves and Sharon Michalove, among others, raised the profile of the Branch at the International Medieval Congress in Kalamazoo and in our triennial conferences at the University of Illinois' Allerton Conference Center. Wayne Ingalls, Joan Szechtman, and Mary Miller have served the Branch in many roles over the years. Carole Rike—the Ricardian with a printing press—produced our quarterly publication and handled the mailings from the mid 1980s until her death in 2010 or thereabouts. Bill and Maryloo Schallek believed in the mission of Ricardian scholarship and put their considerable financial resources behind a graduate fellowship award.

**Can you comment on your experience as a volunteer with the Branch and whether you would recommend this experience to others?**

I've always loved volunteering for the Branch, even though I got a bit of burnout after a couple of decades of work. It has always been fulfilling and I would recommend the experience to others with one caveat—don't let yourself burn out as I did. Step back, like competitive cyclists who drop to the back of the pack and slipstream for a bit. Then jump back in when you're ready.

**What do you think is the best thing that the American Branch can do for medieval history and for an assessment of England in the late 15th century?**

I think the mission I mentioned pretty much covers it: increase visibility, improve access, support scholarship, provide resources and opportunities for Ricardian fellowship. And as a branch we are positioned to raise visibility and accessibility for the many fifteenth-century treasures that our nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century collectors brought over and deposited with our collecting institutions.

**More about the Edward IV Roll at the American Branch website:**

- <https://r3.org/edwardiv-roll/> (includes a link to a large image of the full roll)
- <https://r3.org/tag/edward-iv-genealogy/>
- <https://r3.org/phase-one-of-edward-iv-roll-project-is-complete/>

**Would you like to be featured in a future "Member Spotlight" column?  
Contact the editor at [info@r3.org](mailto:info@r3.org).**

## Chapter News: Michigan Chapter

What a lucky chapter the Michigan chapter is with Larry Irwin as its coordinator! Their last meeting on January 28th had seven members present to hear a summation of Philippa Langley's book, which provided evidence that the two princes survived the reign of Richard III, and also a fascinating look at the death of King Henry VI.

According to Kerry R. Tattersall's essay, Henry VI was quite probably murdered by the contingent of Edward IV after Edward returned victorious to the capital on or about May 21st, 1471. Henry suffered from periodic bouts of madness, as did his father and two of his relatives, including his father, Charles VI of France.

In two different chronicles, John Warkworth and the *Crowland Chronicle* discussed that he was buried face-up so all might witness that he was, in fact, dead, and that he bled on the street before

being taken for burial. His burial place was moved, and while he wanted to be buried in Westminster Abby near the shrine of St. Edward the Confessor, and he had a spot measured that he thought would suit him, he eventually was moved to Blackfriars at the riverside. However, his body reportedly bled again, so another mass was said and his funeral procession was sent on a barge up the Thames to the Benedictine abbey of Chertsey, possibly to an earthen grave.

In 1484, Richard III ordered the transfer of the king's remains to be moved to St. George's Chapel on the grounds of Windsor Castle, where he could be relocated to a proper tomb.

The next meeting of the Michigan Chapter will be held on April 28 at 1:30 at the Bloomfield Township Public Library, lower level. Larry Irwin will discuss more aspects of the life and reign of Henry VI. How lovely that you all seem to live within the same general area so getting together personally is so possible!

## Richard III Society American Branch 2024 GMM



### Join us in the Land of Enchantment

Santa Fe is often called “The City Different,” referring to its unique art, architecture, and cuisine, which blend Native American and Spanish cultures. It’s the oldest capital city in the U.S. (good *Jeopardy!* trivia), and it’s part of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network thanks to its amazing mix of museums and galleries, historic sites, and Native American heritage.

If you’re an art lover, plan to visit the Canyon Road galleries and the Georgia O’Keeffe museum. And don’t forget Meow Wolf, the immersive art experience sponsored in part by local resident George R.R. Martin. Explore Native American handmade art and jewelry and learn about the history of the conquistadors, who established the city in 1609.

See you on the Margarita Trail!

### Drury Plaza Hotel

To make reservations, visit the [hotel website](#) or call 1-800-325-0720 and refer to our group number: 10088958. Book your reservations by September 30, 2024 to receive the group rate.

Registration information will be available in early July. Additional details, including information about airports and ground transportation, is available on the R3.org website.

## Special guest speakers

- Philippa Langley  
Philippa will discuss her books, television shows, and projects. It is not yet decided if Philippa will appear in person or via Zoom.
- Dominic Smee  
Well-known to Ricardians as Richard III's "body double" on PBS's *Secrets of the Dead*, Dominic has the same spinal curvature as King Richard and received training in 15th century combat. Dom has had a complete Richard III costume created for him and will show us that and talk about his activities since the 2016 GMM.
- Christina Smee  
Christina will discuss Medieval Tamworth. Tamworth is in Staffordshire, UK and is where Christina and Dominic live. Tamworth has a rich medieval history complete with a castle.
- Michael Boyd  
Michael will talk about medieval combat, battle, and the introduction and use of the medieval handgonne. This will include displaying the handgonne and discussing its use in the Wars of the Roses and its relevance to Richard III.

## Historical walking tour

Join Ana Pecheco, a local historian and past City Historian, for an informative walk through Santa Fe. Ana is a Santa Fe native and will share a wealth of knowledge about Santa Fe and the state of New Mexico.

## Call for Candidates: Branches & Groups Liaison Officer (BGLO)

The society's 36 affiliated Branches and Groups will be asked to elect a new Branches & Groups Liaison Officer (BGLO) in September of this year when the current BGLO, Jane Trump, ends her term.

The BGLO role involves serving as the link between the Branches & Groups and the Board, in both directions. The BGLO does not automatically become a member of the Board (but may well wish to stand for election to the Board), but if they are not a Board member, they would be invited to relevant parts of Board meetings to ensure Branch and Group matters are properly considered.

If you are interested in the role, please contact the Society's secretary, Sue Ollier ([secretary@richardiii.net](mailto:secretary@richardiii.net)) to express your interest. Sue will be able to provide more details. You'll be asked to submit a simple form with a statement of up to 300 words about yourself, what you bring to the role, and how you see it developing and running.

## Ricardian Chronicle Ad Policy and Submission Guidelines

The American Branch of the Ricard III Society will accept ads that are of Ricardian interest including events, tours, music, books, art, and other merchandise.

### Ad fees:

- There are no fees for ads by members of any branch of the Richard III Society.
- Ad fees of \$50 USD apply to ads by a member on behalf of a company they are affiliated with, or by non-members for ads that are still within the parameters of Ricardian interest.

No other types of ads are accepted, and the American Branch reserves the right to reject any ad.

### Discounts:

Ad discounts will be offered in return for a benefit to the Society or its members—for example, to recognize a discount on a product or service being offered to members.

Some advertisements may be carried free—for example, for events being run by the Society, or if the ad is to support a charity or other good cause; or as part of a mutual arrangement with an equivalent body.

### Ricardian Chronicle schedule:

Submit ads by May 1<sup>st</sup> for inclusion in the June issue.

Submit ads by November 1<sup>st</sup> for inclusion in the December issue.

(Note: To allow for publishing and distribution delays, the ad should not be for events and tours that are to happen on a day in the first half of publication month.)

### Technical guidelines:

Fonts: The publication will use only one standard font throughout. If you need to have a special font, convert it to an image.

File types: doc, docx, odt, rtf.

Images: must be at least at 300 dpi (dots per inch) resolution.

Ad size: should not exceed 5” by 5” and have a resolution of 300 dpi.

If the ad submission is fully formatted, submit it as an image.

Once the advertisement is published, the advertiser and their customers are acting at their own risk.

If you have any questions, please send mail to [info@r3.org](mailto:info@r3.org).

## Article Submission Guidelines

- Keep it simple. Please use a standard font—such as the default font of the word processor.
- Use italics for book titles, article titles, publication titles, and foreign language.
- If the document has images, please submit them separately, marking their place in the document like this: <file name such as Fig1>
- Do not resize your images. I can always make them smaller to fit, but not larger. Images 300 dots per inch size, so if the image is 1” by 2” in the article, then it is 300 dots (or pixels) by 600 dots for the correct size.
- Image file format should be pdf, jpg, png, or tif. Most cameras will produce jpg images.
- Preferred document file formats are doc, docx, odt, or rtf. I can accept PDF files, but they do not always transcribe well. Tables or databases should use Microsoft Excel or CSV. DO NOT convert them to PDF.
- Please do not hesitate to contact me at [info@r3.org](mailto:info@r3.org) if you have any questions on something that you want to submit.

## Board, Staff, and Chapter Contacts

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chair: Susan Troxell  
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### \*Notes:

If you do not see a chapter near you and you would like to reach out to other Ricardians in your area, please contact the Chapter Coordinator at [chapters@r3.org](mailto:chapters@r3.org).

If you do not see your chapter listed here, please contact the Chapter Coordinator at [chapters@r3.org](mailto:chapters@r3.org) and provide the current contact information.



## Membership Application & Renewal Form

### Regular Membership Levels

\$60 for Individual \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$65 for family (2 or more, same household) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Contributing and Sponsoring Membership Levels

\$75 for Fotheringhay sponsorship\*

\$180 for Middleham sponsorship\*

\$300 for Bosworth sponsorship\*

\$500 for Plantagenet sponsorship\*

(\* sponsorships include family memberships, along with letter saying that anything over \$60 for individual or \$65 for family is a charitable contribution for income tax purposes)

Please list members at the same address (other than yourself) who are re-joining

For non-U.S. mailing address, to cover postage please add: \$15.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Donations\*

Unless otherwise specified, all donations will be unrestricted:

General Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Should you wish to donate for a specific use, please contact the Membership chair to determine if we can accept it.

Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*The Richard III Society, Inc., is a not-for-profit corporation with 501c3 designation. All contributions over the basic \$60 membership or \$65 for family are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Circle One: Mr. - Mrs. - Miss - Ms. - Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Country (if outside of U.S.): \_\_\_\_\_

Residence Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

New  Renewal  Please check if new address

Date of birth to register with Parent Branch of the Richard III Society \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Registration is required for receipt of the UK publications including the Ricardian Journal and Bulletin. If you are renewing your membership and have registered, then you do not have to re-register.

Please check if you wish to OPT OUT of registering.

If this is a gift membership, please place the following message on the gift acknowledgment email:

Make checks payable to: THE RICHARD III SOCIETY, INC. (U.S. Funds only, please.)

Mail to:

Richard III Society Membership Dept.  
c/o Wayne Ingalls  
704 NW Euclid Ave.  
Lawton, OK 73507

For instructions on how to join or renew online, go to [r3.org/join/](http://r3.org/join/)