

Ricardian Chronicle



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From the Chair

One Hundred Years of Ricardianism: Panel Discussion About the Society's Past, Current, and Future Role



Entrance to the Merchant Adventurers' Hall, York

I attended the highly anticipated Annual General Membership meeting on September 29th in York, England, which celebrated the Society's 100th year. York is a beautiful city with so many Ricardian connections. All the events of the AGM were held at stunning medieval halls, some accompanied by medieval musicians, others inviting attendees to wear medieval dress.

In particular, there was a discussion about the Richard III Society's past 100 years, its current position, and future goals. The panelists were Matt Lewis, Philippa Langley, Anne Garthwaite, David Grummit, and Joanna Laynesmith, with Alec Marsh moderating. The first question was whether the Society's past 100 years' of work has changed Richard III's standing in the eyes of academia or the general public. Historians and school teachers, the panelists said, are now more open-minded about seeing the "real Richard" behind the Tudor mythology. Glib, simplistic assessments are now in the minority.

While there are "hard-line traditionalists" still out there, they are being met by younger scholars who are more open to challenging received history and treating this era's core controversy (disappearance of the Princes in the Tower) as a detective cold case study. As proof that the needle

has moved since 1923, recent poll results in a major UK newspaper recorded that only 24% of respondents believed Richard III killed his nephews, meanwhile 52% said he did not, with 24% being unsure. As for the role of dramatic and fictional portrayals, almost everyone attending the AGM confirmed that they had first become interested in Richard III as the result of reading a historical fiction novel or seeing a play about him. Popular culture evidently impacts perceptions and sparks interest in the man and this history.



The Merchant Adventurers' Hall, York

The comments of two panelists—Drs. Grummit and Laynesmith—were quite revealing, as both contributors have firsthand experience in academia. There's been "a complete sea change" in how professors present Richard III, they said, and most fifteenth-century historians no longer take Thomas More as a credible, objective source. Instead, more moderate interpretations of his behavior and character are the norm, and it is universally accepted that he did not kill Henry VI, Henry VI's son, his wife, and is not responsible for many of the other deaths previously laid at his feet. Dr Laynesmith credited Charles Ross as being the first academic professor to take the Richard III Society seriously, and his biography raised the king's stature in medieval studies programs. Another development in academia is the emerging area of disability studies, which can allow Richard and his scoliosis to be seen with an additional dimension and new depth.



The gala dinner at the AGM

In reviewing the past 100 years, the most impactful events according to the panelists were the 2012 discovery of Richard's remains, the publications of Tey, Kendall, and Ashdown-Hill, the 1985 televised trial of Richard III, and the 2015 public reburial. The Society had some role in each, from contributing behind-the-scenes support, major funding, or direct involvement, to

commissioning significant research work such as the publishing of an edition of papers collected from Richard's signet office (Harleian MS 433). All agreed that the Society gave investigators a friendly, supportive community and network from which to conduct research.

Turning to the future, the panelists said that the Society can be confident in stating that research has shown alternative viewpoints of the king are supported by evidence, and it should use new methods for engaging a broader audience. Such methods include a greater variety of media like podcasts, documentaries, videos, and social apps. However, they warned against partisanship and the lack of diplomacy when confronting opposing viewpoints. Ricardians should be friendly, helpful, and willing to listen. If they can continue to do all this, membership will grow and the Society's stature will increase along with the king's for the next 100 years. Huzzah to that!



AGM friends, including Pauline Calkin and Compton Reeves



The York Waits musical group



Mhairi Macleod (chair, Scottish branch) and Susan

From the Editor

It was wonderful to meet many of you in person for the first time at the GMM in Santa Fe. I'm grateful to everyone who's had a hand in making the American Branch's publications so interesting and informative this year, and I look forward to working with you in the new year to bring our members the latest research and reviews, as well as the companionable sense of shared purpose that makes the Society such a great group. Loyauté me lie!

—Tara Kolden



Tara Kolden and Joan Szechtman at the GMM

The 2024 GMM in Review

This year's General Members Meeting took place at the Drury Plaza Hotel in the heart of Santa Fe. The hotel's Lamy room gave us ample space to meet, browse the book sale table, and look at the raffle prizes. Members and speakers who were unable to attend in person were welcomed on Zoom.



Browsing the book table



Philippa Langley's Zoom Q&A



Dominic Smee, Christina Smee, and Susan Troxell

Saturday's session began with breakfast provided by the hotel, and then a question-and-answer session with Philippa Langley, who attended by Zoom. The Q&A was facilitated by Dominic Smee, who attended wearing full Ricardian garb. Philippa answered questions both about her own experience as a Ricardian and about what members in the American Branch and around the world can do to support the Society's mission. It was great to spend time with Philippa and have our questions answered—the Zoom connection was great, and it felt like Philippa was right there with us.

Next, Christina Smee gave a fascinating presentation about medieval Tamworth, her hometown. She has remarkable ties to Richard III and medieval history, having worked as a docent at both Tamworth Castle and Bosworth—and her son, Dominic, served as Richard's body double in the episode of *Secrets of the Dead* where scientists and archaeologists researched the impact that the king's scoliosis may have had on his life, and in particular on his ability to wear armor comfortably and take part in battles. Christina showed us many pictures of Tamworth and its castle, as well as videos of medieval reenactments that have taken place in the town.

After a short break for coffee and snacks, Dominic Smee gave a presentation about the Clothing Project, the Society's commission to recreate a set of Ricardian clothes modeled after the outfit that Richard wears in the Paston portrait. It was so interesting to learn about how the clothes were constructed, and how Richard's tailor may have adapted his outfits to accommodate his scoliosis. Dom discussed the work of the modern-day tailor, Ninya Mikhaila, and the research that went into the recreation. Dom generously allowed us a close-up look at all the components of the outfit, and talked about future plans to create accessories to go with it.

We ate lunch together in the Lamy room, then proceeded with the American Branch business meeting. Chair Susan Troxell discussed our mission and our accomplishments over the past two years: We released publications, secured a new editor and new chapters coordinator, ran a successful PR campaign to tie in to the release of the movie *The Lost King*, launched Zoom talks, and launched social media and YouTube channels, to name just a few things.

Bobbie Franks from the Tidewater Chapter presented an award to Bob Pfile, who founded the Tidewater Chapter. Two Dickon Awards were given out, one to Bob Pfile, and the other to Dawn Shafer.

Susan gave a detailed presentation about the Branch's financials and our need to increase the cost of membership in order to cover operating costs. Motions were passed to increase the membership dues and approve the budget. There was also a discussion of what we, as members, can do to reduce costs for the branch. This includes opting for a digital-only membership, and helping the Branch find a pro bono or low-cost CPA.

Membership Chair Wayne Ingalls gave a presentation about membership numbers, which have increased over the past several years. He gave an in memoriam report on members we've lost, then conducted a vote to approve the minutes from the 2022 GMM and a vote to approve the new budget. We also voted on officer elections. The following individuals will serve until the 2026 GMM:

- Chair of the Board: Susan Troxell
- Vice Chair: (Vacant)
- Treasurer: Deborah Kaback
- Membership Chair: Wayne Ingalls
- Secretary: Liz Bateman
- Director at Large: Carole Bell
- Director at Large: Mary Miller
- Director at Large: Joan Szechtman
- Immediate Past Chair: Dr. Compton Reeves

Following the election there was an interesting discussion about the value of in-person GMMs, and various locations were suggested as future venues.

After the business meeting, the winners of the silent auction were announced and raffle prizes were given out. There were a lot of fun items and prizes, including books, artwork, Ricardian souvenirs, and even some medieval costumes. The latter came in handy later in the day when we met for a cocktail reception and the dinner banquet. Many members opted to wear medieval garb—they looked terrific!

At the conclusion of the banquet, Mary Miller gave a moving speech about how she came to join the Society—you can read it later in this issue. Then we enjoyed a performance of medieval music by Scott and Johanna Hongell-Darsee. Johanna talked about the history of ballads and storytelling in Europe, and demonstrated a number of medieval-style instruments as the pair sang a multi-part traditional ballad for us. It was a lovely finish to a busy day.



Musicians Scott and Johanna Hongell-Darsee



A group photo at the Banquet

On Sunday, attendees had the option of attending a history lecture or joining local historian Ana Pacheco for a walking tour of Santa Fe. The walking tour took us through downtown Santa Fe, past the Cathedral and the Palace of the Governors and through the historic Plaza. We learned a great deal about Santa Fe and the surrounding environment, which has been a melting pot of different cultures for

centuries. Ana's talk touched on many interesting points, including the history of spirituality in the city and the effects that different groups (the local Native American population, the Spanish, the Americans) have had on the city. We learned about common architectural styles in the area, from historic adobe to the territorial style of the Capitol (designed to mimic the Native American zia sun symbol) to modern buildings built in Pueblo Revival style. We got to look at real adobe bricks, and learned that modern builders often use "fauxdobe" because real adobe is hard to maintain—it also blocks wi-fi!

In all, it was a wonderful experience. My favorite part of attending the GMM was meeting other Ricardians in person and making new friends. It was a warm, welcoming group of people in a beautiful and fascinating host city—truly an experience I won't forget. Thank you so much to everyone who took time to attend, both in person and over Zoom, and to Dawn and Pete Shafer for all their hard work in putting together a fabulous program. See you in 2026!

—Tara Kolden

To view archived videos of the GMM presentations, go to r3.org and select "Videos" under the "For Members" drop-down menu, then enter the password to access.

A GMM Travelogue by Christina and Dominic Smee

This Autumn we were invited across the pond to attend the General Members Meeting (GMM) of the American Branch of the society.

The American Branch hold a GMM every two years, which takes place at various venues across the States.

For this year's event the very unique and wonderful city of Santa Fe was chosen.

For us, who very rarely get an opportunity to leave our hometown of Tamworth in the Midlands, this was an epic adventure in more ways than one.

Our journey began around midday on Tuesday 29th October; we arrived at our destination in the evening of Wednesday 30th October, local time. For Dominic there was the added bonus of an extended birthday on the 30th due to the 7 hours' time difference. Although to spend it on a transatlantic crossing in a cramped, claustrophobic airplane is not exactly most people's idea of fun.

The Drury Plaza hotel in Santa Fe was an excellent choice to host the GMM and serve as a base from which to explore the area. The staff went out of their way to be friendly and welcoming. Our room was spacious and comfortable. The food was delicious and the person who served the complimentary drinks at the bar in the evening was always cheerful. The rooftop views were spectacular. The pool and hot tub were a great feature, but unfortunately, we hadn't the time to indulge. The Drury Plaza is a very good example of great American hospitality.

There was a rather funny situation on our penultimate day in the hotel where Dominic thought he had blown the electrics by plugging his hair dryer into the wrong socket! Fortunately, this was simply a case of unfortunate timing, as right at that moment, there was a temporary power cut—possibly due to the bad weather working its way towards Santa Fe. And before you ask—we weren't trying to plug a UK device into an American socket! The power cut did not detract from the hotel staff's ability to provide us with breakfast. The staff were very calm and professional under the circumstances.



The Cathedral Basilica of Saint Francis of Assisi

The first thing to strike us about Santa Fe was its very quaint and singular architecture. Buildings are constructed of mud bricks known as adobe, giving the strange illusion of being the clay town creation of a child. Of course, we did learn later from our very informative historic town guide that most of the adobe in modern Santa Fe is not original.

Santa Fe is a melding and harmonising of different cultures, beliefs, and ethnicities where each has managed to keep some of its own identity whilst rubbing shoulders with another. This capital city has a violent and bloody history of suppression and rebellion but has somehow survived and thrived as the cultural capital of the American southwest into the twenty-first century.

The Spanish influence is evident in the very impressive Cathedral Basilica of Saint Francis of Assisi, whose bells dominate the peace and tranquility of this place.

The colonnade of the Palace of the Governors provides shelter for the Native American traders who make and sell their own jewellery and pottery ware, crafts that have been passed down from one generation to the next for hundreds of years. One gemstone seen in abundance and used extensively in Native American artwork is turquoise, which is mined locally and in the neighbouring state of Arizona. Never can you imagine such a variety of colours from blue to green, each denoting its place of origin.

Walking around the plaza and side streets with the many restaurants and cafés you will see bunches of chillis hanging outside to dry. Mexican cuisine and chilli are synonymous. The chocolate chilli sundae sold at The Shed is particularly worth trying should you ever visit Santa Fe.

We were also very fortunate to have been in Santa Fe for the Mexican Celebration of the Day of the Dead—Día de Muertos, which is in fact celebrated over two days. We weren't really sure what to expect and thought it might involve some weird pagan ritual. However, it turned out to be a very uplifting and positive event for those taking part. The plaza was full of lights, costumes, music, and singing, with an abundance of animated and colourful skeletons.

Several booths had been constructed within the plaza upon which candles were lit and photographs and other mementoes of departed loved ones were placed. Covering the booths and strewn all around the plaza were hundreds of marigold flowers. These are believed to draw the spirits of the dead to the plaza to join the celebrations.

There are many museums and art galleries celebrating and showcasing the history and culture of this very unique city. One such place of interest we visited was the Georgia O'Keefe gallery, where the life of this fascinating artist was displayed through her paintings of the beauty and splendour of the natural environment around Santa Fe.

During our stay we took a drive out to a Native American settlement known as a pueblo at Taos. These are not to be confused with reservations, onto which the indigenous people were driven by force by the Americans.

This is land that has been continuously occupied by Native Americans for hundreds if not thousands of years. The village lies at the foot of a mountain where they still have the exclusive rights to hunt and forage. The inhabitants are known as the people of the Red Willow Creek. There is no piped water and there are restrictions as to the type of modern appliances that can be used. Many of the dwellings still have working clay bread ovens outside.

Their way of life, language, customs, and rituals are for the most part closely guarded and set apart from outside influence. Preserving their traditions is of the utmost importance to them, although they do also benefit from all the rights and privileges of American citizenship.

As we were only a three-hour car journey away from Roswell, the site of the alien spaceship crash in 1947, we just had to make the trip. The Roswell incident must be the ultimate conspiracy theory, but the museum puts on a convincing display of evidence and is well worth a visit.

Another place we had planned to visit, but unfortunately couldn't make, was to the site of the first nuclear bomb test in 1945 near Los Alamos. Santa Fe itself played a significant part in Oppenheimer's journey, culminating in the nuclear explosion as portrayed in the recent film, *Oppenheimer*.

The GMM itself took place in the Lamy Room at the Drury Plaza hotel.

Philippa Langley was the first to start our meeting with a question-and-answer session via Zoom facilitated by Dominic. Questions were taken from members online and from the audience at the hotel. It was quite a quick-fire question session and on behalf of the American branch we would like to express thanks and gratitude to Philippa for a very interesting and informative exchange.

Christina was invited to give a short presentation on our hometown of Tamworth in Staffordshire, which, like Santa Fe, has a very long and interesting, though vastly different, history.

Dominic then presented the clothing commissioned by the Society and made by Ninya Mikhaila, the Tudor Tailor. We were able to take the clothing with us for Dominic to wear and show off.



An altar in the Plaza

Based upon the Paston Portrait of Richard III, the outfit is considered to give a more contemporary understanding of fifteenth century fashion. Ninya used extensive research material and templates to create the garments.

The doublet was tailored to disguise the curvature of the spine and the hose were padded to balance the proportions. Many people have asked if the material used to construct the gown was real cloth of gold. Ninya contacted the only maker of cloth of gold she knew, Guiseppe Gaggioli in Italy. He weaves it to the period, which is less than half the width of modern cloth. The cost is 500 euros per metre, meaning the gown alone would have cost approximately £5000. As a close alternative, Ninya used metallic silk damask that she dyed gold; the most stressful thing she has ever done, apparently.



The Richard III outfit made by Ninya Mikhaila and modeled by Dom

For those of you who were at Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre this August you will have seen the clothing as modelled by Dominic when it made its first public appearance.

The clothing was also scanned and used by FaceLab in the making of the Richard III avatar for the Voice for Richard. The launch of this project took place at the Theatre Royal in York on 17th November, and we were privileged to attend.

The final addition to the clothing will be a collar chain, presently under construction, based upon that seen in the portrait. It is expected to be completed in the New Year.

The afternoon concluded with the American Branch business meeting.

The day ended with food and entertainment from Scott and Johanna Hongell-Darcee. Johanna, originally from Norway, has the most haunting voice as she sang ballads in her native tongue, reminding us of the Saxon history of our home town of Tamworth and their story-telling traditions.

We also heard from Society member Mary Miller on how she became a Ricardian. Everyone has a different story, but at heart each of us has a desire to exonerate the name of Richard III.

Our time in New Mexico ended with an unforeseen change of plan. Whereas a few days before, we had been enjoying a sunny but chilly autumn, or should I say fall, in Santa Fe, by Wednesday, 6th November, snow was expected to come in from the mountains. A drift of 6 to 12 inches of snowfall had the potential to cripple a small airport like Santa Fe, so we made the decision to travel the 392 miles by car, or in our case a 4 x 4 jeep, to Denver, Colorado.

We were 8 hours on the road plus one hour for lunch. We crawled along through the snow passing 40-mile tailbacks in the opposite direction. We were very fortunate that the only incidences heading towards Denver were a few cars skidding off the highway onto the embankment.

The big bonus of spending a few hours in Denver before our long flight home was the opportunity to visit the Casa Bonita restaurant. The food was exceptionally good and where else in the world do you get treated to a display of deep pool divers as you eat? Not to mention the puppet shows and live musicians nor the wonderful Mexican sopapillas to finish off the meal; a traditional treat of deep-fried dough pastry sprinkled with honey and cinnamon. It was the perfect end to a most extraordinary experience.

Our heartfelt thanks go to Susan Troxell, the Chair of the American Branch of the society, the Board of Directors, and all of the society members. The warmth and friendliness of everyone we met was truly wonderful.

It was great having breakfast with Nance and David. Thank you for the interesting conversation. Thank you also David for the gift of the audio books. Thank you to Bianca and Patrick for coming to the Day of the Dead with us and for the fascinating tour of La Fonda. Bianca is as well informed about Santa Fe history as our city tour guide. Thank you, Erik, for presenting a surprise birthday present to Dominic, as well as the lovely candle and spectacular group rendition of Happy Birthday! Thank you, Pauline and Kim, for your good company around the art gallery and city sights. Thank you, Maria, for coming shopping with us around the stores and amongst the traders. Last, but no means least, to our

new friend, the lovely Diana from Florida, it was a real pleasure to make your acquaintance and benefit from your vast knowledge of bird and animal life.

To all the people we met, old and new friends, thank you for welcoming us to your country and making our visit fascinating, enjoyable, and unforgettable. Our final and special thanks go to Dawn and Pete Shafer for organising this event; for their generosity and self-sacrifice in making our visit to Santa Fe another once-in-a-lifetime event.

Mary Miller: My Journey with Richard

2024 marks the Richard III Society's founding in Great Britain. This is a momentous event for Ricardians. We have seen many strides forward in revealing Richard III's true nature, rescuing him from the slanders of the Tudor myth. These years have been filled with works, large and small, by many people across the globe. Here in the United States, we have our own efforts to be proud of.

Each of us has a story about how we came to Ricardians..Usually we are inspired by something we read. But at some point, we took the extra step of joining the Society. This is my Ricardian journey.

I was an inveterate reader of historical fiction in my teen years. I had run across the "Wicked Uncle" story in some books, but had also read more sympathetic treatments, such as *The White Boar* by Marian Palmer. I was also a devoted reader of newspapers. One day in 1970, in my senior year of high school, I read a column by Paul Harvey, the famed radio broadcaster. He wrote about how the true story behind an event was often different from what was popularly thought to be true. He mentioned *The Daughter of Time* by Josephine Tey. I was intrigued and checked it out of the library. Like many other readers, I was totally converted by her logical presentation of the facts. But then I went a step further and found Paul Murray Kendall's biography of Richard III in my school library. That did it. I was now totally in Richard's camp and was ready to proclaim to any who would listen how he had been defamed for centuries. My family took this all in stride. After all, I had long been a fan of Thomas Becket, going so far as to write Richard Burton about his role in the movie *Becket*. My brother Tom found a story in *National Geographic* that showed Bosworth Field and a wreath of white roses. The photo label said that it had been placed there by the Defenders of the Innocence of Richard III—a.k.a. D.I.R.T. Ah ha! Now I knew that there was a society devoted to Richard's reputation.



Mary Miller speaks at the GMM

That summer between high school and college, I went on a student tour of Europe. My group lived in Durham Castle for a month and went on field trips around York, Durham, and Northumberland. One of the adult chaperons was a nun from Michigan who already knew a lot about Richard. She told me about the Society and urged me to join the Society when I got home. When we got to London, I had to visit the world-famous Foyles bookstore. There I found my own copy of Kendall's biography. It still has pride of place on my Ricardian bookshelf.

When I got home, I left for college a week later. One day I stopped at the library's reference desk and asked if they could find some information about the Richard III Society. An address was duly found and I wrote off to find out how to join. I soon heard back from Linda Raggazzini, who was the membership chair and newsletter editor. So in 1971, I joined the Society for the first time. The American newsletter was typed and mimeographed, but the British publications that started coming were very impressive and a bit intimidating.

My freshman English professor assigned Shakespeare's *Richard III* and allowed me to make a presentation to the class about an alternative look at him. My junior year I took "Survey of British History" from Dr. Marguerite Potter, a legend in history circles. She was a devoted Tudor fan. After her lecture about Bosworth and the rise of Henry VII, I dared to talk to her after class to tell her there was another side to the story. I can still remember how her eyes twinkled when she told me I should talk to her graduate assistant, Roxane Murph. Roxane was writing her master's thesis on Richard.

We formed a fast friendship. Eventually we decided to start a chapter, the Southwest Chapter. In 1985, to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Battle of Bosworth, we led a tour of six Texas members around Ricardian sites in England, from Fotheringhay to Middleham to Bosworth Field. When a van load of women stopped at a battlefield and talked battle strategy, people would look at us and ask, 'Where are you from?'

My husband's job moved us around the country, and I looked for fellow Ricardians everywhere we lived. I helped to start chapters in Michigan and Illinois. I met Dawn through the Illinois Chapter. I found other ways to get involved in the Society. I was Chapter Coordinator for a few years, and Fiction Librarian for about five years. I wrote articles and book reviews for the Register and gave workshops at AGMs and organized an AGM in Chicago. I have made many friends along the way in the chapters and by attending the AGMs, and now GMMs. There is something special about meeting people with similar interests.

My Ricardian journey is still going on. I am currently a director-at-large on the Board. Susan may disagree, but I view my role there is to be a source of information about the Society's past. Not that we should do things the way we used to, but because we need to remember where we came from. I am trying my hand at writing a children's book about Richard. If it ever gets published, I will let you know.

I have been asked many times why I have a large portrait of a dead English king hanging in my study. I sometimes give a brief intro to Richard's story, but I always end by saying that truth matters. It does not matter if the rumors and lies are hundreds of years old. Truth matters. That is what I stand on.

Many of you have followed a similar path. Perhaps your passion is costumes, or cooking, or drama, or castles, or researching some particular area of fifteenth century history. The Society gives you a home for following those interests. Ricardians tend to be quirky and curious. There are many different topics to look into. If you don't see it being done by someone else, start doing it yourself. That is how Philippa Langley became interested in finding the burial site of Richard. She followed her passion and convinced others to search for it. The amazing discovery of Richard's remains has brought attention to the Society and renewed our commitment to learning more. For those of you who are recent members, I can't begin to tell you how impossible this seemed twenty or thirty years ago. And it happened because Philippa believed and acted.

Jeremy Potter, who was the Chairman of the UK Society for several years, wrote a fascinating book called *Good King Richard?* With a question mark. He wrote about the history of writings and scholarly research on Richard III starting from his death. Potter outlined how, since the Society's beginnings in 1924, there have been both amateur and scholarly aims. The Society has fought hard to gain respect for its scholarly endeavors. But we remain a group that is run by volunteers, who do it for love. We remain committed to exploring the truth about Richard and his times.

If you want to know more about the history of the American Branch, I recommend going through the archive of the Ricardian *Register*, which is available in the members' section of the website. The Register archives go back to 1966. Reading through them this fall, I found the names of some of you here in this room, and the names of friends who are no longer with us. I was reminded how far we have come as a Society, but also how many people have contributed to that journey. From writing book reviews to serving as an officer to writing extensive footnoted articles on details of life in Yorkist England, members have stepped forward to share their knowledge with other Ricardians.

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

An Account Book of Henry VII Is Now Online

In August 2012 the search for the mortal remains of King Richard III, led by Philippa Langley, MBE, and her “Looking for Richard” project team, came to a successful conclusion with the King’s grave found under a parking lot in Leicester England. With this mystery solved, Langley turned her attention to the disappearance of the two sons of King Richard’s elder brother and predecessor, King Edward IV: What happened to the two boys following the coronation of their uncle? The last time they were seen playing on the Tower green was in July 1483. Over the course of that summer they were seen ‘less and less’ until they were no longer seen at all. With no proof whatsoever of their death or demise, the theory that they were put to death by their uncle calcified and is now taken as fact. Solving the mystery of the disappearance of the two boys became Langley’s next challenge. She formed The Missing Princes Project (TMPP) and solicited help from researchers around the world to hunt for primary source documents that might offer clues to their whereabouts. To participate in this effort I formed The Missing Princes Project in America in December 2018. The objective: Search the 497 institutions listed in the Directory of Collections in the US and Canada that have pre-1600 manuscript holdings. I reached out to the membership of the Richard III Society’s American Branch asking for volunteers—thirty-one people raised their hands. Beginning in December 2018 we scoured these 497 US-based libraries, archives, and special collections looking very specifically for primary source documents dated between 1483 and 1509. With the outbreak of COVID, all our searching had to be online.

In August of 2019 I was querying the Massachusetts Historical Society’s digital archives and was tremendously excited to find the original manuscript of a financial Account Book from the court of King Henry VII that was dated within our required timeframe. This manuscript was donated in 1905 to the MHS by the estate of Charles Edward French, a Bostonian businessman. I think it’s fun to learn that a Tudor period court record has been sitting right in our own backyard! However, it is written in Latin with medieval script, and is therefore indecipherable to most people who do not have the necessary paleographic skills. With a generous donation of funds from the Scottish branch of the Richard III Society, Langley commissioned Dr Shelagh Sneddon of York University to transcribe and translate the Account Book. It is now easily readable. While it did not hold any clues to our search for the missing boys, it shines a bright light on the finances of King Henry VII and his court. With the kind agreement of Dr Sneddon, The Missing Princes Project was pleased to donate this translation to the Massachusetts Historical Society. Last month the MHS launched their digital preservation system and were able to update the cataloging of the Account Book with a link to the transcription/translation. Now, you can see the original document and then easily toggle to the translation so that you can also read it! Here is the cataloging record: <http://balthazaar.masshist.org/cgi-bin/Pwebrecon.cgi?BBID=126260>. There are two links at the top of the record, one to the digitized images of the original and the other to the transcription. Check it out!

—Sally Keil

Announcing Our 2025 Winter/Spring Lectures

Have you ever heard that Richard III invented the concept of universal bail? That he was a protector of the emerging field of moveable-type printing? That his laws regarding property conveyancing are still considered legal landmarks? Have you ever wondered how so many European medieval objects and manuscripts found their way into American collections? Have you ever wanted to opportunity to meet and chat with an acclaimed author of Ricardian fiction?

Then you'll love the lineup of Zoom lectures we have planned for our members in the first half of 2025.

January 26, 2025: Richard III's Parliament with Matt Lewis

Join us for an engaging discussion with Matt Lewis, former chair of the UK Richard III Society, who will talk about what happened at the king's first and only parliament.

March 23, 2025: Meet Author Annie Garthwaite

Annie Garthwaite is the author of *Cecily* and *The King's Mother*. Focusing on the life of Cecily Neville, Richard III's mother, her novels weave together the stories of four ferocious women who were not afraid to play the political long-game in order to see their sons crowned as England's king.

June 22, 2025: Medieval Manuscripts in the New World with Lisa Fagin-Davis

Lisa Fagin Davis, Executive Director of the Medieval Academy of America, is a specialist on European manuscripts and will share with us the fascinating history of how American collectors, some of whom were wealthy eccentrics or used dubious means, amassed libraries of medieval texts that continue to attract scholars around the globe to their study. She will also touch on the ethical implications of collecting objects from another country.

All of these talks will take place on Zoom and are open to Richard III Society members only. For more information, visit the [Events](#) page on the website.

If you are interested in reviewing a Zoom talk for the Chronicle, please contact the editor at info@r3.org.

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 1st for inclusion in the June issue.

Submit ads by November 1st 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.

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 jpg, png, or tif. Most cameras will produce jpg images.
- Preferred document file formats are pdf, 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 if you have any questions on something that you want to submit.

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chairperson@r3.org

Vice-chair: open
vice-chair@r3.org

immediate Past Chair: Compton Reeves
immediate_past_chairman@r3.org

Membership Chair: Wayne Ingalls
membership@r3.org

Treasurer: Deborah Kaback
treasurer@r3.org

Secretary: Liz Bateman
secretary@r3.org

Directors-at-Large: Carole Bell, Mary Miller,
Joan Szechtman
director-at-large@r3.org

COMMITTEES & STAFF

Research Officer: Compton Reeves
research_officer@r3.org

Research Librarian: Susan Troxell
researchlibrary@r3.org

Articles/AV Archivist: Andy Hart
articlesavlibrary@r3.org

Fiction Librarian: Pauline Calkin
fictionlibrary@r3.org

Editor: Tara Kolden
info@r3.org

Assistant Editors: Diana Rubino
assistant_editor@r3.org

Ricardian Reading Editors: Myrna Smith,
Pauline Calkin

ricardian_reading_editor@r3.org

Public Relations Officer: Wayne Ingalls
public_relations_officer@r3.org

Web Master: Cheryl Greer
webmaster@r3.org

Sales: open
sales@r3.org

Chapter Coordinator: Liz Bateman
chapters@r3.org

CHAPTERS*

ARIZONA: Marion Low
dickon3@cox.net

FLORIDA: William Gouveia
wgouveia@cfl.rr.com

ILLINOIS: Janice Weiner
jweiner@sbcglobal.net

MICHIGAN AREA: Larry Irwin
katycdc@yahoo.com

NEW YORK-METRO AREA: Maria Elena Torres
ejbronte@gmail.com

NORTHWEST: Jim Mitchell
ayorkist@yahoo.com

ROCKY MOUNTAIN (CO): Dawn Shafer
dawn_alicia_shafer@yahoo.com

TIDEWATER (VA): Elizabeth Bateman
concordiaerb@aol.com

**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.

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

Membership Application & Renewal Form

Regular Membership Levels

Individual, digital only (digital copies of magazines and journals): \$60.00 \$ _____

Individual (print copies of magazines and journals): \$75.00 \$ _____

Family (2 or more people in the same household): \$80.00 \$ _____

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 \$ _____

Contributing and Sponsoring Membership Levels

Honorary Fotheringhay Member: \$100.00 \$ _____

Honorary Middleham Member: \$180.00 \$ _____

Honorary Bosworth Member: \$300.00 \$ _____

Plantagenet Angel: \$500.00 \$ _____

Donations*

Judy R. Weinsolt Memorial Research Library \$ _____

General Fund \$ _____

Morris McGee Keynote Address Fund \$ _____

Schallek Special Projects Fund \$ _____

Total enclosed \$ _____

*The Richard III Society, Inc., is a not-for-profit corporation with 501c3 designation. All contributions over the basic \$60 membership 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 reregister.

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/