

# 2025 Annual Report

## Report from Chair (Susan Troxell)

I chaired all six regular bimonthly meetings of the Board, two special meetings, five Zoom talks and two social hours. The Board made two important decisions in 2025, one was making a grant to the Voice For Richard III Project, a cutting-edge fusion of science, history, and linguistics. The grant will be paid out of the Special Projects Fund. Another decision was to appoint two new members to your Board of Directors: Maureen Chelak and Tiffany Holmes. Both have already volunteered on special projects, and have shown great enthusiasm for being involved. We welcome them and all the new volunteers who have stepped up to lend a hand to the nitty-gritty of operating a Ricardian historical society.

The American Branch's achievements in 2025 include:

- Publication of two high-quality *Ricardian Register* journals and two *Ricardian Chronicle* digital newsletters, providing members with original research articles, and updates from the Ricardian community.
- An engaging program of Zoom talks attended by hundreds of people over the year; recordings are available on the American Branch's members-only website page. Matt Lewis's talk on Richard III's parliament proved to be very popular. And we had an outstanding Zoom Members' Social hour to discuss the fate of the Princes in the Tower, attended by over 50 people!
- Official public release of the online *Edward IV Roll Digital Mappa Edition with Annotations*, see <https://www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/chronicle-world>, which had been earlier funded with a \$10,000 grant from the American Branch Special Projects Fund.
- Identifying A Voice For Richard III Project to receive a \$5,000 grant to support the third and final stage of its highly successful endeavor to recreate the king's voice, see <https://r3.org/news/>.
- Receiving another banner year for cash donations, which directly sustain our operations and publications. We are deeply grateful for our loyal supporters!
- Planning for the 2026 GMM in New Haven, CT on October 30-November 1st, which will feature a very special speaker and an excursion to the Beinecke library.

We also welcomed more volunteers to the Branch: Stephanie Marino has volunteered to be the Technical Host for our Zoom talks and has already successfully handled two events in this role. Bobbie Franks has volunteered for the Co-Editor position and is currently on-boarding into that position. And, as always, we are grateful to Pauline Calkin, Myrna Smith, and Diana Rubino for their contributions to our newsletters, and to Maria Torres for helping with GMM planning.

## Report from Membership Chair (Wayne Ingalls)

The American Branch is in a season of declining membership numbers. We reached a high of nearly 600 members in 2024, but our numbers have been declining since that time. Our numbers were trending downward from 2015 (495) to 2021 (377). With the renewed interest in

King Richard III due to Philippa Langley's *The Lost King* movie and her book from "The Missing Princes Project" (The Princess in the Tower) our membership surged. However, by the end of 2025, our membership had declined down to 424 total members. One word of caution for our members. Many have set their memberships to "auto renew." Aside from the issue of our change in membership cost and structure (adding a digital only level of membership) following the 2024 GMM, we have had 33 auto-renewals fail in the last 6 months. This is primarily due to the expiration date on the credit/debit card being reached. While many members have realized the issue (the notification was sent to them by email), others have not responded, resulting in a lapsed membership. Nevertheless, given the enthusiasm from our Zoom talks, I would expect our numbers to hold steady in 2026.

### Report from Treasurer (Deborah Kaback)

<b>Income</b>	<b>Jan-Dec 2025</b>	<b>Jan-Dec 2024</b>
Dues	\$31,977.52	\$24,517.44
Gift General Fund	\$18,981.97	\$17,596.97
Dividends	\$6,257.72	\$5,671.43
Gifts in Kind - Goods (books)	\$643.83	\$309.00
GMM Registration Fees	\$0	\$4,770.50
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$57,861.04</b>	<b>\$52,865.34</b>
<b>Non-Cash Gain (Loss)</b>		
Investment Income, Unrealized	\$4,771.62	\$(3,646.93)
<b>Expenses</b>		
UK Society Dues	\$20,914.25	\$18,495.92
UK Overseas Direct Mailings	\$4,850.75	\$7,192.86
Grant Research - UPENN	\$0	\$2,375.00
Ric. Register Printing/Production/Mailing	\$5,505.34	\$2,724.50
Fiction Library Expense	\$52.83	\$259.00
Non Fiction Library Expense	\$702.32	\$81.31
Bank Wire	\$1.00	\$(28.00)
Acc Federal NY State Tax Filing Fees	\$50.00	\$50.00
Credit Card Processing Fees	\$2,526.43	\$1,823.33
Zoom Subscriptions	\$296.52	\$250.79
Conferences Conventions & Meetings	\$0	\$10,437.79
Travel	\$0	\$0
Sales Office Expense	\$0	\$0
Insurance	\$0	\$792.00
Printing and Copying	\$2,270.61	\$1,721.32
Reimbursement	\$425.41	\$84.00
Charitable Donations	\$0	\$0
Accounting Fees	\$4,600.00	\$6,500.00
Legal Fees**	\$1,000.00**	\$0
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$43,351.38</b>	<b>\$52,831.78</b>
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>\$19,281.28</b>	<b>\$(3,613.37)</b>

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>Jan-Dec 2025</b>	<b>Jan-Dec 2024</b>
Vanguard Total Bond Market Fund Index*	\$154,218.10*	\$157,818.60*
Bank of America Checking	\$48,196.32	\$50,459.44
Paypal	\$9,003.40	\$6,753.15
	<b>\$211,417.82</b>	<b>\$215,031.19</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>		
Vanguard Total Bond Market Fund Index*	\$165,247.44*	\$154,218.10*
Bank of America Checking	\$53,975.85	\$48,196.32
Paypal	\$11,475.81	\$9,003.40
	<b>\$230,699.10</b>	<b>\$211,417.82</b>

\*The Vanguard account holds our Special Projects Fund; these monies are restricted and are to be used only for supporting projects and initiatives of the American Branch in pursuing its mission and the expressed intentions of its donors.

\*\*Legal fees were incurred in order to obtain a legal opinion about whether the Branch would lose the public-support requirement as a NY charity with a large distribution from the Estate of Peggy Ann Dolan. The probate court file, still pending as of 12/31/25, shows that the American Branch is one of 7 named beneficiaries in Ms Dolan's Last Will & Testament.

### **Update on Schallek Fellow and Awards Program**

The Schallek Fellowship Awards Program endowment, originally \$1.34M when gifted to the Branch in 2003, was valued at \$1.9M as of year-end 2025. Each year, a total of \$65,000 is drawn, usually from the endowment's interest, to pay for one \$40,000 dissertation fellowship and five \$5,000 research awards. The scholarship program is administered by the Medieval Academy of America and its financial manager (UBS Financial Services), which also manages other endowments it holds in trust for grant programs. The MAA draws a sum of money, not to exceed 0.5% of the fund, to pay for its costs in administering the Program. Under this program, and to date, over \$900,000 has been distributed to graduate students pursuing PhDs in late medieval history. Recipients' names and research topics are announced on our website at <https://r3.org/schallek/>. The 2025 recipients of the fellowship and awards were announced on our website's news blog, here: <https://r3.org/2025-schallek-fellow-announced/> and <https://r3.org/winners-of-5k-schallek-awards-announced/>

### **Report from Secretary (Liz Bateman)**

Board meetings for the directors of the American Branch of the Richard III Society are held every 2 months via Zoom. Minutes for each meeting are taken by the Secretary and distributed to the Board for review. At the following Board meeting, the minutes are accepted by the Board or, if errors were made, accepted after the correction of any errors. Board Minutes are uploaded to the American Branch's website under 'Governance Documents' and are available for all members to review. These procedures were dutifully followed in 2025. Occasionally, there are other Board meetings that fall in between the bimonthly period. For example, on October 28, 2025, there was a meeting with Yvonne Morley-Chisholm to discuss a grant to the Voice for Richard Project.

### **Annual Report from the Editor (Tara Kolden)**

Over the past year, it has been a pleasure to continue developing both of the American Branch's publications, the *Register* and the *Chronicle*. I'm grateful to the many members who contribute

their time, research, and enthusiasm to these publications. Their willingness to share their expertise and interests helps ensure that our journals reflect both the scholarly and community spirit of the Branch.

One of the highlights of this year's *Register* has been our ongoing presentation of the Edward IV Roll. Across both issues we have featured translation and interpretation of this remarkable document, offering members an opportunity to engage more deeply with its historical context and significance. The response has been very encouraging, and additional installments are planned for future issues as we continue to explore the roll in greater detail.

In the *Chronicle*, we've featured a series of member spotlight articles that highlight the diverse backgrounds and interests of our members. It's a great way for us to learn more about one another, and it's enjoyable to read about what first interested our members in Richard III and drew them to the Society.

I'm also very excited to welcome Bobbie Franks, who comes on board as our co-editor, and to offer my thanks and gratitude to Joan Szechtman, who has been so generous in continuing to support our editorial work all year.

#### **Chapters Report** (Liz Bateman)

Currently, there are local chapters in Arizona, Tidewater (Mid-Atlantic), Michigan, Florida, Rocky Mountain, and the New York Metro area, and one suspended chapter in the Pacific Northwest. Unfortunately, the Illinois chapter has decided to discontinue and close down, due to ill health and lack of new leadership. Along with the rise of our society's social media presence and online communities, there has been a decline in demand for local interactions and chapters. However, a few chapters are actively meeting on a regular basis and have found that Zoom helps to keep people connected over a large distance.

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