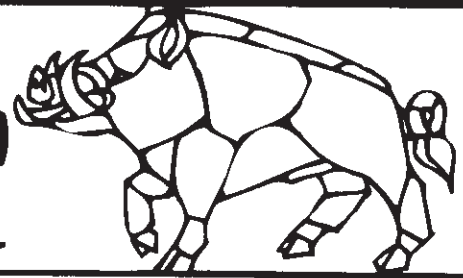


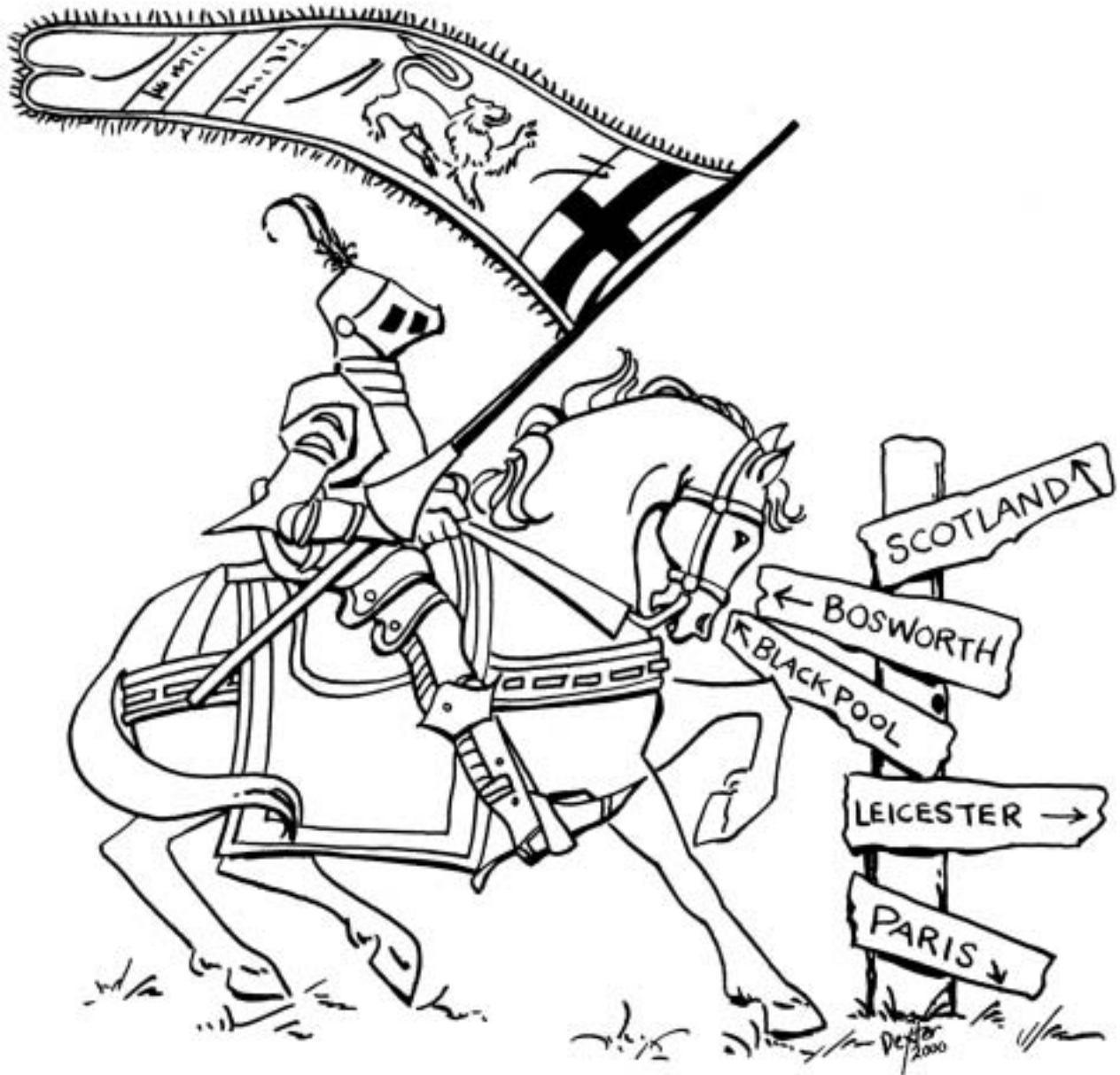
# Ricardian REGISTER



Richard III Society, Inc.

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— Susan Dexter

Richard & The Percys

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## Register Staff

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EDITOR: **Carole M. Rike**  
4702 Dryades St. • New Orleans, LA 70115 (504) 897-9673  
FAX (504) 897-0125 • e-mail: carole@word-catering.com

RICARDIAN READING EDITOR: **Myrna Smith**  
Rt. 1 Box 232B • Hooks, TX 75561  
(903) 547-6609 • FAX: (903) 628-2658  
e-mail: normclay@txk.net

ARTIST: **Susan Dexter**  
1510 Delaware Avenue • New Castle, PA 16105-2674  
e-mail: sdexter@lcix.net

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT — YORKSHIRE  
Geoffrey Richardson



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### Future Annual General Meetings

2000 *New York City*  
September 29 - October 1, 2000

2001 *Fort Worth, TX*

2002 *Michigan*



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39 Elgin Avenue • Forest Park, IL 60130-1118  
(708) 209-1409 • e-mail: dabenedetto@lucent.coms

**SECRETARY: Dianne G. Batch**  
9842 Hawthorn Given Drive • Grosse Ile, MI 48138-2115  
(734)67501801 • e-mail: batchdg@aol.com

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5191 Hanks Exchange Road • Placerville, CA 95667  
(530) 622-6470 • e-mail: bonnieb@innercite.com

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1421 Wisteria • Metairie, LA 70005 (504) 837-0974  
e-mail: peggyall@home.com

**IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIRMAN: Dr. Compton Reeves**  
11560 Southpark Circle • Prescott, AZ 86305  
(520) 771-1300 • e-mail: ProfCR@kachina.net

---

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---

**ON-LINE MEMBER SERVICES: Peggy Allen**  
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**LIBRARIAN: Audio/Visual: Yvonne Saddler**  
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email: 7gables@home.com

**RESEARCH OFFICER: Dr. Sharon D. Michalove**  
309 Gregory Hall • 810 Wright St. • Urbana, IL 61801  
(217) 333-4145 • e-mail: mlove@uiuc.edu

**SALES OFFICER: Jennifer Reed**  
44 Bartemus Trail • Nashua, NH 03063  
email: jlrr@mindspring.com

**SCHALLEK MEMORIAL/GRAD: Nancy Northcott**  
1915 Euclid Avenue • Charlotte, NC 28203-4707  
(704) 334-7793 • e-mail: westcotts3@aol.com

**SCHOOLS COORDINATOR: Anne Vineyard**  
4014 Broken Bow Lane • Garland, TX 75044  
e-mail: vineyaa@highlandpark.k12.tx.us

**WEBMASTER: Laura V. Blanchard**  
2041 Christian St. • Philadelphia, PA 19146  
(215) 985-1445 • FAX (215) 985-1446 email:  
laura@rblanchard.com

*Carole Rike*

At press time, all 1999 and 2000 issues of the *Register* can now be found on-line in the members section ([www.r3.org/members](http://www.r3.org/members)). The files are in Adobe Acrobat 4.0; a free Acrobat reader is available from [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com). You may download the files and print or view on-screen; if you have the Acrobat Distiller, you can also use the search features. The files are large, some more so than others — the use of graphics in a particular issue heavily impacts the size of the file.

I still have 1997 and 1998 to compile; Peggy Allen is currently working with volunteers to scan older issues. If you would like to help out in the project, contact Peggy at [peggyall@home.com](mailto:peggyall@home.com).

Sandra Worth, fresh from two awards for her new novel set in the Ricardian era, is back in this issue with a closer look at the Percy family [page 4]. Thanks to Sandra and to Susan Dexter for her artwork of Percy at Bosworth, puzzling signposts.

Sandra has previously covered the Nevilles and the Stanleys in this publication. She has agreed to feature Anthony Woodville in a future issue, which is sure to be in her usual stellar style. And such a meaty subject this Woodville should be!

Geoffrey Wheeler has been in and out of hospital with health problems — to him, our best wishes for continuing recovery. Even so, he has spearheaded a new drive on the bones and the urn inscription in Westminster Abbey [see *Post* this issue]. He and Lorraine Pickering are taking on the English press as well. This issue always stirs up lots of controversy among Ricardians.

Lorraine Pickering has graciously shared with us her investigation into a mysterious blue robe [see page 7] which may or may not have links to Richard III.

Be sure to check the enclosed *Bulletin* from the Parent Society, page 35, which has a deeply moving account from Paul Murray Kendall's family on scattering the author's ashes on Ambien Hill.

As always, we are looking for articles, pictures, your letters — whatever you may wish to share with other Ricardians. Myrna Smith is always seeking book reviews. The *Register Index*, compiled by Kathleen Spaltro and mailed to the membership with the June issue, provides a great resource to assay what book reviews and what subjects have been covered in the past.

Please participate!

*The Society is looking for members to volunteer as Chapter Co-Ordinator or Publicity Chair. If willing to help, please contact any officer.*

# RICHARD AND THE PERCYS

Sandra Worth

In contrast to his relationship with the Nevilles who shaped him<sup>1</sup>, and the Stanleys who came to represent, in some strange, symbolic sense, the judgment of God on his kingship<sup>2</sup>, Richard's relationship with the Percys seems to have been fairly clear-cut. On one side stood Sir Robert Percy, a close personal friend since his boyhood days who fought and died with him at Bosworth; on the other, Henry Percy, an erstwhile Lancastrian foe and an arch-enemy of Richard's foster-family, the Nevilles. While the two Percys were distantly related, familial ties and connections of blood did not necessarily make for unity in fifteenth century England. Robert Percy's father was a Yorkist taken prisoner at the disastrous battle fought at Wakefield in 1460, and Henry Percy's father was a Lancastrian killed fighting for Henry VI at Towton in 1461. As Ralph Griffiths observes: "The higher aristocracy was a great cousinhood, highly suspicious of one another on matters of property and local influence, and deeply divided by jealousies and resentments caused by the very fact of their blood and marital ties. Therefore, families cooperated politically only in a minority of instances."<sup>3</sup>

Not much is known about Sir Robert Percy of Scotton and he remains a rather obscure figure. Unlike his remote kinfolk, the Percys of Alnwick, he was a staunch supporter of York. His father, Robert Percy of Scotton, a follower of the Yorkist Nevilles and the Duke of York, was taken prisoner at Wakefield, where York was slain along with Warwick's father, the Earl of Salisbury, and two of their sons. The young Robert Percy was then sent to the household of the great Yorkist, the Earl of Warwick, to receive his education. It was there he made the acquaintance of two fatherless boys who were to become his lifelong friends: Francis Lovell, and Richard, Duke of Gloucester. Robert's birth date is not clear, but it is possible he may have been born as early as 1445, which would have made him seven years older than Richard. He probably fought with Richard at Barnet, but he must not have enjoyed a military reputation, as there is no record of any service in the 1481-1482 campaign against the Scots where so many of Richard's northern followers were knighted. There is no doubt, however, of his close friendship with Richard. He received a knighthood the day before Richard's coronation, was prominent in the ceremonies that followed, and along with Richard's other devoted boyhood friend, Francis Lovell, he was singled out to serve the King and

Queen at their coronation banquet, a high honor perhaps akin to the modern equivalent of being chosen bridesmaid at a wedding. During the two years of Richard's kingship, Robert Percy was at his side much of the time, enjoyed great favor and was clearly trusted. He kept the faith to the end and died fighting for Richard at Bosworth. In 1487, his son Robert (by his first wife, Ellinor, daughter of Sir Ralph Bewley), joined the Earl of Lincoln and Francis Lovell at Stoke in their rebellion against Henry VII. After Lincoln's defeat, this Robert was attainted, but his attainder was reversed two years later, and his posterity continued at Scotton for several generations. Henry Percy's relationship with Richard could not differ more dramatically from Robert Percy's record of friendship, affection, and abiding loyalty. The main facts of Henry Percy's life, his actions at Bosworth and subsequent murder, are well documented, but nothing has survived to illuminate his humanity and he remains a stiff cardboard figure in history. No known great acts of kindness, valor, or accomplishment are attributed to him by any of his contemporaries, and no personal letters have survived to give us an insight into his thoughts. Only at Alnwick Castle does a stone inscription provide a faint glimpse into the psyche of the man regarded as one of history's greatest traitors. There, above the doorway of the barbican, stands the Percy shield, the lion rampant of Louvain carved in stone, and the motto *Esperance ma Comforte*, which was placed there sometime between 1469-89. Henry Percy, the fourth Earl of Northumberland, was born in 1446, and on his father's attainder was placed in captivity for nine years<sup>4</sup>. This imprisonment appears not to have been strict, and his transfer to the Tower was of short duration, a matter of only a few months under Warwick in 1469. Nevertheless it seems to have exacted a heavy toll on the twenty-three year old Percy. His motto, In Hope is my Comfort, devised sometime during the years of his captivity, brings to mind the image of a young man reared to inherit a virtual kingdom and wield enormous power who, instead, sits in confinement, mulling the circumstances that brought about his predicament, hoping for freedom and chafing at the Yorkist yoke placed around his neck. These long years of captivity and resentment of York led to a certain grim determination. He would never let it happen again. In future, should he regain his freedom, he would commit to no one but himself, do nothing that might jeopardize his interests. From now on, the young man tells himself, Percy stands for

Percy. Nothing else matters, not honor, not justice, not loyalty, oaths, or promises. An analysis of his handwriting corroborates this assessment. According to Florence Graving, a Master Certified Graphoanalyst with extensive experience in handwriting analysis for corporations, legal firms, and in court testimony as an expert witness, handwriting cannot predict actions, but traits in evidence can be projected into a psychological personality profile. As we would expect, Henry Percy's psychological profile is far from flattering. Percy was aggressive and didn't hesitate to push past people to get what he wanted. He was also overly sensitive to criticism and imagined it where none existed. No doubt these traits surfaced when he was in Richard's service governing the North, causing friction and straining their relationship. Richard could not have been unaware of the resentment his superior authority elicited, and to his credit, he made every effort to accommodate the prickly lord. On one occasion, the city of York discharged one of their clerks, and the man went to Percy, who reinstated him. The city appealed to Richard. He looked into the matter, and not wishing to over-rule Percy on his own authority, and doing his utmost to be fair, he had Edward's own lawyers examine the case. The King's lawyers found for the city and Richard had to rule against Percy. On another occasion they each backed different men for the post of prior of Tynemouth and Richard's candidate won the position. A man like Percy would have taken this defeat as a personal affront, and Richard, as sensitive and highly intelligent as he was, could not have been ignorant of the fact. At other times, when the city of York received conflicting commands, one from Percy, the other from Richard, they ignored Percy and did Richard's bidding. Richard may not always have known, but given Percy's psychological profile and his subsequent actions at Bosworth, the touchy earl must have smoldered. These incidents led to an agreement between Richard and Henry Percy in 1474 in which Richard undertook to be the earl's good and faithful lord and promised not to claim any office or fee granted to the earl by the king or others, and not to take into his service any men retained by the earl.<sup>5</sup> "Clearly," writes Rosemary Horrox, regarding this indenture, "Percy had felt himself seriously threatened by Gloucester's position in the north. The agreement was designed to protect Northumberland from direct encroachment and to defuse a potentially dangerous rivalry."<sup>6</sup> Richard, in his pursuit of justice for the poor, established the Council of the North as a sort of court of appeals, and less than three months later, the Council dealt successfully with a riotous protest against certain enclosures of land. According to Paul Murray Kendall, "this success, however, offended the proud Henry

Percy, whom the city had ignored in making its appeal to the Council."<sup>7</sup> And proud he was, this Percy-'a conceited peacock,' says his handwriting. And envious. He coveted material possessions and power. Mindful that his family had been all-powerful in the North for a hundred years, a man like Percy, the greedy, vain, conceited heir of Hotspur, would not have taken kindly to Richard clipping his wings, no matter how fair and diplomatic Richard tried to be. But according to his handwriting, Percy successfully concealed the defective inner man behind a pleasant exterior. This is confirmed by the facts as we know them. Referring to the indenture agreement made between Richard and Percy, Horrox states that it seems to have succeeded, and for the rest of the reign the two nobles apparently cooperated.<sup>8</sup> In a similar vein, M.A. Hicks states that "the relationship operated on a basis of mutual respect and warmth and worked well in practice."<sup>9</sup> Percy's handwriting, however, reveals that behind this friendly and outgoing public demeanor lurked a self-centered and self-interested human being. No one would have guessed that inwardly he never committed to anyone or anything except his own well-being, that in a crisis he would put his own interests first and do whatever was best for him alone, with no regard to the welfare of others, no remorse, and no backward glance. There was no reason for Richard to suspect the inner man was unreliable and utterly untrustworthy, that he had a rebellious streak and would disregard laws, promises, and oaths when it suited him, and that he justified his actions to himself and reserved for himself a mental "exit door" which he could choose to take when he considered it best for him to do so, despite utterances and even feats which might appear as loyal dedication. Kendall's summary of Henry Percy's character is worth noting:

*"His great-grandfather had lost his life fighting against Henry IV. His father had lost his life . . . fighting against Edward IV . . . Restored to the dignity in March of 1470, Henry, Earl of Northumberland, had made up his mind that he would remain aloof from any struggles for the English crown. Henceforth the House of Percy stood only for the House of Percy. When Edward returned from Burgundy . . . Percy sat upon his estates, neutral, content to accept Henry or Edward for his sovereign. His long association with Richard, Richard's courtesy and good will when Duke of Gloucester, Richard's munificent gifts to him of estates and offices when King, did not change his attitude . . . Despite Richard's generosity and favor, he nursed a resentment, grim and low-keyed—for he appears to have been a colorless, low-keyed*

*individual — against the man who had won first place in the hearts of the North, and against the King who had established a royal council to dispense the King's justice and keep the King's peace in Yorkshire. He could only look backward . . . and he felt himself diminished in comparison with his ancestors, who had ruled the North as they pleased and dispensed their own justice as they saw fit.*"<sup>10</sup>

*Esperance ma Comforte.* Clearly, Percy never forgot those nine long years of captivity when all he had was hope. He would not go back to them. He would do nothing that might jeopardize what he had regained. On that fateful August day at Bosworth Field, he sat his horse impassively, withheld his aid and, unmoved, watched Richard gallop to his death. Henry Percy won himself another four years of life with his treason. But the man he was — had become — the man who ignored his word, cared nothing for justice or fair-play, who was vain, greedy, power-hungry, untrustworthy, and aggressive, and who lived only for his own self-interest, finally reaped the harvest of his deeds on a road in Thirsk. As he was dragged from his horse and murdered by a small band of commoners, his retinue of eight hundred men sat their horses, and watched.

References:

- 1 Worth, Sandra; *Richard and the Nevilles*, The Ricardian Register, Summer, 1999; pp. 4-7 2
- 2 Worth, Sandra; *Richard and the Stanleys*, *ibid*; Fall, 1999; pp.4-7 3
- 3 Griffiths, Ralph; *Kings and Nobles In The Later Middle Ages*; St. Martin's Press, 1986, p. 37
- 4 The earldom became extinct after the eleventh Percy Earl of Northumberland died without an heir in 1670. In 1750 Sir Hugh Smithson succeeded to the Alnwick estates and was created Duke of Northumberland some years later for his political services to King George III. The present duke, Ralph, is the 12th Duke of Northumberland and not a descendant of the medieval Percys
- 5 Horrox, Rosemary; *Richard III: A Study of Service*; Cambridge University Press; p.62 6
- 6 Horrox, Rosemary; *ibid*; 7
- 7 Kendall, Paul Murray; *Richard The Third*, p.378, and YORK RECORDS, pp.190-199 8
- 8 Horrox, Rosemary; *ibid*; p. 62
- 9 Hicks, M.A.; *Who's Who In Late Medieval England*; Shephard-Walwyn, 1991; pp. 344
- 10 Kendall, Paul Murray; *ibid*; pp. 426-427

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Sandra Worth maintains close ties with England where she spent half her childhood. Her passion for medieval English history derives from an English mother and a childhood love of fairy tales. She published her first book at twenty-three, holds a B.A. from the University of Toronto, and resides in Houston with her husband, daughter, and two dogs.

Sandra has been named Best of Show winner of the 2000 Authorlink New Author Awards Competition, held in conjunction each year with the Harriette Austin Writers Conference, University of Georgia at Athens.

Ms Worth earned the award for her novel, *This Rose of York*, which also took first place in the Historical Fiction category. Sandra was flown from her home in Houston, TX by Authorlink to the Writers' Conference (July 14-15, 2000) where Authorlink Editor Doris Booth presented her with a check for \$500 and the "Best of Show" certificate. An audience of 423 conference attendees applauded Ms. Worth's efforts, and other contest winners who attended the event also were introduced.

*This Rose of York* is based on the life of Richard III, depicting him not as Shakespeare's monstrous villain, but as a compassionate king maligned by the Tudors. Set against the turbulent Wars of the Roses, the saga is a journey of the human heart, a tale of love challenged by war, and of one man's extraordinary courage in the face of treachery and loss. An excerpt of the work appears on Authorlink.com under Ms. Worth's name and manuscript title.

More than 160 entries from throughout the USA and a half dozen overseas countries were judged in the third annual event. Five previous contest winners have earned publishing contracts after winning the Authorlink contest, three with major New York houses, including Penguin Putnam, St. Martin's Press and HarperCollins.

Preliminary judging was done by published and/or award-winning writers. The North Texas Professional Writers Association helped coordinate the awards competition.

This is Sandra's third feature article for the *Register*; she has previously written on The Nevilles and the Stanleys. We hope to persuade her to offer more of villains and friends!

## A BLUE VELVET MYSTERY

© Lorraine Pickering

Browsing through one of the Society's Barton Library catalogues last summer, I spotted a reference to Richard donating his blue velvet Parliament robe to Durham Cathedral in 1484. As Durham is my home town I was curious as to whether this garment had survived the Tudors unscathed, unlike its owner's reputation.

I decided to investigate further. The only occasion I knew of where a great number of artifacts of Ricardian interest had been catalogued (some 300 items) was for Dr. Pamela Tudor-Craig's National Portrait Gallery Richard III Exhibition of 1973. I had hoped it had been displayed at this important Exhibition, however Dr. Tudor-Craig (now Lady Wedgwood) seemed pretty certain the garment had been lost to us and I was disappointed to read in the catalogue's Preface that the Parliament robe 'is no more.'

Well, even if the garment hadn't survived, maybe references to it had? Did Durham Cathedral have a contemporaneous record of the robe in their archives? I made an appointment to search the archives.

Alas — and perhaps sinisterly — the principal rolls of the Cathedral's administration of the Palatinate of Durham 1483-90 are missing.

It seemed like a dead end but fortunately further enquiries to the Dean & Chapter Librarian yielded up the cathedral's copy of an informative article ('Richard III and the Monks of Durham'), written by Mary O'Regan for the March 1978 *Ricardian Journal*.

Mary quotes in this article a reference written by the Cathedral's Sacristan in the circa 1600 record 'Rites of Durham' which describes Richard's gift as a 'plamente' robe of: 'blewe vellet wrowght with great lyons of pure gould . . .

Today there is a rather rich and still lovely 15th-century blue velvet garment — it is described as a 'cope' — at Durham Cathedral. At the time of writing (June, 2000) it is currently on public display in the Cathedral Treasury!

It is full-length, hooded and sleeveless. A row of sunbursts can still clearly be seen around the bottom hem edge of the cope.

Close examination of the garment revealed what looked to me like tiny silver gilt thread stitches forming little 'white' rosebud 'knots' on the hood. The Cathedral's literature claims the hood was extensively altered in the 1630s, nevertheless the knotwork looks contemporary with the stitchwork round the hem, which presumably is original.



*Detail from the NGP exhibit 'Chasuble with Ophreys,' now in private hands. The detail shows the red velvet from Richard's wardrobe mentioned in the text.*

There's not a 'gold lyon' to be seen on the robe, though, just plain blue velvet, the silver stitchwork and several beautifully embroidered border panels ('ophreys'), depicting a number of religious subjects.

Panels on left vertical edging (on the front right and left vertical edges:

The Betrayal  
The Flagellation  
Christ Bearing the Cross  
Christ Crucified

Panels on right vertical edging:

The Resurrection  
The Incredulity of St. Thomas  
The Ascension  
Pentecost

On the hood:

Christ in Judgment

Was it *the* blue velvet robe donated by Richard on 16 May 1484?

Well, in terms of cloth quality it is possible to compare this 15th-century example with both contemporaneous cloth mentioned in Richard's Wardrobe Accounts and with a later garment with an attributed 'royal' connection, since the Cathedral's Treasury also houses a 17th-century red velvet cope from Charles I's Coronation (and worn by John Cosin, Bishop of Durham 1660-72).

Most Ricardians know how the House of York favoured rich and luxurious cloth and blue was a particularly expensive colour to reproduce in the Middle Ages. The 17th-century cloth is not half so luxurious, or as beautiful, as the much older blue velvet.

Mary O'Regan is still active in the Society's Yorkshire branch. I contacted her and this is where it began to get really intriguing.

She tells me that it was common practice for such gifts to be used whichever way the church saw fit. Robes could stay whole, be sold or displayed. They could be converted into hangings — or adapted for use as church vestments ('copes,' in other words).

Mary's original article didn't mention any known change of use for the garment, just that gifts of rich fabrics were not uncommon at St. Cuthbert's shrine. Since I'd not thought that anyone would cut up a gift from a monarch, I'd not made the leap at all that the Parliament robe may have been turned into church vestments. So this snippet of information was very exciting.

In the early 15th-century Richard's Neville relations had donated the rich blue hangings round St. Cuthbert's shrine. Had Richard thought these were getting a little threadbare so intended his robe as a replacement?

Or had his friend Bishop John Shirwood decided discretion was the better part of valour and had himself a new cope made from Richard's gift after Bosworth? Shirwood spent most of Richard's reign in Rome but we know he returned to England and continued to hold ecclesiastical office under Tudor.

But could the gift have survived the Reformation, given the wholesale destruction of both buildings and records during the Dissolution?

Yes it could, for the Durham Palatinate didn't suffer anywhere near as much destruction and looting that other religious houses did further south. Since Durham is in the north-east of England it was far enough away from London to allow the monks time to hide away such a high-profile gift.

One amusing snippet Mary told me is also worth passing on here: Apparently several such rich or precious items resurfaced during Mary Tudor's reign — only to be packed up again in a hurry when her

Protestant half-sister Elizabeth I succeeded the throne!

In the Treasury's display case and an accompanying booklet the cope's description reads 'Probably Italian, 1440-70.' But that's the sole extent of the Cathedral's own provenance for the cope and for all the dating appears to be slightly earlier than Richard's time (he was only 18 in 1470), it is likely the Dean & Chapter is hedging its bets until official attribution can be made.

Besides, authentication of fabric is a notoriously difficult area, especially when it's unlikely those summoned, whether they were royalty or not, bought new Parliamentary robes every time one was called.

The surviving description is vague. Another cope is described in the same Sacristan's report as being of cloth-of-gold. If Richard's 1484 gift had been a gift of blue cloth-of-gold it is my belief that the 16th-century commentator would have said so, and he didn't, so it is more likely to have been plain cloth with the gold lions added, perhaps as border panels, like the religious embroidery panels that are now on the robe.

We can point to one such example in the well-known illumination of Anthony Woodville's Presentation of a printed copy of his 'Sayings of the Philosophers' translation to Edward IV. One of the observers, wearing a plain blue robe with ermine borders, has been identified as Richard.

Or the present plain 'blewe vellet' could even have been backing material.

The 'discovery' of the Durham robe throws up many questions, as yet unanswered, as my research continues.

Why for instance did this robe not feature in the 1973 NPG Exhibition? Not all the exhibits had a personal connection with Richard, yet this robe had a more probable connection than some items featured in the Exhibition.

Did Pamela Tudor-Craig track down potential exhibits or did donors volunteer their treasures for display once they heard about the Exhibition? Does anyone remember?

But believe it or not, another ecclesiastical garment, described in the NPG Catalogue nearly 30 years ago as a 'Chasuble With Ophreys 1460-90' and now in private hands, *was* displayed in the 1973 Exhibition!

This second ecclesiastical garment corroborates the strong likelihood that Richard's blue velvet gift was cut up for this purpose.

Like the blue velvet cope, the chasuble also has embroidery panels. Backed by plain velvet, it has undergone extensive repair since the 15th-century. However, unlike the Durham cope, the chasuble has a detailed provenance, starting with red velvet 'pyne apples' (i.e. pine cones) cloth listed in Richard's Wardrobe Accounts.



So we know for certain that cloth with an attributed Ricardian connection *did* end up as part of a church vestment. Richard's red velvet from the Ward-robe is still clearly visible in several places on the chasuble.

Perhaps my blue velvet 'discovery' is simply a lovely piece of 15th-century work and nothing to do with Richard.

All the same it is very suggestive that there is this rich blue velvet robe, definitely dated to the 15th-century, in the same place where Richard had donated his 'plamente Robe of blewe vellet, a meveilouse rich Cope,' in the 15th-century, don't you think?

#### References:

- K Brown, *Treasures from Durham Cathedral*, guidebook, p32  
J T Fowler (ed.), *Rites of Durham*, Surtees Society Vol. 107 (1903), p69  
M O'Regan, *Richard III and the Monks of Durham*, The Ricardian, vol 4, no.60, March 1978  
P Tudor-Craig, *Richard III, NPG Exhibition Catalogue*, 1973, p5 & p25

#### About The Author

*Lorraine is passionate about Richard and has spent months compiling a huge card index file of facts (and fictions) of his life and times. The cards are permanently open on her desk and usually mean she can marshal the relevant details and sources quickly for the LMB & R3 Lists and scribble down anything new she reads. Lorraine is a member of the U.K. Branch.*



*From the 2000 Ricardian Tour:  
Sheriff Hutton Castle*

## SCATTERED STANDARDS



### Arizona

October 2000 meeting plans have been finalized and to be held October 29th.

This quarterly meeting will be very special with a "Theater of the Absurd ... the Death of the Princes in the Tower" by our own Pam Mills.

Members and guests are encouraged to wear medieval costume and get into the mood of the event by booing, cheering and even arguing with the actor portraying Lord Buckingham, his account of the events, and his attempt to paint our King Richard III as a villain.

Visitors are always welcome.

For more information, or meeting time and places, contact Joan Marshall, 10727 W. Kelso Dr., Sun City, AZ 85351 or e-mail: goodoldgal@aol.com.

*Willi Waltrip*

### Pacific Northwest Chapter

The Pacific Northwest Chapter has had an active year. At the March meeting, Chapter President Jonathan Hayes gave a presentation on the growth of local municipal government in England during the medieval period with examples from the town records of Ipswich in Suffolk.

At the June meeting, Mary Ann Rivas gave an interesting talk on Scotland during the era of Richard III.

Our summer meeting, always held on the Saturday nearest the anniversary of Bosworth, featured a film on "The Bones of Towton," a forensic study of skeletons from the Towton battlefield. The meeting was hosted by Yvonne Saddler and a lively discussion followed. (Other chapters note: Yvonne is the Society's audio-visual librarian, and that film is in the library.)

The Chapter had its usual booth at the Highland Games; 48 people signed up to receive a sample Chapter newsletter.

*Jonathan Hayes*



# RICARDIAN POST

## An Illegitimate Ghost?

According to *The Royal Bastards of Medieval England* by C. Given-Wilson and A. Curteis, while reporting on King Richard III they state that for illegitimate children “only three are known by name, and one of these is questionable.” They go on to mention Katherine, who was married in 1484 to William Herbert, earl of Huntingdon. They also mention John of Gloucester, who was imprisoned by Henry Tudor and in 1499 executed. The questionable bastard “may have been called Richard Plantagenet” who was born in 1469, worked his life as a bricklayer in Eastwell (Kent) and died there on 22 December 1550.

*Realm* magazine for February 2000, No. 90, had a hotel promotion titled “To The Manor Born” on page 52. Here, too, it is reported that King Richard III’s “natural son” Richard Plantagenet, lived in Eastwell Park and worked as a bricklayer until his death in 1550.

In December 1999 *The British Society of Dowser Journal* ran the following letter from member Michael Jack. It was reproduced in the Winter 2000 issue of *The American Dowser*. Here is an abbreviated piece:

*Maybe you have heard of dowsing the dead? My wife died in 1995, but I have found quite by accident I could keep in touch with her . . .*

*Another interesting encounter last year was in ruined Eastwell churchyard, which has been in my care for over thirty years. In Eastwell is buried an illegitimate son of King Richard III and I was kneeling down, cleaning the tablet on his rough alter tomb. As I was working, I became aware that someone was standing on my left, watching me, but there was no one there. I had (as usual!) a pendulum in my van and used it to find out who the spirit was. Seems it was this Richard Plantagenet, son of the King, and he was still around after dying on 22 December 1550. I sent him on his way and he has now gone where he should be, with his mother, it seems, not with his father and I did the right thing in helping him.*

It never ceases to amaze me where and how references to Richard III appear. It is always interesting to note how he is portrayed in the material as well. Here

a ghostly illegitimate son is helped to be “where he should be, with his mother . . . not his father . . .”

The question that then came to my mind was since Katherine and Richard survived into adulthood did they have children who would carry the Plantagenet line? If so, who might they be and how did they escape the wrath of the Tudors?

*Carl M. Hild  
Anchorage, Alaska*

*From our mailbox, the bones are resurrected:*

As a recent convert to the Ricardian cause and an even more recent member of the Richard III Society, I was quite impressed by the newsletter I received. My favorite part is the Ricardian Reading section, and I have already read a couple of the books recommended by my fellow Ricardians. My personal favorite was Bertram Field’s *Royal Blood* and from that book sprouts a question I was hoping someone would answer.

In his book, Field states that “In recent years, the Ricardian society applied for permission to disinter the skeletons [of the presumed princes], in order to carbon date them, permission was denied . . .” (page 257) does anyone know to whom the Ricardian society applied for permission? When did they do this? And, most importantly, why were they refused?

Any help would be appreciated

*Dana-Jean La Haie  
Meza, AZ*

*It must be that great minds run in the same circles; the following is from our Yorkshire correspondent, as posted on the LMB e-mail list:*

Those who were in Northern England last weekend may have seen a full-page spread in the *Yorkshire Post* [recent winner of the award as our country’s best regional daily] concerning the Bones in the urn at Westminster Abbey, placed there by Charles II, of whom more later, which, new DNA tracing techniques might — or might not — identify as those of the Princes in the Tower.

The article was certainly well read by Ricardians at Middleham, whose immediate reaction was that the general tone was welcome, but it was a pity that more had not been said about the Coronation Weekend and

the Society exhibit at the castle. I was of this mind myself, since I had provided the YP — at their request — with the basic article they used [following initial contact through Laura and detailed liaison with Lorraine] and the “sub” had unhappily cut the intro which made the article less meaningful in terms of the weekend celebration. Nonetheless, pro-Richard press coverage is rare in any event and, on this scale, is virtually unheard of, so we were prepared to go with the flow and hope for better times.

These seem to be arriving quickly, in that *The Express* — one of our popular, national tabloid-dailies — has run another full-page spread this morning, with colour pictures, and taking a very positive tone on the obvious questions arising. They have been able to do follow-up interviews based on my suggestions that there may be no need to dig up [out ?] E4 or EW for matching DNA, since Sarah Ferguson, Duchess of York has four separate blood line-links with EW. They contacted the Duchess who said she was intrigued by the idea and commented that “. . . perhaps this will show them all that I came from somewhere and not from the dregs . . .” Jane Asher, one-time girl-friend of Beatle Paul and another descendant, now an *Express* columnist, said she would “gladly donate hair in the interests of historical accuracy — it's not much to ask . . .” Camilla Parker-Bowles is another possibility, it appears, but she was not asked for a comment.

The negative side here comes from Michael Rhodes “the world's leading expert on DNA fingerprinting” who has indicated that a match can only be found through testing on a contemporary descendant who has emerged through an unbroken female line. This may be so, though one takes liberty to wonder how Prince Philip's DNA therefore helped to identify the Czar in Yekaterinburg.

Be that as it may, we have another positive, full-page spread now in the Nationals, and local television is starting to sniff around. I had to break off from my nourishment this tea-time [which you all know I dislike] to take a call from Yorkshire Television who wanted my word that I would get in touch with them the moment I decided to approach the hitherto incorrigible Dean of Westminster. I said I would but currently was happy to keep playing the existing string. In this area, the historical lady from *The Independent*, our Liberal Broadsheet, has been pursuing me and I have laid a trail to my door via her paging service. Furthermore, we are likely to get still more coverage via the *Yorkshire Post*, who are enjoying “scooping” the Nationals, and I have provided further ammunition to this end only this afternoon, thanking God again for the miracle of the Internet.

Through all this strain and stress, my good right arm has been a lady — not “Richly left” — but, better yet, “Well versed in PR work,” none other than Mrs Lorraine Pickering, who needs no introduction in this arena. She came up with the brilliant suggestion that we should use the new opening with YP to point out that the Plaque placed on the Christopher Wren-designed Urn in the Abbey by order of Charles II, states, essentially, as follows : “Here under lied interred the remains of Edward V, King of England and of Richard, Duke of York. Which two brothers their uncle Richard, who usurped the crown, shut up in the Tower of London, smothered them with pillows and ordered them to be dishonourably and secretly buried.” I think all would agree this is a pretty one-sided statement of events, wherever one's own sympathies lie, and, as Lorraine points out this has been there for more than 320 years, and can be [and has been] read by all visitors to the Abbey as, apparently, the official Church and Palace take on the matter.

Rainey gracefully apologised for taking around twenty five years to realise the above — I told her not to worry because I could give her double that, and then needed her to point it out! Whatever, we are hoping now that the next episode in this intriguing saga will involve the suggestion that, in the British tradition of fairness, the very least that should be done is the addition of another plaque of equal size and prominence to, and alongside, the original, setting out the point that there are thousands, if not millions, of people across the world who do not believe Richard is guilty of the crime for which he has been condemned.

Meantime, back at the [South York] Ranch, I feel a certain well-known radio newscaster is likely to be “approached” for a bit of “fair play” on this subject — and he may be the more inclined to co-operate, since he could, thereby, scoop Yorkshire TV, BBC Look North [if they ever recognise a good news story without being bludgeoned over the head with it] and so on. Today, the Regionals, the Tabloids, the Lesser Broadsheets — TOMORROW, THE WORLD.

Keep the faith a little longer my dear friends and colleagues and gird your loins for “Letters to the Editor” and similar supportive moves. We are on the March . . .

*Geoffrey Wheeler*  
*Yorkshire*

*And a follow up posting from Geoffrey:*  
KEEPING UP THE PRESSURE.

Dear Colleagues,

The following email went this morning to the *Daily Express* in the hope of raising further publicity for the cause. The material used is the same as supplied to the

*Yorkshire Post*, where we are also hoping for further coverage, probably at the weekend again.

Lorraine has sent a shorter "Letter to the Editor" of the *Express*, in identical vein and we hope that colleagues who are appropriately located will raise supportive points and/or make supportive noises where these will do most good.

We are starting work shortly on the means and methodology of "Approaching the Dean" and would appreciate advice on this point from any member with experience in the field. Lorraine and I should be able to come up with the right answers in light of our joint experience in tackling the Establishment from a variety of angles, but it would obviously ease matters if someone has recent practical experience.

Those who know me are aware that I do not hold out much hope of converting the Dean and/or the Palace, which is NOT to say that we should not give it our best try — I have been overly pessimistic before. However, I DO think that with enough dust raised, we must have an excellent chance of getting an additional Plaque set in place, alongside the original fairy tale, and this will be the more worthwhile target in the longer term. However, for now we are ploughing ahead on all fronts and let the chips fall where they may.

*Best to all,  
Geoffrey.*

Here's what I sent :

Dear Ms. McAllister,

Identification first — I am the Richard III Society member referred to in the article "Fergie locks are key to a king's innocence" in your July 5 issue. Second, may I add my congratulations on an excellent feature - it is nice to see Richard's case getting some positive coverage for a change.

My colleagues on the Medieval Internet Lists and I will be pushing ahead with our joint effort to get the bones re-examined, and a formal approach to the Dean of Westminster is planned. Obviously we will be keeping you and the media generally abreast of developments in this area. Meantime, we intend to petition for a little "English fair play" to be applied in the case of the existing Urn and Plaque, to remedy the immediate injustice implicit in the Epitaph's wording.

The inscription currently reads: "Here under lied interred the remains of Edward V, King of England and of Richard, Duke of York. Which two brothers their uncle Richard, who usurped the crown, shut up in the Tower of London, smothered them with pillows and ordered them

to be dishonourably and secretly buried." and ends with a reference to the benevolence of Charles II who had the remains mercifully re-interred ". . . among the tombs of their ancestors, AD 1678, being the 30th of his reign."

I discussed this point with our research team who are currently delving into chains of ancestry and my fellow Ricardian, Lorraine Pickering, pointed out that the Plaque is seen by visitors to the Abbey, in their thousands, every day, and has been on view there for more than 322 years. Richard III, courtesy of the English Church and seemingly with Royal approval, is daily tried, found guilty of, and metaphorically executed for a crime which millions of people throughout the world are certain he did not commit.

Regardless of the provenance of the Bones within the urn, surely it is time for an alternative plaque to be added alongside Wren's original, stating, with equal emphasis, the incontrovertible fact that many people do not think Richard guilty as charged and that Charles II himself could well have come to different conclusions had he been aware of the enormous volume of factual information which has come to light since his reign.

It would be a marvellous thing if the *Daily Express* — which has always crusaded for British Fair Play — could find further space within its columns to support us in this worthy endeavour and I should be grateful if you could bring this request to the Editor's attention

Many thanks for your help.

*Geoffrey Wheeler*

*[Editor's Note: This should provide plenty of fodder for those who wish to undertake a campaign. Ardent Ricardians now have two online petitions, where you can vote on both the bones and the urn question. The address is: <http://www.medievalbritain.co.uk>.]*

*And from the R3-mail list:*

I just saw this in *The International Express* and thought I'd pass it on.

*One strand of hair could clear Richard III  
of Princes' murders Fergie's Locks are the  
key to a king's innocence  
By Michael Hanlon*

A lock of hair from Sarah Ferguson, Camilla Parker-Bowles or Jane Asher could clear Richard III of the double child murder that has

made him the most hated monarch in English history.

The Duchess of York said she was “intrigued” by the idea promoted by his present-day supporters. “Oh well, perhaps this will show them all that I came from somewhere and not from the dregs.” she told the *Daily Express*. Jane Asher said she would be willing to help. “I would gladly donate a hair in the interests of historical accuracy — it’s not much to ask.” she said.

The Richard III Society, which has mounted a campaign to rehabilitate the vilified king, wants to use DNA analysis on the hairs to prove that he did not kill his nephews in 1483. The Princes’ female descendants, Richard’s supporters say, hold the genetic key to solving a 517 year-old murder mystery. Thanks largely to Shakespeare’s play, Richard III is thought of as a deformed, psychopathic despot who heartlessly imprisoned his own flesh-and-blood relatives in the Tower of London and then had them murdered.

But many historians now believe that Richard was an enlightened king who ruled England fairly and would never have murdered his nephews, whom they claim he loved. They even say he was not a hunchback at all and was physically healthy.

Five years ago the Society asked the Dean of Westminster Abbey, where the remains are buried in an urn, to release the bones of one of the Princes, Richard Duke of York, to be subjected to DNA testing. The request was refused, apparently by the Queen, who did not want one of the many skeletons in the royal family closet rattled once again. The bones were discovered in 1674 under a staircase during building work at the Tower. Four years later King Charles II ordered them to be buried in the Abbey in an urn designed by Sir Christopher Wren, with an inscription ascribing them to be the remains of the two princes. The new attempt will again require analysis of the bones, which Ricardians — supporters of the king — say could be two girls, or even of Iron Age people. In their campaign to prove the king’s innocence, the society plans to use comparative DNA analysis — an identical technique is used by the police to catch rapists and murderers — to see if the remains are genetically related to people known to be descended from the Princes’ mother, Elizabeth Woodville.

If they are, then the remains are indeed of the two Princes and Richard’s guilt is confirmed. If

not, England’s most notorious monarch may deserve a historical rehabilitation. Mrs. Parker-Bowles, Fergie and Ms. Asher are all direct descendants of the Princes’ mother — Mrs. Parker-Bowles and Fergie are fifth cousins. But Michael Rhodes the world’s leading expert on DNA fingerprinting, told the *Express* that even with today’s technology the technique would probably only work if very strict criteria were met. “It has to be an unbroken maternal line, all the way back.” he said. The genetic analysis would use mitochondrial DNA, which is passed down by the mother, but not by the father. He added that if the DNA were similar but not identical, that could mean that the remains of the two boys were still related to the present-day descendants of Lady Woodville, but that some mutations had occurred over the centuries. “During that long period of time it will be impossible to say for sure,” he said. When Richard seized the throne in 1483, the fate of his nephews became shrouded in mystery. Legend says he had them killed in the Tower to secure his path to the throne, although this has never been proven. He died two years later at the Battle of Bosworth which brought the Tudor dynasty to the throne. His supporters claim the story about the Princes was black propaganda put about by the Tudors, such as Henry VIII. Geoffrey Richardson of the Richard III Society says he is the “worst-slandered monarch” in British history.

Another supporter states on the King's website: “He succeeded to the Throne through lawful means and ruled wisely. His parliament was noted for reforms. Richard was a man of reason and family loyalty and he had no reasonable motive for killing two children who not only posed little political threat but whom he very likely loved as he loved all his family.”

*Lisa Garrick*

*Also from Lisa:*

Also, while I'm writing, I thought I'd mention this. A friend had given me this die-cut card from the NPG which features all the Tudors — except one — Henry VII, but at the top of the card is dear old R3 — do we think the designer of the card is a Ricardian at heart?

I had to laugh when I saw it, and there's no way it could have been a mistake, as every other image on that card is a Tudor. I wonder if the NPG noticed! Probably not after where they placed the paintings!

*Lisa*

[Editor's Note: More minds running in the same channel: There recently was an exchange between Geoffrey Wheeler and the NGP on the fact that Richard's picture is grouped with the Tudors in the museum. They provided a quite nice reply, which I won't quote in this issue because I've already quoted so much!]

*From Australia:*

Good to hear from you. I am glad you enjoyed "Maiden." There is a second novel out here, set in the reign of King Edward II about a medieval divorce case (a real one) but Bantam U.S. wanted too many changes so it is not out in USA.

"Maiden" has been nominated by Romance Writers of America for Best First Novel 2000 and by Romantic Times as Best Historical Novel 2000 so keep your fingers crossed for me.

Isolde Martyn  
Australia

[Editor's Note: The 'Maiden' Isolde refers to is The Maiden and the Unicorn, published by Bantam Books. It was reviewed in the Summer, 2000 issue of the Register.]

*And from the R3 e-mail list:*

I'm happy to report that Isolde Martyn's Wars of the Roses novel, *The Maiden and the Unicorn*, won the Romance Writers of America's RITA award, the romance equivalent of the Hugo and the Edgar, for Best First Book. You may recall that it won a similar award from the Romance Writers of Australia.

If you haven't read the book, give it a try. It has a complex plot, sympathetic characters, and excellent use of historical setting. Romance accounts for 54% of the mass market books sales in the U.S. and is read by about 40 million people in North America, so a book like Isolde's is an effective tool for influencing opinion as well as a delight to read.

Nancy Northcott

*From the R3 e-mail list:*

**The Wind Blows Cold On Ambion Hill**  
by K.J. O'Callaghan

The wind blows cold on Ambion Hill  
Though golden summer sets in deep.  
My life is wrought by treachery  
My King in final rest, doth sleep,  
You leave us, Richard, with great valour  
And we will mourn you long.

The day dawns dark on Bosworth Field  
No silver sunrise shone this way,

Fair and just these lands were ruled  
Until deceit prevailed this day.  
I weep here, Richard, on my knees  
Though loyalty is all you asked.

Beneath the hawthorn, England's crown  
Here marks the place of your last breath,  
Now I must spend the life God gave  
Defending your unrighteous death.  
Sleep softly, King, your troubles end  
To prove your virtue, ours begin.

Barbara  
Member of Western Australian Branch

*Also from the R3 e-mail list:*

Have just received a passport. Over the photo, that quite frankly only needs the addition of a number underneath to pass as the mugshot of a serial killer (photogenic, I am not!), I am horrified to discover a hologram, which places a Tudor rose on both my chin and my forehead. Do you think we should campaign for a Ricardian version? :)

And, while I'm on, may I please thank those who have a) converted the *Register* into the Adobe readable format and b) those who produce this marvelous magazine in the first place. I have enjoyed reading the three issues so far available very much indeed.

Jan Scott  
Yorkshire

*More from Jan on August 22nd:*

This morning (of all mornings) I was reading a British Archeology list digest, and this was the end of the last message:

*David Rohl appears to work as an inverse-ironclad. He declared in the Channel 4 programme that his first intention was to check the chronology of the Bible, expecting it to be found wanting. Then, surprise! surprise! he finds the Bible, written in c 600BC is more accurate than the Egyptian records written thousands of years earlier. His work is akin to the medieval scholar who seeks to find a new interpretation of the life of King Richard III of England yet who later finds it easier to regurgitate the traditional picture of the monster that we find in Shakespeare and Thomas More.*

Carole,  
The following is a little something I ran up, inspired by the recent suggestion on the R3 list that Anne Neville

killed the Princes. Wendy suggested you might like it for the *Register*. If you do, you're welcome to it.

### Anne the Knife

Warwick's daughter has pretty teeth dear,  
And she keeps them pearly white,  
Just a small knife has fair Anne, dear,  
Inside her hennin, out of sight.

When that lass bites with her teeth, dear,  
Richard jumps, right out of bed,  
He just does all the things she tells him,  
Cos she scares him, right off his head.

In the Tower, one Sunday morning,  
Lies King Henry, oozing life,  
See that dress train, sneak round the corner,  
Could its wearer, be Anne the Knife?

From a royal barge, on the river,  
Two heavy bags, go dropping down,  
Some old armour, for the weight dear,  
You can bet that Annie's back in town.

Old George Clarence, kind of drowned dear,  
While he took an unusual bath,  
They say Annie has gone off malmsey,  
Cos she says it's sweet and naff.

Tony Rivers, Billy Hastings,  
Dicky Grey, and Tommy Vaughan,  
All these cats had sticky endings,  
All 'cos Annie's back in town.

*Best regards,  
Brian Wainwright*

*[Editor's Note: Anne Neville as the villain of the piece?]*

### *Good news for West Coast Ricardians:*

I am pleased to advise the Richard III Society that my father's (Stanley Dance) extensive 400+ book collection on Richard III and the late middle ages in Britain has been transferred to Occidental College in Los Angeles, CA. There it will be available to historians, researchers and students of the period for many years to come. This will be a lasting legacy to his 80 years of collecting (9-15-10 to 2-23-00).

If members wish to access this collection, please contact Mr. Michael C. Sutherland, Special Collections Librarian Mary Norton Clapp Library at Occidental College, 1600 Campus Road, Los Angeles, CA 90041-3314. His phone number is 323-259-2852 and

e-mail address is bun@oxy.edu. Please ask for access to the "Stanley Dance Richard III Collection."

*Francis J. Dance*

Hi Carole,

A voice from the past.

Although I'm now a non-member of the Richard III Society, Carol Bessette keeps me informed.

Just received from her a pack of publications including the Winter 1999 *Register*. Re: Elizabeth Enstam article: her casual reference to the Sutton Cheney prayer cushions with "needlepoint designs of white boars and white roses" needs clarification.

Remember the "couriers" carrying those covers from the talented hands of dedicated U. S. members to the welcoming hands of the very Rev. (very ruddy) Teddy Boston? I was one of the needlepoint Kneeler Covers delivery girls on several Richard III trips in the 1970's and 80's.

*Still loyal  
Lillian Barker*

*[Editor's Note: I remember very well indeed. This was a worthy effort on the part of several members, although I cannot now recall their names. Anyone out there who remembers, let us hear from you. And if someone wants to volunteer . . . I'm sure the Church would be still appreciative . . . although dear Rev. Boston is now gone. When you receive your passed-on issue, good to hear from you again, Lillian.]*

I am a novelist and have been a member of the Richard III Society since the late 50's. It has occurred to me that US members might like to know that a three-book anthology of mine under my pen name Joanna Makepeace is available at the moment containing two Ricardian novels and the third set in the 12th century during Stephen's Reign.

*Stolen Heiress* is set in 1461 and tells of Richard's exile with George at the ages of 8 and 10 to Burgundy and tells of the battle of Towton.

*King's Pawn* is set in 1484-5 and tells of Anne's illness and death and Bosworth.

I do not know if the anthology will be available in shops or only by direct mail from Harlequin in New York, but it should be reasonably priced and those who enjoy novels might find it enjoyable and entertaining.

My Margaret Abbey Books are: *The Warwick Heiress*, *Son of York*, *Brothers in Arms*, *Blood of the Boar* and *The Heart Is A Traitor*

All are now in large print in the U.S., published by Thorndike of Maine. (Apparently available at Target and K-Mart.)

I hope all goes well in your branches. I am looking forward to attending the Bosworth Service at Sutton and meeting all of my old friends again.

I hope this might be of interest to you.

Margaret G. York  
Leicester, England

[Editor's Note: a quick check of Amazon indicates that books under both pen names are available, both in stock and in their auction. With a name like that, no wonder she uses a pen name! Who would believe it?]

A new member writes:

Greetings –

Delighted to discover you. I'm an unsophisticated Shakespearean Ricardian, but of course, want to hear the other side of the story!

Thankfully,  
Ide Cantwell

Member Sara P. Horne wrote on her ballot:

"Blest be those who are willing to serve!"

[Ed: I'm sure all the outgoing and incoming Board members, Committee Chairs, and the many volunteers who help the Society appreciate Sara's sentiment.]

Member Constant Hopkins wrote in with her renewal card:

Glad to get this, as I am on my way to hospital for an extended stay — back surgery. I don't expect to be back in town until after renewal date. And, yes, I do want to renew for I do enjoy my membership.

My best to officers.

[Ed: We wish Constant well with her surgery and hope she is well on the way to recovering by the time she receives this issue.]

New member Rita Blake writes:

Thank you very much for the new membership package that we received a few weeks ago. We enjoyed it very much and look forward to receiving the quarterly mailings.

After having done some Ricardian reading (Sharon Kay Penman, Bertram Fields) I am convinced of Richard's innocence and feel that he must be vindicated! My husband Chris and I hope to perhaps become actively involved in the Society in the future.

We are curious as to how many members are in the Society, both worldwide and in the American Branch. Also, do you know if there are any members in the St.

Louis, Missouri area? If so, maybe we could form a chapter here!

Rita Blake  
St. Louis, MO

[Ed: Members who would be interested in forming/joining a chapter to serve the St. Louis area may contact Rita Blake at [crblake@primary.net](mailto:crblake@primary.net), or (314) 741-5741, or 117 Bittersweet Lane, St. Louis MO, 63138-3836.

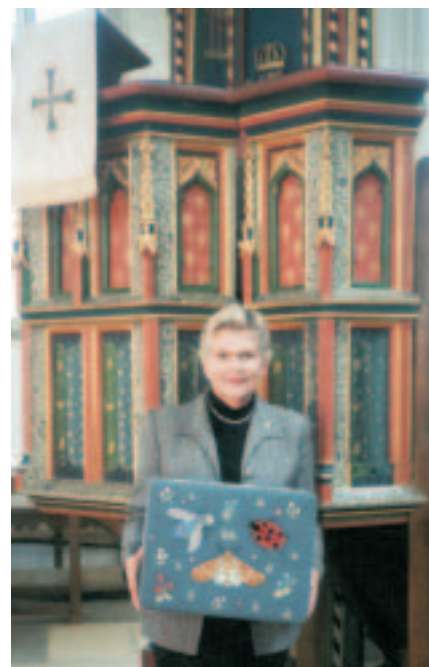
And, for the record, as of the last Board meeting, there were 779 members in the American Branch. The Parent Society has upwards of 4000 members internationally, with most of those in the U.K.]

Fax received from our only Peru member:

My congratulations to Kathleen Spalto for her excellent family tree of descendants of John of Gaunt. He was indeed the ancestor of many famous people apart from the Lancasters and York. By his second wife the lovely Constance of Leon and castile, John of Gaunt was also the great-great grandfather of Catherine of Aragon. Thus Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon were cousins of I know not what degree. John of Gaunt was also the grandfather of the Portugese Henry the "Navigator" whose mother was the famous Philappa.

My congratulations to you also for the wonderful contributions you make to the Richard III Society.

John B. Ottiker



Dale D'Angelo with the kneeler she needlepointed in 1997. In the background is the 15th century pulpit, now restored to its original colors, donated by Edward IV, whose coat of arms appear on the rear panel. This identifies one needlepointer!



## THE CULT OF HENRY VI

*Leigh Ann Craig*

From mid-March through mid-June of 2000, I traveled to England with the support of the Richard III Society to complete my dissertation research into the cult of King Henry VI (d. 1471).

Henry was a casualty of the wars of the Roses. He died in the Tower of London, probably at the command of his successor, King Edward IV. Popular tradition holds that the murder was committed by Edward's brother, Richard, Duke of Gloucester (later Richard III). After Henry's death, political resistance to Yorkist rule combined with public memory of his devout life to make him a candidate for sainthood. Almost immediately, pilgrims began to arrive at his grave, claiming he had worked miracles for them. Edward IV tried without success to suppress the cult. Richard III, recognizing that suppression was futile but cautious about this potential center of opposition to his rule, eventually had Henry's relics moved from the out-of-the-way monastery of Chertsey to St. George's Chapel at Windsor Castle. Henry's cult has largely been forgotten by the scholarly community, whose interest in him is as a failed monarch during the wars of the Roses, rather than as a saint.

Evidence of Henry's cult was widespread. Manuscripts in the British Library, the Bodleian Library at Oxford, the Fitzwilliam museum at Cambridge, and the Palace Green Library at Durham all yielded prayers to Henry. These prayers emphasized that Henry was God's chosen monarch, and because of this claimed that his politically-motivated murder was actually a martyrdom. They remembered him as a charitable man, a "friend of the poor," "father of orphans," "defender of the church," and even a "teacher of churchmen" for his devout lifestyle. But perhaps the most interesting aspect of the prayers to Henry were the ways in which they understood his failures as a monarch. Because Henry had suffered many difficulties during his lifetime, having been twice dethroned, imprisoned, and most probably murdered, his devotees felt that he could understand their troubles. He therefore became a patron of emergencies, calamities, and (as the prayers so often repeat) "adversities." Henry's miracles, collected at his shrine at Windsor Castle and now residing in the British Library, reflect this emphasis, as well. In most of the miracle stories, Henry renders aid on-the-spot to avert or correct calamity, unlike many other saints, who perform their miracles only at their shrines.

Another intriguing form of evidence for Henry's cult was the sacred art which represented him.

Although he was never formally canonized – the procedures were ongoing at the time of Henry VIII's break with Rome — many churches nevertheless incorporated Henry's image alongside those of other saints. Henry appears on several rood-screens next to some of the most popular virgin martyrs, the other English royal saints, or other popular English saints. He also appears in the mediums of stained glass, sculpture, woodcut, and tapestry. Henry's iconography was quickly agreed upon; he is everywhere represented by his most recognizable trait — his royal status — holding an orb and scepter, and sometimes with his personal device, the antelope, at his feet. The artistic evidence, which appears in places as far-flung as Northumberland, Devon, and Norfolk, also points to the popularity of Henry's cult. Devotees from all over England claimed he had performed miracles, performed pilgrimages to Windsor, and made sacred images for their churches at home. No, wonder, then, that the offering-box still extant at Windsor Castle merited its own peep-hole through which the deans of the chapel could keep a close eye on the donations brought by the many pilgrims to Henry's grave.

My primary interest in Henry's cult was to use it as a case study on the participation of women in pilgrimage, and the prayers, artwork, and miracles have offered a great deal of evidence. Despite the overtly political origins of the cult and the royal status of its object, women were not excluded from participation in it. Women as well as men kneel around Henry in a woodcut image held in the Bodleian Library; women's personal prayer books contain prayers to Henry; and women claimed to have received miracles from him, and traveled to



*St. Michael's Church,  
Alnwick, Northumberland*

Windsor to tell their stories. The women who brought miracle tales to Windsor, where Henry was buried, were most often giving thanks for the protection or restoration of their children, who had died or nearly died of illnesses or injuries. In the stories, the mothers who turned to Henry for help saw their children immediately healed. In fact, far from excluding women, the cult of Henry VI offered tremendous power to them. By seeking help on behalf of their children, mothers became intercessors with the divine, an imitation of the role the saints themselves played. Further, the tales make an explicit connection between the faith of the mothers and the restoration of their children, thus emphasizing the power they held to become not just intercessors, but even conduits of divine grace.

Henry's cult, which appeared at the very end of the Middle Ages, is a fascinating example of women's participation in later medieval spirituality, and of the vitality of the cults of the saints right up until the Reformation. It is also a remarkable example of the dialogue between politics and religious belief during the Wars of the Roses. Henry's cult was the product of more than just political opposition to Yorkist rule. It was also the result of the medieval belief that kingship was a divine office, and that kings were God's representatives. Because of this belief the Wars of the Roses caused as much spiritual distress as they did economic and political. The devotion to Henry VI was in some ways an attempt to ease that distress by making Henry's deposition and death a part of the divine plan, rather than evidence of its failure.

### About The Author

*Leigh Ann Craig is a doctoral student in Medieval history at the Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. Her dissertation examines the experiences of western European women as pilgrims between 1300 and 1500 A.D. As part of that dissertation, she has undertaken a case study of the cult of King Henry VI. Craig received a Schallek fellowship from the American Branch to support her research excursion to England to look into the textual and artistic evidence relating to Henry's cult.*

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## ROYAL BLOODLINES:

### OFTEN A BLOODY MATTER

*Kathleen Spaltr*

Just as some knowledge of history can help us to regain the context within which to understand the genealogical records that we unearth, so can genealogical records help us to comprehend the historical record. True for the family trees of each of us, this is also true of royal family trees. I have forgotten how I compiled many genealogical charts in a composition notebook some years ago, but I somehow set down the most important data for English royal families from William the Bastard to Elizabeth II.

This notebook astonishes me now, with its pages of crabbed but still legible detail. It reminds me of some interesting or pathetic facts: that George III sired nine boys and six girls upon Queen Charlotte; that Queen Anne survived 19 dead children; that Bonnie Prince Charlie (the Young Pretender) had a younger brother who became a Cardinal, Henry Cardinal Duke of York.

More importantly, visualizing the English royal bloodlines adds some depth to my understanding of English history. I may know a fact, but seeing that fact embodied in a family tree deepens its significance. Princess Victoria's governess, wanting Victoria finally to perceive her own significance to the royal succession, gave her the Hanover family tree to read. The young Victoria finally understood, replying "I will be good." In much the same way, my reading the royal charts drives home facts that I already "know," fleshing out their continuity and context.

I must have started this notebook when I studied Shakespeare's English history plays and tried to puzzle out the densely tangled competing claims to the throne that inspired the fratricidal struggle called the Wars of the Roses. My notebook begins with energetic attempts to explain to myself the Lancastrian and Yorkist bloodlines. Paging through these charts chronicling a murderous royal house, I now perceive the symptoms of the rise of the House of Tudor, like a parasite battenning on a dying tree.

The Tudors had an obscure origin and the flimsiest of claims to the throne. After the warrior king Henry V died, his French widow married a Welshman named Owen Tudor and bore him several children, including their sons Edmund and Jasper. Edmund died young but stays on the chart just long enough to father the first Tudor usurper, Henry VII. The Lancastrian Jasper eventually married the

Dowager Duchess of Buckingham, widow of the Yorkist ally of Richard III and sister of the Yorkist Queen Elizabeth Woodville, a detail that fills me with curiosity about their chances of marital happiness.

The charts illuminate several later dynastic struggles that determined much English history. Just like the Lancastrians and Yorkists, the Tudors and the Stuarts, as well as the earlier Hanoverian sovereigns, recurrently contended with rebellions based on disputed bloodlines. Lady Jane Grey reluctantly displaced Queen Mary for a week and a half, and an ardent Mary Queen of Scots threatened Elizabeth's security for decades. Seeing from the trees that these great-granddaughters of Henry VII were second cousins: Jane Grey being the granddaughter of Henry VIII's sister Mary Tudor and Mary Stuart being the granddaughter of their sister Margaret Tudor somehow clarifies what I already know.

Exhaustion of the womb of the last Stuart sovereign, Queen Anne, led to the acquisition of a king for England who never learned any English, the Elector of Hanover who became George I. He might not speak English, but at least he was Protestant (unlike the legitimate heir, Anne's younger brother, the Old Pretender).

Puzzling out how George possessed a claim becomes easier when I look at the chart of his grandmother, Elizabeth the Winter Queen of Bohemia, who began life as Princess Elizabeth Stuart, daughter of James I and granddaughter of Mary Queen of Scots.

After several failed challenges to the Hanoverian kings from the Old Pretender and his son Bonnie Prince Charlie, the protracted reign of George III introduced a new dynastic crisis. The charts show nine sons with rights to succeed, but only one had produced a legitimate child, the Prince Regent. Nerved by much alcohol to the dread deed, he had reluctantly begotten his daughter upon a detested and bigamous bride, but his heir, Charlotte of Wales, died in childbirth in 1817. Her and her baby's deaths caused several princes in late middle age to abandon their mistresses, embrace matrimony, and seek to beget children. Not the only royal baby born in 1819 but the one who eventually succeeded, Victoria owed her very existence to her first cousin's agonized death.

An amorous woman unenthusiastic about pregnancy or babies, Victoria nevertheless became Europe's grandmother by virtue of the dynastic alliances formed by her descendants. The Kaiser Wilhelm II held his dying grandmother in his arms 13 years before the Great War. Other German relatives in Victoria's tree had a powerful impact on her royal house, renamed Windsor as a result of popular anti-German hysteria.

The Battenbergs took a small role at first. A morganatic branch of the House of Hesse and by Rhine, the family included Henry, who married Victoria's daughter Beatrice. His brother Louis wed Victoria of Hesse, the old Queen's granddaughter and the sister of the Tsarina Alexandra. Louis and Victoria had a son named Louis of Battenberg, renamed Louis Mountbatten during the Great War, later Earl of Burma and the Viceroy who relinquished India. They also had a daughter, Alice, wife of Prince Andrew of Greece and mother of Prince Philip of Greece, renamed Philip Mountbatten to emphasize his mother's bloodline.

Eventually Elizabeth II's husband, Philip Mountbatten is related to everyone. His father was the Tsar Nicholas's first cousin, as was George V. Thus, on his paternal side, Philip is his wife's second cousin, once removed. In his maternal bloodline, Philip and Elizabeth share Victoria as a great-great-grandmother, which makes them third cousins. The tragic Tsarina was Philip's Great-aunt Alix (and Elizabeth's first cousin, twice removed). Philip provided the DNA evidence that identified her and her daughters' desecrated and battered bones.

#### About the Author

*Kathleen Spaltro has almost twenty years of professional experience as a writer, content editor, copyeditor, and proofreader.*

*She has been establishing herself as a professional indexer, and is a charter member of the newly formed Genealogy Indexing and Transcription Special Interest Group of the American Society of Indexers.*



*From the 2000 Ricardian Tour:  
Fotheringhay Castle, birthplace of Richard III*

## TWO-YEAR MEMBER PROFILES

(Compiled by Sherry Liff)

Richard III reigned for only a little over two years. In commemoration of that fact, this new regular column in the *Ricardian Register* will profile people who are near the two-year anniversary of their membership in the Society. We thank the members below who shared their information with us—it's a pleasure to get to know you better!

Contact information omitted from the previous issue due to "computer error":

- Sandra Bartkowiak's e-mail address is: sange1@webtv.net
- Wendy Bush's e-mail address is: wendyshippsbush@hotmail.com
- Diane R. Franek's e-mail address is: dfranek@hotmail.com
- William Heuer's e-mail address is: beejnbill@primary.net
- William McClintic's e-mail address is: william@flite.net
- Frank H. North's e-mail address is: Frank2829@cs.com
- Marilyn Starrett's e-mail address is: mstarret@idcomm.com

**Stephen Bowling**, a food broker from Louisville, KY, became interested after seeing Laurence Olivier's *Richard III*. He says, "[I]t awakened the love of the land of my ancestors, Shakespeare, and Richard". He "devoured as many books and videos as possible", which led him to the Society. Stephen is also interested in the Civil War, sci-fi, and genealogy. He's hoping to make a trip to England within the next year or two. (SGBOWLING@aol.com; 502-231-4826)

**Julienne W. Bramesco**, an attorney from Arlington, VA, became interested in the period after reading *The Daughter of Time* and *The Sunne in Splendor*. Her interest in Richard III got her hooked on all aspects of life in the late 1400's, including the music. Julienne spends her leisure time in reading and music. She looks forward to visiting England to see the historical sites for herself. (703-243-1351)

**Adrienne Devereux**, an artist from Denver, CO, became interested in Richard III after hearing the story of the Princes in the Tower on her first visit to London. Upon reading, the pro-Richard arguments seemed more

sensible to her and her family also had ancient connections to the Yorkist kings. Adrienne spends her leisure time enjoying travel, music and reading.

**Albert Doughty, Jr.**, a caregiver from Martins Ferry, OH, became interested in Richard III after reading Thomas Costain's books and Paul Murray Kendall's *Richard III*. He joined the Society when his employer found the address on the Internet. Albert collects beer and brewery advertising items. (740-633-0717)

**Jean Kvam**, a teacher from Carson City, NV, has been interested in medieval history since high school, when she first read Anya Seton's *Kathryne*. Since then, she has continued reading all the historical fiction "she could get her hands on" regarding the Medieval period. She found out about the Society on the Web and states she is "now obsessed with 'Looking for Richard'." In addition to reading, she also designs historical costumes in her leisure time. Jean has been to Britain twice, but has never visited the North Country. She'd like anyone thinking about a small informal excursion to that area to e-mail her. (jmkvam@aol.com; 775-885-7326)

**Julilee (Julie) Lasak**, of Broomall, PA, is a mom, homemaker and substitute school librarian. Her interest began after reading *The Daughter of Time* and seeing the Richard III exhibition mounted by the National Portrait Gallery in London during her honeymoon in 1973. She found the Society through word of mouth and the Internet. She enjoys the Society periodicals, especially the book reviews, and says that she is "always urging 'Richard' books on teachers!" In her leisure time, Julilee enjoys travel, reading and history. (jlas6@aol.com; 610-356-7925)

**Andrea VanSant**, a returning member from the 70's and early 80s, became interested in Richard III after reading Josephine Tey's *Daughter of Time*. She is from Austin and works for the State of Texas as an Administrative Technician II. In her leisure time, Andrea enjoys reading, music, and the theatre. (andreavansant@webtv.net; 512-442-4962)

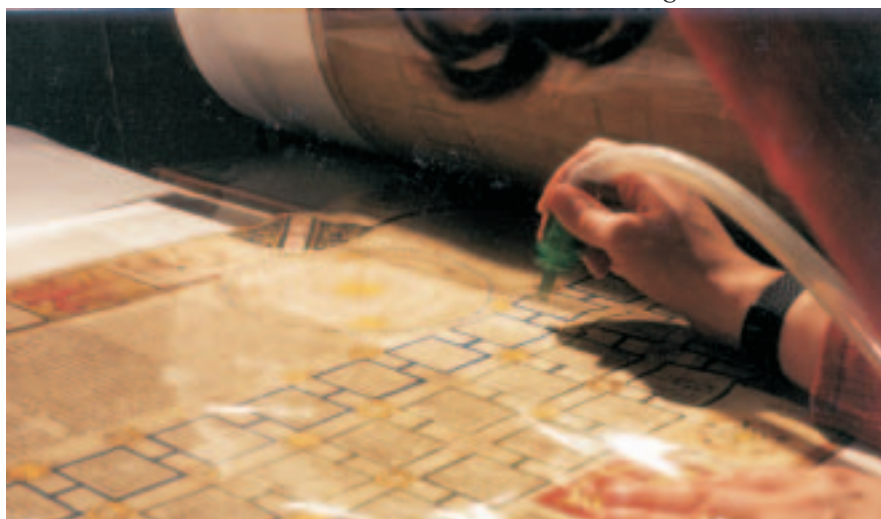
**Carol Vesely**, a homemaker from Aurora, IL, has "been very interested in royalty, especially English", since she was 9 years old. She became particularly interested in Richard III after doing a report on him in the 8th grade. "Even then," she says, "I knew he got a bad rap!" She found the Society online. Carol enjoys reading,

volleyball, and crafts in her leisure time. (vesely.eck@worldnet.att.net; 630-851-0401)

**Muriel, Robert, and Deirdre Williamson.** These family members from Raleigh, NC, are, by occupation, two computer programmers and a high school student. Muriel's father received Thomas Costain's books as a Christmas present while she was in high school. When she read them, she was fascinated by the controversy surrounding Richard III in *The Last Plantagenets*. She wrote a term paper in college that she felt absolved him of the murder of the Princes. Robert found the Society's Web page in 1998 and they joined as a family. The family's leisure interests include reading, old roses, painting, and cooking. (RYoung77@bellsouth.net; 919-233-2969)

**Sheila J. Zagars** of Juneau, AK, became interested in *Richard III* after a copy of Paul Kendall's book came across her desk at work thirty years ago. She's been reading everything she can find on the subject ever since. Sheila, a retired librarian, spends her leisure time fishing, hiking, and gardening. (SZAGARS@msn.com 907-789-7683)

***BELOW: Keeping the pigments from flaking (called "stabilizing surface media" in the profession) on a 20-foot scroll is a time-consuming task. Here conservator Paula Sayetz of the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts applies a fine spray of a water/gelatin emulsion. It penetrates the surface of the pigments and binds them to the underlying vellum.***



Mark your calendars:

**SOCIETY PROJECT ON DISPLAY AT  
PHILADELPHIA MUSEUM OF ART  
SPRING 2001**

*Laura Blanchard*

There will be an exciting display of medieval and Renaissance illuminated manuscripts at the Philadelphia Museum of Art next spring, and the Richard III Society is one of the sponsors!

The exhibition is entitled *Leaves of Gold: Treasures of Manuscript Illumination from Philadelphia Collections*. It opens March 10, 2001 and runs through May 13. A total of 115 books, leaves, cuttings will be on display in the Berman/Stieglitz galleries. One of the most exciting items on display at this exhibition will be the manuscript we raised money to conserve — Free Library Lewis Ms. E201, a stunning genealogy of Edward IV. The scroll, some 20 feet in length, was painstakingly "cleaned and pressed", minor tears were repaired, and flaking paint was stabilized to restore the beauty of the manuscript and to preserve it for future generations. Now it will be displayed fully unrolled, an unprecedented chance for Ricardians, the scholarly community, and the general public to see one of the most elaborate manuscripts to be produced in England during the Yorkist era. The Richard III Society will be listed as one of the sponsors of the exhibition in the full-color catalog.

If anyone is interested in coming to Philadelphia to see this scroll on display (and I hope you will!), I'll be happy to help with hotel suggestions, etc. Please contact me at 2014 Christian Street, Philadelphia PA 19146, 215-985-1445, [laura@srblanchard.com](mailto:laura@srblanchard.com). A fuller report on the manuscript, the conservation project, and the exhibition will appear in the next issue of the *Ricardian Register*.



American Branch Members Who Joined 01-JUN-00 Through 31-AUG-00

Alice and Robert Bertholf  
Gil Bogner  
Courtney C. Bosworth  
James R. Bowman  
Justin, Mariann, & Walter Burchfield  
Gertrude R. Burguieres  
Joan L. Byrne  
Jennifer Caldwell  
Ide Cantwell  
Martin Carlsen  
Phyllis N. Cosper  
Carol Darling  
Frances L. & Mr. Fred Dills  
Joshua Dinges  
Lisa Dornell  
Helene S. Eisenberg  
Cheryl Elliot  
Jack Feldman  
Arthur R. Fillebrown  
Gary Fortune  
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Teresa Grass  
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Elaine A. King  
Dana-Jean S. LaHaie  
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Bob Leigh  
Cynthia R. Letteri  
Marcia Louden  
Kennett Love  
Barbara MacDougall  
Joseph D. & Joan Mach  
Jennifer Dorsey Marschak  
Carol F. Marshall  
Maureen Marullo  
Blix Ann Kennedy Masterson  
Patricia K. Maynard  
Marilyn & Gary Miller

Andreas Morgner  
James Mucklestone  
Deborah Novacek  
John J. O'Farrell  
Marie Elise C. O'Neil  
Patricia Pearson  
Ruth S. Perot  
Joellen F. Pickens  
Catherine Quigley  
Herb Rassman  
Norman E. Reid  
Denise E. & Joyce Richardson  
Brinna & Frank Sands  
Joan Sawyer  
Deborah Schroeder  
Edward Richard Sears  
Donna M. Seeley  
H. Eugene Smith  
Claude N. Stulting, Jr.  
Laurel Throssell  
Joseph A. Verri  
Deborah Wallace  
David Westwood  
Timothy J. Wilde

**FEEL FREE TO PAY IN  
ADVANCE!**


Member David Treybig recently suggested that it would be a convenience to members to be able to pay dues for more than one year at a time. This is an excellent idea — it would save both the Society and the member some postage costs, plus time and effort.

If you would like to do this, no special procedures are needed — our database can handle it! Simply make out your check for as many years dues as you wish and write a note on the renewal card to the effect that you wish to pay for that many years in advance.



# RICARDIAN READING

*Myrna Smith*

 *Inventing The Middle Ages* - Norman F. Cantor, William Morrow and Company, Ltd., NY, 1991. ISBN-0-688-09406-6 (First edition) At this writing, a paperback version appears to be in stock at major on line booksellers.

In too many history books, the bibliographical/biographical essay at the back is more interesting and educating than the book itself. If you agree with this, if you love the “inside baseball” aspects of eminent historian’s life stories and academic intrigues, and, more, if you are, interested in grand historical theories, this book is for you. The author’s thesis is that Medieval history prior to the 20th century was woefully lacking and that a diverse group of late 19th century and 20th century historians “invented” the Middle Ages as we know them today.

The author is of a generation to have studied with and known personally many of his subjects, and his personal recollections — while fairly sparse — add to this book’s appeal, as do his endorsements of particular books he discusses, a la “Even today . . . the single most widely read and influential book written on the Middle Ages in the twentieth century.” (R. W. Southern’s *The Making of the Middle Ages*.) He does not shy from dismissing once highly thought of books as now dated, either.

To give a quick idea of the range of subjects in this book, here’s a test of some items covered in it. (Answers at end.)

1. *True or False?* Almost all surviving medieval writings from before 1250 have been published and are thus generally available to American scholars, at least at universities with large medieval collections.
2. *True or False?* Many surviving European medieval documents written after 1250 have yet to be examined, much less published.
3. *True or False?* It’s much easier for a researcher to decipher documents from before 1250 than those written later in the Middle Ages.
4. *True or False?* “If history is to do its . . . work, it must be as true to fact as it can possibly make itself; and true to fact it will now be if it begins to think what lessons it can teach.”
5. *Choose one:* The system of a trial by a jury of one’s peers is (a) a sublime bulwark of our liberties, giving citizens an opportunity to participate in the judicial process and protecting the accused from government persecuting; (b) a result of the king’s circuit-riding judges wishing to dispose of cases speedily, with less work; (c) both of the above; (d) something else entirely.
6. *Choose one:* What is most important in writing history is (a) narrative, telling events and their causes and effects; (b) structure — describing a society and what it was like to live in that society.
7. *Choose one:* When describing a historical society’s structure, it is more important to emphasize (a) the life of elites, because they had the most influence on politics and the arts, and left the most complete records; (b) the life of the ordinary people: peasants, workers, artisans, etc.; (c) the life of the most underrepresented in the history record, for example, women and slaves.
8. *Choose which factor explains* most about Medieval art: (a) the use of forms and icons rich with symbolism from classical antiquity and early Christianity; (b) the social circumstances in which Medieval artists found themselves; (c) the individual artist’s creativity and skill. Rank these features and give approximate percentage of each’s contribution to Medieval art.
9. *What two* famous Oxford Medieval literature scholars have, between them, over 50 million copies of their works in print?
10. *Choose one:* (a) the Renaissance was only a late and special chapter in the history of Medieval culture; (b) the Renaissance was the dawn of a whole new era.
11. *Why* did the CIA hire the head of the Medieval Academy?
12. *What special problems* face Roman Catholic scholars when they write about the Middle Ages?
13. *What are the six best movies* ever made about the Middle Ages? Hint: Neither *Becket* nor *The Lion In Winter* is on the author’s list.

Ricardians who would like to place their 15th century studies in the perspective of the entire Middle Ages could do worse than taking hints from this book as to where their reading should start. If I were a graduate student specializing in Medieval studies, I would want to start with this book — and have an updated version — to learn which universities or academic environments would be most suited to my interests and inclinations.

ANSWERS: Of course some of these questions have no definitive answer yet and may never have. The chapter numbers refer to where the discussion of the subject occurs in the book. Page numbers refer to pages in the first edition.

1. True. Chapter 1, pages 30-31
2. True. And very intriguing, to speculate on what awaits us when these are examined, Chap. 1, p. 30-31.
3. True. Because prior to 1250 most documents were in standard Latin, inscribed in Carolingian miniscule handwriting. When the use of vernacular and alternative handwritings increased, the writing became less standard; scholars have more difficulty deciphering these. Chap. 1, p. 34-35.
4. What do you think? Frederic Maitland, quoted in Chap. 2, p. 51.
5. What do you think? Discussion in Chap. 2, p 61.
6. What do you think? Discussion in Chap. 4, p 141-142, regarding Marc Bloch
7. What do you think? Discussion in Chap 4, p. 144-147.
8. It would take a lifetime of studying art to arrive at an informed conclusion. Chapter 5 discusses people who invested that lifetime.
9. C. S. Lewis and J. R. R. Tolkien, though their best-sellers were not their academic publications. Discussed in Chap. 6.
10. What do you think? Chap. 6, p 217.
11. "Allen Dulles [CIA chief] "knew medievalists were used to drawing conclusions from fragmentary evidence, and that is just what the CIA did." Chap. 7, p 262.
12. Chapter 8, throughout.
13. From the End Notes, p 441. The End Notes themselves are readable little essays. The author's six favorites are: *Alexander Nevsky*, *The Seventh Seal*, *Ran*, *The Name of the Rose*, *Henry* (Olivier, not Branagh) and *The Navigator*. While he does not mention *Becket* or *The Lion in Winter*, at least he does not include them in his short list of "resounding failures at film attempts to depict the spirit of the Middle Ages."

— Peggy Allen, *LA*

*We are now much better informed on the thought patterns, behaviour and practice of people in this period at all levels of society and these reveal rich and rewarding seams of human activity, experience and achievement that were significant in their own day and have a lasting importance for all those interested in the European past.*

 *The New Cambridge Medieval History, Volume VI, C. 1300-C. 1415* - Michael Jones, ed., Cambridge, UK, 2000

Someone should do a learned paper on the taxonomy and production of learned papers. I have discovered academic publications to fall roughly into two categories: the personal, as exemplified by the book Peggy Allen reviews, and the impersonal. The first may be fun to read, but the more Philistine or economic reader may prefer to spend less of his hard-earned money (or the public library's tax dollars) on what is essentially a review of other historians' books and opinions. The impersonal may be subdivided in several ways, one being by style rather than content. One style, much favored by, but not exclusive to, feminist scholars and others with an "ism" to support, is obfuscativ in the extreme. The reader is able to define each individual word, and can even get the drift of the piece as a whole — what the author is for or against — but would be hard put to give the meaning of any particular sentence or phrase.

The present volume is in another category. Specific words might puzzle the reader as to their meaning (what is an emphyteutic lease?) or as to why they are being used (why nupulality instead of marriage?), but by and large, each phrase, sentence, or paragraph is clear and understandable. There is difficulty, however, in capturing the general theme. The "Just-the-facts-ma'am," let-the-reader-decide philosophy is a legitimate and even admirable one, but perhaps is more at home in an encyclopedia, and would certainly be more accessible in that form.

One virtue of the encyclopedic format is that the subjects could be assigned, and the editor would not have to apologize for omissions, e.g. of the study of women, *qua* women, in that period. This might somewhat cramp the contributors, but as Michael Jones confesses, their first drafts had to be edited anyhow to avoid overlap and duplication, and some still crept in.

All the same, this is a very useful work, and much-needed, since the book this replaces was published in 1932. On the very first page, the editor lays out the form it will follow:

*The volume is divided into four sections. Part I sets the scene by discussion of general themes in the theory and practice of government, religion, social and economic history, and culture, including discussions of art, architecture and chivalry. Part II deals with the individual histories of the states of western Europe; part III with the Church at the time of the Avignon papacy and the Great Schism; and part IV with eastern and northern Europe, Byzantium and the early Ottomans . . .*

Dr. Jones claims that only 10% of the space is devoted to British history, but it seems like more. No doubt this is because they come first in the outline, and because the areas of the Rest of the World get



even less. A British, and even English, bias is only to be expected, since most of the contributors are from UK universities, with a few from the US and the Continent. It is, after all, the *Cambridge History*.

Perhaps Volume VII, covering the 15th century, will be out soon. In the meantime, this tome (this somewhat archaic word is used because it is a real heavyweight at 884 pages of text, plus useful genealogies, bibliographies, etc) is most useful for charting the trends that affected following centuries, right down to the 20th and 21st.

— *M.S.*

(The quotations in this column are from this book, as representative samples of academic syntax — and by no means the worst of their kind. They are uncredited, to avoid embarrassment to the innocent but verbose.)

*The Lancastrian propaganda machine produced an official account of Richard's (II) deposition ... which has been long been discredited as a truthful record of what happened ... It was convenient to the Lancastrians to represent the rapid collapse of support for Richard in terms of his general unpopularity, thus bolstering Henry's claim that the kingdom was 'on the point of being undone for lack of governance.*

📖 *Shakespeare's Kings* - John Julius Norwich - Viking, 1999, \$30.00

Lord Norwich is a highly respected historian. His three-volume history of Byzantium has been critically acclaimed, and I was greatly impressed by his *History of Venice*. I therefore approached this book with great anticipation.

In writing historical drama, the playwright needs to keep fairly close to the history that people know and can relate to while at the same time creating a play that “works” dramatically. This may involve telescoping events — making things which actually happened years apart seem contemporaneous. It can also require inventing a “bridge” scene to link actual occurrences in order to provide dramatic continuity and inventing speeches for character development. Shakespeare used all of these devices and more. Lord Norwich’s main thrust in this book is to look at how Shakespeare does all of this and how the resulting plays accord with actual historical fact.

In spite of the book’s title, Lord Norwich does not consider all of Shakespeare’s history plays — *King John* at the beginning of the sequence and *King Henry VIII* at the end are not analyzed. He sees *Richard II* through *Richard III* as a closed historic continuity. It can be (and has been) argued that the sequence *Richard II*, *King Henry IV 1 & 2*, *King Henry V*, *King Henry VI 1, 2 & 4*, *Richard III* are really a single multi-act morality play. By limiting his analysis to these plays, he can give

consideration to the larger picture of the whole period in addition to the individual plays themselves. As an added feature, he throws in *Edward III* which is apparently now considered a Shakespearean play.

Mostly, it’s a fascinating story. It was a very dramatic period in history, and Norwich tells his story well. He is obviously an admirer of Shakespeare and shows us the deftness Shakespeare used to “slice and dice” history to fit his dramatic requirements. Also, what a master of the language Shakespeare was! Norwich gives a number of examples of Shakespeare’s ability to encapsulate a complex situation in a few well chosen lines.

Shakespeare could trim his sails when necessary, of course. Norwich points out how Shakespeare whitewashed Henry V: Henry’s second French campaign, during which he freely indulged his taste for wholesale slaughter and massacre, wouldn’t fit in with the noble image that Shakespeare wanted to portray — so that regrettable part of the story is ignored completely.

As Ricardians, we know what Shakespeare thinks of Richard III — what does Lord Norwich see as the real history behind the play? Unfortunately, Norwich swallows Sir Thomas More’s “history” hook, line and sinker, since “We are speaking, after all, of a formally canonized saint” . . . YEEOW!!

Any attempt at critical analysis is totally abandoned and even the most ludicrous of More’s statements is treated as Gospel. There is no need to go through each one of his errors; they’ve all been examined and dismissed on many other occasions. Sir Thomas More is like so many other bad ideas; you can’t kill them. You can bury them at midnight under a full moon in the middle of a crossroads with a stake through their hearts, and they’ll still resurrect themselves and come back again. And again.

It has been said of the Confederate generals in the American Civil War that each one had one battle where their performance was far below par. Perhaps Lord Norwich’s treatment of Richard is his equivalent of a Confederate general’s bad day. Treat it with compassion and enjoy the rest of the book. There’s much to enjoy.

— *Jonathan Hayes, WA*

*The king depended on the active or passive consent of the political community. More especially, he depended on the aristocracy. The handful of earls and clutch of great barons who made up the high nobility . . . may have lacked the jurisdictional independence enjoyed by their counterparts in continental Europe, but they were still the principal force in English politics.*

📖 *The Lordly Ones* - Geoffrey Richardson, Baildon Books, North Yorks, 1988

*The Lordly Ones* are the leaders of the younger branch of the Neville family, descended from Ralph Neville and

Joan Beaufort, whose royal blood gave pride and riches to her brood and caused lasting enmity with the older branch, the Nevilles of Westmoreland. The book is mainly concerned with Richard Neville, Earl of Salisbury, Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick and later of Salisbury, and John Neville, Marquis of Montague. Both Richards are identified by name and title, so despite father and son sharing the same name, there is no confusion.

The research involved is impressive. Details such as the little-known arrest of the Countess of Salisbury after the fall of Ludlow and her subsequent rescue by her son, Warwick, give the narrative depth. The author's knowledge of coming events adds drama. Richardson's style has the same flowing smoothness and clarity that characterize his earlier works, *The Hollow Crowns* and *The Deceivers*. His vocabulary is simple and evocative. There is none of the pomposity found in some professional historians. So absorbing is this story that the reader is reluctant to put it down even to make notes for a review!

Richard of Gloucester is on the fringe of the Neville story, but light is cast upon his character. After Barnet, John Neville's young son George was stripped of honors and wealth. Richard took the boy into his ducal household. George died in 1484, another grief for Richard to bear during his brief kingship.

After his brothers died at Barnet, George Neville, former Archbishop, was also stripped of titles and riches and imprisoned in Hammes' Castle. He was released in 1476 on the personal plea of Richard of Gloucester, and it was Richard who secured the freedom of his mother-in-law from Beaulieu Abbey, and took her into his home. Loyalty was an encompassing oath for Richard. Though Barnet saw the end of the great Nevilles, Warwick's sisters gave their husbands children who prospered more quietly than their illustrious kin, as their descendants do today.

This book with the preceding pair, is highly recommended and enjoyable reading. All three are available at Middleham Castle and through Bailidon Books, P.O. Box 107, Shipley, W. Yorks BD17 6UR, England, for \$15.98 airmail or \$12.00 surface mail.

— Dale Summers, TX

*Having a presentiment of the ruin of the medieval order, (Bartolus) constantly wrote about the relationships between empire (imperium) and priesthood (sacerdotium), examined the subtle relations which were establishing themselves beneath his very eyes, between the monarch and the law (loi), denounced tyranny, unjust war and the violation of law (droit).*

📖 *Hemlock At Vespers: Fifteen Sister Fidelma Mysteries*  
- Peter Tremayne - St Martins Minotaur, NY 2000  
(pb)

When a recognized academic turns to the writing of popular literature, especially if his motives are partly didactic (to illustrate the position of women in 7th century Ireland the results are likely to be mixed. In the case of Peter Tremayne's Sister Fidelma mysteries, the mixture is a pleasant one.

Although Sister Fidelma, the jurist/detective/nun, may be fictional, Tremayne has provided a vitae and itinerary for her. All these adventures take place between 664 and 666, before Fidelma meets her Saxon Watson, Brother Eadulf. For the uninitiated, Sister Fidelma is an advocate qualified to the level of *Anruth*, which is, Tremayne explains:

*"only one degree below the highest qualification, the Ollamb . . . the Anruth had to be knowledgeable in poetry, literature, law and medicine, speaking and writing with authority on all things and being eloquent in debate"*

In short, a Renaissance person the better part of a millenium before the Renaissance!

The author avoids writing in academic prose, purple prose, or high literary style of any kind. He simply tells the story in a straightforward manner, playing fair with the reader. The story is the primary thing, with the delineation of Irish society a strong secondary. Although the motives - greed, love, revenge — are universal ones, when one gets down to cases, some are only understandable in the context of their times. Murder to collect "honor-price," for example, can only be possible when a value in cash or cattle is placed on a human life. Before you say "How barbaric," however, consider: If the supposed criminal could not pay the *eric*, or fine, he was turned over to the family of the victim, to be used as a slave, or treated in any manner they wished. The worst crime was trying to conceal a crime, which was punished by placing the perp in a small boat with one, or no, oar and no provisions — an almost certain death sentence.

Although I've never felt the Sister Fidelma novels (*Absolution By Murder*, *Shroud For The Archbishop*, *Suffer Little Children*, *The Subtle Serpent*, *The Spider's Web*, and *Valley Of The Shadow*, all written since 1993) are in any way padded, these short stories are a quick and easy read. I'm sorry to report that the proof-reading is pretty bad in this particular edition. This must be the fault of the publishers, as I wouldn't think a leading scholar would perpetrate such howlers. Peter Tremayne, incidentally, is the pen name of Peter Berresford Ellis, a leading Celtic scholar. Why an English-born Irishman chose a Cornish pseudonym

is one of literature's minor mysteries, but I think you will enjoy these Sister Fidelma mysteries.

— M.S.


*Whilst within Christendom, the century saw a much closer symbiosis of the Mediterranean North Sea and Baltic worlds, developments graphically displayed, for instance, in the expanding geographical knowledge revealed by makers of successive ortolans, marine charts, as Italian and Iberian mariners established regular contact with the Atlantic seaboard and northern Europe from around 1300.*

 *Falconer and The Great Beast* - Ian Morson, St Martin's Press, NY 1998

Professor Falconer of Oxford, temp Henry III, becomes involved in the visit of a delegation of Tartars to his fair city, along with the beast of the title — an elephant. He is surprised to learn that some of them are Christians, perhaps not so surprised to learn that greed, jealousy and crime abound among folk from faraway places just as much as among the native English, Christian or not. Also not surprisingly, they culminate in a murder among the Tartars, which occurs in a locked tent (a sealed one, anyway). Falconer needs the help of his mentor, Friar Roger Bacon, to solve this mystery, and gets it. Bacon is a well-drawn character, as are the leading Tartars, but the most unforgettable one is the doomed elephant. (If you are a pachyphile, as I am, take a look at *The Astonishing Elephant*, by Shana Alexander, Random House, NY, 2000 — they really are amazing.) Morson can also make you see, and almost smell, 13th century Oxford, and the tent city of the Asians. A very entertaining mystery.

— M.S.

*It was characterized by patrivirdocal marriage, genealogical depth and the co-existence of several couples from different generations, frequent associations of couples of the same generation — frireches and others — and the tendency to prefer relations to servants from elsewhere.*

 *Face Down Upon An Herbal* - Kathy Lynn Emerson, St Martin's Press, NY 1998; *Face Down Among The Winchester Geese* - same author, same publisher, 1999; *Face Down Beneath The Eleanor Cross* - same, same, 2000

Going a little past our period, we make the acquaintance of Susanna, Lady Appleton, a country gentlewoman in the reign of Elizabeth I. She is not an academic — is not allowed to be — but is an intellectual, and one with a practical bent, having authored a “cautionary herbal.” While visiting another gentlewoman-author to help her with the preparation of her own herbal, Susanna runs into a classic country-house murder-in-the-library to exercise her little gray cells on. *Winchester Geese* (an old term for a

prostitute) reprises the Jack-the-Ripper theme: petite young women with dark hair and no particular virtue are being killed in a violent but organized fashion. Susanna does not feel threatened, since she fits none of these categories, until she gets a little too close to identifying the killer, or the killer gets a little too close to her. Her husband is one of the prime suspects.

One of the unusual aspects of this series (there is another book, *Face Down In The Marrow-Bone Pie*, which I have not yet read) is the relationship between Susanna and her husband, Robert. Most fictional female detectives are either single or very happily married. Susanna's is an arranged marriage, with all the frictions one might expect. She does not love him, but is jealous of his mistresses. He is jealous and resentful of her accomplishments, but finds her a useful and loyal ally, and they can work together and even laugh together. But Robert Appleton sometimes acts contrary to her best interests and even his own.

By the time of *Eleanor Cross*, Susanna has been a widow for over a year, presumably. But Robert is a slippery sort, and can't be trusted to stay dead. She receives a coded message to meet him, but when she arrives, he falls dead in the position indicated by the title, and this time he stays dead. Before Susanna can heave a sigh of relief, she is arrested for poisoning him - one of the dangers of being a herbalist is being suspected of knowing too much and practicing what you know. With the aid of a friend (who would like to be more than a friend) in high places, Walter Pendennis, and a liberal application of ‘oil of palms,’ she is “released on her parole.” (on bond). Ibis gives her about four months to prove her innocence, name the true villain, and save herself from being burnt at the stake. (A woman murdering her husband was considered to be guilty of petty treason and deserving of that kind of sentence.) Lady Appleton has the valued assistance of her maidservant/friend/Watson, Jennet, who dislikes the bruises she gets from riding pillion, but won't be left behind. A sprinkling of ‘real-life’ characters, such as Lady Jane Grey's younger sister, appear in the pages, as well. Mystery fans and Elizabethan aficionados will enjoy these, or anybody who likes a good story.

By the way, in spite of the title, the cover of *Winchester Geese* shows the victim in a supine position.

—M.S.

Many thanks to Mr. Hayes and Mesdames Summers and Allen. Now, the rest of you, get up out of your supine position and write me a review for this column. You don't have to be an academic or write about “great books.” You don't have to be able to type, or even to spell. My SpellCheck and dictionary will take care of that. But give us something to work on, please!

# REMINISCENCES ON THE 2000 RICARDIAN TOUR

Linda Treybig

## A Personal Journal

**Day 1:** On an overcast, rather chilly morning in July, our small group arrived at a friendly old coaching inn in scenic Wensleydale, tired but full of eager anticipation for our journey through Richard III's England. After check-in and lunch, we headed to our comfortable rooms for some much-needed rest, explored the tiny village and its church, and enjoyed a delicious dinner together before calling it a day.

**Day 2:** Today, upon reaching Middleham church, we received a warm reception from old friends in the Yorkshire Branch. After viewing the church, a parishioner invited us to climb into the church bell tower to watch the ringing for morning worship. Special moment: One of us even got to ring the hours! At Middleham Castle, we also received a special treat – the opportunity to see a clever demonstration of various medieval bagpipes by Wyndbagge the Piper. Following a leisurely exploration of Richard's favorite dwelling, most of us toted away some Ricardian memento or Geoffrey Richardson's latest book, as we trooped back to the Black Swan for lunch and a friendly chat with our friends. We ended the day with a mid-afternoon visit to Bolton Castle, a short drive away. In addition to its other attractions (including one of the finest views in Yorkshire), this one-time home of the Scopes now has a thriving garden and a newly planted maze. Finally, parting from our Yorkshire friends, we returned to our hotel and yet another outstanding dinner prepared by its Rosette-winning chef. (Any lingering doubts about the current state of British cookery were quickly dispelled!)

**Day 3:** An Arctic cold front with driving rain and high winds put in an appearance today. It may have turned our umbrellas inside out and left us a little soggy, but it didn't dampen our spirits one bit! After visiting Richmond Castle in its attractive market town, several of us opted for a bowl of steaming homemade soup and a hot roll for lunch. The highlight of the day for most of us was a fine falconry display where, along with commentary, we saw flight demonstrations of several birds of prey and got to view them at close hand. Special moment: An opportunity to don the leather gauntlet and handle Doughnut, a dear little barn owl, as well as a magnificent peregrine falcon. We came away better able to visualize the Richard's party setting forth on a medieval hunt. Although we were unable to

linger among the substantial ruins at beautiful Rievaulx Abbey, the group enjoyed a visit to its new museum on monastic life.

**Day 4:** With the sun peeking timidly through the clouds, we set happily made our way to Barnard Castle and church. At the castle, everyone was able to locate the window above which the much damaged image of Richard's white boar was engraved. Our efforts to locate the boar emblem on the exterior of the church were less successful. Later, in the great city of Durham, everyone was awed by the splendid Norman cathedral and its many treasures – the marvelous lion's head sanctuary knocker, the beautiful Galilee Chapel, the early Saxon tomb chest of St. Cuthbert and his fine pectoral cross, and shrines to both St. Cuthbert and the Venerable Bede.

**Day 5:** Today we discovered that the mighty Percys lived very well indeed! The grand 15th C. keep at Warkworth Castle is quite impressive. In comparison with Richard's much earlier castle at Middleham, it is light and airy with large windows, spacious rooms and all the latest "mod cons". *Special moment:* The sighting of an intact portion of Hadrian's Wall near the highway and a stop for those who wished to be photographed standing by it. Following lunch in the picturesque village of Seahouses on the coast of the North Sea, we visited Preston Tower, a fascinating 14<sup>th</sup> century pele tower built to defend against raids by the infamous Border Rievers. Boarding our coach, we then crossed by causeway to Holy Island, one of England's earliest centers of Christianity. Everyone enjoyed the peaceful ruins of Lindisfarne Priory with its statue of St. Cuthbert, the cozy little village, the brisk sea breezes and the glorious coastal scenery. A visit to the pleasant little museum/gift shop brought a most satisfying day to a close.

**Day 6:** Traveling along the old Military Road, we were pleased to view yet more of Hadrian's wall as we made our way to Penrith in England's famous Lake District. Here we were welcomed by Ricardians from the Cumbrian Group who graciously led us in a tour of the castle (where Richard did much restoration), the Gloucester Arms (where he stayed with the Dockwra family while the work was in progress) and the attractive parish church. After a pleasant lunch in the church hall, we toured through this scenic area, with a stop at the quaint Lakeland village of Ambleside. Our day of

sightseeing ended with a visit to stately Levens Hall and its outstanding topiary gardens.

**Day 7:** This morning, along our route to York, we visited picturesque Skipton Castle in the Yorkshire Dales. This fine Clifford castle, in Richard III's possession for a time and later lovingly restored by Lady Anne Clifford in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, is one of England's finest medieval castles. On our arrival in the ancient city of York, we paid a group visit to Barley Hall before striking off on our own to shop and discover York's many attractions for the rest of the day. In the evening, those attending the York Mystery Plays were treated to a fine performance in glorious York Minster.

**Day 8:** An exciting day began in Pickering, where we met with the large English Richard III Society tour group. After a joint visit to the castle, for centuries a royal hunting lodge, we were invited to join their group at the parish church for a presentation on the finest medieval wall paintings in England. Beautifully rendered and encircling the entire nave, these paintings trace the history of Christ from the Annunciation through the Resurrection. After lunch at a charming country pub, we made our way to the medieval fair at Sheriff Hutton. Here, under sunny skies, we watched an amusing jousting display and then strolled over to the booths run by members of the Lincoln Group and the Yorkshire Branch, many in full medieval costume. Most of us visited the modest little church with its tomb effigy thought by some to be Richard's son, Edward; and we all enjoyed renewing old friendships and making new ones, including Geoffrey Richardson who was to lead our tour of Towton Battlefield the following day. An early return to York gave everyone a chance to squeeze in a little more shopping before dinner at our comfortable hotel.

**Day 9:** This Sunday morning, as we stood amidst rolling farmland overlooking the battlefield site, Geoffrey Richardson's vivid account of the Battle of Towton truly brought the battle to life for us. At nearby Saxton churchyard, we located Lord Dacre's tomb and then visited tiny Lead Chapel, standing isolated in a large field, in which one is still able to detect some evidence of the medieval village that once surrounded it. The afternoon began with a visit to the splendid ruins of Conisburgh Castle, standing high above the town and strangely modern in appearance, though dating from the 12<sup>th</sup> century. *Special moment:* A delicious afternoon tea in the lounge of the ancient Angel & Royal in Grantham. Here we were invited to see the 15<sup>th</sup> century dining room, once the great hall of this ancient inn where Richard received the Great Seal during his campaign to crush Buckingham's rebellion.

**Day 10:** Today was dedicated to events and sites related to the Battle of Bosworth. We were first led in an excellent tour of Bosworth Field, followed by time to

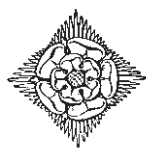
browse in the gift shop. After pub lunch at Sutton Cheyney, we made the short trip to Dadlington, where we were welcomed by several parishioners who had thoughtfully set up an excellent display favoring the alternative site of Dadlington for the Battle of Bosworth. Next, a visit to Sutton Cheyney church with its kneelers and fine memorial tablet given by the Richard III Society. *Special moment:* The hanging of our lovely American Branch wreath featuring white roses on the wall next to the tablet. A stop at Castle Gardens (a true oasis in noisy Leicester!) to view Butler's fine statue of Richard ended a very special day together.

**Day 11:** Fotheringhay church was the first venue on our final day. Here we viewed the tomb of Richard's parents (also probably of his brother Edmund) and admired the House of York memorial window, the fine pulpit given the church by Edward IV, and the needle-point kneelers fashioned by members of the Richard III Society. *Special moment:* Dale D'Angelo being photographed proudly holding the beautiful kneeler she contributed. Following lunch at a quaint thatched pub near Oxford, we stopped briefly in the attractive Cotswold town of Burford for a little last-minute shopping before heading for our final destination. Our visit to the romantic ruins of Minster Lovell Hall, standing peacefully on the banks of the River Windrush, seemed a fitting conclusion to a memorable tour.

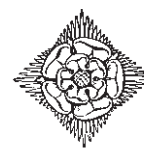
*Escort's closing comments:* From my (admittedly biased!) point of view, I believe our tour of Richard III's England in this millennium year was an unqualified success; and I know that each of us returned home with fond memories of a very special experience. We all enjoyed the great sightseeing, charming hotels and excellent meals. It was my good fortune to be blessed with such friendly, intelligent and personable traveling companions. There was never a dull moment! But then, would one really expect anything else from a group of enthusiastic Ricardians?



*Gloucester Arms: Panel of Royal Arms with boar supporters over door.*



# The Last of the Plantagenets



## *Travels with King Richard III*

June 24 – July 5, 2001

June 24: Morning arrival at London Gatwick Airport and transfer to London hotel. Remainder of day and evening free to become acquainted with this great city or just relax and recover from jet lag! OVERNIGHT (2 Nts.): Central London

June 25: By popular request, today will be devoted to getting to know Richard III “up close and personal” through records and important Ricardian relics. Plans include visits to both the *British Museum* and the *Society of Antiquaries* and a trip to the *National Portrait Gallery* to see Richard’s famous portrait (as well as those of Henry VI, Margaret Beaufort and Elizabeth of York). Optional evening entertainment.

June 26: This morning, our coach and driver will carry us into the lovely, unspoiled countryside of East Anglia. Our first venue will be the considerable and impressive ruins of *Framlingham Castle* in Suffolk. This historic castle was the ancestral home of Anne Mowbray and the Dukes of Norfolk, and it later lodged Mary Tudor and her troops until she returned to London to claim her crown. Next on our agenda is a visit to *Wingfield church* (1392), a lovely little jewel with effigies of Richard’s sister, Elizabeth, and her husband, John, Duke of Suffolk. Also planned is a visit by special appointment to *Wingfield College*, founded in 1361 and later extended by the de la Poles. On to our charming hotel near Norwich. OVERNIGHT (2 Nts.): Norwich area

June 27: Among the treasures of the pleasant old market town of *Norwich* are a splendid cathedral, a castle (now a fine museum), and Elm Hill, a picturesque and unique medieval street. It is a great town to explore on foot! During the morning, we will have time to discover its many attractions and enjoy some shopping. Early afternoon finds us at *Walsingham Abbey*, famous shrine to Our Lady of Walsingham, with both an Anglo-Catholic shrine and a Roman Catholic Slipper Chapel. Walsingham was a favorite destination of medieval pilgrims - including Henry II and Richard III. A short drive brings us to Blickling Hall. We conclude our sightseeing today with a visit to this beautiful Jacobean country house and its gardens.

**June 28:** In a peaceful situation not far from Norwich stands *Castle Acre Priory*, an 11<sup>th</sup> century Cluniac foundation. This morning, we will explore its fine remains, which include a beautiful Norman west front, a noteworthy reredorter and a Tudor gatehouse. Then, on to *Castle Rising*. This castle, with its massive keep and magnificent staircase, was visited by Richard III and Edward IV in 1469. From here, Richard’s earliest known letter was written as the brothers raised troops to put down a rebellion in the north. Our final stop today will be *Crowland Abbey*, home of the Croyland Chronicler, who wrote one of the few contemporary chronicles of Richard’s day. Crowland was also a stop for Richard and Edward in 1469, before they departed for Fotheringhay from its unique triangular bridge. OVERNIGHT (2 Nts.): Melton Mowbray

June 29: Today is our special day of tribute to Richard III. First, we will enjoy an excellent, in-depth tour of *Bosworth Battlefield* where, with the defeat and death of Richard III, the Plantagenet reign came to an end, ushering in the House of Tudors. (Optional visit to the battle exhibition centre.) Following lunch and a visit to *Sutton Cheney church* to hang our memorial wreath, we will conclude a memorable day with a visit to the most impressive of Lord Hasting’s castles at *Ashby-de-la-Zouch*.

**June 30:** In 1487, Yorkist forces led by the Earl of Lincoln and Sir Francis Lovell were defeated and Lambert Simnel captured by the forces of Henry VII. Our first stop will be at *Stoke Battlefield* (1487) where we will follow the Battle Trail and view the memorial stone at St. Oswald’s Church commemorating the dead. Our second venue is *Gainsborough Old Hall*. A notable and fascinating example of a 15<sup>th</sup> century manor house, it was visited by Richard III in 1483 and is a favorite of many Ricardians. A little further along the route lies the atmospheric old city of Lincoln. *Lincoln Cathedral*, dominating the city, is our final stop today. In this richly designed cathedral lie the tombs of Bishop John Russell, Richard’s Chancellor, and of Katherine Swynford, Beaufort ancestress of both Richard and Anne. Finally, into beautiful Yorkshire, Richard III’s favorite corner of England. OVERNIGHT (2 Nts.): Harrogate area

**July 1:** This morning, we’ll visit the splendid ruins of 12<sup>th</sup> century *Fountains Abbey*, now a World Heritage site. Then, on to the attractive market town of *Middleham*, where we will have ample time to explore Richard’s castle, the parish church and the town. Our final venue today is the pleasant little city of Ripon, granted its charter by Alfred the Great in 886 AD. *Ripon Cathedral* has a fine Saxon crypt built by St. Wilfrid and a remarkable Choir with an excellent set of misericords (c. 1489 – 1494).

**July 2:** A short drive brings us to the ancient city of *York*. Overlooked by magnificent York Minster, York is an eminently “walkable” city. We will begin our morning here with a stop at the City Archives to view the Death Roll from the Battle of Bosworth. For the remainder of the day, we’ll have the freedom to discover some of its many treasures, shop, and (even in the midst of the throngs!) soak up the medieval atmosphere. OVERNIGHT (1 Nt.): Near Manchester

July 3: Today we travel through the scenic Yorkshire Dales and past Manchester into Shropshire. Our first destination is the medieval town of *Shrewsbury*, including a visit to the abbey church, now famous for its literary connections with that shrewd, medieval detective-monk, Brother Cadfael. Nearby lies the little hamlet of Acton Burnell. Here we will visit the lovely church which has the finest 14<sup>th</sup> C. brass in England and monuments to ancestors of Robert E. Lee. Also in this restful spot are the small but interesting ruins of Acton Burnell Castle, once a fortified manor house built by the chancellor of Edward I in 1284. Our final site today is *Ludlow Castle*, its impressive ruins standing high above the river and overlooking the bustling market square. OVERNIGHT (2 Nts.): South Cotswolds

July 4: Passing through sleepy golden villages and a countryside dotted with sheep, we arrive at *Sudeley Castle*. This romantic castle, surrounded by majestic gardens, was begun in 1450, added to by Richard III, and later became the palace of Katherine Parr, Henry VIII’s last queen, who is buried in the chapel. Next, a visit to magnificent *Tewkesbury Abbey* and a short stop at the battlefield site. Following an afternoon drive through the lovely Wye Valley on the Welsh Border, the day ends with an exploration of mighty Chepstow Castle. Back to our delightful hotel for a last delicious dinner together.

July 5: On this, our final day, we’ll visit glorious *Wells Cathedral* which, together with its old and new Bishop’s Palaces and exceptional medieval close, form a harmonious composite. Ancient Glastonbury, early seat of Christianity and legendary burial place of King Arthur and Queen Guinevere, is our final venue. Replete with memories of many happy experiences shared, we board our coach for the last time and return to London, where our tour comes to an end. OVERNIGHT (1 Nt.): Central London

\*Sites having specific Ricardian connections are shown in bold italics; others are underlined.

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

*Cost of land tour:* \$2,695.00 (\$290.00 Single Supplement) - *Air extra* (see below)

*Includes:* 10 days of touring in comfortable midi-coach (18-19 seats) for 7 or more, mini-coach (10-12 seats) for less than 7  
Services of helpful driver/courier and tour escort throughout tour  
9 nights’ accommodations while touring - full English breakfast and 3-course dinner daily  
3 nights’ accommodations in London - Continental breakfast only

All admissions and entrance fees

Baggage handling throughout tour  
All service charges and Value Added Tax  
Driver’s gratuity

*Not included:* Airfare (arranged for each tour member at reduced prices)  
Transportation and meals other than breakfast in London  
Lunches, snacks, beverages not included with meals  
Laundry, telephone calls or other personal expenses

*Note:* Individual air and post-tour arrangements in London and Britain are offered to all participants.

*And more information .....*

Our accommodation will be in charming smaller hotels and coaching inns with the highest ratings in their class. Emphasis is placed on quality, individuality, comfort, good food and a warm welcome. All rooms will have private facilities and full amenities. Most lunches while touring will be at character pubs recommended for their food. On several occasions, we will meet with members of the English Richard III Society and enjoy informal chats on the subject of Richard III. Your tour manager /escort will be Linda Treybig, a Ricardian since 1979 and leader of 10 previous Ricardian tours. Group size is limited to 12 persons (minimum of 6, and we already have three committed tour members.) If you really want to experience England on an intimate scale, traveling along beautiful back-roads and through lovely old-world villages with a small, friendly group of persons who share a keen interest in Richard III, you are invited to join us for an outstanding tour of Richard’s England!

**For further details, brochure and reservation form, please contact:**

**LINDA TREYBIG, 340 Sprague Rd., # 303, Berea, OH 44017**

**Phone: (440) 239-0645; E-mail: [treybig@stratos.net](mailto:treybig@stratos.net)**

## CHAPTER CONTACTS

### ARIZONA

Mrs. Joan Marshall  
10727 West Kelso Drive Sun City, AZ 85351  
(623) 815-6822

### EASTERN MISSOURI

Rita Blake  
117 Bittersweet Lane St. Louis MO 63138-3836  
314-741-5751 crblake@primary.net

### ILLINOIS

Janice Weiner  
6540 N. Richmond Street Chicago, IL 60645-4209

### NEW YORK-METRO AREA

Maria Elena Torres  
3101 Avenue L Brooklyn, NY 11210  
(718) 258-4607 e-mail: elena@pipeline.com

### MICHIGAN AREA

Barbara Vassar-Gray  
19192 Pennington Detroit, MI 48221  
313-861-6423

### NEW ENGLAND

Jennifer Reed  
44 Bartemus Trail Nashua, NH 03063-7600  
(603) 598-6813 email: jlrr@mindspring.com

### NORTHWEST

Jonathan A. Hayes  
3806 West Armour Street Seattle, WA 98199-3115  
(206) 285-7967 email: jhayes7868@aol.com

### OHIO

Bruce W. Gall, Chairman  
10071 Sturgeon Lane Cincinnati, OH 45251  
(513) 742-1472 email: bwgcg@fuse.net

### ROCKY MOUNTAIN

Pam Milavec  
9123 West Arbor Avenue Littleton, CO 80123  
(303) 933-1366

### SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

Laura Blanchard  
2041 Christian St. Philadelphia, PA 19146  
(215) 985-1445 FAX (215) 985-1446  
email: laura@rblanchard.com

### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Roberta E. Craig  
5545 Via de Camp Yorba Linda, CA 92887-4916  
e-mail: CWCREC@aol.com

### SOUTHWEST

Roxane C. Murph  
3501 Medina Avenue Ft. Worth, TX 76133  
(817) 923-5056 afmurph@flash.net

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

Mr.  Mrs.  Miss

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

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

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership        | \$30.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership Non-US | \$35.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership            | \$_____ |

#### Contributing & Sponsoring Memberships:

- |  |                |
|--|----------------|
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#### Contributions:

- |  |         |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Schallek Fellowship Awards:             | \$_____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Fund (publicity, mailings, etc) | \$_____ |

#### Total Enclosed:

\$\_\_\_\_\_

*Family Membership \$30 for yourself, plus \$5 for each additional family member residing at same address.*

*Make all checks payable to Richard III Society, Inc.  
Mail to Peggy Allen, 1421 Wisteria, Metairie, LA 70005*