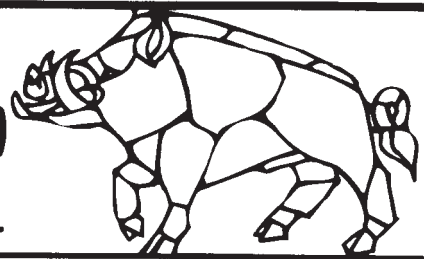


Ricardian REGISTER



Richard III Society, Inc.

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Summer, 2001

September 28-30, 2001
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2001 Annual General Meeting
Richard III Society, Inc.



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In the belief that many features of the traditional accounts of the character and career of Richard III are neither supported by sufficient evidence nor reasonably tenable, the Society aims to promote in every possible way research into the life and times of Richard III, and to secure a re-assessment of the material relating to the period, and of the role in English history of this monarch

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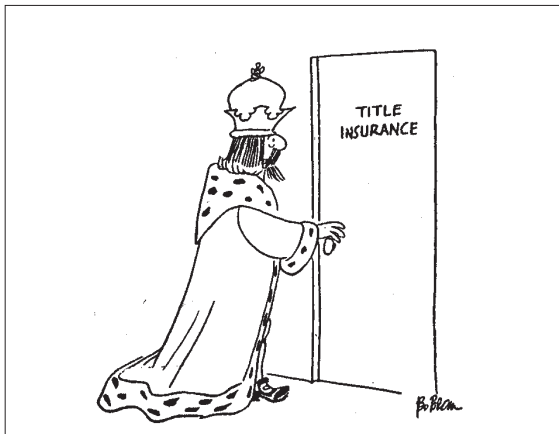
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EDITORIAL LICENSE

Carole Rike

Many thanks to Eileen Prinsen for her excellent article on Margery Kempe (page 4). As we were going to press, we had no feature article for this issue and Eileen came through for us just in time!

Thanks also to Eileen and Peggy Allen for their coverage of the "Leaves of Gold" CD-ROM, now available from our sales office (page 14), and to Ellie Pierce, who at the last moment responded to our request for coverage of the Fifteenth Century Conference (page 12). We also revisit Bosworth Field, courtesy Geoffrey Wheeler (page 10).

Sandra Worth will return in the Fall issue, with an article on yet another "enemy" of Richard III, Morten. (*This puts the ball back in your court, Geoffrey!*)

Reflecting on the *Register* and its contents, I am reminded we have been in continuous publication, four times a year, since 1975. (Previously, the publication was sometimes sporadic.) The primary purpose of the *Register* is to keep the membership informed on activities in the American Branch; we have been pleased to also offer articles from members on a wide range of Ricardian interests. We continue to include the English publications in our mailings as a research source. Most of us agree that the general American public is often casual in its evaluation of history and it is a joy to work with members who are enthusiastic and informed. With 16 years on the Board of Directors and many years as Editor behind me, I continue to consider balancing the interests of the academic and non-academic members to be a challenge for us all — a large measure of what makes us unique. Our diversity is our strength.

The Southwest Chapter is looking forward to a lively Annual General Meeting beginning September 28. This is our second AGM in Fort Worth, and the Worthington is a particular favorite of many, including myself. Roxane Murph has planned an extensive agenda for the meeting which includes past-Chairman Compton Reeves as the luncheon keynote speaker and Dr. James Moore as speaker for the Schallek Breakfast. She has also included optional tours of the city and its attractions. If you have not yet had the opportunity to avail yourself of the Ricardian fellowship which takes place at the AGMs, you are urged to consider attending this year. Reservation forms will be in the mail to you shortly.

Hoping to you see in September!

THE DISTINCT SOUL OF MARGERY KEMPE

Eileen C. Prinsen

Nothing is more difficult than to realize that every man has a distinct soul, that every one of all the millions who live or have lived, is as whole independent a being in himself, as if there was no one else in the whole world but he.

John Henry, Cardinal Newman.¹

In the year 1934, a 15th century manuscript, written in English, was discovered among the possessions of “an old Catholic family” named Butler-Bowdon. (B. A. Windeatt, *Intro and Notes*). The ostensible author of this manuscript was a woman from King’s Lynn, Norfolk, England, named Margery Kempe; although not the original, the manuscript was deemed an early copy, its authenticity being verified by the fact that, prior to its disappearance, it had been in the possession of the Carthusian monks of Mount Grace Priory near North Allerton, Yorkshire, and carried notations by members of the order interested in “mystical experience” (*Intro*).

Although not very well known, Margery’s name had survived through the printing (c.1501) of a pamphlet by Wynkyn de Worde entitled: “A shorte treatises of contemplycon taught by our lorde Ihesu cryste, or taken out of the boke of Margerie kempe of Lynn,” the only surviving copy of which, according to Windeatt, is in the Cambridge University Library. Thus great excitement was generated among scholars and specialists interested in late Medieval English documents over the discovery, which was subsequently edited by members of the Early English Text Society and introduced in 1940 under the title *The Book of Margery Kempe*. Prior to this, however, W. Butler-Bowdon had himself modernized the English and in 1936 had published it under the same title (Notes: 298).

Once the excitement of the discovery had died down, however, the actual contents of the manuscript went through what Sandra McEntire calls some “critically turbulent years.”

Acclaimed and denigrated, Kempe has been subjected to a wide variety of interpretations which, on the whole have been harsh and negative. Just who this woman was — lay/mystic, mother/spiritual virgin, experienced woman of the world/intimate of Christ — and what we . . . are to make of her . . . have been

and continue to be the central issues. (McEntire: Margery Kempe: A Book of Essays: ix).

McEntire’s comments regarding the controversy generated by the book, include Paul Szarmach’s opinion that:

As in so many other disciplines during the last two decades, the study of women in Medieval Studies and in Religious Studies has amplified those subjects by demonstrating relationships, influences, and achievements that were hitherto unknown or unappreciated — sometimes because of malign neglect (xii).

The Book

The version of *The Book of Margery Kempe* used for this essay is the Penguin Classic edition, with a translation by Cambridge Fellow B. A. Windeatt, whose Introduction is of particular value in helping the reader to navigate around its many idiosyncrasies; the major hurdles being the lack of chronological order and the almost complete absence of dates.

Labeled as “the first, or earliest, autobiography in English” by Penguin Books and by just about everyone else who has written about it, it might better be called a memoir of a certain period of Margery Kempe’s life; or, perhaps, a journal about her journeys and pilgrimages. Further, because she was illiterate, there is a possibility that the scribe or scribes to whom she dictated her remembrances, in transcribing her words, may have subtly, or not so subtly, affected the finished product; as could also, of course, the various translators



since the rediscovery of the manuscript. However, with the help of Professor Windeatt's introduction and modest time-line, a picture comes into view of a feisty, determined woman, trying to follow what she believes are the directives of God, in the face of harassment and ridicule, and the often very real threat of death by burning, because of her outspoken convictions.

Early Life

Actually, little is known about Margery before her marriage. A birth date year of 1373 has been arrived at based on her comment in her book, that she was "about 60 years of age" while journeying to Brandenburg, where she was known to have been sometime in 1433 (278). The county records, however, confirm that her father, John Brunham, was a burgess of what was then known as Bishop's Lynn, a prosperous port in the county of Norfolk (10). The records also show that he was five times Mayor of Lynn, a boast she uses against her eventual husband, John Kempe, who was also, however, "a worshipful burgess." (41)

At this point I made the first of subsequent reappraisals about Margery: because she was illiterate, one's tendency is to assume that she was the product of peasant stock, when she was in fact a member of a prosperous upper middle class family. According to Windeatt, over the years her father, in addition to being mayor five times, assumed other positions of importance: alderman of the Trinity Guild, coroner, justice of the peace and chamberlain. He was also one of two members of parliament for the district. They resided in the center of the city so their house was probably not very large, but even so, in addition to her parents, Margery and a brother, there were probably a number of servants, and at least one or two apprentices residing in the home (Ellis: *Margery Kempe: A Book of Essays*, 142).

From the foregoing, it seems surprising that Margery was unable to read, when one considers that by the early part of the 15th century many women of her class could — it did not always follow, however, that they could also write! (Staley: *Marjorie Kempe's Dissenting Fictions*, 32). Perhaps she was a rather untamed young woman and not amenable to learning. As she grew older she was constantly concerned about some unnamed and, apparently, unconfessed sin of her youth; and in an age when marriages could be consummated at age fourteen, Margery's wedding date seemed late in coming. As she herself tells us in the opening chapter of Book I: "When this creature was twenty years of age, or something more, she was married to . . . (41).

Whatever the sin was (some have suggested that it was sexual) it is never revealed; whether or not she ever told her confessor is not revealed either, but one could perhaps make the case, based on her many references to this apparent unconfessed and unforgiven transgression, that it became the dominating focus of her life.

Wife and Business Woman

Soon after the marriage she became pregnant with her first child and suffered greatly during both the pregnancy and during delivery, to the extent that she thought she would die. Because she had this terrible "thing" as she calls it, on her conscience, she sent for her confessor "fully wishing to be shriven of her whole lifetime." He, however, began to berate her even before she had got to the crucial point; whereupon, his censure, combined with her terrible fear of damnation, resulted in a complete mental breakdown, and she was, as she says: "out of her mind and amazingly disturbed and tormented with spirits for a half a year, eight weeks and odd days." It has been suggested that she was suffering from postpartum psychosis;² but, whatever the cause, she herself was convinced that during her travail she had a visitation from "the Lord Jesus Christ . . . in the likeness of man," after which visitation she soon grew calm and began to recover her health.

It is interesting to note that although she says "she thought she was bound to God and that she would be his servant," she did not become a different person overnight. She continued to dress in what she calls a "showy manner," provoking the people of the town to make "adverse comments about her, because she wore gold pipes on her head, and her hoods with the tippets were fashionably slashed;" and even forty-some years later one can almost hear her delight in describing the lovely "cloaks [that] were also modishly slashed and underlaid with various colours between the slashes, so that she would be all the more stared at, and all the more esteemed." (41-3)

She seems to delight in a recital of her shortcomings: her defiance in the face of her husband's protests about her "proud ways," her envy of her neighbors and her desire to be "respected by people." On the other hand, although she describes it as "pure covetousness," her venture into the brewery business seems rather impressive for a woman of her day, although it may have been a rather unseemly enterprise for a woman of her class. Even though she says she eventually "lost a great deal of money" because of the unaccountable things that happened to the beer (for some reason it kept going flat!), which she put down to her inexperience, if she was indeed "one of the greatest brewers in Norwich for three or four years"

she must have had some success. Having apologized to her husband and promised to behave in the meek manner expected of wives, she was tempted once again into the world of business. This time she started a horse-mill in which to grind people's corn, which again was successful until such time as the horses "on the eve of Corpus Christi" suddenly balked at moving forward into the mill, causing the man employed to handle them to quit and her business to fail. Then a rumor was started in the town that "neither man nor beast would serve her, and some said she was accursed; and some said God openly took vengeance on her, etc. Others who were kinder suggested that it was "the high mercy our Lord Jesus Christ that called her from her pride and vanity of this wretched world"(P.44-5). With modern skepticism, one is tempted to believe that her husband, or perhaps other townspeople, had sabotaged the two businesses.

But Margery saw these adversities as chastisement from the Lord for her still unconfessed sin, and from this point "began to enter the way of everlasting life as shall be told hereafter." Soon after this she began to experience visitations, music and other phenomena causing her to "shed very plentiful and abundant tears of high devotion, with great sobs and sighings for the bliss of heaven, not fearing the shames, and contempt of this wretched world" (46). And from this time on she evidenced the three persistent features of her subsequent life: her weeping, her continued thinking and irrepressible talking of heaven, and, particularly, her wish for chastity (Note: Ch.3:2). For, even though she told her husband she no longer felt any desire for him, she was not, at that time, able to persuade him to live in chastity, and she continued to bear children for twenty years.

Mother

Margery bore a total of fourteen children. Whether they all survived is not known, and apart from an occasional reference to "the children," none was ever mentioned by name. We must assume, however, that she carried out her duties as wife and mother conscientiously, because she claims the Lord so directed her. According to her, although He supported her desire to live chastely, He assured her on many occasions that her wifely duties were not a sin.

One of her sons is singled out for special mention³; in Book II she speaks of her attempts to "draw [him] away from the perils of this wretched and unstable world, and not set all his study and business so much upon it as he did." He did not agree with her point of view; whereupon she replied sharply: "Now, since you will not leave the world at my advice, I charge you — at my blessing — at least to keep your body clean from women's company until you take a wife

according to the law of the Church. And if you do not, I pray God chastise you and punish you for it." He did not, of course, heed her advice and subsequently as a result of "the sin of lechery," he developed a horrible disease, somewhat like leprosy and was turned out of his master's house. Having told all and sundry the curse his mother had put upon him and believing his condition to be the result, she was accused of asking God to "take vengeance on her own child." Ignoring the gossips she waited until the young man came to her himself and begged her to forgive him and pray for his recovery. Being a woman who did things in an orderly manner, it was not until it was her prayer time that "not forgetting the fruit of her womb, she asked forgiveness for his sins and release from the illness that our Lord had given him. If it were his pleasure, and profit to his soul! There is no doubt in her mind that as a result of her long prayers the young man "was completely freed from the illness and lived many years after . . ." (265-6).

Pilgrimage

Much emphasis is placed upon the fact that Margery Kempe was illiterate, but one should not equate her inability to read or write as an indication of overall ignorance. If she indeed could not read, we must regard with awe the retentive capability of her memory, when we consider the extensive, and obviously accurate quotations she uses from the Bible; the prayers she recites, and the details she has memorized about the lives and activities of other religious mystics and saints, all of which she acquired through the reading skills of somebody else. Her father was obviously an important man in Bishop's Lynn, so it can be assumed that she had some unique knowledge of the her world, and was acquainted with many of the other important people in Norfolk County and its environs.

Thus armed, in a manner of speaking, with her father's reputation and the knowledge gained with the help of her readers, when she feels the urge to visit the places associated with her Lord's birth and Passion, and believes that He has "commanded her in her mind — that she should go to Rome, Jerusalem, and to Santiago de Compostela," her only question is: "Where shall I get the money to go to these holy places with?" And the Lord's reply that he will "send enough friends in different parts of England to help you" easily assures her because she knows who those "friends" are likely to be. She also has sufficient sense to know that if she follows the other instruction of the Lord "to wear white clothes and no other color," she will lay herself open to all kinds of ridicule and slander. This is soon proven to be true when a man, "in whom she greatly trusted" and her maidservant, immediately deserted her when she was besieged by

people who accused her of hypocrisy and deceit, and suggested she should be burned. (67-8)

With Margery, we begin to realize that her husband is a rather special man himself; one who, she says “always was ready when everybody else let her down and he went with her where our Lord would send her, always believing that all was for the best, and would end well when God willed.” (69) And it is her husband who leads her to the first of the “friends” promised by God: Philip, the Bishop of Lincoln, from whom she requests “the mantle and the ring, and [to] clothe me all in white clothes” (such items indicating that she had taken a vow of chastity before a bishop). The husband assured the bishop that they had “both vowed] to live chaste,” and although the bishop did not honor their request then, they remained as his guest for several days. As it turned out, on advice from his clerks, he decides against giving her “such singular clothing” until after she has been to Jerusalem. Having asked God how she should handle this rejection, she is told to deliver a message that is not calculated to please the cleric, and which includes a direct quote from God to the effect that: “though he will not do it now, it shall be done another time when God wills.” Whereupon, Philip, the Bishop of Lincoln, suggests she should go and see Thomas Arundel, Archbishop of Canterbury, and ask him to supply the ring, mantel, etc. Ever one for the last word, Margery tells the Bishop she will go to Canterbury because she has some things she wants to discuss with him, but will not bring up the matter of the chastity outfit. Nonetheless, when she left, the Bishop “gave her twenty-six shillings and eight pence to buy her clothes with and to pray for him!” (70-1)

Margery and John journeyed on to London and then to Lambeth, where the Archbishop of Canterbury was in residence; it was here, while waiting for Thomas Arundel, that Margery started the dangerous practice of speaking out against persons, particularly clerks of the church, “who swore great oaths and spoke thoughtless words,” warning them that “they would be damned unless they left off their swearing and the other sins which they practiced. This, not unexpectedly, often provoked the kind of angry response she reports on this occasion: “there came forward a woman of that town . . . who reviled [her], cursed her, and said . . . ‘I wish you were in Smithfield, and I would bring a bundle of sticks to burn you with — it is a pity that you are alive.’”(71-72)⁴

When the Archbishop finally sent for her she conversed with him at some length, told him about her way of life and asked “if he found fault with either her contemplation or her weeping.” She also told him why she wept and the way in which she conversed with the Christ, “and he did not find fault at all, but

approved her manner of life and was very glad that our merciful Lord Christ Jesus showed such grace in our times . . . ” He also granted her permission to choose her confessor and to receive communion every Sunday “under his letter and seal throughout all his province.” Emboldened by his “meek and kindly manner,” she spoke to him about corrections he should make in his own household, and he “gave her a handsome answer, she supposing that things would then be better.” On her departure, he did not give her, “silver or gold,” but neither did he let her be charged for the writing and sealing of the letter regarding her confessor. (72-3)

As has been mentioned, Margery’s recital does not follow any kind of chronological order, so having returned to Lynn after their visit to Lincoln and Lambeth, instead of finding her involved in preparations for the journey to Jerusalem, the narrative goes back in time to discuss various priests, clerks, vicars and lay persons with whom she has had dealings or conversations, as well as extensive report on conversations with the Lord.

Finally, in the autumn of 1413, at the age of 40 years, she takes leave of her husband and Master Robert, her confessor (and eventual amanuensis), and sets sail from Yarmouth over the North Sea to Zierikzee in Holland, on her way to the Holy Land.

It is estimated that Margery returned to England from her remarkable journeying in May 1415, having been gone about a year and a half. The journey really warrants a separate essay of its own — her tenacity in continuing against so many odds was remarkable. Not only because of the stamina required to travel in those days, but along the way she was betrayed and deserted by people who had promised to guide her; insulted, berated and often isolated by the various groups with whom she traveled; and several times left without any money or other resources. She was, of course, a difficult and uncomfortable person with whom to travel, for not only did she weep copiously, loudly and long, during and after, visiting the various sacred sites; she constantly lectured her companions about their vulgar and unclean language and behavior; and refused to eat meat which, for some reason, especially incensed some of them. Several times she found herself alone and penniless, only to be rescued again and again by other travelers of more Christian fortitude, and also by people in communities with whom she could not even converse because of the language barriers. It seems obvious that many people saw her as a true pilgrim and a sacred lady of great Christian faith. She counted all the travails she endured as well compensated for when during her visit to the Apostles Church in Rome, at the behest of the God the Father, she was joined to the Godhead in a “mystical

marriage.” Her description of her conversations with God, the physical reactions she experiences, together with the great joy that she experiences, make for very powerful reading (122-23).

Conclusion

In a manner of speaking, the reader of Margery’s Book is also on a kind of pilgrimage, seeking to explain and understand the distinctiveness of this far from simple woman. Through the agency of Master Robert she conveys in no uncertain terms that the most important part of her existence is her relationship to Jesus Christ, in whose name she endured unbelievable hardships while traveling great distances to visit the sites of His Passion and other places of pilgrimage. She was mocked and ridiculed for her outspoken beliefs, labeled a hypocrite by her peers; and at times, was in very great danger of being burned the stake.

However, to many in the past, and to some in the present, the seeming neglect of her marriage and family is a stumbling block to believing in her sincerity. What often is overlooked is that the first visitation by “our merciful Lord Jesus Christ,” the one she calls simply “a man . . . the most seemly, most beauteous, and most amiable” man, saved a deeply conscience-stricken young woman’s sanity, if not also her life: a debt that would take all her life to repay.

In addition to disapproving of the descriptions of her somewhat intimate dialogues with God and his Son, her critics found fault with the aggressive manner in which she tackled those she perceived as sinners or in need of spiritual help. Surely, someone claiming to be “A Bride of Christ” should be cloistered and circumspect as were, for instance, Dame Julian of Norwich, and the late St. Bridget of Sweden, Margery’s model (and, some time, competitor);⁵ they spent their lives in proper seclusion, reading, and writing about prayer and contemplation? But unable to read or write, Margery could not cloister herself. She needed to be able to contact the people who read to her; and because she could not write, she had personally to communicate what the recluse religious could impart in written treatises and devotionals. Of course, she knew the form that prayers should take, but the language of her thoughts and her speech was usually unclerical and down to earth, a manifestation, one could say, of Margery Kempe’s “distinct soul.”

NOTES

- 1 Sermon on “Individuality of the Soul,” Parochial Sermons (London: Rivington & Parker, 1842), iv.93
- 2 See S. Metcalf (ed). *The Later Middle Ages* (London, 1981) diagnoses by Dr. Anthony Ryle (114-15).

- 3 It is believed that he was the recorder of the first version of Margery’s book.
- 4 It was at Smithfield that William Sawtre, once a priest of King’s Lynn, was burnt for Lollardy at Smithfield in 1401, and it has been suggested that Margery’s “great sin” was not sexual, but was in some way connected with Sawtre, who may have been her confessor.
- 5 When Margery sees a marvel during mass, the Lord tells her: “My daughter Bridget never saw me in this way...” (83).

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- Staley, Lynn. *Margery Kempe’s Dissenting Fictions*. University Park: Pennsylvania UP, 1994. xi-xii.

Note from the author:

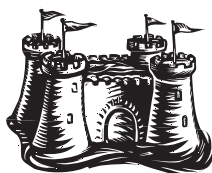
Of course, for the biographer interested in Margery Kempe’s domestic life, her book is a source of frustration. Apart from some insights into the relationship with her husband, who must have been longsuffering, the question keeps coming to mind what about the children? Obviously to Margery the most important part of her life was the spiritual part — the pain and ecstasy and the experiences of a mystic. But between these episodes of awe and vision and weeping, somehow she must have lived a “normal” life over the twenty years between her “conversion” and her final success in getting her husband to agree to a vow of chastity. She must indeed have been a remarkable woman that while having a child at approximately two year intervals, she managed to run her household, venture into two businesses, parade around in her finery.

There are a many reasons why a biographer would choose a particular person about whom to write, but in most cases, the person upon whom the biography is

focused, whether living or dead, will be reasonably well known and, hopefully, of interest to many people. When the person selected is less well known, the reason or reasons for the selection become more specific, and sometimes more personal. Perhaps the person selected is of interest to a particular ethnic or professional group; perhaps a controversial figure from the past; perhaps simply because of changing mores or renewed interest, the subject is suddenly in the spotlight. In academic circles, biographies sometimes expand from doctoral theses, the subjects of which are often relatively obscure or unknown.

My selection of Margery Kempe as the subject of this attempt at biographical writing initially had more to do with an ongoing interest in the later mediaeval period of English history generally, than in Margery Kempe herself. Upon learning that such a project could be incorporated as part of the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies program at the University of Michigan-Dearborn campus, the idea of constructing a biographical study from the personal writings of a 15th century Englishwoman was attractive. However, it was very soon obvious that, apart from writings by the religious recluse such as Dame Julian of Norwich, and the correspondence written to and on behalf of Margaret Paston, very little writing of a personal nature had survived the ages. Only Margery Kempe's Book, miraculously rediscovered in 1934, came even close to offering anything like a personal narrative from which a biography might be assembled.

It is interesting to consider that at the time of Margery Kempe's birth Edward III was king of England and by the time she was married, his grandson, Richard, was king, having been crowned in 1377 when she was four years old. Also, during these years, heresy against the English church in the form of the Lollards began to spread through the kingdom, fueled to some extent by the beliefs of John Wycliffe, although there is no evidence that he was founder of the group. Further, by the time she was 60 years of age, two more men and a baby boy had ascended to the throne, i.e. the usurper known as Henry IV; his son Henry V, the victor of Agincourt, who unfortunately died soon after the birth of his son, who was subsequently crowned Henry VI in 1429 when he was eight years old, and Margery was about 56 years of age.



BACK ISSUES OF RICARDIAN REGISTER NOW ON THE SOCIETY'S WEB SITE!

Back issues of the Ricardian Register are now available at the above address, in the highly readable .PDF format, and more are being added as this issue goes to press.

The members-only section is passworded — to receive a password, e-mail richard3-owner@plantagenet.com.

SALES OFFICE UPDATE

Out of stock: pendants (many other White Boar jewelry items available); Society mugs; Dockray's *Richard III: A Reader in History*; Murph's *Richard III: The Making of a Legend*; Pitkin Pictorial *Britain's Kings and Queens*.

New: "Leaves of Gold" CD-ROM (see ad elsewhere in this issue).

Watch for the next Sales Catalogue in the Fall issue.

LISTSERV REPORT

James Mitchell made the first posting of the new millennium (you *do* think the millennium started this year and not last, don't you?) on January 4, querying about the presence in Dallas of a painting depicting Bosworth field. There were 383 postings in the first quarter of 2001, the first being message #4390.

A total of 55 members posted messages over this period. The Most Frequent Posters were Michael Bongiorno, followed closely by Laura Blanchard. There were about 90 different message threads, a thread being a group of messages with the same or nearly the same subject. Many of these threads concerned Ms. Lewis E. 203, the "Leaves of Gold" exhibit, and propaganda genealogies in general.

In mid-June, Muriel Williamson assumed the duties of Listserv Manager. At that time, there were approximately 105 listserv subscribers and 18 subscribers to the listserv digest. The listserv is a free service open to all Society members worldwide. To join, send an e-mail to richard3-subscribe@plantagenet.com. Or, to subscribe to the digest only, send an e-mail to richard3-digest-subscribe@plantagenet.com. If you have difficulty, e-mail questions to: richard3-owner@plantagenet.com.

BOSWORTH FIELD REVISITED

Geoffrey Richardson

The illustrated article by Peter Hancock, “King Richard’s Field”, in your last issue was most interesting, particularly to one like myself, who had not seen the maps he included with his script. In his essay, he notes the lack of agreement on the exact location of the battlefield and of the course of events on 22nd August 1485, quoting Bennet and Gairdner as supportive authorities for this statement and, in his parting acknowledgment, he “strongly recommends Foss’s very informative text.”

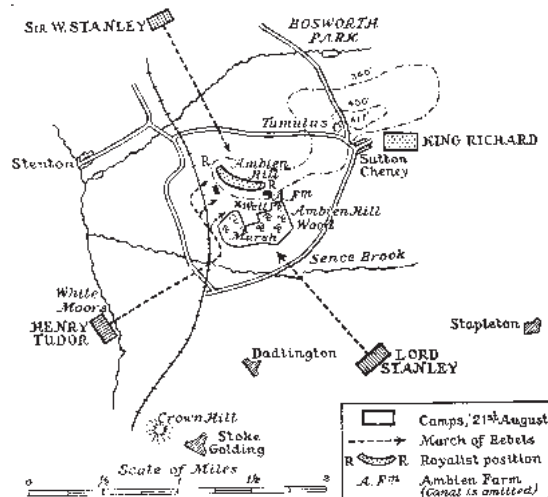
I appreciate that Foss is a local [Leicester] man and have been told by Ricardian friends that he “walked the whole field” before setting word-processor to paper. That may well be the case, but I am sorry to say he got it wrong when he wrote and Mr Hancock would have done better to search a little further for recommended reading. As far as I know, A.H. Burne’s work is not unknown in America and his discussion of Bosworth in “Battlefields of England” is undoubtedly the best in-depth study of the fight I have ever seen. I have also “walked the whole field” myself, before and after the local tourist board got at it, and before I ran into Burne, so I do know whereof I speak.

Burne’s account actually fits better with Mr Hancock’s maps than Foss in my opinion and, on the battle’s significance, they are as one. “Bosworth Field was . . . one of the most important battles ever fought on English soil,” thus Burne’s second sentence in his introduction. On original sources, contrary to Hancock’s assertion on “the dearth of evidence about the battle,” Burne refers to the “reasonably detailed account” by Polydore Vergil [though pointing out that Vergil was a “foreigner” who only arrived in England 18 years after the battle] and he refers to Stanley’s account in the Harleian MS, plus the “Song of the Lady Bessy” [which some say was also written by Thomas Stanley] and to Michael Drayton’s poem, “Polyolbion” — written in the 16th century — plus the few relevant bits in Crowland. In brief, Burne did his digging deep, and then checked his findings in the field in accordance with his standing practice of IMP [Inherent Military Probability].

On the battle’s name, all are agreed that it is ridiculous. On my first visit, years before they put up “This way to the battlefield” signs, it took me two hours to find the place. And that was over and above the length of time used in realizing that the place is actually called “Market Bosworth” which was how

one found it shown in every road map forty years ago — and still today for that matter. Foss suggests, in light of his revisionist theory, [which I will come to] Redemore; Burne would probably have preferred Sutton Cheney, where he places Richard’s camp before the battle, or perhaps, Ambien Hill. No matter, Bosworth it has been, is and will remain to all those interested in the story of the end of the Plantagenets.

At this point it may be best to include a copy of Burne’s battlemap for Bosworth, which is — unusually for him — of a decent size and much, much clearer than the incomprehensible scratchings produced by Foss. Here it is:



SKETCH-MAP 18. BOSWORTH

If this is compared with Saxton’s map as shown in Mr Hancock’s article, the location of “King Ric field” is virtually identical, though he seems to have Dadlington [Doddington] the wrong side of Sence Brook. Comparing with the enlargement from Speed’s map, he has Dadlington the correct side of the brook, but has grossly enlarged the scene of the action, doing so, I would suggest, to accommodate the larger script used for such an important Tudor victory as “Kinge Richards field,” which, as Mr Hancock correctly says, “Speed considered . . . special place”.

Note also Speed’s placing of “Red More,” which coincides almost, exactly with Burne’s placing of the marsh which he believed stemmed from the presence of the natural spring, marked on his map, and immortalized forever as “Richard’s Well”.

Bosworth Field Revisited

This works for me, as they say. Much of Foss's resiting of the battle comes from his "discovery" that a point to the southwest was called Redemore and, immediately beyond it is Dadlington, wherein the churchyard of which are a handful of graves, allegedly of fallen antagonists. Furthermore, and further along still to the southwest, is Crown Hill [see Burne's map] where again, "Tradition" provides that Henry Tudor received the crown, hacked from his late adversary's brow, in token of his kingly rights.

The latter, at least, may well have been the case since Crown Hill is a couple of miles away from where I estimate Tudor was first placed as the battle commenced and that distance may have sufficed to quiet his fears as he fled before Richard's final onslaught. In short, I doubt he finished running until he reached the top of Crown Hill, where his minions would have been able to halt his flight with assurances that "The Monster was dead."

But, this battle was NOT fought out at "the Redemore" as Foss postulates. Rather did a redemore [a wet, marshy area, where reeds naturally grow amid rank grasses] play a key part in the fight's ending, since it was almost certainly where Richard's horse was mired in his final charge and where Thomas Stanley's treachery brought about his death.

And that historic point lies at the foot of Ambien Hill.

GENEROUS RICARDIANS, 01/01/2001-03/31/2001

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Kirsten E. Moorhead

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Donna E. Schechter

Ruth Silberstein

Cheryl C. Slaney

Barbara J. Underwood

Steven A. Wright

According to Thomas Stanley's account in the Harleian — and he was a known liar let us remember — but he says Richard's last words were :

*"Bring me my battleaxe in my hand
And set the crown of gold on my head so high
For by him that shaped both sea and land
King of England this day will I die.
One foot away I will not flee
While breath will bide my breast within."*

And, in support of the truthfulness of the Great Turncoat's statement comes the epitaph from that great Tudor/Lancastrian encyclopedia, the Crowland Continuations which says:

*As for King Richard he received many mortal wounds
and, like a spirited and most courageous prince, fell in
battle on the field and not in flight.*

Immediate Sources:

The Battlefields of England, by Lt. Col. Alfred H. Burne D.S.O. [Methuen, 1950]

The Crowland Chronicle Continuations 1459-1486, edit. Pronay & Cox [Sutton 1986].

And my own, *The Hollow Crowns*, [Baildon Books 1996]

WANTED — RAFFLE DONATIONS!

The AGM Raffle benefits the Schallek Scholarship Fund, as does the Sunday breakfast.

We are looking for donations for the raffle — any item you think would be appealing to a fellow Ricardian.

We would also appreciate books for the sales table.

Please contact Roxane Murph if you have a donation you are willing to provide.

Roxane Murph, 3501 Medina Avenue,
Fort Worth, TX 76133 or afmurph@flash.net

FIFTEENTH-CENTURY CONFERENCE

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

APRIL 29-MAY 2, 2001

Ellie Pierce

Early Sunday morning, April 29th, Eileen and I packed up her Ford Villager and headed south for the Fifteenth-Century Conference at Urbana-Champaign. This Conference, held every three years, is sponsored by the Richard III Society with the collaboration of the Department of History at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Thirty-three people attended, most of them participants from various colleges and universities. The Conference was held at Allerton House in Monticello. Allerton Park was once owned by Robert Henry Allerton (1873-1964), an art collector and philanthropist, who donated the estate to the University in 1946 for public use and education.

Allerton House is a forty-room manor house that was designed by John Borie, a Philadelphia architect, and built in 1900. Eileen and I were fortunate to stay there. We shared a large elegant bedroom with a fireplace and a view overlooking the pond. Three twin beds, several armchairs, a desk and a dresser sat on an attractive carpet covering the hardwood floor. There was a sizable walk-in closet and a large bath. We loved it! In the mornings after breakfast, we walked through the beautiful landscaped gardens, enjoying the color and the various sculptures and garden ornaments.

The conference itself was held in the manor library, a truly delicious room for any bibliophilic having three walls lined with shelves of books and surrounded above on three sides by a balcony laden with more bookshelves. The balcony could be reached through a door midway up the divided stairway.

We heard nine speakers a day. There were three presentations followed by a twenty minute discussion period, then a morning break, three more sessions and discussion, lunch, and the third three followed by a social hour and dinner. The regimen worked well. After dinner on the first day, keynote speaker, Richard Helmholz, a lawyer from the University of Chicago, talked about "The English Church in the Fifteenth Century: A Legal Perspective on Recent Scholarship."

The food was generally quite good. Soft, rich heavenly chocolate muffins served during the break were to die for! We ate all our meals at Allerton House in a dining hall and, except at breakfast, a staff served us.

The papers were for the most part interesting (I have always enjoyed being a student); however, it would be impossible for me to write about all of them, and I did

not have the academic background to follow some of them. So I'll make brief comments about those papers presented by people associated in some way with the Richard III Society and then follow up with notes about a couple others that were of interest to me.

Sharon Michalove (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) did a great job of running the conference. How did she do this and still find time to prepare a paper? Her topic was "Women as Book Collectors and Disseminators of Culture in Late Medieval Europe." In part she talked about Margaret of Anjou, wife of Henry VI, who was "one of the most political women of her day." At one point, Caxton was her business advisor. Margaret owned at least 42 books, many of a religious nature, but others as well, such as a history of Alexander the Great.

Tony Pollard's paper was "Fellowship and Fraternity in the Fifteenth-Century Stories of Robin Hood." Unfortunately, we did not arrive in time for this. Dr. Pollard (University of Teeside) is a good speaker. I heard him talk at the Medieval Congress in Kalamazoo a few years ago. After lunch one day, I happened to overhear him comment that he "didn't think the Richard III Society liked him very much." (We know why this is.) However, I have to say I can't imagine anyone *not* liking him. He has a natural enthusiasm and presence that are very appealing. I bet his students think a lot of him!

Compton Reeves (Ohio University, Emeritus) talked about "John Gunthorpe: Keeper of Richard III's Privy Seal." Why did Richard choose him? After all, Gunthorpe had been closely attached to Elizabeth Woodville. Gunthorpe, though, was from northern England. He was a "learned" man and his career was unblemished. Then, too, he had a wide knowledge of the royal household. Apparently he had a sense of humor about his name.

Daniel Thierry from the University of Toronto is a Schallek scholar whose paper was titled "Welcome to the Parish. Remove Your Cap and Stop Assaulting Your Neighbor: Violence and the Sacred in Fifteenth Century England." Both physical and verbal violence were part of the fabric of society in fifteenth century England and the clergy sought to protect the churches from bloodshed. Mr. Thierry wore black, kept his hands behind his back unless he wanted to

Fifteenth-Century Conference

make a point, which was effective. I thought he did a good job.

Craig Taylor (University of York), who won a scholarship from the Parent Society in the U.K., gave a paper entitled “War in the heavens, war on earth: fifteenth-century views on war and astrology.” He spoke of Honoré Bouvet who was the foremost writer on war in the late middle ages. Bouvet wrote books offering the king advice about how to save France. War was a consequence of sin and a remedy for sin. Celestial influence was important. Celestial bodies influenced and caused war. Mr. Taylor was a good speaker as well, though with a very different style. He paced and waved his arms a lot. Eileen questioned him about this later. He told us that he becomes very enthusiastic about his current subject, but when he’s through the presentation, that’s it — on to something new.

John Leland (Salem International University) talked about “Witchcraft and the Woodvilles: A Standard Medieval Smear?” The Woodvilles were being discredited after Edward IV died. They were charged not only with illegitimacy but also with witchcraft. Jacquetta and Elizabeth used witchcraft against Edward to get him to marry Elizabeth. Fear of witchcraft was an actual cause of Richard’s usurping the throne.

A paper on “Raising the Good Wife: Mothers and Daughters in Fifteenth Century England” was given by Candace Gregory of Loyola University, New Orleans. Motherhood was very important in the middle ages. Women had great power within the home, and they were the source of education there. A girl learned how to act in church, in the street, at the market. She learned about the woman as housewife, servant or employer. She learned to avoid coq fights and other common amusements. Everyone in the fifteenth century was extremely concerned about reputation. Girls were taught to be kind to their servants so that servants would say nice things about them, not because they might work harder if treated well.

Our last day we all assembled in the Rare Book Room of the library, (UIUC) to see a fifteenth-century genealogical manuscript or roll. Charlotte Baurer-Smkth (UIUC) told us about the manuscript and how thrilled she was to be able to work with the real thing. Edward IV and the Black Prince, among others, were there, along with colorful coats-of-arms and a lot of Latin. A perfect ending for a very special three days.

[Editor’s Note: Ellie, a member of the Michigan Area Chapter, describes herself as “not a scholar but a laywoman.” (This last word doesn’t sound very respectable, but it was in her dictionary!)]



Helen Maurer, Society Research Librarian, at the Conference.

IT HAS ONLY RECENTLY COME TO OUR ATTENTION THAT MR. FREDERICK H. HOLLAND OF OTIS, OREGON, MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY SINCE FEBRUARY 1998, DIED IN MAY, 2000. WE OFFER OUR SINCERE CONDOLENCES TO MR. HOLLAND’S FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

FEEL FREE TO PAY IN ADVANCE!

Paying in advance saves 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.



SUMMER SPECIAL!

Sales Office Featured Item

Leaves of Gold Interactive CD-ROM

Based on the medieval manuscripts exhibition "Leaves of Gold: Treasures of Manuscript Illuminations from Philadelphia Collections". Includes very detailed color images of over 95 pages from these manuscripts including the

entire Lewis Ms. E 201 (Edward IV Roll) from the Philadelphia Free Library collection.

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“LEAVES OF GOLD” A HIT

Eileen Prinsen

On the face of it, driving more than 1200 miles over one weekend, just to look at an artifact over 500 years old, seems a trifle quixotic, perhaps, even crazy.

But it would not have surprised me if just about everybody who read Laura Blanchard's "Personal Memoir" in the Winter 2000 issue of *The Register*, had headed for Philadelphia this Spring to see it for themselves! Laura's lovely "stranger than fiction" story coupled with Carole's full-color supplement made it almost inevitable that we should go to Philadelphia.

We are not exactly strangers to the beautiful Museum of Art; we, too, were there in 1996 (although we did not see the Roll), and two years ago we made the same kind of impulsive journey to see a special Jan Van Eyck exhibit.

We arrived at noon on Saturday (having spent the night in Lock Haven) and headed straight up the Ben Franklin Parkway to the Museum. "Our" Roll, all nineteen feet of it in its special glass display case, took center stage in the exhibit entitled "Leaves of Gold." The exhibit was not overly crowded, so we were able to spend a good long time looking at the manuscript — until we could no longer ignore the cricks in our necks!

Monitors provided access to the CD-ROM and although I purchased the catalogue I am anxious to have the CD also.

The rest of the exhibit was quite wonderful; among the manuscripts there were books, leaves from books, cuttings from books, miniatures, and illustrations; the workmanship is impeccable—the precision of the lettering, the colors, the illustrations, all quite perfect — and all quite miraculous that they have survived wars, tumults and neglect, not to mention the advent of the printing press!



THE NEXT-BEST THING (IN SOME WAYS BETTER)

Peggy Allen

Imagine the pleasure of being invited to an exhibition of treasured, beautiful, and ancient manuscripts — then being handed the white gloves and invited to touch them, to handle them, to view them up close, for any length of time one wishes, and moreover, whenever one wishes. Few of us will ever have that opportunity. The "Leaves of Gold" CD-ROM brings one as close to that experience as anyone who is not a professional curator is likely to get.

Eileen Prinsen describes her and husband Hans' visit to the Philadelphia exhibition of medieval manuscripts (including the Lewis Ms. E 201 genealogy of Edward IV, to whose conservation the Society made a substantial contribution) in May. Now closed in Philadelphia, the exhibition will re-open in Nashville at the Frist Gallery during September 27, 2001-January 6, 2002. Many *Ricardian Register* readers could not share Eileen and Hans' pleasure at the Philadelphia showing and, of those, many will not be able to get to Nashville either.

For those of us who will not be able to see either exhibition, the "Leaves of Gold" CD-ROM accompanying the display provides the next-best thing. Viewing the CD-ROM on a computer* is a different experience from in-person attendance, and may even, in some ways, be a better experience.

The CD-ROM covers seven of the major works in the Exhibition: The Edward IV Roll and six book-format manuscripts — The Collins Hours, a Gradual for Dominican Use, Le Livre du Chastel de Labour, the Lewis Psalter, The City of God, and a Bible du XIIIe Siecle. A clever and intuitive design lets one look at close-up detailed images of the entire Edward IV roll, plus selections* from the other books. Just examining the images would provide hours of practice for aspiring paleographers and the opportunity to view the painstakingly made pictures is a visual delight.

Viewing the CD-ROM can actually be better than — though not a substitute for — a personal visit to the exhibition. Viewing on your computer can be done at leisure, not just when the museum is open. And, you can return as many times as you wish, even after the physical exhibition closes. You can spend any amount of time you wish studying the text and images, too.

The "Leaves of Gold" CD-ROM for viewing on your computer is available from the Society's Sales Office. See ad elsewhere in this issue.

**For technical requirements and more on viewing the CD, see "A User's Guide to Leaves of Gold CD-ROM" and "A Hacker's Guide to Leaves of Gold CD-ROM" elsewhere in this issue.*

A USER'S GUIDE TO THE LEAVES OF GOLD CD-ROM

The CD-ROM is designed for viewing on a computer screen in much the same way that one views pages from the World Wide Web, i.e., through a browser program like Netscape or Internet Explorer. Most of the sequences below will be intuitive to anyone who has navigated through a few Internet sites; this is intended to help those with less experience to navigate the on-screen presentation and make the most use of its features.

To enter the viewing experience, you click on the "Leaves of Gold" icon in the CD-ROM drive's folder. Your Internet browser program opens and displays the title screen, with a picture of the seven manuscripts covered on the CD.

At this point, you may want to click on the CREDITS, to see, among other interesting things, an acknowledgment of the Society's help in conserving the Edward IV Roll. Closing the CREDITS window brings you back to the title screen.

Here, you may click on any of the seven manuscripts, to enter the detailed text and imagery presentation for that manuscript. For instance, click on the parchment roll, which is the Edward IV roll. This displays the first screen of text accompanying Lewis Ms. E 201. Notice that there is a yellow triangle at the right of the screen. Click this will take you to the next page of the text. On the next page, there are yellow triangles at both the left and right of the screen. These will take you forward and backward through the text pages.

Now, here's the Genuinely Clever part: at the bottom of the text screens, there's a place (technically, a "button") called ZOOM. Click on the ZOOM button, and you will taken to viewing the roll. The larger part of this viewing screen, at the left, will contain a detailed image of a small part of the manuscript. At the right, you see a much-reduced image of the ENTIRE manuscript, with a little red box outlining the small portion shown on the left part of the screen. Move your mouse cursor over the little red box. You can then hold down the left mouse button to drag the red box to a different part of the roll. In a few seconds this new section of the roll appears in detail in the left part of the screen.

At the bottom of the ZOOM screen, there are buttons saying TEXT and MENU. Clicking on TEXT takes you back to the text for the manuscript, and clicking on MENU takes you back to the title screen for *Leaves of Gold*.

Each manuscript has the same navigation features, i.e., ZOOM, MENU, TEXT, and forward-backward arrows.

- *Scope:* There are detailed images for the entire Edward IV Roll. This roll contains much very small writing, some of which is too small to read on the computer screen, even with these detailed images. For the other, larger manuscripts, only a portion of the manuscript was imaged, but by virtue of their having larger writing, one is able to read the words.
- *Collins Hours:* Images provided of thirteen double pages; text is large and readable (to those who can read Latin!) In all of these double pages, the left page is an illustration and the right page contains text. Both pages are bordered by extensive small drawings and designs. The ingenuity of the medieval scribe in devising these is to be marveled at. It would be difficult to have enough time in a museum setting to fully appreciate these.
- *Gradual for Dominican Use:* Images provided of eleven double pages; text is large and readable on-screen. Musical notation throughout looks very much like modern. (I wonder if the tone values are the same as modern.)
- *Le Livre du Chastel de Labour (The Book of the Castle of Work):* Images provided of sixteen double pages. Text (French) is large and readable on-screen. Again, many varied and ingenious illustrations throughout.
- *Lewis Psalter:* Thirty-one gorgeous pages of images are provided. Most of them are full-page illustrations to accompany Bible texts. Pages that contain text are readable. Calendar pages for August and September are imaged, if those are special months for you.
- *The City of God (by St. Augustine):* Thirteen single pages, illustrated throughout. French text is very readable on-screen.
- *Bible du XIIIe Siecle (Bible from the 13 c.):* Fourteen single pages, each with significant decoration and illustration. French text is readable on-screen.

It would be impossible in a museum to spend the amount of time needed to examine each detail of these wonderful examples of medieval craftsmanship. This CD provides an opportunity to examine these specimens at length. Any time you spend perusing this CD will undoubtedly be some of the most enjoyable you've ever spent at your computer screen.

Requirements and Initial Setup; Technobabble and Color Caveat

There are some minimum requirements for the computer system on which to use this CD-ROM.

Most computers purchased within the last two years should fulfill these requirements, but if you want to know for sure, see below. (If the computerese is “Greek” to you, check with your local technenerd to be sure.) An alternative, if you have no computer or a very old computer, would be to try your local library to see if it has a “Gates” PC you can use.

Computer System Requirements: Either Macintosh or Windows PC as follows.

- **MACINTOSH:** System 7.5 or higher, 233 Mhz processor, 64 MB RAM required, 8x speed CD-ROM drive, 16-bit color display with 800x600 resolution, Netscape Communicator 4.5 or better (Netscape 4.7 Installer included on CD-ROM.)
- **WINDOWS:** U.S. version Windows 95/98, Pentium 233 MHz processor, 64 MB RAM required, 8x speed CD-ROM drive, 16-bit color display with 800x600 resolution, Netscape Communicator 4.5 or better OR Internet Explorer 4.0 or better (Netscape Communicator 4.7 Installer included on CD-ROM.)

The CD-ROM includes a one-page insert “Getting Started,” with instructions for how to start the program on either a Macintosh or Windows PC. This also has instructions for installing two programs which most World Wide Web surfers will already have on their computers: Macromedia Shockwave and the Netscape browser. (Windows users may use the Internet Explorer browser program in place of the Netscape browser.)

LIBRARIANS REPORT

Audio-Visual:

Librarian Yvonne Saddler reports that the library received a videotape called *Bones of Towton*, which is a copy of an English TV show. She says, “It’s a great tape and I used it myself for a program.” Chapter program directors, maybe this is just the thing for your next Chapter meeting.

On order from The Teaching Company is a series of lectures called *Medieval Europe: Crisis and Renewal*. This set covers the years from 1300 to 1500, and the videos include maps and documents.

The University of Toronto is redoing the York Medieval Cycle series. When they become available, the Librarian intends to complete the set for the Society’s A-V Library.

Please contact Yvonne directly (see contact information on page 3) to find out about borrowing from the A-V Library.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Maxwell Anderson Scholarship Fund Coordinator. At last, the Maxwell Anderson Scholarship Fund is close to having a large enough endowment to make an annual award to support graduate studies in medieval English literature. The Coordinator would publicize applications to scholars who might qualify for this annual award, assemble an academic committee to review applications, participate in fund-raising for this fund, report to the Board on activities related to this fund, and in general, champion the Fund’s cause far and wide. In general the administration of this fund would be similar to the way the Schallek Fund is administered and guidance, help getting started, and sample forms would be available from the Schallek Fund Coordinator.

This is an ongoing position.

Publicity Chair: This person would be in charge of assembling and distributing publicity materials about the Society to the press and general public.

This is an ongoing position.

Web Transcribers: (More than one needed.) This person would seek out texts which are relevant to the Society’s purposes and are no longer in copyright, then transcribe them in a form in which they can be viewed at the Society’s Web site. Technical guidance as to the format needed is available. The schedule for this type of work is more flexible than for an ongoing position.

Other positions are available, and would-be volunteers are encouraged to submit their own ideas for jobs or projects they would like to undertake for the Society. For more information, contact Peggy Allen, peggyall@home.com.

WITH APOLOGIES . . .

Two donors were inadvertently omitted from the list of contributors to the William B. Schallek Memorial Graduate Fellowship Fund during the year 2000 that was published in the last issue of the *Ricardian Register*. They were Cheryl Rothwell and the Ohio Chapter.

We are grateful for their generous donations and apologize for the oversight and ask anyone else whose name was omitted in error to notify us: peggyall@home.com



RICARDIAN POST

Dear Carole,

I received my new *Ricardian Register* and read with interest Wendy's article on place names. You mentioned in your Editorial you'd like to see some more place name examples.

When I was researching my Ricardian novel *Thy Name Is Love*, I visited Malmesbury, my fictional heroine's hometown. I purchased a booklet there, *A History of Malmesbury* by Dr. Bernulf Hodge, and in it he gives several examples of place names and their ancient origins, several of which I used in my novel.

Many streets had the Saxon suffix "Gaerstons" meaning green field, and were either outside the town or led that way. The town has a Silver Street, and "there is always a Silver Street in towns of this age, and always near the Market place, their use was obvious."

Other ancient names are those pertaining to the word Gastons. Most of the "Gaerstons" such as Corn Gastons, Poole Gastons, Gastons Road, etc." Malmesbury is a beautiful ancient town, well worth the visit.

Diana Rubino

This postcard came in our mail:

My mother was born Mary Louise Plant. Her father was born George Plantagenet. Her brother's descendants (Arthur Fletcher Plant) are direct descendants in the male line from King John Plantagenet (Angevin). Arthur Fletcher Plant III lives in Plant City, Florida, named for another descendant of John Plantagenet, Henry Plant. So I am a blood descendant of King John, also. Richard III was also. Shakespeare's play portrayal of Richard of Richard III was Tudor propaganda.

John H. Hall, Jr.

Ed: On page 39 of the March, 2001, Ricardian Bulletin, Parent Society member Sandra du Plessis explained the difficulties of books on English medieval history if one lives in rural South Africa. She sent this e-mail to an American Branch member.

... I have already visited [the American Branch's] website on a number of occasions and find it most informative and enjoyable. I have been inundated with

offers of Ricardian novels from all over the world, including India, Australia and the US of A. It just goes to show how the spirit of Richard can still move people 600 years later, incredible! The R3 Society is truly a wonderful Society to belong to, with kind and generous members.

Sandi du Plessis

Member Offers Positive Comments on "Pre-Renewal" E-Mail

"Congratulations on the money saving way to offer renewals. Wonderful way to reach people."

— *Donna Schecter.*

Donna was responding to our recently instituted time and money-saving way to remind members that their renewal date is drawing near. Here's how it works: On the first day of the month, a Pre-Renewal E-Mail Reminder is sent out to those members who have e-mail addresses and whose membership renewal date will come up sometime during the next month. Members are requested to print out the renewal form, and return it to the membership chair with a check — by regular mail! For those with e-mail, the reminder can be a time saver for members, as well as for your volunteer staff, and reduce the postage and printing costs of the Society!

Putting Things Right:

One of our long time members was missing from the winter issue of the *Ricardian Register* Honor Roll –1998, while another's name popped up under the wrong year in the Honor Roll - 2000:

Becky Aderman, who joined the Society in 1981, was listed as a 10 Year Member. She will be heading the list of 20 Year Members in the Winter 2001 issue.

Linda Treybig was inadvertently omitted from the Ricardian Honor Roll of long-term members published in the Winter, 1998 *Ricardian Register*. Linda, a member since 1978 and leader of the Society's 2000 and 2001 tours, should have been included in the section for 20-year members.

SCATTERED STANDARDS

Compiled by Pam Mills, Chapter Coordinator

Arizona Chapter

The Arizona Meeting was held on May 6th 2001 at Joan Marshall's home. A lively discussion of the cause of Buckingham's Rebellion took place. All members were asked to read the Louise Gill book of the same title [ed: *Buckingham's Rebellion*]. However more information was obtained from a reading of *Richard III A Study in Service*, by Rosemary Horrox.

The next meeting will continue the same discussion with emphasis on how the nobles felt and what the reaction was, not so much to Richard but to Edward IV, and how this impacted the rebellion. Also a discussion of the plays Henry VI and Richard III took place as Ginny Chandra and Pamela Mills had just seen them performed in March, in Michigan.

The next meeting will be in October.

Eastern Missouri

Rita Blake reports that the Eastern Missouri chapter does meet on a regular basis, but it small. They are currently working on a Chapter web site for Fall-Winter completion. Some members may join Rita and her husband in England next year for the Middleham Fayre.

Michigan Chapter

The Michigan Area Chapter is proud to announce that it has 33 regular members and 3 associate members. We also now have a permanent home for our quarterly meetings – the Oak Park Public Library. It is centrally located, has a large attractive meeting room and plenty of free parking. We held our first meeting there in April 2001 and welcomed a new Chapter member, Marcia Alther.



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An enthusiastic group met for the first planning meeting for the 2002 AGM at the home of Ellie Pierce on February 25, 2001. Committee assignments were made and plans are moving ahead for the AGM in Detroit. One of our first activities was going to dinner and the show at O'Mara's Pub to check out Owain Phyfe, a performer of Early Music, as a possible entertainer for the AGM Banquet! We'll keep you all posted.

The Ohio Chapter has accepted our invitation to meet in July for a social get-together. This will take place some time after our Coronation Banquet meeting on July 6th, which will be held at Ernesto's where the Chapter gathered for it's first Coronation Banquet 11 years ago.

The Library Exhibit Project has been a great success in the tri-county area. Some of the libraries that hosted our display have asked us to come back for another showing! A "mini-display" has been created making it possible to mail an exhibit anywhere in the state for a minimal cost. Our second project, *Richard III in History and Literature*, was presented at two local colleges. Chapter members gave a talk to both history and literature classes and the mini-display with books and Society publications was exhibited. Students received handouts with Society brochures and other Ricardian information. Questions after the presentations included great interest in our Web site. Next fall we will continue this project since there are many colleges and universities in the Detroit Metro Area.

—Submitted by Janet Trimbath

Southwest Chapter

All the Southwest Chapter's activities now involve preparing for AGM 2001 in Fort Worth. They cordially invite all members to attend.

Seeking Interest in Forming or Reactivating Chapters

North Carolina area: All persons having an interest should contact Stacy Bowcott. Her E-mail is showcott@thermcraftinc.com.

Northern California area: Interested parties should contact Sharon Everett at MILADYSCA@aol.com.

Pennsylvania: Members that are interested in a chapter should contact Joseph Wawrzyniak at Jwawrzyniak@na.CunninghamLindsey.com.

TWO-YEAR MEMBER PROFILES

Compiled by Eileen Prinsen

Richard III reigned for only a little over two years. In commemoration of that fact, this regular column in the *Ricardian Register* profiles people who have renewed their membership for the second year (which does not, of course, mean that they may not stay longer than two years!). We thank the members below who shared their information with us – it’s a pleasure to get to know you better!

Rita Blake, staff accountant at a bank in St. Louis, MO, did not know a great deal about Richard the Third or the Wars of the Roses until she read Sharon Kay Penman’s *The Sunne in Splendour*. This led her to read non-fiction works such as Bertram Field’s *Royal Blood* whereupon, she says: “I was hooked! I found the Society through a link from Penman’s website . . . sprinted the membership form and sent my check off the next morning!” But that was not the end of her dedication to the cause! Desiring to establish personal contact with “fellow Ricardians,” she formed the Eastern Missouri Chapter which gave her the opportunity as she says: “to become friends with a great group of intelligent, well-informed people.” Her other leisure activities include physical fitness and nutrition. (314-741-751) CRBlake@mindspring.com.

Audrey Daniels Braver first learned about the Society in the 1960’s while working for the Claims Department in an Insurance Company. While checking out obituaries in the newspaper, one day she: “saw all these obituaries for Plantagenet, Richard, which had been placed by members and became interested.” However, as she says, “it only took thirty years for me to join but I finally did it.” Audrey is a Faculty Staff Assistant at Penn State University. (Daytime Tel: 717-566-1103).

Jennifer C. Geouge, is a graduate student, “currently studying foreign relations between the Iberian Kingdoms and England with an emphasis on the role of the clergy.” Her knowledge of Richard and the Society came from an impeccable source, Jennifer having studied under Dr. Compton Reeves (immediate past chairman of the Society) at Ohio University. Jennifer’s leisure interests include reading, hiking and camping. (859-737-9418) jgeouge@gx.net

Michelle L. Dresser “Stumbled on references to R3 while putzing around the Web. Nice to find people who question the “victors’ history” — as I did! (Not being a professional historian or scholar, it probably took me longer to discover R3 than most.”) Michelle works in insurance/financial services and has a multiple of interests ranging from “dressage and eventing (with her horse) to scuba diving and traveling (anywhere); reading,

hiking, music, theater, cooking AND the Packers and Badgers! Tanzer@aol.com

English teacher **Gayle L. Hove King**, returned to her home in Adams, North Dakota, just three years ago, after living and teaching for many years in Ohio and Virginia. Her interest in Richard and his era goes back to her grade school days. In fifth grade she “did a family tree chart on Edward III’s descendants and gave a report in class.” In addition to the Society, Gayle’s leisure interests include reading and gardening.

Rosetta A. McKinney, is a recent retiree from the U.S. Army, who now lives in Brandy Station, VA, but who “became a firm believer” in Richard III in college when she read R. H. Jarman’s *We Speak No Treason*. She has read and acquired many books about Richard and his reign, has made three trips to England and visited many of the sites associated with him. Having found the society on the internet she says: “I find it amazing that someone who reigned for such a short time and was so vilified by his successors, has such a passionate following of supporters. At the same time, I completely understand their (our) fascination. Of all the historical figures I’ve read about, he is the most real, accessible and sympathetic!” (540-829-5995). JOENROSE msn.com

Author **Diana Rubino**’s interest in the Richard III Society was whetted by a reference in Valerie Anand’s book *The King’s Bed*. That book and all the other books she found about Richard she says “got me hooked!” She herself has written many historical novels, many of which have Richard as a central character. Even her most recent novel about time travel (see page 18 *The Register* Winter edition) has Edward IV, George, Richard and Elizabeth Woodville among the main characters. You can visit her website at www.DianaRubino.com (603-886-2924). DianaLRubino@cs.com

Wendy Semeroff from Pacifica, CA, lists her occupation as “Visual Merchandiser/Student,” and her leisure activities as “reading, sewing and running.” She says: “I became interested in the Richard III Society while studying British history and feeling that many sources gave a negatively biased account to Richard. I had heard about the Society in a documentary and liked the (idea) that there was a group to vindicate Richard and his reign.” (650-359-8505) .beanie@Sirius.com

Carmen Smith, a busy registered nurse in Severn, Maryland, joined the Society in June 1999. Her E-mail address is: carmenruth@hotmail.com.



**AMERICAN BRANCH MEMBERS WHO JOINED
BETWEEN MARCH 1, 2001 AND MAY 31, 2001**

Roy Carlton Alexander
Craig C Blackburn
Wendy Burch
Gayle Burr
Douglas L Darling
James J. Dyer
Janis M. Eltz
Sharon E Everett
Louis-Gilles Gagnon
Leslie Golden
Nora and Alan M. Harris
Patricia Terrell Harris
Leslie Hilton
Robert T. Kuehl
Joan Laurie
Richard W. Levi

Christina & Steve Jones Livesey
Helaine Lubar
Sean Mellott
Cathy and Joe Moore
Melissa M. Parvis
Martin Perlman
Virginia M Poch
Helen M Scott
Jeffrey R. Sommer
Jennifer A. Spiro
Erik Stultz
Harry J. Weitzel
Jeanne M. White
Frank B. Wilensky

MOVING OR TEMPORARILY AWAY?

Your quarterly Ricardian publications are mailed with the request to the U.S. Post Office to notify the Society of changes of address and forwarding addresses. This service costs the Society extra money, but we think it's worth it to ensure that as many members as possible receive the publications to which they are entitled.

A recent issue of the Ricardian Register "rewarded" us with an unusual number of postal returns marked "Temporarily Away" or "Moved – Left No Forwarding Address," greatly adding to the consternation and perplexity of those of us who must deal with these cases.

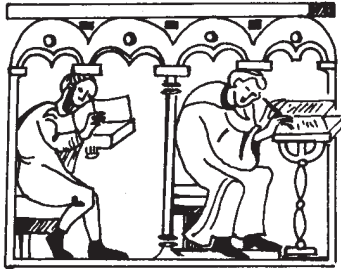
So, please, please, *if you are moving, let us know your new address as soon as possible.*

If you will be away temporarily, please ask your Post Office to hold your mail for you. If you miss an issue because your Post Office returned it to us, please notify the Editor of the *Ricardian Register* when you are able to receive mail, so that your issue can be re-mailed.

Mail that is returned to us as "Temporarily Away" or "No Forwarding Address" costs the Society \$2.97 for the return, plus approximately \$2.53 to mail it to you a second time. Donations to cover these extra costs are, of course, welcomed.

Your change of address notices should go directly to the Membership Chair: *Eileen Prinsen, 16151 Longmeadow, Dearborn MI, 48120*, or e-mail address changes to *membership@r3.org*. Please don't forget to include other changes that help us contact you, such as new telephone number, new e-mail address, or name changes.

AND WHILE WE'RE ON THE SUBJECT... More and more of the Society's business is being done by e-mail, when possible. As postage costs rise, this makes good economic sense. For many of us, our e-mail address changes much more frequently than our mailing address. If yours does change, please notify the Society by e-mailing the details to: *membership@r3.org*. If you are also subscribing to the listserv, e-mail *richard3-owner@plantagenet.com* to have your listserv e-mail address changed, too.



RICARDIAN READING

Myrna Smith

Most books reviewed here can be purchased at www.r3.org/sales.

THE LATERAL RICARDIAN


I. Poor Richard! He was blamed for something that wasn't his fault.

I have recently become addicted to lateral puzzles, spending time on a puzzlers' web site when I should be working on this column or just plain working. You should be understanding, however, for as Ricardians we are used to thinking outside the box, laterally. For those who don't know what a lateral puzzle is, it's easier to give an example than to define it.

Anthony and Cleopatra are lying dead on a marble floor, surrounded by pieces of glass.

The answer to the mystery, which the puzzler is supposed to figure out by asking astute questions, is that Anthony and Cleopatra are goldfish. When the game is played live, participants have an opportunity to ask questions which may be answered yes, no, or not relevant. In printed form, the puzzle "host" supplies clues. The clues for "Poor Richard" would be: (1) *In this case, Poor Richard does not refer to Richard III. He is a well-known American, no longer living.* (2) *What he was blamed for was a natural phenomenon.*

All the puzzles in this column are my invention, or ones that are in the public domain. Answers below. Enjoy!

 *The Wars of The Roses*, J.R. Lander, Sutton Publishing, 1990, reprinted by Grange Books 1997.

This book has its good and bad points. What I liked best about it was that the author used excerpts from contemporary manuscripts. Excepting the introduction, the book is repeatedly one to three short paragraphs by the author, followed by a manuscript excerpt varying from a few lines to a few pages in length. While Mr. Lander undoubtedly chose his excerpts to support his own ideas, reading the contemporary accounts gives the reader a better idea of what the contemporaries thought.

What I saw as bad points were a couple of obvious biases. The book covers the major conflicts in the Wars of the Roses, political as well as military. The beginning ones are the death of John of Gaunt, the disinheritance of Henry Bolingbroke and the overthrow of Richard II. Somehow in these conflicts, Mr. Lander sees Yorkist propaganda but no Lancastrian or Tudor. The second bad point is that while he managed to find plenty of contemporary manuscripts


covering all facets of the Wars of the Roses, he seemed unable to find many covering the reign of Richard III. He supplemented that chapter with several excerpts from More and Vergil, painstakingly pointing out that they were most likely derived from the accounts of eye-witnesses. Surprisingly (or not), the records of the city of York aren't mentioned.

One definite mistake was a caption under a picture of the tomb and effigies of John de la Pole and his wife Elizabeth. Elizabeth is identified as the sister of Edward V and Richard III.

II. Harry has a very important and well-paying position, with many people under him, yet he cannot read, write, or even form a coherent sentence. What does he do, and how did he get the job?

1: *He is perfectly normal in every way.*

2: *He got his job because he has connections.*

 *The Conquering Family*, Thomas Costain, Doubleday 1949, 1962, Buccaneer Books 1997.

This is the first of a series of four by Costain on the history of the Plantagenets (the others being *The Magnificent Century*, *The Three Edwards* and *The Last Plantagenets*). This book begins with how Henry Plantagenet, Count of Anjou, became Henry II of England and ends with the death of King John.

Filled with information, on not only kings but also important people, events and movements that affected England and its provinces (at one point Scotland, Ireland and half of France) this book is an engaging read, hard to put down once picked up, and a great reference.

Costain tells a great story. This seems to be the difference between his writing style and many more recent histories. His work is one great story after another, and while this makes for good reading, the information isn't always presented exactly chronologically, and date references aren't always handy, but he did include an index.

With the stories of Henry II, Richard the Lion-Heart and the awful and only John, much time is spent on their fellow rulers, their consorts, primates, enemies and people of importance who have been mostly forgotten over time, such as William

Marshall and the Old Man of the Mountain. The book illustrates the difference between a great ruler who plans for an empire and under whom the people prosper and a base ruler who loses most of the provinces and whose self-centeredness causes the Magna Carta to be written. To spice it up even more, there is the chivalry found during the Crusades and a great warrior-king.

Highly recommended.

— Muriel Williamson

 *The Fatal Crown*, Ellen Jones, Simon & Schuster, NY, 1991 ISBN 0-671-72464-9.

Quite aside from being a well-written entertainment about the 12th century civil war in England, this book serves as a springboard for examination regarding the value of historical accuracy in fiction. *The Fatal Crown* retells the life of Empress Mathilda, with special attention to her relationship to her cousin Stephen. Mercifully, this book consistently refers to the Empress as “Maud”, so the reader can easily distinguish her from the many other Mathildas of 11th c. and 12th c. English history, the most prominent of whom in this story is Queen Mathilda, the wife of Stephen.

This narrative hits all the basic points of Maud’s life: her childhood marriage to the Holy Roman Emperor; her recall by father Henry I after she is widowed and after her brother is drowned; Stephen and other nobles swearing to support her as the next monarch; the marriage to Geoffrey of Anjou and the birth of son Henry (later Henry II); Stephen’s taking of the crown upon Henry I’s death; the back-and-forth of the civil war, climaxing with the accord which allowed Henry Plantagenet to become king after Stephen’s death; and Maud’s later years as queen mother. The incident of Oxford Castle, which proves that no Medieval war on English soil was complete without a daring escape from a snow-bound besieged castle while dressed totally in white, is also included.

The author applies her narrative art to pleasant effect in extensive descriptions of Maud’s inner state of mind as she reacts to situations imposed upon her, and plans for actions to further her own goals. This gives the book a fullness and richness of characterization, and when historical figures leave no diaries, is a perfectly acceptable example of fictionalizing speculation.

The controversial fictionalization in this book is, of course, the development of the relationship between Maud and Stephen as a romantic and sexual one. (Some scenes are unsuitable for younger adolescents — parental guidance advised; however, this is far above the “bodice-ripper” variety.) Twelfth century history would have been much more dramatic if

Henry II were indeed the son of Stephen rather than Geoffrey. Can this theory be rejected out of hand?

Apparently not. Thomas Costain identifies the source of this view of events as Matthew Paris, a monastic chronicler living at St. Albans in the time of Henry III. Costain toys with his readers regarding Paris’ accuracy. When Paris “quotes” Maud implying that Henry is Stephen’s son, Costain says, “This ... has no roots in truth.” A few sentences later, however, he says of the story, “There are certain pieces of evidence which make the possibility of Henry being the son of Stephen a little more than surmise.” His inconclusive conclusion is, “It is still barely beyond the limits of surmise, but it cannot be passed over.” (All of these quotes come from *The Conquering Family*, reviewed above.) Perhaps a member who is more of a professional historian of the period than Thomas Costain can step up with the current thinking on this subject.

Suppose, for argument’s sake, that the conventional view — Stephen and Maud were enemies, and Henry II was the son of Geoffrey — is unquestionably true. Would that condemn this book? Would taking of any liberty with known historical fact condemn any fiction that includes real characters from history? The serious student of history might well side with a recent e-mail on the Society’s listserv, from Tim Dale:

... the more non-fiction I read, the more irritating and more glaring factual errors jump out at me from fiction ...” At the very least, a gross distortion of fact, historical or otherwise, can make it more difficult for the reader to make the mental leap enabling him to become engaged. The extreme case is surely people who cannot read science fiction or fantasy because “those things are impossible.

On the other hand, serious students of art — as opposed to history — would give wide latitude to the artist to arrange and recreate reality to make an artistic work more interesting on its own terms. *Ricardian Register* readers can no doubt appreciate one of the finest villains ever to strut the stage — while methodically ticking off every historical inaccuracy in Shakespeare’s *Richard III*.

A final reason for allowing looseness with facts in historical novels is that an inaccurate rendering will often draw the casual reader, who is only seeking entertainment, to study the actual history. Did this really happen? Did it happen this way? Where can I find out what actually happened? How many *Masterpiece Theatre* viewers have started with the impression that Henry VIII was married to each of his six wives for two hours on six successive Sunday nights — and

then gone on to much greater understanding of the subject?

One can find a few small technical quibbles with the presentation of this book. There was one “flaunting” that should have been a “flouting”, but there were also several correctly-used “flouts” in later chapters. Another situation had a character quoting what she called “the old saw” that “forewarned is forearmed”. Perhaps this was an old saw already in the 12th century, but Bartlett’s attributes it to Cervantes (who seems to have used almost as many “trite sayings” as Shakespeare). On balance, in these days of misspellings on every page, it is a pleasure to read a book printed ten years ago. Unfortunately, Amazon.com had this book listed as out of print when last checked, but if you are interested in the subject and the period, this is a worthwhile read, probably available at your local library.

— Peggy Allen, LA

III. A man uses a tire tool to break into a house. A police officer stands by watching him, but does nothing. He is never arrested. Why?

- 1: *The man and the officer are related.*
- 2: *Watch those assumptions!*

📖 *To Ruin A Queen*, Fiona Buckley, Scribner, NY, c. 2000, ISBN 0-684-86268-0.

Ursula Blanchard’s fourth adventure in the service of Elizabeth I almost ends before it begins as the story opens with a tragedy. Another one sends Ursula back to England, frantically searching for her missing daughter. Upon arriving, she is angered to learn that she has once again been used and abused by Elizabeth and her Secretary of State, Cecil, who lured her to England for a mission of their own. They want her to go to Vetch Castle on the Welsh Marches to discover if it is true that Philip Mortimer has something in his possession that could threaten Elizabeth’s throne. Ursula agrees to go and finds Vetch a strange place, complete with haunted tower and peopled by strange people. But after a threat to her life, she does get to the bottom of it.

I didn’t enjoy this book as much as the first and third, which I loved. It started out with a scene with Ursula and her husband, which are always my favorite parts in any of the books, but I didn’t enjoy being at Vetch Castle, where the majority of the story takes place. Ursula’s discovery and exposure of the threat is, however, one of the better parts in the book, as well as Elizabeth’s displays of Tudor temper and the vulnerability she shows in her rare instances of talking about her mother.

— Anne Marie Gazzolo, IL

📖 *A Spy For The Redeemer*, Candace Robb, Random House, London, 1999.

This book is a sequel to *A Gift of Sanctuary* in that Owen is still in Wales, having been commanded by the Archdeacon of St. David’s Cathedral to solve the murder of the mason who was sculpting the tomb of Sir Robert D’Arby, Owen’s father-in-law who died in the preceding volume.

Owen’s chapters alternate with his wife Lucie’s adventures in York where an equally compelling mystery develops.

The redeemer in this case is not a religious figure but a political one, Owen of the Red Hand, the grandnephew of Llewlyn the Last and thus the rightful heir to the Welsh crown. In her author’s note, Robb recites the history of this would-be redeemer of Wales.

Lucie’s fear, worry and brief temptation to adultery, and Owen’s disgust with the treatment that his people receive from the English, and his brief temptation to join the promised rebellion, add depth and reality to their characters.

The books should be read back to back for maximum enjoyment. The mysteries in both books are satisfyingly complex and the details of Medieval life ring true.

— Dale Summers, TX

📖 *Lords Of The White Castle*, Elizabeth Chadwick, Little, Brown & Co., London, 2001 ISBN 0-316-85150-7.

Lords of the White Castle is Elizabeth Chadwick’s eleventh book. Set in late 12th and early 13th century England, it recounts the true tale of the outlaw Fulke FitzWarin, a proud man who dared to stand against King John in order to reclaim his family castle and his wife Maud le Vavasour. Together they fought for justice, while founding a dynasty that lasted 200 years.

This superb novel will appeal to readers who appreciate a rich historical background. As with her previous works, Ms Chadwick paints a detailed picture of the Middle Ages, both its glory and its less appealing aspects.

The minutiae of everyday life are woven tightly into the narrative, enriching the background yet not overwhelming the story. Every setting comes alive, from the banquet hall at Westminster Palace to the forest outside Canterbury into which Fulke and Maud flee after their marriage. In similar fashion, the language is neither overly archaic nor annoyingly modern. The author uses a few choice older terms and more formal prose to create a Medieval feel without drowning the reader in thees, thous, yeas and nays.

Her characters are true to their time. Fulke, Maud and King John elicit both sympathy and scorn, while the supporting players are vibrant entities, rather than mere foils for the protagonists. Fans of this period will delight in meeting Henry II, Richard I, William Marshal, the Earl of Chester, William of Salisbury and Hubert Walter and enjoy brief glimpses of Eleanor of Aquitaine and Isabella of Angouleme. Fulke and Maud moved in the highest echelons of Anglo-Norman society and it is to the author's credit that she depicts the well-known historical characters as living, breathing beings, not glittering icons.

The plot follows the facts known about Fulke and his troubles with John. The numerous subplots are well integrated, serving to add depth to the main one rather than distracting. As is common when writing about the Middle Ages, the author must build upon a skeleton of history, adding nuances and taking license where necessary. Her talent lies in her ability to do so without destroying the overall historical integrity of her carefully researched background.

Some readers may find the use of omniscient point-of-view a little off-putting, and there are a couple of times it isn't clear from whose point of view the story was being told. However, it by no means detracted from the story.

Ms. Chadwick has established herself as one of the premier writers of Medieval fiction and her reputation is well deserved. She blends history, adventure and romance into a story that enthralls, entertains and educates.

— Teresa Eckford, Ontario, Canada

IV. George has shoes that wear like iron. They are especially fitted and made for him, and he finds them very comfortable. In fact, he doesn't even take them off at night. Why?

- 1: No, George is not George of Clarence.
- 2: George wears two pair of shoes.

 *One Too Many Times*, Diana Rubino, Domhan Books, Brooklyn, 2001 ISBN 1-58345-612-0.

Well, there's this wizard, er wizbar, see, who really is from the far, far future (90210). He gives Elizabeth Woodville a spell for Unconditional Tender Devotion and Complete Unequivocal Surrender at First Sight, which backfires when the intended spellee falls in love with the wrong Elizabeth. He also gives the Duke of Clarence an amulet for his digestive problems, which is actually an all-purpose amulet, and which ends up in the hands of his brother Richard, who turns up in the 21st century — by utter coincidence at a seance organized by Ricardians to raise his spirit. (So that's what they do in the British [ed: i.e., Parent] Society.) When that's straightened out, he proceeds to adjust to modern life

and, with the help of loyal Ricardian Anne Spooner, to rewrite history and to rewrite a film about Richard III, which will star —who else?

Meanwhile, his worried brothers go looking for him, and they too turn up on Annie's doorstep. Annie has introduced Richard as her cousin Rick, not being able to think of another name quickly, but with a little more time, she christens his brothers as Cuthbert and Wilberforce, or Bert and Willy. They also wrangle parts in the movie, and run afoul of a reporter who seems to be a combination of Kitty Kelly and Sally Jessie Raphael. Then the frustrated EW buys herself a one-way trip to the future. Finally the whizbang, er wizbar ... well, you get the idea.

Or do you? Bet you can't figure out who Galahad the poltergeist is!

Historical accuracy? Even on its own terms, forget it. Hysterical accuracy, yes. All the major characters develop as decent sorts, even Sally Jessie Kelly. As in musical comedy, or Noah's Ark, all the major characters are neatly paired off, even the ghostly ones. Everything works out well in the end, but the fun is getting there.

Sample: Ulch is gazing into his crystal, trying to pin down where in time Richard is. He's pounding on the desk, and if he starts cursing, I'll have a good idea exactly what time he's in. After a second, he nodded. Yup. Windows 2000.

The same publisher advertises a quadrilogy by Ms Rubino: *Destiny Lies Waiting*, *Thy Name is Love*, *The Jewels of Warwick*, and *Crown of Destiny*, all AKA the Yorkist Saga, which I presume treats the subject matter more seriously. I hope to be able to review these some time in the future, but not the far future. They couldn't be as much of a romp as this, though!

— m.s.

V: An exotic dancer arranges a private session with a man. In the room, she undresses completely. He approaches and, under special lighting, his eyes travel all over her body. He smiles with pleasure. She smiles also. After she gets dressed, she pays him. Why?

- 1: It's his profession that's relevant, not hers.
- 2: Think about the special lighting.

 *The Wife Of Shore: A Search*, Arthur R.G. Solmssen, Mill Creek Press, Philadelphia, 2000.

The blurb on the back of this book starts: "Still another book about Richard III? Yes, but from a fresh point of view." Not quite so. It's not really about Richard III, and the point of view is Sir Thomas More's, from which the author quotes copiously. The central characters are John Morton, Bishop of Ely, and Chancellor Russell; the love story is that of Elizabeth (Jane) Shore and Thomas Lynom; Richard is

almost a peripheral character, and hardly seems to be a real person, even an evil one. He has no life outside of politics, no motivation other than the political; for that matter, neither do Morton and Russell, but they are churchmen, and didn't have families. It is scarcely indicated that Richard had one; the queen is mentioned in passing, at the coronation. If she made any other appearance in the story, I missed it.

One outstanding virtue of the story is the delineation of the heroine, both realistic and sympathetic. And it's refreshing that Lynom is not the typical tall, dark, handsome and brooding hero of bodice-rippers. On the debit side, the author is outstandingly hostile to Richard III. To be sure, we can't expect every novel written to be pro-Ricardian, but no character in the book, not even the Protector/King himself, is allowed to make his case for the "usurpation". (Someone does mention the possibility of Buckingham as the murderer of the Princes, but rejects it.) On the credit side, it's well-written and well-plotted; the author gives Jane/Elizabeth plenty of adventures, even having her kidnaped from prison by Dorset. The few sex episodes are not explicit - whether this is a debit or a credit depends on the reader! I would have liked for the long excerpts from *More* and the *Stonors* to be set off typographically in some way; having them directly in the text somehow detracts from the novel as a novel. And it's never explained why the heroine is sometimes Jane and sometimes Elizabeth. We know, but the casual reader might not.


The book has much to recommend it, but in behalf of truth-in-advertising, the above facts should be kept in mind.

— m.s.


VI. Lucrezia Borgia split an apple in half and shared it with a companion. Within 10 minutes, the companion was dead and Lucrezia as blooming as ever. What had happened?

1: *The apple was a perfectly good apple, selected at random.*

2: *The victim was poisoned.*

 *To Wear The White Cloak*, Sharan Newman, Tom Doherty Associates, NY, 2000, ISBN 0-312-86965.

 *The Squire's Tale*, Margaret Frazer, Berkley Publishing, NY, 2000, ISBN 0-475-17678-9.

 *One Knight In Venice*, Tori Phillips, Harlequin, Toronto & NY, 2001, ISBN 0-373-29155-8.

 *The Whitechapel Conspiracy*, Anne Perry, Ballantine, NY, 2001, ISBN 0-345-43328-9.

Do you watch for the latest Inspector Morse or Agatha Raisin mystery to come out? Then you, like me, have become a series aficionado, and there's nothing quite so addictive as a Medieval mystery series. A few samples above, and a few more here. Sharan Newman's latest Catherine LeVendeur story is one of her best, not just for the mystery and the detection, but for her depiction of the minutiae of life in the Middle Ages, and of the pains and pleasures of having home and job-place combined. I suspect she knows whereof she writes.

Catherine and husband Edgar are just back from England. When they open up their home, they discover the body of a man dressed in the white cloak of the Templars. Though warned to "leave it alone", you know Catherine is not capable of that, and she is not going to be allowed to. The daughter of a country nobleman and her new-made husband (of a lower social caste) are searching for her father, who has mysteriously disappeared — but don't jump to conclusions. There is suspense, and some comedy, in the way that the characters often miss each other by the narrowest margins. But there is threat (from Catherine's old enemy Jehan) and tragedy. Catherine's father, having returned to his Jewish faith, will never be able to see her and his grandchildren again. I highly recommended all the books in this series.

The Squire's Tale brings Sister Frevisse and Dame Claire out into the world again, to accompany a young woman from the convent back to her home. Frevisse can mingle with all classes, and this time she is in the milieu of the upper middle class. Before they return, they will have met death, both natural — in childbirth — and unnatural — a "locked room" murder. In her Author's Note, Ms Frazer tells us that the barbaric-seeming C-section described in the book was SOP up to the 1970s, and is still used at times. Makes me glad I had all my babies the other way. The Sister Frevisse mysteries are all of a very high standard, and all are excellent and not-too-difficult reading.

One Knight in Venice is the latest in Tori Phillips' Cavendish Saga, and more a romance than a mystery. The year is 1550, and Francis Bardolph, wrong-side-of-the-blanket grandson of the protagonist of *Three Dog Night*, and great-grandson, though he doesn't know it, of Edward IV, is a secret agent in the pay of Robert Cecil. Troubled by an old sword wound, he visits masseuse-healer Jessica Leonardo (don't snicker, she is very respectable) and, even though she wears a mask, falls in love with her at first sight, much to the anger of a gold-digging courtesan who sees herself as wife to the heir of an Earldom. Jealous mistresses are not all the lovers have to worry about. Behind the gaiety of Carnival, Venice is a city in which few dare to trust even their nearest friends.

Jessica, as the daughter of lapsed marranos, and a healer, is doubly suspect, and what she hides behind the mask is the last damning piece of evidence. For Jessica does fall afoul of the Inquisition. Have no fear, our Renaissance James Bond will work out a way of rescuing her. Ms Phillips (Society friend Mary Schaller) is not writing a naturalistic novel, with all the dirt and smells, but one realistic note is introduced by the heroine being illiterate, which might well have been the case at the time. This doesn't mean she is unintelligent, though. Other books in the series, *Lady of the Knight*, *Silent Knight*, and *Midsummer Knight* I have not yet had the opportunity to read. If any of you have, I would appreciate a few words on the subject. I have found the books that I have read to be several cuts above the average bodice-ripper.

Anne Perry's novel is, of course, Victorian and not Ricardian, but is included because of its connection to another Royal mystery, i.e., Was Queen Victoria's grandson Jack the Ripper? While her leading characters, Police Detective Thomas Pitt and his wife Charlotte, are as likeable as ever, and the descriptions of the social life of the period most interesting, I find it hard to buy the idea of a grand conspiracy master-minded by Masons. Come on, why not the Elks or the Odd Fellows?

— *m.s.*

If you have enjoyed these puzzles, check out the website www.lateralpuzzles.com or any of several

LEADERSHIP CONTRIBUTORS, 01/01/2001-03/31/2001

Plantagenet Angel Level:
Anthony C. Collins

Honorary Middleham Member Level:
Muriel Williamson

Honorary Fotheringhay Member Level:
Malcolm Broadhurst

Adrienne Devereux

Duane Downey

Elizabeth York Enstam

Nancy L. Harris

Ruth J. Lavine

Marcia Weinsoft

books by Paul Sloane, Des McHale or Edward Harshman. If you have enjoyed any of the books reviewed here, or any others, let me know. You can also consult the bibliography on the Society's website. We are wired!

ANSWERS:

I: "Poor Richard" is Benjamin Franklin. Although he had been dead for a number of years, he was blamed by many for causing the extraordinarily cold weather of 1816, "the year without a summer", by leaching the heat out of the sun with his experiments.

II: Harry is Henry VI, who inherited the throne of England when he was only 9 months old.

III: He has misplaced his key, and is breaking into his own house. The police officer is his wife. I told you - watch those assumptions!

IV: George is a horse, of course, of course.

V: He is a dermatologist who has been treating her for skin cancer. They smile because the examination shows she is cured.

VI: One side of the knife has poison spread on it.

AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS COME?

In the *Winter Register* we broached (sic) the idea of some kind of visible token of membership in the Society and asked for input from you. Most of those who responded were in favor of a broach or lapel pin featuring, perhaps, the "RIII," "Loyaulte me Lie" or simply the White Boar, to be purchased at the time of new or renewal of membership.

After taking into consideration the cost of such items and the cost in time of the volunteer staff members who would be involved, your Board suggests that we consider a simple decal featuring a White Boar and/or the words "Richard III Society." Such a visual symbol would be both inexpensive and easier to distribute.

Coincidentally, the Spring issue of the *Register* includes an up-to-date Sales Catalogue which features the White Boar in several different modes — from tie clip to scarf pin — which can be purchased by those of us who want some thing more.

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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Anyone looking to reactivate the Southern California Chapter, please contact Pam Mills at Shakespeare.@prodigy.net for guidelines on chapter formation and related assistance."

SOUTHWEST

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

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|---|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership | \$30.00 |
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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 **Eileen Prinsen, 16151 Longmeadow, Dearborn, MI 48120***