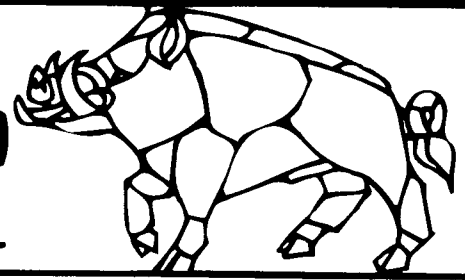


Ricardian REGISTER



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Gainsborough Old Hall, Lincolnshire

— Photos: G. W. Wheeler

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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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Carole Rike

Thanks to all our contributors in this issue —Marion Davis on Margaret Beaufort, Brian Wainwright on Gainsborough Old Hall, Elizabeth Enstam on Time and Calendars and Dikki-Jo Mullen on Medieval Astronomy. Thanks also to Dave Luitweiler for his excellent recap of the Tewkesbury Festival, as well as the pictures he shared with us. Don't we all wish we had been there with him?

We had hoped to be mailing about three weeks earlier, but Ivan fouled up our schedule, as I am sure he did for others, and in a much more violent way. Our thoughts and prayers are with all Florida Ricardians.

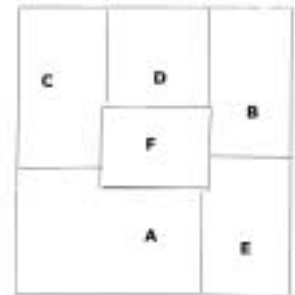
The one personal trait all Ricardians share (other than strong opinions!) is a love of books. I know you guys are reading, and I beseech you to share your thoughts and reactions. Myrna is badly in need of contributions to her Reading column. If you are not sure of the subject or need a suggestion, Myrna would be glad to assist.

Happy Birthday, Richard.

Gainsborough Old Hall

After assisting Edward IV's escape from captivity at Middleham Castle, in 1469 the quarrel between Sir Thomas Burgh of Gainsborough and Lord Willoughby and Welles started the rebellion in Lincolnshire, which culminated that winter in the destruction of Burgh's house at Gainsborough. The king reciprocated his help and Lincolnshire rose in fear of reprisals, collapsing at the Battle of Empingham or Lose-Coat Field. By 1483, the Hall had been repaired and rebuilt and Sir Thomas entertained Richard III there on 10 October, en route Lincoln, where he received the news of Buckingham's rebellion. Richard created Burgh a Knight of the Garter and Privy Councillor, and in this capacity he was sent to treat with the ambassador of the Duke of Brittany about Henry Tudor in 1485. He appears to have avoided Bosworth and prospered under Henry VII, until his death in 1496.

- Exterior view of the Hall from a drawing by Richard Maddox.
- Interior of The Great Hall, c1475, where Richard dined in 1483
- Oriel Window in the Great Hall
- Exterior, showing the Tower, Solar and Great Hall Oriel Window.
- Garter Stall Plate showing Sir Thomas Burgh's coat of arms, at St. George's Chapel, Windsor
- Drawing of Sir Thomas' heraldic badge — a mythical beast, known as a "Boreyne" from the 15th century original in Sir John Fenn's *Book of Badges* c. 1466-780 (British Library Ms).



TEFLON AND STAINLESS STEEL: SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT MARGARET BEAUFORT

Marion Davis

Margaret Beaufort was a fifteenth century embodiment of teflon and stainless steel. She kept her reputation for piety in spite of all she did to establish and maintain her family in power. Although evidence of great ambition was plentiful in her actions, few have criticized her for camouflaging her ambitions in religious display. Although surviving documents show that Margaret Beaufort exploited two of her wards, historians haven't cast her as a wicked guardian.

Ricardians may ask why they should spend time reading about Margaret Beaufort when there are so many good books about Richard waiting to be read? One answer is: Margaret Beaufort's relationships and actions suggest explanations for the duke of Buckingham's betrayal of Richard III. Margaret Beaufort was Buckingham's aunt-by-marriage; her second husband, Henry Stafford, was Buckingham's uncle.⁽¹⁾ As early as Christmas 1469, the duke of Buckingham was the guest of Margaret Beaufort and her husband at Guildford.⁽²⁾ Margaret Beaufort was in a position to influence Buckingham when he was out of favor with Edward IV. While he was playing kingmaker in 1483, Margaret Beaufort asked him to negotiate her son's safe return to England.⁽³⁾ At this point, both Margaret Beaufort and Buckingham seem to have replaced their Lancastrian loyalties with Yorkist ones.

But had they? Buckingham betrayed Richard III soon after receiving unprecedented power and wealth. Why would he give that up? Was he only pretending to support Richard? Did his Lancastrian origins and anger at his forced marriage to Katherine Woodville cause him to work against a peaceful Yorkist succession from the time he learned of Edward IV's death? Did Buckingham see Richard of Gloucester as a tool for clearing Richard's nephews out of Buckingham's way to the throne? Did Buckingham plan to replace his kingmaker role with a heroic avenger role once Richard III had been cast as the archetypal wicked uncle?

How did Margaret Beaufort, Buckingham's aunt-by-marriage, affect Buckingham's decisions between April and October 1483? After June 13, 1483 did Buckingham volunteer to guard John Morton at Brecknock? Or did Richard III ask him to? Why would Richard consider Brecknock safer than the Tower? Could the decision to keep Morton at Brecknock have originated in a suggestion Margaret Beaufort made to Buckingham? Could she have persuaded Buckingham to give up the power and wealth received from Richard III to support Henry Tudor's claim to the throne?

Geoffrey Richardson offers one set of answers to these questions in *The Deceivers*. Richardson's scenario portrays



Margaret Beaufort
Painted by Maynard Waynard Waynwyk before 1523
In the collection of the Marquess of Salisbury.
On display at Hatfield House.

Margaret Beaufort as an active member of a trio which used Buckingham against all Yorkist factions. In Richardson's version, Buckingham showed no ambition for the throne. Margaret Beaufort and John Morton convinced Buckingham that Richard III would reward him for killing Edward V and Richard of York. When Richard reacted with anger instead, they pretended to help Buckingham until they abandoned him.⁽⁴⁾ Richardson's version of events is persuasive, but it raises more questions.

When did Margaret Beaufort and her third husband, Lord Stanley, start working against Richard? As early as April 1483? As late as July 1483? What did Margaret Beaufort really think of her nephew-by-marriage, Buckingham? Had she always considered him disposable? Or did his kingmaker role turn her against him? How did Margaret Beaufort treat her other relatives? Was Buckingham the only relative she manipulated? How did Margaret Beaufort treat people unrelated to her? Do the answers to these questions show that Margaret Beaufort was capable of using Buckingham as a pawn?

In "Richard III and Lady Margaret Beaufort: A Re-assessment," Michael Jones considers two possible

dates for Margaret Beaufort's entry into conspiracies against Richard III.

"According to Polydore Vergil, Margaret began plotting with her son after the death of the princes became known and Henry had emerged as a claimant to the throne. However, there is an interesting possibility that the countess was involved in an earlier conspiracy with the Woodvilles to restore Edward V, and that this was supported by Henry Tudor. According to the annalist John Stow, there was a widespread plot in London at the end of July 1483, involving former members of Edward IV's household and Woodville supporters, in which it was planned: 'that they should have sent writings into the parts of Britaine to the earls of Richmond and Pembroke, and other lords, and how they were purposed to have set fire to divers parts of London, which fire, whilst men had been staunching, they would have stolen out of the Tower, the prince Edward and his brother the Duke of York.' Margaret may have been involved at this early stage of the rebellion. The charges brought against her in the act of attainder refer to frequent communication with Henry in Brittany, and the raising of money for him in London. Interestingly, her close kinsman, her half-brother John Welles, who resided at the Beaufort stronghold of Maxey in Northamptonshire, was in rebellion against Richard early in August 1483. He subsequently fled to Brittany with Thomas Marquis of Dorset and Sir Edward Woodville."⁽⁵⁾ Yet Margaret Beaufort appears to have cooperated with the Yorkists until early July 1483. As late as July 5, 1483 she and Lord Stanley met with Richard III about a "complex ransom dispute with the Orleans family that she had inherited from her mother."⁽⁶⁾ On July 6, 1483 she carried Queen Anne's train at the double coronation ceremony.⁽⁷⁾ Although the Tudor version of history downplays such cooperation, Jones suggests the possibility that Margaret Beaufort and her husband worked with Richard III as long as he appeared able to advance them.

In *The King's Mother*, Michael K. Jones and Malcolm G. Underwood offer a detailed view of Margaret Beaufort's actions and relationships. They portray her as an active and effective participant in political events throughout her life. They describe her communications with Buckingham in 1483 as "ambiguous."⁽⁸⁾ Although the Tudor version of history says that Buckingham supported Henry Tudor's claim to the throne, Jones and Underwood point out that Buckingham's letter to Henry, dated 24 September 1483, invited Henry to join *Buckingham's* rebellion and "did not acknowledge Henry as the next king of England."⁽⁹⁾ They ask readers to seriously consider "the possibility that Margaret duped Buckingham, encouraging him to claim the throne himself."⁽¹⁰⁾

Jones and Underwood's descriptions of Margaret Beaufort's interactions with other relatives suggests that she was capable of duping Buckingham. She seems to have been very effective at getting others to do what she

wanted them to do.

Although her son maintained an image as an independent king, Margaret Beaufort worked slowly but steadily to change his decisions when she disagreed with them. In spite of the potential threat to the Tudors' security, Margaret Beaufort eventually won "an extraordinarily advantageous match for her nephew of the half-blood Richard Pole (the son of Margaret's half-sister Edith St. John) with Margaret Plantagenet, daughter of George duke of Clarence."⁽¹¹⁾ Leaving Margaret Plantagenet unmarried would have been the safest political strategy, and putting Richard Pole's advancement ahead of long-term interests caused political trouble for the next generation of Tudors. "Margaret's determination had prevailed over the king's wishes and interests. It was without doubt her most serious political misjudgement."⁽¹²⁾

When Henry VII wanted to punish his sister-in-law, Cecily, for remarrying without his permission, Margaret Beaufort protected Cecily and her new husband. "It was a remarkable juggling act. Margaret had managed to appease the king, safeguard the rights of the Welles co-heirs, and protect Cecily, who avoided the fine for marrying without royal license and had a parcel of the properties secured for her own use."⁽¹³⁾

When Henry VII wanted to convert one of Margaret Beaufort's favorite manor houses, Woking, into a royal palace, Margaret Beaufort resisted for two years. As soon as possible after Henry's death, she took back possession of Woking.⁽¹⁴⁾

In her relationships with her husbands, Margaret Beaufort was businesslike and self-assertive. After the deaths of her first and second husbands, she quickly arranged profitable new marriages for herself. Henry VII's first parliament gave Margaret Beaufort *femme sole* status, which was unprecedented for a married woman of her class. This allowed her "to be a major landowner in her own right, entrusted with important wardships and acting as arbiter in local disputes."⁽¹⁵⁾ Margaret Beaufort developed her "own system of estate management, completely separate from that of her husband."⁽¹⁶⁾ As time passed, Margaret Beaufort became even more independent of her last husband. Because Henry VII suspected that several of Lord Stanley's relatives were disloyal, he wanted to distance his mother from her husband's family. He also wanted to increase Margaret's political power and responsibilities. In order to accomplish these goals, Margaret Beaufort took another unprecedented status. She made a vow of chastity while her husband was still living. "Margaret's decision had been taken after accompanying her son on the progress through the eastern counties in the autumn of 1498 and was doubtless a measure that the two had carefully discussed. One suspects that Stanley was presented with very much of a *fait accompli*."⁽¹⁷⁾

If Margaret Beaufort could have dealt with her son and husbands as she did, she was capable of duping Buckingham. Her management of his son's wardship

also shows that she could have taken advantage of Buckingham without scruples. Almost a year before the wealthiest wardship at the crown's disposal was granted to her, Margaret Beaufort took custody of Buckingham's son, Edward Stafford.⁽¹⁸⁾ In spite of taking control before she was entitled to it, and in spite of her usual ruthless efficiency, Margaret Beaufort lost money. One reason was that the tenants on Edward Stafford's Welsh properties refused to pay the rent increases she tried to impose. Richard III had given those tenants rent relief, and they successfully withheld the increases from Margaret's rent collectors. At the end of Edward Stafford's wardship Margaret Beaufort had to write off a £2,095 loss.⁽¹⁹⁾ This may explain Margaret Beaufort's failure to protect her ward from high fines imposed by Henry VII for the remarriage of Stafford's mother and "for allegedly entering his properties before fully coming of age."⁽²⁰⁾ It is ironic that Edward Stafford was fined for entering his properties before fully coming of age, since Margaret Beaufort took custody of Stafford and the potential profits from his wardship a year before custody was actually granted. Apparently Margaret Beaufort wasn't fined for that.

Another reason for failing to protect her ward's interests was Edward Stafford's claim to the throne occupied by Margaret Beaufort's son. Perhaps Edward Stafford was fortunate that Henry VII limited himself to financial exploitation.

Edward Plantagenet, earl of Warwick, was far less fortunate. "One of Henry VII's first acts after Bosworth was to fetch the earl of Warwick from Sheriff Hutton, and keep him securely guarded. Margaret was equally aware of the political danger, and in the first year of the reign acted as a jailor on behalf of her son."⁽²¹⁾ After Margaret Beaufort's son sent her ward to the Tower for the rest of his life, she took possession of property that was rightfully her ward's.⁽²²⁾ In 1504, Margaret Beaufort "obtained a pardon for all purchases, alienations or intrusions . . . or any similar transactions that had occurred during the minority of Edward earl of Warwick and Salisbury, son and heir of Isabel, duchess of Clarence."⁽²³⁾ Margaret Beaufort's treatment of Edward Plantagenet is comparable to Richard III's displacement of his nephews. In cooperation with her son, she took custody of a minor and took his inheritance. Although it's uncertain that Richard III's nephews were entitled to the throne, and it's uncertain that Richard ordered his nephews' deaths; it's certain that Henry VII ordered the death of Edward Plantagenet. Margaret Beaufort cooperated with this injustice, yet she has not been cast as an archetypal wicked guardian.

Margaret Beaufort's treatment of her daughter-in-law, Elizabeth of York, seems to have been domineering. Perhaps Margaret Beaufort used the same tact and skill that carried her to the top of the Yorkist courts; but she made her dominance visible at Elizabeth's expense. "In the Christmas celebrations of 1487 she was observed wearing 'like mantell and surcott as the queene,

with a rich corronnall on her hede.' Again at the garter ceremony of 1488, she wore identical costume as the queen: robes of sanguine cloth furred with minever and woven with garter letters of gold."⁽²⁴⁾ Apparently Tudor courtiers saw nothing sinister in these matching outfits, although the similarity of the clothes given to Queen Anne and Elizabeth of York at the 1484 Christmas celebrations seems to have provoked gossip. The *Croyland Chronicler* wrote: "during this feast of the Nativity, far too much attention was given to dancing and gaiety, and vain changes of apparel presented to queen Anne and the lady Elizabeth, the eldest daughter of the late king, being of similar colour and shape; a thing that caused the people to murmur and the nobles and prelates greatly to wonder thereat; while it was said by many that the king was bent, either on the anticipated death of the queen taking place, or else, by means of divorce, for which he supposed he had quite sufficient grounds, on contracting a marriage with the said Elizabeth. For it appeared that in no other way could his kingly power be established, or the hopes of his rival be put an end to."⁽²⁵⁾

How would Elizabeth of York have felt about wearing matching outfits with the alpha female of her family's conquerors? Resigned, or rebellious? How painful would the reminder of Christmas 1484 have been? Did the *Croyland Chronicle's* criticism of the 1484 Christmas clothing influence Margaret Beaufort's choice of clothing in 1487 and 1488? Was Margaret Beaufort deliberately inflicting pain on her daughter-in-law? Did the matching outfits say anything about Henry VII's desire to replace Elizabeth with a European wife who could increase his political power overseas?

Elizabeth of York has been described as "a quiet and gentle woman whose motto 'Humble and Reverent' aptly summarized her way of life."⁽²⁶⁾ Was this motto and way of life imposed on her by Margaret Beaufort? Jones and Underwood write: "Margaret's relationship with Elizabeth of York, for whom rooms were reserved at Collyweston, is tinged with ambiguity. The 'subjection' of the queen to the king's mother was noted by the Spanish ambassador in 1498, who formed the impression that little love was lost between them."⁽²⁷⁾

Margaret Beaufort's treatment of less closely related people demonstrated both political and social skill. When the Yorkists were in power, she advanced herself to the highest levels at court in spite of her Lancastrian origins. At the birthday celebration of Edward IV's seventh daughter, Bridget, Margaret Beaufort had the honor of carrying Bridget.⁽²⁸⁾ At the coronation of Richard III and Anne Neville, Margaret Beaufort carried Queen Anne's train.⁽²⁹⁾ During Elizabeth Woodville's second stay in sanctuary, her communications with Margaret Beaufort suggest that Margaret Beaufort was capable of making Elizabeth Woodville—as well as Buckingham—trust her.⁽³⁰⁾

Margaret Beaufort managed her own household effectively. She was good at detecting potential conflicts among her servants and resolving them.⁽³¹⁾ She fulfilled

the role of good lady. She provided for loyal servants and their families: her account books show many payments for education, apprenticeships and marriage arrangements.⁽³²⁾ Henry Parker, Margaret Beaufort's cupbearer and personal attendant, described her management as a good example for Queen Mary Tudor to follow.⁽³³⁾ Margaret Beaufort's "chief confidant and confessor," John Fisher, gave a month-mind sermon which "stressed her active care for her household and other dependants, and her wisdom where tactful handling of people was required."⁽³⁴⁾

But Margaret Beaufort wasted no tact on debtors. She had a strong sense of what was due her. She hired the best lawyers she could find, and she continued lawsuits for years. Even widows of loyal servants were sued for debt.⁽³⁵⁾ Margaret Beaufort demanded every penny she could get from people who owed her money.

Margaret Beaufort played chess.⁽³⁶⁾ Did she apply the skills she used at the chess board to her dealings with people? Possibly. It might be inaccurate to say that she used Buckingham as a pawn; but it's not inaccurate to say that her treatment of family and non-family members suggests Margaret Beaufort was capable of using Buckingham as a pawn between April-October 1483.

So far, this article has offered three possibilities. One

is Geoffrey Richardson's scenario: Buckingham's early support for Richard, duke of Gloucester was genuine, and Margaret Beaufort worked with her third husband and John Morton, from April 1483, to use Buckingham against Richard. Another is developed in Michael K. Jones' article and book: Margaret Beaufort cooperated with Yorkists until mid-July 1483, then joined efforts to overthrow Richard III, and won Buckingham's support by convincing him that he would replace Richard III. A third is suggested in the questions following these two theories: Believing that *he* would take the throne after Richard killed his nephews, Buckingham cooperated with Margaret Beaufort and Richard of Gloucester's other opponents as early as April 1483. But Margaret Beaufort's intention was to use Buckingham as well as Richard to clear Henry Tudor's way to the throne. Once Richard was cast as the archetypal wicked guardian, she intended for Henry Tudor to replace Buckingham as the heroic avenger.

Some of Margaret Beaufort's co-conspirators may not have realized her true intentions. While planning to marry her daughter to Henry Tudor, Elizabeth Woodville may not have realized that Margaret Beaufort was communicating with Buckingham. Elizabeth Woodville may not have realized the danger that this marriage posed to her sons. Buckingham may have not realized that Margaret Beaufort was communicating with Elizabeth Woodville. Margaret Beaufort may have convinced Buckingham that he was either helping Richard III or clearing Yorkist claimants from his own way to the throne. Or he may, as the Tudor version claims, have supported Henry Tudor. Whatever Elizabeth Woodville and Buckingham may have thought about Margaret Beaufort's intentions, the outcome suggests that Margaret Beaufort double-crossed at least one, maybe both, Elizabeth Woodville and Buckingham.

It's also possible that Margaret Beaufort had little or no influence on Buckingham's actions between April-October, 1483. In *Richard III; A Study In Service*, Rosemary Horrox discusses Buckingham's motives for betraying Richard III. She also discusses Margaret Beaufort's reasons for supporting efforts to overthrow Richard III. But she does not make a direct connection between the two. The closest she comes to suggesting that Margaret Beaufort influenced Buckingham is not very close. She writes: "[Margaret Beaufort's] success in persuading the rebels to accept Tudor as their rival to Richard III was a major contribution to the shape of the rebellion. But she was able to give relatively little practical support. The act of attainder accuses her only of supplying financial help. Even Tudor sources, which were anxious to emphasize her role, credit her with little more than backstairs lobbying on her son's behalf."⁽³⁷⁾ Backstairs lobbying could have included manipulating Buckingham. But Horrox is downplaying Margaret Beaufort's influence on people and events.

Even if Margaret Beaufort had little or no influence on Buckingham's actions between April-October 1483,



Margaret Beaufort praying to St. Margaret. From a Book of Hours belonging to the Countess. Previously thought to be an image of Margaret Tudor, Queen of Scotland. In the collection of the Duke of Northumberland.

Teflon & Stainless Steel

Ricardians can benefit from considering alternatives and asking questions. Although Margaret Beaufort is unlikely to have left clear proof that she used Buckingham against Richard, she has left evidence that she exploited a variety of other people. Since Margaret Beaufort's influence on her son and his reign can be proven, Ricardians can benefit from asking how Margaret Beaufort's contributions to Tudor power contradict her reputation for piety. Since the Tudor version of events accuses Richard III of ruthless ambition and hypocrisy, Ricardians should investigate the many examples of Margaret Beaufort's ambitious behavior, which suggest that Richard III had no monopoly on ruthless ambition. By pointing out contradictions between Margaret Beaufort's recorded actions and her pious image, Ricardians can show that Richard III had no monopoly on hypocrisy. A continuing process of study and questioning can show how Margaret Beaufort embodied teflon and stainless steel.

Ricardians should compare as many of Margaret Beaufort's recorded actions as possible to the Tudor version of events. Such comparisons show that Margaret Beaufort's actions demonstrated the same attitude toward fact as Henry Tudor's back-dating of his reign to August 21, 1485. Such comparisons show that the Tudor version of Margaret Beaufort's character was as distorted as Tudor paintings of Richard III. Even when it's impossible to prove the Tudor version is false, questions and comparisons can show how untrustworthy the Tudor version is. Steady emphasis on its unreliability can help Ricardians replace the Tudor version with a more balanced understanding of Richard III.

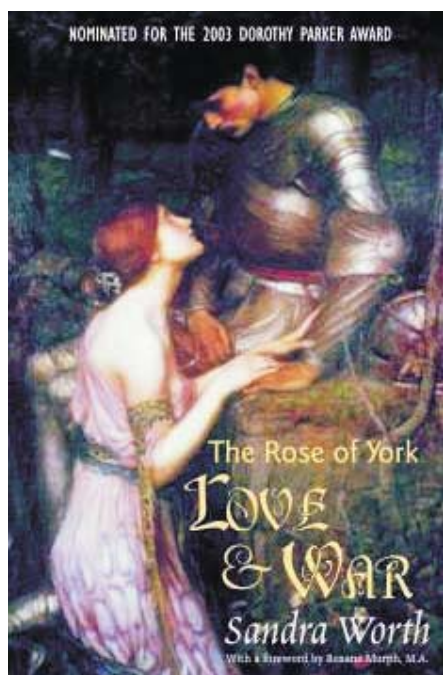
Resources

1. Michael K. Jones and Malcolm G. Underwood, *The King's Mother*. Cambridge: University Press, p. 3.
2. Ibid., p. 140.
3. Ibid., p. 62.
4. Geoffrey Richardson, *The Deceivers*. Shipley, England: Baidon Books, pp. 35-70.
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6. Ibid., p. 30.
7. Michael K. Jones and Malcolm G. Underwood, op. cit., p. 62.
8. Ibid., p. 63.
9. Ibid., pp. 63-64.
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27. Michael K. Jones and Malcolm G. Underwood, op. cit., p. 161.
28. Ibid., p. 60.
29. Ibid., p. 62.
30. Ibid., p. 62-63.
31. Ibid., p. 180.
32. Ibid., p. 167.
33. Ibid., p. 158.
34. Ibid., p. 5.
35. Ibid., p. 107.
36. Ibid., p. 157
37. Rosemary Horrox, *Richard III; a study in service*. Cambridge: University Press, p. 166.

Marion Davis has spent most of her life in the Potomac River Region. When in high school, she became interested in English history and Shakespeare's plays, but she always felt they were separate subjects. After reading Thomas Costain's series on medieval English kings, Kendall's biography of Richard III, and Alison Hanham's Richard III and His Early Historians, she decided that Shakespeare's character occupied a different kind of reality from the historical Richard III and went on to explore other interests.

Since finding the American Branch's website in late 2003, Marion has enjoyed exploring the abundance of new research about Richard III and his times. She joined the Society in April, 2004.



The Rose of York: Love & War

Sandra Worth

With a foreword by Roxane Murph, M.A.

Former Chairman, Richard III Society

“If you liked Jean Plaidy, then try Sandra Worth . . . Both writers take us back to the tumultuous era known as the Wars of the Roses. They bring historical figures to life and devise plots and counterplots of royal intrigue as compelling as any high-tech thriller. *Love & War* is a delight for any historical lover.” ~ Flavia’s Fan Forum BookTalk: The ROMANTIC TIMES, December 2003

“Fascinating,” ~ Anthony Cheetham, author of *The Life and Times of Richard III*

“FIVE STARS” ~ About.com

“The Rose of York (*Love & War*) is both dramatic and evocative in its portrayal of struggling souls making the best choices they can in an unjust world. A deftly written, reader engaging, thoroughly entertaining and enthusiastically recommended historical novel which documents its author as a gifted literary talent.” ~ *Midwest Book Review*

“A PERFECT TEN.” ~ Romance Reviews Today

“Worth has done meticulous research... Though conversations and some incidents must of necessity be invented, she makes them seem so real that one agrees this must have been what they said, the way things happened.” ~ Myrna Smith, Fiction Editor, *Ricardian Register*, Vol. XXIII, No. 2

“An historical fiction novel that is a true “classic.”” ~ Viviane Crystal, Member Reviewers International Organization.

“The historical detail is marvelous. Worth’s depiction of the troubled times, uncertainty of life and the portrayal of historical figures as multidimensional people with good intentions, bad decisions, greed, jealousy and goodness of heart will leave you wanting the next book immediately.” ~ Deborah Brent, *The Romantic Times BookClub*.

A Romantic Times **TOP PICK!**

“Sandra Worth takes readers on an unforgettable journey through the life of Richard Plantagenet the Third... *The Rose of York: Love and War* isn’t historical fiction; it is a time machine.” ~ Sharyn McGinty, *In the Library Reviews*

“This book carries a clear and vivid description of him. I eagerly await the second and third volumes of this trilogy.” ~ Dale Summers, *Ricardian Register*, Spring 2004

End Table Books ISBN: 0-9751264-0-7 Library of Congress Number 2003113317

*Available wherever books are sold in the U.S.
Available at Amazon in the U.K. and Canada
For more information, www.sandraworth.com*

GAINSBOROUGH OLD HALL

Brian Wainwright

Gainsborough is a town in Lincolnshire set on the Trent, the river that in medieval times was regarded as dividing the northern and southern sections of England. The Trent carried an important commercial traffic for centuries, and it's only in comparatively recent times that this has diminished; so it's important to understand that, although some miles inland, Gainsborough was a significant trading port in the middle ages as well as a crossing point on the river and a centre of the wool trade. There was a castle at one time, but little remains of this but the mound.

Gainsborough Old Hall was the home of Sir Thomas Burgh (pronounced and sometimes spelt *Borough*) who was a loyal servant successively of Edward IV, Richard III and Henry VII. The core of the building is timber framed; substantial modifications have been over the centuries, but enough remains to satisfy the medievalist. The great hall and kitchens are of particular interest, while the Tudor-era brick tower is certainly worth a second look.

Sir Thomas Burgh was Master of the Horse from 1465-1480, and a Knight of the Body by 1466. These offices show that he was high in Edward IV's personal favour, and his 1469 quarrel with Lord Welles sparked off the Lincolnshire rebellion of that year. Welles drove Burgh from the county but Edward came to his friend's aid, with decisive results. The hall was damaged in the fighting, to what extent is unknown, and Burgh had to rebuild.

After this, Burgh became the dominant political force in the area. Burgh was a privy councillor to both Edward IV and Richard III. Richard gave him the Garter, and after the suppression of Buckingham's rebellion, rewarded his good service with grants of confiscated land. Richard also visited the hall in 1483, so it's one of those places where we know we are treading in his footsteps!

Burgh did not make it to Bosworth; Henry VII created him a baron in 1487, and since Henry was far from lavish in creating peerages, this suggests that Burgh had proved his loyalty to the Tudor regime. Thomas Burgh died in 1496. His daughter, Elizabeth, married Richard, Lord Fitzhugh and was thus sister-in-law to Francis Lovel. Later links with Gainsborough include Katherine Parr (who lived there as the wife of Lord Burgh) and Katherine Howard (who was accused of "indiscretions" while staying there while on progress with Henry VIII.)

The great hall has an open hearth and at the east end there is large stone bay window, inserted to provide better lighting and some privacy for the lord and his family who dined in this part of the hall. At the other end three doors lead to the service area, consisting of a buttery, pantry, servery and kitchen. This last was huge

and originally was almost entirely detached to minimise fire risks, a precaution abandoned when the intervening space was roofed. You will usually find it displayed as it might have been for the visit made here by Richard III in 1483, with (dummy) costumed figures engaged in appropriate tasks.



— Photo by David Luitweiler

The solar, on the first floor, adjoins the hall on the east. The tower, in the north-east corner, was built more for status than for defence, and contains three rooms designed for comfort. The east wing contains the great chamber, which was used as a ballroom in later years.

When Christine and I last visited the hall, we were fortunate enough to do so when re-enactors had arranged for "Sir Thomas Burgh" and his household to be celebrating Christmas. When we arrived everyone was dining in the great hall, and we were invited to share some of the food – it was, I'm afraid, an uninspiring cold buffet for the most part, albeit a medieval one.

The kitchens were in use, and the striking thing was how incredibly hot they were — it was easy to understand how medieval kitchen workers often chose to work with minimal clothing, though Sir Thomas Burgh's people were all very properly covered on this occasion. I certainly would not have wanted to spend the day in there, still less in full medieval rig. A short visit was, however, quite fascinating.

Visitors were encouraged to wander, and we found ourselves in the solar, watching the lady of the house changing her gown; we learned that she could not raise her arms above her shoulders because of the restrictions of her outfit – she really needed those waiting-women!

These re-enactments are infrequent at Gainsborough, but if you can time your visit to coincide with such an event, it's well worthwhile, as it really brings the house alive. Failing that, there is a taped guide, which may help you get more of a feel for the place.

Finally, for the sensitive, I should mention that there's a resident ghost. See if you can feel her presence in the

Gainsborough

relevant spot.

Access Details:

Gainsborough Old Hall is located in the town centre, off Parnell Street. 18 miles north-west of Lincoln on the A57-A156.

The Hall is owned by English Heritage but managed by [Lincolnshire County Council](#) and is open daily, Easter to October Monday to Saturday 10:00-5:00pm, Sunday 1:00-4:30pm. Monday to Saturday, November to Easter 10:00-5:00pm.

Gainsborough has two railway stations, Central and Lea Road. As the name implies, Central is closer to the Hall, but has a service provided as an arcane joke rather than as a facility for practical people to use. Lea Road, with services to Doncaster, Lincoln, Retford and Sheffield is about a mile away, so be prepared for a tramp on foot or a taxi ride. There are bus services to Lincoln, Doncaster and Retford, though wise virgins will enquire as to timings before travel. The logical route from London would be via Retford, but, as logic seldom applies these days, it may prove quicker to go via Doncaster, where more expresses stop.

Sources:

The Coronation of Richard III, A. F. Sutton and P.W. Hammond. (Biography of Thomas Burgh)

English Heritage publications – details about the building.

Brian's first published novel, The Adventures of Alianore Audley, was produced by way of light relief during a lull in the long task of researching and writing about Constance of York (daughter of the first Duke, Edmund of Langley) in Within the Fetterlock, a novel published by Trivium in the USA in 2004.

Brian lives in the North West of England and is currently working on another book about the House of York, centering on Richard III, Francis Lovel and the House of Mowbray.

MEDIEVAL FAIRE IN FLORIDA

Members of the Society in Central Florida are making plans to have a booth at the Camelot Days Medieval Faire in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, November 13th and 14th. The two day faire will take place at T.Y. Park and details can be found at www.camelotdays.com.

Our next faire meeting is being planned for September 26th in Yalaha, Florida. Some of our members are studying medieval and renaissance recorder music and we'll have the added pleasure of live music. Anyone who wishes to have some fun and help out is certainly welcome to participate in any way. You can contact me at Castlemoraine@aol.com. Of course, everyone is invited to come to the fair to visit us and have some fun. We think the hurricanes will be long gone and November is just gorgeous in the South. Beautiful sandy beaches nearby.

COURSE ON LIFE IN THE MIDDLE AGES

The University of Cambridge Summer Study program will be hosting its twenty-first annual program July 17–30, 2005 at beautiful Downing College in the heart of Cambridge. A course of particular interest to Ricardians is “Life in the Middle Ages,” which will examine the major groups of medieval society (the peasants, the kings and nobles, and the clergy) and their roles within that society. The course will focus on the physical, spiritual, and intellectual lives of medieval people, and will employ a wide variety of historical sources, ranging from contemporary chronicles and legal and administrative documents, to letters and other personal documents. Two full day field trips are planned.

Several other courses will also be offered during the same time period: “The Jacobites 1688–1807,” “British Houses and Gardens,” “The Lives and Works of Charles Dickens,” and “War in the 20th Century.” All courses may be taken for either undergraduate or graduate credit (or merely for personal enrichment).

Further information is available from Dr. Joann Painter, Office of Cooperating Colleges, 5441 Thomas Road, Fairview, PA 16415 or (814) 456-0757. There is a web site at www.cssp.net

Carol Bessette, a long-time Ricardian, is happy to answer any of your questions from the perspective of a long-time student at this program. Contact her at jcbessette@aol.com or at (703) 569-1875.

In Memoriam

We are saddened to report the death of Larry Barrentine, faithful member of the Richard III Society, since 1997, and offer our sincere condolences to Carol, his wife.

CELEBRATING THE LAST YORKIST VICTORY

David Luitweiler

If you want to take a step back into time, and relive the sights, sounds and pageantry of Ricardian England, plan on visiting Tewkesbury next summer for the annual festival that celebrates the battle of Tewkesbury. On May 4, 1481, the forces of King Edward IV defeated the rival Lancastrian forces of Margaret of Anjou on a battlefield within sight of the Tewkesbury Abbey. This battle resulted in the death of young Edward, Lancastrian Prince of Wales, the duke of Somerset, and other leaders of the Lancastrian cause. Their queen, Margaret, was subsequently taken prisoner, transported to the Tower, and eventually sent back to France. Within weeks Henry VI was dead. Edward IV would rule without serious challenge until his death in April of 1483.



Tewkesbury Abbey

The history of the battle is well known to Ricardians and needs no detailed review. In a determined pursuit of the Lancastrian army that was trying to reach Wales, Edward IV finally cornered Margaret's forces at Tewkesbury and forced the issue. It was a pursuit and situation similar to General Grant's pursuit of General Lee in 1865, a strategy and tactic that would result in the final demise of the Army of Northern Virginia (CSA) and the end of the US Civil War. However, the issue at Tewkesbury was not settled by an honorable surrender, as at Appomatax Court House. It was a climactic battle resulting in the destruction of the forces of Lancaster and the death of its key leaders. The forces of York left the battlefield victorious but it was their last victory in what is now known as the War of the Roses.

Having spent a hot Sunday afternoon in Tewkesbury last July, while traveling with a tour group of Ricardians, I decided to come back in 2004 for the full festival. It was a decision I would not regret. The weather could have been more accommodating, it rained frequently, but the



Tudor House Hotel, 1546

hospitality and friendliness of the folks involved with the festival made it a very positive experience.

Tewkesbury was originally a medieval settlement at the meeting of the Rivers Severn and Avon. I traveled there from Oxford by train, arriving at the Aschurch for Tewkesbury station early on a Saturday morning. Local bus service conveniently took me the few miles to the center of town and dropped me off directly across the street from my hotel, the Tudor House Hotel. Oh well, what's in a name? The hotel is an attraction in itself, having been built in 1546, and is reportedly the second oldest building in Tewkesbury. Among its many quaint features is a small front room with a fireplace and priest hole that was allegedly used by Charles II to briefly hide after the battle of Worcester.

Depositing my luggage in the room, I headed out for the festival, an easy fifteen minute walk from the hotel. There was a lot to see on the way. The oldest building, and the great landmark of Tewkesbury, is the 12th century Abbey. One should allow sufficient time to visit this



Room with Priest Hole built into panel by fireplace, Tudor House Hotel. Supposedly, Charles II briefly hid here.

Tewkesbury

magnificent structure that remains a functioning house of worship. Tewkesbury also is loaded with many black and white timber framed buildings that add to its character and charm.

One of my initial stops upon reaching the festival grounds was the large tent containing, among other things, the display of the Worcestershire Branch of the Richard III Society. I stopped by to say hello to Pamela Benstead, a Ricardian friend whom I met last year. Pam had been very helpful, via the Internet, in providing me ideas and contacts for this year's visit. The members of the Worcestershire Branch, including Chairman Ralph Richardson, all dressed in the finest medieval garb, were busy handling contacts with festival visitors. Information pertaining to the Richard III Society was readily available, as were Ricardian publications and souvenir items.



*Richard III Society, Worcester Chapter:
Ralph Richardson, Gill & Ken Hawkesford,*

After a brief visit, I excused myself to wander down to where the Tewkesbury Battlefield Society maintained a display. The Chairman of this group, and the man overseeing the battle re-enactment, is Steve Goodchild, a local Tewkesbury resident. I had been in touch with Steve a few months earlier and had arranged to meet with him to learn more about the history of the festival. Steve patiently answered my questions and gave me an overview of the scope of this festival.

As a starter, this is the largest festival and battle re-enactment of its type in England, perhaps in all of Europe. Those involved with the planning and the staging of the festival are all volunteers. This is a non-profit venture and there is no charge for admission to the event, although you will frequently hear the good natured solicitations and rattling of the buckets with coins by volunteers in period costumes. There are over 3,000 participants in costume who come from all over England for this event, all at their own expense. There are approximately 1,500 of the participants who take part in the battle re-enactment. The area surrounding the festival grounds and battlefield resembles a small, medieval tent city. The participants proudly display battle

banners and flags in front of their tents. The fragrant aroma of campfires is everywhere. It is an experience just to walk through the camping area. This was the twenty-first consecutive year for the festival.

There are scores of tents on the festival grounds that house skilled artisan vendors who display and sell their products. Many can be seen at work practicing their trade. Steve told me that in many ways the festival is like a large medieval craft show. I subsequently took the opportunity of visiting with several of the vendors to learn more about their activities. Many of the costumed participants use this opportunity to add to their own collection of medieval articles.



Elizabeth of Woodville



*Dave Greenlaugh - skilled
coin maker - from Lincoln*

Dave Greenlaugh, from Metheringham Fen in Lincoln is a skilled artisan who creates hand-struck coins in pewter, copper, silver or gold. He does mint craft demonstrations while wearing a period costume and his tent attracted a continuing flow of visitors. I was fascinated watching him create these coins which were available for sale. When I told him I was a member of the Richard III Society he struck four separate silver coins from Richard's era which he presented to me. Dave travels about England practicing his trade and periodically does work for the British Museum in his field. His business is called "Grunal Moneta."

I had another interesting chat with the folks operating a tent where medieval period costumes were sold. Charisma is a costume supply business located in Halesowen, West Midlands. They had an impressive display of costumes for sale. Any Ricardian looking to obtain an outfit for the Annual General Meeting could have accomplished that goal very easily in this tent. I was told that a complete costume, not including the shoes, would cost about \$550.00 US dollars.

While wandering about the festival grounds I also



Cannon: Preparing for battle



Queen



German Band very popular with crowd



Medieval Dog

sampled the wares of the numerous food vendors who offered a wide variety of selections. My favorite was a vendor who offered roast pork sandwiches with stuffing and applesauce. Of course, after enjoying such a repast one must quench one's thirst and what better place than the nearby "pub tent." Here, a wide variety of traditional beverages were available, all served by publicans dressed like Friar Tuck. It seemed to be the social and entertainment center of the festival. Many of the musicians, actors and groups perform either inside or outside the tent during the festival. One group involved a talented group of actors and actresses, dressed in period garb, who presented a fashion show. The latest styles from the medieval period were displayed by these folks, everything from peasants to nobles. Queen Elizabeth Woodville put in an appearance, leaving no doubt that she was the queen.

A huge hit with those in attendance was a group of Morris dancers from West Sussex, near Brighton. They are known as MYTHAGO. They put on a rousing performance. I spoke to one of the dancers, Lyn Harris, who told me that the group, which contains both musicians and dancers, performs at four or five major festivals each year as well as numerous local performances in their home area. The group performed periodically in an area outside the pub tent and drew large crowds for each performance. They are all amateurs and do this for the fun of it. I would have paid to see them perform — they are that good.



Morris Dancers - MYTHAGO

The highlight of the festival is, of course, the re-enactment of the battle of Tewkesbury. This event is staged in the later afternoon on both days of the festival. The battle takes place in a field adjacent to the Mil Avon River, near the site of the original battle. It is just a short walk from the main festival grounds off Lower Lode Lane. I would recommend that if you go to the festival that you make your way over to the battlefield at least an hour before it starts to make certain you have a good viewing area. You will not want to miss any of the action.

Part of the fun of the event, at least from my perspective, is to watch the arrival of the troops to do battle.

The forces of York and Lancaster march as units to their respective side of the field with full pomp and color. The cry of "make way for the king's men" resounds as the Edward IV's troops arrive. As you watch the battle you can see King Edward IV, his brother Richard, duke of Gloucester, and a myriad of both Lancastrian and Yorkist notables. One such notable was the Lancastrian queen, Margaret of Anjou, who reviews her troops. She also takes time to walk to the sidelines to encourage the crowd, without much success, to support the house of Lancaster.

The battle is fought in the most realistic way possible under modern conditions. There are cannons fired and archers let loose their volleys. Hand to hand combat is engaged in by the actors. When the battle is over the result is always the same — York wins to the applause of the crowd. Edward remains the king and the result is cheered.

On Saturday night there was a re-enactment of the removal of the duke of Somerset and his associates from the abbey, and their subsequent execution. Having failed to properly follow directions to the site of this venue, near the abbey, I missed this one but made a note not to miss it on my next trip to Tewkesbury.

On Sunday I stopped in to say hello to the artist Graham Turner, who I had met the previous year when I purchased a print from him. Already possessing several of his framed prints, I added a new one for this year, "The Investiture In York." Graham has a large display of his prints for sale in the same tent that houses the Richard III Society. He told me that the Tewkesbury event is the only festival where he does this type display. At the request of Pamela Butler, I asked if the original painting of the investiture was available for sale, and was told that it was. Your move Pam. Graham's work can be seen via his website, www.studio88.co.uk.

I continued to enjoy the events of the second day of the festival with as much enthusiasm as the first. I made certain I was in the front row to watch MYTHAGO perform, and catch them with my video camera. After a brief visit with Friar Tuck in his tent, I stopped by the Richard III Society only to find Ricardians Pam Benstead and June Tilt devouring large ice cream cones. Pam quickly reminded me that Richard III "invented ice cream!" You learn something every day.

Sunday evening, after another adventurous day at the festival, I had the distinct pleasure to join Steve Goodchild and a few of those responsible for putting on this great event for a social evening and review of the weekend. The event took place in the Berkeley Arms, an old and comfortable pub in the center of Tewkesbury. Many of the folks I had seen participating at the festival seemed to gravitate there to unwind and celebrate their success. I was honored to have been invited to join them. I am already looking forward to my next visit to Tewkesbury, an historic, scenic and wonderful community.

A STORY OF DATES, AND CALENDARS, AND YEARS, AND RICHARD III'S REAL BIRTHDAY

Elizabeth York Enstam

As a general rule, we take the Gregorian Calendar for granted: we were born with it; it's always been there. But instead of this casual attitude, the calendar deserves deep respect and great admiration, if only for the sheer amount of brain power devoted to its creation. Beginning with the Venerable Bede in 725 A.D. [or C. E.], at least sixteen scholars and astronomers labored over calculations to make the numbering of the days and years of earth coincide with the observations of the heavens. Among them was Aluise Baldassar Lilio (1510-1576), the physician and astronomer recognized as the originator of the calendar named for Pope Gregory XIII.

Moreover, the adoption of an accurate calendar required untold effort by reformers. Eight hundred and fifty-eight years passed between Bede's recommendations for corrections and the Gregorian calendar's acceptance in 1582. For all those centuries, wars and the Black Death, secular and church politics, as well as the Protestant Reformation distracted the Vatican from change, despite the seriousness of the old calendar's errors. By the late sixteenth century, the primary flaw—which one scholar calls the scandal—of the Julian calendar lay with calculating the appropriate date for Easter.

For Ricardians, of course, the foremost problem of the Julian calendar lies in another question: What was the actual day of our favorite king's birth? Given the fact that the calendar used during his lifetime was inaccurate, how can we know precisely when Richard III was born?

In 1452 (there is no reason, it would seem, to question the year of Richard's birth), the calendar used throughout Europe was 1500 years old, having been instituted by Julius Caesar in 46 B. C. [or B. C. E.]. Caesar brought in the foremost astronomer of his day, Sosigenes of Alexandria, and the resulting calendar was very close to accurate. But in Rome, a board or committee called "the pontifices" controlled the calendar, and after Caesar's untimely death, their tinkering and general misunderstanding of Sosigenes' work restored a number of mistakes. Only with adjustments ordered in 8 A. D. [or C. E.] by Caesar's successor, the Emperor Augustus, did the Julian calendar at last function as Sosigenes had intended.

Despite the corrections and improvements, the Julian calendar had flaws. Its major problem lay in calculating the length of the year as 365.25 days, or 365 days and six hours.

The earth actually takes closer to 365 days, five hours, and 48 minutes to move through the tropical year from

vernal equinox to vernal equinox. The precise figure is 365.242199. Inconsequential as all those decimal points may seem, they were enough, over time, to throw the entire calendar off. When Pope Gregory XIII finally instituted the new calendar in 1582, the Julian calendar had slipped behind by one full day for each 128 years since its adoption, an error not corrected even by the insertion of the leap years. The Julian calendar was ten days behind the earth's actual movements. As a result, the calendar's spring was occurring ten days after the physical equinox, and most embarrassing, Easter came later each year.

The Gregorian calendar, like many well-intended and much needed reforms throughout human history, was not welcomed everywhere, at least not immediately. In most Catholic countries, after the omission of ten full, twenty-four-hour days, October 4 in 1582 was followed by October 15. Protestant countries—and even Protestant areas of countries—postponed the change until the eighteenth century. That is, in Switzerland, the Catholic cantons changed in 1584 and the Protestant ones, in 1701. Similarly, Catholic Holland accepted the Gregorian calendar in 1582, but Protestant Holland delayed until 1700, as did Denmark and Norway. Catholic Germany adopted the reform in 1583 and Protestant Germany in 1704, with Sweden and Finland accepting it in 1753. Other nations followed according to their own reasons, Japan in 1873 and Egypt in 1875, for example. Numerous others did not adopt the Gregorian calendar until the twentieth century. Alaska assumed the calendar when the United States purchased that territory from Russia in 1867.

Whenever adopted, so basic a change as the renumbering of the days brought complications. Quite apart from people's sense that they had lost days of their lives, very practical concerns arose. When would they have to pay taxes and rents that normally fell due on one of the omitted days? Would interest on outstanding loans continue to accrue during those days? Would they lose wages, or owe extra days of work to the local landlord? The passage of laws could and in fact, did deal with these questions. Commercial and diplomatic matters, however, were less easily managed when different European countries were, for all practical purposes, working in different times.

In Great Britain and its colonies in America, religious politics trumped practical considerations for 168 years. In 1584, Queen Elizabeth I was prepared to accept the calendar just coming into use on the Continent. The House of Lords passed a bill to this effect, only to have popular opinion and the Protestant bishops stall and essentially kill the Queen's initiative. By 1751,

religious distrust and fear subsided enough for an Act of Parliament to adopt the Gregorian calendar, with King George II's agreement. Thus in 1752, Wednesday, September 2 was followed by Thursday, September 14, with the omission of eleven full days from the year. In addition, New Year's Day for 1752 was January 1 instead of March 25 as with the Julian calendar. As a result, both 1751 and 1752 had too few days to be "normal" years. With the eleven days omitted and January, February, and March 1-24 added, 1752 had a total of 354 days. The year 1751 included only 281.

The British Parliament eased the transition as much as possible. In addition to adopting the calendar, the new law set the specific dates for, among other things, market fairs, the payments of debts and interest on loans and investments, and the official start of the financial year. Aside from matters of money, taxes, rents, and wages, some people felt uneasy about the disruption of custom. In 1752, for example, the loss of eleven days caused Christmas to come earlier than usual, only 355 days after Christmas 1751. For politics, too, the calendar change was disruptive. In addition to the riots with mobs shouting, "Give us back our eleven days!" the omitted days were an issue in the general elections of 1754.

Aside from the eleven days that were "lost forever," adoption of the Gregorian calendar affected individuals in amusing ways. For all his life before 1752, 20-year-old George Washington of Virginia thought his birth date was February 11, 1731. Perhaps Washington never bothered to recalculate his own birthday, but we recognize February 22, 1732, as the correct date. (Remember: New Year's Day in 1752 was January 1, not March 25 as it had been in 1731. Until 1752, when February leapt to the beginning of the year, this month was next to the last.)

And in the late fifteenth century, Richard Plantagenet, Duke of Gloucester and later King of England, may never have imagined that his birthday would one day need to be recomputed from the date he always knew, October 2, 1452. During his lifetime, the Julian calendar was nine days behind. But if the calendar of Richard's day had been correct—if King Richard III had enjoyed the benefits of the Gregorian calendar—his birthday would then have come, after omission of the erroneous nine full days, on October 11, 1452. And we could observe this date instead of counting on our fingers each October 2, only to hesitate and wonder whether we should be counting forwards or backwards.

In addition, we would commemorate the Battle of Bosworth Field each year on August 31.

Sources used for this article:

E. G. Richards, *Mapping Time: The Calendar and Its History* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1998), particularly Chapters 15 and 16 on the Julian and Gregorian Calendars. For a detailed account of the history of Easter, see Chapter 18.

"The British Switch to the Gregorian Calendar: The Amazing 80% Year of 1752," from Newsgroups: soc.genealogy.computing, at www.crowl.org/Lawrence/time/britgreg.html; edshaw@iglou.com (Edward Shaw).

Matt T. Rosenberg, "Gregorian Calendar: The Most Recent Change to the World's Calendar," at <http://geography.about.com/library/weekly/aa041301a.htm>.

Charles T. Wood, "If Strawberries Were Ripe on June 13, Was October 2 Really Richard III's Birthday?" at http://www.r3.org/wood/papers/wood_strawberries.html.

An important word of warning: Researchers frequently complain about the ephemeral nature of research materials found on the web. With the notable and laudable exception of the Richard III Site, websites and/or their contents come and go like smoke. Do not delay if you wish to consult these.

*Elizabeth joined the Society in or about 1995. She read *Daughter of Time* at 27 while teaching European history at Brooklyn College and finishing her Ph.D. (Duke). She thereafter regularly assigned the novel to students as extra credit reading just because she was so fascinated with "the other side of the story." She never thought of investigating Richard's story until encountering Kendall's biography in a catalog sale and thinking, "Now's the time." Elizabeth hasn't stopped reading and thinking about him since.*

At nine, her father (who had once taught history to high school students) told her about the Wars of the Roses, and the white rose of York, the red rose of Lancaster. Since her family name is York, there has never been any question which side she belongs to. And she has often thought: "my side chose me. It can be an odd sort of feeling, sometimes."

Elizabeth is a native of North Carolina (foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains), lived in New York City for five years, moved to Texas 34 years ago — which doesn't by any means make her a "real" Texan in the eyes of those born there!



MEDIEVAL ASTROLOGY

RICHARD'S HOROSCOPE

Dikki-Jo Mullen

The stained glass windows, period clocks, as well as illuminated calendars and prayer books from the Medieval period and early Renaissance provide lasting testimonials to the significance of astrology during Richard's time. Exquisite and informative, they often show month by month activities and religious holidays against a backdrop of astrological illustrations.

Shakespeare's King Lear cries out that "it is the stars, the stars above which govern our conditions" while Chaucer's Wife of Bath gives enough details about her birth chart to indicate that she is a Taurus. The prelude to *The Canterbury Tales* tells us that the pilgrims began their journey when the Sun was in the sign of the Ram, Aries, indicating the early spring. Queen Elizabeth I retained the services of John Dee as her personal astrologer. I have not been able to discover whether Richard III personally consulted the stars, but a study of his birth chart might offer some deeper insights into the mysteries surrounding his life.

Life was often short and treacherous during the Medieval period. The astrologers of the time tended to be more fatalistic than their modern counterparts. However a study of the cosmic harmonies provides an interesting slant to Ricardian studies.

Richard was born on October 2, 1452 at Fotheringhay Castle. Since a birth time doesn't seem to be on record, we will follow the custom of erecting the chart for high noon. Early court astrologers always recorded all of the royal births at noon, when the Sun was high in the sky, regardless of the actual time. That is because astrology teaches that this birth time places the Sun near the mid-heaven, indicating high vitality and success. Often the birth chart was used as a tool to select medicinal herbs and other remedies. Nicholas Culpepper's Herbal, printed during the 1600's, gives many examples of this practice. Richard's Astrological placements at birth were as follows:

- Sun - Libra
- Moon - Gemini
- Mercury - Scorpio
- Venus- Scorpio
- Mars - Aries (retrograde)
- Jupiter- Aquarius (retrograde)
- Saturn - Libra (The outer planets beyond Saturn weren't yet discovered so are omitted.)

Here is the significance of the planets and luminaries as they would have been understood by the astrologers of Richard's time.

Sun: Hot, dry, masculine, Rank, position, title, the father.

Moon: Cold, moist, crops, rainfall, common people, children, the mother, fruitfulness and fertility.

Mercury: Duality, falsehoods, trickery, expression, speaking, writing, observations.

Venus: Amusements, jewels, romances, music, poetry

Mars: Wars, accidents, strength, courage, injuries, burns.

Jupiter: Science, law, travel, education, foreigners, religion, riches.

Saturn: Sorrows, losses, death, darkness, enemies, dungeons, illness, failure.

With the Sun in Libra, justice, good manners and a focus on others would have characterized Richard. The Gemini Moon brings in a duality, the ability to court and mingle with all types of people. Gemini, the heavenly Twins, shows two sides of issues. The confusion over Richard's true character as well as his eloquence can be seen here. Mercury and Venus in Scorpio give rise to the allegations of murder and also create great mystery and secrecy around Richard's story. Jupiter in Aquarius shows a genuine concern for others, humanitarian qualities and a progressive outlook. Jupiter is in retrograde motion, suggesting that Richard was ahead of his time in many ways. Mars in its own ruling sign of Aries is also in retrograde motion. Additionally, Mars is in opposition, an afflicting aspect, to the Libra placements. This shows Richard's valiance yet eventual defeat in battle and his victimization by enemies. His natal Saturn in Libra is strongly aspected to his Libra Sun. This has contributed to the endurance of Richard's story. It makes his place in history and in the hearts of his supporters deeply symbolic more than five hundred years after his passing.

There is a theory that the horoscope of a great and important person continues to live on in a sense after death, as the influence of the life continues to impact the future. If that is true than there are two important periods approaching in relationship to Richard's story. The planet Jupiter will be in Libra from September, 25, 2004 - October 24, 2005. This will activate a favorable and elegant pattern called a Grand Trine in Air in his horoscope. The air signs are Gemini, Libra and Aquarius. They blend with and compliment each other. The result of this being activated by the upcoming Jupiter in Libra transit should mark a growing interest in Richard's life and legacy.

The other important time period will be when Saturn returns to Libra, from July 21, 2010 - October 5, 2012. Archeological digs, historical documents or a fresh examination of old data could bring some closure to the many rumors surrounding Richard. Definition and reality are characteristics of a strong Saturn influence like

the one in force at that time. The square style horoscope is typical of the maps drawn by the astrologers of the time. It shows how Richard's birth chart would have looked if cast by a fifteenth century star gazer or soothsayer.

Dikki-Jo Mullen is a new Ricardian. She visited a tent display by The Richard III Society at the Lady of the Lakes Renaissance

Faire in Central Florida in February 2004 and was immediately intrigued. She decided to join soon after. She is an English graduate of The University of Florida and a professional astrologer and parapsychologist.

Your questions and comments about Medieval astrology are welcome if you would like to contact Dikki-Jo at PO Box 533024, Orlando, Florida 32853. E-mail: sky_maiden@Juno.com

PIKEMEN AT BOSWORTH

Michael Jones

Greetings to everybody on this anniversary day and a big hello to those of you I met at the wonderful Phoenix AGM last year.

Two years ago I wrote my book *Bosworth 1485 - Psychology of a Battle*, which I hope has now reached you in its cheaper paperback format. My reinterpretation described the deployment of French pikemen against Richard in the dramatic closing stages of the battle. This has been the subject of recent discussion, and several members have asked me questions about it. So I have grouped my reply around the following key issues:

The existence of a French war camp

This was set up in the last years of Louis XI's reign - at vast expense — and was variously based at Pont-de-l'Arche (Normandy) and Hesdin (Picardy). The intention was to create a new, elite infantry force. The most recent work on this camp, done by French historian Philippe Contamine, shows it still in existence early in the reign of Charles VIII. The cost of running it drew much criticism and it was finally disbanded in the spring and summer of 1485. These disbanded soldiers, who numbered several thousand, were thus available for Henry Tudor's expedition and the French minority government would have been glad to get them off their hands.

What was the purpose of the camp?

It was set up by the commander Marshal D'Esquerdes, to drill infantrymen in the most advanced methods of warfare. It concentrated on the techniques against cavalry developed by Swiss pikemen, in their wars against Charles the Bold in the 1470s, and 500 Swiss instructors were recruited for the purpose. Not all the soldiers in the camp were pikemen, but from a military perspective they were the most important.

Did Henry Tudor recruit troops from it?

We are thin on evidence, but there is one document in the Archives Nationales, Paris, which shows that he did. The soldier concerned states that he served in this war camp and subsequently joined Henry Tudor's

expedition. His designation 'archer du camp' refers to his rate of pay rather than military occupation. He certainly could have been a pikeman.

Were pikemen present at Bosworth?

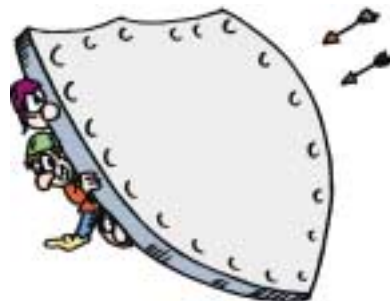
We lack specific detail on the composition of Henry Tudor's force of French mercenaries. But two references are highly suggestive. The first is the earl of Oxford's order, reported by Polydore Vergil, that no man should go more than ten feet from the standards. This seems to indicate the formation of a tightly grouped pike square.

The second is the French mercenary's letter of 23 August 1485. This tells us that Tudor, when faced by Richard's cavalry charge, dismounted and surrounded himself with French troops. Only pikemen would give Henry the necessary protection from the force of a cavalry attack. A group of lightly clad archers would be entirely insufficient.

Could Richard have anticipated their deployment?

Richard certainly knew about the wars of Charles the Bold, and some of his followers, such as Thomas Everingham, had fought with the Burgundians. But how much he knew of this recent military innovation is unclear. I believe Richard judged the distance between Tudor's small personal force and his vanguard justified the risk of a cavalry charge.

And we need to remember that all commentators, even the most critical, praised Richard's astonishing courage in the last phase of the assault. If Richard and his men dismounted, and broke through a pike wall in their sheer determination to reach Tudor, it does, I believe, give us the dramatic finale the sources point to.



PRESENTING A SPECIAL 2005 TOUR FOR AMERICAN BRANCH RICARDIANS

The Ricardian Rover

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June 18 – 29, 2005

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A Final Word: Don't miss this great opportunity for a truly rewarding adventure! Traveling through England's beautiful countryside and villages with a small group of friendly fellow Ricardians who share your interest in the man called Richard III, enriching your knowledge of him and his times, exploring fascinating places off the beaten track, discovering the best of both medieval and contemporary England an unforgettable experience! Won't you join us?

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BATTLES

(PUZZLE ON FACING PAGE)

Name the battle! All puzzle words are the names of battles either during the Wars of the Roses or important to setting the stage for the Wars. Much of the material for this puzzle was drawn from , an interesting resource.

The Ricardian Puzzlers are Charlie Jordan, Lorraine Pickering, and Nancy Northcott. Each puzzle will have a theme and clues are drawn from widely-available sources.

Suggestions for themes and feedback about the puzzles are welcomed; please send comments to Charlie.Jordan@earthlink.net.

Across

4. John Neville victory for York; April 1464.
6. Somerset (Edmund Beaufort) killed; Henry VI captured.
7. Legend has it that after Lancaster's defeat (Sept. 1459), Margaret of Anjou had her horse's shoes reversed to cover her escape.
10. Engagement before Towton.
12. John Talbot dies; July 1450.
14. Edward Lancaster killed, Margaret captured; Richard of Gloucester leads Yorkist vanguard.
15. Edward crowned after this battle. Owen Tudor killed.
17. Richard III killed.
18. Charles dies at hands of the "Swiss" and Lorrainers.
20. Richard of York killed; Richard of Salisbury beheaded.
21. Warwick defeated; Henry VI recaptured by Lancastrians.

Down

1. Yorkist forces scattered.
2. Warwick captures Henry VI.
3. Charles VII wins; April 1450.
5. Somerset (Henry Beaufort) beheaded after this May 1464 battle.
7. Richard, Earl of Warwick killed; Richard of Gloucester leads Yorkist vanguard.
8. Henry V.
9. Edward IV not present, but submits to George Neville after loss.
11. Lancaster devastated in War of the Rose's bloodiest battle.
13. Warwick and Clarence flee to France.
16. John de la Pole killed. Lovell fights, escapes. Simnel escapade over.
19. Ostensibly archers.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Board has been working with the Canadian Society in preparing for this years AGM. Everyone is looking forward to the First Joint International AGM.

It has been a fairly busy year for the Board since the last AGM in Phoenix.

We have been working with the Medieval Academy so they can handle the investing of the bequest from Maryloo Spooner Schallek that the Society received last year. The interest from the bequest of \$1.3 million dollars will go for the Schallek Scholarship Fund.

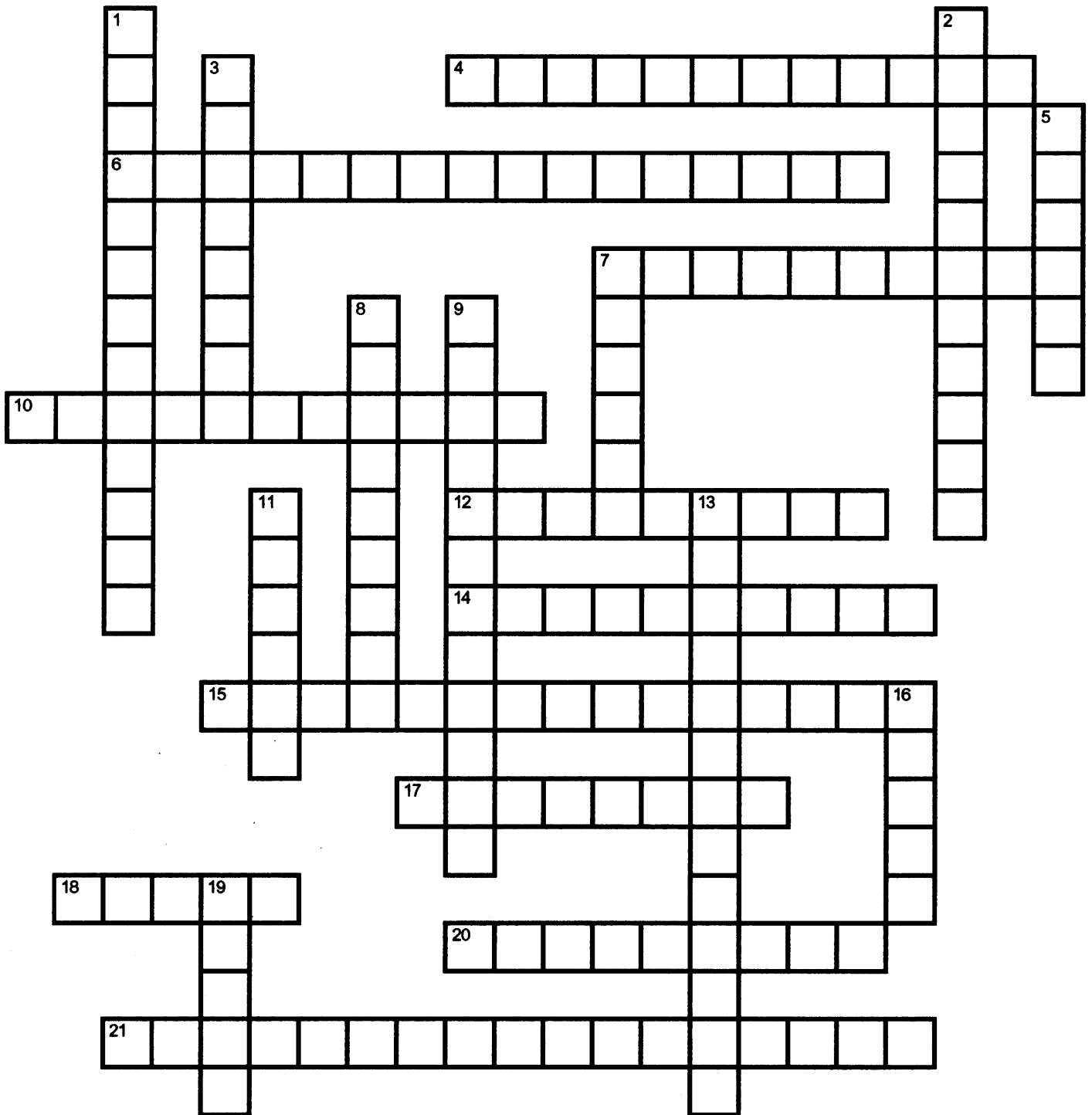
Communications with the Parent Society flowed back and forth as the Parent Society worked on a possible new method for members to receive their publications. In the end it was decided to leave the current method in place, as there was no saving for the members in the new method.

Dr. Sharon Michelove worked on planning and executing the the latest of the Fifteenth Century Studies Conference held at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in early May. The Conference was a success and all the participants were impressed with the speakers. This Conference was the last one for Dr. Michelove as the chair. The next Conference will be in 2007.

Congratulations on the creation of a new chapter in Minnesota. Florida members have been attending the Lady of the Lake Renaissance Faire and are planning to attend the Camelot Days in the fall. Michigan members have also been attending local Renaissance Faires and events. Other chapters have been equally active.

*Bonnie Battaglia
Chairman*

BATTLES



answers on page 29



RICARDIAN POST

From the ListServ

Monday, June 14, 2004

Marion {Davis} sent several really interesting comments and questions about my comments on Michael Hicks's work, and I'd like to respond to them. This message has turned out to be so long that I'll reply to Charlie's response in a separate posting.

Re evaluating rumors and gossip and their origins, Marion wrote, "I think it's very important to remember that contemporary sources are repeating stories, and that there are at least two sides to every story."

Reply: And sometimes, there are more than two sides to a story! Besides which, there are also the stories that appear without any basis in fact whatsoever, whether they arise from a misunderstanding of something someone has said or from something someone has (more or less) innocently assumed or from a tale someone just made up to pass the time.

Re Hicks' objectivity: I've found precious few — though a few — uses of 'probably' and 'perhaps' in Hicks' work, but for the most part a tone of such dense assurance that it makes me nervous despite his obvious learning, his wide research in the original sources, and his mastery of information. I'm uneasy with the kinds of conclusions he draws from certain instances of Richard's behavior as he (Hicks) presents that behavior.

For example, Hicks uses Richard's dealings with the Countess of Oxford to illustrate Richard's general ruthlessness and mean disposition. This particular Countess of Oxford (1472) was the widow of the earl executed by Edward IV in 1462 after being captured at Towton. The earl's lands were attainted, and some of them went to Richard of Gloucester. In 1472, the Countess' son, the current Earl of Oxford, was then working to foment rebellion against Edward IV, harrying English ships in the Channel with various acts of piracy, and trying to forge an alliance with Louis XI against Edward. My question for Hicks would be, was the Countess or some of her adherents using proceeds from her property to support and aid her son's acts of treason? If so, that might have been Edward's justification for giving her own inherited property to Richard. Hicks never even asks the question. Perhaps it's irrelevant — but should a scholar ignore the context — i. e., the personal relationships and kin loyalties of historical characters? With Hicks (and other traditional historians), I often feel that I'm not getting all the relevant information from which they've drawn their conclusions.

Similarly, Hicks repeats the charges of other

anti-Ricardian writers that in 1472, Richard took custody of his mother-in-law (Anne Beauchamp, Countess of Warwick) from sanctuary at the Abbey of Beaulieu and "whisked" her off to Middleham to deprive her of her property permanently. As for taking her out of sanctuary, Kendall says (p. 129-30) that the Countess had been under guard by the king's men at Beaulieu since Tewkesbury, then something over a year earlier. This sounds like house arrest to me. Did Edward suspect her of loyalty to Margaret of Anjou and/or consider her capable of plotting with the former queen? While I would think the Countess would surely have preferred to live with Anne and Richard at Middleham than to remain under guard in sanctuary at Beaulieu, it's also true that Edward's parliament divided her property between her sons-in-law "as if she were dead." About the only justification I can imagine for this would be that aside from the competition between his brothers in pursuit of her property, Edward still resented her (possible) role (whatever that was) in her late husband's schemes with the French (marrying Isabel to George and Anne to Edward of Lancaster, and taking up arms in the name of Henry VI). Given the findings of numerous scholars in women's history, I don't believe we can brush aside medieval noblewomen as powerless, uninvolved in the well being of their families, and ineffectual in influencing the course of events for their times.

No one, to my knowledge, has asked these questions — and Hicks would undoubtedly consider them as fanciful as I find a lot of his conclusions. These are only two examples of my uneasiness with Hicks' interpretations of his sources. Personal relationships and kinship are not subjects, I believe, that scholars should ignore when they speculate (with such assurance as Hicks does) on the motivations of historical characters. The only way I could discuss such problems seriously would be, of course, to read the original sources that Hicks cites so copiously (and admirably!). That, I haven't yet done. For, when I go to England, I climb castle ruins and wander through cathedrals and parish churches instead of hitting the archives in a serious way.

Re the agreement of Beaufort and Elizabeth Woodville re the marriage of Elizabeth of York and Henry Tudor:

The queen heard the rumors of her son's deaths in the fall of 1483, apparently just before Buckingham's rebellion (Kendall, pp. 317, 320-21) — with the 'news' probably delivered by one of Margaret Beaufort's servants. Kendall (p. 317) says Beaufort persuaded Woodville that their children should marry. Given the fact that Buckingham requested custody of Bishop Morton after the Hastings-Woodville conspiracy, Kendall speculates that

the Buckingham conspiracy was set to hatching soon after July 13. Like other writers, Kendall finds the rumors of the princes' deaths emerging after the plotting was underway. Anthony Pollard, in *The Princes in the Tower*, p. 132, says that one Dr. Lewis, a Welsh physician who could come and go at Westminster Abbey without suspicion, was the go-between for the two mothers. The significance of this agreement, of course, was its usefulness in persuading the 'old Yorkists' that by supporting Henry Tudor — and Buckingham's Rebellion — they could restore Edward IV's line to the throne.

The most thought-provoking book for raising different questions about Richard's mystery — different questions, that is, from the ones raised by such very traditional scholars like Hicks — is Audrey Richardson's *The Princes in the Tower*. She sets some old-fashioned interpretations right on their old-fashioned ears! and while she isn't technically a scholar/historian, she's very careful about her research and citations and her conclusions.

Elizabeth Enstam

July 15, 2004

RE: Richard III and freedom of the press

Pam wrote: After a Google search which took me to some strange places, including an article about [U.S. President] Grover Cleveland and an illegitimate child he was supposed to have had, and the messy political campaign which ensued and which brought up polygamy (phew!), I did find this PDF file online.

That's an interesting coincidence. I wrote a college paper on Grover Cleveland, because he was one of the few U.S. presidents to have a budget surplus in the treasury during his administration. I'd heard so much about budget deficits in the news that I asked if there had ever been a budget surplus in US history.

Grover Cleveland's presidency was the answer. I never expected to hear anything about Grover Cleveland here.

Richard provided an early foundation for press freedom. Today, you may examine folio No. 20 on Parliamentary Roll C65/114: An Act touchinge the Marchaunts of Italy. The law restricted the importation into England of many Italian products. The handwritten text on calfskin carries the elaborate initial of Richard approving the law and more. The king specified that neither this nor any other act shall apply to any foreign merchant who brings to England books [in manuscript] or imprinted nor shall anyone be restricted from living in England while writing, illustrating, binding, printing, or practicing such occupations.

Richard, in a highly censorious age, thus supported the principle of the freedom of the press. By exempting books, writers and printers from the trade ban Richard gave writing its first legislated protection. It would not last long, but the principle was nevertheless placed on the long record of zigs and zags.

Thanks for posting this, Pam! I'm glad to have a clear

citation for Richard's law. This description is more complete than Paul Murray Kendall's, and it's easier to understand. Kendall's quote left me feeling that I could have misunderstood it. Now I feel much better.

Marion Davis

July 15, 2004

Pam wrote: Richard's experience with the justice system while serving as Lord of the North really shows here: he knew of the abuses and inequities which occurred.

I want to find the exact quote that my memory won't bring into sharp focus right now. The gist of it is that Richard was "purturbed" when he learned about certain injustices after he became king. (The word purturbed has stayed with me, because I don't see it often). Apparently he hadn't realized how bad things were in other parts of England. His determination to set things right impressed me. I can't help thinking I'd like a leader like that where I'm living.

Mass-production of books made them more affordable, but how far 'down' into society did that trickle?

Those of the 'gentry' who owned land had to be able to read and write a little, but were they inclined to read books?

Soon after I discovered the Richard III Society website, I read several articles and books about 15th century English life. One article that said 20th/21st century readers would be impressed by the absence of books, newspapers, posters, flyers, etc. if we could time-travel back to the late 15th century. Those things were either rare or non-existent then.

By the Elizabethan era, what percentage of the population was literate? A third? Half?

I'd like to know, too. I'll look it up after I've sent my letter to The Post. <g> Richard was obviously ahead of his time.

I agree. Writing this letter has reminded me of that.

Regarding Collingbourne: "The free exchange of ideas" would not have appeared to have included "questioning authority," particularly the government.

My memory of that article is that the author disagreed with those who said Collingbourne was executed for posting the doggerel verse in public. That author believed Collingbourne was executed for his part in a conspiracy against Richard. Sorry my memory is so unclear, but I read those articles before I joined the discussion lists. I didn't know I'd ever need to quote them. <g> His haste in executing Rivers, Grey, and Vaughn certainly makes me wonder what he was told (or came to believe) at Stony Stratford.

Buckingham must have had a lot to do with Richard's beliefs. It still bothers me that all of Richard's experience as a leader didn't protect him from Buckingham's deceit. Richard worked so hard from the age of 16 that it seems unfair for him to fall prey to someone like Buckingham.

If Richard had "done in" her sons by Edward IV as well, then surely she'd have never trusted Richard III. Furthermore, how could she have ever become involved

with the Lambert Simnel plot if she didn't believe her sons were alive?

I have strong doubts about the claim that Elizabeth Woodville conspired with Margaret Beaufort to marry Elizabeth Woodville to Henry Tudor. If Elizabeth Woodville was as politically capable as she's claimed to be, she must have realized that Henry Tudor would have to kill her sons to stay on the throne. So I think the story of a marriage plan between Elizabeth Woodville and Margaret Beaufort is a Tudor invention.

I think Elizabeth Woodville learned that Richard had moved her sons somewhere out of public view after the late July, 1483 attempt to release them from the Tower failed. I can't say when or how she learned that, but I think she did. That's why she was willing to let her daughters live at court with Richard and Anne.

She might have involved herself with the Simnel plot because she was totally disgusted with the way Henry Tudor and Margaret Beaufort behaved. But knowing her sons were alive would make that risk far more acceptable.

That's how I see it now. We'll see how things change as I read my way through the Society library. <g>

Marion Davis

—
Sunday, August 22, 2004

Subject: A few nice words for us.

I just got my copy of *Asides*, a sort-of-magazine for subscribers to The Shakespeare Theatre in Washington D.C. The first issue this season is about Macbeth. Here's what it says:

In terms of historical accuracy, Shakespeare's account of Macbeth is right down there with Richard III (although there seems to be no Macbeth Society to protest the desecration of the Scot's last Gaelic king; Richard is luckier in that regard).*

**Disputes over the historical accuracy of Shakespeare's depiction of Richard III led to the founding of the Richard III Society, which endeavors to reclaim Richard's reputation as a brave soldier and just ruler.*

Beth Greenfield

August 22, 2004

I just want to say few words for independent bookstores. If it weren't for the Tattered Cover, my favorite independent bookstore, I would not be a member of the Richard III Society. While at the Tattered Cover, looking for something else, I came across Sharon K Penman's first mystery, *The Queen's Man*. After reading it, I wanted to read more of her books and, to make a long story short, found and read the second mystery, then *Sunne in Splendour*. If it weren't for the opportunity a real bookstore provides to get your hands on a book and start reading, I would not have bought the book on Richard III.

Like so many other people brought up on Thomas More's and Will Shakespeare's portrayals of Richard, I

was thoroughly prejudiced against him. Only with the book in my hands and a little curiosity to start reading, did I get hooked. (After about 100 pages, I decided I better buy the book! Nor did I have to just stand in the aisle; like all the best independents, TC has comfy old chairs and sofas scattered about.) After reading *Sunne*, Richard's story stayed in my mind and eventually I did a computer search on him and found the Society; the rest is history.

I love independent bookstores for their quirkiness, their often surprising selections, the book lovers who staff them. But I have seen the independents hurt by the bargain chains and Amazon.com. I have seen a couple old favorites go out of business. Therefore, I buy everything I can from independent bookstores (including those that sell used books) rather than from an internet site. I would rather include extra money with my R3 Society subscription than use Amazon.com and if any of you feel like I do about bookstores, I urge you to do the same. This is probably the equivalent of tilting at windmills and bookstores as I know and love them are probably doomed, but I don't want to add to their loss. I feel that internet sites are best used only for those books you can't get any other way.

Diane Hoffman

July 22, 2004

Charlie Jordan wrote: I don't think we can ever settle for "what's true." What is "critical mass"? One book? Two? Sufficient to cover all perspectives/methodologies currently available on a topic? Truth shifts with each new treatment or can.

For me, the best I can hope for is to wade into a topic to the depth with which I'm comfortable and know that I may never reach solid-rock truth.

That's a bit disconcerting for me, but the best I can come up with. I'll take a slap on the head willingly if someone shows a better route.

Helen Maurer responded:

Charlie, this is pretty much what historians do, and you've put it very well. Another Charlie, Charlie Wood, was fond of pointing out that history is contestable and debatable. One of the most difficult ideas to get across to students when one is teaching is that there isn't some cut-and-dried truth just waiting to be discovered and that if they can just figure out what it is, they'll get an A. Yes, there are some levels of "truth" on which we can all agree: there was a battle of Bosworth; Richard was killed, and Henry Tudor became king and started a new dynasty. But that's just where the fun begins. Where was it fought? (possibly subject to resolution or not, depending on archeological evidence) How was it fought? (phantom pikemen, etc., which depends upon reading of sketchy evidence and assumptions regarding what the various participants might or might not have known in advance) Richard's frame of mind? (ultimately unknowable, since we can't access his thoughts, but fun to argue, based on various concatenations of various evidence) What did Tudor's victory mean, either short-term as a referendum

on Richard, or longterm in terms of changes in institutions and attitudes over time? (lots of places to go with this, depending on inclination — meaning interest in politics vs religion vs gender vs economic development vs whatever—and the kinds of evidence one collects) And so on.

Re the Hicks...he “does” — to his credit — explain why he doesn't accept Wigram's rebuttal. He seems very, very confident in his opinions.

This is the first obligation of the historian: to explain why s/he believes this and disagrees with that. It's a little like being a combination detective and trial lawyer. First you collect your evidence and see what you make of it. Of course, part of this involves reading the arguments that others have made. (This may explain why most historians tend to be fairly specialized—you become familiar with the sources and evidence that pertain to the limited period/subject that you “do,” which keeps it fairly manageable. Expertise in all things is impossible.) And of course, when you go to present it as an argument, you do the trial lawyer thing and present your case as strongly as you can. There are times when it's appropriate to point out that we don't/can't really know xyz for whatever reasons, but you can't be saying this at every turn without losing credibility. And, in any event, by the time you're ready to present your case, you ought to be convinced that you've got things reasonably right. (or you wouldn't be going public with it!). But it's pretty much a given that *some* of the things you say will be questioned and that others will come along who see things from a different angle, with other operative concerns, and come up with a different explanatory picture—none of which automatically makes you or any of them “right” or “wrong.” If you have time and inclination, take a look at the “Introduction to the Second Edition” that Ralph Griffiths provided for the 1998 reissue of his *Reign of King Henry VI*, originally published in 1981. It's a masterful summation of the work that expanded on, went in a different direction from, or took issue with various points raised in his magnum opus, and it provides a very good sense of the *process* of thinking and writing history.

Cheers,

Helen Maurer

To the Membership Secretary:

I am very pleased to be a member of the Society. I have had a life long interest in medieval history and am finally at a time in my life when I can enjoy it as it ought to be enjoyed. Thank you for everything.

Lewis Whelchel

You have made my day. I was just reading the stack of printouts from the site and have been deliriously happy to finally find someone else than me that loves this period and this is going to sound silly, but loves the man who has been so maligned for so long. I think his soul was broken after all

the losses he endured and suffered thru in the last few years of his life. I really believe Richard may not wanted to go on anymore. He was defeated by his pain, not by Tudor. And I utterly, completely despise that miserable play and story about him and all the “crimes” he committed to gain a throne he never wanted to begin with. I generally love Shakespeare and give him slack by thinking it was pressure from the Tudors to make them look good, and Richard as bad as possible. But that has nothing to do with my membership. Thank you for all the information and the fast response.

Kim

Thank you for responding so promptly. I appreciate you looking into this for me and look forward to being reinstated as a member. I have been a member for awhile, I believe since the early 1990's, (I also was a member in the 1970's and then through moving, life changes, etc., lost contact for awhile during the 1980's until I reconnected in the 90's.) so was concerned when it slowly dawned on me that I was not receiving any mailings anymore.

Janet O'Donnell

Can't believe it's been a whole year! I LOVE the publications and hope to communicate w/some members after I've read enough not to appear a total ignoramus. I read a lot about Richard 30 years ago before I joined but work interfered w/my play and I need to catch up w/Richard—and a lot of other stuff. Will definitely renew. Expect a check in the mail soon. I don't want to mess w/Paypal. Thanks for the reminder! This is one of the most worthwhile groups I've ever joined.

Ruth Roberts

I expect that I will renew my membership as soon as I can. While I did a great deal of reading of suggested historical material. I did go to the “book club” at Bonnie Battaglia's home regularly and spoke to her and her mother, Mary Jane regularly. I covered all the books with brodart plastic held in the Richard III “library” held by Jacqueline Bloomquist, who now lives in Sparks, Nevada, not far from my fishing home in Markleyville, CA. I hope to see her again. I do see Judy Pimental regularly. I have submitted a paper on hammered coinage of Great Britain to the *Ricardian*.

Jerry Klein

Thank you for all the work you do for the Richard III Society. I love the society publications! I have one with me at all times. At least I have something while waiting for Doctors, etc.

Last year you edited my two-years notes (*Ricardian Spring 2003*). You did an excellent job. At first I thought that I had become a great writer, then I had to admit that you had improved my story. I heard Thomas Wolfe had a great editor. I put you in that category.

Thanks. Hope to see you in Toronto.

Marsha Jennings

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 feature 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 û it's a pleasure to get to know you better.

Pamela Harrell-Savukoski of Bessemer, Alabama says: "Unfortunately, I learned and believed the bad stuff about Richard for many years. I became interested in Anne and how she had been used as a pawn and slowly came to realize that Richard wasn't such a bad guy. I decided to learn more about him and became a huge fan! I found the site while surfing."

Patricia is a Payroll Accountant and a History Geek whose leisure interests include traveling, reading and crocheting. A Navy Brat who has lived around the world, Patricia now shares her life with her pilot husband from Finland, their cat Einstein and parrot Sibelius.

Tel: 205-424-3639. Email: physjas@yahoo.com.

Jeanette Lugo, says she became interested in the Society: "While doing research for a paper on Elizabeth Woodville for a graduate level seminar." She continues "I became fascinated by the era. I found the Richard III Society when I was trying to find a text of the Croyland Chronicles. I am now working on my first historical novel, centered in the

court of Richard III!"

A Professor of English who lives in Cordele, Georgia, Jeanette uses her leisure time in pursuing a variety of interest: scuba diving, quilting, reading and, of course, writing. E-Mail: jlugo@valdosta.edu.

Deirdre C. and Joan M. Melvin's shared interests are many of the same as for most Ricardians: reading, of course, and medieval history, naturally. Deirdre says: "My mother, Joan, became interested in all things Richard after reading Josephine Tey's novel, and I picked up interest from her." Having seen information in books and on the internet, Deirdre subsequently obtained membership information on the Society from the Web site. As she says: "interest in all things medieval helped lead us to our fondness for Richard, as well as most of the Plantagenet line."

In their spare time, mother and daughter are both avid readers of nonfiction, as well as good, historical fiction, on the early to late medieval period. Deirdre also spends free time riding and showing Arabian horses. E-mail: dcmelvin78@yahoo.com.

Christopher Ward Lovell, PhD, college professor from Bethesda, Maryland, whose leisure interests include 15th Century Great Britain, came to the Richard III Society by word of mouth.

Professor Lovell would like to contact Lord Lovell's progeny. He says: "Debate about the family line is of interest." Please E-mail him at lovellcw@aol.com



SCATTERED STANDARDS

Eastern Missouri Chapter

A small group of Ricardians met June 5th at The Trainwreck Restaurant at Westport in St. Louis. We discussed favorite books and what caused us to become interested in Richard III's cause. We have been meeting approximately every three months. Bill Heuer proposed that we consider meeting every two months. After some discussion, we decided to try to attend a performance of Shakespeare's Richard III performed by the St. Louis Shakespeare Company in late August.

We would welcome any new members from the St. Louis area and southern Illinois. For information, contact Bill Heuer at beejnbill@mindspring.com

Mary Miller

Washington DC

The DC area R3 members met Monday Aug 23 in downtown DC. While there we discovered that we all lived in Silver Spring and had in fact ridden the same metro route to our meeting. So we rode back together!! and continued the wonderful conversation and sharing.

Members present were: Charlene Conlon, Beth Greenfeld, and Dale Brady-Wilso.

At lunch we shared how we became interested in how we found and joined the Society. We shared who and what we are and of course talked politics. Also brief discussion of *The Eyre Affair* and *The Rocky Horror Show*. One member had not read it yet so further discussion pending.

We have planned another meeting for Tuesday September 7. We also talked about doing a reading club sort of thing. I was very delighted to meet other people who share this interest and look forward to meeting more.

SUMMER 2004 LISTSERV REPORT

Pamela J. Butler, Moderator

As of September 1, 2004, there were 131 members on the listserv.

Those who made frequent postings for all 3 months were Laura Blanchard, Charlene Conlon, Marion Davis, Will Lewis, and Sheilah O'Connor. Those making frequent postings in two of the three months were Peggy Allen, Charlie Jordan, Karen Ladniuk, Dave Luitweiler, Carole Rike, Maria Torres, and Brian Wainwright. Others who were top posters for one of the summer months included Jacqueline Bloomquist, Dale Brady-Wilson, Tracy Bryce, Teresa Basinski Eckford, Beth Greenfeld, Carrie Harlow, Diane Hoffman, Jean Kvam, Kim Malo, Lorilee McDowell, Victoria Moorshead, Ananaia O'Leary, Lorraine Pickering, Virginia Poch, Paula Ryan, Phil Stone, Liz Wadsworth, and Jane E. Ward.

For the month of June, 309 messages covering a variety of topics were posted. Several members wrote to congratulate Sharon Michalove for overseeing the successful Fifteenth Century Conference at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign last May. Brian Wainwright's recently-released novel, *Within the Fetterlock*, was discussed in more detail with the author. Other topics covered were Charles Brandon (the Duke of Suffolk during the reign of Henry VIII), Cathars, ancient Troy, Bishop Lionel Woodville, Piers Gaveston's execution site, Bosworth archaeology, and Ken Follett's *The Pillars of the Earth*. A question about the arms which Richard used as Duke of Gloucester arose and began a new line of conversation. With regard to the upcoming 2004 Annual General Meeting, Dave Luitweiler brought attention to the fact that a ferry service runs between Rochester, New York, and Toronto, Ontario, Canada, which would be an enjoyable transport option.

Major topics discussed in July's 308 messages were Sir Thomas More, William Wallace, and a letter to the editor being written by Marion Davis to the *Washington Post* in response to the July 5, 2004 article entitled "Blaze of Glory," in which Richard III was compared to Saddam Hussein. Other members provided feedback about phrasing the letter.

Brian Wainwright brought up the topic of "The Pageant of the Golden Tree," a Bruges reenactment of the

1468 marriage of Margaret of York to Charles the Bold which occurs every few years. The next reenactment is scheduled for August 25 and 26, 2007, at 4 p.m. each day. Brian also wrote an article about the Talbot sisters which appeared in the last *Register*.

Just as an example of the great diversity of interests, Liz Wadworth described her beautifully-crafted dolls of Richard III and Anne and made photos available for those who were interested, while others took up the topic of Richard III's direct contribution to the idea of "freedom of the press." We talked of sightseeing options in Toronto before and after the AGM. The computer expertise of some members was put to good use solving a problem encountered by someone trying to access back issues of the *Register*.

The 261 postings sent in August included compliments to Charlie Jordan for his crossword puzzles, formation of a local Ricardian discussion group in the Washington, D.C. area (and in other localities as well), and the posting of memorials to commemorate the 519th anniversary of Bosworth Field. Michael Jones sent us answers to some of our questions about the pikemen at Bosworth. Visiting Fotheringhay by public transport provided comic relief, while Jack Leslau's theories about Holbein's portrait of Sir Thomas More with his family brought stimulating contrast.

Ricardian fiction was covered, particularly *The Sunne in Splendour* by Sharon K. Penman, *The Murders of Richard III* by Elizabeth Peters (Barbara Mertz), and *Dragon Waiting* by John Ford. Some members mentioned their interest in Josephine Tey's books other than *The Daughter of Time*, such as *Brat Farrax* and *The Franchise Affair*. Ananaia O'Leary created a list of Ricardian fiction for children.

Preparations for the first-ever international AGM in Toronto, Ontario, Canada generated a lot of questions about currency issues and +passport issues which have now been resolved.

Members may subscribe to the listserv by going to http://r3.org/mailman/listinfo/richard3_r3.org and filling out the request form.

CONGRATULATIONS! SANDRA WORTH:

Sandra's novel, *The Rose of York: Love & War*, was a finalist for this year's Norumbega Fiction Awards.

To view the other finalists, please visit our website:

<http://www.mediadarlings.org/norumbega>

LANSING MICHIGAN AREA

We would like to organize an informal gathering of Ricardians in the Lansing area some time before the holidays, and would like anyone interested to contact me so we can decide on a definite time and place. My contact information is:

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phone: (517)381-1981
e-mail: miniminis@aol.com

RICHARD III SOCIETY DONATIONS, 4/01/2004 - 6/30/2004

— Honorary Middleham Members —

Gregory & Christine Huber
Marianne G. Pittorino

— Honorary Fotheringhay Members —

Marion Davis
James J. Dyer
Janis M. Eltz
Diane Hoffman
Roberta Jacobs-Meadway
Pat Matl
John B. Ottiker
Andrea M. Quinn
Gwen Toma

— Other Generous Ricardians —

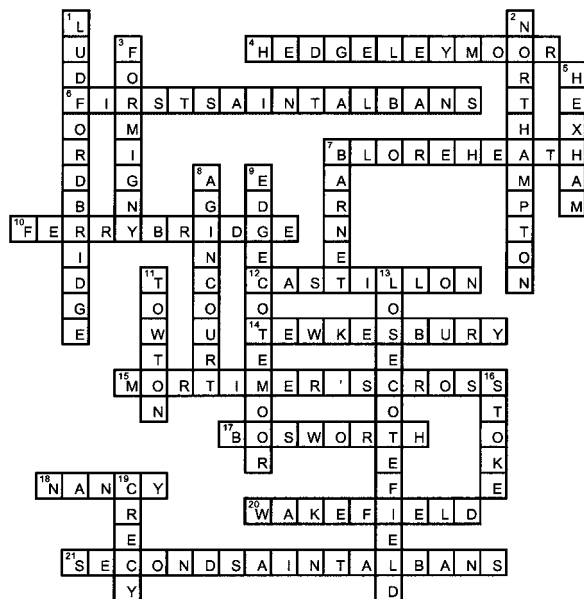
Stephen C. Albert
Nancy Donova
Peter A. Hancock
Maria Koski
Lawrence J. McCarthy
Linda Peecher
John L. Price
Elizabeth A. Rose
Julia R. Scalise
Ruth Silberstein
Joseph Wawrzyniak



MEMBERS WHO JOINED JUNE 1 - AUGUST, 31, 2004

Michael B. Cartmell
Judi Dickson
Jose Gomez-Rivera
Cindra Lou Heckler
JoAnn Macpherson
Tim Peterson
Andrea M. Quinn
Jennifer Randonis
Daniel James Rudary
Robert L. Siegel
Rhonda L. Tirone
Mary Ann Vissers
Kimberly Weaver
Neil Wellam
Janice Wentworth

PUZZLE ANSWERS



The Plantagenet Connection



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(Sprig of the Broom Plant)

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RICARDIAN READING

Myrna Smith

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

SOLO FLIGHT

*I was never less alone than when by myself –
Edward Gibbon*

*If you are lonely while you're alone, you are in
bad company – Jean-Paul Sartre*

 *Historical Cats – Great Cats Who Have Shaped History –
Heather Hacking, Barnes & Noble Books, N.Y.,
2003*

Speaking of (mostly) bad company . . . there's no better way to review this book than to quote a partial list of the author's acknowledgments:

Roman Villa, Catterick (for the mosaic of Clawdius).

R. Plantagenet (President), The Richard the Furred is Innocent Society.

Oleg's Cheeseburgers, Murmansk.

House of Commons Library, Westminster (for banned copies of *The Diary of A. Mole, Flycatcher* (Anon.) and *Mata Furri's The Spy Who Came in Through the Catflap*).

Mewses Bagel Company.

Karl Marx, Das Kapitail.

The wardrobe department at Metro-Goldyn-Moggie.....

. . . and so on. Don't read this if you are pun-resistant or punphobic. The author has illustrated her not-so-magnum opus (only 96 pages) with charming water-color sketches, in which the royal Chewed-Ears and Pawgias, as well as the likes of Maggie Scratcher and Vincent van Fluff, look very feline and also very much like their historical counterparts.


*An Englishman, even if he is alone, forms an
orderly queue of one. – George Mikes*

 *The Tudors – Richard Rex, Tempus Publishing Ltd,
Gloucestershire, 2003*

How can you resist an author with a name like that, even if he does write about the Chewed-Ears – I mean Tudors. He has no exaggerated respect for them, though: "Henry Tudor . . . was one of the few men in late medieval England who had absolutely no claim to the throne whatsoever . . . he was little more than a noble adventurer who got lucky." Nor does he bad-mouth Richard III. He gives due attention to Henry's finances (how much, and perhaps even more important, why), and to the pretenders and other events of the reign

before moving on to Henry VIII and the "king's great matter," and to the other Tudor monarchs, who always seem a bit anti-climatic after Henry Jr. Nevertheless, this is a good one-volume overview of the era.

*There is a fellowship more quiet even than
solitude, and which, rightly understood, is
solitude made perfect. – Robert Louis
Stevenson*

 *The Haunted Abbot – Peter Tremayne, St. Martin's
Minotaur, 2004*

Fidelma and Brother Eadulf are now married — sort of. They are handfasted for a year and a day, a kind of trial marriage that was quite acceptable in ancient Ireland, even for the religious. They are in Eadulf's home territory, about to visit a childhood friend of his at his own abbey, only to arrive just after his violent death. Another case for Sister Fidelma to solve? Unfortunately, she gets sick right after their arrival, leaving both the legwork and brain work to her semi-husband. As if that weren't enough, he has to deal with the seemingly inexplicable hostility of the Abbot, who wants them gone as soon as possible, with an outlaw and his merry men, and apparently with a ghost (who haunts that same abbot). Fidelma eventually gets well enough to take over and solve the case, but not till after a few more adventures, escapes and narrow scrapes. A rousing good read, as much adventure as detective story, but you will have to forgive a rather hackneyed plot device.

At the end of the story, Fidelma and Eadulf continue their journey back to Ireland, and to a new stage in their relationship.

*One of the advantages in living alone is that
you don't have to wake up in the arms of a
loved one. – Anna Marion Smith*

 *Thursday Next In The Well of Lost Plots/ A Novel – Jasper
Fforde, Penguin, N.Y. – 2003*

There's no good reason for reviewing this book here, except that I reviewed an earlier book in the series, and it's just a good vacation read. Thursday is on vacation, albeit a working vacation, filling in for a book character who wants a change of scenery. (I imagine they would get bored after a while.) So she takes up residence in a second-rate detective story until her pregnancy will make it too difficult for her work. She is not only preggers, but her husband is dead, and in fact died as a child. (Don't ask me to explain it; even Thursday can't.) When fiction and Ms. Next's fictional real life intersect, there are bound to be complications.

(The character that is trading places with Thursday is curious.)

"Tell me, is it true you have to cut your hair on a regular basis? I mean, your hair actually grows?"

"Yes" – I smiled – "and my fingernails too."


"Really?" mused Mary. "I've heard rumors about that, but I thought it was just one of those Outlandish legends. I suppose you have to eat, too? To stay alive, I mean, not just when the story calls for it?"

"One of the great pleasures of life," I assured her.

"Inside books," (according to our protagonist) "dinners are often written about and therefore feature frequently, as do lunches and afternoon teas... Breakfast wasn't all that was missing. There was a peculiar lack of cinemas, wallpaper, toilets, colors, books, animals, underwear, smells, haircuts, and strangely enough, minor illnesses. If someone was ill in a book, it was either terminal and dramatically unpleasant or a mild head cold – there wasn't much in between."

Renew your acquaintance with Miss Haversham and Harris Tweed, and Thursday's favorite villain, Acheron Hades. Meet the Bellman, Beatrice and Benedict, and King Pelinore. Pay a visit to *Wuthering Heights*. Then anticipate the next book in the series, which is out now in hardback. Maybe T.N. and her main squeeze will be reunited in that one.

**Even if you do learn to speak correct English,
whom are you going to speak it to? –
Clarence Darrow**

 *Eats, Shoots, and Leaves – The Zero Tolerance Approach to Punctuation* – Lynne Truss, Gotham Books, NY, 2003

The dust jacket proclaims this to be "the runaway #1 British bestseller, and it's doing pretty well in the States too. The author realizes that standard American punctuation and spelling is as correct as standard British in its own milieu, although she registers a small complaint about the former creeping into shop signs. She cites a sign touting GLAMOR GIRLS, not realizing (or the purveyors of whatever-it-was not realizing) that this is one case where U.S. usage retains the "u," another being on wedding invitations.

In spite of the subtitle, the author is easy-going about most things, apostrophes aside. She has not written a dry-as-dust grammar book. Part of the reason is that she anthropomorphizes the punctuation marks:

"...while the full stop is the lumpen male of the punctuation world (do one job at a time; do it well; forget about it instantly), the apostrophe is the frantically multi-tasking female, dashing hither and yon, and succumbing to burnout from all the thankless effort."


Are punctuation marks becoming obsolete? I hate to tell you, but some already are: the "little gallows that indicated the start of a paragraph" before paragraphs were invented; the virgula suspensiva, the punctus versus.

There are other highlights and sidelights on the history of punctuation and the history of printing. (There's the Ricardian/historical connection.)

Perhaps it's all a lost cause. The QWERTY keyboard, with the punctuation marks out in deep left and right fields, makes it almost certain that some of a writer's best intentions in this regard will be foiled. I'm always hitting the quotation marks, or inverted commas, when I don't mean to. Punctuation will be left out when necessary and added where unnecessary just because the typist allowed his/her fingers to rest a little too long in one place. (This is my disclaimer for any misplaced, displaced, replaced, out-sourced or imported commas, etc., that may show up when this reaches print.)

My personal opinion, for what it's worth, is this: Commas are cheap, and semi-colons don't cost much either; use but don't abuse them. Apostrophes should be treated like precious gems; always stop to think before inserting one, or not, as the case may be.

Read this book and, unlike the characters in a Chekov Christmas story, you won't be haunted by those pesky little marks.

 *Warrior Women* – Jeannine Davis-Kimball, Ph.D., with Mona Behan, Warner Books, NY, 2002

There have always been women, like Joan of Arc or Margaret d'Anjou, who fought for a cause, for adventure, or simply from necessity. But has there ever been, in any part of the world, a distinct group of women who followed the military life, e.g. the legendary (?) Amazons?

Dr. Davis-Kimball says yes, finding much support for her thesis on a dig in Kazakhstan, as well as in China, Ireland, and elsewhere. Whether you agree with all of her conclusions or not, this is fascinating reading. The chapter on the mummies of Urmanchi – tall, red-haired, and distinctly non-Asian, though found in China – is especially interesting to an aficionado of mummies. (Is there a ten-dollar word for this? If not, there ought to be. Necrophile doesn't express the right shade of meaning.)

Many maps, drawings and photographs, along with a glossary of archeologist-speak, complete the volume. Who were the Alans? When was the Chalcolithic Age? Find out here.

And if you have no interest whatever in ancient warriors or ancient mummies, read it for the travelogue, the author's pungent opinions on people and things, and snippets from what sounds like a most interesting and liberated life: "After raising six children and working as a nurse in Idaho and a cattle rancher in South America, Dr. Jeannine Davis-Kimball was drawn to exploring the worlds of the past...[she] is the founder and executive director of the American-Eurasian Research Institute and the Center for the Study of Eurasian Nomads. She has appeared in episodes of *Nova* and *Unsolved Mysteries*, and on the Learning Channel." (Jacket blurb)

By the way, does the Gentle Reader (if any) sense that I am trying to tell him or her something with this column?

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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

*Anyone looking to reactivate the Southern California Chapter,
please contact Judy Pimental at japimpan@yahoo.com*

SOUTHWEST

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