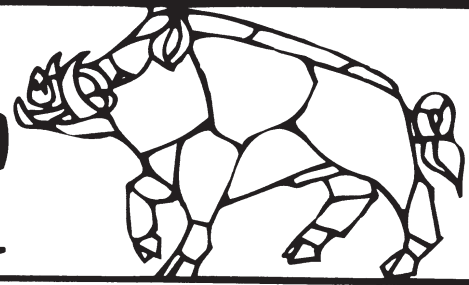


# Ricardian REGISTER



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ANTHONY WOODVILLE, 2ND EARL OF RIVERS

## REGISTER STAFF

EDITOR: **Carole M. Rike**  
48299 Stafford Road • Tickfaw, LA 70466  
985-350-6101 • 504-952-4984 (cell)  
email: carole@wordcatering.com

RICARDIAN READING EDITOR: **Myrna Smith**  
2784 Avenue G • Ingleside, TX 78362  
(361) 332-9363 • email: myrnasbooks@cableone.net

ARTIST: **Susan Dexter**  
1510 Delaware Avenue • New Castle, PA 16105-2674



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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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## In This Issue

Meet the In-Laws: The Lesser Known Woodville Siblings, <i>Susan Higginbotham</i>	
The Miser's New Clothes <i>Marion Davis</i> . . . . .	15
Music From The Time of Richard III	15
New In Research Library . . . . .	15
Glossary of Unusual Medieval Words <i>Dickon Independent, Yorkshire</i> . . . . .	17
Ricardian Reading <i>Myrna Smith</i> . . . . .	18
Fiction Library Acquisitions . . . . .	22
Scattered Standards . . . . .	23
Chapter Contacts. . . . .	24
Membership Application . . . . .	24



## EXECUTIVE BOARD

**CHAIRMAN: W. Wayne Ingalls**  
704 NW Euclid Ave • Lawton, OK 73507  
(580) 353-6315 • wayne.ingalls@us.army.mil

**VICE CHAIRMAN: Carole M. Rike**  
48299 Stafford Road • Tickfaw, LA 70466  
(985)350-6101 • carole@wordcatering.com

**SECRETARY: Nita Musgrave**  
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bnm@wowway.com

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2580 S. University, #903 • Denver, CO 80210-6104  
dkhoffman42@qwest.net

**MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN: Amber McVey**  
4681 Angeline Lane • Mason, OH 45040-2907  
amber@wamber.net

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5191 Hanks Exchange Road • Placerville, CA 95667  
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**ON-LINE MEMBER SERVICES: Pamela J. Butler**  
11000 Anaheim Ave. NE • Albuquerque, NM 87122-3102  
(505) 856-6186 (Leave Message) • PamelaJButler@aol.com

**RESEARCH OFFICER: Dr. Sharon D. Michalove**  
307 South McKinley Avenue • Champaign, IL 61821  
mlove@uiuc.edu

**SALES OFFICER: Charlene Conlon**  
605 Thayer Ave • Silver Spring, MD 20910  
charleneconlon@aol.com

**SCHALLEK MEMORIAL/GRAD: Laura V. Blanchard**  
2041 Christian St. • Philadelphia, PA 19146 • (215) 985-1445  
FAX (215) 985-1446 • lblanchard@rblanchard.com

**VOLUNTEER CO-ORDINATOR: Peggy Allen**  
1421 Wisteria • Metairie, LA 70005  
(504) 837-0974 • peggyall@cox.net

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

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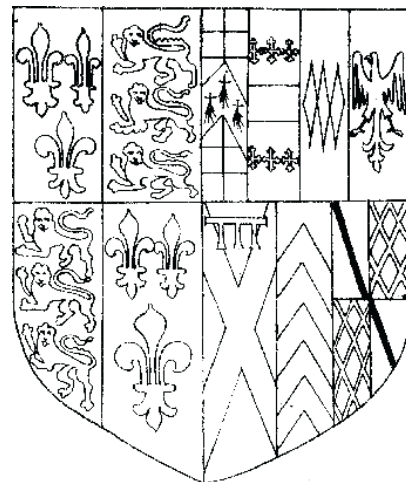
*Carole Rike*

Look at our masthead. Dig the Roman Numerals: XXXX. Forty years! I can't promise these numbers are perfectly correct, but the American Branch has been around since 1959 — it's certainly not less. As I recall the original issues were just a newsletter without a specific name, and no issue numbers. (And Linda McLatchie was the editor when I joined; I just saw her name in the New England Chapter report!)

Do you appreciate what an unusual group of individuals we are? We are a mix of academic and amateur historians, arriving at our passion by various routes, but virtually all of us invested in a sense of the mystery behind the reputation of Richard III and his times.

I hope for all of our members a Society as rewarding as it has been for me. And that reward largely derives from being active, so please join us in our efforts. Please write a review, a newsletter article, an In Memoriam ad, or join us in the various areas where we need those who help keep the Society growing.

We need Public Relations expertise; we need someone to help with schools and libraries. We need members who can keep the books and the membership records and help plan the Annual General Meeting. We need hands in the Sales Office and currently we have a real need for someone to take over as Audio and Visual Librarian. Whatever your talent may be, we can find a place for you!



*Arms of King Richard III impaling those of  
Queen Anne Neville*

# Meet The In-Laws: The Lesser-Known Woodville Siblings

Susan Higginbotham

Though historians, Ricardians, and readers generally have no difficulty in accepting Edward IV's brothers and sisters as distinct individuals, each with his or her own personality and goals, Elizabeth Woodville's brothers and sisters are often lumped together in one category simply known as "The Woodvilles," as if they were indistinguishable from each other. This is hardly the case; as this article will show, the Woodville brothers were quite a varied lot, and the sisters, though their personalities are lost to us, also deserve to be viewed as individuals, not as part of a family conglomerate.

Including Elizabeth Woodville, twelve Woodville children survived to adulthood. Their exact birth dates are not recorded, but in a personal communication and in an online posting, Richard III Society member Brad Verity kindly drew my attention to this notation by Robert Glover, Somerset Herald. Written in the 1580's, this note, as Verity suggests, may reflect the actual birth order of the Woodville siblings:

*Richard Erle Ryvers and Jaquett Duchesse of Bedford bath yssue Anthony Erle Ryvers, Richard, Elizabeth first wedded to Sir John Grey, after to Kinge Edward the fourth, Lowys, Richard Erle of Riueres, Sir John Wodeuille Knight, Jaquette lady Straunge of Knokyn, Anne first maryed to the Lord Bouchier sonne and heire to the Erle of Essex, after to the Erle of Kent, Mary wyf to William Erle of Huntingdon, John Woodville, Lyonell Bisshop of Sarum, Margaret Lady Maltravers, Jane Lady Grey of Ruthin, Sir Edward Woodville, Katherine Duchesse of Buckingham.*

I have followed this birth order in writing this article. Because Elizabeth, the subject of two recent biographies, has been written about extensively, and Anthony merits an article to himself, they are not included here.

## Richard Woodville

By far the least known brother of Elizabeth Woodville is Richard, who eventually became the third Earl Rivers.

Richard seems to have been the second oldest Woodville brother. Cora Scofield in her biography of Edward IV refers to his having been pardoned in 1462 for his adherence to the Lancastrian cause; his father and older brother, Anthony, had been pardoned the previous July. His brother John was born around 1445 (he is

said to have been 20 in 1465), and Anthony is thought to have been born around 1440. Anthony, Richard, and John, along with their father, each bound themselves in a marriage indenture involving their sister Mary in 1466.

In 1465, Richard was made a Knight of the Bath, along with his brother John, as part of the festivities preceding Elizabeth's coronation. In 1467, Edward IV attempted to have him appointed Prior of the Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, though he was not a member of the order; the royal intervention failed, however, when the order elected its own chosen candidate.

Scofield writes that in 1469, Richard captured Thomas Danvers, who was accused of plotting with Edward IV's Lancastrian enemies. Later in 1469, the Earl of Warwick, taking advantage of unrest in the country, issued a manifesto condemning "the deceitful, covetous rule and guiding of certain seditious persons," including the elder Richard Woodville, Anthony Woodville, and "Sir John Woodville and his brothers." The elder Richard and John were seized and executed, and Anthony appears to have been captured by men who were reluctant to execute him. The younger Richard must have been in danger himself during this time, but nothing indicates his whereabouts. In November 1470, however, during the readeption of Henry VI, he was issued a pardon by the Warwick-controlled government. It seems likely that he would have fought for Edward IV at Barnet and Tewkesbury in 1471, but his presence is not mentioned there; perhaps as a mere knight who did not play a notable part in the battle he was simply too lowly to mention.

Richard played little part of importance in the remainder of Edward IV's reign, although he seems to have been useful enough in his way. J. R. Lander states that he was "employed on various embassies and commissions" and notes that he found no evidence of grants made to him. In the last years of Edward IV's reign, he was on commissions of the peace in Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Northamptonshire, and the town of Oxford. Was his low profile due to his being considered ineffectual or incompetent, or was he simply a man who preferred the life of a country gentleman to a more public role? Perhaps after having witnessed the strife of the previous decades, including the violent deaths of his father and his brother John, he was content to live an existence of relative obscurity.

Richard Woodville was present at Edward IV's funeral in 1483, along with his brother Edward. Soon afterward, Richard, Duke of Gloucester, having seized and imprisoned Richard Woodville's brother Anthony at Northampton, confiscated Anthony's land. According to Rosemary Horrox, the soon-to-be king seized Richard Woodville's manor of Wymington as well on May 19, 1483, despite the fact that Richard Woodville stood accused of no crime.

Given this high-handedness and the subsequent executions of Anthony and of Elizabeth Woodville's son Richard Grey, it is not surprising that Richard Woodville, along with his brother Lionel Woodville, joined the interconnected series of uprisings against Richard III in the fall of 1483 known as Buckingham's rebellion. (Richard and Lionel were brothers-in-law of Buckingham, who was married to their sister Katherine.) Richard Woodville was among the rebels who rose at Newbury. This rising, like all of the others, collapsed in the wake of Richard III's swift reaction and Buckingham's own capture and execution.

Richard Woodville, along with many other rebels, was attainted in the Parliament of 1484. As Richard III had executed his own brother-in-law, Thomas St. Leger, for his role in the uprising, as well as sundry other rebels, one wonders why Richard Woodville was spared. He does not seem to have fled abroad. Perhaps he went into sanctuary like his brother Lionel. In any case, by 1485, Richard III was trying to win over some of his former opponents. He pardoned Richard Woodville on March 30, 1485, in exchange for a bond of 1,000 marks and a pledge of good behavior.

In a *Ricardian* article, Barrie Williams suggested that Richard Woodville might have been deputed by Richard III in 1485 to assist in marriage negotiations for the hand of Joanna of Portugal, following an embassy by Edward Brampton. Richard's presence there seems highly unlikely, as pointed out by Doreen Court in her reply article; the mention of a "Lord Scales" probably refers to Edward Woodville's visit early in Henry VII's reign. Richard III could hardly be expected to entrust his marriage negotiations to Richard Woodville, a man with no experience in such matters and one who had only recently been pardoned for his role in the 1483 rebellion. And with Henry Tudor plotting an invasion, numbering Richard Woodville's brother Edward as one of his chief allies, it was hardly a sensible time to send a Woodville overseas. More recently, António S. Marques's article discussing the same visit seems to confirm that Edward is the Woodville being referred to, and that his visit took place during Henry VII's reign, not during Richard III's.

Whether Richard joined Henry Tudor's forces at Bosworth is unknown. Following Richard III's defeat there, Richard Woodville was restored to his estates, including those of his father, and became the third Earl Rivers, the title that his father and his brother Anthony had held before him. He took part in some of the ceremonial occasions of Henry VII's reign, participating in the coronation of his niece Elizabeth of York and in the christening of her first child, Arthur. During the reign, he served on commissions of the peace in Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire and was among those commissioned to take musters of archers. Richard was also commissioned to investigate treasons, felonies, and conspiracies in Hereford in 1486 and to try petitions presented to Parliament in 1487. I have found nothing indicating whether he was at the battle of Stoke.

Richard died on March 6, 1491, without issue. He was the last surviving of the Woodville brothers. In his will, he requested burial at the Abbey of St. James at Northampton and bequeathed his lands to his nephew Thomas, Marquis of Dorset (Elizabeth Woodville's surviving son by her first husband). He asked that the underwood at Grafton be sold so as to "buy a bell to be a tenor at Grafton to the bells now there, for a remembrance of the last of my blood."

Though Elizabeth Woodville is generally condemned for using her queenly status to enrich her grasping family, Richard's case illustrates how exaggerated and unjust this accusation is. Richard acquired neither great wealth nor power while his sister was queen, nor is there evidence that he aspired to either. Like his younger brother Edward, who also gained little materially from his royal connection, he does not even seem to have married.

### John Woodville

John Woodville, described as being age 20 in 1465, was probably the third of Elizabeth Woodville's brothers.

John is notorious, of course, for marrying Katherine Neville, Duchess of Norfolk, a wealthy widow well into her sixties at the time. Katherine was a sister of Cecily, Duchess of York, and of Richard Neville, Earl of Salisbury; she thus was aunt both to Edward IV and to his mentor, the Earl of Warwick. She was no stranger to the marriage rite, having been married first to John Mowbray, the Duke of Norfolk, who died in 1432. Her second marriage, which took place before January 27, 1442, was an unlicensed match to Sir Thomas Strangways, a knight who had been in her husband's service. Sir Thomas had died by August 25, 1443, by which date Katherine had married John Beaumont, first Viscount Beaumont. Katherine's third husband was killed at the

Battle of Northampton in 1460. She was about sixty at the time.

Katherine and John married in January 1465, just a few months after Edward IV had announced his marriage to Elizabeth Woodville. William Worcester decried the match as a “diabolical marriage” (though he thought the lady was eighty), and it has been roundly denounced by historians and novelists, particularly of the Ricardian bent, as a shocking example of Woodville greed. While John’s motives were undoubtedly mercenary and the age gap an unusual one, nothing supports the notion that the elderly lady was forced into the match by the Woodvilles or by her nephew the king or that she found it offensive or degrading. Outwardly, at least, she and her family seem to have been on good terms with the Woodvilles. At the banquet following Elizabeth’s coronation a few months after the marriage, Katherine was seated at a table with the queen’s mother. Her grandson, John Mowbray, the fourth Duke of Norfolk (who was about the same age as her new husband) played a prominent role at the coronation, where he fulfilled his hereditary duties as marshal of England. Perhaps Katherine happened to find the young man’s company congenial. There is no reason to suppose, except by the prurient-minded, that the relationship had a sexual dimension.

On May 23, 1465, as part of the ceremonies leading up to Elizabeth’s coronation, John was made a Knight of the Bath, along with his brother Richard and several dozen other men. In 1467, Edward granted him the reversion of certain of Katherine’s dower lands. These had been forfeited by William, second Viscount Beaumont, Katherine’s Lancastrian stepson from her third marriage.

John served as the queen’s Master of Horse, for which he received forty pounds per year. Like his father and his brother Anthony, he was fond of tournaments. In 1467, he fought in one at Eltham alongside the king’s closest friend, William Hastings; the king and Anthony Woodville fought on the other side. The following year, he and Anthony were among the English entourage that escorted Margaret, Edward IV’s youngest sister, to Burgundy for her wedding to its duke. John was named the prince of the tournament that followed the wedding ceremony.

In June 1469, John accompanied Edward IV on a pilgrimage to Bury St. Edmunds and Walsingham. (One of the king’s other companions was the king’s youngest brother, Richard, Duke of Gloucester. How congenial he and John found each other’s company is, unfortunately, unrecorded.) During their trip, the royal party met with the younger John Paston, who took the

opportunity to ask John and others to use their influence with the king to assist the Pastons in a legal matter. John Woodville, Paston reported, and his brother Anthony “tok tendyr your maters mor then the Lord Revers,” their father. But John Woodville would soon be in no position to help John Paston or anyone else.

Trouble was brewing in the person of Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick, who had allied himself with the king’s other brother, George, Duke of Clarence. Warwick had several grudges against the crown, not the least of which was the growing influence of the Woodvilles at court. In his manifesto issued from Calais, he targeted Anthony and John Woodville and their father, along with several other men, as royal favorites who were harming the realm. The king sent the Woodville men away for their safety, but to no avail in the case of John and his father. On August 12, 1469, the two were captured by Warwick’s troops and beheaded outside Coventry without trial.

John’s burial place, like that of his father, is unknown. On May 29, 1475, however, Anthony Woodville granted land to Eton College; the indenture speaks of the “rele love and singular devocion” that John bore the college, which Edward IV had come close to abolishing because of its associations with Henry VI but which had regained some royal favor by the late 1460’s. Perhaps Anthony intended that his brother’s body be moved to Eton. Each year on October 30, a hearse with wax candles was to be erected and an obit held for John’s soul; the college was also to say daily masses for the king and queen, their children, Anthony, his late parents and John, and his other siblings. John was also remembered by Walter Blount, Lord Mountjoy, who asked in his will that masses be said for John and his father.

Katherine, John’s aged widow, was to survive her youthful groom by fourteen years. She served as his executrix; one Humphrey Gentile, attempting to settle an account owed to him by John, brought a Chancery suit in which he claimed that “the great might of the said lady” was preventing him from collecting his debt. Katherine was issued robes for Richard III’s coronation in 1483, where she appeared in the coronation-eve procession as one of the queen’s attendants, and died later that year.

### Lionel Woodville

In his biography *Richard the Third*, Paul Murray Kendall praises Anthony Woodville (meagerly, which is as far as Kendall could bring himself to praise a Woodville) by first cataloging his family’s supposed vices. He writes, “Anthony Woodville’s father was a rapacious adventurer . . . His brother Lionel was a type of their father in the gown of a

bishop.” Elsewhere in the book, he describes Lionel as “haughty.”

As is far too often the case when Kendall writes about the Woodvilles, he offers no evidence to support his assessment of Lionel’s character, and indeed there seems to be none. For Lionel, Bishop of Salisbury, is a rather obscure person, despite the high office he obtained.

Most of what is known about Lionel has been summarized by John A. F. Thomson, who estimates Lionel’s birth as being between 1450 and 1455. He notes that the Pope granted him the right to receive any benefice when he was over twelve and that Lionel received a canonry at Lincoln in 1466 as his first benefice. Lionel was educated at Oxford, which elected him as its chancellor in 1479 and offered to award him a doctoral degree in canon law (he already held a bachelor’s degree). Lionel was also made Dean of Exeter Cathedral.

Lionel was not created Bishop of Salisbury until January 7, 1482, eighteen years after becoming the king’s brother-in-law. Although he undoubtedly owed his advancement to his royal connections, bishoprics were common enough destinations for well-connected younger sons, including George Neville, who as the youngest son of the powerful Earl of Salisbury and the brother of the immensely rich Earl of Warwick rose to be Archbishop of York. No controversy seems to have surrounded Lionel’s elevation to bishop, and nothing indicates that he was considered incompetent to hold his office. Records of his tenure are scant: according to Thomson, his episcopal register did not survive. Unlike George Neville, who played a leading role in the political controversies of his day, Lionel seems to have taken little part in his royal brother-in-law’s reign. Thomson suggests that his main interest, even after he became bishop, might have been in the affairs of Oxford University.

Following Edward IV’s death on April 9, 1483, Lionel apparently attended his funeral services, according to Anne F. Sutton and Livia Visser-Fuchs, who have collated the various manuscripts describing the ceremonies. By April 26, 1483, however, Lionel was back at Oxford. If there was indeed a Woodville conspiracy at this time to take control of the government, Lionel would seem ill placed to take part in it.

On June 9, 1483, Simon Stallworth reported that Lionel had entered sanctuary with his sister the queen; Thomson speculates that he had traveled there for his nephew’s coronation and fled into sanctuary upon hearing of the arrest of his brother Anthony at the hands of Richard, Duke of Gloucester, and Harry, Duke of Buckingham. Gloucester evidently was wary of Lionel, for on June 3, 1483, he removed Lionel’s name from a

commission of the peace for Dorset. Later in June, however, Lionel appears to have reconciled with Richard and left sanctuary, for Richard restored Lionel to the Dorset commission on June 26, 1483, and appointed him to a Wiltshire commission on July 20, 1483. Lionel, however, is not recorded as being at Richard’s coronation on July 6, 1483.

In late July, Richard III set off on a royal progress, visiting Oxford’s Magdalen College on July 24 and 25, 1483. The college register records that the new king was greeted by the university’s chancellor—who, of course, was Lionel Woodville. Since Richard had recently executed Lionel’s older brother Anthony, this must have been a rather awkward occasion, but ceremony presumably carried the day.

On September 22, 1483, however, Lionel issued letters from Thornbury—a manor belonging to Lionel’s brother-in-law Harry, Duke of Buckingham, who by that time had joined those in rebellion against the king. The letters, which concerned the appropriation of a benefice, were harmless enough, but Lionel’s residence at Thornbury, as Thomson points out, is intriguing. Was he there as a guest of Buckingham or his duchess, Lionel’s sister Katherine, or had he been arrested like Bishop Morton, who was also in Buckingham’s charge? Was Buckingham, with an eye to rebellion, attempting to reconcile with his Woodville kin? Richard clearly was suspicious of Lionel, for on September 23, 1483, he ordered the seizure of the bishop’s temporalities (i.e., his revenues). Richard III apparently still trusted Buckingham himself; Thomson suggests that at this stage Richard may have suspected some sort of treasonous communication between Lionel and Bishop Morton, whose nephew Robert was dismissed from his post as Master of the Rolls on September 23 as well.

Whatever the nature of Lionel’s residence at Thornbury, he had certainly become involved in the rebellion by October, when he, Walter Hungerford, Giles Daubenay, and John Cheyne planned an uprising at Salisbury. The rebellion, of course, failed, and Lionel fled to sanctuary at Beaulieu Abbey, where Queen Anne’s mother, the Countess of Warwick, had taken shelter years before following the Battle of Barnet. According to Louise Gill, Lionel was joined in sanctuary by Robert Poyntz, who was married to the natural daughter of Lionel’s deceased brother Anthony.

Oxford quickly moved to elect a new chancellor to replace Woodville, now a political liability to the university, while Richard III made inquiries in December 1483 as to the sanctuary rights of Beaulieu. In February 1484, he sent two chaplains to bring Lionel, who had been

attainted, into his presence. These attempts to prise the bishop out of sanctuary failed, however.

In March 1484, in letters dated from Beaulieu Abbey, Lionel nominated a candidate to a vacant vicarage. Lionel is again referred to in a writ dated July 22, 1484, that was issued after a rival candidate challenged the nomination. By December 1, 1484, when the dean and chapter of Salisbury were allowed to elect a successor, Lionel had died. His cause of death is unknown, as is his burial place. Thomson notes that one manuscript from the seventeenth century states that he was buried at Beaulieu. There is also a claim, however, that he was buried at Salisbury Cathedral.

In the sixteenth century, a tradition arose that Lionel Woodville was the father of Stephen Gardiner, Bishop of Winchester. This claim can still be found in older books and, of course, on the Internet, but James Arthur Muller, a biographer of Gardiner, weighed the evidence and rejected it in 1926. He noted that Gardiner's enemies never accused him of illegitimate birth and that Gardiner was probably not born until the 1490's, eliminating Lionel as a father. More recently, C. D. C. Armstrong has estimated Gardiner's birth date as being between 1495 and 1498. It seems safe to say, then, that the Bishop of Salisbury was not the sire of the Bishop of Winchester.

### Edward Woodville

Of the five brothers of Elizabeth Woodville who survived to adulthood, Edward Woodville, after Anthony Woodville, had the most colorful career.

Edward was the youngest of the Woodville brothers and was likely born in the mid 1450's (his youngest sister, Katherine, probably the baby of the family, was born about 1458). When his brothers Richard and John were made Knights of the Bath in 1465, he was not included; presumably it was thought that he was young enough to wait a bit.

I have found nothing that indicates that Edward Woodville fought at Barnet or Tewkesbury, though it may simply be that he was not sufficiently prominent to be recorded. It is quite possible that he served under his brother Anthony, who P. W. Hammond suggests might have commanded the reserve at Barnet and who was wounded there. In April 1472, Edward accompanied Anthony to Brittany with 1,000 archers.

In 1475, Edward IV created a number of new Knights of the Bath, including his son the Prince of Wales. Edward Woodville was one of the newly made knights. In 1478, he appeared at a tournament held to celebrate the marriage of young Richard, Duke of York, to little Anne Mowbray; his horses were resplendent in

cloth of gold. Later that year, Edward Woodville and the Bishop of Rochester negotiated a marriage contract between the widowed Anthony and Margaret of Scotland, although the marriage never took place. In 1480, Edward Woodville was sent to Burgundy to escort Edward IV's sister Margaret, Duchess of Burgundy, to England for a visit.

D. E. Lowe indicates that Edward Woodville probably played a role on the council of his nephew, Edward, Prince of Wales, during the last years of Edward IV's reign. Edward Woodville was also granted custody of the town and castle of Porchester.

Richard, Duke of Gloucester, led an army against Scotland in 1482. Contrary to reports that Richard's relations with the Woodvilles were hostile prior to 1483, Edward Woodville served under Richard's command on that occasion. Richard made him a knight banneret on July 24, 1482.

In April 1483, Edward IV died. Edward Woodville took part in his funeral procession. In the succeeding days, of course, all hell broke loose. Philippe de Crèvecoeur, known as Lord Cortes, had taken advantage of Edward IV's death to raid English ships, and Edward Woodville had been appointed by Edward V's council to deal with this French threat. On April 30, he took to sea with a fleet of ships. That same day, Richard, Duke of Gloucester, and Henry, Duke of Buckingham, took Anthony Woodville and others prisoner at Northampton, claiming on very dubious grounds that the Woodvilles had been plotting against them.

At this time, Mancini writes, "it was commonly believed that the late king's treasure, which had taken such years and such pains to gather, was divided between the queen, the marquess [her son Thomas], and Edward." Mancini's report, which C. A. J. Armstrong indicates is the only contemporary account to make such an allegation, has cast a lasting stigma upon all three Woodvilles, especially the queen, and for the most part has been uncritically and gleefully accepted by Ricardians. Rosemary Horrox, however, has studied the financial memoranda from the period and finds the account of a treasury raid—which Mancini, it should be remembered, reports as a common belief, not as an established fact—unlikely. She suggests that Mancini's story probably originated in the fact that Edward IV's cash reserves were exhausted to pay for this military venture and points out that there is no evidence that Elizabeth Woodville, living in straitened circumstances in sanctuary, had any share of the treasure. Had there been any in her possession, Richard would have certainly required her to disgorge it on May 7, when the Archbishop of Canterbury ordered the sequestration of Edward IV's



goods, jewels, and seals, or at the very latest before she left sanctuary in 1484.

Edward and his fleet gathered at Southampton, where Edward did acquire treasure: he seized £10,250 in English gold coins from a vessel there, claiming that it was forfeit to the crown. Meanwhile, having gained control of the young king, Richard turned his attention to the fleet commanded by Edward Woodville. He sent letters to officials in Calais about the restitution of ships and goods between England and France and appointed men to seize Edward Woodville on the same day that Edward was seizing his coins in Southampton. As Edward would not have been aware of this order for his own capture until some time after its issuance, he might have fully intended when he seized the coins to deliver them to the royal treasury once the French were dealt with.

Once word got out that Edward was a wanted man, according to Mancini, the Genoese captains of two of his ships, fearing reprisals against their countrymen in England if they disobeyed Gloucester's orders, encouraged the English soldiers on board to drink heavily, then bound the befuddled men with ropes and chains. With the Englishmen immobilized, the Genoese announced their intent to return to England, and all but two of the ships, those under the command of Edward Woodville himself, followed suit. Horrox, however, suggests more prosaically that this vinous tale aside, the majority of Edward's captains simply recognized Gloucester's authority as protector and obeyed his orders accordingly.

Edward Woodville—perhaps with his gold coins seized at Southampton, unless he had had the misfortune to place them on one of the deserting ships—sailed on to Brittany, where he joined the exiled Henry Tudor. There, he received a pension of 100 livres a month from Duke Francis of Brittany.

It was during this time that Edward Woodville acquired a somewhat tarnished sexual reputation from Mancini, who stated that “although [Edward IV] had many promoters and companions of his vices, the more important and especial were three of the . . . relatives of the queen, her two sons and one of her brothers.” This brother has been assumed to refer to Edward Woodville (the hairshirt-wearing Anthony, the bishop Lionel, and the obscure Richard being each unlikely candidates), but Mancini's description may have been heavily influenced by the propaganda being put forth in the summer of 1483 by Richard, Duke of Gloucester, who in June 1485 described Edward and other associates of Henry Tudor in generic terms as “adulterers.” Nothing else supports this picture of Edward Woodville as court playboy; as his career shows, he was a man of action. His life also

undercuts the notion that his sister the queen heaped her relations with royal largesse: aside from Porchester, he seems to have received no grants from Edward IV other than a wardship. Like his brother Richard, Edward does not seem to have married, and there is no trace of a marriage having been sought for him.

Though the October 1483 uprising against Gloucester, now Richard III, failed, the new king could not rest comfortably. In May 1484, Richard was expecting an attack led by Edward Woodville at Dover or Sandwich, though it never materialized.

In the fall of 1484, Henry Tudor, warned of negotiations to repatriate him to England, escaped into France. Back in Brittany, Duke Francis, “[o]ut of either compassion or a sense of guilt,” summoned Edward Woodville and two others and promised to pay their expenses to join Tudor in France.

As noted above, Barrie Williams has suggested that either Richard or Edward Woodville was conducting marriage negotiations for Richard III in 1485. This suggestion, unlikely enough where Richard Woodville is concerned, is nonsensical in Edward Woodville's case, given the fact that Richard III had denounced him as one of Henry Tudor's associates in June 1485. Edward Woodville, of course, was in France with Henry Tudor during the summer of 1485, and was among “the chief men” in Henry Tudor's forces when Richard III was defeated at Bosworth.

Edward Woodville's career under Henry VII was brief but busy. He was granted Carisbrooke Castle in the Isle of Wight in 1485, and appointed its captain. In 1486, he was one of those who bore a canopy at the christening of Prince Arthur. On April 27, 1488—just a few months before his death—he was made a Knight of the Garter. At the Feast of Saint George that year, he is recorded as being present with his fellow Garter knights and as attending a requiem mass, where he offered his helm and crest.

These ceremonies, however, were not where Edward's main interests lay. In 1486, calling himself “Lord Scales,” he went to fight the Moors in Granada, serving in the armies of Ferdinand and Isabella. At Loja, he and his forces were successful in putting the Moors to flight, but the encounter cost Edward his front teeth. He is said to have quipped to a sympathetic Queen Isabella, “Christ, who reared this whole fabric, has merely opened a window, in order more easily to discern what goes on within.” Edward was sent home to England with a rich array of gifts, including twelve horses, two couches, and fine linen.

On his way to Granada and on the way back, Edward stopped in Portugal. Having been unable to meet the

Portuguese king on his initial trip to Lisbon, he stopped there on his return, “where he was very well received by the king.” While there, he proposed that one of Edward IV’s daughters marry the Duke of Beja. The duke, noted the king’s secretary, had previously been proposed as a husband for Elizabeth of York by Edward Brampton during Richard III’s reign. This visit by Edward Woodville, which took place in 1486 or early 1487, is the one that has been confused with a Woodville visit in 1485.

The year 1487 saw Edward in battle again, this time in England against forces led by John de la Pole, Earl of Lincoln, in support of Lambert Simnel, a young pretender to the throne. After three days of skirmishing near Doncaster, Edward’s troops were forced to retreat through Sherwood Forest to Nottingham. At the Battle of Stoke, however, where Edward Woodville commanded the right wing, victory went to Henry VII.

In May 1488, Edward “either abhorring ease and idleness or inflamed with ardent love and affection toward the Duke of Brittany,” as Hall’s chronicle has it, asked Henry VII to allow him to assist the duke in fighting the French. Henry VII, who hoped for peace with France, refused the request, but Edward ignored this and returned to the Isle of Wight, where he raised a “crew of tall and hardy personages” and sailed to Brittany. Henry then reconsidered and decided to send reinforcements to Woodville, but the French arrived in Brittany before this could be done. At St. Aubin-du-Cormier on July 27, 1488, Edward Woodville fought his last battle. He and almost all of his troops perished.

### The Woodville Sisters

Given their gender and their assimilation into their husbands’ families, the most shadowy of Elizabeth Woodville’s siblings are, not surprisingly, her sisters. Though the good marriages arranged for the sisters following Elizabeth’s marriage to the king excited comment and sometimes controversy at the time, very little else is known about their lives, save for genealogical details. Unlike the Woodville brothers, however, who left no legitimate offspring and only one known out-of-wedlock child (Anthony’s daughter, Margaret), most of the sisters produced children. The descendants of their much-deplored unions included the third Duke of Buckingham and the Earls of Arundel, Derby, Essex, Kent, and Worcester, all of whom might well have begged to differ with the proposition that these marriages should have never taken place.

### Jacquetta Woodville

Unlike those of her younger sisters, Jacquetta Woodville’s marriage owed nothing to her sister Elizabeth’s match with the king. Jacquetta had married John Strange, Lord Strange of Knokyn, by March 27, 1450, when the manor of Midlyngton in Oxford was granted to the couple by John’s mother, Elizabeth. Since Jacquetta’s parents had married around 1437, Jacquetta, who was apparently younger than Elizabeth Woodville and Anthony Woodville, was still a child at the time of her marriage, as was her husband, said to have been five or more at the time of his father’s death in 1449. John outlived Jacquetta, having remarried before his death on October 16, 1479. They had one daughter, Joan, said to be age sixteen or more at the time of her father’s death. Joan married George, Lord Strange, son of the Thomas Stanley who is notorious for having helped Henry Tudor win the Battle of Bosworth. George is best known for being taken in custody by Richard III before the battle of Bosworth to ensure (unsuccessfully) the loyalty of Thomas Stanley. Joan and George’s son, Thomas, became Earl of Derby in 1504, having succeeded to the title of his grandfather Thomas Stanley.

Jacquetta Woodville and John Strange, along with an inserted brass of their daughter Joan, are commemorated in a memorial brass at St. John the Baptist Church in Hillingdon. According to the now-lost inscription, Jacquetta was buried elsewhere.

### Anne Woodville

Anne Woodville married William Bouchier, eldest son of the Earl of Essex, by August 15, 1467, when they are recorded as receiving lands worth a hundred pounds a year. Anne is one of the rare cases where we get a glimpse of Elizabeth’s sisters at court: she served as one of the queen’s ladies in waiting and was paid forty pounds a year for her services. How long she was at court is uncertain, as the queen’s household records cover only the period from 1466–67. On February 14, 1480, Edward IV granted Anne a number of manors—an unusual gift to one of the queen’s sisters. Perhaps Anne was particularly close to the queen, as evidenced by her having served as her lady in waiting.

William Bouchier never gained his family’s earldom. He predeceased both his wife and his father, dying sometime between February 12, 1483, when he was placed on a commission of the peace, and April 4, 1483, when his father the earl died, close to eighty years of age. William and Anne’s son, Henry, aged eleven or more in 1483, thus became the next Earl of Essex. Some sources have young Henry taking part in Richard III’s coronation a few months later, bearing gilt spurs in the procession. This would not be surprising, as the Duke of Buckingham, a Bouchier relation, had the ordering of

the coronation, and Thomas Bourchier, the Archbishop of Canterbury, crowned the new king. The Earl of Essex was to become an old hand at coronations: he carried Henry VII's spurs and Henry VIII's sword of state, and he also served as carver at Anne Boleyn's coronation.

In addition to Henry, Earl of Essex, William Bourchier and Anne Woodville had two daughters, the first being Cecily, who married John Devereux, 8th Baron Ferrers of Chartley, who was seven or more in 1471. Cecily died in 1493. Interestingly, John's father, Walter, a staunch Yorkist who died at Bosworth fighting for Richard III, was a perhaps reluctant host at his manor of Weobley to Henry, Duke of Buckingham, during the October 1483 rebellion. The Duke of Buckingham was accompanied to Weobley by his wife, Katherine, Cecily's aunt. Perhaps this family connection was one factor in Walter's decision to give shelter to Buckingham, whose rebellion he did not support.

William Bourchier and Anne Woodville's other daughter, Isabel, seems to have never married. In her will, dated October 10, 1500, and proven May 14, 1501, she described herself as "daughter to William Bourchier" and asked to be buried at Whittington College, London, the burial place of her sister. She left monetary bequests to her brother Henry and to her half brother, Richard Grey.

Following William's death, Anne Woodville married George Grey, who became the Earl of Kent in 1490. She died on July 30, 1489, and was buried at Warden Abbey in Bedfordshire, where George Grey and his second wife were also buried later. She and George Grey had a son, Richard Grey, who succeeded George Grey as the Earl of Kent when George died in 1503. Richard Grey was a wastrel who had dissipated his inheritance by the time he died in 1524.

The Wingfield family history reports that Anne was also married to Edward Wingfield, whose younger brother married Anne's younger sister Katherine, but a marriage between Anne and Edward appears highly doubtful to me. Richard Grey, Earl of Kent, who was described as "25 or more" at his father's death in 1503, could not have been quite this old at the time, as his parents did not marry until at least 1483, but he certainly seems to have been an adult, who sat on a commission of gaol delivery in 1502 and who was given license to enter his lands in 1504. He was made a Knight of the Garter in 1505. With a son this old by her second marriage, it seems that Anne, who was not widowed from her first husband until 1483, would not have had time to squeeze in a marriage to Edward Wingfield, who in any case outlived both of her known husbands. Notably, the Wingfield family history mistakenly reports that Anne's

second husband, George Grey, was killed in 1489, while other sources mistakenly report that Anne's first husband, William Bourchier, was killed at Barnet. These incorrect dates may have helped given rise to the apparent confusion over Anne's marital history. It is also significant that the herald's note quoted at the beginning of this article mentions Anne's marriages to Bourchier and Grey, but no other marriages on her part.

### Mary Woodville

In September 1466, Mary wed young William Herbert at Windsor Castle. William Herbert, born in 1455, was the eldest son of William Herbert, a Welsh baron and a strong ally of Edward IV who for a time had young Henry Tudor in his custody. The marriage indenture had been entered into on March 20, 1466. The elder Herbert was created Earl of Pembroke in 1468, but had little time to enjoy his title; he was murdered by the Earl of Warwick's troops the following year, shortly before two of his Woodville in-laws, Mary's father and her brother John, met the same fate. Mary's husband thus became the second Earl of Pembroke, but he never enjoyed the prominence of his father. Like another Woodville in-law, the Duke of Buckingham, he had no role of importance in Edward IV's reign, perhaps because the king regarded him as inadequate to fulfill his duties. It has been suggested that he might have suffered from ill health. In 1479, he exchanged his earldom of Pembroke, which was bestowed upon the Prince of Wales, for that of Huntingdon. D. H. Thomas suggests that the purpose of the exchange, which was an unfavorable one for Herbert, was to "strengthen the position of the prince and his council in the task of promoting law and order."

Mary, meanwhile, bore William one daughter, Elizabeth, who was described as "16 or more" in 1492, putting her birth date at about 1476. Mary's date of death is given by MacGibbon as being in 1481. In his 1483 will, William (who died seven years later) asked to be buried at Tintern Abbey "where my deare and best beloved wife resteth buried." In 1484, however, he married Katherine, Richard III's out-of-wedlock daughter, whom he seems to have outlived. He died on July 16, 1490, and according to the Complete Peerage was buried at Tintern Abbey.

William Herbert and Mary Woodville's daughter, Elizabeth, married Charles Somerset, the out-of-wedlock child of Henry, Duke of Somerset (d. 1464). As a Beaufort who had been in exile with Henry Tudor, Somerset naturally did well under Henry VII's reign, being made the first Earl of Worcester. He is credited with organizing the splendid Field of Cloth of Gold during Henry VIII's reign.

### Margaret Woodville

Edward IV presented Elizabeth Woodville to his council at Reading at Michaelmas of 1464. In October 1464, while still at Reading, he arranged the marriage of his new queen's sister Mary to the son of the Earl of Arundel: Thomas Fitzalan (b. 1450), known later as Lord Maltravers. On February 17, 1466, John Wykes wrote to John Paston that the Earl of Arundel's had married the queen's sister. Thomas's father, the Earl of Arundel, lived to be 71, dying in December 1487, so Thomas did not succeed to his earldom until 1488. Both men were present at Richard III's coronation, though they also turned up for Tudor events during the next reign. Lady Maltravers is not mentioned as being present at Richard's coronation.

Lord and Lady Maltravers assisted at the christening of Edward IV and Elizabeth's youngest daughter, Bridget, at Eltham in 1480. They were the parents of several children. Their son William, born around 1476, succeeded to his father's earldom after Thomas's death in 1524. Their daughter Joan married George Nevill, Lord Abergavenny. Another daughter, Margaret, married John de la Pole, Earl of Lincoln, who died rebelling against Henry VII at Stoke Field. This daughter was still alive in 1524, when her father bequeathed her a ring.

Margaret Woodville died before March 6, 1491, and was buried at Arundel. Her husband lived until October 25, 1524, age seventy-four, having never remarried—perhaps a sign of affection for his Woodville wife. He specified that he be buried at Arundel, “where my Lady my wife doth lie.”

### Joan Woodville

Joan Woodville (also named in some sources, peculiarly, as Eleanor) married Anthony Grey, the eldest son of Edmund, Lord Grey of Ruthin. Edmund had turned traitor to the Lancastrian cause at Northampton and was created Earl of Kent on May 30, 1465. Anthony Grey, who was knighted on the eve of Elizabeth Woodville's coronation, married Joan around this time. Anthony Grey died childless in 1480, predeceasing his father, who died in 1490. Anthony's younger brother, George, who had married the widowed Anne Woodville, Joan's sister, became the second Earl of Kent in 1490.

Joan was alive on September 24, 1485, when she was named in a document specifying the remainder interests in a grant given to her brother Edward. She was apparently dead by 1492, when a postmortem inquisition on her brother Richard was taken. Neither she nor any children of hers are named there as surviving Richard.

### Katherine Woodville

The best known of Elizabeth Woodville's sisters is Katherine, who with her marriage to Henry, Duke of Buckingham became the highest ranking of the girls—except, of course, for her sister the queen. Katherine was probably the youngest sister; her brother Richard's 1492 postmortem inquisition names her as being “34 or more,” placing her birthdate at about 1458. She had married her husband by the time of Elizabeth's coronation in 1465, for she is named in a description of the event as the younger Duchess of Buckingham and took her place there alongside other duchesses, including the elder Duchess of Buckingham and the king's sister the Duchess of Suffolk. She and her nine-year-old husband were carried at the coronation upon the shoulders of squires. No other duke or duchess is referred to as being toted about in this manner, so it's reasonable to assume that this was due to the youth of the Buckingham. Following her marriage, Katherine was raised in the queen's household, where her husband and his brother also resided. The Buckingham had four surviving children: Edward, Henry, Elizabeth, and Anne, all of whom lived into Henry VIII's reign.

After the execution of her first husband in 1483 and Henry Tudor's victory at Bosworth, Katherine married Jasper Tudor, uncle to Henry VII. The wedding had taken place by November 7, 1485, when Henry VII's first Parliament met. As Jasper had been made the Duke of Bedford by his nephew, Katherine became known as the Duchess of Bedford and Buckingham; her full title, cried out by heralds, was the jaw-breaking, “the high and puissant princess, Duchess of Bedford and Buckingham, Countess of Pembroke, Stafford, Hereford, and Northampton, and Lady of Brecknock.”

Katherine may not have been a very efficient administrator. Carole Rawcliffe wrote that she appeared to be “rather negligent over the care and custody of her muniments,” in contrast to her oldest son, Edward, third Duke of Buckingham, who took great care with his records. Though Jasper Tudor, who died on December 21, 1495, named Katherine in his will, he did not appoint her as one of his executors, a task he reserved for men. Her mind might have been on other things anyway, for she married her third husband, Richard Wingfield, without royal license before February 25, 1496. As Richard, from a gentry family with strong Yorkist ties and about eleven years younger than his new bride, was the eleventh of twelve sons and had yet to embark on the successful career as a diplomat he would have in later life, he probably had little to recommend him materially, yet another indication that the Woodvilles were not guided exclusively in their affairs by mercenary considerations. Katherine had little time to enjoy her third

marriage, though, for she died just over a year later on May 18, 1497. It is tempting to speculate that she died from the effects of pregnancy, but no children survived either of her last two marriages. In his will made many years later, Wingfield, who remarried, remembered to order masses for the soul of his “singular good Lady Dame Katherine.”

### The Mysterious Martha Woodville

Finally, another girl is often added to the list of Woodville sisters: Martha, married to Sir John Bromley. As Brad Verity has pointed out, however, Martha is not mentioned as being a Woodville until a 1623 visitation pedigree. She is not named in the note mentioned at the beginning of this essay, nor do she or her heirs appear in Richard Woodville’s 1492 inquisition postmortem or in the 1485 document designating inheritance rights to Edward Woodville’s annuity. It seems, then, that Martha Bromley was not a Woodville, or at least was not one of the queen’s sisters.

### Conclusion

Even with major historical figures of the fifteenth century, much of their inner lives can only be guessed at, and lesser known figures are all the more elusive. From what we do know, however, it can be safely said that it is a mistake to assume that all of the twelve Woodville siblings were cut from the same cloth. Richard stayed far out of the limelight; Edward died fighting for a lost cause; Lionel may have been more at home in the halls of Oxford than in his bishop’s palace; John, the prince of the tournament, was murdered in the flower of his youth on the orders of a man whose grand ambitions ultimately cost him his own life. Save for Elizabeth, so little is known about the Woodville women that it is difficult to sum any of them up, but it is probably not too much to hazard a guess that like most women of their time, they were bound up in the daily routines of running their households, bearing and raising their children, and fulfilling their wifely roles as lover and helpmeet. As none of the queen’s sisters stirred up any controversy beyond their arranged marriages, they probably performed their expected roles with all due propriety.

In closing, there is one point that is seldom acknowledged by the Woodvilles’ detractors, who enjoy depicting the entire family as a clan of full-grown piranhas converging on the hapless Edward IV immediately following his marriage to the queen. That point is that at the time of Elizabeth’s marriage to Edward IV in 1464, a number of her siblings were mere children or young teens, the youngest being probably about six years old. Just as Richard, Duke of Gloucester, older than some of these Woodville children, would know fear, insecurity,

exile, war, and death over the course of his life, and be shaped by his experiences and by the circumstances in which he found himself, so would the Woodvilles, young and old alike. To lose sight of this and to disregard the Woodvilles as individuals not only makes for a grossly simplified view of history, but a grossly distorted one as well. We could see Richard III and his times all the better, perhaps, by affording the Woodvilles the same objectivity and understanding that we demand of Richard’s historians.

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# The Miser's New Clothes

Marion Davis

Once upon a time there was a miserly king. He was as stingy with the truth as he was with his money.

His lies were very, very profitable. Back-dating the beginning of his reign allowed him to rob subjects who'd fought loyally for their true king. He called them traitors and stole their land and money. False accusations allowed him to rob widows and orphans. Lies about his ancestors persuaded other kings to make profitable alliances with him and marry their children to his.

The success of his lies went to the miser king's head. He told bigger and bigger lies, which brought him more power and money. As his power and wealth increased, he found that he could get away with even more outrageous lies. Any old tale would do, because his subjects were afraid to contradict him and his allies turned blind eyes.

As the years passed, the king's lies changed his appearance. His nose grew into a long snout. His hair fell out. Blood-red teflon and stainless steel scales covered his body. A long, spiky tail emerged from the end of his spine, and thick, sharp claws grew from his fingertips.

His smoky breath mesmerized everyone around him. The foreign scholars he'd hired to make him look good to his descendants were as befuddled as his English subjects. Their ink and paper absorbed the red dragon's breath and transmitted his spell from generation to generation of readers.

It was a subtle and powerful spell. It made readers believe eleven impossible things before breakfast and thirty-nine impossible things after dinner. It made scholars very pugnacious. Pens mightier than swords skewered anyone rash enough to question the miser king's myth. Ink darker than a squid's blackened the reputations of dissenting scholars. The spell blurred boundaries between melodrama and history, fiction and fact. It caused most people to take their history from a playwright who may have rented his name to authors who wanted to remain anonymous.

Genuine dragons were offended by the miser king's lies. They didn't want to be associated with this impostor. So they sent their representative to the source of justice, who granted their request.

A small woman dressed in silvery green visited the befogged regions. In her left hand she carried a salt shaker. Her salt broke the miser king's spell. Where the grains fell, the air cleared. The descendants of the befuddled generations could tell the difference between melodrama and history again. Instead of a shining hero uniting the red rose and the white, they could see a usurper spreading lies the way a squid spreads its ink to blind its prey. Dragons approved. The squids sent their representative to the source of justice ....

## MUSIC FROM THE TIME OF RICHARD III

The York Waits Renaissance Band are pleased to announce that their recording of Music from the Time of Richard III can now be purchased from their website using PayPal.









See [www.theyorkwaits.org.uk](http://www.theyorkwaits.org.uk)

They now have plenty of stock, after a period when the CD was not easily obtainable.

## NEW IN THE RESEARCH LIBRARY

Susan Higginbotham

-  David Baldwin, *The Kingmaker's Sisters*
-  David Hipshon, *Richard III and the Death of Chivalry*
-  Peter Hancock, *Richard III and the Murder in the Tower*
-  Hannes Klemeke, *Edward IV*
-  David Baldwin, *The Lost Prince*
-  John Ashton Hill, *Eleanor Talbot*

# Glossary of Unusual Medieval Words

*From Dickon Independent  
(the magazine of the Worcestershire Branch)*

**AVERING** A medieval con trick performed by beggars to obtain money. Some would strip themselves, hide their clothes and pretend to have been robbed. Others faked illnesses by sticking on false boils made of wax, or tumours made from raw offal, to get alms from towns people or the church.

**BARBETTE** A cloth band that went round the face of the wearer under the chin which, together with a band known as a fillet around the forehead, was the structure to which the veil or wimple was pinned. The barbette was worn by women throughout the thirteenth century but started to disappear by 1348.



It was still retained by various orders of nuns well in to the 20th century

**BOGGART** A mischievous imp inhabiting country areas. It caused destruction in cottages and farms, making things go bump in the night, causing weeds to grow in fields and cows' milk to dry up. It usually became attached to a particular place or family and would not leave

**CORPSE ROAD** Only parish churches were able to bury corpses, so villagers in outlying areas would often be obliged to carry their dead many miles across moors, hills or through forests to bury them. These ways were marked by a series of stone or wooden crosses to guide the mourners. The last known use of a corpse road was in 1736 in Cumbria, between the village of Marsdale Green and Shap parish church, a distance of around 6 miles over steep hills.

**DEODAND** From deo dandum 'given to God'. Any object or animal which caused the death of a person was declared deodand and its value was forfeit to the Crown. This might include a horse that had trampled someone, a tree that the deceased had fallen from, a chimney that had collapsed on them, or a hoe that had accidentally hit them.

**FAITH CAKES** St Faith, a 13th century virgin and martyr, was patron saint of pilgrims and prisoners. She was martyred by being roasted alive on a brazier. When that failed to kill her she was beheaded. On her feast day, 6th October, people ate cakes griddled on hot irons, ensuring safe and successful pilgrimages.

**FRET** An open weave ornamental net which covered the hair. Wealthy women might have frets fashioned from silver or gold thread and even studded with semi precious stones.

**MIDDEN** A place in a garden or courtyard used to dump kitchen waste, the contents of chamber pots, soiled rushes and manure from cleaning byres and yards.

**NIXIE** A beautiful, but evil, female water sprite. Their skins were said to be white or translucent like water.

**PINFOLD** A stone or wooden enclosure, usually circular, used to corral animals at night. Often to be found on drovers' roads, so that herdsmen and drovers could safely contain the flocks while they slept. The term was also used for a pound where stray or confiscated animals could be held until the owner paid his fine.

**POSSET** Unlike the rich dish of eggs and cream which it was later to become, the medieval posset was a warming drink simply made from hot milk curdled with ale or wine. It was sweetened with honey and flavoured with spices such as cloves, ginger or cinnamon. It was thought particularly effective at warding off chills.

**SENDING** People believed that warlocks and witches had the power to conjure a Sending, in the form of an animal or insect which could travel hundreds of miles to kill the victim. Often these were sent against wrong doers who had fled, or those from whom the community who had broken a promise to return home. Victims would feel its approach for several hours or days before it reached them and begin to feel ill, sleepy and terrified.



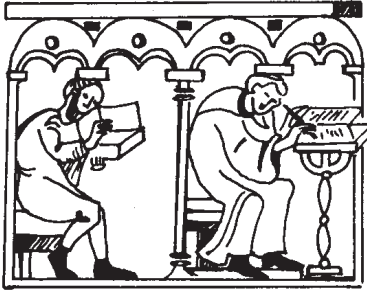
*Medieval witch casting a spell*

**WIDDERSHINS** To circle anticlockwise or against the sun, hence against nature, strengthening the forces of darkness. Going widdershins was often a feature of dark spells and conjuring the dead,

therefore people were careful not to do it by accident for it would bring bad luck. But it could also be used to reverse the current state of affairs by turning a run of bad luck into good.


*Val Sibley*





# Ricardian Reading


Most books reviewed here can be purchased at [www.r3.org/sales](http://www.r3.org/sales).

 *The Big Book Of Riddles, Puzzles And Enigmas* – Fabrice Mazza and Sylvain Lhullier, translated by Tom Clegg, illustrated by Ivan Stigg, Metro Books, NY, 2008

Handsomely presented in the form of a medieval incunabula, this does truly contain many riddles, puzzles and enigmas, ranging “from the very easy to the almost impossible.” They are obviously not all medieval, as some involve the use of matches or presume electric power, both of which were unknown then. Some of them, however, do date back to that period. For instance: What is better than God, worse than the Devil; the poor have it, the rich need it, and if you eat it, you die? (1) Some go back even further, like the one about the animal that has four feet in the morning, two at noon, and three in the evening (2) You’ll find our old friends the chronic liars and the chronic truth-tellers, as well as the goat, the wolf and the cabbage.

Learn how the Duke of Clarence’s cook could time his sauces and how Tristan and Isolde could send love tokens to each other. Or just enjoy the charming illustrations on every page, inspired by illuminated manuscripts. This would make a very nice gift for someone with a mathematical bent, although I enjoyed it in spite of not having one. (Barnes & Noble had these on sale for \$9.98, and may still have)

As penitence for breaking silence, a monk has to climb a mountain. He leaves in the morning at 9a.m. and arrives at the summit by 12noon. He rests overnight and starts back down at 9a.m. the next morning. Following the same path in reverse, he arrives at the bottom by 11a.m. Is there any point along the route where he finds himself in the same place at the same time on both days? (3)

 *The Breath Of God* – Harry Turtledove, Tom Doherty Associates, 2008,


“Once the Great Glacier enclosed the Raumsdalian Empire.” (In the previous book in this series, *Beyond The Gap*) “Now it’s broken open, and Count Hamnet Thyssen faces a new world. With the wisecracking Ulric Skakki, the

neighboring clan leader Trasmund (politely addressed as Your Ferocity) and his lover, the shaman Liv, Hamnet leads an exploration of the new territory in hopes of finding the legendary Golden Shrine” (Jacket blurb)

What they do find is a group of warriors fiercer even than Trasmund’s clan, and more technologically advanced. No wonder they are called the Rulers. They not only have domesticated mammoths for their meat, milk and fur, they armor them for battle. After a series of routs, Count Hamnet and his allies are forced to flee up into the glacier itself. There they discover they have jumped from the fire into the frying pan. The Rulers can only kill them, not eat them; the Glacierfolk can do that too. From there, the plot thickens...

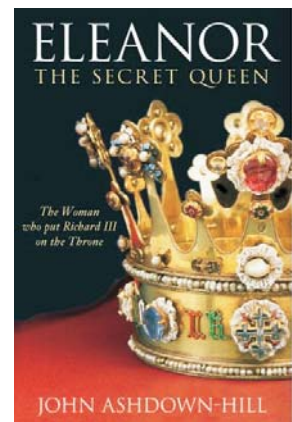
A going a-Viking novel set in an alternative universe, by a master of the genre, this is more of a guy book than chick-lit, though there is enough of “relationships” to interest members of the latter group without turning off the former, a war story with a touch of fantasy, and a must for Turtledove fans.

**Godfrey de Bouillon has five children. Half of them are daughters. How can this be? (4)**

 *Eleanor: The Secret Queen* – John Ashdown-Hill Ashdown—Hill (2009). The History Press, The Mill, Brimscombe Port, Stroud, Gloucestershire GL5 2QG, England, ISBN 978 0 7524 4866 4.

On the front cover of John Ashdown Hill’s new book “*Eleanor: The Secret Queen*” is a picture of the Crown of Margaret of York. It is a most fitting illustration since this book itself is certainly a new jewel in the crown of Ricardian Scholarship.

Before Ashdown-Hill’s diligent investigations, Eleanor Butler (nee Talbot) was virtually just a name on a piece of paper. However, five centuries ago it would have been death to possess that piece of paper. This is because



Henry VII, the king who sat so precariously on the throne until April 21st of 1509, was quite aware that it was Eleanor's status as the 'uncrowned queen' of Edward IV that lay at the heart of the legitimacy of Richard III and his assumption of the crown of England in June 1483. In this present book, Eleanor herself virtually springs to life off of the page.

What Thomas More sought to conceal, John Ashdown-Hill has now revealed. We learn much of her familial origins and upbringing, especially the status of her father and his importance to the politics of the nation in the early fifteenth century. As the daughter of the renowned Earl of Shrewsbury, Eleanor was no minor figure upon whom the young Edward could practice his romantic strategies with impunity. Rather, Eleanor is shown as a pious and responsible figure whose known actions accord very much with what was expected of a highborn lady of the middle 1400's. Her marriage connection with the Sudeley family and the fate of her husband and father-in-law are illuminated in fascinating detail. Indeed, it was the untimely death of her husband, Thomas Butler that may well have served as the catalyst for the meeting between Edward IV (or the Earl of March as he may then have been) and Eleanor. As well as meticulous discourse on archival information, we learn of Ashdown Hill's own intriguing speculations. Were Thomas Butler and Eleanor Talbot promised to each other very early in Eleanor's life because Thomas himself spent time in the Talbot household as a younger man? Ashdown-Hill explains why this was probably a good match when the promise was made but of especial advantage to the Butler family later as the Earl of Shrewsbury grew in influence over the years.

One of the great mysteries over the years is why Eleanor never claimed her right as Edward's Queen. In his work, Ashdown-Hill provides a strong and cogent argument as to why this was probably an unadvisable strategy for Eleanor to have pursued. Nevertheless, her action, or lack of it, did not serve to validate the equally secret Woodville marriage. As the author so clearly indicates, while Edward was married to Eleanor, his marriage to Elizabeth Woodville was invalid and any issue thereof was thus illegitimate and barred from succeeding to the throne. This is where Eleanor's eventual importance continues to reside. Ashdown-Hill implies that the See of Bath and Wells was perhaps a part of the price of Robert Stillington's silence on this issue. As the officiating priest at the marriage of Edward and Eleanor, and as a Doctor of Canon Law, Stillington would have well understood the meaning of Eleanor's wedding and its effects on the subsequent Woodville progeny. When the marriage and its ramifications were later revealed to Richard, Duke of Gloucester sometime in June 1483,

Richard was very much then justified in his course of action in assuming the throne. Thus accusations that Richard III usurped the throne are, by this standard, clearly false. The ramifications of what John Ashdown-Hill has now established will continue to reverberate in the years of history to come.


In the latter phase of her short life, Eleanor was very much to pursue the pious activities that had characterized her early existence. She was especially close to her younger sister, Elizabeth, Duchess of Norfolk. Indeed, it is very likely that she spent much of her remaining life after the death of her husband Thomas Butler with her sister in Norfolk. There she was active in relation to the Carmelite Order and may have joined them as a lay associate (a tertiary). However, it is in our final glimpse of the live Eleanor and the disposition of her lands and effects that we get perhaps our most intriguing insight into this complex character. For in gifting her lands to her sister Elizabeth, Eleanor acts as a married woman would act, and not as a widow would act. Did she, even into the summer of 1468 still consider herself the wife of Edward IV and arrange her dying affairs in light of that belief? This is a postulate that Ashdown-Hill asks us to consider. Explorations as to the possible disposition of Eleanor's earthly remains provide an important coda to the text – it even provides us a potential glimpse of what Eleanor may have looked like in life. The text is rounded off with a number of interesting and involving appendices, themselves each worth the price of purchase. Notation and specification of supporting evidence is extensive and convincing.

This book is a clear, concise, and erudite exposition of the nature and character of the (uncrowned) Queen Eleanor. It explores the subtleties and nuances of her life while exposing the great effects that her marriage to the King had on contemporary and subsequent events. If we are to solve the puzzle of King Richard III, we have to acknowledge what a critical part of that puzzle Eleanor Butler is. Thanks to Ashdown-Hill, this part of the puzzle is no longer a dark and inhibiting gap in our understanding but rather is now itself an element that renders its own light on events during the respective reigns of the royal sons of Richard, Duke of York. I very much recommend this book to all Ricardians but also to all interested in understanding how history itself should be distilled and disseminated.

— *Peter Hancock*

(Another, and very positive, review of this book came in as I was preparing this to send off. Think I will save it for next time out- something to look forward to.)

A tyrannical king has captured his most bitter opponent.. He gives the man a last chance to be pardoned. He places two marbles in a helmet, one white symbolizing freedom, one black representing death. In front of the people gathered for the occasion, the prisoner must draw unseen a single marble...The night before, a spy informs the prisoner that the king has placed two black marbles in the helmet. What should he do to ensure that he will be set free? (5)

 *The King's Daughter* – Sandra Worth, Berkley Books, NY, 2008 - ISBN #978-0-425-22144-0

As I have read all of Ms. Worth's previous novels I was extremely excited to delve into her latest endeavor *The King's Daughter*. As usual it was a page-turner, written in the first person of Elizabeth of York, oldest daughter of King Edward IV and Elizabeth Woodville. I was interested to see how Elizabeth's character was to be developed, as there has not been much information on her that has survived from her lifetime. Yes, Elizabeth was the daughter of, wife of, niece of and sister of a King of England. This in itself makes her unique and an author's dream subject for historical fiction - an immense opportunity for Ms. Worth to develop her as she sees fit and she does not disappoint.

As the story opens in 1470 the relationship between Edward IV and his daughter Elizabeth is developed quickly. Sandra Worth does not spoon-feed us the characters. The readers are enlightened through the actions and involvements the characters find themselves in. During these opening scenes we learn a lot about Edward IV. Despite important nobleman waiting to meet with him, Edward does not jump to put the business of the kingdom ahead of his children as he continues to play with Elizabeth. This simple act reveals a multitude of traits that are indicative and consistent with what we know about Edward IV. History has preserved for us a record of a monarch who was known for his love of life, drink, women, excess, and his strong aversion to conflict. This personality trait that would seem to be more of a "child mentality" when it came to handling state business, and it endears him to his daughter and his other children and disgusts his ambitious wife.

As Edward is disposed by his old friend Warwick the Kingmaker and must flee the country, some of the novel is set in sanctuary where we get the first glimpses of Jacquetta and her daughter Elizabeth Woodville. To add verve Ms. Worth runs with what was truly the consensus of the time and that was that sorcery was used to ensnare Edward IV into marriage with Elizabeth

Woodville. Elizabeth secretly sees Jacquetta and Bess practicing that ancient art with the goal of conjuring up a victory for Edward over Warwick and his allies. This is a juicy tidbit to include in the novel and she has to be applauded for using it to add flair and dimension. While the family is in sanctuary, Ms. Worth skillfully brings in information from the "outer world" through family acquaintances and outside people who service the family. During sanctuary the turbulent relationship between Elizabeth and her mother unfolds. Logically we can conclude that Bess Woodville had a fair amount of jealousy toward Elizabeth based on her beauty and her father's attentions alone. Bess Woodville was not known to take a back seat to anyone, even her own children, so the fact that there is not being a strong maternal bond between the two seems normal, and the heated exchanges between the two expected.

I enjoyed, as always, Ms. Worth's character development. I just laughed out loud was when Cecily Neville arrives at the castle and asks "Is there not a comb in the whole palace?" when she spies her grandchildren. Is there a person out there who can read this passage and not immediately have a certain mother-in-law or grandmother pop into mind? With what we know of Cecily Neville, we can just hear her saying this upon sight of those grandchildren. It is these small details that give Ms. Worth's characters such richness and life.

Ms. Worth's Elizabeth is very intelligent and learned. More than just intellectually smart we see the keen astuteness of her personality when Elizabeth is able to piece together information to figure out that her mother knows about the previous precontract with Eleanor Butler without Bess ever having to admit it. Elizabeth shows maturity beyond her years in staying to marry Henry Tudor for the good of the country although she was raised with "the Tudor" being a constant thorn in her family's side. She obviously was a very strong woman to marry a man she had never met, who had always been a lurking, foreboding presence in her life, who she must know is only marrying her for her legitimate claim to the throne. Henry Tudor could not have been accepted by the people without his marriage to Elizabeth. From the onset Elizabeth had an uphill battle in marrying "the Tudor". Can one imagine what she must have felt when she was raised with a man so "kingly" in looks and manners, as her father, and had an uncle so brave in battle, smart and loyal that she was in love with, and then be assimilated into this family with Henry Tudor and his mother? (Margaret Beaufort was a formidable woman in her own right. She viewed herself as the queen, spent hours writing rule books for the household, and took it upon herself to dress in the same gowns as Elizabeth.)

How did Elizabeth do it? Ms. Worth takes us there as we view these events through Elizabeth's eyes. "Elizabeth the Good" as she came to be known is a fitting title as Ms. Worth in her author note states that historians do agree that Elizabeth must have exercised much influence over Henry Tudor for good while she was alive as after her death his character began to "degenerate and his acts grew more violent, debased and vile."

As a side note I enjoyed the reader being included in the saga of Perkin Warbeck and able to draw his or her own conclusions to his identity. Ms. Worth's Elizabeth shows depression and anger over his execution indicating she thought he could have been her long missing brother Richard, Duke of York. I, also, loved the glimpses into the future of Henry VIII. It only makes sense that a monarch that was so cruel, so suspicious of everyone, so desperate to maintain the crown for his family would have begun to show signs of these mental disturbances in his early childhood. Despite loving him, as a mother does, Elizabeth realizes Henry is different and at the end acknowledges that "Arthur was a Plantagenet" and "Henry a Tudor".

Elizabeth embodies so many genuine human characteristics that the reader does laugh with her, cry with her, and grow with her. In the "Epilogue" you lay with her on her bed feeling your body is "as heavy as marble" as small bits of her life flow in and out of memory, it is you reliving them. You running and laughing, playing with your nephew and brothers. You looking forward to seeing your Uncle Richard and poignantly remembering your son when he was three and the world looked promising and bright. On one hand you want Elizabeth to be well, you want to see her steady influence on the man who is to become Henry VIII, but on the other you want a sweet release for her, for the woman who has given so much to her country, so much love to all around her. You want her to have that love and peace and in the end, Ms. Worth delivers that for Elizabeth.

—Lori J. Braunhardt


Some feedback on a book reviewed here previously, but which I have only lately read. By the way, the paperback edition of *Richard III: The Maligned King* will be appearing in July 2009, and will contain some amendments/updates and a more comprehensive index. The author has offered to supply the new material by post or email to any readers to care to contact her at [ajcarson@telkomsa.net](mailto:ajcarson@telkomsa.net).

Annette Carson's *The Maligned King* really would be a valuable addition to any Ricardian library. Ms. Carson frames her arguments from several viewpoints, including plain ordinary common sense, something often lacking in both traditional and so-called 'revisionist' histories. For instance, her remarks on Elizabeth of

York's infamous letter inspired a flurry of e-mails between Marion Davis and me, which opened up even more questions.

As David Baldwin points out in *The Lost Prince*, "no fewer than 152 individuals had been identified as 'Jack the Ripper'" and the true Ripper might have been none of them. I hardly think there were that many candidates for the subject of this letter, but perhaps it concerned a Person of No Importance with whom Elizabeth was in love. Ms. Carson doesn't go that far, of course; this tangent is mine own. When she does indulge in speculation, she clearly marks it as such, provides plentiful sources, and is not afraid to go into detail, even the eye-glazing kind. "If the reader has now heard enough of supposedly scientific computation of age [of the skeletons], let us examine the topic of hypodontia." Somehow she manages to make it interesting. What a pity the authorities won't allow DNA profiling of the bones. What happened 500 + years ago shouldn't matter to the present-day royal family, but it's just possible it might prove Shakespeare was Wrong, and what would that do to the tourist industry in Britain?

Some brigands are interrupted as they are robbing the king's treasure. They manage to carry off three chests, but they don't have the keys. One of the chests contains gold coins, another silver, while the third has both gold and silver coins. Each chest originally had a label, but during their flight the brigands have mixed them up and all three labels are now attached to the wrong chests. They can only spy one coin behind the keyhole of each chest. Into which chest should they look in order to know right away what each chest contains? (6) Does this remind you of something?

 *Shakespeare: The World As Stage* - Bill Bryson. (Eminent Lives Series) New York: Harper Collins, c2007.

Those who have read *The Mother Tongue* and *Made In America* may want to read Bill Bryson's latest book. Readers who are unfamiliar with Bryson's earlier work may ask why his interpretation of Shakespeare's life is worth reading.

Bryson's first chapter, "In search of William Shakespeare," ends with this comment: "To answer the obvious question, this book was written not so much because the world needs another book on Shakespeare as because this series does. The idea is a simple one: to see how much of Shakespeare we can know, really know, from the record. Which is one reason, of course, it's so slender."

A second reason for the book's brevity is stated on the book jacket. The series mission statement says: "Succinct, essayistic, and enlivened by a strong point of view, the *Eminent Lives* series joins a distinguished literary

tradition—great writers on great figures, short biographies perfect for an age short on time.”

Because so little evidence about Shakespeare has survived, Bryson focuses on Shakespeare’s environment and influence. Although his biographical essay lacks source notes, Bryson often identifies his source in his text, including various Shakespeare specialists and the senior archivist at the British National Archives. Many of these sources can be matched with entries in his selected bibliography, so readers have little or no reason to ask “why would Bryson say a thing like that?”

Bryson’s version of Shakespeare’s life emphasizes the limits of human knowledge: “...there remains an enormous amount that we don’t know about William Shakespeare, much of it of a fundamental nature. We don’t know, for one thing, exactly how many plays he wrote or in what order he wrote them. ... We don’t know if he ever left England. ... His sexuality is an irreconcilable mystery. On only a handful of days in his life can we say with absolute certainty where he was. We have no record at all of his whereabouts for the eight critical years when he left his wife and three young children in Stratford and became, with almost impossible swiftness, a successful playwright in London. ... For the rest, he is a kind of literary equivalent of an electron—forever there and not there.”

Bryson’s choice of the electron metaphor is a good one for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Just as many reader-friendly books offer insight into the new physics, Bryson’s book offers 21<sup>st</sup> century insights into the Elizabethan era’s greatest plays and their author.

Ricardians may appreciate Bryson’s observation that: “Facts are surprisingly delible things, and in four hundred years a lot of them simply fade away.” David Thomas, senior archivist at the British National Archives and author of *Shakespeare in the Public Records* tells Bryson: “The documentation for William Shakespeare is exactly what you would expect of a person of his position from that time. ... It seems like a dearth only because we are so intensely interested in him.” Ricardians frustrated by the shortage of documents that could resolve disputes about Richard’s protectorship and reign may find some comfort in Thomas’ comment.

Uncertainty about Shakespeare’s *Richard III* is consistent with uncertainties about his life. Although Francis Meres’ 1598 publication, *Palladis Tamia: Wit’s Treasury*, includes *Richard III* in the list of comedies and tragedies that established Shakespeare’s reputation, no one knows when it was written and first performed. Bryson also discusses the possibility that *Richard III*, *Hamlet*, *Troilus and Cressida*, and *Coriolanus* “may have been written to be read as well as performed.” These

four plays are exceptionally long “at 3,200 lines or more and were probably seldom if ever performed at those lengths.” Shakespeare’s contemporary, John Webster, stated in his preface to *The Duchess of Malfi* that “much original unperformed material” was included for readers’ benefit. Shakespeare may have done the same for his readers.

Until his last chapter Bryson emphasizes the limits of what can be known about Shakespeare and his work. So his position on the authorship controversy seems inconsistent with his preceding emphasis on limits. Rather than reinforcing his earlier electron metaphor, his reference to a *Scientific American* article seems to ridicule investigations into the authorship of Shakespeare’s plays. Bryson’s claim that “nearly all of the anti-Shakespeare sentiment—actually all of it, every bit—involves manipulative scholarship or sweeping misstatements of fact” is intemperate and inaccurate. Since Bryson doesn’t include Bertram Fields’ *Players* in his bibliography, readers can’t know whether Bryson has read *Players*. “Manipulative scholarship or sweeping misstatements of fact” does not apply to Fields’ analysis of the authorship controversy. Bryson’s sweeping dismissal of scholarship that questions Shakespeare’s authorship of the plays should cause readers to reconsider his earlier chapters. Is Bryson’s version of Shakespeare as objective as his scientific metaphor suggests?

Bryson’s last chapter may disappoint readers who appreciate his electron metaphor and its implications. Bryson fans and readers who are certain that Shakespeare wrote the Elizabethan era’s greatest plays may not be troubled by his *non-sequiters*. Perhaps Bryson intends for his last chapter to fulfill the “strong point of view” part of the *Eminent Lives* mission statement. His brief version of Shakespeare’s life and works is entertaining, but readers who settle for this will be shortchanging themselves. Further reading on this subject is recommended.

—Marion Davis

**Two fathers accompanied by their respective sons go fishing. Each person catches a fish. Yet only three fish are caught. Why? (7)**

Alison Weir (pause for catcalls) has published a biography of Katherine Swinford, 3<sup>rd</sup> wife of John of Gaunt and ancestress of the Beaufort family, of Richard III, of Henry VII, and of all British monarchs since, as well as of at least two presidents of the U.S., John Quincy Adams and Theodore Roosevelt. If anyone out there has read it, or intends to read it, I will be thankful to receive a review.

Speaking of presidential ancestry, according to [genealogyofpresidents.blogspot.com](http://genealogyofpresidents.blogspot.com), Barack Obama is

related on the maternal side to George W. Bush, G.H.W. Bush, LBJ, Harry Truman, Gerald Ford, and James Madison (some say Monroe), as well as Robert E. Lee; and “if his geneology on his mother’s side could be traced far enough back, he would be shown to be descended from Charlemagne.” No great claim; anyone of even partly European ancestry can say that. (I don’t know just how that works, as there were surely more people around then who were not Charlemagne that who were, but I’ll take their word for it.) It goes on to say: “On his father’s side we are all related to President Barack Obama, since anthropologists have determined that all modern humans are descended from a common African ancestor.” Ain’t genealogy wonderful!


Don’t get me wrong. Although I have no desire to trace my family, I’m glad there are people out there who do care about this sort of thing. I’m fascinated by other people’s families, and can’t resist a book with a genological chart to it.

So, Cousin, for the sake of our royal ancestor, please review a book or two, with or without family charts, and send me a review. Your loving kinswoman, Myrna R.


### Answers

1. Nothing.
2. Man, of course
3. Yes. I’ll let you work it out for yourself.
4. All his children are daughters.
5. The prisoner needs to draw one of the marbles and swallow it without looking at it. The only way of knowing which marble he drew will be to look at the marble remaining in the helmet, which will of course be black. The king, in the presence of his people, will have to resign himself to freeing the prisoner.
6. They only need to glance into the chest with the label “gold and silver coins.” Since none of the labels are in their right place, this means that if they see a gold coin, this chest can only contain gold coins, if they see a silver coin, the chest can only contain silver coins. From this, they can deduce the contents of the other two chests.
7. There are only three people: grandfather, father and son.

## NEW ACQUISITIONS BY THE FICTION LIBRARY SINCE LAST WEBSITE UPDATE OF JANUARY 1, 2009:

 Bennett, Vanora *Figures In Silk*. New York: HarperCollins, 2008. 454pp.

*Figures in Silk* follows Isabel, the daughter of silk merchant John Lambert, as she rises to prominence in the silk trade in 15th century England. Isabel would rather be a silk merchant like her father than trapped in a loveless arranged marriage, but a chance meeting with the Duke of Gloucester convinces her that the way to reach her goals is to play by society’s rules. Widowed shortly after her marriage, Isabel enters into an apprenticeship with her mother-in-law to learn the silk trade. Using her sister Jane’s court connections, Isabel becomes a formidable female presence in an industry and world normally dominated by men.

 Jones, Cherry Calvert *Proud Cis*. London: Robert Hale Limited, 1980. 174pp.

What was the mystery of Cecily and Dickon, left alone in a little manor house in Suffolk? Who is their father? What were the motives of the strange gentleman they met in the copse? What awaited them in London town? This is a tale of the end of the Wars of the Roses, comprising also the strange unsolved disappearance of the Little Princes in the Tower.

 Worth, Sandra *The King’s Daughter*. New York: Berkeley Books, 2008. 401pp.

Seventeen-year-old Elizabeth of York trusts that her beloved father’s dying wish has left England in the hands of a just and deserving ruler. But upon the rise of Richard of Gloucester, Elizabeth’s family experiences one devastation after another: her late father is exposed as a bigamist, she and her siblings are branded bastards, and her brothers are taken into the new king’s custody, then reportedly killed.

# Scattered Standards



## New England Chapter

New Moderator: Joan's term of office as moderator is up as of the end of the next meeting. Article V of the By-laws spells out the duties of the officers. They are posted on our website at <http://www.r3ne.org/> —just scroll down to the bottom of the home page and you'll find a link to them. If you are interested in being the next moderator, submit your name to the secretary, Iana Strominger, [terpsichore314@comcast.net](mailto:terpsichore314@comcast.net) so we can conduct the election through email and make the announcement at the October meeting. That term will begin at the end of the meeting and will run for two years unless the next moderator must resign for any reason.

II. Princes in the Tower video was shown, given by Pam Butler. Discussion followed, investigating who Perkin Warbeck was, what became of his wife and child, his treatment at the court of Henry VII.

III. Raffle - the raffle raised \$38.00. Items raffled were: The King's Grace by Anne Easter Smith (2 copies); Life in a Medieval Village; Destiny Lies Waiting by Diana Rubino; To the Tower Born; History of Private Life; and a collection of audio books. Separately auctioned off was a pewter pin.

IV. Annual dues were collected - \$5.00 for 2009. If you still owe send Diana Rubino your dues 333 Fox Run Road, Hudson, NH 03051

From the treasurer: We collected \$48 at the holiday raffle, \$155 for the Innocence Project from members and donated \$25 from the treasury, we collected \$38 at the March 7 meeting from the raffle, and our current balance is \$400.77.

## V. Miscellaneous

Pewter jewelry website for Medieval and Tudor Pewter: <http://www.pewterreplicas.com/default.asp> — the stuff you saw can be found under departments/medieval badges. You can find the boar under animal badges and the crowned "R", etc. under pilgrim badges, secular badges.

Linda McLatchie handed out packets to interested parties for an excursion to see Belles Heures by the Limbourg Brothers at the Metropolitan Museum of Art on October 24.

*Iana Strominger, Secretary*

## Northwest Chapter

Chapter members attended a farewell luncheon on March 4 to honor our long-time Chapter President Jonathan Hayes who moved to Oregon. Fortunately Jonathan will continue as a member of the NW Chapter, visiting when he comes to Seattle.

March 17, the Chapter met for Marianne Rivas' presentation on the education of medieval women and their economic role in medieval society. Marianne recommended "Medieval Women" by Eileen Powers, Cambridge U. Press, 1975 and revealed that in France in the late 1200's, some crafts were exclusively done by women, and in the guilds there, when members, women were equal with men. Her presentation triggered some good discussion about women's roles in society.

At our August meeting, Margaret Nelson spoke on "John Neville, victor of the Battle of Hexham (1464) and how he was ultimately (not) rewarded by the Yorkists". John, Richard Neville's "little brother", was a good field general and managed to stop the Lancastrians in Northumberland, executing Henry Beaufort, duke of Somerset in Hexham. While John received some rewards from Edward IV, his son's (George Neville) inheritance was taken away and divided between Clarence and Gloucester after John's death at Barnet.

Later in August, Chapter members were able to meet Jonathan in Seattle for an enjoyable reunion. He has been sending us much appreciated email references of English and historical interest. Jonathan also discussed the Battlefield of Towton and potential plans to visit it in spring when the fields are not in cultivation and walking there is permitted.

Our October meeting featured a fascinating talk about the Woodville Family by Jean Macdonald. Jean said the Woodvilles changed the fate of England, and the divisiveness and scheming of Edward IV's Queen Elizabeth and her mother hastened the death of the "White Rose". She recommended "The Popinjays" by Geoffrey Richardson.

For December, we met for our usual potluck and planning meeting, and look forward in 2009 to planned talks on Margaret Beaufort, Morton and Buckingham, a trip to the Bruges of the time of Richard III and other interesting topics.

*Margaret Nelson and Jean Macdonald,*

# CHAPTER CONTACTS

## ARIZONA

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

## EASTERN MISSOURI

Bill Heuer  
111 Minturn • Oakland, MO 63122  
(314) 966-4254 • bheuer0517@sbcglobal.net

## ILLINOIS

Janice Wiener  
6540 N. Richmond St. • Chicago, IL 60645-4209

## MICHIGAN AREA

Janet M. Trimbath  
1095 Sugar Creek Drive • Rochester Hills, MI 48307  
(248) 687-8763 • forevere@wowway.com

## MINNESOTA

Margaret Anderson  
3912 Minnehaha Avenue S. #29, Minneapolis, MN 55406.  
(612) 729-4503 • megander@earthlink.net

## NEW ENGLAND

Joan Szechtman  
917 Ward Lane • Cheshire, CT 06410  
r3ne@cox.net; www.r3ne.org

## NEW MEXICO

Lori J. Braunhardt  
4931 Story Rock St. NW • Albuquerque, NM 87120  
lori\_richard3@hotmail.com

## NORTHWEST

Jean Macdonald  
[bonnyj@verizon.net](mailto:bonnyj@verizon.net)

## NEW YORK-METRO AREA

Maria Elena Torres  
3216 Fillmore Avenue • Brooklyn, NY 11234  
elena@pipeline.com

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN

*Chapter moderator wanted*  
Please contact: Eileen Prinsen  
16151 Longmeadow St - Dearborn MI. 48120  
313-271-1224 • eileenprinsen@wowway.com

## SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

Joseph Wawrzyniak  
3429 Chalfont Drive • Philadelphia, PA 19154  
(215) 637-8538 • jwawrzyniak@worldnet.att.net

## SOUTHWEST

Roxane C. Murph  
3501 Medina Avenue • Ft. Worth, TX 76133  
(817) 923-5056 • afmurph04@aol.com

*If you are interested in forming a chapter, contact Eileen Prinsen,  
Chapter Co-ordinator, Eileen Prinsen ecp6@sbcglobal.net.*

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

Mr.  Mrs.  Miss

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

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

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

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

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

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

- |  |          |
|--|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership               | 50.00    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership Non-US        | \$55.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership \$50 + \$5/member | \$_____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> International Mail                  | \$10.00  |
| <b>Contributing &amp; Sponsoring Memberships:</b>            |          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Honorary Fotheringhay Member        | \$ 75.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Honorary Middleham Member           | \$180.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Honorary Bosworth Member            | \$300.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plantagenet Angel                   | \$500.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plantagenet Family Member \$500+    | \$_____  |

### Contributions:

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

**Total Enclosed:** \$\_\_\_\_\_

*Family Membership \$50 for yourself, plus \$5 for each additional family member residing at same address.*

Make all checks payable to Richard III Society, Inc.  
Mail to Amber McVey  
4681 Angeline Lane • Mason, OH 45040-2907