

The Richard Register

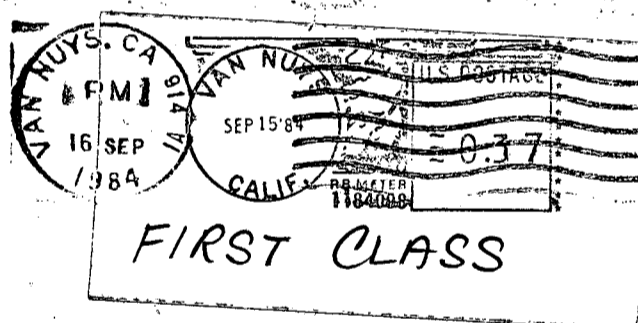
newsletter of
the Richard III Society, Inc.



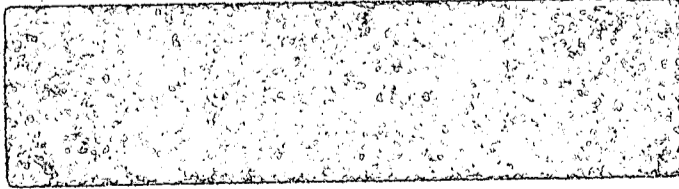
Vol. 19: Fall, 1984



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EDITOR: Chuck Hollins

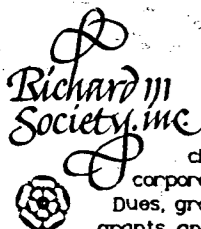
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Articles on subjects pertaining to Richard III and his era are earnestly solicited from our members, as are personal news items.

GRAPHICS: CALLIGRAPHY:
JOYCE HOLLINS WILLIAM HOGARTH



Richard III Society, Inc. is a non-profit educational corporation chartered in 1969 under the membership corporation laws of the State of New York. Dues, grants and contributions are tax deductible grants, and contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law under the Society's 501 (C) (3) IRS designation.

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**Patron of the parent English Society:
His Royal Highness, The Duke of Gloucester**

DUES: single or family members: \$20; students: \$15. The subscription year runs from Oct. 2 (Richard III's birthday) to Oct. 2 and is pro-rated; depending upon availability of past material for members: a portion of the dues may be returned. National dues, change of address notifications and membership queries should be directed to: Martha Hogarth, P.O. Box 217, Sea Cliff, N.Y., 11579. Local chapter dues are determined by the chapters, but all chapter members must also be members of the National Branch.

The Fellowship of the White Boar is the original, now alternate, name of the Society. The American Branch now incorporates the former Friends of Richard III Inc.

NOTICE

Publications Officer needed for the American Branch.
Anyone wishing to volunteer for this office
please contact Bill or Martha Hogarth for more details

On the Cover...

Cover illustration (Courtesy of Alfred Sultán): Heraldry (Arms of the College of Arms) reproduced from a stamp designed by Jeffrey Matthews, FSIAD, and issued by the Post Office on January 17th, 1984. Price: 13 p. One of four stamps celebrating the 500th anniversary of the founding of the College of Arms by Richard III. Printed at the House of Questa, London, England. PHILATELISTS: SEE PAGE 10

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Oops!

In the *Ricardian Register*, vol. 18, no. 1, Winter 1983, "Answers to Quizical," page 26, answer 4, it was Dorset, not Anthony Woodville, whom Mancini quoted as telling the council, "We are so important that even without the King's uncle, we can make and enforce these decisions."

In vol. 18, no. 2, Spring 1983, "The Quincentenary Dinner," page 8, lines 3-4 should have read: "coats of arms of those knights and barons present at Richard's coronation." Our thanks to Geoffrey Wheeler for this correction.

In vol. 18, no. 3, Summer 1983, "Whodunit," page 12, 8 lines up from the bottom should read: "Although it may explain her reconciliation with Richard in 1484, it does not explain her apparently happy acceptance of Henry's marriage to her daughter in 1486..." On page 18, the 2nd paragraph from the bottom should read: "The case is definitely disproven."

In the review of *Good King Richard?* by Jeremy Potter, page 31, "Douglas Seward" should read "Desmond Seward."

The editors wish to apologize for these errors.

In Memoriam

The Southern California Chapter has lost two dear friends. Member Patricia Eick passed away on June 24, and Dr. Harold Schwartz on July 13, 1984. In their memories, a donation of \$200 has been made to the Scholarship Fund of the American Branch.

Remembering Pat Eick:

... Selfishly, I feel sorriest for myself, as I have lost my dearest friend. Her intellect was supreme; her knowledge vast and widespread, her sense of humor was wonderful, and she possessed an infinite amount of gentle compassion. She will be sorely missed by the multitudes of people.

- Vera Balliff

Remembering Harold Schwartz:

His good humor brightened our meetings; his riddles delighted and confounded us. His generosity of spirit was unlimited. We will remember his intellectual curiosity and the encouragement he always gave to others.

- Helen Maurer

Ricardians In Search Of Ricardians

The following list of Ricardians would like to be contacted by other Ricardians for the purposes of exchanging ideas and forming friendships:

Robert W. Cook
4006 Beltsville Road
Beltsville, MD, 20705

Cheryl Elliot
12B Barclay Manor
Newburgh, NY, 12550

Phyllis Grossman
9560 N.W. 25th Court
Sunrise, FL, 33322

Regina Kaiser
1542 Marion #210
St Paul MN 55117

Marjorie T. Roe
82 Rose Ave.,
Patchogue, NY, 11772
(516) 475-7871

Michael F. Simon
555 S. Woodward Ave.,
Suite 616
Birmingham, MI 48011



and from England...

My reason for writing to you is that I would like to have some American Ricardian penfriends.

I turned 26 at Christmas and have been in the Society for just over a year now. I was interested in the Plantagenets for a long time and discovered, by accident, the *Richard III Society* last March. Since then I've visited Sheriff Hutton, Middleham, the York dinner last year and Cambridge for the Symposium. I'm hoping to go to Scarborough for the celebrations there in June and York in November. I would like very much to go on one of the Ricardian holidays in Europe.

I would be most grateful if you could find me some penfriends as I enjoy writing and meeting fellow Ricardians very much.

- Miss Irene Soulsby
B West Street
Whickham
Newcastle Upon Tyne
NE16 4AN
England

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hail & Farewell

We did not quit because we're growing old and gray;
We did not quit because we've nothing more to say;
Nor did we feel that we should pass the torch along
To others of the great U.S. Ricardian throng.
Though family matters press, they had not grown too
pressing,
Nor had we embezzled funds, nor other deeds which need
confessing.

No: the dictates of environment
Led us to early retirement
--we hope it won't be your loss--
For he who hired us (1981)
Has now fired us (1984)
'Cause we couldn't put up with the boss! *

Good luck, Chuck and Joyce!

- Julie Vognar
Hazel Peter
Pamela Garrett

*and he wasn't too fond of us, either!

◆◆◆

Ricardian Gardens

Several months ago I noted an exhibit in medieval gardens at the Spencer Museum of Art (Kansas University) at Lawrence, Kansas. Since there was no way for me to attend, I instead ordered the exhibition catalogue, *Gardens of the Middle Ages* and found it to be a gem. This large, soft covered volume is profusely illustrated with pictures from manuscripts, including many circa 1450-85. Many are reproduced in color and these include the side illustrations from Books of Hours (flowers, birds, etc.) and various example of garden views. The text is divided into several sections and includes chapters on *Gardens in Medieval Art* and *Medieval Gardens and their Plants*. Kitchen and medicinal gardens and pleasure gardens are also covered. All in all, I derived a lot of pleasure from the text and lovely illustrations, especially since many show the clothing and surroundings of the contemporaries of Richard III.

The book can be ordered from: Spencer Museum of Art, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66045. The book itself costs \$18.50 and there is a \$1.50 added charge for postage.

- Margaret Nelson
Edmond, OK

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, continued

Travels with Tey

An acquaintance of mine was going to England for three weeks last summer with six friends, who were planning to drive around in a rented van.

One evening she showed me her itinerary, which had been planned and neatly typed by one of the six friends. Among other, familiar names, I saw Raby Castle, Sheriff Hutton, Middleham Castle ... I must have gasped or exclaimed with such emphasis that she cried out in alarm: "What's the matter?"

My mind raced through several possible openings, all involving references to the Yorkist cause, Richard III, the 500th anniversary, and so on; but since I had never revealed any interest in Richard to her, I finally settled, weakly, on: "Do you read mystery stories?"

Whereupon she replied energetically, "Oh no, I don't care for them. The only one I ever read that I really liked was *The Daughter of Time* by Josephine Tey."

By the end of the evening, I had learned that she liked the book so much she had recommended it to many of her friends and that was why they came to be making a Ricardian tour, and she had learned, not with great interest, I must say, of the Richard III Society.

It was an unforgettable conversation.

- Glenna Bryant
Oakland, CA



Compliments, always welcome

Ever since receiving my first issue of *Loyaulte Me Lie* I've intended to write this letter, and though I'm sure you could have survived quite happily without it, I am determined to write it while my courage holds out.

First, I'd like to express my enjoyment of every issue of the *Register*. Its blend of seriousness and whimsy (without being either dull or silly, ever) is delightful, and the articles keep well to the right side of a very fine line between judicious admiration and enthusiastic hero-worship.

Also, though it's a very poor repayment, I'd like to share the enclosed poem with you. I wrote it as a consolation when downcast by thoughts of Richard's unfitting burial and the lack of monument in Westminster.

To close, I'm looking forward to the reading of many more *Registers* and thank you for the high quality of all those past.

- N.L. Piccirilli
West Warwick, RI

His Monument

In whate'er ignoble grave our King is lain,
Majesty yet shrouds him in our memory,
And our grief is his enduring monument.
His life, his death, make this our sacred duty:
To keep the pledge, to live the *raison* he served:
Justice, and honour, and unswerving loyalty.

Editors' reply: *Thank you so much for your kind comments. Your new editors are striving hard to maintain the same quality you have received in the past.*

◆◆◆

Bridge, Anyone?

Toby Friedenberg of Norwalk, CT, called our attention to the January 23, 1984 *New York Times* bridge column by Alan Truscott, which leads off with the statement: "There is considerable argument among historians about whether Richard III was responsible for having the Princes in the Tower smothered. There is no doubt at all, however, that smothering plays at the bridge table are almost as rare as they are in the history books." The article goes on to tell how it was once done. Thank you, Toby, and right on, Mr. Truscott!



And now for the small ads . . . Royal personage in the Bosworth Field area urgently requires horse. Willing to exchange all or part of Kingdom . . .

More on Maurer...

Many thanks for the Register with its excellent, objective long article and an unknown (to me) portrait of Margaret Beaufort. She looks quite fetching. As usual the Register is passing through many Ricardian English hands.

- Josephine Fuller
Derby, England

Helen Maurer was wrong. We DO know that Buckingham was capable of murder. He tried to murder King Richard, didn't he? And if he were only ambitious and vain in the usual sense, why not remain with Richard who fed that vanity and ambition with offices and wealth? He could never prosper under Henry VII, who was rather paranoid about rival claimants, which Buckingham certainly was.

- Cheryl Elliot
Newburgh, N.Y.

Maurer replies: *Gairdner mentions Buckingham's wish to kill Richard (Richard III pp 139-140, citing the Baga de Secretis in the Third Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records, App. II, p. 231.) Buckingham's son is said to have been the original source of this story, having "confessed [it] long afterwards." Edward, the third Duke of Buckingham was born 3 February 1478, and therefore 5 1/2 years old when his father was executed. The story he recounted seems to have no antecedents - i.e., it appears not to have been current in 1483. One wonders, therefore, where he got it. Since a dagger was the normal part of male apparel, it would seem most likely that Buckingham was carrying one at the time of his capture. I assume he would have been relieved of it and any other weapons that he carried. Be that as it may, Richard never granted Buckingham the interview he apparently desired. Even if Buckingham had managed to secrete a weapon on his person, in the hope of murdering Richard, he never had the opportunity to attempt it. Yes, Buckingham did very well under Richard, and we can say, with 20/20 hindsight, that Henry was paranoid of rival claimants and might not have treated him so well. Unfortunately, Buckingham was not present to observe the sequel and to draw his own, perhaps better informed, conclusions.*

(My thanks to Julie Vognar for looking up the Gairdner references.)

Helen Maurer's piece on Richard is the best summary on him I've ever read-- a masterpiece!

- Mrs. R.F. Hussey
Berkeley, CA

I refer to the Ricardian Register for Summer of 1983 (vol. 18, no. 3), on the cover of which is a reproduction of an alleged portrait of Lady Margaret Beaufort which hangs in the National Portrait Gallery in London.

I have been engaged in some research on the portrait of this lady, particularly in respect to the rings on her left hand. As you know, there is another portrait of Lady Margaret Beaufort which hangs in St. John's College at Cambridge and another in Christ's College, Cambridge.

I enclose a xerox copy of a letter written to me by Dr. S. R. Foister of the National Portrait Gallery, which leads me to believe that the Christ's College, Cambridge, portrait is probably the only accurate one.

As you probably know, Lady Margaret's husband mentioned in the letter was Thomas, Lord Stanley, who died in 1504. Lady Margaret died June 29, 1509.

Finally, I think that Lady Margaret Beaufort as a suspect is fanciful.

- John D. Harris
Dallas, TX



Excerpt from letter by Dr. S.R. Foister, Head of Archive and Library, National Portrait Gallery:

The portrait in our collection to which I believe you must be referring is our no. 1488 which was acquired by us as a portrait of Lady Margaret Beaufort but which subsequently turned out to consist of a sixteenth century Netherlandish portrait repainted so it resembles Lady Margaret Beaufort as she might have looked when young. The sitter in this portrait wears the same arrangement of rings as Lady Margaret Beaufort in the St. John's College picture; the arrangement was probably imitated from that picture. The St. John's College picture, however, was painted at the end of the sixteenth century by Rowland Lockey and is therefore not contemporary although it may have been made after an earlier portrait. The most important portrait of Lady Margaret Beaufort is that at Christ's College, Cambridge, in which she wears as in our portrait the dress of a widow or vowess. Lady Margaret became a vowess during the lifetime of her husband and renewed her vows after his death in 1504. In the Christ's College portrait she does not wear any rings. The rings occur therefore only in the portrait painted at the end of the sixteenth century. It is impossible to be certain whether this denotes the arrangement of rings actually worn by Lady Margaret Beaufort... I believe you are correct to say that at this period the wedding ring could be worn on any finger and it was not unusual for people to wear rings on the upper part of their fingers.

Richard III Society Annual General Meeting

English Speaking Union, 16 E. 69th St., New York
1 October 1983 at 1 PM

Our outgoing chairman, Dr. William Snyder, opened the meeting by introducing the officers of the Society, those present and those unable to attend. He then called for a standing hand for Bill and Martha Hogarth, respectively our new chairman-elect and corresponding secretary/treasurer.

Bill Hogarth's first report then followed, concentrating on our accomplishments as a Society in the last year. Paramount among these was our inclusion as a major case history in Ron and Beatrice Gross's book, *Independent Scholarship*. Mr. Gross, an education correspondent for *The New York Times*, has written this book about private institutions that award scholarships to scholars solely on the quality of their research.

Mention was then made of the Mass held in Richard's memory by a thespian claiming descent from Tyrell; our latest run-in with the *Times*, who refuse to run an "In Memoriam" notice for Richard on the grounds that he is a "pseudo-fictitious character"; and Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan's polite putdown of Richard's importance in the Greater Scheme of Things.

Official greetings on behalf of Chairman Jeremy Potter (London) from Elizabeth Nokes were read. They included information on their worldwide Associated Press story based on Chmn. Potter's book *Good King Richard?* and Desmond Seward's *England's Black Legend*. According to a member who had recently visited Foyle's bookstore in London, Jeremy Potter's more favorable account is selling better than Seward's. Neither book is being published in the US, but a related book, by Giles St. Aubyn, called *The Year of Three Kings, 1483*, is published here by Atheneum.

Publicity activities for 1983 were next on the agenda. In March, Chmn. Hogarth was the guest of the English-Speaking Union in Southern Pines, North Carolina, where he addressed a predominantly Scottish membership; and his appearance on Art Benin's Drive Time Show in Minneapolis/St. Paul. That is a morning radio show, and Hogarth's interview was conducted over the phone.

Outgoing Chmn. Snyder then introduced our Treasurer, Martha Hogarth. A summation of her report follows:

The post office is still acting up. Major offense of the year: the loss of one and one half packages of Ricardians. Membership is up, and our total income for the past fiscal year was \$11,773.44 with expenses totalling \$11,222.00. Funds for the scholarship are doing well, thanks to another personal donation of \$1000, and a \$50 contribution from each member who took the trip to England. We therefore expect to award approximately \$1500 this year, from accrued interest and dividends.

Mrs. Libby Haynes, chairwoman of the Nominating Committee, then gave the results of the mail ballots. Eighty-five were received, and the slate fared as below.

Chairman: William Hogarth	85
Vice Chairman: Morris McGee	84
Corresponding Secretary: Martha Hogarth	83
Treasurer: Martha Hogarth	85
Recording Secretary: Candace Anne Russo	84

A motion was then made and seconded to vote in the entire slate. Motion passed and slate voted in by oral vote.

Mr. Snyder then gave a gracious speech, thanking the members for the support they have given the Society during his 12 years as Chairman, and his wish that this support continue. He was then presented with a Proclamation by Bill Hogarth, naming him as "President in Perpetuity." Life membership was also granted.

Chmn. Hogarth then played an interview he had taped with Jeremy Potter on the grounds of Walpole's Strawberry Hill. The events celebrating the Quincentenary, the activities of the Duke of Gloucester and the *Guardian's* latest misprint (Richard II for Richard III) were discussed.

To end the business part of the meeting, slides of the England trip were shown. We then adjourned for tea and sandwiches, after which the door prizes and lottery drawings were held. Winner of the stained glass box donated by Valerie Protopoulos was Ruth Perat of Mobile, Alabama.

-Candace Anne Russo
Recording Secretary



CHAPTER NEWS

Chicagoland Chapter Minutes

The Chicagoland Chapter gathered for its lavish annual Twelfth Night feast on Saturday, January 7, at the home of long-time member Barbara Schaaf. Lords and Ladies of the court, clad in rich attire, laid out a buffet of varied medieval culinary tastes. (Eating and drinking have always been our specialties, and to this end loyal members have perfected the traditional recipes so that, both in flavor and visual appeal, the modern as well as the medieval palate is tempted. Among our perennial favorites: the almond-studded hedgehog of ground meats and spices we have affectionately dubbed *Spiny Norman*.)

In contrast to this evening of brightly costumed revelry and sensual delights, on Saturday, June 2, these same Ricardians, in a more scholarly mood, strolled through the halls of the Art Institute of Chicago, to view art and artifacts of the Middle Ages and early Renaissance. The collection is not large (the Art Institute is better known for its Impressionist and Post-Impressionist collections) but does contain some fine Romanesque sculpture and two exquisite *Virgin and Child with Donor* portraits by the 15th century Flemish masters Rogier van der Weyden and Hans Memling. In addition to these treasures, the long hall connecting the old and the new wings of the museum is lined with representative samples of Renaissance arms and armor from the Harding collection. Following our mini-tour of the Medieval galleries, conducted by member Judy Thomson, we adjourned to the courtyard restaurant for lunch and wine *al fresco*. Visitors to Chicago are well advised to make the Art Institute one of their stops.

Later this summer, we will again don costumes for King Richard's Faire (no not *our* King Richard, but that of *alleged* promoter Richard Shapiro) on Sunday of Musick weekend, when ancient music consorts from hither and yon come together to regale visitors with the *Hits of 1520*. Here, also, we anticipate a healthy amount of eating and drinking-- tasty Feast of Fowle, for example-- as well as haggling with artisans over their decorative wares. The Faire, which has grown considerably over the years, appears magically each summer on several wooded acres of northern Illinois, and include such lively spectator activities as Jousts, Theatricals, Minstrelsy, and Falconry demonstrations, to name a few.

- Judy Thomson
Secretary

News Note

Members of the Chicagoland chapter tell us they've recently made use of the local public television channel to help promote the Richard III Society, Inc. and its aims and objectives (as well as their own chapter). Another good idea from one of our most innovative American groups...we'll try to have more information on this in a future issue. - Editor

Southwest Chapter Minutes

The Southwest chapter of the Richard III Society met on April 8, 1984 at the home of Mary Ellen Diehl with thirteen members and friends present. Since this was an organizational meeting several items of business were discussed. It was decided that the only officers necessary to keep the chapter running were a chairman, secretary-treasurer, and a keeper of the scrap-book. Mary Miller was elected chairman, Roxane Murph secretary-treasurer, and Sunny Clark scrap-book keeper. Members were asked to send Sunny any articles relating to our chapter and Richard III they might come across. Her address is 100 Bow Creek Circle, Red Oak, Texas 75154. We will start our collection with copies of articles from the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* and the *Dallas Morning News* which appeared several weeks ago in connection with the Ricardian exhibit in the Texas Christian University Library.

After a brief discussion the members decided on annual chapter dues of \$5.00. Ten members joined the chapter at this meeting paying \$2.50 each for the remaining half of the Society's fiscal year, and \$8.00 was collected from the sale of the Ricardian calendar purchased from the Southern California Chapter and buttons with the portrait of Richard III, all donated by Mary Miller, bringing our Treasury to \$33.00

There were many suggestion for future programs, including book reviews and field trips. We decided to attend the Renaissance Fair in Waxahachie on May 6, and the June 29 Shakespeare-in-the-Park performance of *Richard III*. We are also investigating the possibility of having a group tour of England in the summer of 1985. More information about that at our October 6 meeting which will be held at Mary Miller's home.

The business concluded, Mary Miller gave a most interesting brief review of a recent book, *The Dragon Walking* by John P. Ford, a fantasy in which Richard wins the battle of Bosworth Field. Would that it happened that way! After the review, Roxane Murph showed slides of Ricardian sites.

Our thanks to Mary Ellen for the delicious refreshments and the use of her charming home.

- Roxane Murph
Secretary

Northern California Chapter Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 2:15, with approximately 15 people present, at the home of Mrs. Florence Jury in Berkeley.

Jacqueline Bloomquist showed us her copy of the Southern California Chapter's Ricardian Calendar; it's *very* attractive, and they're working on one for next year, too! Jacqueline had received a letter from Geoffrey Wheeler, who wanted to know why more Americans don't write about their trips to England in the *Register*. There followed a discussion in which some people said that their feelings about their English trips were too personal, and others offered different excuses. We all agreed to try, though.

Hazel Peter moved to accept the slate of officers as presented, and the motion was carried by the voice vote. The officers are: Jacqueline Bloomquist - President; Pam Garret - Vice President; Julie Vagnar - Secretary/Treasurer.

A few Ricardian books were auctioned off for the benefit of the treasury, and then Hazel Peter gave a talk about William Caxton and how his career fit into the social structure of his times.

Afterward, a buffet was served, with turkey and many homemade items, including pickled mushrooms, scones, jam, and whole wheat bread - in short, a typical English pub lunch. The meeting adjourned about 4:30.

- Julie Vagnar
Secretary

Southern California Chapter Minutes

(Because of delays in publishing, minutes of the past several chapter meetings will be eliminated or greatly condensed, with apologies to Frieda McKenzie, our chapter secretary.)

December Board Meeting (12/11/83): Gauntlet Committee formed, 1985 Calendar Chairman chosen, disbursement of proceeds from calendar sales discussed. The program schedule for the next year's meetings was planned. Meeting recessed to enjoy a presentation by Mrs. Terri Saffori on medieval dress, to which general members were invited, as a "costume workshop" before Twelfth Night.

Twelfth Night Revelry and Potluck Feast (1/6/84): Chairpersons Elaine Schwartz and Madeleine Ten Eyck brought forth a splendid social event, hosted by Joyce and

Chuck Hollins in Newbury Park. Approximately 50 members and guests were present, many in costume. Highlights included a magic show (emceed by "court jester" Hollins), Henry VII Dart Board game (provided by Chuck Dahlin), the choosing of the King and Queen (via the bean-in-the-cake), ribald ditties beautifully sung by Melinda Burrill, and an impromptu talk by our distinguished guest, Dr. Richard Lockett, Pepys Librarian, Magdalene College, Cambridge. And, of course, there was the magnificent dinner of semi-authentic medieval dishes! A jolly time was had by all.

General Membership Meeting (3/4/84): Business meeting at the home of Ruth and Richard Lavine; followed by a program of "British Law and the Courts during the Ricardian Period" presented by member Richard Lavine, who is also a judge of the L.A. Superior Court. This talk was recorded on audiotape for anyone who may have missed it, and is available to borrow.

General Membership Meeting (5/6/84): Held in the home of Phyllis Young in Anaheim; followed by an interesting and informative talk by Research Officer Helen Maurer, entitled "Dem Bones", and dealing with the bones found under the Tower steps and with the studies and controversy associated with them. She also revealed some research of her own connected with this subject, and filled us in on the background of the times and the political climate which may have influenced the way the discovery was treated. This presentation was also recorded on audiotape, and is also available for loan.

General Membership Meeting (7/1/84): After the board of directors' meeting, the general membership meeting was held at the home of Helen Maurer in Mission Viejo. Joyce Hollins presided; 15 members and friends were present.

After some general announcements regarding the sad passing of Patricia Eick, the meeting resumed with the reading of the minutes, correspondence, and the treasurer's report. Several members shared postcards sent by Chuck Dahlin during his recent trip to England.

The Calendar Committee displayed some outstanding art work being prepared for the 1985 Ricardian Calendar. Dana Holliday announced that publication is anticipated for late August, 1984.

It has been decided to temporarily table the Gauntlet project. The committee is making progress in finding suitable "gauntlets"; however, wording of the challenge and the list of recipients is still to be determined.

Our annual birthday luncheon and Chapter A.G.M. is scheduled for Sunday, September 30.



It was announced that Chuck Hollins will assist the National Branch with the publication of the *Ricardian Register*.

Richard Lavine was appointed chairman of the nominating committee, to prepare a slate of candidates for our October election. It was approved that the post of Research Officer become a team effort, filled by a committee under the direction of the elected Research Officer. As per our custom, the immediate Past President will serve as membership chairman.

Marion Low read a newspaper article about the 500th anniversary of a town in Ireland which received its charter from Richard III.

Dana Holliday, lately returned from England, brought with her a fine text entitled *The Coronation of Richard III, The Extant Documents*, by Hammond and Sutton, published in 1984.

After a break for refreshments, Helen Maurer and Meg Macaulay provided a delightful program of entertainment, based loosely on Steve Allen's *Meeting of the Minds*. Each attendee drew the name of a Ricardian character, then, in the guise of that character, entered into a stimulating discussion of various philosophical/political questions.

The activity was greeted with full participation and much enthusiasm, and it was suggested that we might select another Ricardian name at the next meeting and become that character, researching and representing him/her in similar discussions throughout the coming year.

- Frieda McKenzie
Secretary



A Shot in the Park (Or My Kingdom for a Disclaimer)

During the month of June the Shakespeare-in-the-Park company of Fort Worth, Texas presented *Richard III* and the members of the southwest branch of the Richard III Society felt that this would be a good opportunity to help counteract the blatant propaganda of the play, and also inform potential members in the area of our existence. With this in mind I called the managing director of the company and requested that we be allowed to insert an explanation of the true facts of the life and death of this much maligned monarch. She seemed interested in this idea, although she was unaware that this is rather common practice throughout this country and England, and she promised to get back to me in a few days.

It was the director of the play, however, a young man who had come down from New York to do the show, who called me several days later. Although he was most gracious and charming, he was not sympathetic to our point of view. He allowed me to read the brief statement I had prepared, and although he found it interesting, he informed me that the programs were ready to go to the printer, and that the cost of the printing was donated, and because of this he felt that it would be improper to insert such a notice. Furthermore, what we had in mind, he told me, was analogous to annotating an impressionist painting to explain what the painter meant when he painted it. In what I found to be rather confused reasoning, he explained that Shakespeare's plays were considered acceptable history, even by professional historians, and although he was denying our request, he hoped that we planned to attend one of the performances. I replied that since it was his show, I must accept his decision. I thanked him for his time and assured him that the members of the Richard III Society had every intention of attending a performance as a group.

Alas, the young man seems to have interpreted my parting remark as a threat. I was out of town for the month, but Mary Miller and several other members attended the final performance. When she noticed the managing director walking through the crowd, Mary introduced herself as the chairman of the local branch and told her that several members had accompanied her. The manager asked if they intended to disrupt the performance with a demonstration, and she was assured that they had no such intention. She appeared greatly relieved and expressed the hope that members would enjoy the performance. They did.

We plan to continue our efforts to place a written defense in the programs of any future productions of *Richard III*, and perhaps if we begin our efforts earlier in the process, we will have better success.

- Roxane C. Murph

Ricardian Music

What kind of music did Richard III and the Yorkist court enjoy as they danced and dined? How did the instruments sound?

Dr. Pamela Tudor Craig and Miss Marie Stocumbe addressed these questions when researching the life and times of Richard III in preparation for the National Portrait Gallery Exhibition [*] in 1973. They chose musical pieces which related to various aspects of his life, and those most typical of the times, and list these selections and albums in the catalogue. The five albums are: Nonesuch H 1120, *In A Mediaeval Garden* (Transatlantic Records, Ltd); HQS 1196 *Music of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance* (EMI Records); Erato STU 70687 *Choeurs, Cordes et Cuivres* (CRD Ltd); Argo ZRG 681 *Josquin des Pres and Jahn Dunstable* and ZRG 5443 *Mediaeval English Lyrics* (both by Decca Record Co., Ltd.). Of these I have been able to find only the Nonesuch recording -- but what a wonderful record!

Five selections from this album were chosen for the exhibition. Among the instruments heard are the krummhorn, viol, recorder, and lute; and a few pieces have a vocal accompaniment. On the back cover is an interesting discussion of the problems encountered in recreating medieval music and a short description of each piece. If you cannot find it in your area, write to: Wilcox Record Shop, 1423 NW 23rd Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73106.

- Margaret Nelson

* *Richard III* by Dr. Pamela Tudor Craig, Catalogue for National Portrait Gallery, London Exhibition, June 27 - October 7, 1973.



A Chip Off The Old Block: Tracing The Hastings Family

I teach local history to adults, history almost exclusively about Derbyshire in the center of England. The southern county boundary is the River Trent which has moved its course from time to time during floods. This means that lands in Leicestershire to the south of the Trent are now also in Derbyshire, and old parish boundaries can be in two counties at once.

While researching for September, 1983, classes on Derbyshire villages I came into contact with members of the Castle Donington Historical Research Society who kindly lent me the results of their work on their village and its parish. As a result, because many of its fields are in

Derbyshire, while the village is in Leicestershire, I decided to cheat a little and add Castle Donington to my course. It was the early and also the Victorian history which made me as a Ricardian react like a terrier to a rat; Castle Donington was once part of the huge Royal Duchy of Lancaster and therefore belonged to both Edward IV and Richard III. Edward, wanting to enlarge his deer park, in 1468 sold off housing plots to the villagers in exchange for some of their fields; he had previously made his friend William Hastings Steward of the Manor of Castle Donington in 1461. A hunting lodge called Donington Hall was built by Hastings and used by Edward and himself, and possibly Richard, from time to time. Donington is only a short five minutes on a winding road in a slow car from the Hastings family home of Ashby de la Zouch Castle. After Hastings' execution, Richard allowed the Hastings family to carry on as before, lords of the manor, but not owners of the land, but around the reign of James I the family bought Donington Hall and its deer park outright.

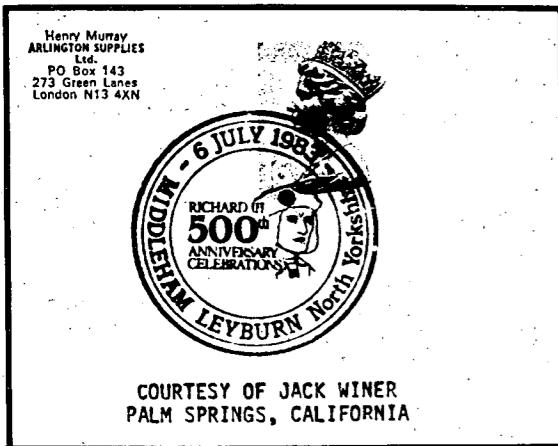
To the great inconvenience of English historians of Castle Donington, all the Hastings family papers are with you Americans in California! Perhaps more light can be thrown upon Ricardian events by looking through them. They are at the Huntington Memorial Library, San Marino, California-- so how about it, folks?

To continue with my own research: in the 16th century, Lord Hastings of Ashby and Castle Donington married a Plantagenet, a direct descendant of George of Clarence through his daughter, the Countess of Salisbury, and part of the Hastings coat of arms incorporated that of Plantagenet. Ashby Castle was ruined by Cromwell and the Hastings family seat became Donington Hall; they had in the meantime collected the title of Earl of Huntington. Although they called themselves Hastings it seems the male line ended, and the heiress married a relative called Lord Rawdon. He then became Lord Rawdon Hastings, Earl of Huntington. In 1789 the then Lord Hastings, 10th Earl of Huntington, left a confusing will. There were two heirs, Hans Hastings, an impoverished army officer, and Francis Rawdon Hastings. Their real relationship to each other and the Earl is not clear, but let's leave it that they both had Hastings' blood.

Francis Rawdon Hastings got the estate, Abbey, Donington, etc., and after litigation Hans Hastings got the title of Earl of Huntington but not much else.

Francis was called the first Marquess of Hastings. He was a politician and a friend of the Prince Regent. Poor Hans, penniless Earl of Huntington, married and begot a son in 1819, Edward Plantagenet Robin Hood Hastings! O.K., Sherwood Forest is within a horn call of Donington, but was *the* Robin Hood really Earl of Huntington?

Francis Hastings' grandson was only nine years old when



he became Marquess of Hastings, and he became of age in 1863. He was called Henry Weysford Plantagenet Rawdon Hastings, known to everyone as Harry Hastings. The family was immensely rich when Harry came into his property. He rebuilt Donington Hall on a lavish scale, including a private racetrack. He owned 50 racehorses and was known to lose £100,000 in a day betting on them. At age 22 he eloped with another man's betrothed, Lady Florence Paget, which did not amuse Queen Victoria. He gambled obsessively and spent all his money by the time he was 26. Not only that, he was struck down by some awful unnamed affliction, creeping about on sticks and looking "50 years older than his real age." He died in 1868, held up as an example to all local youths of the evils of a bad life.

There is in existence a photograph of Harry Hastings in his prime. He leans raffishly against a table, top hat cocked to one side, with a handsome face that no doubt charmed the birds off the trees. I looked at it and thought, "Why it's just the way I'd image George of Clarence would look in Victorian clothes, a real chip off that particular bit of Plantagenet block!"

He left no child and his sister Edith succeeded. Her husband obligingly took the name of Hastings and paid off his brother-in-law's debts. He was known as a sour, bitter recluse after Edith died.

Donington Hall after many years of decay is now the offices of an airline company; part of the Hastings estate is an airport, and the racetrack is used for international car and motorcycle racing.

In Castle Donington church lie many of the Hastings, although their more splendid tombs are at Ashby de la Zouch. Our William Hastings, of course, lies next to his friend Edward IV at Windsor, and George of Clarence at Tewkesbury; between the pair of them they produced several interesting descendants, and if you go to San Marino you may find more, only do let me know as well!

- Josephine Fuller



Adventures Of An American In Ricardian Britain

I'd like to share some of the experiences we had in England this spring. My husband and I decided on a two week self-guided tour of England and Scotland, and we went in mid-May. We took along *Ricardian Britain*, a very handy planning and tour guide. In London we stopped at Hatchard's Bookstore (187 Piccadilly) to buy *Discovering*

Battlefields of England by John Kinross, and the R.A.C. Navigator Series of maps of England (1.6 miles/inch). These books proved invaluable-- I could scan *Ricardian Britain* for sites of interest, read about battles from Kinross's book while in situ, and spot castles, ancient monuments and roads in the excellent navigator maps. Note: If you plan on driving in England, you need these maps-- ordinary maps do not show the detail that these do; we were able to *discover* sites of interest because of their inclusion on the maps.

We were delighted with York. I was not prepared for the magnificence of the cathedral, the medieval walls, the narrow streets nor the King's Arms Pub (Richard III). At the York Post Office we were able to buy commemorative postal cards with Richard's coat-of-arms reproduced from the recent postage stamp. I noted that there is a Ricardian tour of York each Sunday at 2:30 p.m. Unfortunately, we were there on Tuesday, and the next day we continued on our Ricardian tour.

We traveled a few miles north west to Sheriff Hutton Castle, of which only one room and the castle corners remain. We then drove west to Fountains Abbey, perhaps the most beautiful (although ruined) buildings I've seen. The size and magnificence of the abbey made us aware more than ever of the place of the Church Medieval life. Fountains is so near to Middleham that Richard surely must have visited it.

Finally we came to Middleham. The castle is bounded by town on two sides and by fields on the rest. We crossed over the drawbridge and entered the gate to see the courtyard almost filled by a thick-walled, three-story keep. Judging from the stonework above the great hall windows, the room once had pleasant interior architecture; and, from the light we saw such windows let in later, at Crosby Hall, the room would have been bright. The walls probably were whitewashed or plastered. From the towers-- not open to the public-- one could see the high Yorkshire moors so close to town. The castle must have been a quite place in the 15th century!

The nearby valleys of Wensleydale and Coverdale are surrounded by steep-sided, treeless hills, which are bisected by grey stone walls going on up to the moors. This area is near N. Yorkshire Moors "Park", where hiking is popular--for reasons which soon became obvious, as we went up on a moor above Middleham. There we were, with the high, heather-covered hills and the black-faced sheep. Below us lay Middleham, Leyburn, Wensley, and five other villages...the view, and the sense of peace it gave, were wonderful.

Continuing on our self-guided tour, farther west of Middleham we came upon Castle Bolton. Although partly unroofed, the castle is in very good condition (the plan is

much like that of Sheriff Hutton, but without a separate keep), and gave us a better idea of what living quarters were like. In 1480, the owner of Bolton was Richard's friend, Lord Scrope--It is likely that they often visited each other.

We next drove north to Hexham, Northumberland, to see the nearby Roman wall. It was another Tuesday, and Hexham market day. Booths packed the market square. Narrow, winding streets radiate outward from the market. There is an ancient abbey church in Hexham, and survivors of one of Margaret d'Anjou's assaults may have taken "official" sanctuary there.

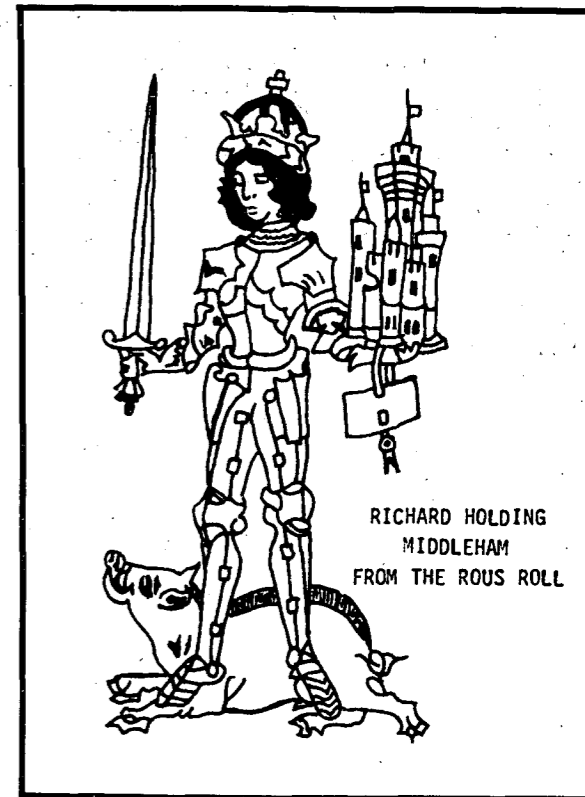
Driving west along Hadrian's wall, we came to Richard's castle at Carlisle. The castle is in excellent condition and the keep, with its original arrow-slit windows, is open to view. Unfortunately, there had been an electrical failure and so we were not able to tour the castle...but I do still want to see this keep, as it is in the best-preserved original condition of all that we saw. Carlisle was a city which, like Hexham, fit our idealized image of an English town: wonderful cathedral, narrow streets, and market square--all in all, well worth stopping to see.

Penrith, Cumbria, was my husband's favorite town. It, too, has a castle (with improvements by Richard III), a church, winding streets, and a market square; it also has the Gloucester Arms, formerly the residence of Richard III while the castle was being remodeled. The Gloucester Arms has great food and atmosphere, and we ate in the very room...! The people of Penrith seemed proud to be associated with Richard III. Not only did the Gloucester Arms bear his heraldry, but the castle displayed a very nice sign regarding his connection with Penrith.

We had started our trip at Warwick Castle, which is in an excellent state of preservation. Several rooms within the outer castle walls have been opened up and decorated in the style of the 15th century. It gave, I thought, a rather nice idea of life there. Also, it was revealing to walk along the honeycomb passages of rooms, garderobes, etc., and note the very small windows and the apparent lack of lodging privacy. The towers are fun (although scary!) to climb, and the walls are open to walk on for quite a distance.

That afternoon we drove to Bosworth. We had been literally thrilled on the way, driving over the very narrow hedged roads and small bridges--all with poor visibility. Now we welcomed the chance to walk around on the battlefield. Tall flagpoles with pennants mark the positions of participants in the battle. We stood near Richard's banner and looked toward Market Bosworth, then toward the banners of Norfolk, Percy, Stanley, and Henry Tudor. The battlefield is well kept. Although most of the land is private, footpaths lead to sites of interest and there are

brief explanatory signs at each stop. We walked downhill about one-half mile and made our way to King Richard's Field. Today this is hedged, green, and peaceful. There is a large granite monolith on the spot where Richard fell, and a nicely done sign, bearing his badge, at the edge of the meadow. It is a respectful monument to the last Plantagenet king.



RICHARD HOLDING
MIDDLEHAM
FROM THE ROUS ROLL

We enjoyed our trip: the north of England is very "Ricardian." How thought-provoking and wonderful to see the very sights--the churches, castles, and countryside, sometimes unchanged--that Richard saw as he rode by!

-Marge Nelson
Edmond, OK



* * * * * THOSE OF US WHO HAVE LITTLE OPPORTUNITY TO TRAVEL RECEIVE GREAT VICARIOUS PLEASURE FROM ARTICLES SUCH AS THIS FROM OUR MORE FOOTLOOSE MEMBERS. PLEASE KEEP THEM COMING! --EDS.

Further Evidence on Margaret Beaufort

Helen Maurer writes, further to *Whodunit*: Two more accusing sources should be mentioned.

Richard F. Green, in his article "Historical notes of a London citizen", 1483-1488, *English Historical Review*, vol. 96, no. 380, July 1981, pp. 580-590, notes a set of annals for the years 1402-1513, appearing in MS. 2M6 in the College of Arms. Green argues that they represent a copy, made c. 1512-1513, of a "commonplace book" of a London merchant — a sort of year's end diary. The entry for 1482/1483 (the mayoral year ending 28 October) reads in part: "Item: this yer King Edward the vth ... and Richard duke of Yourke hys brother... wer put to deyth in the Towur of London be the vise of the duke of Buckingham." Green points out that the word "vise" could mean "advice" in our sense of the word, but could also mean, in the phrase "bi his avis," either "in compliance with his orders" or "under his direction." The word could also be a shortened form of "device," though Green thinks this less likely. (I am indebted Dr. H. A. Kelly for informing me of this article.)

Sir George Buck writes (*The History of King Richard III*, ed A. N. Kincaid, 1982, p.163): "I have read in an old manuscript book (it) was held for certain that Dr. Morton and a certain countess, (conspiring) the deaths of the sons of King Edward and some other, resolved that these treacheries should be executed by poison and sorcery." Kincaid points out that Buck's source no longer exists; he is unwilling to say that it never existed. (p. cxiv). The countess would, of course, have been Margaret Beaufort.

- Helen Maurer



Meanwhile, back at the Ranch Castle...

THE FOLLOWING IS A CONTINUATION OF OUR STORY. (IN THE LAST EPISODE, RICHARD III SOUNDLY DEFEATED THE TUDOR FORCES AT BOSWORTH FIELD, TO THE JOY OF HIS LOYAL FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS). AS WE CONTINUE, RICHARD HAS BEEN PERSUADED TO TAKE A SECOND WIFE, AND BRINGS LAURA DE MEDICI TO ENGLAND.

An Alternative History Of Richard III (episode two)

The arrival of Laura de Medici on May 6, 1486 was greeted with celebrations. In Southampton she was presented with garlands, nosegays, a feast, a masque and the freedom of the city. London Bridge was carpeted with rose petals in her honor.¹ The records of the Tower show that £40 15s 2d was spent on whitewash and new rushes, and on clothes for young Edward of Warwick. We know what Edward looked like in his new green cut-velvet suit, because he is wearing it in the central panel of Alessandro Botticelli's *St. Laurence School fresco*.²

The *St. Laurence fresco* was the wonder of its age. It is the first Renaissance art work painted in England. Generations of artists and art historians have admired it. Reynolds, West and Gainsborough praised its portraits. Ruskin cursed its destruction of medieval tradition. Turner and Constable admired its use of color, particularly in the dawn clouds and in the violet gown worn by Laura in the first panel. Poets have called the white rose, held by both Laura and Richard in the central panel, "the very emblem of marriage". But the fresco is more than an artistic masterpiece. It also tells us about Richard's and London's reaction to Laura. The school had been endowed by the Queen, but Richard and the City of London chose the fresco's themes and paid for it. We have the letter in which Richard described his first view of Laura against the dawn clouds. Of the third panel, Thomas More wrote to his daughter, "Indeed, I was once that boy with a snowball; and I could romp and play and forget my Latin, just as you do. And my father, who is also in the painting, would get very angry, just as I do."

But we have another description of Laura's arrival and early years in London. Lorraine Attreed's edition, a commentary on the Woodville-Beaufort correspondence, is among the most important works of medieval scholarship published in the last century.³ Her corrections of the sentimentalized edition published in 1834 has given us two real women in place of the pious, nineteenth century paragons that Halsted wrote about. Halsted included the famous line in which Elizabeth Woodville describes Laura as "the only woman in England who can make the king look tall",⁴ but she carefully left out those inflammatory statements in which Woodville wrote, "Our future queen is smaller than most of the dwarfs at the Christmas play; and she is not as pretty as they are. To see her with my girls is to see a mudlark flying in a field of lilies. For she is short, dark, and moves too quickly for either dignity or decorum. She does not walk when she can run. And her hands are in constant motion, gesturing, when her lips do not yet speak the words."⁵

During the months of June, July and August the main

topic of conversation was Laura's waistline. Elizabeth Woodville was convinced that the only reason Laura kept her daughter Giulietta near her was to prove her fertility. Woodville was sure that Giulietta would be sent back to Florence as soon as Laura was pregnant.⁶

The summer wore on, and Giulietta remained at her mother's side, just as she appears in all three panels of the fresco. Giulietta also appears in most of Woodville's letters. Giulietta, at age four, was having a lovely time — her world was filled with kittens, new friends, her mother and her cousin Edward.⁷

Edward seemed almost simple-minded. His vocabulary would have been small for a child even of Giulietta's age. He had a hard time skipping, could not read or write, and, after he'd almost drowned by walking directly into the river, was never allowed outside alone by Laura. She was not certain whether he thought that he could walk on water or simply did not know that the water could be deep.⁸

Edward was very shy, and often just hid when he had to one who could persuade him to come out and face the world. In the middle panel he stands next to Giulietta, holding her hand. By the events of the third panel, he is helping the young Prince Edmund make a snowball, his book bag flung casually over his back.

Part of the concern about Laura's waistline was caused by a wish to avoid the dynastic problems which had plagued England for so many years. The death of Prince Edward two years before had left Richard without a direct heir. In addition to the legal problem, no one knew how badly Edward may have been scarred by growing up under conditions of deprivation, neglect, and isolation. At the time, no one was sure how permanent the damage might be that was done young Edward. John de la Pole was full-grown, but he was the son of Richard's sister, not his brother; though some believed Edward had been disbarred by the Bill of Attainder passed against his father. With memories of Henry VI's reign still fresh in everyone's mind, not to mention the vain attempts of both Buckingham and Tudor to usurp the throne, most Englishmen wished to avoid another dynastic feud. The existence of Giulietta was taken as a good omen for the future.

As we all know, Woodville was incorrect in her thesis, for Laura was already pregnant with Edmund. However, Laura's health was dropped as a topic of discussion in favor of the proposed voyage of Christopher Columbus.⁹ Columbus, who came to London in 1487, theorized that, by sailing due west from England, he could reach China. He asked for a fleet and its crew, so that he could make the attempt.¹⁰

Woodville's correspondent, Margaret Beaufort, was particularly interested, as the voyage was being financed from her confiscated estate. Years later, she wrote her son:

I was sure the king wished to do this out of sheer vindictiveness. Why else should he waste my sustenance trying to find the Isles of High Brazil? It must be, or so I believed, the mark of a subtle tormentor, for he had not kept me locked up in the same room with Thomas Stanley for more than a year? I did regard that alone as the torture of a friend. It was only later that I saw Richard as a lonely, sad man who actually thought that I would enjoy my husband's company during the term of our imprisonment. His marriages must have been different from most of mine.¹¹

When Columbus sailed from Bristol the following March, his ships were the St. Anne, the St. Margaret and the Prince Edmund — named after the new heir to the throne who had been christened at York Minster a few days earlier. With the birth of Prince Edmund, England erupted in a great spontaneous celebration. As one of the sailors on the St. Laurence observed, in an oft-quoted comment, "I was so oiled that I did not regain my sea legs until a week before we reached Newfoundland."

- Hazel Peter

1. For details of the wedding journey, I recommend Julie Vognar's charming article in the Winter, 1982, *Ricardian Register*.
2. For a more complete view read Clarke, Sir Kenneth. *The Queen's Rose: The St. Laurence Frescoes in Perspective*, McMillan, London, 1962. Details are quoted from this book.
3. Attreed, Lorraine. *My Dear Margaret*, Allan Sutton, London, 1980. We look forward to Attreed's forthcoming edition of Beaufort's autobiography.
4. *Ibid.*, pg 26.
5. *Ibid.*, pg 32.
6. *Ibid.*, pg 20.
7. *Ibid.*, pg 132.
8. Jarman, R. H. *The Letters of Laura de Medici*, McMillan, London, 1978, pages 79-80.
9. Attreed, op. cit., pg 126.
10. Morrison, S.E. *Admiral of the Ocean Sea*, Gloucester, Weed & Celly, Boston, 1932. Page 200.
11. Dr. Attreed has been kind enough to show us the manuscript of her forthcoming book from which this quote has been taken.

BOOK REVIEWS

The Coronation of Richard III: The Extant Documents

ed. Ann F. Sutton & P.W. Hammond, Alan Sutton, Gloucester and St. Martin Press, N.Y., 1983

Not only a compendium for historians and others interested in the period, but a useful reference for those who might have occasion to plan a double coronation. These are rare events indeed. Richard's and Anne's was the first since 1308, and although there have been 22 monarchs after 1485, only 9 of them have had double coronations.

The bad news first: The illustrations are a disappointment, being either poorly reproduced or badly chosen. Even a photograph of a twentieth century coronation would have given a better notion of the pageantry than a photograph of a 15th century document.

Now for the credit side: The editors' research has been exhaustive, and they have provided something for everyone. After a general introduction, giving an overview of the coronation, and the attitudes of Richard and his subjects toward it, they draw a deep breath and plunge into chronology from contemporary sources. Then follows a history of the Great Wardrobe and the accounts thereof for the pertinent time. Bearing in mind that many literate people are not necessarily fluent in Latin or French, Sutton and Hammond have provided translations, and also, for greater ease of reading, have made certain modifications in spelling without modernizing unduly.

Then follows a discussion and a description of the ceremony itself with the regalia, bills of fare, and grocery lists for the coronation banquets and other banquets. (Query: How do you turn a deer inside out and color it purple? And why?) With eyes glazing over, the reader next turns to the biographical section, naming and identifying everyone connected with the coronation and the Great Wardrobe accounts, from the Prince of Wales, to the laborers who swept out the rooms. Finally a glossary, bibliography and full index, finishing precisely on page 500.

Ricardians may be dismayed to learn that this coronation was not the most splendid and expensive which had been seen in England. Being put together on 10 days notice, it could hardly be, although it was no way slighted or done on the cheap. They may be amused to read of Queen Anne's *henchmen*, who were definitely men, clad in doublet and hose, but riding on women's saddles, and surprised to learn that Anne had a bastard sister. Everyone will learn much

of society as it was in the late 15th century.

ITEM: For one volume, prepared by the scribes Sutton and Hammond, bound in brown cloth, paid to the librarian of our most noble Society, the price is a bargain at \$40.00 (\$76.00 retail in U.S.)

- Myrna Smith
Houston, TX



The Dragon Waiting

by John M. Ford, Timescape Books, N.Y., 1983

This is a fantastical, historical novel about a Welsh wizard, a Gaul, a Florentine physician (female), and a German artilleryman (and vampire) who converge on England toward the end of Edward IV's reign. Their purpose is to help whoever seems the least corrupt, with whatever sense of right remains in them, to prevent the takeover of England by Byzantium in the guise and with the help of the Red Dragon of Wales. And you can take that Dragon as literally as you like!

The opening chapters, in which we meet the characters—except for those we already know, love and hate—are full of passion and strange, exotic atmosphere. The intrigue, double- and triple-faced spies and loyalties, complex murders and solutions in Wales, Gaul, Florence and the Italian Alps almost make us feel let down upon arrival in England, where things are *almost* as we know them to have been.

There are, however, some notable differences. To mention just three:

--If you think you've heard or thought of every possible explanation of the Princes' fate (including that in J. R. Scott's *Beatrice of Clare*, in which one brother kills the other, then commits suicide)—you ain't seen nothin' yet.

--If you truly *loathe* John Marton, you will deeply appreciate the way he speaks and behaves in this book, not to mention the way he dies.

--You'll never guess who kills Henry Tudor.

I cannot say that if you have no use for dungeons and dragons, witches, wizards and vampires, you will not like this book. Personally, I have had friendly feelings towards only one wizard and one vampire before, and I liked *The*

Dragon Waiting. Its magic is of the down-to-earth kind, at least that performed by Hywel Peredur, our wizard, who believes magic should do nothing that man cannot do for himself, with a little help. Highfalutin' magic tends to destroy and consume itself, or simply backfire. The vampires are also pretty ordinary (most of them) and can walk abroad in daylight—so long as they wear very dark glasses. Some are pleasant; some, less pleasant. I felt most empathy with the lady doctor from Florence, however, whose high intelligence and deep feelings the author always follows, though the lady also comes equipped with a knowledge of "retractors"—something very like ether—and the knowledge of the absolute imperative of cleanliness during surgery—gifts, I suppose, from a later time. The anachronisms are for the most part creative, though occasionally disconcerting. I couldn't figure out, for instance, why everybody was searching for Elizabeth Woodville when she had taken sanctuary somewhere, until it dawned on me that there were no Abbeys, no cathedrals, no churches of any kind in *this* England.

My favorite line in the book is Richard's response to Marton's suggestion (given in bargaining for his freedom) that he, Richard, tell the people of England the story of Lady Eleanor Butler to explain the lack of a King Edward V. Marton then proceeds to tell it to Richard, who has never heard it from anyone before:

Richard looked pensive. Then he said, "I don't think so. It sounds...petty."

Now if somebody would only tell me what Byzantium *means* (other than that power corrupts as it spreads, until it gets too big for its breeches—perhaps it's just that), and why Christianity has been almost entirely eradicated (except in dates, i.e. 1478, C.E.—"Christian Era"), I would understand this book! Oh, yes, and a little paragraph at the top of page 322, which makes no sense at all...

- Julie Vognar

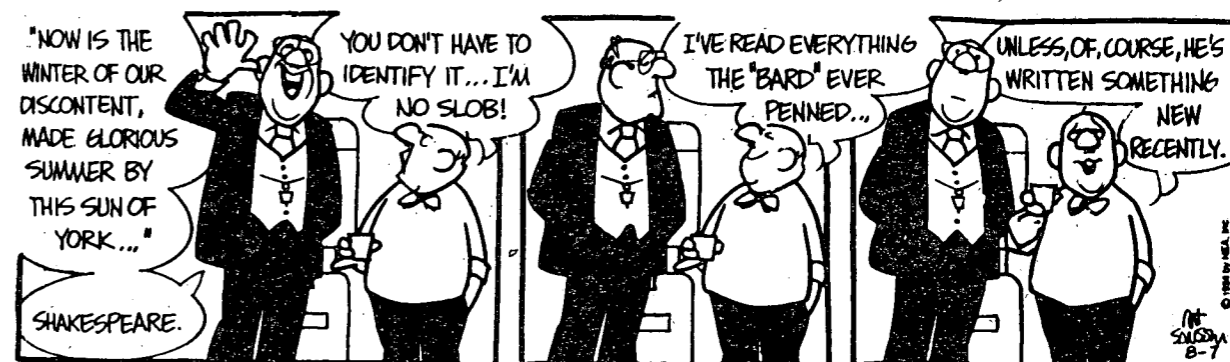
Richard III - England's Black Legend

by Desmond Seward, Country Life Books

Mr. Seward's title for this book speaks for itself. It is a completely hostile biography of Richard III. In the introduction, Seward states that he used to believe in Richard's innocence, but when he began to appreciate Sir Thomas More he realized that Sir Thomas could not have lied. (The possibility that anything other than lying might account for Sir Thomas' History seems not to have occurred to Seward). He refers to Richard as "the Heathcliff of English kings." The book is so much on one note—Richard is 100% evil and has absolutely no redeeming qualities at all—that it rapidly becomes boring and loses the reader. Because the author is so obviously biased against Richard, one starts to distrust his opinions on other subjects and topics as well. He states over and over again that the "black legend" is more interesting than the "white legend"; and yet the book makes Richard completely uninteresting. It is possible to write a book about a villain *and* make it interesting (Adolph Hitler, for example), however, Seward has not succeeded. Why not? Probably because he seems to think he has a "cause"... he must counteract the pro-Richard feelings and attitudes which are becoming more prevalent. He apologizes for this hostile book to all those who admire Richard as he once did.

Richard's physical appearance is, of course, negative. While both Edward IV and George, Duke of Clarence, were tall and blond, Richard was small and slight and looked like his "most dread and dear father." Seward accepts John Rous' version of a difficult birth, and blames this for Richard's withered right arm. (As the reproductions of the portraits in the book do not show his deformed arm and shoulder, it is "no doubt disguised by the tailor's art"). Even

Born Loser



Richard's badge of the White Boar is described by Seward as "an emblem of ferocity" and "cruel and stomachful in his fight, that he foameth all the while for rage." There is no mention of the ferocity of the Red Dragon of Wales, various lions rampant, or other heraldic devices used by other kings and nobles.

At the age of eighteen, Seward's Richard was responsible for the deaths of Henry VI and the Bastard of Fauconberg. It goes without saying that he was also guilty of the deaths of the Princes in the Tower, as well as that of Hastings. In telling of the execution of the Woodvilles, nothing is said about the probability that, if Richard had not executed them, they almost certainly would have killed him. Although Seward admits that Queen Anne Neville died of consumption, he states that "Vergil and the Crowland writer are convinced that the King tried to finish her off by psychological methods." Also, he reveals, the court was shocked by "the peculiarly personal attentions paid by Richard to the Princess Elizabeth of York. Plainly, Elizabeth gave the impression of being a second consort. There is no question that the King had every intention of marrying his niece." After the Battle of Bosworth, Seward concludes, "The reign of Richard III had been a nightmare, not least for the King himself."

In the epilogue, Seward again ascribes the pro-Richard ideas to "Victorian romanticism" and to lovers of a "lost cause." Having at first referred, patronizingly, to Josephine Tey's *The Daughter of Time* as "charming" in his introduction, the author now comments that "the white legend appeals to lady novelists."

I have read two other works by Mr. Seward, *Francis the First* and *The Hundred Years War*. I enjoyed them both: they did not have the preaching tone of this book. In spite of the fact that I disagree with the author's opinion of Richard, I might have enjoyed the book had it been written in a more objective way. It is not easy to understand his emotional and irrational view of Richard and the Yorkists. He has little good to say about Edward IV; but compares even Henry VIII favorably to Richard. (I find this an incredible comparison, since Henry executed two of his wives and numerous other people on trumped-up charges... but Seward's rationale is that Henry always tried his victims in a court of law, whereas Richard didn't. So much for poor Thomas More). Even the illustrations, which are excellent and profuse, are captioned with such anti-Richard sentiments that one finds it difficult to take the author seriously. However, the descriptions of medieval cities and castles are interesting, and read more like Seward's other books.

This book may be worth looking at for the illustrations—but not for any information contained within. Any author who subscribes to the "black legend" vs. "white legend" theory is, in my opinion, too simplistic to be considered a serious historian.

- Dana Holliday
Los Angeles, CA

The Year of Three Kings: 1485

by Giles St. Aubyn, Collins, 1983

Question: Can St. Aubyn really add anything to Charles Ross' biography?

Answer: No. He subtracts something, and therein lies the virtue of this book. At least St. Aubyn does not devote half of his verbiage to telling the reader what other biographers, Kendall, Gairdner, et al, ad infinitum, have said about every point and then explaining why they were wrong and he is right. When one lays out \$15.00 or more for a book, one doesn't like to think that \$7.50 of its value goes to reviews of other books. Not to mention that, like Hollywood movies about Hollywood, it seems sort of incestuous. Thankfully, St. Aubyn limits this sort of thing to one chapter.

However, the chief fault is that St. Aubyn does not seem to have a viewpoint. He builds up to one conclusion, and just when he has proved it, switches to the opposite side. Was Richard a clever schemer, who had everything planned from the start? Or did he simply bumble everything? St. Aubyn blunders around before deciding for the prosecution. It appears that the author must have dictated or written this without really listening to himself.

St. Aubyn also has problems with logical thinking. He seems incapable of realizing that point 'B' is reached by starting at point 'A'. For example, on page 158, he faults Richard for not following the accepted procedure:

Had Richard seriously believed that the King was illegitimate, he should have submitted evidence to the Church Court... When Henry VIII divorced Anne of Cleves in 1541, he followed the proper procedure. First, he applied to the Convocations of York and Canterbury to pronounce on her prior betrothal, and then, on the strength of their verdict, requested Parliament to annul his marriage. But he was on sure ground in alleging her pre-contract.

Yes, indeed! Henry was head of the Church to which he appealed, and was very sure of getting his way, and that right speedily. Richard may well have ignored proper procedure in his case, but the idea of holding Henry VIII up as an example of how a king ought to behave boggles the imagination. After all, Henry knew the procedure for getting a divorce because he practically invented it. The first time he wanted a divorce, he blundered through it, just like any other mortal.

Any person who has not made up his or her mind about the subject will be confused: others will possibly prefer the raving of Rowse or Seward. At least they are consistent.

- Myrna Smith
Houston, TX

Brief Candles

by Pamela Jean Harter, Vantage Press, N.Y., 1983

Vantage Press is a *subsidy* press, but don't let that put you off. This first novel, aimed at young people, is not bad at all. There is some evidence of sloppy editing (*discomfiting* for *discomfiting*), but for the most part it is well written and characterized. Harter builds up interest in her characters, not an easy task when the outcome is already known.

Most writers make Edward V either a sniveling brat, to build up sympathy for Richard, or younger and therefore more pathetic than in reality in order to build up feeling against Richard. Harter's Edward is intelligent rather than precocious, loyal to his friends, and beginning to be interested in girls. Elizabeth Woodville is portrayed as a cold mother, Richard is temperamental and moody, at times seeming hardly older than his nephew. On the whole, however, he is treated sympathetically, and sticky sentimentality is avoided.

- Myrna Smith
Houston, TX



(REPRINTED FROM THE WHITE ROSE)

IN THE NEXT ISSUE:
"THE SECRET DIARY OF RICHARD III" (HUMOR)
"ON SOME BONES IN TEWKESBURY ABBEY"
BOOK REVIEWS:
PRESUMED GUILTY (ROSENTHAL)
A SOCIAL HISTORY OF THE FOOL (BILLINGTON)



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September, 1984

We speak no Treason...

Dear Member:

Accompanying this letter is your Ricardian Register, the only one to have been published in the past year. You have been told that "the Board is most unhappy" about that, and that "It is not the fault of the officers, but... unkept promises by a group which...failed to produce an issue." You were also told that it is "being withheld as part of an unfortunate electioneering campaign."

The fact is that this Register has been in an advanced stage of production for several weeks, and its editors have met with countless delays, obstacles and obstruction from the Chairman of the American Branch. Despite the subscription which general members annually remit to New York, not one cent of membership dues was spent in the production of this Register. The cost was entirely borne by members of the Southern California Chapter of this Society, who adopted a duty toward the general membership which the present Chairman has neglected. Compelled by this duty, we have extracted more than \$400 from our Chapter's treasury to defray all expenses of printing and mailing this Register.

The greatest fault of our editors (as with the previous editors whom we replaced) may be that we were obstinate and unyielding in refusing to compromise the integrity of the Register by relinquishing certain principles:

We refused to ban any submitted article or letter from publication based upon whatever conflict of personality or opinion that the Chairman may have had with its author. We are of the opinion that any article submitted should be judged solely on its own merits and interest to members, and not be rejected because of one man's petty prejudices.

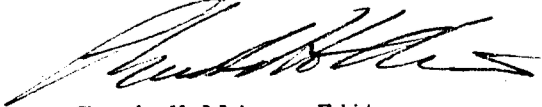
We refused to agree to the Chairman's re-editing (and thereby CENSORING) the Register before publication. His insistence on this makes a complete mockery of the capabilities of his own appointed editors.

Because of this, certain material needed for publication and bulk-rate mailing permits, and the money allotted for both, were delayed and/or withheld by the Chairman. (This, we understand, was part of the problem experienced by the previous editors, as well). Finally, on July 19th, we received one-half of the money needed for a postal permit, which, once applied for, takes about a month to be approved. We received the approval on August 22 (Bosworth Day), and a few days later were notified that payment had been stopped on the check and the permit revoked. This, apparently, was a childish reaction to the fact that two candidates (one from our state) had decided to run for election to national offices, and was based on the assumption that the Register would be used as a political forum. This has never been our intention, and, as you can see, we have not used the Register to promote any particular candidate nor issue.

The Chairman expressed his lack of trust in so many unnecessary ways, the most important being his utter refusal to supply his editor with a current mailing list of Society members. In order to send you this publication, we have had to rely on the co-operation of various Chapters across the country to supply lists of known members from their areas. Some of these lists are outdated; we would appreciate it if you would inform us of your own membership status. If you know of any dues-paying member who has not received a copy of this newsletter, we will be happy to supply one upon request.

As a member of the Richard III Society, you pay your dues in good faith, and are entitled to four (4) editions of the Register each Ricardian year. To receive only one edition-- and that one funded, not by national dues, but by a dedicated local Chapter-- should raise some questions in your mind. There has not been a comprehensive financial report from the American Branch, to account for some of these funds, for six years-- and never by an independent auditor! If the Chairman should refuse (as we believe he will) to re-imburse the Southern California Chapter for expenses incurred in bringing forth this Register, we strongly urge all members to request a refund of that part of their annual dues which was to be used for the quarterly publications.

Sincerely,



Chuck Hollins, Editor