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Ricardian Register



Richard III, Society, Inc.

Volume XIV, No. 3

Fall, 1990

Greetings!

Congratulations to two very active chapters: the New Jersey Chapter and the Northwest Chapter!

The New Jersey Chapter, just over a year old, has put together a series of exhibits in libraries through the state.

The Northwest Chapter staged a presence at a Medieval Fair, and harvested some new members.

I would love to mention some of your chapter's activities, as well as individual activities on behalf of the Society, but I need to hear about them.

A lot of discussion appeared in the Summer *Ricardian* concerning the aims and objectives of the Society, and some of you have written to me on this subject. While the last thing I want to do is get involved in the middle of such a discussion, I would like to share some thoughts.

First, the Society's name--The Richard III Society--suggests that we have more than a casual interest in Richard. The sources of this interest are varied, and probably different in mixture for each of us. Some of us are historians; some are lovers of England and of the English; some want to see wrongs righted; some are interested in political figures; some support positions that were previously on a losing side. The list could go on and on. By the very act of taking an interest, first in Richard and then in an aspect of him, we become selective.

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Second, people who know more about semantics and procedure than I do say that there is no such thing as "objectivity". To the best of my knowledge, most TV anchors, most newspaper editors, most politicians, most lawyers agree with that statement. Advocates of "objectivity" are themselves subjective in what they advocate: how was what they advocate selected? On what basis? How were the dimensions of the subject defined? Why? Ultimately all of these answers are arrived at subjectively. My students sometime ask for an "Objective Exam", rather than one with essay or discussion questions. From their point of view, multiple choice and/or true-false questions may appear objective, but anyone who has ever designed an exam knows that a great deal of subjectivity is exercised in the selection of the topics to be examined, in the wording and structure of a question, and in the choice of possible answers. We can probably conclude that there is

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Ricardian Register

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Dues are \$25.00 annually. Each additional family member is \$5. Members of the American Society are also members of the English Society. All Society publications and items for sale may be purchased either direct at the U.K. member's rate, or via the U.S. Society, when available. Papers may be borrowed from the English Librarian, but books are not sent overseas. When a U.S. member visits the U.K., all meetings, expeditions, and other activities are open, including the AGM, where U.S. members are welcome to cast a vote.

The Ricardian Register is published quarterly as a service to members.

Greetings (continued)

nothing inherently wrong with subjectivity, *per se*.

Third, there seem to be three concepts that reduce to action: being a propagandist, being an advocate, being subjective. Propagandists twist and distort the truth, or perhaps lie outright. It does not seem to be in the best interest of the Society to accept or allow propaganda. Advocates present such facts and logic as support their position and attempt to discredit the facts and logic of the other side. Being an advocate is not inherently wrong; lawyers, politicians and salespeople do it every day. Being subjective suggests being selective in what is addressed, and having selected a subject or a topic, trying to uncover all sides and all perspectives. In the academic world, this is called exploring a thesis. It is also sometimes called testing a hypothesis or proving a theorem.

Finally, differences of perspective, opinion and interpretation of fact are healthy in an organization; it keeps orthodoxy from setting in, and if we know anything, we know that however things are today, they will change. There is no litmus test for membership in this Society. We will get, and have, members from various and sundry backgrounds who question.

Most of the questions currently don't have any answers; the answers that we do have are tentative at best. There is always room for more ques-

tioning, for more research, for more scholarship, for more hypotheses and theses. It seems to me that what is important, and what we should strive for, is the truth—whatever it may be.

If Richard murdered, or had murdered, the Princes then so be it. Right now, there is not one single hard fact that suggests that he did. Biochemistry technology, via gene typing, is about five years away from being able to determine conclusively, with a vanishing small probability of error, whether the bones that were discovered at the base of the Tower are in fact related to Edward, and hence the bones of the Princes.

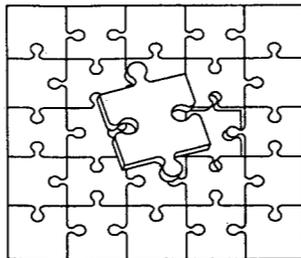
My own personal opinion is that Richard had the Princes, still alive, moved to the north sometime in the summer of 1483, where they for all practical purposes became invisible, and lived out natural lives well into the Tudor era. Each of you probably has an opinion, and it is worth just as much as mine is, and is just as valid and valuable. I do believe, that someday, by some means, the true story, not only of the Princes but of Richard, will be known. It may take a year, ten years, a hundred years, five hundred years — who knows? It will be known.

I take it as our task to help make the true story known.

Gene McManus



Richard III: The Historiographical Tricotomy



Professor Louis R. Bisceglia
Professor of History
San Jose State University

Talk delivered to the Richard III Society, Northern California Chapter, San Mateo, May 18, 1980. Previously published Spring, 1981. Some editing for readability has been done in this reprint.

I would like to preface my remarks by noting that I am a generalist addressing a group of specialists—experts on late fifteenth century Britain. I do teach English history at San Jose State, have done so for the past ten years, but all of English history. In the course of a year I lecture approximately ninety hours—one hour to one and a half hours of which I lecture on Richard III. My principal areas of research are centered upon twentieth century British internationalism and social-intellectual history, as well as Ireland. So it is unlikely that I will enlighten you very much. I say this not out of any false modesty, but with utmost awareness of the high level of communication and research that is carried on within the membership.

Having been told by Pam Garrett, the Northern California Chapter President, that the membership would indeed be interested in hearing about my students' reactions to Richard III, I agreed to speak, but noted that the topic would more likely prove greater grounds for humor than enlightenment. My problem with the students' reactions to Richard III is that they are largely as uninformed as the general public's. Many are English majors and most have only heard about Richard III as one of Shakespeare's "historical" plays. I examine them on this topic in the midterm examination (which I return) and have no record of their responses preserved. However, if I might generalize for a moment, I can say a few things about their reactions.

They are enormously "turned-on" by reading Tey's *The Daughter of Time*. They swallow her book hook, line and sinker and they are usually ready to go out into the world and spread ill-will toward Thomas More, Henry VII and all academic historians for aiding and abetting a five-hundred-year old crime.

Consequently, Tey has an important impact upon them. But she seems to encourage their darker and more aggressive propensities. She inspires both an urge for Judge Lynch and a stirring of latent, anti-intellectual leanings, as if to confirm an earlier conviction: "I knew those pompous historians had not the slightest idea of what they were talking about." She also promotes that pervasive pestilence most historians spend their lives combating: the simplistic "conspiracy theory of history." The "Cat and the Rat" are replaced by Morton and More and the "Tudor Court Historians." All very simple, very tidy, packaged history with a message.

One could easily ask, why use a source which conveys such undesirable impressions? The answer lies in the alternatives and the benefits derived from Tey. The alternative is using a biography too large and formidable for survey students to handle. The benefits derived from the use of Tey in class are many:

- The heightened interest of history as a detective story (many read it while I am still talking about Bede).

- The important lesson concerning the view of history as an interpretation and a continuing story.
- The emphasis on the essential need of getting down to primary as opposed to secondary sources, which she underscores so well.
- The instructive steps by which she shows a good historian conducting research.
- The manner in which the researcher selects evidence and rejects or qualifies opinion.
- The way she demonstrates the intuitiveness and impressionistic nature of the discipline—despite the greatest reverence for a fact and quantitative or "scientific" history and the goal of objectivity.

Quantitative history tends to minimize the human element in history. Tey tells a story in which Richard III is center stage, a person who does make a difference. All these things are delightfully inculcated in this intriguing little book.

Yet my role as an instructor is to temper and qualify the student's experience of reading Tey. Whilst praising the story, the author's writing style, the brilliant suspense, plot development, and the didactic simplicity of presentation (magnificently constructed—far better than any historian I have read), I still have to re-impose the factual side of the story. It usually comes as a shock, or at least a bit of a "downer," for the student to learn that:

- Henry VII did not murder the Princes in the Tower.
- Bishop Morton did not write Thomas More's book.
- Despite her anti-historian bias, Tey herself got the whole thing, the entire research project, from just such an historian by the name of Clements Markham.

Thus, at the risk of demeaning their whole exhilarating experience, at the risk of turning it into a tempest in a teapot, I essentially spend my time informing them just what we do know about

Richard's reign: how little we know about the era and the events of 1483-85. I also tell them how that incredible historiography associated with Richard came into being and developed into the modern period. My own interest in Richard III is in the historiography that has grown up about him. In other words, I like packing for the trip as much as I like the trip itself.

There are three facets of the Richard III question that fascinate me and basically embody my true interest in Richard III:

- The universal appeal of wronged innocence and the widespread identification with it.
- The popular versus academic nature of the controversy.
- The unbelievable longevity of the controversy—going on three hundred fifty years now.

There is also an Old Testament-Genesis quality to the historiography. If we forget Mancini and the Croyland Chronicle¹—the only two contemporary accounts, which all too often are forgotten—the litany goes something like this: In the beginning was More, and More begat Vergil, and Vergil begat Hall, and Hall begat Hollinshed, and Hollinshed begat Shakespeare. For the New Testament, you could add: And Shakespeare begat Gairdner, and Gairdner begat Hanham.

There is also an Old Testament quality about the nature of the struggle involved, a simple moral tale of Good vs. Evil that can be told with a Star Wars simplicity: Sir George Buck discovered the Force in the first half of the seventeenth century, and he passed it on in the second half to William Winstanly, from whom it was picked up in the next century by Sir Horace Walpole, who gave succor, and passed it on in the nineteenth to Caroline Halsted.

Its modern use was only fully developed by Clements Markham after gargantuan combat with James Gairdner in the *English Historical Review* in the 1890's. And, to remix the metaphor, Markham begat numerous offspring: a first-born called Lindsay, a second-born deemed Lamb, and his favorites, the twins Tey and Kendall—one devoted to applying the Force to liter-

continued, page 6

ature, the other to history! Hopefully, without the least bit of cynicism intended, since I have delighted in the works of all, this monumental historiography will continue to bear new offspring.

Let us look at some of the features I have identified that have insured its continuance.

The first item identifiable is the most significant reason for the appeal of the Richard III story. Its continuance has been guaranteed by the magnitude of the injustice done to the man and the magnitude of the person who perpetuated the miscreant shape in the first (in reality, fifth) place. The world's greatest playwright—Shakespeare—created a monster. That monster has been portrayed since 1593 in every shape and form of communication. The audience for this monster is worldwide, and in the case of the English-speaking world, one which beams even wider throughout the general public to the commonest of common man. Thus, to learn that the person Shakespeare created had really very little to do with the historic personage named Richard III clearly comes as a shock. With it comes the added shock that Shakespeare was essentially a party to propaganda, and a continuing one at that, a confederate of brainwashers! That information and realization lends sympathy to the last Plantagenet and abhorrence of the historic crime that has been perpetrated against Richard. We have all felt misunderstood and we have all been innocently wronged. Those basically universal human experiences have produced an instant identification with Richard and his historic plight.

In October 1979, the Chancellor of the State University of California—himself a former historian in the state system—delivered a lecture in which he clearly identified his own plight as a misunderstood Chancellor with that of Richard as a wrongly maligned king. His lecture was entitled appropriately "Richard III: An Administrator with a Bad Press."²

"If Richard III were alive today," Chancellor Dumke declared, "his face would be a familiar image and his name would be a household word. He would have banner headlines and blaring television coverage. And it is safe to say that he would take little solace in what was written, or pictured, or said about him."³

It is clear by the very title he chose, that the California State University's senior administrator identified with Richard. My purpose," he continued, "is . . . to observe that once a leader falls into the trap of being negatively interpreted by the media and the public, it makes little difference what he says or does—or what his intentions are."⁴

Similarly, this identification can be seen in the fatalistic conclusion of the historian *cum* Chancellor:

*If my view of Richard is correct—that he was not the villain he has been painted, then one of the most disheartening aspects of the whole story is that it is entirely possible for an individual to be maligned for centuries with faint hope of having his reputation cleared. Woe betide the lamentable fate of the public official. Historical interpretation is not of itself infallible.*⁵

The fallibility of historical interpretation also underscores a second feature of the Richard III controversy—the division between popular and academic historian on the issue. This basic antagonism has been there from the beginning. Sir George Buck, in *The History of King Richard the Third* (1619), was essentially reacting against the overbearing accounts of the sixteenth century historians, or what passed for accredited historians in that time. And so too was Walpole a century and a half later. His basic aim in writing *Historic Doubts on the Life and Reign of Richard III* was principally tilting with and undermining the "considered" and "solemn" eighteenth century historians, the most parochial of whom Samuel Johnson called "Writer of Small Histories."

From the beginning then the debate over Richard III has been a "Town-gown" one; and it has so remained. The "Gown" has not taken kindly to the "Town" knowing as much or more about something at which the "Gown" is supposed to be an expert. And the "Gown" has had the establishment (of which it is a part) on its side as well—why else the persistence of the Richard III myth in authorized, official histories, textbooks, and primers for so long after the issue was aired? And so long after Ricardians clearly showed that from Walpole's time forward at least a healthy doubt Shakespeare's image existed, to say nothing of downright falsification?

The classic example of this quality of the historiographical debate was seen recently by the review of Alison Hanham's critical work entitled *Richard III and his Early Historians* (1975). In the most establishment of establishment publications, *The Times Literary Supplement*, in a review by, who else but the most cutting of the Court Historians, G.R. Elton, an essay appeared under the triumphant heading: *The Proof of Villainy*.⁶ And whom did Elton attack? Not More, who was shown to be less than he had been, but Tey and the "Town," the Richard III Society—making jest that its American counterpart was incorporated.

Here we find the doyen of Tudor historians lamenting in print how for years the bane of his existence was to have his every public lecture interrupted by questions about his opinions of Tey and her work. It was of course entirely appropriate as well that the rejoinder letters to the editor in subsequent TLS editions did not constitute an "in-Gown" debate. Only "Townies," amongst whom the President of the Richard III Society, Jeremy Potter, pointed out that the bulk of Alison Hanham's "excursus" exculpated Richard III, not Thomas More, the real source of Shakespeare's monster. And that the basis for that monster story had no teeth. Academicians were silent and silenced.⁷

The confusion caused by Alison Hanham's book, and her own attack upon the revisionary views of Richard III in her "conclusion," exemplifies a third feature of the controversy—its longevity. The now centuries-old historic nature of the debate gives it a life of its own. With the publication of Kendall's biography of Richard III and the subsequent qualifications about Richard that began to appear in general textbooks such as David Harris Wilson's *A History of England*, I, for one, thought the debate essentially over; that it was one clearly belonging to history; that it was one in which the revisionists had clearly won.⁸ But here comes Hanham in a detailed exposition running to nearly two hundred and twenty pages in which we are told that Kendall's account is as much "fiction" as More's.

Can this be so? Did Richard and not Buckingham really murder the Princes in the Tower? Are those much bespeached bones really the remains

of the little Princes—"those dear lambs!?" Hanham has recently continued her attack upon the revisionist view of Richard. Whether she has succeeded in overturning the revised assessment is very much open to question. However, one thing Alison Hanham has assured is that what Kendall called the "Great Debate" will continue. (Who was the Croyland Chronicler?) I think the Richard III Society should give Alison Hanham an award for insuring that the Great Debate will continue. Her own research has raised as many questions as she answered. There is no doubt her book has inspired—and will inspire—further research into contemporary manuscripts. This we should be thankful for and look forward to.

As for my own area, let me tell you about Churchill and Tonyandy, or Lloyd George and the "Coupon Election," or the Labour Party and the Zinoviev Letter, or perhaps about the "Bankers' Ramp" of 1931. Despite the occasional Eltonian pronouncements of "Proof of Villiany," the Richard III debate continues. And well it should. For it is the Tonyandies of history that keep us historians going, and the Richard III Societies that keep us on our toes.

Footnotes:

1. Both contemporary sources have only recently played a role in the historiographical controversy.
2. Chancellor Glenn S. Dumke, The First Annual Mildred Winters Lecture, San Jose State University, History Department, October 18, 1979, "Richard III: An Administrator with a Bad Press", unpublished manuscript, 11 pages.
3. *Ibid.*, page 1
4. *Ibid.*
5. *Ibid.*, page 11
6. *Times Literary Supplement*, October 10, 1975, page 1179
7. *Ibid.*, October 24, 1975, page 1264
8. A recent text, Clayton and David Roberts, *A History of England, Volume I: Prehistory to 1714* (Englewood Cliffs, N. J.: Prentice-Hall, 1980) presents a mixed revised view, but at least clearly announces Shakespeare's "ogre" as unhistorical, page 211-212.

SILENT AUCTION IV

Helen Maurer, Research Librarian

Here comes Silent Auction again, in time for the holidays. In addition to some "heavy" offerings left over from the last auction (scholars take note!), there are books of more general interest and some fiction.

To bid on a book, write to Helen Maurer, 24001 Salero Lane, Mission Viejo, CA 92691, by November 15. Indicate which book(s) you want and what you would be willing to pay for it (them). SEND NO MONEY. You will be notified of the auction results in time to receive your book(s) for holiday gift-giving. Condition of the books and original or resale prices (where known) are indicated.

Juliette Benzoni, *One Love Is Enough*, 1963, Pan paperback 1968 in fair to good condition, some staining, otherwise sound. First in fictional "Catherine" series set in early 15th c. France. \$.50.

Juliette Benzoni, *Catherine, Royal Mistress*, 1965, Avon paperback 1972 in fair to good condition. Second in series. \$.95.

Juliette Benzoni, *Catherine and Arnaud*, 1967, Pan paperback 1970 in fair to good condition. Yet another. \$.50

Julia Cartwright, *Beatrice D'Este: Duchess of Milan 1475-1497*, 1926. Hardcover in fair to good condition, cover somewhat worn (originally pub. 1899). Biography. \$.75 penciled inside.

Mary Clive, *This Sun of York*, 1973, Cardinal paperback (1976) in good condition. Pages yellowing slightly, otherwise sound. Biography of Edward IV. £1.60, stamped "3.00."

Thomas B. Costain, *The Moneyman*, 1947, Doubleday hardcover in very good condition. Novel set in mid-15th c. France. ".75" penciled inside.

Wallace K. Ferguson, *The Renaissance*, 1940. Holt, Rinehart & Winston paperback in fair to good condition. Some highlighting. Textbook. \$.25.

Gene Fowler, *Good Night, Sweet Prince*, 1945, Blakiston Company hardcover in poor to fair condition, cover worn and stained, problems beginning with binding. A life of John Barrymore, the actor. Price unknown.

I.S. Leadam, ed., *The Domesday of Inclosures 1517-1518*, 2 vols. Royal Historical Society hardcovers in excellent condition. "Being the extant returns to Chancery for Berks, Bucks, Cheshire, Essex, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northants, Oxon and Warwickshire . . . in 1517 and for Bedfordshire in 1518 . . . along with Dugdale's MS notes of the Warwickshire Inquisitions in 1517, 1518 and 1549." Much is in Latin; tables, 27.50 (\$ or £?) handwritten on flyleaf; \$1.00 stamped.

William E. Lunt, *Accounts Rendered by Papal Collectors in England 1317-1378*, 1968, American Philosophical Society hardcover in excellent condition, dust jacket has small tears at edges. Text in Latin. \$10.00.

Myles K. Mandell, *Micromodels: Make Your Own Caernarvon Castle*, 1983 Perigee paperback in excellent condition, nothing cut out or missing. Do-it-yourself paper model. \$4.95.

Norfolk Pedigrees, Part 3, compiled by Patrick Palgrave-Moore, 1981. Hardcover, excellent condition, of interest to genealogists. Price unknown.

John Piper, *Romney Marsh*, 1950, illustrated. Penguin hardcover in fair to good condition. Cover ripping, inside very good. Local description, Kent. ".95¢" penciled inside.

Leopold von Ranke, *History of the Popes*, Vol. 1, 1901. Hardcover in fair condition. Inside clean; cover worn and binding ripping. Price unknown.

William Shakespeare, *King Richard III*, 1961 Folio Society hardcover (with cardboard insert cover), all in excellent/superb condition. Color illustrations. Price unknown.

Frank G. Slaughter, *The Mapmaker*, 1957, Popular Library paperback in good condition, slightly yellowing but sound. Novel set in 15th c. 95¢.

John Steegman, *Cambridge ("As it Was and as it Is Today")*, 4th ed. revised 1949. Hardcover in fair to good condition, cover ripping. Local description & history. "1.00" penciled inside.

Rob Talbot & Robin Whiteman, *Cadfael Country: Shropshire and the Welsh Border*, 1990, beautifully illustrated. Brand new hardcover with dust jacket, pristine condition. The world of Ellis Peters's medieval sleuth. Price unknown.

Darlene Templeton, *Woman in Yorkist England*, 1984. Ide House paperback, new condition. Women's history. Price unknown.

Transactions of the Royal Historical Society, Fifth Series, vols. 1 - 29 (#2 is missing), 1951-77. Hardcover set in good to excellent condition (cover of #26 is faded). Articles on various subjects, from ancient times to present, some

of medieval/Ricardian interest. Price unknown.

TRHS, Fourth Series, vols. 31 & 32. Excellent condition.

Horace Walpole, *Historic Doubts on the Life and Reign of King Richard the Third*, 1974, facsimile of 1768 edition. Hardcover with dust jacket, pristine condition. £ 2.50.

Oliver Warner, *The Crown Jewels*, 1951, illustrated. Penguin hardcover in good condition, cover slightly worn. Only the anointing spoon is of an "interesting" age. ".95" penciled in.

G.W.O. Woodward, *King Richard III*, 1972. Pitkin Pictorial paperback in excellent condition. Price unknown.

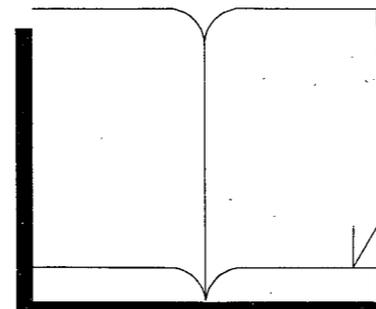
"Kings and Queens of England," Department of the Environment chart showing comparative length of reigns William I-Elizabeth II. Very good condition (in plastic protective roll), suitable for framing. Price unknown.

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Scattered Standards

Northwest Chapter

Twelve members and friends met at the Olympia, Washington home of Walt and Nona Winiarski for our August meeting. We had lots to discuss, as two weeks before the Chapter had set up a booth at the Pacific Northwest Highland Games where hundreds of people stopped to look at our display and pick up a brochure. Over 75 people asked for further information, and we sent them a follow-up letter with details on future meeting dates and the 1991 Society Tour.

Many people were interested in the 1991 tour as it is being co-sponsored by the University of Washington as a Travel-Study Tour. The University will hold an informational evening on all tours this October in Seattle, and Chapter members look forward to attending, both to learn more about the trip and to meet non-members who are interested in Richard III. The University will be sponsoring lectures, too, and those of us who cannot go on the actual trip are really pleased to be able to attend those.

The Chapter elected our 1990-92 officers: President, Rahne Kirkham and Secretary-Treasurer, Beverlee Weston. Barbara Woods graciously consented to remain Chapter Librarian.

After our Chapter business was concluded, Marge Nelson gave a talk on Arthur Plantagenet, Lord Lisle. The natural son of Edward IV and Elizabeth Lucy, Arthur managed to do quite well under the Tudors, becoming Governor of Calais under Henry VIII. Unfortunately, Henry recalled him on suspicion of his conspiring to turn Calais over to Cardinal Pole and the Pope. Arthur was imprisoned in the Tower for eighteen months, and died in the Tower the day after he was found innocent! Thus we know the fate of one of the sons of Edward IV.

*Marge Nelson
(Former Chapter Secretary)*

Ohio Chapter

This report covers activities and meetings of the Ohio Chapter of the Richard III Society for the period of October 1989 till October 1990.

October 1989

The Ohio Chapter hosted the Annual General meeting in Cleveland, Ohio. Chapter members, in addition to the usual registration and housekeeping duties, presented several sessions and hosted a medieval feast held on Saturday evening.

At a chapter meeting following the AGM, Spencer Northup was elected as the incoming chairperson, Judie Gall as secretary, and all other officers retained their posts. These officers assume their duties as of the January meeting.

January 1990

We met in Dayton and heard a final accounting of the financial results from the AGM. We heard a talk on the battles of the War of the Roses by Ted Trimbath and patted ourselves on the back for an AGM well done.

April 1990

The upcoming Ohio State Renaissance Fair and what we would be doing at the fair was discussed. We also discussed the development of materials about the Middle Ages that focused on Richard III that could be provided to schools. In Ohio the Middle Ages is addressed in both the sixth grade and in World History courses at the high school level.

A presentation was given on the basics of heraldry by Tom Coles. We found out about charge and counter charge on a shield and that there were at least five or six ways to describe a lion on a shield.

May 1990 - Ohio State Ren. Fair

Even though it rained, we had a good number of people stop by our booth and ask about Richard III and the group. Much of the interest was general and we did not obtain any new members out of the effort, but perhaps a few converts to our way of thinking. After the fair we all got together for dinner.

July 1990

The issue of whether the Boston group could use our banners for its AGM was discussed and it was decided that if one of our members took the banners to the AGM and returned them, they could be loaned.

The two new positions requested by National were discussed. A vote on the matter was delayed till a copy of the position descriptions could be distributed to all members. Discussion on the positions and a vote on someone to fill the positions will be done at the October meeting.

The possibility of having wax stamps with a boar on it was discussed, but due to a cost of \$3.00 per stamp and the necessity of purchasing at least 100 at a time, the matter was tabled.

John Moosmiller provided an informative discussion of the relationship between Roman Britain and Richard's Britain.

September 1990

Several members of the group had a display table at the annual Baycrafters Fair held near Cleveland. We obtained the names and addresses of twenty three people who were interested in receiving information on our local chapter. One of our members won first place in a costume contest at the fair and made sure that all those watching knew she was a member of the Richard III Society.

General Comments:

The Ohio Chapter is just now returning to full strength after the effort put into the AGM. A number of members felt they needed a rest and so attendance at the January and April meetings was down. I suspect that we will begin to get both renewed commitment and interest in new activities at the October meeting.



Southwest Chapter

Eleven members and guests of the Southwest Chapter, Richard III Society, feasted before they mourned at their annual Battle of Bosworth commemorative meeting held August 18 at the home of Roxane and Frank Murph. While it might be debated whether or not our hero Richard ever had barbecued brisket, the main course of the pot-luck dinner, surely Lady Anne served rose petal pudding, similar to that made by member Dale Summers, to King Richard at a banquet in Middleham Castle.

At a brief business meeting the Chapter voted to be a part of the Annual General Meeting by sending a prize for the raffle. The prize choice is a copy of the video about the Battle of Mortimer's Cross titled "The Sun in Splendor." As performed by members of the British Society for Creative Anachronism and others, Roxane reports that it is an interesting and accurate reenactment. Roxane will show her copy of the video at the October 20 Chapter meeting, which will be held at the home of Jean Daiker.

The meeting concluded with a discussion of the Battle of Bosworth, with members offering various reasons for the outcome.

*Pat Poundstone
Chapter Secretary*

Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter

On May 19, 1990, at 1:00, Jeff and Toni Collins, Regina Jones, Dot Keenan, Rose Ann Messersmith and Sally Yenkinson met at Anabel Barker's home in Wyncote, Pa. Drew and Wendy Logan were unable to attend.

Specific issues regarding our Chapter by-laws were discussed. A copy of the proposed by-laws will be sent to each member before the next meeting; any suggestions, objections, additions or deletions can be discussed then.

Letters from other chapters, and from Society officers to our Chapter, were read for everyone's information. The letters dealt with the activities of other chapters and particularly, how they raise funds for Chapter activities.

Other Chapter business was discussed, as well as our future plans. Hopefully, the Chapter's

Scattered Standards *(continued)*

near future will be highlighted by memorial notices for Richard III in our local papers; a presentation of Medieval Dance (in conjunction with the Society for Creative Anachronism) at the Granite Run Mall; and a guided tour of the Philadelphia Museum of Art's 15th century collection.

Upcoming meetings will also feature a trip to the Renaissance Faire in Mount Hope, Pa., viewing the videos "The Sun in Splendour" (which Dot Keenan has kindly donated to the Chapter) and Henry V, and a Ricardian Trivia contest.

Our next meeting is scheduled for August 4 at the Renaissance Faire in Mount Hope.

After the above business matters were disposed with, we had an enjoyable — if not definitive! — discussion of the books *The Crown and the Tower* and *The Daughter of Time*. We still don't know why Richard didn't marry off his niece Elizabeth (and all of her sisters, if necessary) before Henry Tudor had a chance to marry her, and we're quite shaky on the 15th-century rules of accession to the English throne regarding females . . . but the meeting adjourned anyway, at 5:00.

On August 4, 1990, the Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter met on the grounds of the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire, imposing a refreshing Ricardian presence on those Elizabethans!

We were delighted to meet a new Chapter member, Rochelle Rubin; in addition to Rochelle, the meeting was attended by Jeff and Toni Collins, Regina Jones, and Sally Yenkinson.

We had a productive business session before dispersing to enjoy the Faire's pleasures. Our proposed by-laws were amended, then approved as amended. With the adoption of these by-laws, our Chapter has completed its organizational process; Southeastern Pennsylvania is about to realize we are here!

On August 22, memorial notices for Richard will appear in the Philadelphia *Inquirer*, the Philadelphia *Daily News*, and *Town Talk*, a local Delaware County paper. (We may also have a notice

in a Montgomery County paper, Rochelle is looking into this). Thank you to Sally, Toni, and Rochelle for doing the actual placing of these notices.

On September 27, thanks to the efforts of Jeffrey Collins, a medieval dance demonstration will be held at the Granite Run Mall. The performance will be jointly sponsored by the Society for Creative Anachronism and the Richard III Society.

In October, our library exhibit will be on display at the Community Township Library in Concordville. The exhibit will be highlighted by a talk on Shakespeare's "Richard III" by Rose Ann Messersmith.

And that same Rose Ann is hosting a barbecue for all of us on August 25 . . . no doubt to energize us for the projects ahead!

Regina Jones
Chairwoman/Secretary



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"The Richard III Enigma" August 8 - 23, 1991

The Society Research Office, and the University of Washington's Travel-Study Program announce their 1991 Ricardian Research Tour, "The Richard III Enigma".

The tour will begin at the Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Oxford, and travel to York, Cambridge, Bosworth, Leicester and London, culminating there in a farewell banquet in Crosby Hall.

Led by Randall B. Hensley, head of reference services at UW's Odegaard Library, the tour will visit The Bodleian Library, The British Library, and various public records offices, in addition to attending lectures and visiting historic sites.

For more details, contact Mallory Paxton or the Travel-Study Program, University of Washington, GH-21, Seattle, WA 98195, telephone (206) 543-2300 extension 405 or 411, or FAX: (206) 685-9359.



Ricardian Post

17 August 1990

Ms. Elizabeth M. Nokes
General Secretary
RICHARD III SOCIETY
London, SW3 5NN
ENGLAND

Dear Ms. Nokes:

I am a member of the American Branch of the Richard III Society and I am not at all pleased with the comments being made lately by our "literary scholars" in the *Ricardian Bulletin*.

First, we have Mr. Hammond telling us that the Society does not have a definite point of view about Richard and that the Society is neutral.

Now, in the latest Bulletin, we have Ms. Fuchs, who tells us —

Let us not be too deadly serious. It is after all, a game, and all this talk of fighting and being pro or anti-Richard must be done with our tongues in our cheeks and a sense of relativity. There are more important things going on in the world, especially at this very moment."

I am very well aware, as are the other members of this Society, of what is going on in the world, especially at this very moment and I am also aware that this is the 20th Century and not the 15th, but that is not the issue here.

This Society is called the RICHARD III SOCIETY and it is supposed to be dedicated to correcting the views that people have had of Richard III for the last 505 years!

For this, you have asked people to join this Society and help in this work. These people are called MEMBERS. You also collect dues (MONEY) from these members. Ricardian items are sold through the Society, which brings in more MONEY!

You scholars write books on Richard and things of Ricardian interest, which you expect Society members to purchase, which brings you MONEY!

Are we playing A GAME? Is your tongue in your cheek while all this money is coming in?

Is the memory and reputation of King Richard III that you want your members to educate other people about. . . A GAME??? It is no game to me or to any other member who believes in what they are trying to accomplish.

This Society exists because of KING RICHARD III and the wrongs done to him since his death at the battle of Bosworth 505 years ago . . . and yes, lets be deadly serious about it!

John R. Duffer

11th September 1990

Dear Mr. Duffer,

Thank you for your letter of 17th August, received 24th August. I am not clear whether you intended it for publication in the bulletin, but, if so, I have to say that I could not print it as it stands—in my view it comes rather near to contravening section 5(d) of the Constitution, and would certainly cause distress to those many members who give their time, effort and money to the work of the Society.

You are fully entitled to express your individual opinion about other members' individual opinions, as expressed in the Bulletin, but not in a way that would cause distress to readers.

Peter Hammond, Livia Visser-Fuchs, and all other contributors to the Bulletin write solely as indi-

vidual members — they do not express any official or committee view. Further to this, please see my editorial comment on page 2 of the June 1990 Bulletin.

Please re-read the Society's aims and purposes, as stated on the back of the brochure, and I think you will find that your paraphrasing of them is rather more specific than the original statement.

Your emphasis on "money" gives rise to the impression, whether intended or not, that you are accusing the Society of obtaining money by false pretences.

I would suggest that you inspect the Society's accounts, published annually with the December Bulletin, following adoption at the AGM. If there are any points that are not clear, I am sure the Treasurer would be happy to elucidate them. What is quite clear, and is a fact, is that no member of the Society receives any kind of emolument, or even expenses, for work done for the Society. All officers, and all branch officers, as well as many members, give their time and effort, and often financial contributions, for the well being of the Society. Only the Membership Department is a funded enterprise, being a computer bureau which manages the Society's membership list — this became necessary when the membership became too large to be looked after manually, and voluntarily, by the Membership Secretary.

The fact that the Society has money to carry out and fund research, and to sponsor Trust publications, is largely owing to the voluntary nature of its organization, rather than to its gathering in large sums of money from members! For a historical society, its subscription is very modest.

Ricardian items are sold through the Society as a service to members. If you look at the accounts you will see that the profit is not large.

Various academics, both members and non-members, write books of interest to Ricardians, which may be stocked for sale to members. The Richard III and Yorkist History Trust publishes scholarly works, sold both inside and outside the Society. The authors are not receiving large sums of money for their work from the Trust or the Society. No author ever yet got rich on writing non fiction!

The Society's emphasis is not on money but on the impartial facts about the life and times of Richard III. If you radically disagree with what the Society is doing (as opposed to the individual views of individual members) you have two choices: to seek to change it, or, if it is clear that the majority is not in agreement with your view, to leave it.

Obviously we want healthy debate, but this must be conducted with courtesy to all members.

Elizabeth M. Nokes
London, England

11, August 1990

Dear Carole:

In the early part of 1990, I along with a few individuals, who are in the Society and are not, formed an organization called the "Middleham Restoration Endowment". Our purpose was to help support English Heritage with the sole task of providing funds for the restoration and preservation of the fabric of Middleham Castle. I had a meeting with English Heritage in March of this year and our proposal was warmly received.

The purpose of this notice is to inform you that in the last issue of the Ricardian Register there was an error which indicated I would be doing something at the AGM on behalf of the Appeal. While I personally support the proposed visitors center, I am not the official representative of the Appeal.

I hope this has not confused the membership of the Society which was not my intent. My concern was to not undue any good efforts done on behalf of the Appeal just as the Endowment did not wish any of their good efforts undone.

Joe Ann Ricca
Carlstadt, New Jersey

August 12, 1990

I have found a discrepancy in the accounts of "experts", "authorities" concerning Lambert Simnel. It is a small matter, to be sure. Actually, this contradiction between Those Who Know is not

going to make or spoil my day. However, I have a strong desire To Get My History Right.

In *The Lives of the Kings and Queens of England* edited by Antonia Fraser, published by Alfred Knopf, 1975, it is stated that Lambert Simnel impersonated the Earl of Warwick.

In *The Political Career of Francis Viscount Lovell* by Joanna M. Williams, published in *The Ricardian*, Vol. VIII, No. 109, June 1990, it is stated that Lambert Simnel impersonated Richard, Duke of York.

To be specific: I quote Antonia Fraser, page 171: "in the autumn of 1486 . . . came disturbing news of a pretender claiming to be the young Warwick. . . . Lambert Simnel who had been carefully groomed for this impersonation . . ."

I quote Joanna Williams, page 395: "The dismal failure of the rebellion of April 1486 may have taught the opponents of Henry VII that for any revolt to succeed it would need a Yorkist pretender actually in the field. Accordingly, the boy known later as Lambert Simnel was trained to impersonate the younger son of Edward IV, Richard, Duke of York."

According to Antonia Fraser, also page 171, Perkin Warbeck impersonated Richard, Duke of York. ". . . Master Perkin Warbeck . . . whom the men of Cork felt convinced was Richard of York, the younger of the princes in the Tower." There is no mention of Warbeck in the Williams article because, according to Williams, Lovell was dead by early 1490 (before the Warbeck conspiracy).

Now, as I say, this is a small matter, but what if someone whom I am attempting to interest in Richard III's times and tribulations and Henry VII's villainy, asks me, "Well, just who did this Simnel and Warbeck impersonate?"—what am I supposed to say? "I don't know" or "Authorities differ"?

What, then, is History? A good guess or as LaRochafoucauld said, "History never embraces more than a small part of reality." Matthew Arnold called history "that huge Mississippi of falsehood." Nietzsche: "History is nothing more

than the belief in the senses, the belief in falsehood." Henry Ford: "History is bunk."

Why am I making a mountain out of a molehill? Because I want everything I say about Dickon and his friends to be TRUE.

To myself I mutter, "Lotsa luck."

*Rachel Howard DeWolf
Newport, Rhode Island*

August 1, 1990

I want to commend Linda Treybig of the Ohio Chapter for the delightful and rewarding Ricardian tour she arranged for June/July 1990. It was a wonderful chance to see many Ricardian sites I had never had the opportunity to see before, and my husband, although not an official member, appreciated it as much as I did. A group of twelve people with common interests but diverse backgrounds and ages became good friends, and enjoyed the historic inns, real English food, and June perfection of the countryside.

Our Cockney bus driver, Tony Kemp, kept us on our toes with his wit, and we all felt his caring and concern - when one of our group was disabled, he borrowed a wheelchair for a day to take her around Bosworth Field.

We were fortunate to have excellent (Ricardian) guides at Cambridge and Bosworth, and Linda had arranged for us to meet English Ricardians at such interesting places as York, Middleham, Towton battlefield, Tewkesbury and Great Malvern. They welcomed us, and added much to our understanding of places important in Richard's life.

I think we converted Tony—on our last day, he said he was now convinced that "King Richard was the best king ever!"

It was a real relaxing and learning vacation, and I hope others will be able to take advantage of such opportunities in the future.

*Lois M. Griffiths
Monmouth, Maine*

August 26, 1990

Meeting called to order at 1:15 pm by Chairman Gene McManus with Carole Rike, Alan Dixler, Roxane Murph, Bob Doolittle and Jacqueline Bloomquist in attendance.

The Minutes of the previous Board Meeting were approved as written.

Alan Dixler gave the Treasurer's Report as of 7/31/90.

Endowment Fund	\$8,300.00
Scholarship Fund	900.00
General Fund	\$15,800.00

Carole Rike gave a Membership Report. There are 535; up a bit from last year.

Carole suggested that we formulate what records are turned over to the new Board. Alan suggested that records from Calendar Year 1986/87 could be discarded and three years worth of records 1988/1989/1990 would be saved.

It was the Board's decision that: "Records for the last three Calendar Years were to be retained. Records dating 1986/1987 and before can be discarded at the discretion of person handling the records."

Old Business

Publications:
AGM keynote address: closed
AGM Workshop notes: dropped
Membership brochure done
Monograph effort: Permission to publish *Richard and Anne* is being sought by Roxane.

Middleham Appeal: done

Scholarship Committee:
Alan will make annual report either in person or by note at the AGM.

Publishing excerpts from the *Register*: Roxane has everything ready to send to Carole for pub-

lication. Roxane is also writing introduction. Gene has publishing plans for Society in 1991.

Under the Hog publishing — status on hold

New Business

Addition to By-Laws:
Motion made "Create new position of Immediate Past Chairman as a Board member ex-officio."

New Ricardian Register Position:
Board members voted to ask Laura V. Blanchard to serve as Advertising Manager for the *Register*. The function of this position will be to bring in new revenue.

Meeting adjourned 2:40 pm (pst).

Next meeting, November 4, 1990, same times, with new Board Members meeting for first time.

Jacqueline Bloomquist



APOLOGIA

Janet Sweet

*I really was content, you know
To bask within your radiant glow,
To play the moon to your bright Sunne,
To share the prize, the battles won.*

*The loyalty that bound me thus
Was how it always was with us;
And Envy never held me thrall
But Love compelled me give my all.*

*I knew from childhood you would be
The very stuff of life for me.
For you could always see my worth
And we were bonded from my birth.*

*Where you were sunlight I was shade.
Together we a kingdom made.
You understood my loyal heart
And somehow knew right from the start
That some are meant for other things
And not to join the ranks of kings.*

*You raised me up and gave me praise.
Your generous nature filled my days.
And this you did because you knew
I'd face the fires of Hell for you.*

*The others did not have your eyes.
They looked but did not recognize
The virtues that you saw in me
And did discount what you could see.*

*But you and I made silent pact
That you would rule, and I would act
Your strong right arm, your cooler brow.
That is the way it should be now.*

*Then Death, who changes all the rules,
To whom Life's folly and men fools,
Stepped in with His macabre dance
And made my life a game of chance.
We flip the coin or toss the dice
And never get to do it twice.*

*So life goes on; the give, the take,
Created by the choice we make.
I searched for trust, for those who cared
And tried to find the bond we shared.*

*Perhaps that loyalty made me blind
To other motives more unkind.
For love misplaced just does not see
That all's not what it seems to be.*

*I placed in one the greatest trust.
I did not recognize the lust
For fame and power that drove him on
And now that traitor, too, is gone.
I thought that he and I could be
Such true companions as were we.
I should have known how very rare
Was that real kinship we did share.
He writhes inside a private Hell
Who loves not wisely but too well.*

*Gone is my wife, gone is my son,
Gone is the crown so dearly won.
I could not earn on any hand
The loyalty you could command.*

*My name is tainted and reviled.
They say I killed my brother's child.
But you and I know that's not true
Though history takes a dimmer view.*

*Now here I am in dark despair
My soul's forgotten how to care.
The Sunne in Splendor and the Boar
Are crushed beneath the Dragon's claw.*

*Life did not go as we had planned,
But I am not afraid to stand
Before you on my Judgement Day
Because I know that you will say,
"Another time, another place,
Fate might have recognized his grace."*

RICARDIAN READING

Regina Jones

Under the Hog

Great characterization, subtle humor, and a wealth of wonderful medieval detail make Patrick Carleton's *Under the Hog* marvelous reading.

Elizabeth Woodville is not shrewd here, just silly ("I wish to Christ that all the wits in the family had not been mine," her exasperated brother thinks once). Anne Neville is strong, sensible, and capable of keen political insight. Richard himself? "Undersized. Sickly. Bookish. Of no consequence" the Earl of Warwick tells Louis XI.

Though repeatedly described as abnormally small, pale, and odd-looking, Richard gains respect as the novel develops because his actions offset his physical limitations. After Barnet, for example, the Duke of Somerset relates how the Duke of Gloucester, though "no bigger than a wet cat . . . fought like a fiend from hell."

Some historical questions become fact for this novel, creating a sympathetic context for most of Richard's actions. There is no doubt that Edward IV's children are illegitimate, and Richard's life is clearly in danger from the time he is named Lord Protector. A smiling Anthony Woodville, greeting Richard at Stony Stratford, has nonetheless already mentally divided Richard's property, allotting to himself Middleham, Pontefract, and the wardship of Richard's son. Overcoming Woodville, Richard is threatened anew by the young King. Edward V is a bratty 12-year-old, and a definite trial as his royal uncles of Buckingham and Gloucester escort him to London.

Since the new King has been taught to hate him, Richard has no illusions about what will become of him once Edward V reaches his majority. Yet, he will do his best for England in the time allotted to him. "I want the people about me to be happy," he said once as Duke of Gloucester, and this desire to serve is Richard's prime motivation. With one exception, his rule over England is marked by justice and compassion,

despite the wrenching personal and political calamities that beset him.

Under the Hog is a lively and entertaining depiction of the Middle Ages. The well-drawn background of battles and cut-throat politics is relieved often with marvelous human detail, such as Anne Neville and Francis Lovel diverting each other through one of Edward IV's interminable banquets, or the Duke of Buckingham barely restraining himself from rendering a sharp smack to the royal head of Edward V.

Carleton's writing is exquisite: the rebel army at Bosworth, seen from a distance, is "a curved glimmer, recalling water in the moonlight." Richard's voice, as he goes down, is "clear and desolate, like the cry of a sea gull."

Yes, the book's ending is hard to take. Richard III was courageous, intelligent, and dedicated to the common good. None of these qualities are a match for treachery, however; not even a wonderful writer can change that.

The White Queen

Granted, the Duke of Gloucester probably wasn't in battle array when he led cookmaid Anne Neville from a smoky London kitchen, but *The White Queen* is still, at least figuratively, that time-honored story of a knight in shining armor. If this sounds trite or sappy, be assured that Lesley J. Nickell's novel is not.

Anne Neville is a cousin of the King of England, and the youngest daughter of the powerful Earl of Warwick, "the Kingmaker." Faint-hearted, sickly, and easily dominated, Anne is aware from conscious memory that her family finds her inadequate and that she's a disappointment to her famous father.

Yet, "even a girl-child has uses" concedes the Earl; and when the Kingmaker plots with Margaret of Anjou to overthrow Edward IV, Anne is married to Margaret's son as a pledge of her father's good faith. The consequences of this

fact are tragic; during the next two years, Anne will deliver her sister's stillborn child on a ship in Calais harbor, endure a humiliating marriage and subsequent widowhood, become a defeated rebel's orphan and be forced into menial service as a cookmaid in a London inn by the ruthless brother-in-law who becomes her guardian.

Pathetically ill-equipped to handle such adversity, Anne is broken in both health and spirit when she is rescued by her cousin Richard. As a child, Anne had been upset when the King's brother came to live in Warwick's household. She's intimidated by strangers, but the young Duke, as small and shy as she is herself, had been a pleasant surprise, and they forged a gentle friendship. Though the relationship was disrupted by the Kingmaker's alliance with Margaret of Anjou and the renewal of civil war, Richard's feelings for Anne have not changed. Anne becomes the Duchess of Gloucester, and Richard dedicates himself to restoring her health and will.

He seems to know instinctively what makes her happy, from the kitten he gives her as a wedding gift, to the decision to reside at Middleham Cas-

tle where they had been children, to his interrupting a journey so that Anne can run through a field of flowers: a simple gesture, yet Anne has never known such freedom before. In the ensuing years Anne's personality and spirit unfold, and she gains confidence and self-esteem as Richard's wife. Determined never to fail him, she proves herself, in their years at Middleham, to be more than adequate as a wife, Duchess, mother, and chatelaine of a great household. The crux of the novel is the transformation of Anne, or perhaps the self-discovery of Anne, into a person of sensuality and strength.

In the 11th year of their marriage, Edward IV dies and Richard becomes England's Lord Protector. As he leaves for London, he assures Anne that she'll be sent for quickly: "I shall need you," he says feelingly. It is a miracle of their marriage that the once colorless Anne has become as indispensable to her husband as he has always been to her.

The White Queen is a fine novel: romantic without being sentimental, highly readable, and a sophisticated love story.

ARTHUR PLANTAGENET SON OF EDWARD IV AND ELIZABETH LUCY

Margaret Nelson

Before Edward IV married Elizabeth Woodville he began an affair with a newly widowed 19 year old woman, Elizabeth Lucy. She was from Hampshire, the daughter of one Thomas Wayte. Edward and Elizabeth had a son, Arthur Plantagenet, who managed to live well into the reign of Henry VIII, and a daughter, Elizabeth, about whom virtually nothing else is known.

There is disagreement about Arthur's birthdate. One author feels it was between 1462 and 1464, bordered between the dates that Edward first "noticed" the woman and the date of his marriage to Elizabeth Woodville. Also cited is a 1475 reference to an order to the king's tailor for "clothing for my lord bastard" as proof that Arthur was already born. Others feel that the affair with Elizabeth Lucy lasted longer, and that Arthur was born around 1480 (and the reference to clothing would refer to yet another bastard of Edward).

While we know that Arthur was born and who his parents were, his actual birthdate, like those of his half-brothers, the princes, can be estimated but not proved.

Other dates are recorded. In 1501 Arthur joined the household of his sister, now the queen; in 1503 he joined Henry VII's household. He kept his place in court when Henry VIII succeeded and was known as a close companion to his nephew, the king.

After his coronation, and as a gesture of goodwill, Henry VIII ordered the execution of two of Henry VII's most hated tax collectors, one of whom, Edmund Dudley, was quite rich. In 1511 Arthur married Dudley's widow, Elizabeth, and received various lands from her estate. He also became the stepfather of her children, one of whom was John Dudley, who would become Duke of Northumberland before being executed. Arthur and Elizabeth had three daughters, Frances, Elizabeth and Bridget. In 1519

Elizabeth's niece, the 5th Baroness Lisle, died and the title passed on to her.

Arthur was recognized with a variety of honors. In 1520 he accompanied Henry to the Field of the Cloth of Gold. In 1523 he became Viscount Lisle, and in 1524 a Knight of the Garter. The only known picture of him is an engraving where he appears in procession with other knights. He is shown as a tall, blond man with a full beard. In 1525 Arthur became Vice Admiral of England. Henry Richmond was Admiral.

In 1528 his wife died, but by 1529 he had remarried. His new wife was Honor Grenville, widow of Sir John Basset. She brought 7 Basset children and 4 stepchildren with her. At one time, Arthur had stepchildren whose ages ranged from 40 to 10! Honor was still in her early 40's and apparently they both hoped to produce a male heir to the Plantagenets, but no children were born of this marriage. Arthur's daughter Frances was eventually married to the eldest Basset son so that the lands of the two families were secured.

Frances was widowed and remarried Thomas Monke (an ancestor of George Monce, Duke of Albemarle). Elizabeth married Sir Francis Jobson, Bridget married Sir William Carden. Marriages were arranged for various of his stepchildren.

Until 1533 Arthur led the normal life of the English gentry of the time, but that changed when Henry made him Governor of Calais in 1533. Arthur was able to cope with the position, but by 1535 realized that his English estates and interests were threatened by his non-attendance in England, while he could not leave Calais without royal license.

Both he and Lady Lisle used agents in England to do their business, but when Lady Lisle decided two of her Basset daughters should become maids of honor to Anne of Cleves, she

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Ann Rabinowitz lives with her family in Nutley, New Jersey. She is a member of the Richard III Society.

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herself traveled with the girls to court. One of them, Anne, was chosen. She was so attractive that at one point there was a chance of her becoming the 5th wife of Henry VIII!

Arthur served very many functions besides governing Calais. It was he who sent the swordsman who executed Anne Bolyn. Although a friend of Henry Norris, Anne's accused lover, Lord and Lady Lisle did not hesitate to beg Henry for Norris' confiscated estates before he was executed. Not being in England was a disadvantage if one wanted to receive lands from the king. Lisle had early notice of the dissolution of the monasteries. He wrote to Cromwell asking specifically for Beaulieu Abbey, and when he did not get it, he wrote directly to Henry asking for something nearby one of his estates. Lisle's agent, Husee, wrote him to note that if he would write to the king, he should keep the letters short—Henry hated long ones. Henry did like Lady Lisle's homemade marmalade which he found "wonderfully good."

In 1540 Arthur was summoned to London. In Calais it was thought he would be made an Earl. After a few weeks of normal activity, he was arrested and disappeared into the Tower. His documents, goods and plates were seized upon suspicion of his implication in a plot to betray Calais to Cardinal Pole and the Pope. It is these seized documents, now published as *The Lisle Letters* that provide so much information about Arthur Plantagenet, and about everyday life in Tudor times.

Arthur was imprisoned 18 months while Henry carried out a series of vindictive executions against the remaining members of the Yorkist party (related to both himself and Arthur) whom he could reach, including Cardinal Pole's 80 year old mother, Margaret Countess of Salisbury (George Duke of Clarence's daughter).

In 1542 Henry sent his secretary to see Arthur. The man delivered a gift diamond ring, told him he was proved innocent and restored to favor. Arthur's excitement at hearing this was so great that he died in the Tower the same night, "through too much rejoicing," (like Clarence?) and was buried there, another victim of Henry VIII.

Knowing Arthur's deathdate, let us work backwards to his likely birthdate:

If Arthur was born around 1462, he was 39 when he first entered Elizabeth of York's household (1501), 49 when he first married in 1511, and 71 when he became Governor of Calais.

If he actually was born around 1480, he would be 21 in 1501, 31 when he married and 53 when he moved to Calais. Elizabeth Lucy would have been about 37 when he was born, which is not unreasonable, and it would seem more likely that Henry VIII would have chosen the younger rather than the older aged man to be his companion.

Until someone finds more detailed information, we will not know.



Sometimes the Dragon Wins

From The Editor

Carole Rike

All of the woodcuts in this issue are from Caxton's *The Description of Britain*, but specifically these reproductions were scanned from a neat book which is a modern rendering by Marie Collins (*Caxton: The Description of Britain, A Modern Rendering by Marie Collins*, Weidenfeld & Nicholson, New York). Being a printer in my spare time, I confess to a weak spot for Caxton.

The dragon cartoon on page 22 is from a PIP Printing flier, and I trust they will forgive my plagiarism and consider this a plug in a good cause.

This issue didn't quite get out on time. I plead a series of disasters, personal and business, which have had me in a tallsip since late August. If you called and I did not return your call, I have been out of the office a good bit due to medical problems in my family and various other obligations.

The next issue of the *Register* will feature a new format and will inaugurate our pitch to increase revenue and cover the cost of printing.

The feature article on page 4 is a reprint from a previous *Register*, which was my solution to the lack of input from members. Again, we need your submissions! Please consider a short article (or an in-depth one), book reviews, or other information you might wish to share with fellow Ricardians. We will be running photographs for the first time in the Winter issue, so if you are hoarding some good pictures of local activities or sites in England, now is the time to share them; they will be returned. If you can draw or doodle, we could use your help. I have a large collection of clip art, but none of it includes the kind of artwork needed for this publication. Lots of Henry VIII drawings around, however!

**Deadline for Winter Issue:
November 25, 1990**

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