At the Northern California Chapter Richard III Society meeting on June 3, 1979 at Merritt College, Oakland, Dr. John Morby of California State University, Hayward, spoke about royal deposition in medieval England. He said that Richard's deposition of his nephew Edward V differed radically from the pattern established by the deposition and execution of Edward II in 1327. Dr. Morby pointed out that this de jure versus de facto approach is a natural one, as one that was more royal in lineage, taking their place. Thus from Edward II on, medieval deposed kings were, by definition, an act of usurpation, and subsequent deposition of a new monarch was always perceived as a natural death. Edward IV made the mistake of not making the same mistake twice. Morby brought up the interesting point that a natural death was possible.

Henry VI fell a victim of his own consent (he was possibly threatened with deposition), and Edward IV was found unfit to rule by reason of his behavior, was removed by parliament, with his own consent (he was possibly threatened with deposition but then in the end he forgave). He was then murdered; his body was exposed to public view and it was given out that he had died a natural death. This was to remove from men's minds the possibility of a de facto death, a possibility ubiquitous in the medieval and Renaissance periods. The six dancers under Ms. Jones' direction have appeared at most of the medieval and Renaissance fairs and at the Cloisters Annual Fair. They will offer two chances to win it for one dollar. The painting of Bhuja Jones and the Ananda Dancers, a troupe of well-known authorities on court and palace life in India, will wear a short talk by our returned Marshall Scholar, Pamela Tudor-Craig, as opposed to the American-English tradition. Ms. Tudor-Craig, detailing current research in the Abbey, will impart the audience in the intricate patterns of the Abbey. Let us agree, please let Mrs. Berger know (her address is 197 E. 82nd St., New York City). We look forward to her possible appearance at our meeting in 1980.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1979

The sixteenth annual gathering of Ricardians will take place at the Explorers Club on Saturday, September 29th. Members will assemble at noon, receive badges and meet officers and other enthusiasts until Chairman Bill Snyder calls us to order at one o'clock. After our Committee reports, elections, and announcements, Pam Garrett, who has succeeded Susie Scott as the Chapter Research Assistant, will take charge of the Club. Mrs. Berger will call for 15th and 16th century pavanes, galliards, almaines and branles. They will perform in the portrait of the NPG portrait of Richard III, since the proceeds go to our Scholarship and Leicester Memorial Funds as well: only one check for all is needed, and the Treasurer will apportion the donations to the desired fund.

RICHARD III LOTTERY ANNOUNCED

Here is a chance to take a chance and come out ahead: we have received a splendid original oil painting, beautifully framed, as a fund-raising gift for this meeting. The painting is from a little-known artist, a photograph of it is included in this issue for more details on Valerie Protopapas and her work.) The painting is a splendid addition to any Ricardian's home. We offer two chances to win it for one dollar. The drawing will take place at the AGM on September 29th, but you don't have to be present to win. All members will have an equal chance to win the portrait. No limit on the number of entries. Two slips go into the barrel for each dollar sent; the greater the number of dollars, the greater the chance to win. And every dollar is really two dollars to win. And every dollar is really two dollars to win. And every dollar is really two dollars to win. We have until the end of 1979 to match our generous benefactors' $2000. grants. Please contribute, and give a bit more on the lottery chance box enclosed.

The Club is located at 46 East 70th Street in New York City, between Park and Madison Avenues, convenient to transportation, with garages nearby. We suggest an early lunch in one of the close restaurants, delis or luncheonettes, so we can all meet on time at noon. Capacity is limited (only 125) so we urge you to get your reservation in now on the AGM/dues/funds form enclosed.

Dr. Pamela Tudor-Craig has been unable to schedule a trip to the US this year (the Victoria and Albert Museum has sent her to Scandinavia for a research a major Gothic exhibition), and we look forward to her possible appearance at our meeting in 1980.

DUES ARE DUE! DUES ARE DUE!

The ancient battle cry of the Treasurer resounds once more! Our membership year begins and ends on October 2 to coincide with the AGM, and we must remind you that this is the only notice you will receive. Renewals must be on hand by return mail to insure your continuing to receive the Society publications without a break. Details are on the AGM reservation form enclosed. Please note that we have made it easy to renew and contribute to the Scholarship and Leicester Memorial Funds as well: only one check for all is needed, and the Treasurer will apportion the donations to the desired fund.
**IN MEMORIAM NOTICE**

IN response to the Summer Bulletin, local groups and individuals are planning to publish notices on August 22nd in all the major papers, and some small ones too. The Californians have planned a memorial mass for Richard III to be said by Father Michael Gagnon on the 22nd at the Chapel of Mills College in Oakland, CA. The traditional National Society notice will appear in The New York Times on Sunday, August 19th (to catch wider readership) and on August 22nd as well. It reads:  

**PLANTAGENET — Richard, August 22, 1485. "As king, he declared he would rather have the hearts of his subjects than their money." (Gairdner). We mourn as always.**

**RICHARD III SOCIETY, INC.**

Box 217, Sea Cliff, NY 11579

We haven't heard what the English parent Society will do. The Times of London has not been published since last November due to a trade union dispute. We assume the Telegraph or Guardian will be the vehicle for their notice.

**ITEMS FOR SALE RE-VALUED**

Included with this mailing is a revised list of Ricardian Items for Sale. Our Publications Officer, Andrea Van Sant, discovered that many books, pamphlets and jewelry items were undervalued, with the memorabilia faults altogether. Consequently, all materials have been re-priced and the current list makes all others redundant. Several interesting new items have been added, and we suggest you read it carefully.

**LIBRARY LIST IN PROGRESS**

Julie Lord, Librarian, has annotated our holdings with publisher, date, and whether a book is available in hardcover or paper. The resulting list will be more useful than ever; but it is being prepared in correct bibliographical fashion and will take more time than planned for typesetting and printing. Be patient, and write Julie if you have queries about whether or not a book is in our Library until the list is ready.

**AN OPEN LETTER TO THE SOCIETY...**

On my first visit to Britain, I had great difficulty finding Bow Bridge because it is situated beyond a larger bridge often mistaken for it, and also because the access road is hopelessly intertwined with a congested railroad yard. Yet, I persisted and I found it. Compulsively leaning over and hopelessly intertwined with a congested railroad yard. Yet, I persisted and I found it. Compulsively leaning over and hopelessly intertwined with a congested railroad yard. Yet, I persisted and I found it. Compulsively leaning over and hopelessly intertwined with a congested railroad yard. Yet, I persisted and I found it. Compulsively leaning over and hopelessly intertwined with a congested railroad yard. Yet, I persisted and I found it. Compulsively leaning over and hopelessly intertwined with a congested railroad yard. Yet, I persisted and I found it. Compulsively leaning over...

**Received by Janet Snyder, Needlepoint Coordinator**

Fields Farm, Sutton Cheney.

Nr. Nuneaton.

Warwicks, England.

7 June 1979

Dear Mrs. Snyder,

I am writing to tell you how lovely the kneelers look in our little church at Sutton Cheney. It has given me great pleasure to stitch them together, and think of the hard work your dedicated band of helpers have put into their making. We are indeed fortunate to have your interest over there in the New World! I got your address from the Rev. and Mrs. Boston. They are well, and very busy. We have at last got the new organ installed, at the back of the church, and the old one removed. It just needs a White Rose Society service every week and we should have no worries at all!

Perhaps when you are over here again you will come to see us. My husband is a warden at Church, and we farm in the parish.

I hope all goes well for you, and the petrol crisis is not as bad as it sounds.

Please give our best wishes to all your helpers. We are envied our kneelers by all who visit the church.

Yours sincerely,

Josephine Chaplin

**Received and passed on by Linda McLatchie:**

17A, Coldstream Lane, Hardington, Northampton, Northamptonshire, England

3 May 1979

Dear Mrs. McLatchie,

I hope you do not mind my inquiring of you if you think that somewhere in the USA amongst your lady members, there is someone who would be interested in forming a friendship through correspondence.

I am married, aged 44 with two children, a daughter aged 21 (who is married to a Police Officer); and a son aged 17. I work a full day at our local police head-quarter which is most interesting, my husband is self-employed being a central heating engineer. We have a nice stone-built bungalow in a pleasant village about 2 miles outside our main county town. We keep a German Shepherd dog and like very much the outdoor life, being keen caravanners (trailers!) at weekends, and enjoy sailing and walking — in fact everything to do with the countryside — which is very nice around here!

- We are not far from Market Bosworth, and also in the same county is Fotheringhay, the birthplace of Richard. I cannot obviously inform you of everything about me, but perhaps this gives a guide to someone who might have similar interests and wish to correspond.

Best wishes,

Mrs. Jean A. Simons

5 Quarry Park Road

Pewell

Plymouth PL3 4LW

Devon, England

5 July 1979

Dear Mrs. Hogarth,

I am writing on behalf of the South West group of the Richard III Society. We have seen the American branch mentioned in the Ricardian. It occurred to us that your branch might be interested in corresponding occasionally and being friendly with us as a group. We thought if you were interested that some of your members could write to us and we would answer in turn.

You might like to know a little about us. We formed as a group in February this year with just five members of the Society. We have already grown to 14 members in that short space of time. Several of us live in Plymouth whilst the others come from various parts of Cornwall and from Torquay which is just holiday resorts 20 miles from here. We also have one member who lives in Jersey in the Channel Islands and she has managed to attend one of our gatherings.

I would be interested to hear your members views on the Quincentenary preparations a monumental Tudor June event. Our Secretary, Wendy Tubb, and committee member Charie Pears are going to Bosworth this year for the special service.

I hope you don't mind my writing to you but we felt that it would be rather nice to make contact with some of the American members.

Best wishes,

Mrs. Shirley Stapley

5
SHAKESPEARE: WHO WAS HE?

One who accepts Shakespeare, whoever he may have been, wholeheartedly, is Louis Marder, founder and editor of the Shakespearean scholar's newsletter, Shakespeare. Dr. Marder, who teaches at the University of Illinois at Chicago Circle, was profiled in Time and mentioned the Richard III controversy. He is one of the Oxfordians who have written a column about the Richard III Society in his journal. He has given me permission to reprint the three items of interest to us which follow, from the February 1979 issue of SNL. One is a putdown of the recent 3-volume A. L. Rowe nonsensical "annotated" edition of Shakespeare. The other are germane to scholarship on Shakespeare's R.I.H. Caveat Empor

When A. L. Rowe presents himself to all and sundry as the discoverer of "the secret identity of Shakespeare," he claims to have read the "most detailed, most lucid, and for years the only rational theory," "Shakespeare Identified" by J. Thomas Looney (1920). The Oxfordians have a heavy cross to bear in the author's name (it's pronounced "Loney"), but they soldier on, and the Millers are very active in the Shakespearean Authorship Society. They regard the Oxford question as the greatest English mystery, so it's easy to see why they are also added to it The Poems of Edward de Vere; has Shakespeare's Plays" and a second edition of the Millers' book was published. Catalogs and promotional material are very fascinating.

If you are intrigued, the Millers can be reached at Minos Publishing Company, Olde Evangeline Road, P.O. Drawer 1309, Jennings, LA 70546. Catalogs and promotional material are very fascinating.

The BBC SHAKESPEARE

We look forward, as we hope all Ricardians do, to the second season of plays to be shown here on the Public Broadcasting Service network. After year one, they can only get better, with some of the history plays of Richard III available for under $40 in New York City and $30 in Chicago. Nor did I receive a set of the 3-volume A. L. Rowe "annotated" Shakespeare. The others that remain, but it is indicative of the ninth Lords were mere sycophants; in short, that whatever Shakespearean do not object, but when he says that only a great historian can understand Shakespeare we smile at his hubristic claim.

I told this and much more to Clarkson N. Potter's public relations representative who called me to herald the publication of "the most detailed, most lucid, and long awaited" edition of Shakespeare ever published." I received a press packet, but none of the requested information. It reads as follows: "The introduction to the poems merely stated six-year program measures up in performance at the Public Broadcasting Service network. After the second season of plays to be shown here on the history plays .due this fall.

The biography sketch, the introductions to the plays satisfactory, the introduction to the poems merely passable - not merely passable but inadequate. I quoted some to make my point. I quote from my review. "For Richard II a roughly accurate account counted turned up in the 1595 in the history plays." The Shakespeare, and 1510 in the Blackfriars Shakespeare," but only 166 in Rowe's edition. For "The Merchant of Venice" I found 502 notes in the Oxfordian "Shakespeare," and 981 in Kittredge-Ribner edition, but only 181 in Rowe. For "Hamlet," I found 390 notes in Craig Bevington Shakespeare, about 1015 in The American Pelican Shakespeare, and only 601 in Rowe. Something appears to be missing.

The text is a facsimile reprint of the 1871 Globe edition with boldface indicating what is annotated. I was prepared to say that the advertised 4200 illustrations were mentioned in the introductions to the poems, but none in the "annotated" edition. This does not detract from the value of the 6-year-old program measures up in performance at the Public Broadcasting Service network.
Regional Reports

Mid-Atlantic Annual Meeting

Lillian Barker, Regional Vice-Chairman

Thirty-five members of the Mid-Atlantic Region attended Saturday afternoon, July 21, 1979, in a pleasant, large meeting room of the Prince Georges County Public Library, Hyattsville, MD. In consideration of the setting, theme of the meeting was Film, Music, and Books. The attention of the membership was caught by the presentation of a slide show on Richard III, and each member had been asked to bring a favorite book to discuss.

Lillian Barker opened the meeting at 1:35 p.m. After a brief business discussion, we settled down to enjoy the large meeting room of the Prince Georges County Public Library, Hyattsville, MD. In consideration of the setting, theme of the meeting was Film, Music, and Books. The attention of the membership was caught by the presentation of a slide show on Richard III, and each member had been asked to bring a favorite book to discuss.

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Northern California Chapter

Suzanna Scott, President
Reported by Julie Vognar, Research Officer

At our June 3 meeting in the Student Lounge at Merritt College, Oakland, 51 people attended last October. Almost everyone was in costume, and she said Audrey Twigg, Secretary of the Yorkshire Chapter, had been most helpful in finding accommodations and costumes for them. They had a great time eating from bread trenchers and drinking mead.

Following the formal meeting, we indulged in more refreshments – ice box cake, cookies, and a delicious cold fruit punch — and listened to Smetana's tone poem Richard, but somehow Smetana seems to have gotten something Ricardian in his makeup. The tone poem is beautiful and sounds more like our Richard than Shakespeare's Richard.

Four paperback, and one hardback, copies of The Daughter of Felicia were handed out. The paperback Kendall biography, Richard III were handed out by members. The recipients of those books donated the books to the “meeting pot” Meeting adjourned about 3:30 p.m.

Southern California Chapter

Frances T. Berger, President
Reported by Dorothy C. Fontana, Secy.-Treas.

The July 1st Meeting of the Southern California Chapter convened at 2 p.m. and was attended by 46 people including officers (Frances, D. Fontana, and Helen Maurer) introduced themselves to the new members. Marion Sherwood with arrangements as to the site for the Birthday Luncheon. Some people had expressed desires to hear more about Richard himself in talks at the meetings. Helen asked what they would like to have as future subjects. Kathleen Sky-Goldin suggested something having to do with Richard's work in law and government. Helen Schwartz wanted to hear more about Richard's relationship with his parents, his notoriety, and what research is going on in these areas. (It was pointed out the problem in this is that many researchers are engaged in research on Richard's activities after his death, but this is not the topic of the current organization coordinating those who are working on what particular subject.)

On August 22, Bosworth Day, an “In Memoriam” notice will appear in the Los Angeles Times on behalf of our Chapter. Helen Maurer was asked to read the Memorial she had written, which members agreed was simple, dignified and to the point. Also on August 22, members were informed of a Requiem Mass for Richard at Mills College at 7:30 p.m. The following Sunday afternoon 11th, victoria from the local L.A. area can see Laurence Olivier's Richard III on the On Subscription T.V. network. It will be at 9:15 and will run 3 hours 40 minutes without interruption.

A Society member from Claremont invited members to the President of the Norther California Chapter in the Francis Bacon Library collection at Claremont Colleges. Frances solicited the membership in regard to the placing of a Memorial Plaque in Westminster Abbey in 1985, commemorating the 500th anniversary of Richard's death. English comedy had good audience, it took so long to get a Memorial Plaque placed near Anne's burial site in the Abbey. However, the Northern California Chapter backed the proposal fully. The members of the Southern California Chapter agreed to push the proposal, and it could perhaps be done as a combined California Chapters’ project. Frances will be continuing correspondence on the matter.

Frances also reported on the Leicester Chapter's plans to give Richard III at the Civic Theatre in April. The program would appear to claim Richard is under the cathedral floor — which he is not. The "evidence" of this is offered by Richard probably either under another parking lot or was thrown into the river near Bow Bridge (a number of years after Bosworth) and his body never recovered. Kathleen Sky-Goldin and Dorothy Fontana volunteered to help secure the proper Royal or other connections. Kathleen Sky-Goldin gave reviews of several new books either about Richard or touching on his world, his friends, and his enemies. Among them were The Wars of the Roses, The Kings and Queens of England, The House of Tudor, The Queens of England, Knights and the Age of Chivalry, and The Courts of Europe.

Before concluding the meeting, Frances reminded members that any questions they would like answered regarding Richard should be directed to the newsletter, Loyalty Me Lie. Researchers work out the answers, and they are included in L.M.L. The meeting's business was concluded at 4:30 p.m.

Meanwhile, miraculously, there will be another issue (this one).

Finally, Charlotte Dillon gave a report about the Yorkshire III Meeting which should be held in mid-September. Julie attended last October. Almost everyone was in costume, and she said Audrey Twigg, Secretary of the Yorkshire Chapter, had been most helpful in finding accommodations and costumes for them. They had a great time eating from bread trenchers and drinking mead.

GODFATHER TOAD: AL PACINO AS RICHARD III, SORT OF.

by Bill Hogarth

By now, there's hardly a newspaper or magazine reader who has not had an opportunity to read a review of the recent limited run of Broadway film star Al Pacino as Shakespeare's Richard III.

The really commendable aspect of his performance is also the factor that got all the attention, approximately 95% favorable, which is close to what had the courage to do it to begin with. Very few film stars who can control their careers will put them on the line by trying the stage; certainly not the commercial world of Broadway – and, horrors, in Shakespeare! As producer Alexander Cohen has said, backers don't want to invest in Shakespeare in the commercial theatre. Even if successful, there are no subsidiary income possibilities; the Bard is an act.

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Central Park in 1970, and has remained a respected classical actor (his only film was "1776") an "actor's actor" who sticks to his guns, and has never seen Shakespeare, and would never again do so, but would have come to see him anything.

Don Madden's comment: "Only an actor of Pacino's stature could turn this play into the laff riot that Shakespeare intended." I caught a few things the critics didn't. The Playbill credits for Pacino note that he "studied with Charlie Laughton," Charlie? And what about the technical credits, Madeline Pelner Cosman (her name misspelled) was listed as "medieval advisor." I hope Dr. Cosman, Director of the Institute of Medieval and Renaissance Studies at the University of York's City College, and a Ricardian who has been our speaker at an AGM, is laughing all the way to the bank; but I suspect she must be pretty miserable with the production as well.

Summary? Maybe someone out of all those pubescent hordes will, as is to be hoped, turn from Shakespeare to a more infor- mative, revisionist history. But there's less hope than usual. A week before I saw the play, I had spoken to an audience of high school students in Fort Worth on Long Island, whose teacher was a popular one, able to inspire enthusiasm in a Shakespeare course where the students really had to hedge down and row; and had arranged to hand out a block of tickets, and a bus trip en masse to attend the play next evening. My talk, on Richard in the theatre and in history, was well received, and second to add is the idea of annexing a portion of what would be, for some of them, their first professional Shakespeare. I had confided some of what I had heard about the production to the teacher, who had put me in touch with Kristine Davis in . . . Hamlet.

murder whilst I smile" cunning, but a smarmy smiling at the little girls popping gum in the audience. He did what he intended: paid his dues as a stage-origin actor, showed loyalty to the director for whom he had done the part in Boston, and gave the Shuberts a sold-out house (to audiences who had never seen Shakespeare, and would never again do so, but would have come to see him anything).

Mrs. Walter D. Murschner of Lafayette LA is another member who wrote for a list of fellow Ricardians in Louisiana. She has gotten in touch with several such groups who share Richard's birthdate of October 2, as I do? Perhaps you can ask all members who have that birthdate to let the Society know, so that there could be groups of "elite" ones!

Mary Murschner has also sent a tape, prepared by John Rushdoony, which states the case for Richard III, and is succinctly, and may be of interest to all, when it is donated to our library. Dr. Rushdoony is the head of a Christian educational foundation in California, has lectured widely on historical and philosophical topics, and his talk is concise, well-researched and free of evangelical proselytizing, despite its sponsorship — perhaps, because of it — in the best, enlightened, ecumenical sense.

Kristine M. Davis is making Ricardian Christmas ornaments for members of the Society. All pro-

people paragraphs

Margery Voigt of Seattle WA will appear on the onair of our next Register as the newest Regional Vice-Chairman. She wrote for membership in the northwest, got in touch with them, and has begun a series of meetings and activities. It is possible that this group may have an international aspect, since Canadians in Victoria and Vancouver, far removed from their Toronto headquarters, might also wish to participate in Seattle chapter meetings.

Mrs. Voigt writes that she took issue with Richard III's listing in Webster's Biographical Dictionary, and has passed along a reply from the editorial office of the dictionary. It adds, "The editor of the Merriam-Webster dictionary expresses his appreciation for your criticisms of the Richard III entry in Webster's Biographical Dictionary are well taken, and after further research I will make notes to correct the entry at the earliest possible time. Thank you for taking the time to bring these problems to our attention. Robert McHenry."

Members reading this who have somehow es- caped geographical assignment in the area may wish to write Mrs. Voigt at 2858 13th West, Seattle WA 98119.

Mrs. Walter D. Murschner of Lafayette LA is another member who wrote for a list of fellow Ricardians in Louisiana. She has gotten in touch with several such groups who share Richard's birthdate of October 2, as I do? Perhaps you can ask all members who have that birthdate to let the Society know, so that there could be groups of "elite" ones!

Mary Murschner has also sent a tape, prepared by John Rushdoony, which states the case for Richard III, and is succinctly, and may be of interest to all, when it is donated to our library. Dr. Rushdoony is the head of a Christian educational foundation in California, has lectured widely on historical and philosophical topics, and his talk is concise, well-researched and free of evangelical proselytizing, despite its sponsorship — perhaps, because of it — in the best, enlightened, ecumenical sense.

Kristine M. Davis is making Ricardian Christmas ornaments for members of the Society. All pro-

Members Mr. and Mrs. Ernest B. Holmwood of Fort Bragg, CA both died within the past year, and the Society's deepest sympathy goes to their sur- viving daughter, Deborah Drelling. A very generous memorial contribution to the Society, in the name of Merle Holmwood, has been made by E. J. Wiggins, of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. We are extremely grateful, and have asked to apply the amount to a Scholarship Fund, where donations acquire two-fold value on a matching-fund basis.

Patricia Nolan of Pueblo, CO has sent an in Memoriam notice she had published in the Pueblo Chieftain in 1978, and mentioned that she had a memorial mass said for Richard last August 22nd as well. Ms. Nolan was a partisan of Richard III long before joining the Society, and mentions that, since 1963, The University of Southern Colorado has included it in its Basic Freshman History courses, and English and European History courses, a more "enlightened" view of Richard III than is generally known. Feeling isolated, she has made up in activity what is lacking in numbers. She has been put in touch with Kristine Davis in Denver, and we await news of a possible new chapter.

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Jayne Burgner, a former New Yorker, writes from Eugene, Oregon, to say that she enjoys the Ricar- dian and the Register, to say that the Pacino RII on a visit home in May, and found it inferior to last year's Richard III at the Ashland Festival. She mentions that she was at school in London in 1973 during the NPG exhibition, and, ironically, didn't see it. She has offered her skills as a research librarian, and the offer is much appreciated.

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Henry Kane, an attorney and Ricardian in Beaver-ton, Oregon sent on an article which appeared in the May 27th article. "On the other hand, Edward Kaufman, Professor of Cinema at USC says: 'All film series in the 60's). Finally locating the Professor, Beth (call me "Tiger" she says), has been a Society for the Chicago area, succeeding Don Jennings. Beth corresponds with Geoff Wheeler in London, making $1400 for a miniature stuffed white boa to support the Leicester Memorial, and says the activity of the English branches "puts all to shame." She and other Chicago members will man a Richard III booth at the Old Town Renaissance Revel in September, disposing goodies and membership information. In all costume, on September 15th.

Valerie Hughes Protopapas, a new member, is an iconographer, according to her stationery. Curiosity prompted her reply that yes, she paints icons on commission; with works in Kenya, one box to Poland, a 9x11 icon on a Florida church and many others "scattered about." She also paints secular works, portraits mainly, in the same golds, silver, jewel colors. Now, wonders, of wonder, she has painted her interpretation of the NPG portrait of Richard III and donated it to the Society as a fund-raising item. We have decided to offer it as a lottery prize, to benefit the Scholar-ship Fund. (See details on the AGM/dues/funds announcement enclosed.)

One dollar will give you two chances to win the portrait, the drawing to be held at the AGM in New York on the 29th September. You don't have to be present to win. Just tick off the dollar lottery box on the form, and two slips in your name go into the barrel at the AGM. You may be the winner of your own portrait, of Richard III, an 8" x 10" portrait, beautifully framed, by this talented lady. If you have an interest in portrait miniature iconography, contact the Richard III Society, Box 217, Sea Cliff, NY 11579. Then . . . ask the permission of the librarian in your local branch, or a university library, to glue the card and its caption into your own AGM and/or announcements. Very effective. Point out that no edition carries the portrait, and you are doing the reader a service.

If you really feel ambitious, ask to place the portrait postcard, and the Society's address, in any book, novel or non-fiction, about Richard III and the movie. We have found that this idea can give some matter how isolated, a sense of participation in the Society. It has its very interesting conversations as well. If you let the library know you are a member, and/or list your own NPG portrait in the membership of Society information folders to pass on to inquirers.

Sue says Richard Ian is coincidental, not an intentional pun on the group or the quarterly. All good wishes to the youngest member, who may appear on September 29th to enjoy this year's ice cream extravaganz-a.
Elaine Canlas of Hillcrest Heights MD sent a welcome batch of material: a puff for the Society which appeared in the Washington Calendar Magazine in March (Bill Snyder had a hand in this); a fascinating piece from the July 13, 1978 issue of Country Life on the dowager Duchess of Desmond, who supposedly lived 3 years (1464-1604) and was credited by Walpole on no known authority as having “danced with Richard III as a young girl.” The article studies known portraits of her and leaves open the age and manner of her death, purportedly “killed by a fall from a cherry tree . . . what a frisky old girl!” Best of all is a set of pages from a new book by Roy Strong called “Recreating the Past: British History and the Victorian Painter” (Thames and Hudson, Pierpont Morgan Library, 1978) which includes detailed notes on Garrick’s Richard III by Hogarth and all the Victorian depictions of the poor little Princes being done in. Recommended! Dr. Strong originated the Richard III exhibition when he was Director of the National Portrait Gallery, and he is now Director of the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Frances Berger (So. Cal. Chapter) writes to say “I have found out something interesting over the past few months. Not only are our long-standing members deeply learned in all things Ricardian (somehow, I had come to expect this), but I am surprised how much our new members know about Richard and his era. It’s frustrating to think about all the other deeply interested people who do not know about the Society – and it’s sad to think about how much they are missing by not being able to reach them.”

Frances goes on to say that all their speakers have been excellent, and she will tape their talks for the benefit of future members, keeping the tape file for research and study. She hopes other chapters do the same. So do we.

A general note to all generous Ricardians: There have been so many contributions from so many of you of items of interest: sets of xeroxes of the Britain article on Richard III, scads of articles and reviews of the Pacino play, cartoons and comments galore notes that I have had no time to acknowledge them individually. Please believe that I have kept careful track and they are all deeply appreciated. Some go to Julie Lord for the Library, some will appear here as fillers when space permits. My best thanks to everyone.


By far the best thing about this book is the jacket illustration. The author apparently dictated her work in shorthand, between some occupation, for she frequently repeats information she has given a paragraph or two before. It was then typed by a phonetic spellier (paper dispensation? taxon knell?) and was put into print during a compositor’s strike, with punctuation added later on. Question marks serve for periods, and vice versa? This would be partly forgivable if the plot was gripping, the characters believable, or the dialogue resembled anything that ever emerged from a human mouth, but that is not the case.

For other chapters do the same. So do we.

Anyone who has read or seen a performance of Shakespeare’s “Richard III” is familiar with one of literature’s most demonic villains—described variously by the bard as “that abortive roothing log . . . that poisonous hunchback’d toad . . . that bottled spider.” Now Laurence Olivier’s filmed portrayal of a grossly misshapen Richard sticks in the memory. The great actor chills the spinal cord with his interpretation of the English king’s calculating and gratuitous cruelty. Whether plotting the murder of his nephews, the young princes, or seducing the wife of the man he has recently murdered, Olivier’s Richard defines evil with a rare gusto.

Perfect villainy, so enshrined, is reassuring. Like the cowboys who wear black hats in horse operas, Richard is often gushingly so, the book is so badly written it can hardly be recommended. The publisher says this is Eva McDonald’s thirty-first historical novel. I’m tempted to get one from the library, just to see if they could all be this bad. It hardly seems possible.

Myrna J. Smith Texarkana TX

Mrs. Smith has also submitted a well-reasoned review of the Jenkins “Princes in the Tower” which is much too long, but has been sent to Julie Lord for our Library.

RESERVE NOW FOR THE ACM

Editorial from the Detroit News, November 13, 1978 sent on by Karen Abbey of Dearborn, Michigan

Justice for Richard III

There is no creature loves me, and if I do no soul will pity me.” — Richard III, Act V, Scene III.

Richard III, Act V, Scene III.

"There is no creature loves me, and if I do no soul will pity me.” — Richard III, Act V, Scene III.

Raw material for “Richard III” — which is, to the society’s considerable dismay, one of the playwright’s most frequently performed plays.

Whether Shakespeare deliberately curried favor with Henry VII’s descendants or was an innocent dupe of their propaganda, the society will not speculate. But to even score a bit, society members are pressing their claims that Richard III wasn’t such a bad sort — at least by 15th century standards.

Among Richard’s undisputed accomplishments were laws to protect juries from intimidation, a system of bail for prisoners, and translation of written statutes from Latin to English. Moreover, there is some evidence to support the society’s contention that Richard’s physical deformity has been greatly exaggerated, if not fabricated.

As for the murder of the nephews in the Tower of London, the society states the charge has never been proved. The likelier suspect, in their view, is the Duke of Buckingham, who aspired to the throne Richard held and had far more reason to bear the young princes ill will. So persistent is the society in this particular argument that warders at the Tower of London no longer accuse Richard of the princely murders in their obligatory litany of royal atrocities.

Not until this year, however, has the society dared to challenge Shakespeare on his own turf. At their New York meeting, members heard a reading of a new play, “Richard of Gloucester,” which absolves Richard of all guilt and pins the murder of the princes on the treacherous Buckingham. While it is doubtful that the new play will ever eclipse the original, it is impossible not to admire the little fellow. A passion for justice is a rare enough quality in this world, but the courage needed to match stagecraft with Shakespeare is rarer still.
**RICARDIAN ITEMS FOR SALE**  
*Revised August, 1979 — prior price lists obsolete.*

The following items may be purchased from Publications Officer ANDREA VAN SANT  
22 Franklin Avenue, Madison Woods, Berlin, New Jersey 08009

Please make all checks payable to RICHARD III SOCIETY, INC.  
All prices include postage and handling charges.  
*prices subject to change without notice*

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<td>4 color print of Richard III, Anne Neville, and their coat of arms</td>
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