Financial Aid for Medieval Studies

Schallek Memorial Awards Support Studies in Late Fifteenth-Century English History and Culture

The Richard III Society is pleased to announce the availability of one or more William Schallek Memorial Graduate Fellowship Awards for the 1991-1992 academic year. The awards, in the amount of $500 or more, are available to graduate students pursuing studies in late fifteenth-century English history and culture. In prior years, Schallek Awards have been granted for studies as diverse as an inquiry into demographic trends as evidenced by Yorkshire church records and a study of brewing during the reign of King Edward IV. Scholars of the period may also be interested in membership in the Richard III Society, which is devoted to a reassessment of Richard III's reputation based on an unbiased review of contemporary historical sources, and to research into the life and customs of England in the Yorkist and early Tudor eras. The Society publishes a widely-respected quarterly journal, funds the Schallek Awards, maintains an ongoing monograph publication committee, participates in the annual Medieval Conference, sponsors the publication of important source documents such as Harleian Mss. 433, and maintains extensive nonfiction, fiction, and audiovisual lending libraries for member use.

Deadline for Schallek Award Applications:

JUNE 1, 1991

For an award application or membership information, contact:

THE RICHARD III SOCIETY, INC.
P. O. Box 13786
New Orleans, Louisiana 70185

The Richard III Society, Inc. is a not-for-profit corporation with Section 501-C-3 designation. Donors are fully deductible to the extent allowable by law.

Greetings!

Welcome to this, our second full size issue of the Register! Some of us like the new format and new layout and some of us don't. Some of us liked the old format and style and some of us didn't. There's no pleasing everybody!

"Just because it's (the Register's format) new doesn't mean it's better!"

I couldn't agree more! Now that we have these pages, we need to fill them with material and information. We need to have chapter reports appear; we need to have chapter meeting notices and schedules appear, so that members in the area can know about and attend chapter meetings. We need to have more articles and pieces reflecting what you, the membership, are doing. We are having library exhibits, articles and interviews in newspapers and the media, shows and exhibits and fairs and such; almost none of our members are hearing about these activities, but they can now, because we have the pages in which this information can be reported.

We went to this new size so as to be able to carry advertising. We want to carry advertising so that the Register can support itself, and not be supported by your dues. Your dues should go toward more useful activities, such as scholarships and research and publishing and education, all related to Richard. So, as time passes, you will most likely see some advertising begin to enter the Register's pages. Support our advertisers; they are supporting your society, aren't they?

Welcome to the revitalized Northern California Chapter. Ms. Ellen Ekstrom Fernandez informs me that the Bay Area Branch has had its first meeting in February, and that they are now off and running on projects for Richard and the Society. I think you can find her report elsewhere in this issue.

Are you a member of a chapter? The chapter contacts are listed in this issue. Too far to go for a chapter meeting? Then get together with other Ricardians in your area, and form a chapter. It only takes five members, a President, and candidates. I would like to announce the membership in the Richard III Society, Inc. Volume XV No. 1 Spring, 1991

Greetings!

I'm happy to report that our membership continues to climb. That means that you, the members, are doing a successful job of convincing people that the Society is a serious organization, with some useful and important objectives.

For those of you who haven't recruited a member yet, keep trying! Persistence is one of the crowning traits which we can choose to possess, along with loyalty, honor, truthfulness, and courtesy.

Some personnel actions of interest. Mallory Paxton has resigned her two positions, Research Officer and Society Secretary. The position of Research Officer has been filled by Dr. David Treybig, of the Ohio Chapter. The position of Society Secretary will require a board vote; at this point it is unfilled. The position of Chairman, Schallek Scholarship Committee, held by Alan Dixler, has been filled by Dr. Terence Murphy, the keynote speaker at the 1990 AGM.

We continue to look for volunteers interested in filling a slot on our growing organization chart.

The year 1992 will be an election year for your Society. For those of you who haven't recruited a member yet, keep trying! Persistence is one of the crowning traits which we can choose to possess, along with loyalty, honor, truthfulness, and courtesy.

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The Richard III Society is a nonprofit, educational corporation. Dues, grants, and contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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.

In accordance with the policy of the Society, Society members are requested to communicate with H.R.H. the Duke of Gloucester, as Patron of the Society, through the Committee of the English Branch.

If you would like to serve on the nominating committee, please drop me a line or give me a call, and your name will be put on the list from which the committee will be selected.

If you would like to be a candidate for one of the offices, you can also contact the nominating committee directly, if you wish, once it has been selected and publicized.

Greetings (continued)

California in September, so that they, and the membership will have a chance to interact and produce a slate of candidates.

On that slate of candidates we would like to have at least two candidates for each position: Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Membership Chairman, Secretary.

Dr. Robert E. Doolittle
260 North Wycombe Avenue
Carlstadt, NJ 07072
(201) 933-6861

Lansdowne, PA 18959

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Richard III as depicted on the front cover of the Wall Street Journal, March 13, 1991

TREASURER'S REPORT

January 3, 1991

In my first quarter as treasurer, I have had the opportunity to review the financial status of the Society. As the year unfolds, I intend to inform you on what we have done, where we are and where we hope to be by year-end.

I wish to reiterate the importance of supporting our scholarship and endowment funds. In the past years, we have seen a decline in contributions. We must continue to support these two important assets of the Society, the scholarship and endowment funds. In the past years, we have seen a decline in contributions. We must continue to support these two important assets of the Society, the scholarship and endowment funds. We are here to promote a productive and positive year.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Ricca

Jersey Chapter on one of its recent library exhibits. I was curious as to how the Schallek Scholarship originated, and was pleased and surprised when mid-December, I had received a letter from her complimenting the New I recently had the pleasure of meeting with Mrs. Maryloo Schallek. In of Kings.” She then went on to read Richard when Mr. Schallek and she viewed the Shakespeare chronicle “Age today. He, and aware of aiming the Society towards an academic and intellectual arena. In the late 70's, he put into action his plan to create an endowment. He, and a number of donors, would yearly contribute to an endowment whereby the endowment.”

Today, Mrs. Schallek continues to support the goal so important to her on behalf of the New Jersey Chapter a Lifetime Honorary Member— in honour of her husband.

Before I departed, I thanked Mrs. Schallek for her hospitality and extended to her on behalf of the New Jersey Chapter a Lifetime Honorary Membership in honour of her husband. But, as Mrs. Schallek stated “the responsibility to help further the student striving in medieval studies is everyone’s in as far as contributing to the endowment.”

I am very pleased to have a chance to serve the Society as Speakers Co-ordinator. Living in a state where there is no chapter (yet!) with which to become involved, I have been a somewhat isolated Ricardian.

This is a new position which will serve mainly as an information source for inquires about speakers within the Society. I am now involved in compiling a list of those members who are interested in serving as Society speakers at various functions both inside and outside the Society. There is only one minor problem. . . . I need names!

I understand that there are many of you who are already serving the Society in this manner. The purpose of this list is to simplify an organization or a chapter’s search for a speaker.

Please contact me if there are any of you who are interested in having your name added to this list, or if you have any comments or suggestions. I am also interested in hearing from any fellow Ricardians within the Colorado area who are interested in forming a chapter.

The moon’s orbit around the earth approximately follows the equator. The yearly path of the sun in the sky, called the ecliptic, moves from north of the equator to south of the equator, so that the two orbits, as seen from the earth, appear to be inclined with respect to each other (Figure 2). Because of this inclination of the moon’s orbit with respect to the ecliptic, the sun and moon are usually not so nearly in line that either the earth or moon passes through the shadow of the other. When this does occur, an eclipse takes place. Since the sun and moon appear to an observer on the earth to be approximately the same size, one half a degree, an eclipse is much more spectacular occurrence than when an interior planet appears to pass across the face of the sun, or when a star or planet is shadowed by the sun or moon.

When conditions are suitable, the moon passes between the sun and earth, as shown in Figure 1. If the moon’s apparent diameter is slightly larger than that of the sun its shadow reaches the earth as a nearly round dot only a few miles in diameter. The dot moves rapidly across the earth, from west to east, as the moon continues its orbit. Within the dot, the sun is completely hidden from view, and a total eclipse of the sun occurs. For a considerable distance around the shadow, part of the surface of the sun is obscured, and a partial eclipse occurs. In the line of travel of the shadow a partial eclipse occurs as the round disk of the moon appears to move slowly across the surface of the sun, hiding an ever increasing part of it, until the total eclipse occurs. As the last light from the sun is cut off, the solar corona or envelope of thin, illuminated gas around the sun, becomes visible. Wisps of dense gas may appear as solar prominences. The only light reaching the observer is that diffused by the atmosphere surrounding the shadow. As the moon appears to continue on across the face of the sun, the sun appears to merge from an ever widening crescent until no part of its surface is obscured by the moon. The duration of a total eclipse depends upon how nearly the moon crosses the center of the sun, the location of the shadow on the earth, the relative orbital speeds of the moon and the earth, and principally the relative apparent diameters of the sun and moon. The maximum length that can occur is a little more than seven minutes.

If the apparent diameter of the moon is slightly less than that of the sun, its shadow does not reach the earth. Over a small area of the earth directly in line with the moon and sun, the moon appears a black disk almost covering the surface of the sun, but with a thin ring of the sun around its edge. This is an annular eclipse, and occurs a little more often than a total eclipse.

If the shadow of the moon passes close to the earth, but not directly in line with it, an eclipse may occur without a total or annular eclipse.

During any one year there may be as many as five solar eclipses, and there are no eclipses on the earth. There may be as many as three lunar eclipses, or none. The total number of eclipses, solar and lunar, during a single year does not exceed seven, and can be as few as two. There are

SPEAKERS

Sought

Joe Ann Ricca

Carole Rike

Pam Milavec

For most of 1991 I seem to have been a practicing interviewee---talk shows, the Montreal Gazette, an Associated Press Reporter, a reporter from the Wall Street Journal, a call from Harper's Magazine and more. All of this reflects the excellent job Laura Blanchard has done of getting the word out and in reinforcing that the Society is a newsworthy and interesting organization.

Being repeatedly asked in interviews to account for how I became interested in Richard III, who I feel killed the princes in the Tower, why do I think Richard captures the imagination of so many . . . all of the questions we all field at one time or another . . . I realized anew one principle most of us share: I like Richard. Scrap away the scholarly arguments, disregard the sense of commitment towards a fair assessment of his history, and the basic fact is that I feel comfortable with his personality in a way that other historical characters are unable to inspire. I just know that if I were alive in the fifteenth century I could borrow a cup of sugar from Richard without putting my life on the line.

Joe Ann Ricca

Carole Rike

Pam Milavec

THE SOLAR ECLIPSE OF 1485

What was the solar eclipse of 1485 like? Where did it occur in the sky? How much of the sun was eclipsed? Was it seen? Could it have been seen?

Some tradition holds that Anne Neville died at the hand of the evil earl. Others report that the eclipse occurred shortly after her death, to show God’s displeasure with her husband Richard. Some chroniclers report that the sky darkened as if at night; stars shone; fear came over the land. Some chroniclers and chroniclers hold that the eclipse occurred “around noon”.

There are two types of eclipses: solar eclipses and lunar eclipses. Both refer to what we observe to be eclipsed, or shadowed. A solar eclipse occurs when the moon comes between the earth and the sun; the moon’s shadow obscures the sun. A lunar eclipse occurs when the earth passes between the moon and the sun; the earth’s shadow blocks the sun. Either of these events is followed by a period of darkness on the earth, as shown in Figure 1. Astronomers understand eclipses thoroughly enough to be able to predict them with great precision. The following, summarized from Bowsditch’, explains them clearly.

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more solar eclipses than lunar eclipses, but lunar eclipses are more numerous at any one place because of the restricted areas over which solar eclipses are visible.

To find out when the eclipse occurred, I wrote to the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, submitting the question to them. It seemed to me that the determination of the date and time should be straightforward, requiring only a small amount of time on a computer by an undergraduate. The determination of the date and time should be straightforward, but for the determination of the time, I was mistaken. Apparently the calculation is beyond an undergraduate, and beyond most graduate students. Part of the complication in the calculations is that the earth is not perfectly round, "wobbles" as it goes around the sun in its orbit is influenced by where the moon is, and by where other planets, such as Mars, Mercury, Jupiter and Saturn may be. This wobbling, over the centuries, translates into an uncertainty in the event in the past, governed by the laws and rules of the equinox (mid March), the period of sunlight (or daytime) will vary much, and in any case the eclipse was an important one at London (though having certainly the "effect" of a total one): London time difference = +600s

To sum up, one can tell with certainty that on that day the magnitude of the eclipse at London was 85%, in the afternoon, about 23 degrees above the horizon. The dimming of daylight must have been visible, but it was certainly NOT dark!

Universal Time is based on a twenty four hour clock; 12:00 corresponds to noon, and 24:00 corresponds to midnight. Professor Meeus is telling us that the eclipse occurred somewhere between 2:38 PM and 4:44 PM, peaking at 3:43 PM. The uncertainty in his calculations is about five to six minutes either way. The magnitude of the eclipse, 85%, means that 85% of the Sun's diameter was obscured. A bit of geometry shows that an 85% diameter obscuration converts into an 80% area, or light obscuration. For those familiar with photography, this is not quite 2 1/2 f stops reduction in aperture.

The track, or path of the eclipse across the planet is of some interest. Figure 4 shows the path for total eclipse, and the upper and lower borders. Notice that the track goes through southern Spain and southern France at Nice. When viewed from southern France (Aquitaine, Gascony, Auvergne, Languedoc, Dauphine, Bouron) the eclipse would appear to be almost total, becoming more so the further north one would be. As neither the general populace nor chroniclers in the fifteenth century had any understanding of why solar eclipses occurred, a natural assumption of the period most likely would be that whatever was seen in one place was also seen in other places. From this we can infer that chroniclers purporting to be in London at the time who reported the eclipse as 'complete', or totally weren't in London, but somewhere else. This somewhere else was either in southern France or in Spain. This reported intensity of the eclipse can be used as a "veracity test" of a chronicler's report. If the eclipse in London was reported to have been 'complete', or 'to cause the stars to shine', then it is highly unlikely that the reporter was in fact in London. We can take with some degree of skepticism whatever else that reporter wrote about events in London around the time of the eclipse. If on the other hand a reporter mentioned the eclipse and described the sun as partly obscured, then that reporter most likely was in London at the time. Accordingly we might want to add some degree of credence to such a reporter's statements about other events, in London, that the reporter might have reported.

On what day of the week did the eclipse occur? This is straightforward, knowing the Julian date. We need only find a universal Julian date calendar selector, look up 1485, and find the appropriate calendar. It is a non leap year, with January 1 occurring on a Saturday. As a matter of interest, there were no leap years in the Julian calendar; that is why the Gregorian calendar was invented. A computer-generated calendar for 1485 is shown in Figure 5.

Given that the sun was darkened but not completely eclipsed, did the weather permit viewing of the eclipse, or was the whole event obscured by clouds? To answer this question, it would be desirable to have actual meteorological observations, taken at London, for March 16, 1485. It is my understanding that the British Admiralty did not start making daily observations until sometime in the sixteenth century, so that most likely routinely collected, daily observations are not available, but someone who has or could gain access to the British Admiralty's meteorological records might want to pursue this.

The Admiralty Board was established in 1832 and absorbed into the Ministry of Defense in 1964. It was preceded by the Navy Board, established 1546, the successor to the Office of Keeper of the King's Ships. It is doubtful this office kept meteorological records.

Short of having the actual observations, estimates can be made. The Handbook of Applied Meteorology gives summary monthly data for London. This reference states that, for London in March, there are, on average, 10 days in which more than a trace of precipitation (rain) occurs. This can be used to estimate that the probability of rain on a given day in March in London is approximately 1/3. The probability of no rain is 1 minus 0.3, or 2/3. The reference also gives the average total number of hours of sunlight for London in March as 113. Dividing this number by 31, the number of days in March, gives 3.63 hours of sunlight per day, on the average. As the eclipse occurred near the time of the equinox (mid March), the period of sunlight (or daylight) will approximately equal (within a few minutes)
THE SOLAR ECLIPSE OF 1485

(Continued)

minutes) the period of darkness (or of night time). This means that there should be twelve hours of sunlight during the day. However the meteorological data suggests only 3.65 hours of sunlight. Dividing 3.65 by 12 produces 0.30, an estimate of the probability of sunlight on a given day in March, in London. The probability of no sunlight is minus 0.30, or 0.70.

From the above, the following hypotheses can be inferred: (1) there is a 3/5 chance, or a probability of 0.67, that it was raining on the day of the eclipse, and (2) there is a 0.70 probability that the sun was not seen on the day of the eclipse.

Stated more simply, the day was probably cloudy or overcast, with no rain. This reference also gives the average temperature for London in March as 6 degrees C (1.8 degrees F). This means there is a total three sigma spread from 3 degrees C (37 degrees F) to 9 degrees C (48 degrees F) with a mean standard deviation of 1 degree C (1.8 degrees F). This means there is three sigma spread from 3 to 9 with a mean of 6 degrees C (18 degrees F). Published U.S. Navy/U.S. Air Force weather data show similar statistics for the London area: Heathrow Airport and Gatwick Airport.

The day was not only probably overcast, but probably cold or chilly as well. If the sky were overcast as suggested, how would the eclipse appear to people in London? Neither the sun nor the moon would be visible. As the moon's shadow began to move across the sun's disk some time around 2:40 in the afternoon, the overcast would slowly darken, as if at the onset of rain or a storm. This decrease in light level would continue until about 3:45 PM, at which time the light level would begin to increase until about 4:45 PM. Shortly thereafter the light level would again begin to decrease, as the sun began to set below the horizon at around 6:00 PM, and night came on. The entire event could be attributed to an approaching rain or storm which never materialized.

If the weather were rainy, the sun most likely was not seen, and the event would be similar to an overcast sky, the darkness being attributed to an increase in the intensity of the rain or storm. If the sky were partially overcast or partially cloudy, so that the sun was occasionally visible, the onset of the eclipse, at 2:40 PM would probably not be noticed, the obscuration of the sun being more likely attributed to the passing of an occasional cloud. Only if the peak of the eclipse occurred while the sun was visible would there be any consternation amongst the populace. For a partially overcast or partially cloudy day, the sun would have to be visible sometime well before the peak of the eclipse, during the six to seven minutes of the eclipse, and for sometime after the peak.

The meteorological data used to make these estimates and draw these weather conclusions is twelfth century data. How well can twentieth century data be used to make estimates and surmise about other centuries? These data would probably be optimistic in estimating weather conditions in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, if what we read in Dickens, Disraeli, Hardy and others is to be believed, as the Industrial Revolution and its associated air pollution problems was in ascendency then. Before the seventeenth century, the geophysics which influence and govern the weather in England (The Gulf Stream, the Atlantic Ocean, the Trade Winds, the English Channel and the North Sea) have not changed significantly in the last five hundred years, so that the forces of nature acting to influence the weather in London are almost the same now as they were in 1485.

There is a need for someone to delve into the available data in England and either determine the actual weather conditions for March 16, 1485, or barring that, produce weather statistics more representative of the year 1485. What we read in Dickens, Disraeli, Hardy and others is to be believed, as the Industrial Revolution and its associated air pollution problems was in ascendency then. Before the seventeenth century, the geophysics which influence and govern the weather in England (The Gulf Stream, the Atlantic Ocean, the Trade Winds, the English Channel and the North Sea) have not changed significantly in the past five hundred years, so that the forces of nature acting to influence the weather in London are almost the same now as they were in 1485.

References and Notes

3. Since that correspondence occurred, software has come into existence that allows these calculations. Alternative software that calculates only sun and moon events, but specifically addresses eclipses as a specific categorical, is Sun and Moon Events, also for $25, available from the source. It also uses Excel to do the calculations.
5. Any World Almanac and Book of Facts will do. I used the 1981 edition because that is the latest one I have. The previous discussion is on page 787 of that edition. The calendar of interest is displayed on page 788, as Calendar 7.

IN THE PUBLIC EYE

Countdown to Bosworth

Laura Blanchard

Wall Street Journal, Associated Press

Discover Richard

As we go to press, we’ve learned of two significant pieces of press coverage for the Society;

The Wall Street Journal featured Richard III in a front page article, including his portrait, on March 13. The article generated a lot of interest. Even before it ran, says Cynthia Crossen, who wrote the story, her colleagues at the paper were asking her for more information. The day the story appeared was busy running calls. The story was written in a lighthearted vein, but Richard and his society were given sympathetic treatment.

A few weeks before, the Associated Press compiled a feature article which was released to its subscriber newspapers on February 24. It included the humorous illustration shown here.

Carole Rike’s husband spotted it in a paper in Anchorage, Alaska; a friend of Morris McGee's saw it in the Anchorage Daily News.

1991 AGM

Due to difficulties with Barnabas, the location of the AGM in Los Angeles is being changed. A contract was negotiated with the staff, which subsequently changed, and the new management refused to honor the old contract.

Negotiations are underway for another location, but the new contract had not been signed at press time. Please watch the mail for a notice announcing the new venue.

1993 AGM

In the name of the King

To our noble Lords and Ladies, we greet ye well and bid you to partake in the gathering of workshops for the 1993 AGM. Kindly submit your thoughts via the business luncheon. (Mary mod- estly says that the real used book store pro is Myrna Smith.) Other uses for those used books: Donations to local libraries in conjunction with library exhibits...or to our own Society library.

Faires and Festivals. Some chapters, especially Ohio, have developed faire participation to a high art. They could probably write a whole article on this subject alone. On the other hand, the southeastern Pennsylvania chapter has developed a more laid-back approach to fairs and festivals—especially good for promodtum attendance by small groups. They simply attend.”

Next issue: our friend, Bill Shakespeare.

Do you have a question? A Guerrilla Ricardian Tip? Or a PR triumph? Pick up the phone—drop me a note—send me a FAX: Laura Blanchard, 12 Bober Avenue, Cranbury, NJ 08512, 609-799-1824, FAX 609-275-9096.

A gripping novel about a young boy haunted by the ghost of Richard III

Knight on Horseback
Ann Rabonowitz

Macmillan Fiction; $176 pp, full color jacket by Shervinil Van Varken. Ages 8-12, grades 3-7. Asthmatic thirteen-year-old Eddy Newby has a hard enough time trying to measure up to his father's expecta- tions without starting to imagine he's being followed by the ghost of King Richard III. But he realizes it is not his imagination.

From the time he finds a small carved figure of a knight on horseback in a London antique store, Eddy's vacation in England takes on a new dimension as he is pulled back into the fifteenth century by the ghost. In this gripping novel that blends history and sus- pense, a boy must come to terms with his feelings about himself and his family.

$11.00 postpaid. Order from: ANN RABONOWITZ
169 Highfield Lane, Nutley, NJ 07110
201-667-8123, FAX 201-667-8562

Ann Rabonowitz is a member of the Richard III Society

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We have a great tour planned for summer.

In addition to the city of York, Middleham and Bosworth Field (with outstanding guided tour), we will guing Ricardian sites, explore one of sites of great interest in Northumberland (including Lindisfarne), and even spend some time investigating Hadrian's Wall.

Our travel will carry us to some of the most scenic areas and fascinating sites in all Britain. We will share wonderful memories, all captured on a fine video film for your enjoy-

Tour includes:
- 13 full days of touring
- 12 nights hotel accommodation
- All dinners and lunches
- 6 pub lunches
- All admissions
- All luggage handling, service charges and Value Added Tax
- Transportation by motor coach with experienced driver/collector

You are sure to return with many outstanding experiences, and a new spirit of adventure! We will also have the opportunity to tour Shakespeare's England, and visit the home of Sir Richard III.

For further information, call Linda Treybig at 800-423-9244.

Spring, 1991 Ricardian Register -13-
We then watched a videotape of the 1990 Ricardian tour of England — a welcome treat for those of us who had wished to go but could only manage it in spirit.

Our next meeting will be at the Philadelphia Museum of Art on January 26; we plan to tour their medieval collection and then go out for dinner in Center City.

The Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter began the new year with its second library exhibit. This was at the Landisdowne Library in logically enough) Landtown, Pa.

Once again we spiced up the exhibit with a special presentation. On January 16 our library coordinator, Rose Ann Messersmith, lectured on Dis-proving a Villain: Shakespeare’s Richard III and Jeff Collins spoke on the genealogy of the houses of York and Lancaster. The attendance was gratifying: 18 people showed up for the talk! Sadly, the Cull War began minutes before the program started and this dampened the evening considerably.

On January 26 we had a chapter meeting at the Philadelphia Museum of Art and a tour afterwards of the medieval art and armour collections of the Museum. The armor section was especially fun, since we were permitted to handle some of the pieces. We’ll definitely do this again, as a two-hour tour was not nearly long enough.

The day ended with dinner at the Dickens Inn in downtown Philadelphia. On behalf of the chapter and to be able to then imagine what it was like when occupied by the Duke of Gloucester, we perused some of the buildings that took place there during the Protectorate.

Cheyne Walk, SW3 London Tel: 01 352 9663 Directions: the nearest Underground station for Crosby Hall is South Kensington on the Circle, District and Piccadilly Lines, and for 38 Bishopsgate is Liverpool Street on the Central, Circle and Metropolitan Lines.

Open: Weekdays 10am-12 noon, 2:15pm - 5pm Sundays 2:15 - 5pm No admittance charge.

REGINA JONES

Marge Nelson, Northwest Chapter

Crosby Hall was leased to Richard III while Duke and later Protector. In the fifteenth century it was located at 38 Bishopsgate, just north of St. Helen’s Church, London. Old maps such as those published in The A to Z of Elizabethan London actually picture the building, and show it four sided, with an inner courtyard, and set back from Bishopsgate itself.

Crosby Hall was a very modern house when it was built in 1466 for a rich merchant, Sir John Crosby. The first floor consisted of a great chamber, parlour, great hall, kitchen and chapel along three of the four courtyard sides, leaving the fourth, inner wall free for minor storage buildings. The gatehouse wall was nearest to the street and there were probably buildings like stores and offices built immediately adjacent to the outer wall as well. Both the great chamber and great hall had oriel windows facing the courtyard. Richard seems to have liked these as he had them installed in several of his northern castles. Both rooms were two stories high. Besides the provisions for an open hearth in the great hall (look up at the ceiling when you’re there so that you can see the smoke escape hole), a very modern fireplace was in place when Richard lived there. A fan vaulted ceiling, wooden and painted gold, red and green, was designed to cover the otherwise bare roof timbers and was also a modern touch at the time. We know nothing about the second story rooms or cellars.

Such a luxurious house was later used to house ambassadors and other people of note. The building was spared when the Great London fire stopped just blocks away. It was later converted into a restaurant, and then a warehouse. A new door was cut, large enough to allow carriages and wagons to pass through the building, and the great hall was subdivided into two floors. By 1800, only the great hall, great chamber and parlour were intact. In 1910 the great hall was moved to be part of the buildings of the British Federation of University Women who permit visitors to the Hall when it is not in use.

Nothing is known of the fate of the rest of the building, but since the rest of the Bishopsgate neighborhood suffered in the Blitz, the move probably saved the great hall.

Considering the destruction or modernization of so many of the buildings Richard knew, it is refreshing to be able to view his hall in its restored state and to be able to imagine what it was like when occupied by the Duke of Gloucester or to overhear some of the meetings that took place there during the Protectorate.

The head table at “A Pastyme with Good Company”

Anyone who has visited Britain knows the unique charm of the English churches with their patina of age and their reverence for the past. Many of you have had the pleasure of making brass rubbings from the memorial plaques of the 13th through the 17th centuries. Fewer and fewer of the brasses are now available anywhere for rubbing, however, due to potential damage to the comparatively few originals.

But on the bright side, since 1977 it has been possible to enjoy this intriguing art form here in the United States. That was the year that Richard Eches, his wife Ann, and their four children left their London home to set up a Brass Rubbing Centre in our National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

They prepared long- and short-term exhibits of facsimile brasses and arranged to have them distributed nation-wide. These exhibits were hosted by museums, art and science centers, libraries, universities, schools, and churches, and became immensely popular.

In the fall of 1990, St. Luke’s Episco-pal Church in Long Beach, Califor-nia, hosted one of the exhibits for four times in many years. The church itself, rebuilt after the 1933 earthquake, is a charming example of Tudor Gothic architecture with an ample courtyard and a “great hall” within its complex. The medieval ambiance was accented by armorial hangings and the number of people who chose to work or visit in costumes of the Middle Ages.

One example of this was a young man who is a member of the Society for Creative Anachronism who had made his own chain mail armor and worked with church members in presentations to adults and to school children who responded enthusiastically to the unique history lesson.

Originally intended as an appendage to the annual Scottish Festival, the brass rubbing exhibit quickly took on a life of its own and soon became a major fund raising project for the church.

In its fourth year, the exhibit opened with two evenings of a “Pastyme with good Company.” Guests gathered in the courtyard for the “First Remove” — time-honored libations, pills, and cheeses. A theatre piece in the church itself followed, consisting of a scene from a village parish called Life in the Middle Ages, a dramatic and entertaining portrayal of Chaucer’s Wife of Bath, and an original playlet entitled The Knight.

Following these presentations, the banquet in the great hall began with cockaleekie soup and continued with ribs of beef and game hens among other tasty and historically authentic items. Pumpkin bread and cream ended the meal, throughout which dancers and madrigal singers entertained.

During the six weeks that the brass rubbing was taking place, a proper English tea was served to groups and to individuals who made reservations. Each guest had several small sandwiches, and hot, home-made scones with clotted cream and jam, along with other delights. Costumed docents addressed the guests, explaining the intricacies of what they were wearing and the details of the brasses. They explained the simple techniques to be used and accompanied the guests to get them started with their rubbings.

While the brass rubbing exhibit proved to be a lucrative fundraiser for the church, the community goodwill that it inspired was even more important.

Visitors made rubbings for their homes and for gifts. School children experienced history, hands on, in a different light. The volunteers who worked on the project enjoyed the camaraderie of old friends and made many new ones.

To encourage interest in the Middle Ages, among many other reasons, such an exhibit will serve as a vehicle for members of the Rich-
Brass Rubbing

Helen Cure, dressed as Margaret Newton in a costume showing Italian influence.

This year the Brass Rubbing Banquets will be held on October 11th and 12th, with the six weeks of rubbing to follow hard upon. The public may attend starting October 16, though groups may make reservations for the 15th, if they wish.

If you are planning to be in the area after the 1991 AGM, you might want to put on the mailing list for brass rubbing information. Write St. Luke's Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 20038, Long Beach, CA 90801 or contact Mrs. (Michael S.) Newton for special arrangements and reservations. Manhattan Beach is less than 15 miles from Long Beach via the Artesia Freeway (91) and the San Diego Freeway (405) with easy access to the church.

For further information, you can contact Mr. Richard A. Etches, The London Brass Rubbing Centre, 11808 Silent Valley Lane, Gaithersburg, MD 20878, (301) 279-7046. Each exhibit is exclusive to the area in which it appears and a six-months notice is requested.

For more details on the highly successful St. Luke's project, contact Chairman "Lady" Barbara Newton, 4429 Hazelbrook, Long Beach, CA 90808.

I received my latest Ricardian Bulletin, and I think I can finally be of some help if nobody else has claimed it. I should like to try my hand at solving the puzzle of the Mother Goose poem (submitted by Margaret Drake). Poetry happens to be one of my stronger suits.

Even without research, this poem, especially when paired with The Duel (aka The Gingham Dog and the Calico Cat) by Eugene Field, is fascinating! Consider for a moment:

1) The light between Field's "Gingham Dog and Calico Cat" is told as "HEARSAY!" The author takes great pains to tell us he didn't see it but was told by "the Chinese Plate" or "the Old Dutch Clock."

2) Historically, many so-called "nursery rhymes" were actually political satire. (Example: "the Farmer's Wife in the Blind Mouse" is said to be the Queen of George III.) In those days, there wasn't the free speech we enjoy today, so sages found themselves tucked away in the nursery. Therefore, the reference to Bosworth is likely quite deliberate.

3) The assignment of animal to standard type of hound, originally called "talhund," but also the last name of Lady Barbara Newton, Chairman of the Centre, enjoys their medieval costumes. (AKA Henry's commanders: Sir Gilbert Talbot)

4) The myth about cats having nine lives is said to be the reason that Tib would have "taken little harm." But a Lancastrian Cat walking away with his funeral flowers under his arm? That sounds like an act of defiance. ("You can't get rid of me that easily")

I will try to find out more about the origins of the poem. Dating it would prove most valuable, because it should be relatively easy to place The Duel. If the poem was well known enough to be included in Mother Goose and yet not be annotated, one could guess that it might be quite old. I will let you know anything I find out.

Ludovico M. Lea
Michaela Ann Charron
Beverly Hills, CA

Ms. McLatchie's other arguments all rest on the same, long-explored myths about Shakespeare—that he was too well-educated, too well-traveled, etc. to be the glove's son of Stratford. On the contrary, his errors in matters of history, geography, etc. argue most strongly for his lack of aristocratic background. The myths have always struck me as being based on the worst kind of snobbery; genius is not confined to the members of the upper classes.

If Ben Jonson's word that Shakespeare was "Shakespeare" isn't good enough, whose is?

Yours sincerely,
Diana Wiggens
Carlstadt, NJ

As you are aware, I'm the chairman of the New Jersey Chapter. I also started an organization called the Middleham Restoration Endowment of which I also am the chairman. We have a staff of people who work on the reconstruction with English Heritage. Our purpose is to help them raise funds for the preservation of Middleham Castle's fabric. We are not affiliated with the Society, nor sponsored by the NJ Chapter.

Joe Ann Ricca

RICARDIAN POST

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-17- Ricardian Register
The Heir Of Hascombe Hall
E. Everett-Green, Th. Nelson & Sons, London & NY, 1940
Yorkist lord, forced to go into exile after Bosworth, leaves his baby son in fosterage with a miller and his wife, who have a boy of the same age. Not long thereafter, the miller’s wife and the two babies become ill, and when they are all recovered, she can no longer identify the genuine ‘heir of Hascombe Hall.’ The question becomes critical when Lord Hascombe returns from exile, complete with wicked stepmother (the heir’s, that is). Very Victorian (‘What a time was once lost to the world ...’); very chauvinistic English (Hascombe sends his half-Italian children back to Italy); very-Protestant.

The volume I read was an award for a schoolboy in 1908, and no doubt ‘general proficiency and industry’ to him enjoyed it, as it is a fine story for short attention. More a novella than a novel, this is helped along, or complicated, by its structure: the author uses the device of multiple narrators—well, two anyhow—Lord Lovell and his presumed sister Eleanor, presumed mother of John of Gloucester. There seems to be no particular reason for this, as the two halves poorly mesh, and John and Eleanor scarcely appear in the latter part. Another thing neglected is marks of punctuation, but that’s not uncommon in Robert Hale books.

Although Richard kills Edward of Lancaster in a fit of anger, and is at least partly responsible, through inaction, in the throning of Henry as Edward’s successor, the author does not bear the blame for the one crime he did not commit, thereby giving a double meaning to the title.

The eternal triangle, with its angles being Perkin Warbeck, his wife, and Henry VII. Written in a rather old-fashioned style, and everybody is so noble you can hardly stand them, but otherwise not bad. Pro-Tudor, though.

The eternal triangle, with its angles being Perkin Warbeck, his wife, and Henry VII. Written in a rather old-fashioned style, and everybody is so noble you can hardly stand them, but otherwise not bad. Pro-Tudor, though.

The Lives of Mary and Margaret Tudor
This book, a volume of Tudor history, was one of this reviewer’s ‘bargain-bonanza specials’. It is surprisingly well-written, and most clearly documented through reprints of personal letters between the two sisters, their father, and his degenerate brother, Henry VIII.

In truth, Mary and Margaret Tudor were both pains in a political struggle that was waged like...
Pictured here is the tale of the child, the youth, and the man, rather than the soldier, the Duke and the King. Family relationships form the base of the plot: Richard's love for Edward; his exasperated devotion to the ever-exasperating George, and his absolute worship of Anne. However, one character not faring well at all is Cecily Neville, who is presented as a hybrid between Atilla the Hun and Catherine D'Medici. The Duchess of York does not present a pleasing face at all. In fact, she is even given the "credit" for doing away with the Princes in the Tower. A mise preposterous, this.

All-in-all, the book is well worth reading, and is well worth acquiring from the Fiction Library.

Under The White Boar


Available from the Richard III Society Fiction Library.

This novel deals with Richard's life as a romantic legend. He is given a life seldom found in a work of such short span, and the depth he receives is a pleasant surprise.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm, PST, by Chair Emeritus, James McManus, with Bob Dodlittie, Judith Gall, Roxane Murph, Mallory Paxton and Joe Ann Ricca also in attendance.

The Crimson Crown


At first glance, this would appear to be a typical historical bodice-ripper, but the true follower of the genre will note a number of differences. For one thing, would you expect to find a hero who is not only bloodless, but a bloodbath? Our lad admits to having picked up the habit during his stay in Italy, and don't be misled into thinking him insufficiently macho for his status. He is quite capable of finding a bodice or two, an endeavor which I am reliably informed required a great deal of strength. He does, however, refrain from doing so, at least as far as the heroine is concerned, until more than three-quarters of the way through the story. The story, in brief, is that of Lucas Lovat, employed by Henry VII to spy on Katherine Warbeck and her household. Since Henry doesn't completely trust him — and is well advised not to — he has Lady Megan, one of Katherine's ladies-in-waiting, spy on the spy. The plot thickens, to nobody's surprise, but the story that parallels the love story does have a few surprises. Who is Perks Warbeck? Did the Princes in the Tower survive? Read it and find out, but I will tell you this: Ms. Layton is unlikely to be accused of plagiarism.

Although the author's usual forte is Regency romance, her excursion into fresh fields is well-researched, and the few "mistakes" may be fictional license. For example, the child born to Henry and Elizabeth of York in 1499 is changed from a boy to a girl. Since this has no bearing on the plot at all, one would think it a simple error if the book weren't of another world. Maybe it is intended to serve as a clue that this is purely fiction and not intended to be taken as history — which it isn't, but very enjoyable nonetheless.

Glenda A. Molley

BOARD CHRONICLES

November 4, 1990

5. New Business

A. Finance Committee: A unanimous ballot was cast for the formation of a Finance Committee, consisting of the Chairman and the Treasurer; the functions of said committee being to prepare an annual budget for the Society; to generate for the AGM an annual report, consisting of an income statement, a balance sheet for the previous year, and other financial information as may be useful to the membership; to prepare New York and Federal Tax returns; and to focus on and report to the Board such financial matters as may come before the Society.

B. Donations Coordinator: A unanimous ballot was cast for the creation of the position of Donations Coordinator; the duty of this position being to seek donations of any amount, with an immediate goal of establishing an endowment level of $100,000.00 or more. Tony Collin was appointed to this position.

C. Letter from Elizabeth Nokes re our Patron: It was decided to print Elizabeth Nokes' letter of 28th September, 1989, in the next Register, together with the following statement, which will then appear on the inside front page of each issue:

In accordance with the policy of the Society in England, members are requested to communicate with H.H. the Duke of Gloucester, as Patron of the Society, through the Committee of the English Branch. Gene will inform Elizabeth of this decision.

Glenda A. Molley

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The meeting was called to order at 4 P.M. EST, 3 P.M. CST by Chairman Gene McMahan, with Bob Doolittle, Judie Gall, and Roxane Murph in attendance. Mallory Paxton, secretary of the board and as research officer.

Treasurer’s report:
Roxane has received an encouraging letter from Maxwell Anderson’s son in regard to the Society publishing Richard and Anne. He promised to get back to her with more details in a month or so.

Scholarships:
Joe Ann will ask Laura Blanchard to place an ad in Speculum where the rates are cheaper than those in the Journal of Higher Education, where our scholarship ads had been placed.

Filling the position of secretary:
Gene has 5 nominations to fill the position left vacant by the resignation of Mallory Paxton. The Board will choose one of these as eager to accept the position. The board voted unanimously to appoint this candidate, Tobi Collins of Northeastern Pennsylvania, to the post.

Membership report:
Judie reported that we have 420 individual members and 58 additional family members for a total of 410.

David Treybig of the Ohio chapter is putting the membership list on a computer disk so that Judie will be able to generate mailing lists.

New Business:
A. New membership categories:
The board decided not to reinstate the student membership, since it is not cost-effective. Institutional memberships were also discussed, and the board agreed to consider charging dues of between $100.00-$200.00 for institutions, but they will not qualify for an advertising discount in the Register.

B. Computer purchase:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 P.M. CST.

Respectfully submitted,
Roxane C. Murph

March 3, 1991

Several chapters have asked that they be allowed to purchase books and other items from the sales office at cost, so that they can be donated to libraries. There was some opposition from board members who felt that, since other chapters and individual members had paid full price for books to be donated to local libraries, and the Society relies on the profits from such sales, this would set a bad precedent.

Joe Ann brought up the fact that some chapters feel the Society does not give them enough help, and she thought that this help should, in part, be financial. There was heated opposition to this idea, with other members expressing the opinion that the chapters existed, in part, to help the Society, not the reverse. Joe Ann asked Judie and Bob to explore the idea of discount sales and the discussion was terminated.

The next meeting is set for May 7, 1991.

Respectfully submitted,
Roxane C. Murph

Membership Application

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Spring, 1991