

Loyaulte me Lie Ricardian Register

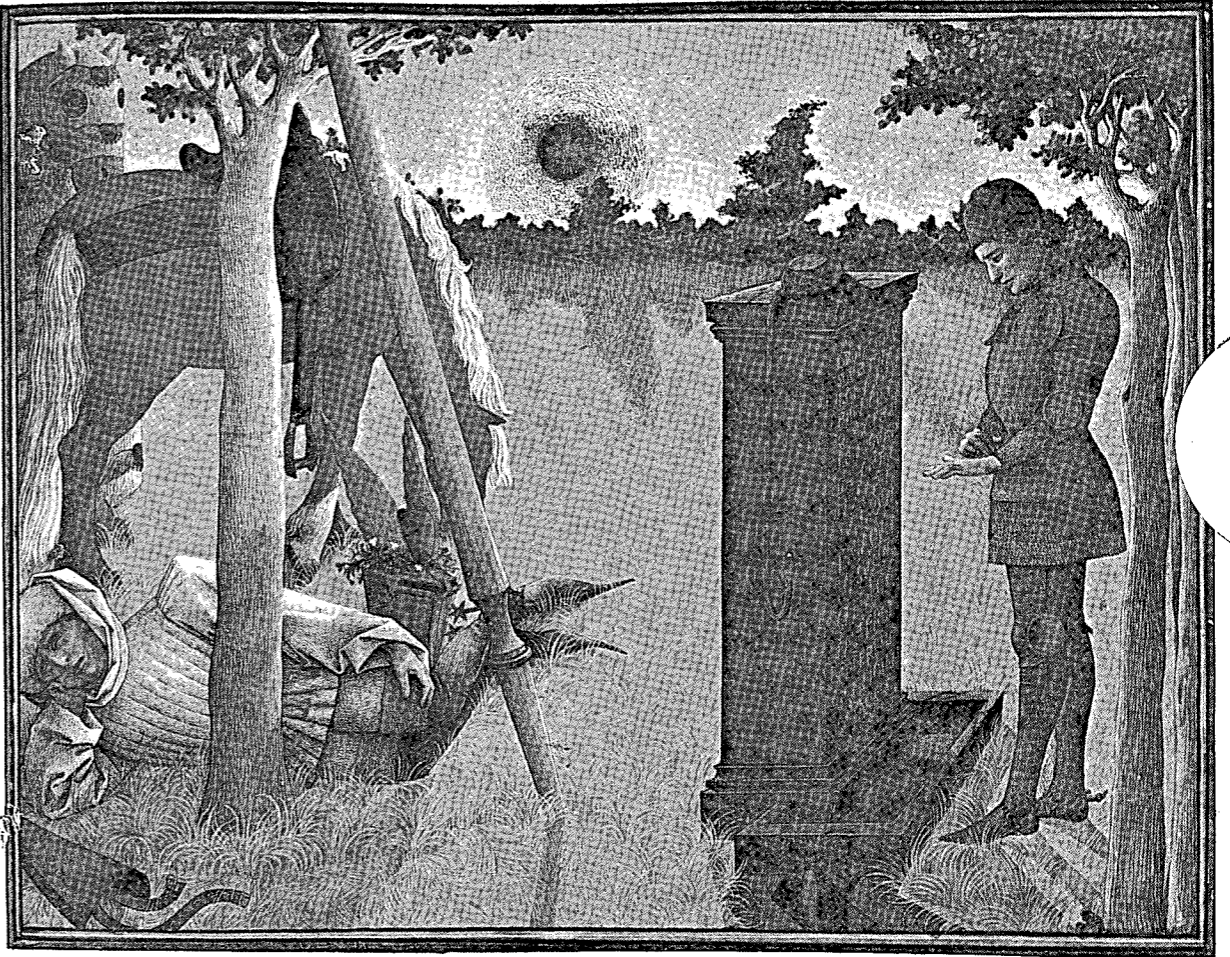


Illustration Number 15 from King René's "Book of Love" ("Le Cœur d'Amours Espris"), The National Library, Vienna, Published by George Braziller, N.Y. 1980. See p. 3 for details.

summer 1982 vol. 16 no. 2

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Loyaute me lie Ricardian Register vol.16 no. 2

Editors: Pamela Garrett, Julie Vognar, Hazel Peter

Address material for the Register to Julie Vognar, 2161 North Valley, Berkeley, CA 94702. Articles on subjects pertaining to Richard III and his era are eagerly sought from our members, as are personal news items.

RICHARD III SOCIETY, INC. is a non-profit educational corporation chartered in 1969 under the membership corporation laws of the State of New York. Dues, grants, and contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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Dues are \$15 a year for single or family memberships, \$12 a year for students. The dues year runs from October 2 (Richard's birthday) to October 2, and is not prorated. National dues, change of address notifications and membership queries should be directed to Martha Hogarth, Box 217, Sea Cliff, NY 11579. Local dues are decided by the local chapters themselves.



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



Graphics by Hazel Peter

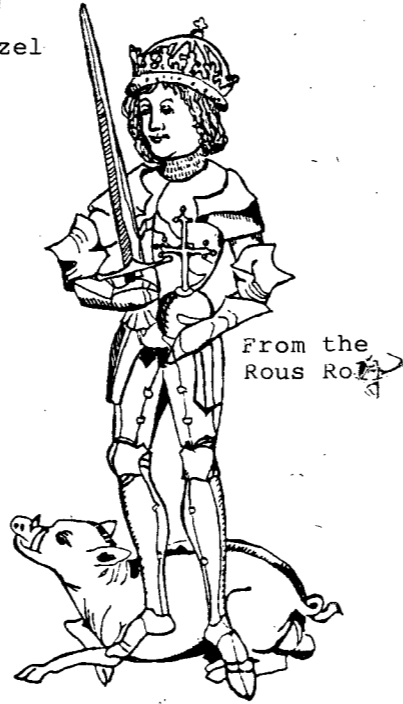


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About the Cover: King René, King of Sicily and Duke of Anjou (Margaret of Anjou's father), 1409-1480, wrote his "Book of Love" an allegorical romance in the framework of a dream, in 1457. An artist of debated accomplishments, he may have illustrated it himself, but this most beautifully illustrated version (the Vienna MS) is more likely to have been done by Barthelemy de Cler (or Deick), a fine artist and close friend of René's. The paintings were definitely done in the late 1460's.

In this painting, Cueur and his page, Desire, have slept during their perilous journey of courtship, and Cueur, having awakened first, is reading an ominous slab warning against drinking from the Spring of Chance at its base. All the illustrations for this only moderately interesting allegory are beautiful; some of the most beautiful represent midnight, twilight or first light scenes which, alas, reproduce badly.

Julie Vognar

Notes & Letters

Publications Officer Moves

Andrea Van Sant's new address (in masthead, but here also for emphasis) is:

Andrea Van Sant
1212 Guadalupe, Apt. 209
Austin, Texas 78701

Orders can go to her there; a new sales list will shortly be printed with her new address. The only price change is for To Prove a Villain at \$10.

Membership Dues in Masthead

Dear Julie and Pam:

It might help to print membership fees in the Register (we have; see masthead this issue);...liked the (Carleton) article--thought you'd get more of a bite in the mail...disagree greatly with Nimoy's theory (see "In Search Of...")...

Prof. Louis Bisceglia
435 Alberto Way #17
Los Gatos, Ca. 95030

Attreed's Disappointment in Ross Shared

...We liked Lorraine's reviews (see Vol. 16, No. 1); she had difficulty over the Ross one I know. Like all of us she was rather disappointed by it. Thinking of books coming out, Vol. 3 of Harley 433 is due to be published in about a month, at the same price as the previous two. The Index is going well (Rosemary Horrox has undertaken that alone), and should be out early next year....

Best wishes from Carolyn and me,
Peter Hammond
Research Officer
3 Campden Terrace
Linden Gardens
London W4 2EP

"In Search Of..." and the inescapable "humpback"

Dear Julie Vognar:

...I was never able to get CBS to let me know when the "In Search Of..." program

(dealing with Richard and the Princes) would come on. They said to watch the paper, but that didn't work out. Is there a way I can see it?

I'm sending two clippings with inaccuracies...is there anything we can do about things like this?

The second inaccuracy (to use a polite word) is in a book review. Examining the book in a shop, I really came to the conclusion that it was not worth the price, even for all the descriptions outlined in the review....

(Both excerpts are taken from the Arizona Star, no date given.)

"Shakespearean Exhibit in N.Y. (1982 N.Y. Times)

New York--When John Barrymore climbed into a suit of armor before the battle scene in a 1920 production of "Richard III," he faced a problem. The fight scene called for running and jumping, and the armor weighed more than 50 pounds. To make matters worse, he wore a large wad of cloth on his shoulder to simulate Richard's humpback....

"Slim Volume is Informative Of Virtue Rare, by Linda Simon, Houghton Mifflin, \$12.95, 164 pp.

...Her (Margaret Beaufort's) fortunes were interwoven with Warwick, the "Kingmaker," the wily and ambitious humpback, Richard III; and the sweet little princes, obstacles to his lust for the throne. Richard is suspected of murdering them."

Editor's comments: If you have, or have access to a video tape machine, you may send to Julie Lord, Librarian (address in masthead) for either VHS or BETA tape recordings of the "In

Letters and Notes, Continued

Search Of..." show in question. Julie Vognar (address for Register) has a working BETA recording which she will be glad to loan out as well. Either Julie will send tapes Library Rate, at very little expense to you in both directions (library sticker enclosed).

As to Richard's back. Barrymore's production cannot be faulted in any way, of course, since Shakespeare's Richard was a humpback (limped, had a withered arm, etc ETC.). Stage productions are expected to be more or less faithful to playwrights, although this is not always the case.

The author and reviewer of Of Virtue Rare do not seem to have a Ricardian view of Richard, but that aside, about the actual state of Richard's back: it is likely that there was some slight unevenness about his shoulders. The earliest extant portrait of him (the one in the royal residence part of the palace, not open to the public, which is always reproduced "courtesy of Her Majesty the Queen") appears to show the right shoulder somewhat higher than the left; the later, more famous portrait of which many of us have color reproductions, gives the same impression (though an x-ray examination of this one indicates that this, and the narrowing of Richard's eyes, have been exaggerated by a later hand).

Robert Davies, in his excellent edition of Extracts from the Municipal Records of the City of York (London, 1843), includes a wonderful brawl, six years after Richard's death, between two drunken men of York, one, crying that the Earl of Northumberland had betrayed Richard (at Bosworth), and the other, a Schoolmaster of St. Leonard's, saying that "King Richard was a crouchbake, buried in a dike like a dogge." Davies, a complete Ricardian, finds this eyewitness statement (he points out that the schoolmaster would have seen Richard in person many times) to be absolute proof

of the deformity. True, the man was drunk and angry, but Davies has a point: why choose the adjective "crouchback" if there were nothing to base it on?

A slight unevenness about the shoulders, perhaps (always perhaps). So slight that historians (Rous, More, etc.) have disagreed which shoulder it was that was actually higher.

Julie Vognar

(above letter from Mrs. Loretta Martin, 7360 No. La Oesta Ave. Tuscon, Arizona 85704)

The Sunne in Splendour

Cris Arnott, editor of "The Silver Boar," the York quarterly of the "Friends of King Richard III," calls our attention to a soon-to-be published novel by American Richard III Society member Sharon Kay Penman, The Sunne in Splendour (Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 928 pp. Oct. 1982). The novel opens in Ludlow in 1459 and ends in 1492 at Bermondsey, and deals with "the whole family." She further adds the anecdote that an editor at Holt locked himself away for two days to read the manuscript, upon which he scribbled one comment: "God Damn those Stanleys." It is an alternate Book-of-the-Month Club selection already.

Bill Hogarth writes:

Tremendous news: member Sharon Kay Penman has had her first novel accepted by Holt Rinehart and Winston for publication in August (sic--Collins is publishing it in the U.K. and this may have led to confusion about release date here-ed.)...about Richard III, of course. Called The Sunne in Spendour it is 900 pages (!) and sells for \$19.50. Holt has lent me galleys and it is splendid...with graceful acknowledgement to the Society and its US and UK librarians for help.

Helen Maurer writes:

6. Letters and Notes, Continued

...Personally, I find it a pity that Penman's publishers have chosen to hype her work in the following manner: "With this powerful novel... truth replaces myth. With the accuracy of a historian, the logic of a lawyer, and the intuition and insight of a novelist, Penman resolves the mystery of Richard III while at the same time offering absorbing drama."/italics mine/ As most of us--and I'm sure Penman herself--are painfully aware, the truth of Richard, whatever it was, still eludes us. We may passionately believe one thing or another, and we may come up with very good arguments to support our beliefs, but in the end there is not a soul alive today, historian or amateur, who can claim to know the absolute truth about Richard. Neither Penman nor anyone else has actually resolved anything. I wish that Holt & Co. would content themselves with saying that it is well written (it is; I've read a 249 p. "partial" of it) and that a great many people will enjoy reading it....

Sutton Cheney makes the cover of The Maine Mason

Dear Julie:

Enclosed is the front cover of The Maine Mason, a small magazine of 16 pages. (The cover has as illustration a good-sized photograph of the Sutton Cheney church, captioned: "The Medieval church at Sutton Cheney where King Richard III attended service prior to his ill-fated battle at nearby Bosworth Field, August 22, 1485. See, "Life Among Medieval Masons and other Working People," Part 1, p.12--ed.) Part 1 of the article does not contain any references to Richard III. It is a two-paged article dealing with fantasies and fallacies about Masons during the Middle Ages.

I would be glad to photocopy the article if anyone is interested. There are to be two more parts to the article. If there are any references to Richard, I'll let you know.

Your new form of the Register is doing superbly.

Best wishes,

coriander

Janet E. Kearin
22 Bellaire Road
South Portland,
ME 04106

RICHARD III SOCIETY BOOKS ON SALE: William Snyder's The Crown and the Tower (\$18.50), William Hogarth's Richard III: On Stage and Off (\$3.50), and Littleton and Rea's collection of Richard-related writing, including the complete Daughter of Time, To Prove a Villain (\$10.00) are on sale as a package deal for \$26.00. Make checks payable to Richard III Society, Inc. and mail to P.O. Box 217, Sea Cliff, New York 11579. Book sales are in aid of our Scholarship Fund, and are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

7. Report on the Seventeenth International Congress on Medieval Studies held at Kalamazoo, Michigan
by Lorraine Attreed

For the first time in this, its seventeenth year, the International Congress on Medieval Studies held at Kalamazoo, Michigan, included a session on Richard III. Among the organizers of the session was Professor Veronica Kennedy of St. John's University, a Society member. All the organizers deserve special commendation for the well-produced meeting, sponsored by Studies in Medievalism. Before an audience of about forty, some of whom were Society members, we started with my own paper, concerning Richard and rumors about his treatment of his nephews. I focused on the rumors circulating during the autumn of 1483 accusing Richard of harming, killing, and/or cheating the princes of their right to life and rule. Certainly the rumors say something about Richard's reputation, but they also comment on medieval society's cultural values about children -- that no matter how frequent infanticide and abuse were in the Middle Ages, children were loved and their lives respected. Ricardian rumors, in addition to evidence from medieval literature and religion, indicate that Phillippe Ariès was wrong and that there was a place for childhood in the Middle Ages.

The monstrous Shakespearean image of Richard, at least partially the result of such rumors, was the subject of the following two papers. Alan Hejnal, also a Society member, presented a fascinating and well-constructed paper on the creation of the main character in Shakespeare's Richard III and in Gordon Daviot's (a.k.a. Josephine Tey) Dickon. Alan concentrated on how an author communicates the characters' natures by situation as well as by direct dialogue and action. Perhaps the paper's finest attribute was that it made us all think about the construction and development of the two plays -- causing such reflection is no mean feat for a twenty-minute paper. It was followed by a mind-blowing illustrated paper by Derah Myers of Vanderbilt University, on Richard III and Mannerist painting. Miss Myers presented Shakespeare's Richard as a Mannerist subject, characterized by a love of the grotesque, the artificial, and the dramatic, with eroticism and violence on a full-blown scale. Derah's slides of wall and ceiling paintings whose figures seem to tumble off the surface onto the viewer, and of Bronzino's erotic painting, provided parallels to the nervousness, restlessness, and inconsistency of Shakespeare's Richard. I was left unclear about the origins and development of Mannerism in England, but the paper was undoubtedly an excellent contribution.

All three of us tried not only to read our papers, but to communicate them with some warmth and belief in what we were saying. The lack of such involvement is unfortunately common at all conferences, but it is especially noticeable at large ones such as Kalamazoo (259 sessions, attended by over 2000 people). For that reason, despite my attendance at an earlier session on Henry VI, its total effect and impression on me was so weak I have nothing to report on those papers. Professor Kennedy and Studies in Medievalism deserve praise and thanks for their organization of the session on Richard. To judge by comments after the event, such care and intelligent selection was noticed by those who attended, and was appreciated and commended. One can only hope that the Richard III session remains on Kalamazoo's program (1983's meeting may focus on Richard and the medieval world in historical novels).

HISTORY AND PREJUDICE

(Reprinted from the Chicagoland Chapter's
The White Rose)

One of Jane Austen's lesser-known books called Love and Freindship (sic) and Other Early Works contains a charming selection titled 'A History of England.' This work, written when Jane was 16, begins with Henry IV and ends with the death of Charles I. According to its author the work is written by a "partial, prejudiced, & ignorant Historian." She adds that there will be "very few dates in this history." Jane is definitely pro-Yorkist, partly because a Tudor did away with her favorite historical personage, Mary, Queen of Scots. Her bias will delight any Ricardian. What follows is her treatment of Henry VI through Henry VII. The work was composed in 1791.

HENRY VI

"I cannot say much for this Monarch's Sense--Nor would I if I could, for he was a Lancastrian. I suppose you know all about the Wars between him & The Duke of York who was of the right side; If you do not, you had better read some other History, for I shall not be very diffuse in this, meaning by it, only to vent my Spleen against & shew my Hatred to all those people whose parties or principles do not suit with mine & not to give information. This King married Margaret of Anjou, a Woman whose distresses & Misfortunes were so great as almost to make me who hate her, pity her. It was in this reign that Joan of Arc lived & made such a row among the English. They should not have burnt her-but they did. There were several Battles between the Yorkists & Lancastrians, in which the former (as they ought) usually conquered. At length they were entirely overcome; the King was murdered-the Queen was sent home-& Edward the 4th Ascended the Throne.

EDWARD IV

This Monarch was famous only for his Beauty & his Courage, of which the Picture we have here given of him & his undaunted Behavior in marrying one Woman while he was engaged to another, are sufficient proofs. His wife was Elizabeth Woodville, a Widow, who, poor Woman! was afterwards confined in a Convent by that Monster of Iniquity and Averice Henry the 7th. One of Edward's Mistresses was Jane Shore, who was had a play written about her, but it is a tragedy & therefore not worth reading. Having performed all these noble actions, his Majesty died, & was succeeded by his Son.

EDWARD V

This unfortunate Prince lived so little a while that no body had time to draw his picture. He was murdered by his Uncle's Contrivance, whose name was Richard the 3rd.

RICHARD III

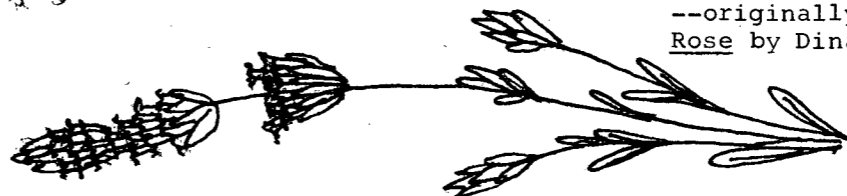
The Character of this Prince has been in general very severely treated by Historians, but as he was York, I am rather inclined to suppose him a very respectable Man. It has indeed been confidently asserted that he killed his two Nephews & his Wife, but it has also been declared that he did not kill his two Nephews, which I am inclined to believe true; & if this is the case, it may also be affirmed that he did not kill his Wife, for if Perkin Warbeck was really the Duke of York, why might not Lambert Simnel be the Widow of Richard. Whether innocent or guilty, he did not reign long in peace, for Henry Tudor, E. of Richmond as great a Villain as ever lived, made a great fuss about getting the Crown & having killed the King at the Battle of Bosworth, he succeeded to it.

HENRY VII

(continued next page)

This monarch soon after his accession married the Princess Elizabeth of York, by which alliance he plainly proved that he thought his own right inferior to hers, tho' he pretended to the contrary. By this marriage he had two sons & two daughters, the elder of which daughters was married to the King of Scotland & had the happiness of being the grandmother to one of the first Characters in the World. But of her, I shall have occasion to speak more at large in the future. The youngest, Mary, married first the King of France & secondly the D. of Suffolk, by whom she had one daughter, afterwards the Mother of Lady Jane Grey, who tho' inferior to her lovely cousin the Queen of Scots, was yet an amiable young woman and famous for reading Greek while other people were hunting. It was in the Reign of Henry VIth that Perkin Warbeck & Lambert Simnel before mentioned made their appearance, the former of whom was set in the Stocks, took shelter in Beaulieu Abbey, & was beheaded with the Earl of Warwick, & the latter was taken into the King's Kitchen. His Majesty died, & was succeeded by his son Henry whose only merit was his not being quite so bad as his daughter Elizabeth."

--originally submitted to The White Rose by Dinah Kozina



Lavender

MARGERY NONESUCH COUNSELS A WIDOW ON RIDDING HERSELF OF AN UNWANTED SUITOR

Goodwife Margery Nonesuch, Strawberry Cottage near five mile marker, Berwick Road, York.

I write thee at the directing of your cousin Elizabeth Nonesuch who is our herb lady here in Haworth. I have kept the bakery since the death of my husband Henry. My son Edward helps me and we have a justly earned reputation for the lightness of our bread and the quality of our tarts. People come from all over the Riding to buy them. The work is hard but I find it good and even joyful.

Lately Seth Barnstead, our local miller, has been courting me. He advises me to give the bakery into Edward's sole keeping and to marry him and live at the millhouse. Edward advises me to stay where I am and in truth I see no benefit in this marriage. I am happy at the bakery and do not care to put myself under any man's hand again.

Elizabeth counseled me to use wolfsbane and pennyroyal and garlic. It has not changed him. He still stops by the bakery twice a day and tells me my hair is the color of winter wheat and my eyes are the color of violets. He thinks Edward is lovesome. Edward is six foot and still growing and weighs 12 stone. Edward thinks Seth has a head stuffed with flummery instead of brains. Elizabeth suggests I seek your advising. Yours, Anne Calley.

Goodwife Calley I send you greeting.

Get rid of the wolfsbane and garlic. They won't help unless your friend Seth is a werewolf. My cousin was always a little slow-witted. I advise you to rid yourself of him by using a strong "no". Do not speak your "no" to the duck pond in the full moon or any other foolishness. But speak directly to Seth. Yours, Margery Nonesuch.

THE AMAZING ELIZABETHA Possible Reconstruction of her Actions 1483-1487¹

by Helen Maurer

Elizabeth Woodville was a remarkable woman. In her own time the gilt-haired Lancastrian widow astounded England by capturing King Edward's Yorkist heart. Today, the tale of the distraught mother's vacillations between 1483 and 1487 remains a complex and frustrating puzzle. Yet it is a puzzle that cries out for resolution. Any explanation of what happened to the princes--Elizabeth's sons--must take into account the behavior of their mother.

Here, in outline form, is the standard version of what is supposed to have happened between 1483 and 1487, particularly as it concerns Elizabeth. Edward IV dies, April 1483--Richard's coup at Stony Stratford--Elizabeth flees to sanctuary--she releases her second son to Richard's custody--execution of her brother Anthony, Earl Rivers, and her son Sir Richard Grey--the Princes are deposed and Richard takes the throne--Elizabeth is visited in sanctuary by Margaret Beaufort's physician, Lewis, and agrees to her daughter's marriage to Henry Tudor (corollary assumption that she believes her sons are dead)--the Princes' demise is publically rumored; a previously existing plot to free the boys becomes a movement for Henry Tudor, with the proposal that he marry Elizabeth of York; Buckingham's Rebellion, fall of 1483--Henry's Christmas vow at Rennes to marry the girl--in March of 1484, Elizabeth and her daughters leave sanctuary and entrust themselves to Richard, her only apparent condition being his public oath to keep the daughters safe from harm and not disparage them in unworthy marriage--Elizabeth writes to her son Dorset, now an exile in France, telling him to come home and make his peace with Richard; he attempts to do so, but is intercepted by Henry's men--Bosworth, August 1485--Elizabeth of York is brought to her mother in London--the marriage takes place in January 1486 after noticeable delay, generally attributed to Henry--both Elizabeth and Dorset appear to be content as they resume their places at court--but in spring of 1487, Dorset is temporarily imprisoned during the Lambert Simnel affair, and Elizabeth relinquishes her property and retires or is retired to a convent, where she remains for the rest of her life. It is, to say the least, a convoluted story, full of contradictions. The pieces do not fit.

Are we really to believe that Elizabeth first gave her support to Henry (the marriage promise), then withdrew it (the reconciliation with Richard and letter to Dorset), then approved her daughter's marriage to Henry and her own restoration, and finally became involved in a movement to dethrone him? And are we further to believe that all the other persons involved--Richard, until his death; Elizabeth of York; Dorset; and Henry himself--went along with these about faces without a quibble or a question, right up to 1487?

I propose to look at the story again, and I shall argue that Elizabeth Woodville did not vacillate between Richard and Henry (or, to put it another way, shift her position for and against Henry) as we have heretofore been led to believe. Her actions were at all times coherent, logical, and subject to straightforward explanation. The pieces of the story do not fit because at least one of them is fiction; it never happened. As my initial premise, then, I offer the following suggestion: Elizabeth Woodville never promised her daughter's hand to Henry Tudor.

The account of Dr. Lewis and the ladies appears for the first time, in

elaborate detail, in the history of Polydore Vergil.² No other early writer even alludes to it or mentions any kind of collaboration between Elizabeth Woodville and Margaret Beaufort.

Dr. Lewis of Caerleon was a physician, astronomer and mathematician; a rather important person.³ A number of his writings are still extant. It is suggested that he was physician to both Elizabeth and Margaret, as well as to Henry himself. He may have supported Henry in 1483; we have no proof that he did not.⁴ He is known to have been a prisoner in the Tower in early 1485, though we do not know from what date he was incarcerated or for what reasons.⁵ Upon Henry's accession, Lewis returned to favor. On 24 Feb. 1486, he was granted 40 marks a year, out of the issues of the county of Wiltshire. Other similar grants followed. Whether they were occasioned by anything beyond Lewis's medical expertise it is impossible to say. He appears to have died in 1494 or shortly thereafter; at this time his name disappears from the records. Nevertheless, despite Lewis's personal prominence, it seems that the story of his activities as go-between was neither common knowledge, nor contemporary with the event it describes. If Vergil did not make it up himself--and there is no reason to think that he did--he must have got it somewhere.

Polydore Vergil arrived in England in 1502⁷, when Elizabeth Woodville, Dorset, Lewis and Morton were dead; Elizabeth of York was ailing, and her remaining oldest sister Cecily was living in obscurity in the Isle of Wight. Of the original conspirators of 1483, only Margaret Beaufort and several of her confidantes were still living. (I exclude Henry, who was in France at the time, and whose knowledge of events in London was necessarily second hand.) It is most likely that Vergil got this story from one of them.⁸

Without belaboring the arguments for and against Vergil, he appears to have been--by the practices and expectations of his times--a remarkably conscientious and responsible historian. He was no hack. When he arrived in England, his reputation as a writer and scholar was already well established. He wrote his history in good faith. More telling, perhaps: the section on Richard III is but a small portion of the total work. We misread Vergil when we blow this section out of all proportion to the whole and judge his purpose simply to have been the blackening of Richard's name and the exaltation of the Tudors. To say this, however, is not to ignore the equally obvious. When Vergil came to recent history, of which he had no personal knowledge, it is reasonable to assume that he consulted people's memories, as well as the existing documents and records. But memory is a notoriously selective thing: one remembers what one chooses. Further, given the uneasy circumstances under which the Tudors came to power, it would have been imprudent for a writer to be highly critical of them or to question too closely their version of events or their view of their immediate predecessors. Within these limits, Vergil did the best he could.

Now let us return to 1483. Let us suppose that Elizabeth Woodville never promised her daughter's hand to Henry, whether Lewis ever came to visit her or not. What effect would this have on the events of Buckingham's Rebellion? It would have no effect at all. According to the Croyland Chronicle, written two and a half years after the uprising, the rebels--who originally wanted to free the Princes--next "turned their thoughts to Henry" upon hearing the new rumor that the boys had been killed. With their agreement a message was sent by Buckingham to Henry ("by the advice of the lord bishop of Ely"--Morton), telling him to come to England, marry Elizabeth of York, and take the throne.⁹ Nowhere is the consent of Elizabeth Woodville mentioned, nor whether she was even consulted. At this point, it

didn't make a bit of difference what she thought.

Next in time comes Henry's vow at Rennes. Again, this is entirely Vergil's story, but the style is matter-of-fact, without the zealous detail that characterizes the Lewis episode. Vergil simply states that Henry swore a solemn oath on Christmas Day to marry Elizabeth of York as soon as he became king, and that afterwards his fellow exiles swore homage to him as if he were king already.¹⁰ The purpose of the vow is clear: it was bait to gain present and future support. While it is possible that Henry made his public vow on Christmas Day, it is even more probable that he mentioned such an intention on numerous previous occasions, if only to test the idea on his fellow exiles. And, again, Elizabeth Woodville's thoughts were entirely irrelevant. She was a woman, she was still in sanctuary, and her opinion--so far-- wasn't worth a bean. The "promised" marriage was a nebulous projection, tied to a future no one could foresee. But it served a useful purpose for the present, and if Henry's hoped-for future ever did arrive, the marriage would be dealt with somehow.

Then in March of 1484, Elizabeth's daughters (and probably Elizabeth herself) came out of sanctuary and placed themselves in Richard's hands. Oddly, neither Richard nor Elizabeth had anything to say about the "promised" marriage. But Richard had a great deal to say about his nieces' marriages in general: "I Richard...promise and swear...that I shall do marry (cause to be married)... them to gentlemen born, and every of them give in marriage lands and tenements to the yearly value of 200 marks for the term of their lives...And such gentlemen as shall hap to marry with them I shall straitly charge lovingly to love and entreat them, as wives and my kinswomen, as they will avoid and eschew my displeasure."¹¹ Why was nothing said about the marriage to Henry? Was Richard so stupid or so hard-pressed as to make his promises to Elizabeth without requiring anything in return, or did he consider the delivery of her daughters enough? If he knew of the promised marriage to Henry and considered it a threat, he certainly did nothing to counteract it. From his public words (to which, presumably, he would be held) it appears that he intended to find suitable marriages for his nieces; from his actions it also appears that he felt no pressure upon him to do so immediately. And what about Elizabeth? Was she evading the issue in an attempt to secure her position no matter who won? I believe that the explanation is much more straightforward. Elizabeth never said anything about the marriage in the spring of 1484 (and Richard didn't worry over it or demand a statement) because she had never said anything about it in the summer or fall of 1483. Elizabeth Woodville had never promised her daughter's hand to anybody. The only persons who were saying anything about the marriage during this whole time were Henry and his supporters. Thus, a major about face has been eliminated from the tale of Elizabeth Woodville's behavior. It never happened.

But the fact is that Elizabeth did not trust Richard either. There is reason to believe that this distrust went back a long time and was mutual.¹² She was reluctant to release her younger son from sanctuary.¹³ Richard's execution of her brother Anthony, Earl Rivers, and her son Sir Richard Grey gave her excellent cause to fear and mistrust him even more. It would be ridiculous to imagine that these feelings suddenly evaporated or that Elizabeth experienced a total change of heart towards Richard. Nevertheless, she did allow her daughters to leave sanctuary, and, if we can believe the sequel, she then urged her son Dorset to likewise make his peace.¹⁴ The simplest and most probable explanation for her behavior at this point is that she still did not trust Richard fully, if at all, but that she expected him to keep

his publically sworn word.

So far, I have not mentioned Elizabeth's belief concerning the fate of her sons, the Princes. Although it does tie into the "reconstructed story," it has not yet been crucial to its explanation. We will come to it very soon.

Henry won at Bosworth and became king. The nebulous idea of the marriage, which had been used as bait, now required action. Yet, for some months Henry did nothing. It has always been assumed that he was the reluctant party, and that he waited in order to prove to the world that he was king in his own right rather than in the right of his Yorkist wife. Yet it is precisely at this point that Elizabeth Woodville's view of the marriage becomes significant. Although Henry could have married Elizabeth of York without her mother's approval, it would not have looked good. Worse than that, it would have raised a serious question regarding the legitimacy of his throne. Elizabeth Woodville could only agree to the marriage of her daughter to a would-be king, to the restoration of her legitimacy and elevation as queen, if she believed her sons were dead. To this there is no reasonable alternative. If she knew that one or both of her sons were alive and safely hidden overseas, the raising of her daughter would only assure the day when one of her children would have to be sacrificed in the other's cause. So, we have reached the point where Elizabeth's opinion of the marriage counts, and where her belief concerning her sons is absolutely critical. I suggest, as a possible reason for the delay of the "promised" marriage, that Elizabeth Woodville had to be convinced that her sons were dead.

It appears from available circumstantial evidence--the vague reference to "shedding of infants' blood" in Richard's attainder, Henry's failure to openly accuse Richard of the Princes' murders, and his failure to look for, locate and exhibit any bodies--that Henry was either unable or unwilling to provide concrete proof of the Princes' death. He had to convince Elizabeth without hard evidence, and this took time. Eventually, Elizabeth was made to believe that her sons were dead, and probably that they were dead on Richard's orders. (Whether this was actually true or not is immaterial.) Again, no about face is involved. It is most likely that she never really trusted Richard, but made the best accommodation that she could in 1484, believing at that time that her sons, thought threatened, were still alive. That she did believe this (whether it was true or not) agrees best with the simple fact that she did accommodate and that her daughter Elizabeth was very much in evidence at court the following Christmas, visably having a good time. When Henry succeeded in convincing Elizabeth Woodville that her sons were dead, she similarly accommodated with him. The marriage took place, and, for a time, all appeared to be well.

And then, in 1487, at the time of the Lambert Simnel affair, Elizabeth made a genuine about face. According to Vergil, she was deprived of her possessions and sent to Bermondsey convent as punishment for having reconciled with Richard three years before.¹⁵ Now this is patent nonsense. If Henry had held the reconciliation against her, he would not have waited a year and a half to act upon it. On the other hand, if Elizabeth, feeling her years, had simply and voluntarily gone into retirement, there was no reason for Vergil, writing under Tudor aegis, to concoct a story that only makes Henry VII look petty and ridiculous. One is forced to conclude that Elizabeth was sent to Bermondsey, but for reasons other than those reported, and that, however transparent, Vergil's story represents the "official explanation" for sending her there. At about the same time, Dorset was arrested and sent to the Tower, where he was to remain for the duration of the

14. trouble.¹⁶ It therefore appears most likely that both Elizabeth and her son were involved in the rebellion.

What made her do it? Why would Elizabeth support a movement bent on destroying Henry, which would, at the same time, destroy her daughter's life as well? Did she learn that one or both of her sons were still alive after all? Would she destroy a living daughter for the sake of a living son? This is a bitter, dreadful choice. Speaking as a mother, I do not see how even the most minimally loving mother could make such a choice and still retain a fragment of her sanity. And everything in Elizabeth's behavior to this point clearly indicates that she did care about her children.

There is another possibility. Elizabeth may have learned that her sons were, indeed, dead, but not by the means or in the way she had been led by Henry to believe. From this point there are several ways to go: the guilty party (the one who instigated the murder) may have been Henry, it may have been Buckingham, or it may have been Margaret Beaufort. It could not have been Richard. Nor could it have been Norfolk, the other person usually mentioned in a list of possible suspects. They are the only two potential culprits whose guilt could not possibly have turned Elizabeth against Henry.

I leave the solution to you. Although I have my notions, I do not know who murdered the Princes, or if, in fact, they were murdered. And, although I believe that the foregoing reconstruction offers the simplest, most coherent explanation of Elizabeth Woodville's behavior, I cannot be certain that it is the correct one. I offer it as food for further thought.

As a final bite to chew on, I suggest a possible reason for providing Vergil with the story of Elizabeth Woodville's "promise." It was done to assert her favorable disposition towards the marriage in 1483 and, by analogy, to underline the corresponding implication that her sons, the Princes, were already dead at that time.¹⁷

Notes

1. It should be noted that much of this article is of a speculative nature. Despite the bad press speculation has received, it is a legitimate, honorable and unavoidable activity in any attempt to reconstruct past events from fragmentary and often conflicting evidence, with the single caution that one keep in mind that this is what one is doing. It is, therefore, not the purpose of this article to prove a point, but to present a fresh interpretation of Elizabeth Woodville's behavior as stimulus to further thought and research.

2. Polydore Vergil, Three Books of Polydore Vergil's English History, ed. Sir Henry Ellis (Camden Society, 1844), pp. 195-6. Hereafter cited as Vergil I.

3. For an account of Dr. Lewis, see Pearl Kibre, "Lewis of Caerleon, Doctor of Medicine, Astronomer, and Mathematics," Isis, 43 (July 1952), pp. 100-8.

4. Kibre, pp. 101-2, who cites, in addition to Vergil, Th. (sic) Stow, Annals of England (continued to the year 1614 by Ed. Howes, London, 1615), pp. 464-5; Sir James H. Ramsay, Lancaster and York, II (1892), p. 505; Rotuli Parliamentorum, VI, pp. 250-1. There seems to be no early source, apart from Vergil, that identifies Lewis as Elizabeth's, Margaret's or Henry's physician. The pages cited in the Rot. Par. give the forfeiture of John Morton, Margaret Beaufort and others following Buckingham's Rebellion, but do not mention Lewis at all. Nor do they mention Elizabeth Woodville.

5. Kibre, p. 102, citing Rot. Par., VI, pp. 244-9. Kibre correctly notes

that Lewis is nowhere mentioned in the lists of persons to be punished. That Lewis was a prisoner in the Tower in March of 1485 is proven by his observation there of the March 16 solar eclipse. (B. Ms. I.2G.1, fol. 6v, "Istam est solis anno Christi in presento 1485, post meridiem 16 diei Marcii, contingentem ego observavi in turre Londoni.")

6. Kibre, p. 102; Calendar of Patent Rolls. Henry VII, I, pp. 75, 145, 219,

NOTES, Continued

7. For a detailed discussion of Vergil, see Polydore Vergil, The Anglica Historia of Polydore Vergil, ed. Denys Hay (Camden Society, 1950), pp. ix-xi. Hereafter referred to as Vergil II.

8. Christopher Urswick, d. 1522; Richard Foxe, d. 1528; and Sir Thomas More are suggested by Hay (Vergil II, p. xix) as Vergil's principal sources. Urswick was actively involved in the conspiracy of 1483, acted as go-between to Henry in 1484, became Henry's confessor for a time and accompanied him to Bosworth, enjoyed high favor during Henry's reign, and was one of Margaret Beaufort's executors. (See Dictionary of National Biography, 22, pp. 55-6). Richard Foxe became acquainted with Henry in Paris, when the latter was trying to enlist support for his cause. They became friends and Henry, impressed with Foxe, made him chief negotiator at the French court. The first official notice of Foxe is in Richard's letter of 22 January 1485, requesting that he not be given the vicarage of Stepney because of his association with Henry. After Bosworth, Foxe not only acquired Stepney, but became a member of Henry's first council. Other advancements followed. He was a close friend of John Morton, and in one version of the story he is credited, instead of Morton, with originating "Morton's fork." Foxe was an executor of both Henry VII and Margaret Beaufort. (See DNB, 7, pp. 590-6.) Regarding More, I think it most likely that information flowed in both directions.

9. Ingulph's Chronicle of the Abbey of Croyland, ed. Henry T. Riley (London, 1854), p. 491.

10. Vergil I, p. 203.

11. Croyland, p. 496, and Vergil I, p. 210, report only that the daughters left sanctuary. The text of Richard's promise, quoted in part by P.M. Kendall, Richard III (Cardinal Edition, 1973), pp. 286-7; and in full by Audrey Williamson, The Mystery of the Princes (Dursley, 1978), pp. 113-4, comes from Harl. MS 433 f. 308. It is possible, though I think improbable, that Elizabeth Woodville remained in sanctuary. Richard's oath also specifies a yearly payment of 700 marks to John Nesfield to attend upon her. This seems to imply that she would also be expected to leave sanctuary and take up residence elsewhere. For an account of John Nesfield, see W.E. Hampton's note in The Ricardian, IV, 52, p. 27; and his longer article in vol. IV, 58, pp. 2-8. For a discussion of Elizabeth Woodville's leaving sanctuary herself and her possible whereabouts, see Kendall, p. 287, and Williamson, pp. 114-5, 122-7.

12. Dominic Mancini, The Usurpation of Richard the Third, ed. C.A.J. Armstrong (Oxford, 1969), pp. 63-5, 71-5; Thomas More, The History of King Richard III, ed. Richard S. Sylvester (New Haven & London, 1963), pp. 7, 9, 14.

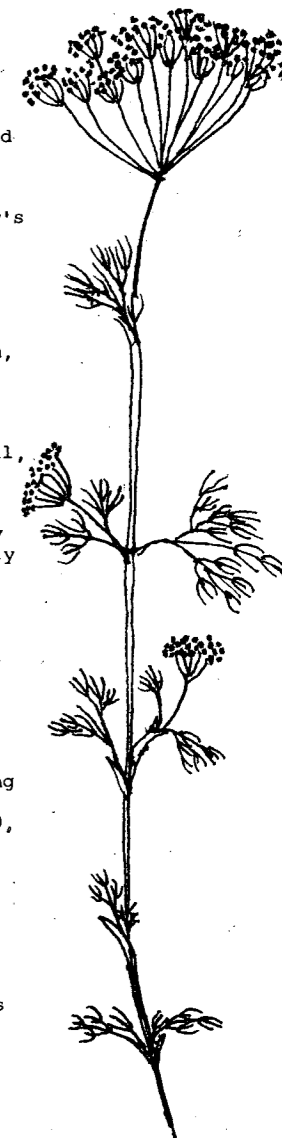
13. Her reluctance is noted by Mancini, p. 89; and pp. 124-5, where Armstrong quotes the minutes of the City Council of London for 23 May 1483 (London, Guildhall, MS., Journal 9, f. 23v0) and cites Stoner Letters, II, pp. 159-60, as evidence for the strained and deteriorating relations between Richard's negotiators and Elizabeth; More, pp. 40-1; and Vergil I, p. 178. Croyland, pp. 488-9, ambivalently states that she assented "with many thanks," but that the persuasion included the presence--and threat--of armed force.

14. Vergil I, pp. 210, 214. I'm not sure that I believe the sequel. The account of the letter to Dorset and its aftermath is vivid and highly circumstantial, like the Lewis story; it is also found only in Vergil. Dorset had by 1484 escaped to France, where we may assume that he joined the exiles surrounding Henry. He was named in the first proclamation issued against Henry on 7 December 1484, but is not named when it was reissued on 23 June 1485 (Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1476-1485, pp. 448, 485). We can safely say only that his position had become ambiguous. Dorset's attainder was promptly reversed by Henry's first Parliament, and he began to receive grants and commissions as if nothing had happened. (Materials Illustrative of the Reign of Henry VII, I, pp. 138, 482, 530, 531).

15. Vergil II, pp. 18-19.

16. Vergil II, pp. 21, 31 note.

17. The story of the "promise" would also lend credence to the assertion that Elizabeth's reconciliation with Richard did constitute a betrayal of Henry, and thereby distract attention from the real issue, which was her opposition to him in 1487.



Sill

London, Early September 1485

a short story by
Rosemary Tillman.

He settled himself more comfortably in the chair. The broad, polished expanse of table before him pleased him.

"Bring him in," he said curtly to the other man in the room. Giving orders came surprisingly easy to him.

The man he spoke to opened the door and stood beside it as a third man came in. The newcomer's wrists and ankles were fettered, but he wore the chains as if they were a badge of honor. Perhaps in a sense they were, for he was considerably smaller than either of the other two men in the room and had recently suffered several wounds. A too-large doublet, evidently borrowed, very likely covered more. His injuries, at least those visible, had been only carelessly treated. The man behind the table saw no point in wasting attention on wounds that would never be allowed to heal.

The man behind the table spoke. "Pray sit down."

The man behind the table occupied the only chair in the room. The man in chains carefully lowered himself onto an unpainted stool and poised tensely on its edge.

They contemplated each other briefly. Neither was an especially prepossessing figure. The man in chains, in addition to being undersized, scarred, and dressed in someone else's clothes, had a drawn face and a slightly asymmetrical body. He was, the man behind the table knew, thirty-two, but he looked at least forty. The man behind the table had the advantage of being some inches taller and of wearing his own clothes, but those clothes had clearly been his for several years. Although he was younger than the man in chains, his colorless hair was already growing thin.

The man by the door, tall and stout, richly attired, with thick black hair, might have been more impressive than either of them, but no one looked at him.

The man in chains finished looking first. "You can't think that I believe you intend to let me live. Why have you brought me here?"

The man behind the table ignored the question. "I trust you appreciate the manner in which we brought you here--in secret, not like a rare animal on display, as your father and your brother brought my late uncle here."

The man in chains inclined his head slightly. "It was most thoughtful of you. I am flattered that you thought it wise not to let it be known that I am still alive--just as I am flattered by the knowledge that although I am weak from my wounds and surrounded by my enemies, you still find it necessary to keep me shackled."

The man behind the table declined to rise to the bait. "What have you done with the boys?"

The man in chains was puzzled. "Boys? My squires? I believe they were killed in the charge."

The man behind the table showed his first sign of impatience. "I referred to your nephews--your brother's sons."

With an effort, the man in chains pulled himself out of the world bounded at the one extreme by his tent twelve days ago and at the other by this room at the present moment, and, suddenly, he seemed on the verge of laughing. "Why, the last thing I 'did with' them was to have them brought here."

"Then where are they?"

The man in chains was now clearly choking back laughter. "That question

has been robbing me of sleep for nigh on two years, but now, God be praised, it's no longer my concern but yours. However, perhaps it will comfort you to hear that I have no reason to suppose that they're anything but alive and well."

"You are telling me that you don't know where they are?"

"That's right. I don't know."

"You're lying! You had them murdered!"

"Murdered? So that I could spend two years desperately covering up and fabricating excuses and pretending they were here?"

They looked at each other again. Then finally the man in chains began to laugh. The man behind the table stared coldly. "Let me remind you that you are--"

"In the presence of death? On the brink of eternity? About to face my creator? I never thought otherwise. And was it only for this that you brought me here, that you so carefully kept me alive and left some mutilated corpse to prove I was dead? A clever piece of work! Undoubtedly my substitute was so hacked about the face that no one could know him not to be me save my wife, God rest her soul." He automatically started to cross himself and discovered again that his hands were chained. "I regret that you were put to such trouble and expense, nephew."

The eyes of the man behind the table narrowed. "Why did you call me that?"

"Why, it was my understanding that such was the arrangement--seize my kingdom, marry my niece, restore a golden age of peace and prosperity. A lovely picture, but one in which there is no place for me. You cannot mean to let me leave this room alive."

"No." The man behind the table rose and started to draw his sword.

For the first time, the man in chains winced. "My curiosity is gratified to see that there is steel attached to that pretty hilt, but--please, not by your hand. I expected to die in battle. At least let me be slain by a soldier."

The man behind the table at least lacked the violent temper that was to make his son dreaded. He let his sword slide back into its scabbard. "As you like. Name your executioner. My stepfather?" He glanced toward the man by the door.

The man in chains reflected. "Your stepfather? One might say he already has my blood on his hands, so why not? But no, he might hesitate to put a blade into his own doublet, even though it has been turned several times."

The man behind the table was long experienced with turned garments. "Turned? Not at all. It's still new."

The man in chains began to laugh again. The man by the door stared stonily past him. "May God have mercy on this land! A man more humorless than I!"

The man behind the table waited with elaborate patience. "Then who?"

"You must surely have some lord about who never feigned to be anything but my honest foe."

"I know the one." The man behind the table glanced again at the man by the door. The man by the door went out. The man behind the table turned back to his prisoner. "Do you wish for a priest before--?"

The man in chains smiled. "I know the one you would provide, cousin--one all too ready to absolve me of crimes I never committed and too impatient to hear the genuine sins I may have on my conscience. I thank you, but no."

The door opened once more to admit a man wearing a silver star badge. He bowed to the man behind the table, avoided the eyes of the other. The man in chains stood up, moved clumsily to place his back against the wall. The man behind the table gestured expressively toward him. "I have done with him."

The man with the star hesitated. "And you wish me to--dispatch him? I'm a soldier, Your Grace. I don't kill helpless men in cold blood."

The man behind the table looked at him curiously. "But he requested you, my lord. It is customary, is it not, to grant a condemned man his last request?"

The man with the star looked at the man in chains and nodded. He drew his sword; then he paused again. "I've never killed a man who was watching me."

"Come my lord," said the man in chains. "For two years I've been surrounded by men who could look me in the face while they stabbed me in the back. Surely it's not such a difficult feat to look me in the face and run me through the heart?"

Grimly, the man with the star did what he had been summoned for. The man in chains slumped to the floor.

The man at the table stared down at him. "Well, my lord, would you send someone to--?" He motioned distastefully.

"Where?"

The man at the table finally snapped. "I don't care! Beneath the pavement, under the stairs, in the river! Anywhere! Just get him out of my sight and bury him!"

The man with the star bowed and went out. The man behind the table sat down again. It was surprising how comfortable a chair could be.

thyme



(This is the second work by Rosemary Tillman we have published (see poem, "Richmond," in last issue). Unfortunately, our correspondence has been completely one-sided! I have written to the return address on her envelopes, have tried calling her, all to no avail. I have spoken to Martha Hogarth, the keeper of the top-secret files which contain our membership lists--she was also of no help. If all this is unintentional, please, Rosemary Tillman, R.S.V.P.--where can you be reached by mail or phone?

On the other hand, if it is intentional, please don't stop sending us things in any case!

Julie Vognar)

The American Booksellers' Association Con-
vention, May 29-31

by
Helen Maurer

Picture three airplane hangars trying to have sex with each other, and you've got the Anaheim Convention Center. The place itself is enormous, and it was stuffed with people. Each publisher had a booth--some large, some small--with book displays, lists of books in print, lists of new books to be published, giveaways, food, you name it. And everyone circulated around, talking to people, collecting material, nibbling, collecting more lists, and on and on. At the end of the convention I would have made a good bag lady.

Most of the people I talked to at the convention were very helpful and very friendly. Only a few had heard of the Richard III Society, and those who hadn't heard were generally curious enough to want to hear something. I tried to make it short and sweet. "Richard III--he was the one who was supposed to have murdered his nephews to get the crown. (Nods and murmurs of recognition.) Well, he may have done so, or he may not--the fact is that we don't know. But there is ample evidence that his reputation was deliberately blackened after his death. Under these circumstances we feel that his character and reign deserve further consideration and investigation." Period. Well, it didn't go exactly like that, but this gives you the gist.

A number of British publishers were also present, and I was surprised to find that almost none of them were aware of the Quincentenary. They know about it now. Of course, the Americans did not know about it--there was no reason to think that they would--but I was surprised about the British.

Consequently, there seem to be no special plans on anybody's part to take publishing advantage of the situation. Whatever is being published would, I suspect, have been published anyway. But that too may change. Here is a rundown of what is being newly published that somehow ties in with Richard or his times.

First: the university presses:

New York University (available from Columbia U. Press, 136 So. Broadway, Irvington, NY 10533)

The Medieval Experience: 300-1400, by Jill N. Claster, March 1982, cloth \$32.50, paper \$15.00

"...the development of Europe into a predominantly Christian society, and the continuity of Rome and its culture."

Cambridge University (510 North Avenue, New Rochelle, NY 10801)

Mortmain Legislation and the English Church, 1279-1500, by Sandra Raban, October 1982, about \$37.50 cloth. Church ownership of land.

The Tudor Constitution, by G.R. Elton, Sept. 1982, cloth \$59.50, paper \$19.95.

A new revision of his standard work on Tudor constitutional and administrative history.

Indiana University (10th & Morton Streets, Bloomington, Ind. 47405)

The Trombone in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, by G.B. Lane, Sept. 1982, cloth \$25.00.

Oxford University (Customer Service Dep't, 16-00 Pollitt Dr. Fair Lawn, NJ 07410)

An Introduction to the History of English Medieval Towns, Susan Reynolds, May 1982 paper \$13.95.
Medieval urban history from 5th - 16th centuries.

Wycliffe Sermons, v. 1, ed. Anne Hudson, Sept. 1982, \$59.00 cloth.

"...present a comprehensive view of the teaching of the sect, reflecting its concern with theological, ecclesiastical, social and political issues." Vol I contains sermons on the dominical gospels and epistles. (4 vols. planned: first 3 with texts, and the last with commentary.)

Yale University (92 A Yale Station, New Haven, Conn. 06520)

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, ed. J.A. Burrow, November 1982, cloth \$15.00, paper \$4.95.

Originally published in 1972. The tale is roughly contemporary with Chaucer; "one of the greatest works of medieval English."

University of Oklahoma (1005 Asp Ave. Norman, Okla. 73019)

They are publishing a Chaucer-related series.

The Minor Poems, Part One, ed. George B. Pace & Alfred David, November 1982, cloth \$38.50.

"...definitive study of 14 of the shorter works."

Previously published:

The Canterbury Tales, ed. Paul G. Ruggiers, 1979, Facsimile and transcription of Hengwrt manuscript, with variations from Ellesmere ms.

London in the Age of Chaucer, by A.R. Myers, \$9.95 cloth.

Versions of Medieval Comedy, ed. Paul B. Ruggiers.

Other publishers:

Schocken Books (200 Madison Avenue. New York, NY 10016)

Birds in Medieval Manuscripts, Brunson Yapp, November, 1982, cloth \$35.00.

Tales of King Arthur, ed. and abridged by Michael Senior, November 1982, cloth \$24.95, paper \$14.95.

"...inspiringly illustrated abridgement of Malory's Arthurian legends...designed to appeal to the modern reader."

Ross-Erikson, Publishers (629 State St., Santa Barbara, CA 93101)

The Music of the Troubadours, ed. Peter Whigham, fall, 1982, cloth \$35.00.

"This book is the first in English to bring together the poetry and the music of the troubadours of the Middle Ages in Europe."

The Unmentionable Vice, Homosexuality in the Later Medieval Period, by Michael Goodich, paper \$6.95.

G.P. Putnam's Sons

Passage to Pontefract, by Jean Plaidy, September 1982. Fiction. Vol. 10 in her Plantagenet series (Richard II).

The Star of Lancaster, by Jean Plaidy, December, 1982, \$12.95. Fiction. Vol. 11 (Henry IV--and Henry V?).

(Books on this page with old or no dates are being reissued.)

Stein and Day

The House of Tudor, by Alison Plowden, paper \$9.95. Illustrated.

Joan of Arc, by herself and her witnesses, by Regine Pernoud, tr. Edward Hyams, paper \$4.95.

"...based on her own words and the words of her contemporaries."

Kings and Queens of England, by Eric Delderfield, paper \$7.95. "...television watchers guide." with dates, family trees, etc.

Scribner's

Le Morte d'Arthur, ed. Robert Luminsky, October 1982, \$50.00. Modern English version from Morgan Library copy of original edition.

Holt, Rinehart and Winston

The Sunne in Spendour, by Sharon Kay Penman, October 1982.

Fiction. A very long novel (928 pp.) about Richard. \$19.95. See "Letters and Notes" (p. 4). The book is highly praised, but no specific reviews yet.

Weidenfield & Nicholson, 91 Clapham High Street, London SW4 7TA.

The Age of Shakespeare's Kings, by Charles Ross, June 1982 £ 10.95.

"...the emphasis is on the personality in medieval life, with a detailed look at composite characters like the King, the Knight, and the Cleric...Shakespeare's portrayal of the age is discussed at length and the authenticity of what he wrote is investigated."

Academy Chicago, 425 N. Michigan Ave. Chicago, Ill. 60611

Distributor in the United States for a number of Granada paperbacks, including:

The English Medieval Town, Colin Platt, paper \$6.95. with maps, diagrams, illustrations, etc.

Scottish (Welsh, West Country, Lakeland, London) Walks and Legends, by various authors, paper \$4.95.

These would be of interest to prospective travelers, as would some of the other titles Academy offers.

Pendragon House, 2898 Joseph Ave., Campbell, CA 95008

Carriers of all sorts of books on Britain, etc.

Monastic Britain, Ordnance Survey, revised 1978, \$20.00. Description & location of monasteries from Norman Conquest to Dissolution.

Thomas More, by James McConica, a Canadian historian, 1977, paper \$3.75.

Biography.

Royal Fortress: The Tower of London, by Peter Hammond (not OUR Peter--the other one!), 1978, paper \$4.00

The Shadow of the Tower, Joan MacAlpine, paper \$1.25. (re-issued?) "...the story of prisoners of the Tower in the hard

days of Henry VII." (I love the description!)

The Tower of London: the White Tower, by H.T. Sutton and Peter Hammond, paper \$2.50.
Cover illustration shows famous forebuilding.

Royal Faces: 900 years of British Monarchy, by Hugh Clayton, paper \$9.95.
Portraits from William the Conqueror on.

Norton

Will also publish Royal Faces in hardcover in November, \$14.95

They also offer a number of titles from Thames & Hodson, e.g. Castles of Britain by Christina Gascoigne and Castles of Ireland by someone whose name I couldn't read because the photo of the cover is fuzzy.

I spoke to the sales director of Norton about the possibility of reissuing Kendall. He was much interested to learn of the Quincentenary and said they would definitely consider it.

Chicagoland Meeting Minutes--More Books!

The June Meeting of the Chicagoland Chapter of the Richard III Society was held June 19th at the home of Elizabeth Clark in Evanston, Illinois.

The topic of this meeting was Ricardian books. Members were asked to speak a few minutes on a favorite or not-so-well liked Ricardian book. Some of the books reviewed were: The Queen's Lady, by Gladys Malvern. Pro-Lancaster, poorly researched, the book is supposed to be teen-aged reading (Richard is so nasty that he has Anne thrown into a dungeon and beaten until she agrees to marry him), the description of the book was greeted by gales of laughter. An interesting discussion of Rosemary Jarman's two most famous books, We Speak No Treason and The King's Grey Mare showed that members preferred the second book as being uniformly well-written with a carefully followed plot (the life of Elizabeth Woodville), and good development of all the main characters. The main objection to We Speak No Treason was that while sometimes Rosemary Jarman actually seemed to be describing a scene in which she had participated, so vivid was it, sometimes the descriptions were "just for the sake of being descriptive," i.e. less convincing. Also, several didn't like the character of the main narrator, the nameless girl who is first Richard's mistress and later a nun. They weren't crazy about the "Nut Brown Maid" lyrics appearing throughout the book, either. Nobody was very fond of Jarman's third novel, Crown in Candlelight, the Katherine Valois book. This Ravished Rose by Anne Carsley was described as "a true bodice-ripper" (Julie Vognar, reviewing it for the Register last spring, found it more puzzling than that). The Paston Letters impressed because of the warmth and charm of the Valentine letter, and the love story of Margery Paston and Richard Calle--these being all the more interesting because they actually happened. Other books discussed were Cry God for Richard, by Jean Allison-Williams, To Prove a Villain, and The Merchant of the Ruby, the Perkin Warbeck novel.

A lively discussion of Ricardian books in general went on, interspersed among the planned reviews. Books seemed to be a very popular topic and one which will probably be on the agenda for the next year's meetings.

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Our next meeting is the now traditional Memorial English Tea which will be held on August 22nd. Any Ricardians who are not members of the Chicagoland Chapter and wish to join or attend can call me for details--774-6800 (days) or 459-3147 evenings.

Beth Argall
Midwest Regional Vice Chairman

Note: We welcome local chapter minutes at all times, not just AGMs. Of course, if we get 20 of them, we can't print them all! But we seldom get them, and so are actively soliciting them now.

Julie Vognar

*"It's an Absolute Boar" stolen originally by Beth Argall from a greeting card published by the Recycled Paper Company for use in The White Rose, the Chicagoland newsletter. It is not intended to reflect on either the Chicagoland minutes above it, nor the recipe below it.



It's an Absolute Boar.

Margery's Leek & Mushroom Pie

To Make a Fine Paste

Take whole wheat pastry flour and butter, add enough buttermilk and roll.

Filling

Take enough mushrooms to fill crust, pick them and lave them. Take leeks, pick and lave. Slice bottoms of three leeks and mix with mushrooms. Cook them both up with 6 cubebs,¹ a pinch of fresh thyme, one half a fresh basil leaf, several sprigs of parsley chopped, a lump of butter as big as the first joint of one's thumb, a pinch of salt, and one half glass white wine. Thicken slightly with flour and pour into pie crust. Top with second crust and bake until brown².

¹These dry, unripe berries come from Indonesia, and taste like a cross between Allspice and peppercorns. You may substitute half peppercorns and half allspice, if you wish.

²(350° for 40 minutes)

