FROM THE EDITOR

The process of editing the Register, while not without its occasional ups and downs, has proven to be an endessly fascinating experience; but the praises expressed here belong to all of you who have taken the time to contribute something. What the Register is, or becomes is your doing; the product of your collective talents, inspiration, and research. All any editor can do is work with the material in hand, and I have been extremely fortunate in that respect. However, there will always be room for a new contributor, or the return of one from the past. This is your publication, which makes suggestions not only welcome, but necessary, if the Register is to reflect the widest possible range of Ricardian interest.

As our year, both calendar and Ricardian, closes, I would like to take this time and space to thank the outgoing board for their support of my editorial efforts, especially Carole Rike, without whom there would be no Register. And, since 'the old order changeth', a warm, Ricardian welcome and offer of support should be extended to our new officers as they assume their duties in the aftermath of such a successful AGM in San Francisco.

Last, but by no means least, my warmest wishes to all of you for the most joyous of holidays and everything good throughout the coming year.

J. C. Gall, Editor

NEW CHAPTER CO-ORDINATOR APPOINTED!

In response to the increasing need for a position to co-ordinate and support Chapter organization and activities, Mary Miller has been appointed Chairman of the Chapter Coordination Committee.

Mary brings a wealth of Ricardian enthusiasm and expertise to this important task, having been instrumental in the organization of the Southwest Chapter. She also served as an invaluable, informal assistant during 1986 to those wishing to form Chapters.

It is essential that an open forum exist between Chapters and the Society, and that needed information is available for distribution. We welcome Mary's efforts.

TOUR CHAIRMAN APPOINTED

Lillian Barker has been appointed as Tour Chairman. She will be co-ordinating the plans for the 1987 Society Annual Tour to England and Bosworth. Additionally, Lillian will attempt to keep on file information on individual chapters or smaller groups which may be going at a time other than August and welcome additional members.

If you or your group is currently planning a tour or has any input to aid Lillian in this new position, please contact her:

Mrs. Lillian Barker
P.O. Box 1473
Laurel, MD 20707

The Death of Francis Lovell

Like Narcissus have plumbed the depths
With my eyes, a fatal reflection.

Oh, that I might have perished
While not anywhere to go --
Or Lincoln, a creature of infinity.

The soul suspended between two worlds.

The wall is up. I am entombed,
The dark illumes my mind.

I am as a hare entrapped,
Oh, that I might have perished
In Trent's wide sweep, and

A glimpse of Swart, his Germans
Decimated; the wild Irish half
Of our host, bearing clubs and

Decimated; the wild Irish half
A glimpse of Swart, his Germans

I drift, I hallucinate, breathlessly.

The tock-tock of the hammers
Produce a final barrier.

Not anywhere to go --
Or Lincoln, a creature of infinity.

John O. Jewett
Massachusetts

The Richard III Society, Inc., is a non-profit, educational corporation.

Dues, grants and contributions are tax-deductable to the extent allowed by law.

Dues are $20.00 annually for individuals. Each additional family member is $5.00. The membership year runs from October 2 to October 1.

Members of the American Society are also members of the English Society. All Society publications and other items for sale may be purchased either direct at 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 such activities are open, including the AGM. American members attending the AGM are free to cast a vote.

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I am the Librarian for the Canadian branch of the Richard III Society and I receive a copy of the Ricardian Register. I must say, I am very impressed with the job you are doing. The journal is highly readable and I look forward to each issue. I can hardly wait until I finish reading it so that I can pass it on.

I particularly enjoyed the crossword puzzle, and I have promised to write to you. In order to make it more accessible to the members up here, I was wondering if we could reprint it in our own newsletter, the RIII. The questions from Irwin Matus are also deserving of as wide an audience as the puzzle itself. If the Society could answer them to our satisfaction, we would be able to reprint them. If you have any problem with our borrowing, please let me know. It is, after all, the sincerest form of flattery!

Shelia O’Connor, Toronto, Ont., Canada

Lurette Bagby Martin, Arizona

Ed Note: While appreciative of Ms. O’Connor’s request and wanting to be cooperative with our northern neighbors, no previously copyrighted material would be included without written permission from the author.

I (recently) attended the Meadow Brook Theatre production of Shakespeare’s ‘Richard III’. I enclose herewith a playbook from that production from the Folger Library edition of ‘Richard III’ clearly a lateTwentieth century portrayal of Richard. The publication of such material to an ever wider audience as the theatre production is seen by the general public. I feel much of Richard’s reputation is based on this portrayal which had 42 members. Aside from that, the numbers indicate that some states are more populous than others.

After careful examination, I was unable to find any copyright claim on the事业部 which the playwright and therefore feel that these paragraphs might suitably be quoted in the next issue of the Register.

Michael F. Simon, Michigan

Ed Note: See the “From the World of the Bard” section for the comments to which Mr. Simon refers.

I, too, wanted to add my congratulations on the Register, WOW, what an improvement! Thank you for such insightful pieces like “Fifteenth Century Vogue” by Chuck, “Duke of Clarence’s, ‘Pulling Back the Curtain’”. I wish to say I enjoyed the carried sat. Not only were the pieces informative in the manner of the Ricardian, but they were very much more readable.

Kristine M. Davis, Arizona

Lately, I have reading the Register, although that was material I tossed aside for some years. However, what a shame that Fall issue had to arrive after the San Francisco AGM.

But then, I don’t suppose even the announcements included in the Register would have improved the exact arrangement developed by the committee. The Hollin’s must have some significant photos from their relentless efforts on Saturday, perhaps Friday night, too.

There is an expression ‘to roll with the puncher’. When the puncher had punched a 30 minute hole in our schedule, Joyce Hollins was certainly expert at rolling us right into the change.

Wouldn’t the board like to have a (winter) meeting in Tuscon? Anyway, it was a grand AGM.

Ed Note: Sincere apologies for the unavoidable change.

Shelia O’Connor, Toronto, Ont., Canada

Lurette Bagby Martin, Arizona

Audio-Visual Librarian Appointed

Rodney Koonz has been appointed as librarian of an Audio-Visual Library. He is looking for any other items that would contribute to our membership, as well as support an Audio-Visual Library. He is looking for videos, video tapes, audio tapes, and video tapes. Any other items that would contribute to our membership are welcome.

Audio-Visual Librarian Appointed

Rodney Koonz

3327 Robert St. New Orleans, LA 70125

Annual Report

There were quite a few ‘hot’ tickets in the sales office this year, proving to be extremely popular and produced income for the Society. To prove a Villain and Bill Snyder’s The Crown and the Tower brought in substantial orders. (Our thanks to Bill Snyder for Oriental取得了骄人的销售业绩。) And the old stand-bys produced steady sales: Ricardian jewelry, headquarters, ties and notelets.

The new price list was available in late September. Prices were raised such that Ricardian Sales would generate more revenue for the General Treasury. As soon as the price list was distributed to 1985 members, sales started pouring in (although a little too late to show in this fiscal year). Advertising really works!

My thanks to all Ricardians who supported the Society by purchasing items. And special thanks to Chuck Rike who provided assistance, encouragement, and most importantly, fellowship throughout the year.

Expenses were unusually high due to the following factors:

1. As the new Sales Officer, I had heavy outlays for ‘set-up’ costs: purchasing of mailing envelopes and tubes, and postage costs in shipping inventory from the previous Sales Officer.

2. Quite a few refunds had to be issued on membership renewals. The Registration Office had been unable to complete.

3. The new membership drive of offering free jewelry was not available for sale until late in the fiscal year. This drive would have improved the financial statement has been audited. However, copies of the ledger are available to any member who wishes to inspect the books.

Linda B. McLatchie
Sales Officer

Hats Off to our AGM Chairman

A special note of thanks is due to Joyce Hollins for her excellent arrangement and planning for the meeting in Tuscon. She was ably assisted by the able Col- lctions Committee: Ms. Bagby, Mr. Loretta, Mr. Luretta, Mr. Babb, Mr. Bagby, Mr. Martin, and Mr. Koonz.

Chuck was the floorman for the day, moving chairs and tables, working on the p.a. system, taking photographs, and generously assisting any who needed assistance.

Hats off to all of you . . . Ricardian hospitality was the order of the day.
Francis, Viscount Lovell

"On the 6th of May 1528, the present Duke of Rutland related in my hearing that, about twenty years then before (viz. in 1708, upon occasion of new laying a chimney at Minster Lovell) there was discovered a large room underground, in which was the entire skeleton of a man, as having been sitting at a table, which was before him, with a book, etc. In another part of the room lay a cap, all so mouldered and decayed. Which the family and others judged to be this Lord Lovel, whose exit hitherto been so uncertain."

So wrote William Cowper, a clerk of Parliament, on 9th August 1737, some thirty years after the discovery, in an extraordinary letter to Francis Peck, the noted antiquary. Peck included the letter in his Collection of Divers Curious Historical Pieces published in 1740. Since that time, a great many people have made much of this intriguing letter.

There's something about a body, especially a body that's been sealed away while still alive and left to die. The idea has inspired ballads and provided the theme for stories of horror and suspense. People seem to love this sort of thing—and they have raised the story of the bones at Minster Lovell to the status of a myth. Like all such stories it has grown in the telling. The earliest "alternate version," published two years after Peck printed the letter, adds that the body was richly clothed and that it—and all the contents of the room—crumbled into dust upon contact with fresh air. It's difficult to say, however, whether this coincidence of an authentic tradition or the mere invention of a scholar of Cowper's letter. Later versions have placed the skeleton of a dog at "Lovell's feet" and given us ingenious explanations of how he got there in the first place.

Without a doubt a mystery exists. The bare fact is that Lovell disappeared in 1487 at the battle of Stoke and was never seen again. After his disappearance, rumors ran rife. He was, he wasn't dead; he was killed in battle; he drowned while trying to escape across the River Trent; he lived long after (as a hermit?) in a cave or vault; he went overseas and died; there was a secret room or not, the ending fits. And the mythology that has grown up about the bones at Minster Lovell seem an appropriate and suspense. People seem to love this sort of thing—and they have raised the story of the bones at Minster Lovell to the status of a myth. Like all such stories it has grown in the telling. The earliest "alternate version," published two years after Peck printed the letter, adds that the body was richly clothed and that it—and all the contents of the room—crumbled into dust upon contact with fresh air. It's difficult to say, however, whether this coincidence of an authentic tradition or the mere invention of a scholar of Cowper's letter. Later versions have placed the skeleton of a dog at "Lovell's feet" and given us ingenious explanations of how he got there in the first place.

Paul Murray Kendall has described Francis Lovell as a "shadowy figure," and both he and Charles Ross make point of how little we actually know about him.4 We know that he held office and received grants, but we don't know what he was. But no one has left us a description of his character or his abilities; the one thing we have is an impression gained from facts and fragments, scattered across a dark sky, is our observation of his loyalty. It continues after Richard's death, and we can't help wondering whether it simply represents stubborn adherence to the Yorkist cause or something more personal.

One possible approach is to consider what would have influenced Lovell's outlook, and one area that bears investigating is his own family: the ancestors that he would have heard of and the contemporaries that he would have known. Family was important to a medieval person, though his view of it differed from ours.5 From the perspective of a person in the early 12th c., when one William Lupellus received large increased; the barony of Lovell dates from about 1299.6

Francis Lovell's great-great grandfather John, the 5th Lord Lovell (d. 10 September 1408) was a busy and important man. Through his marriage to the heiress, Maud de Holand, the Lovells claimed the barony of Holand. John served in France and Ireland under Edward III and Richard II and held numerous commissions. During the Duke of Gloucester's revolt he remained loyal to his king and later received grants; we know that he was there. But no one has left us a description of his character or his abilities; the one thing we have is an impression gained from facts and fragments, scattered across a dark sky, is our observation of his loyalty. It continues after Richard's death, and we can't help wondering whether it simply represents stubborn adherence to the Yorkist cause or something more personal.

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Duchess of York. This was her third marriage, and she would marry a fourth time, scandalizing everybody because her groom was the much younger Sir John Woodville, brother to the Queen.

During these years he had become a very close friend of John de Vere, Earl of Oxford. Oxford was an adventurer. In the fall of 1473, with no visible Lancastrian cause left to fight for, Woodville had joined the exiled King Edward IV at Oxford. This was Woodville's big break, in which Lord Beaumont had invested. They held out until the following February, when they were starved into surrender. The Beaumonts were presented to King Edward in the Guildhall, and there Francis Lovell was knighted by the Duke of Gloucester at Berwick on 30 November 1473. He was returned as a knight a few years later. Francis Lovell's star was rising. Shortly after Richard's arrival in London as Protector, Lovell began to receive a bounty of grants and offices continuing through Richard's reign. He was made constable of Waltham Castle and steward of the lands of the Duke of Northumberland, as well as of the manors of Cottenham and Baldock. Of course he was restored as the second Viscount Beaumont on 7 November 1485, after Henry Tudor's victory.

Beaumont's private life, like his public career, was markedly unstable. He had married, by early March 1461, John Stafford, a daughter of the first Duke of Buckingham. This marriage was annulled before 1474. On 24 April 1468 Beaumont married Elizabeth Scrope, whose father, Sir Richard, was younger son of the Bolton Scropes. Now it may be that all of the excitement of Henry Tudor's triumph and his own restoration and marriage were too much for him. In March 1488 the custody of Beaumont's lands, and in 1495 custody of his person, were committed to his friend the Earl of Oxford, by reason of insanity! Beaumont lived in Oxford's house at Wivenhoe, Essex, until his death on 19 December 1507 at the age of 69. He had no children. His widow Elizabeth next married Oxford, who was himself a widower. Oxford died in 1513, aged 70, apparently also childless. The twice-widowed Elizabeth lived on until 1537 and was buried at Wivenhoe, Essex.

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Lovell's wardship and marriage were reassigned to Edward IV's brother-in-law John, Duke of Suffolk, in 1471. He had been one of the men who had helped defeat the Lancastrians at the Battle of Towton in 1461. He and Anne joined York's Corpus Christi Guild in 1473. (Richard and his Anne joined the Guild four years earlier.) In 1474, upon his grandmother's death, Lovell became heir to the baronies of Deincourt and Grey of Rotherfield. He received licence to eat on the whole of his inheritance on 6 November 1477.

In June 1480, when he was about 24, Lovell became a commissioner of array for the North Riding—the first of his offices. Other public commissions followed. He took part in Richard's campaign against the Scots and was knighted by the Duke of Gloucester at Berwick on 17 March 1482. In November 1483 he was summoned to Parliament and appointed a trier of petitions. Then on 4 January 1483, he was created Viscount Lovell. We may imagine the occasion:

"He was brought in his Parliament robes from the King's Wardrobe between the Lord Morley and the Lord Fitzhugh (who were, respectively, his cousin and brother-in-law) with the officers of arms, the heralds, and the officers of the Great Chamber, where of former action made... His patent was read by the King's secretary, which was to him and his heirs males, which dare, and thanks given, they departed towards his chamber through the hall, being accompanied as afore with the sound of trumpets, to his chamber, where he delivered to the officers of arms their fees; wherefore after the King's largest cries, he was cried in places in the hall as fol-loweth. "Largesse de puissaint et noble visconte Lovell, sieur de Holland, de burnel, de wyckwood et de gre de rotherfield."

If it seems very pompous and solemn, we perhaps ought to consider that although Lovell was a mere twenty-seven, his companions, Morley and FitzHugh, were about sixteen and twenty-one.

Francis Lovell's star was rising. Shortly after Richard's arrival in London as Protector, Lovell began to receive a bounty of grants and offices continuing through Richard's reign. He was made constable of Waltham Castle and steward of the lands of the Duke of Northumberland, as well as of the manors of Cottenham and Baldock. Of course he was restored as the second Viscount Beaumont on 7 November 1485, after Henry Tudor's victory.

Francis Lovell was attainted in November 1485, along with 26 others of the King's supporters. He was summoned to Parliament and appointed a trier of petitions. Then on 4 January 1483, he was created Viscount Lovell. We may imagine the occasion:

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collapsed upon the King's promise of pardon, and Lovell fled again, eventually to Flanders. The southern uprising came to an abrupt end when its leaders heard of what had happened in the north. One of them, Humphrey Stafford, was executed.3 But Lovell's sideline to this whole affair, Lovell's brother-in-law, Sir Brian Stapleton, the husband of his sister Joan, died on 28 March 1486. It's tempting, though risky, to speculate a connection between his death and the failed uprising.

But Lovell wasn't finished yet. In Flanders, he got together with Margaret of Burgundy—it's hard to say just which of them approached the other—and found they had a common cause. Another plot was hatched to bring down Henry. With the help of a priest, they found an Oxford boy to impersonate the young Earl of Warwick. In the meantime, the Earl of Lincoln, who had once been Richard's heir, was brought into the conspiracy. Lincoln had made his peace with Henry after Deserting his own side to sign a truce until the early spring of 1487, when he had simply packed his bags and left, quite suddenly.4 By that time, the plot was thickening; in May, Lincoln and Lovell, their boy Lambert Simnel, and about 2000 German mercenaries supplied by Margaret landed in Dublin. They held an impromptu "coronation" and proclaimed the false Earl of Warwick King. Their numbers swelled by the pro-Yorkist Irish, they then proceeded on to England, landing on the coast of Lancashire in early June. Their plan had one serious flaw: the real Earl of Warwick was held a prisoner in London—and everybody knew it. Nonetheless, they came to battle on 16 June on the fields of Stoke south of Newark. The Earl of Oxford led the King's army; with him were Sir Edward Norris, husband of Lovell's younger sister, Frideswide; and possibly, though less certainly, Lovell's uncle William Beaumont, who had not yet lost control of his life and affairs.5 Lincoln was killed in the fighting, Lovell disappeared, and Lambert Simnel was taken back to London to work out his possible fate.6

Lovell's wife Anne never remarried. She received an annuity from Henry in 1489, and was still living in 1495 when Francis was attainted a second time—redundantly, since the first one had never been reversed. Lovell's lands were granted to Henry's uncle, Jasper Tudor, who held them until his death, when they reverted to the crown. Eventually, the property of Minster Lovell was sold and, in the course of years, repaired. That brings us back full circle to the body found at Minster Lovell.

But I suggest that the real enigmas of Francis Lovell is not so much how he ended his life but. Why couldn't he abandon loyalty when it no

1. The present article is a much revised and expanded version of The Lovell Connections, published in Lovelate Me Lie, vol. 2, no. 1, March 1980. In somewhat altered form it was recently given as a talk to the Southern California Chapter.


4. I'm not sure where the story of the dog originates, but it has definitely become a part of the "Lovell literature." Many people have asked me, "They found a dog with him, didn't they, and that's how they knew it was Lovell?"

5. Baldwin, op cit, pp. 56-65, provides a thorough discussion of Lovell's disappearance and possible fate.


9. Ibid, pp. 211 note f, 212 note g. Most of the biographical information for this article is taken from G.E.C., subheadings "Lovel, "De la Beche," Beaumont, etc.


12. C.P.R., 1447-1448, p. 418. Beaumont, along with Oxford and his brothers George, Thomas and Richard, were excepted from pardon. I am grateful to Pamela Garrett who made a thorough search of the Patent Rolls for information on Beaumont and his various matters.


14. Beaumont was deprived of control of his lands in fall 1487 by an act of Parliament which states that he was not "of sound discretion, neither to rule and kepe himself, nor his said lyvelode," but had "aliened, wasted, spoiled, and put away (a) great parte (of it) full indiscretly." Custody was granted to Oxford a few months later. On 14 October 1487 he actually set up a new court act and changed the rule, "kype and governing" of Beaumont himself to the King or such person as he "hath or shall depute." By implication it would seem that Oxford became Beaumont's guardian. See Rotuli Parliamentorum, vol. 6, pp. 389 and 483, and C.P.R., 1445-1494, p. 222.


16. However, inquest proceedings in various counties from April through August 1475 gave him ages ranging from "17 and more" to "20 and more." See G.E.C., vol. 4, p.129-30 note h. The Dictionary of National Biography places his birth unquestioningly, but without proof, in 1454.

17. C.P.R., 1447-1448, p. 51.

18. Kendall, op cit, pp. 519-20 notes 1 and 5, argues that a grant to Warwick of L 1000 in the fall of 1465 from the profits of Lovell's wardship and marriage (which were not formally given to him until 1467) to pay the cost of Richard's maintenance in his household, along with Richard's attainment of age 13, plus the presumed "break" between Edward and Warwick after Edward's marriage, plus a record of Richard's having been at court in May 1465, indicate that Richard had left the North by spring of 1465. In this case, no public record exists of Lovell at that time; his father had adapted to the new regime and may have sought his son's advancement in this manner. Ross, op cit, p. 7 note 9, using the same materials as Kendall, argues that Richard may not have joined Warwick's household until late 1465. He further argues that there was no "break" between King and Earl at this point and cites Richard's presence on a commission of oyer and terminer for York in February 1466 as evidence of his presence in the North.

19. Gairdner, op cit, vol. 2, p. 257. In a letter to Sir John Paston, John Wykes writes that Lovell "hath wedded Lady FitzHugh's daughter." Gairdner assigns this letter to February 1466. If this is correct, it argues Lovell's presence in the North before his wardship and marriage were formally granted to Warwick. However, Lord FitzHugh did not die until 1472, and it seems odd that the letter does not mention him.
Francis, Viscount Lovell (Continued)

20. C.P.R., 1467-1477, pp. 261 (11 July 1471) and 312 (3 February 1472).
21. Both G.E.C. and the D.N.B. give the date as 22 August 1480, and G.E.C. cites Walter C. Metcalfe, A Book of Knights Baronets, Knights of the Bath and Knights Bachelor (1885), which actually (on p. 5) gives the year as 1481. Rots, op. cit., p. 45 note 4, accepts Metcalfe's dating. I think Tom Convey for recently drawing my attention to William A. Shaw, Knights of England (1906), vol. 2, p. 19, who writes that Lovell was knighted on "Houno Field beside Berwick (that the surrender of Berwick to the English on 24 August 1482." Whatever date one chooses, the matter seems open to question.
25. C.P.R., 1476-1487, p. 147.
29. For the names of those attainted see Rot. Par., vol. 6, p. 276.
33. Hampton, loc. cit.
34. Rot. Par., vol. 6, p. 397-98.
35. Norris was knighted after the battle. See Brooke, op. cit., p. 314.
36. Gairdner, Letters and Papers, p. lvi. This letter, written by Thomas Kilsington to Maximilian of Austria in 1507, refers to the former's support of Edmund de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk.

Helen Maurer
California

Illustrations by Susan Dexter. Lovell shields, tomb, Church of St. Kenelm, Minster Lovell.

MINSTER LOVELL

The perfect time to see Minster Lovell may be in the early evening, just before a light rain begins to fall. The grey light lends an extra softness to the already romantic ruins. Quiet and isolation enhance the intense feeling that this is a place where you can almost touch the fifteenth century. It was on such an evening that I experienced the magic of Minster Lovell.

The turn off to A40 between Burford and Oxford could easily be missed. Signs indicating the village are enigmatic about the ruins. It was only after passing the mill and hotel that we found a sign for them. A lane lined with picturesque cottages and overhanging trees leads to the ruins of the house. Ricardians are fortunate enough to be able to see beyond the broken walls and touch the past.

The ruins are of the house are between the church and the Windrush River. Although only a few walls are left at their full height, it is quickly apparent that this was a magnificent manor house, not a fortress. Three sides of the house face a courtyard, with the fourth side open to the river. A butressed enclosing wall separates the courtyard from the river. A airy, almost surprisingly close to the house, flowing slowly past the reedy banks. The tranquillity of the setting struck me as a great contrast to the windswept dales of Yorkshire that Richard and Francis had known at Middleham.

Two things impressed me about the ruins of Minster Lovell: fireplaces and arches. The fireplaces and their accompanying flues have left their imprint on the remaining walls. The comfort of the family was obviously a consideration in providing heat for the various rooms. The gently pointed arches lend a grace to the building at every turn. An arched gateway leads to a small courtyard on the north side of the house, providing a lovely view of St. Kenelm's.

The mansion of the house is from the fifteenth century, as is the octagonal baptismal font. The church looks small from the outside, but is surprisingly spacious within. This is due to its cruciform shape with a central crossing beneath the tower.

The neatly mown lawn gives no indication of the underground chamber that legend says was the tomb of Francis Lovell. But, that is just as well. I didn't want to see where he had died, but where he had lived....

Mary Miller
New Mexico

FRIDESWISE

Is there a Ricardian anywhere who hasn't paused upon initially seeing "Frideswide" and wondered about Francis' sister's unusual name?

Frideswide was supposed to have been the daughter of a prince [Didan] of a district on the Upper Thames. She wanted to become a nun, but was pursued by a lover 'whom some say was a king'. She prayed for help, and he was stricken blind. She then prayed for him, and he recovered his sight. She founded a nunnery of St. Mary's on the site of present Oxford. Her motto was 'Whatever is not God is nothing'. She is the Patroness of Oxford, and lived in the eighth century.

Mary Donermeier, Massachusetts
RICHARD NEVILLE, EARL OF WARWICK
(Nov. 22, 1428 - Apr. 17, 1471)

For nearly two decades, Richard Neville was the linchpin around which English politics swung. As a member of the powerful northern family of Neville, Richard would, naturally, occupy a position of authority and prestige, but events were to develop such that the actions would affect not only the political fortunes of family, but of English history itself.

As the eldest son of the earl of Salisbury, Richard would one day inherit that not insignificant estate and title, thus qualifying him as a suitable spouse for Anne de Beauchamp, daughter of the earl of Warwick. To reinforce this union of the families, Richard's sister, Cecily, was married to Henry de Beauchamp, Anne's brother. What could not be foreseen, at the time of the marriages, was that Neville would one day claim that title and the power accruing to it.

Henry, the last male of the Beauchamp line, died in 1445, leaving one child who died in 1449. The entire de Beauchamp inheritance should then have devolved to Neville, the being the only full-blooded sibling of Henry de Beauchamp. Thus, Richard Neville could, through right of his father's title and peerage of the earldom of Warwick, inherit all the lands. However, his assumption of the position was prohibited due to the political power structure of the day. A half-sister of Henry and Anne de Beauchamp had married the Duke of Somerset. Thus, the inheritance should have gone to Margaret. It would take more than five years for Neville to be able to attain the full wealth of his title. During this time, he would do the best he could to bring the title and estate to the position he felt it belonged.

The alliance which made possible the Neville ascendancy was forged out of mutual need, rather than familial devotion. When Richard, Duke of York returned to England in 1450, determined to take his place in the highest echelon of government, he found his wife's powerful brother, Salisbury, firmly in the king's camp. However, in 1453, following several skirmishes with members of the house of Percy, strong Lancastrian adherents, Salisbury deemed a realignment of his family's allegiances to be expeditious. Validation of this was clearly seen when York was named Protector of the Realm in 1454, during the first of Henry VI's periods of incapacity. It was then that Richard Neville was named the King's Lieutenant of the North. In 1455, following several skirmishes with members of the Percy house, strong Lancaster adherents, the Earl of Salisbury needed a new ally, and Neville was the one he chose, enabling him to grasp, and retain, the entire honor and estates of the earldom of Warwick.

York's first protectorate lasted less than one year and, by February 1455, Somerset was back in power. Neville's firm stand in opposition to his wife's uncle was forfeited. At St. Albans, 1455, Richard Neville brother in arms to his father and cousin of March. Here, he labored to strengthen his position by engineering the capture of the Calais castle. He then that Richard Neville was able to attain the full wealth of his title. However, his assumption of the position was prohibited due to the political power structure of the day. A half-sister of Henry and Anne de Beauchamp had married the Duke of Somerset. Thus, the inheritance should have gone to Margaret. It would take more than five years for Neville to be able to attain the full wealth of his title. During this time, he would do the best he could to bring the title and estate to the position he felt it belonged.

With the English nobles having being feeding among themselves, the coastline of England had been ravaged at will by pirates and freebooters. In April, 1456, with morale at its lowest and unpaid debts at their height, Warwick set about re-establishing English military superiority. He knew the battle would continue to the Death. Margaret, knew the battle would continue to the Death.

For Richard Neville, that climb to such political heights had been rapid and, at first, unexpected. Nonetheless, the triumphs spawned a confidence in his own importance and destiny. He, and the nation, had witnessed his ability to control events and to rise above adversities and setbacks. Henry had been an inept, puppet of a king. York had blundered incredibly in his handling of the conflict. However, he was a man used to the court and was able to adapt to what he could achieve. In that golden autumn of 1460, his presence shadowed England like some giant Colossus. Was it then predictable that the arrogance which had nurtured his greatness would eventually lead to his bloody end at Barnet Field? If, and it was, would he . . . could he have done any differently.

FOOTNOTES

1. Bulletin of Historical Research, iii, 1979, M. A. Hicks
2. RHSR, vol. 36, p. 119, J. R. Lander
3. Warwick the Kingmaker, p.56, P. M. Kendall

Mary Beary
New Hampshire
For the Society's Stocking

Remember Richard on your holiday gift list! To further the growth of the non-fiction library, we suggest the following titles or subject areas as welcome donations to our collection. Some are available from Publications; others can be ordered through your favorite bookstores. Please call Helen Mauer at (716) 708-0417 to be sure that 15 other people haven't got the same idea for a gift.

Richard III and the city of York, booklet, available from Publications, $5.00

The Battle of Towton: Palm Sunday 29 March 1461, by Graham Hudson, pamphlet, available from Publications, $4.00

Ricardian Britain, by Carolyn Hammond, softcover, available from Publications, $5.00

A Gazetteer of Yorkshire in the 15th Century, by Mary O'Regan and Arthur Cockerill, softcover, available from Publications, $4.50

Richard III: an Annotated Bibliography, by James Moore, Garland Publishing, 1985, $36.00 (0-8240-9112-4)

The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Proverbs, A. Simpson, ed. OUP, 1892-3

Proverbs are words to the wise (1513) which have centered the common speech and thus established their validity, for "What everyone says must be true." (1400) Some were old in the time of Aristotle ("One nail drives out another"), some as new as the computer ("Garbage in - garbage out"). They are law (Murphy's, Gresham's) and love ("Red sky in the morning", "If you can't be good, be careful") . Wycliffe gave us the exhibition ape and a San Antonio newspaperman fathered the fat lady whose arie concludes the opera in 1795.

If the editor did his own research, he obviously has tastes both catholic and trans-Atlantic; I could go on...and on...and on. We could also use books on heraldry, arms and armor, costume, castles and architecture, etc. Please see the non-fiction list for what we already have; then help us fill in some of the blanks.

Helen Mauer

"forget my lines, i mess up the timing, nobody laughs at me...what kind of fool am i!"
the Yorkist aspirations. There is only one reference to the murder of the Princes: "It has been conjectured that Henry, not Richard II, murdered the young princes in the Tower..."

This book, however, is not one to read, but to been conjectured that Henry, not Richard II, reference to the murder of the Princes: "It has the Yorkist aspirations." There is only one presentation with some wonderful illustrations, both black and white and color. The section on the Plantagenets has thirty of them. Unfortunately, the sources of the pictures are not given.

Anyone who likes that sort of book and the Plantagenets, as I do, will enjoy leafing through this attractive volume.

Mary Durnerner Massachusetts

From the Shelves of the Society Library


This book is not so much a biography of England's first printer as a fascinating glimpse of the times in which he lived (1427-1492). The few references to Richard III are neutral to reasonably complimentary, but the emphasis placed on either the monarchy or the nobility is minimal in comparison with other works covering the same era. Mr. Hindley has chosen, instead, to focus on the common man, on the rising merchant class, their interests, and their way of life. Employing a consistently smooth-flowing style, the author takes one through the labyrinth of average life in medieval England.

For those interested in background; in those various trades as they were actually practiced in those earliest years of dawning awareness of the Guilds, to the surprising rise of a few, female entrepreneurs in an age generally considered to be one of the least conducive to that sort of thing, to a wealth of description of the world over who would love to know where the authors got that bit of information! Richard III is a treasure-trove of information on regional dialects often mistaken for French or German in other parts of England, a nation is political unrest, but one of ever burgeoning middle class power and affluence. It is the story of many individuals, including Caxton, but not unlike him, and, at such, provides a unique, well-balanced compendium of information about life in fifteenth century England.

For that alone, it deserves attention, but for those who prefer a more direct connection to the Ricardian saga, the author has included an addendum which expresses one of the most unusual, and even ironical priestly, explanations for Clarence's "butt of malmsey" I've ever encountered.

J. C. Gall
Ohio

Note: England In the Age of Caxton is not only available through the Society Research Library, but can be purchased from the Scholar's Book Outlet. For further information on this source, see the "Laid and Layout" column.

RICHARD III: STILL LISTING?

While sorting through my Ricardian files recently, I thumbed through a few back issues of The Register of the Ricardian Society Library. I came across an article by Professor Louis J. Biscoe of San Jose State University dealing with the treatment of Richard III has recently in educational textbooks. Re-reading the Professor's article in turn reminded me of a book I recently read.

The Book of Royal Lists is a tantalizing, often hilarious, gem and will provide a fascinating read for anyone interested in English royalty of almost any age. The book contains a number of references of interest to Ricardians. I have broken the entries into the following categories:

Those that are "Positive and/or Essentially Correct":

1. Richard III — "The last king to die in battle."
2. Contemporary Misconception — "Richard was a hunchback."
3. Correction — "No contemporary evidence suggests this to be true. The elderly Countess of Desmond remembered King Richard III as a handsome man in his nineties, except for his brother Edward, [he] was very well made."
4. The Blue Boar Pub — "The [White] Bear was the nickname of King Richard III, and was a popular pub name in his day. After the Battle of Bosworth, publican switched their allegiance and retitled their pubs, The Blue Boar."
5. "King Edward V reigned from April - June 1483, and was deposed on 25 June, 1483."
6. "King Richard III reigned 2 years, 2 months, 1483-5."
7. "King Richard III and Anne Neville were crowned June 7, 1483 at Westminster Abbey by Cardinal Bouchier, Archbishop of Canterbury."
8. "King Richard III died of a skull fracture from an axe at Bosworth Field."
9. "Last words of English Kings: 'I will die King of England. I will not budge one foot! Treason! Treason!' [Note: The book attributes these words in 1485 to Richard III."
10. "In 1483, three kings reigned: Edward IV, Edward V, Richard III."

Those entries that are "Wrong" or at least "Questionable":

1. "Henry VI was murdered by Glouster in the Tower of London."
2. "In 1478, the Duke of Clarence, brother of King Richard III, was drowned in a butt of malmsey."
3. "Edward V was never crowned, probably murdered in the Tower of London by Richard III."
4. Elsewhere in the book it says, "Edward V was possibly smothered in the Tower at the age of 12."
5. It is also noteworthy that Richard's age at his death is twice given incorrectly; once at 36 years, and again at 53 years and one month, incorrectly implying that he was born in July. Obviously, had he survived Bosworth, he would have been 33 the following October 2.
There are also several interesting omissions concerning Richard. The first is that the entries under "Institutions Founded by Royalty" do not include his important role in the founding of Magdalen College, Oxford or the College of Arms, London. The authors also fail to mention Richard's two illegitimate children, Katherine Plantagenet and John of Gloucester.

Here are some additionally interesting items:

1. **Royal Extravagance** - The extensive menu for King Henry VI's Coronation Banquet included red soup in which white lines were swimming, golden leopards immersed in custard and the head of a leopard crowned with ostrich feathers.

2. **Unusual Personal Possessions** - "Henry VII's most treasured possession was St. George's left leg." (It always thought there was something peculiar about him.)

3. **Abandoned Royal Plans** - "Towards the end of his life, Henry VII planned a crusade against the Turks. He abandoned the idea when a whisper round of the court raised only eleven guineas.

4. **Physical Perilistories** - "Edward IV is acknowledged to have been the tallest king of England, standing well over 6 feet tall, and his claim to be the handsomest has not so far been challenged.

5. **Children Late in Life** - "Elizabeth Woodville, Queen Consort of Edward IV was 43 when her last child, Princess Bridget, was born.

6. **Riches and Poverty** - "Before he died, Henry VII arranged for no less than 10,000 masses to be said for repose of his soul." [Was he feeling particularly guilty about something??]

7. **Royalty Says No** - "King Edward IV twice refused Sir Thomas Malory a pardon from imprisonment."


9. **Royal Wives** - "King Henry VII checks out the Queen of Naples. Before meeting his intended bride, the widowed Queen of Naples, King Henry VII sent envoys with very strict instructions: They were to find out whether she was tall simply because of her height, whether she had large breasts and paps whether they be big or small; to mark whether there appear any hair about her lips or nor; to discover how much she ate and drank, and one final instruction, 'that they endeavor them to speak with the said young queen fasting ... to observe whether she breathe strongly; to note whether she be wretched, bloody, trayals of the man Richmond calls, 'the wretched, bloody, and usurping boar.'"

A particular brilliance, then, of the 1984-85 Royal Shakespeare Company production of Richard III, directed by Bill Alexander and starring Antony Sher, was its successful blending of theatricality and morality. The looming, but beautiful Gothic sets, the ominous tomb, the intelligent abhorrence of Margaret, Elizabeth, and the Duchess of Gloucester, and Richmond's quiet heroism were more, usually, been polarized between moral and aesthetic extremes. On the one side, we have the tragic heroism imagined by Charles Lamb and portrayed by Edmund Kean or Lawrence Olivier in his 1955 film, immorality made beautiful by the intensity of the usurper's intellect. On the other stands a Leo Tolstoy or a Samuel Johnson who particularly abhor villains made beautiful, and criticize the dramatic license for this aesthetic and moral indirections. Yet theatrical critics howl in dismay when George Frederick Cooke or Ian Holms accentuate Richard's ugliness, and apparently love without misgivings the charismatic portrayal of the man Richmond calls, 'the wretched, bloody, and usurping boar.'

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In a letter in the Summer issue of the Ricardian Register, a writer asked Mary Miller whether she regards Shakespeare's play The Tragedy of Richard the Third (c. 1590–94) as "historically sound."1 This inquiry came from the perspective of a book on the Tower of London, which Miss Miller, in the Spring issue of the Register, had cited for historical inaccuracies. This incident reminds us that the general public (and some of the not-so-general public) is not clear on 15th century English history in relation to Shakespeare's play, despite voluminous research on the subject by historians and Shakespeare scholars.

Some would say the question should have been declared dead in 1844 when Caroline Hotstede showed that the time had long passed when historians, at least knowledgeable historians like her, considered Shakespeare's play factually true. The question of whether Shakespeare's characterization of Richard III, explaining how Shakespeare served his dramatic purposes by introducing anachronisms, by foreshortening historical time, and by mixing actual and theatrical details of Richard III's reign, was one for the 16th century Chronicles. Her understanding of Shakespeare's dramatic use of history in Richard III was remarkably clear compared to most other commentators of her time. The popular, mixed-up edition of Shakespeare's collected edition of 1595 was the publisher of a book on the Tower of London, which MS. Miller, in the Spring issue of her biography provides a ground in their assault upon distorted history.

Throughout the 20th century, historians and literary critics have thoroughly understood the Tudor bias tainting the historicity of Shakespeare's sources for Richard III, not only as found in Thomas More's History of Richard III, but especially in the chronicles of Polydore Vergil, Edward Hall, and Raphael Holinshed. In addition, historical critics such as E.M.W. Tillyard,14 Lily Campbell,15 and Irving Rhiner16 have shown that Elizabethan history plays, including Shakespeare's Richard III, were never intended as strict historical documents, except in the chauvinistic sense that such plays exploited received history for dramatic effect. Most importantly, Rhiner made it clear that Shakespeare's so-called history plays undoubtedly represent a genre of dramatic literature that subsumes history rather than verifies it. Yet, in mid-1986, in the wake of all the research indicating that Shakespeare was a creative dramatist buy never an historian, the question of historical accuracy in Richard III still persists. As I have indicated, Ms. Hasted provided a bridge between the historical and literary appreciation of Shakespearean works which does well to review. Now I shall attempt to strengthen that bridge by concentrating on the proposition that in Richard III the question is not one of historical accuracy, but whether historicity lends itself to the creation of effective drama.

First, how close to Ms. Hasted's balanced view of the play have Ricardians stood? Actually, pretty close. Our examination of Shakespeare in The Ricardian reveals, by and large, a healthy respect for his genius. Scholars have accused him with Thomas More and the Tudor chroniclers of "seem to have been less to compose a factual narrative than a moralistic drama" (p.483).

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Subsequently, over many decades, literary treatment of the biased chronicles grew. According to Richard III, the Wicked King. Thus, according to Churchill, if truly "historical" Richard existed in the English mind by the end of the 16th century, when the so-called chronicle history began to devolve, the Shakespearean narrative concurs with Churchill's depiction and progressively adds to Richard's alleged wickedness. Among Shakespeare's direct sources, Richard III includes Thomas More's The History of King Richard III (c. 1533-27), Polydore Vergil's Anglo History (1536), Richard Grafton's Continuation of Harvy's Chronicle (1543) and A Chronicle at Large (1569-69), Edward Hale's The Union of the Two Noble and Illustrious Families of Lancaster and York (1548), Raphael Holinshed's The Chronicles of England, Scotland, and Ireland (second edition, 1571), Fabian's Chronicle (1516 and later), and perhaps the Memoirs of Phillip de Commines (1568-1564). Source studies have shown that Shakespeare gleaned the main substance of the play from Holinshed, who plagiarized More, Polydore, and Hale, but the interpretation that Shakespeare simply lifted these "historical" sources and rendered them into superior dramatic form in the process of creating his own Richard III. Therefore, to oppose Shakespeare's interpretation to a historical Richard as that of, say, Kendall, would be no more logical than trying to prove Shakespeare's "interpretation by appealing to a traditionalist historian such as John Rowe."

The separation of the King from the character becomes even more feasible if we examine the literary priorities in Shakespeare's play. Indeed, relativists who ignore such elements may be tempted to extend a one-dimensional specification of the play's "historical" character, just as a traditionalist might be equally prone to extend a one-dimensional specification. In contrast, since the late 19th century, literary critics studying the context of the Elizabethan England— an approach known as "historical criticism"— have demonstrated that Shakespeare's Richard III as a personal blend of literary and dramatic conventions. To a great extent, historical criticism of Shakespeare's plays is necessarily grounded in source studies that account for a variety of influences radiating from politics, power, religion, and politics. However, such considerations only modify a dramatic tradition from which emerges Shakespeare's paradoxical villain— his Richard III is a modern, comical, and ambitious character. Briefly, Shakespeare's Richard is a complex literary character, not intended to represent the actual Richard III.

The controversial, but vital, point may be illustrated by examining parallels of character, theme, and action in Richard III and Macbeth. Here it is important to note that literary critics often illustrate the emergence of Shakespeare's "historical" character from the plays by tantalizingly comparing Richard of the plays with Richard III of the Shakespearean stage. Indeed, Lilly Campbell asserts that Shakespeare wrote Richard III with no clear distinction between tragedy and history in mind. Of course, both plays draw on Holinshed, although Shakespeare freely adapted "historical" sources to precisely in the same dramatic shape and almost in exactly the same manner. Finally, their epitaphs bring them to the same judgement: Richard is a "bloody dog" (V.v.2) and Macbeth is a "dead butcher" (V.i.35). Why then, do we accept, even admire, Shakespeare's wicked Macbeth, while we insist his depiction of a wicked Richard III is a travesty of Shakespeare's portrayal of one of his fictional characters, of course, none other than Richard, a tragic villain. Therefore, to oppose Shakespeare's "history play" with an "aspiring mind" who seeks political sovereignty. This figure was
prominent in Renaissance drama from Torchbear: 1561-62, through the early 17th century. Characteristically, he appears in Senecan plays with intellectual rather than popular appeal. Second, he opposes the moral order by being atheistic and satanic, sometimes defying the power of Fortuna. Third, his moral monstroseness is symbolically represented by such unnatural qualities, such as Richard III's hunchback, Edmund's illegitimacy, or Macbeth's swiftest appearance in Duncan's royal robes. Fourth, his career traditionally follows a pyramidal contour of the rise, the triumph, and the fall (the medieval pattern of tragedy based on the de casibus theme). Such pre-Renaissance traditions, as well as contemporary English drama, provide a background for interpreting Shakespeare's first great Aspirer, Richard III, with his conventional elements of tragic career, a deformed body, and an inexorable fate. Finally, the Machiavellian stage villain and the Morality Vice-figure found with the Senecan tyrant almost imperceptibly. On the other hand, Bernard Spivack has firmly established Richard's kinship with the classical antecedents of the Vice-figure, while A.P. Rossiter and John Sherry are among the many who have appreciated the grotesque comic mode that Richard inherited from the Morality plays.

Thus, Shakespeare made use of both classical and native English traditions in pursuit of his dramatic aims, as is further demonstrated by the rich imagery of Clarence's dream (I.iv). Harold P. Brooks has identified many of the classical antecedents in Ovid's Metamorphoses, in the Aeneid, and in Senecan's plays. Other stories have found that Clarence's dream imagery is similar to that of Virginia's classical underworld and to Dante's Inferno. Brooks also identified English sources for the dream in Edmund Spencer's The Faerie Queene (1590, 1596). However, Bahn Stewart relates Clarence's prophetic dream to the medieval dumbshow convention as well as to Elizabethan psychological theory. And Wolfgang H. Clemens finds Clarence's dream more psychologically subtle than Richard's in dream-shape (II.iv), which is itself highly structured in the manner of a Play tradition. According to Robert Presson, both Clarence and Richard experience the medieval type dream known as "prich-of-conscience", which Shakespeare found in his source, which he used as the source for his own Play and, thereby, emphasize the supernatural forces of Good and Evil determining their fates. Shakespeare reshaped Hollinshed's naturalistic dream version of hell in an abstract, artistic concept. Finally, Marjorie Garber sees the iconic patterns of the medieval memento mori ("reminders of mortality") simplified in objects such as skulls in Clarence's dream.

Richard III Society for various reasons -- an interest in genealogical subjects, the excitement of delving into a mystery, the satisfaction of vindicating injustice, and intellectual fascination with the past, among many Americans, an unabashed Angliphile. Of course, each of us would express his or her motive uniquely, but the Society's basic purpose -- the synthesis. In this, at least, Ricardians may take some comfort.

**FOOTNOTES**

1. "Ricardian Post" Ricardian Register (official Publication of the American Branch) 20, No. 2 (Summer, 1986).


9. "Character of Richard III" History Today, August 1954, 511-521. In this detective novel, the protagonist, Scottish Yard detective Alan Grant, discovers through close reading of history and astute deduction that such historians as "the sainted More", Gairdner, and other traditionalists were wrong. Stobart declared that Thomas More's life was a "horror story" so that Richard and Richmond would draw direct parallels and, thereby, emphasize the supernatural forces of Good and Evil determining their fates. Shakespeare reshaped Hollinshed's naturalistic dream version of hell in an abstract, artistic concept. Finally, Marjorie Garber sees the iconic patterns of the medieval memento mori ("reminders of mortality") simplified in objects such as skulls in Clarence's dream.

10. Daughter of Time. London: P. Davies; New York: Dell, 1951. 221 pp. In this detective novel, the protagonist, Scottish Yard detective Alan Grant, discovers through close reading of history and astute deduction that such historians as "the sainted More", Gairdner, and other traditionalists were wrong. Stobart declared that Thomas More's life was a "horror story" so that Richard and Richmond would draw direct parallels and, thereby, emphasize the supernatural forces of Good and Evil determining their fates. Shakespeare reshaped Hollinshed's naturalistic dream version of hell in an abstract, artistic concept. Finally, Marjorie Garber sees the iconic patterns of the medieval memento mori ("reminders of mortality") simplified in objects such as skulls in Clarence's dream.

11. "The Character of Richard III" History Today, August 1954, 511-521. In this detective novel, the protagonist, Scottish Yard detective Alan Grant, discovers through close reading of history and astute deduction that such historians as "the sainted More", Gairdner, and other traditionalists were wrong. Stobart declared that Thomas More's life was a "horror story" so that Richard and Richmond would draw direct parallels and, thereby, emphasize the supernatural forces of Good and Evil determining their fates. Shakespeare reshaped Hollinshed's naturalistic dream version of hell in an abstract, artistic concept. Finally, Marjorie Garber sees the iconic patterns of the medieval memento mori ("reminders of mortality") simplified in objects such as skulls in Clarence's dream.


PLAYWRIGHT'S CORNER

Excerpt from The Final Trial of Richard III by Mary W. Schaller, reprinted by permission from The Dramatic Publishing Company.

RICHARD III's summation to the Jury [The Audience]

RICHARD III: [Rising from his seat and addressing the audience]

'\n
*Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, I stand here before you as I have always stood, alone in my own defense. My reign, as the Prosecution pointed out, was but two years -- one of the shortest in English history and yet it is I who am called the most evil king in that history -- not Henry VIII, nor King John, nor even Oliver Cromwell, but I, Richard III, and why? Because of that final battle on Bosworth Field, I lost my kingdom, my crown, my life and my reputation to a far-flung, illegitimate claimant to the throne, Henry Tudor. History is always written by winners. It was my greatest that MY history -- the one which would give tribute to Tudor and Shakespeare paint me, both writers could not escape mentioning my courage. I was the last English king to die in the line of battle. I did not hide behind my knights as Henry Tudor hidden and called back, "What? Is this the end of a pack horse? As the horse was led across the bridge from the battlefield, my head

struck each post rail in tears -- my head, once adorned and crowned. The Tudor paid ten pounds, one for my wooden coffin and he complained that this small sum was too much. I was buried without honor or mourners in the Grey Friars churchyard, but I did not rest in peace. Late, my coffin was dug up and used a water trough for horses. My bones were thrown into the River Soar. The Tudors and Yorks and Lancasters rest side by side today in Windsor and Westminster under great marble monuments. My bones lie deep in the river's mud, unknown and unremembered. Thus ended Richard III.

Did I kill men? Yes, I won't deny it but only in battle or for treason. "Loyalty Binds Me" was my motto and I was loyal to the death for England. In return, what loyalty has been shown me? Ask those bones in the riverbank. Ask the hundred thousand playgoers who have seen Shakespeare's RICHARD III. Ask any schoolboy in the street and watch him spit on my name. Do I deserve this? Am I worse than any other ruler who ever sat upon England's throne? Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, NOW is the moment I have waited for so long. Now YOU can right the slanders of five centuries. If you believe me to be a better man than history has portrayed me, vote FOR my good name. My fate is in your hands. You have the power to right the wrongs that have been done to me. I beg for justice. I beg for truth. I am in your power. Thank you. [He returns to his seat.]

The play ends with the judge, TIME, giving the Jury, the Audience, his final instructions. Then the BAILIFF polls the Jury: for or against Richard III. The play has a double ending, depending on the vote of the audience. So far, in past performance of this play, Richard III has been acquitted.

Mary W. Schaller
Virginia


In such another company, an actor playing King Richard III came staggering onstage one night and was greeted by rowdies in the audience with yells of "Get off the stage! You're drunk!" The crouchback King straightened to his full height and called back, "What? Me drunk? Wait till you see Buckingham!"

From Maurice Dobbier's All Wrong on the Night, Walker & Co., 1966, New York
The Middle Atlantic Chapter held its first meeting on September 27, 1986 at the Hyattsville Public Library, Hyattsville, Maryland. Over 40 Ricardians attended, representing diverse places as the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and West Virginia.

There were door prizes donated by English Branch member, Joan Townsend, an impromptu discussion of M.A. Scholl's recently published play, "The Final Trial of Richard III," an address on 15th century politics by Tom Schaller, and an overview of the new national bylaws given by Bob Cook. It all was followed by a brief "show and tell" during which members who had brought Ricardian items talked about them and where and when they had been acquired.

Will there be a next time? Of course! Enthusiasm for the formation of a Chapter was overwhelming! In November, several members met for a planning session at which future projects and programs were discussed and the following people chosen to serve as Chapter officers and committee chairpersons: President, Carol Bessette; Vice President/Program Chairman, Mary Schaller; Secretary, Nadine Colbert; Treasurer, Lillian Barker; and Program Consultant, Bob Cook. Any Society member interested in joining the Chapter may contact Carol Bessette, 8351 Taunton Place, Springfield, VA 22152 or Nadine Colbert, 2801 Ashmont Terrace, Silver Springs, MD 20906.

**NEW YORK CITY EFFORTS CONTINUE**

From New York City, Frances Berger sends word that she has heard from a number of Ricardians in that area, and is looking forward to making more contacts after the first of the year, if not before. She also reports that she has a new address for Ricardians interested in NYC activities should contact her at 215 West 22nd Street, New York, NY 10011, (212) 627-8339.

**ANYONE IN MASSACHUSETTS?**

From Massachusetts also comes news of yet another Chapter-in-the-making! John Jettew reports growing interest in the formation of a Chapter there, in Cleveland or John, or becoming involved in Chapter formation, should contact him at 3 Vernon Place, Holyoke, MA 01040.

**CHICAGOLAND CHAPTER**

The Chicagoland Chapter held its annual meeting on October 12th at the Red Lion pub in Chicago. Judy Thomson, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM. There were many new members and guests present, whom we were glad to meet and get to know, especially our two new members chosen at the meeting in Cleveland in July, and approving our Chapter By-Laws, there was much discussion and exchanging of ideas garnered from the Ohio State Renaissance Faire in May and an informal gathering at Ohio University, with Compton Reeves providing tips and fine points on historical research.

The meeting adjourned we were treated to a "The Tudors are nothing" about the formation of a Ricardian group on the Oberlin College campus and we are encouraging such collegiate activities wherever we have the contacts. Anyone in the Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana areas interested in the Chapter may contact Nancy Weitendorf, 1713 Pine Street, Martinez, CA. Andrew will speak on "The Spanish Richards".

The following Chapter officers were elected: Myrna Smith, Houston, Chairman; Pat and Dave Poundstone, Fort Worth, Secretary/Treasurer. The January meeting was discussed and the Harries offered to host the April meeting.

Business concluded, Dale Summers reviewed Richard Marius' Thomas More, which inspired much lively discussion.

Anyone interested in Chapter activities in the Southwest Chapter area should contact Pat & Dave Poundstone, 4914 Overton Avenue, Fort Worth, TX 76133. For an introduction to our new Chapter Chairman, Patricia (Pat) Poundstone, please read the Register, where Roxane has written a profile of Myrna Smith, Pat Poundstone.
BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

Sunday, November 7, 1986

All of the current Executive Board Members were in attendance when the meeting was called to order at 1:00 P.M. by Chairman Murph.

Minutes of prior board meeting were read and approved. Treasurer Dixler reported cash and liquid assets in excess of $20,000. He commented that our biggest quarterly expenditures are for the Ricardians. It was agreed by the Board that there is a need to simplify the case of our monetary transactions; the Board will study the best way in which this can be accomplished.

Dixler reported that he has asked for an additional extension from IRS for filing 1985 returns.

Discussion of the records and books the past Board attempted to obtain from past officers indicated that there are still a few items we could request. It was agreed that the present Board would try for these records, but no legal action is anticipated.

In order to assist with Chapter formation and continuity, it was agreed a set of guidelines for Chapters, as well as an officer to co-ordinate activities was needed. Roxane Murph recommended Mary Miller and will contact her accordingly.

Treasurer Ditler led a discussion of plans for a budget. The Board will act as the Budget Committee and keep track of the basic projections, get people to make reports on a quarterly basis, set up standards and guidelines to make reporting uniform, and submit timely reports for the Board’s review. Cook and Rikc suggest every 90 days.

With agreement on the need to outline tasks for Committee Chairman, Cook was appointed to prepare these guidelines and submit them to the Board for amendments and approval. Murph stated that the tenure of a committee chairman should be for one year, and not a lifetime position. Tenure is set out in the bylaws under Article VII, 7.2.

In discussion of Article X, notification to members of changes in the By-laws, etc., Rikc pointed out that board meeting minutes are published in the Register, and any changes would thus be public to members. Members may contact the Board if they object to individual changes. This is in effect notification to all members.

For purposes of IRS, we use a calendar year basis. In order to simplify the number of financial periods involved, it was agreed that the Society records would be kept on a calendar year basis as well. The revised bylaws call for a fiscal year for the Society of July 1. As we have a change of officers in October and another accounting period for IRS, the number of accounting periods is unwieldy and needlessly complicated. The Board agreed to revise the bylaws to require the calendar year as its fiscal year, and thus concur with the IRS period.

The Board further agreed that officers will serve from November 1 to November 1. This plan allows for a transition period that is more workable than officers changing at the AGM.

Therefore, the By-Laws Article 9.4 is amended to read as follows:

Article 9.4 of the Bylaws is amended to read fiscal year shall commence on January 1 of each year.

Carol Rikc suggested that a Committee Chairman is needed for Tours. This individual will be in charge of all tours and travel that is co-coordinated or sponsored within the Society, and disseminate information to members who plan travel to England. A number of pending requests could be referred to that individual. Rikc recommended Lillian Barker, and it was agreed that she would contact Lillian by telephone and solicit her acceptance.

Discussion of cost of the Register and its importance to the Society was inconclusive; it was agreed that Rikc would submit suggestions and information on costs.

The next meeting was called for Sunday, January 4, 1987 at 1:00 P.M.
as we were now somewhat behind schedule. Dr. Buchanan Sharp, Professor of Medieval History at UC Santa Cruz, spoke on the topic of minority rule, in particular the role therein of the fifteenth century Lord Protector. He did not attempt Richard's political motivations, per se, a topic about which he assured me he knew that we knew more than he did. Instead, Dr. Sharp discussed the careers and works of Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester and Richard, Duke of York, and how these events might have influenced Richard of Gloucester's rapid seizure of power after the death of Edward IV. To be Lord Protector, Dr. Sharp pointed out, was to have all of the responsibility and none of the power of a king; ultimately, the only way to protect oneself as Lord Protector was to become king.

Dr. Sharp was followed hard upon [and high time] by a delicious roast beef luncheon. Then to business...

Morris McGee, sounding [and perhaps feeling] rather like Margaret Thatcher the evening after the bombing of the Tory Party Conference in Brighton in 1984, opened the meeting with the sentiment that while everyone said we could never have an AGM on the West Coast, it would never work; no one would come; the very fact that we were there proved them wrong. Applause...

Carole Rike were introduced and gave their reports. Helen Maurer, as non-fiction Librarian, announced that a library list was once more available and that procedures for checking out books had been re-established. I obtained a copy of the list after the meeting and was pleasantly surprised to see how much our library had grown since I received my last list from Libby Haynes, circa 1975.

We passed the By-Laws and, consequently, elected the five-person slate of officers, who were introduced following Mary Jane Battaglia's election report.

Roxane Murph, as our new Chairman, spoke briefly about the re-organisation and redirection of the American Branch. Carole Rike was the first recipient of the "Dickon" award, a plaque bearing an etched copy of the NPG portrait of Richard, presented by Morris for her hard work on behalf of the Branch. Laughter and applause...

The author and producer of the play The Third Richard, at the Fort Mason Center through Sunday, were introduced. I was sorry to miss the play, an award winner by Illinois member John Kirk, but I had other commitments for the weekend.

Raffle prizes were awarded. I didn't win one. Next year in Dallas, perhaps.

Books for Joyce and Chuck Holmes and Jacqueline Biscalop, who put the meeting together: food, speaker, discussion groups, business, et al.

The meeting adjourned. People ran around exchanging addresses, and drifted out into the still glorious summer.

Rolling Paxton, Washington

HELP WANTED!!

If you would be willing to handle the back-issues of Ricardians, stock these issues and mailing them out to members on order, please contact Carole Rike.

We desperately need any members who can help with composition of the Newsletter on microcomputers. If you have access to an IBM or IBM-compatible computer, we could use your help in preparing files for the newsletter. If your machine is not compatible, but you have a modem that could be used for downloading files, this also would be helpful. Please contact Carole Rike.
MEMBERSHIP REPORT

At publication time, we have 664 members for 1986-87. Of these, 56 are new to the Society. A large number of those who have renewed are individuals who were not members in 1985-86. If we receive renewals of the majority of last year's members, we may begin to approach the goal of 1,000 members for the Society.

Several months ago, one member wrote and asked "Is it necessary to be bigger to be better?" The answer is, of course, no. In America we even at times tolerate size with inefficiency and lack of service. However, if our goal is to work towards an even-handed view of Richard III and his legitimate views that join us, the greater our impact and influence!!

And yes, we now have a member in South Dakota. We plan to bring you an update of our membership demographics in the next issue.

For those of you who have written regarding your membership card for the current year, cards are being mailed out bulk-mail in December to conserve on postage (and time!).

For those of you who have questioned the new dues structure for the current year, we are no longer offering the student rate of $15 due to pure economics. We are offering full membership to members of your household over 18, for $5.00 for each additional member. This will help bring some of our spouses out of the limbo in which they have previously existed, giving them a vote off the student rate of $15.

Several months ago, one member wrote and asked "Is it necessary to be bigger to be better?" For those of you who have written regarding your membership card for the current year, cards are being mailed out bulk-mail in December to conserve on postage (and time!).

Correspondence indicates that there is some confusion on the part of newer members regarding the Chapters and the American Society. The American Society is affiliated with the English Register for paper stock only, at cost. If the American Society and American members enjoy all the benefits of membership direct with England, including publications. Chapters of the American Society are local groups that have banded together to provide more immediate fellowship than our national Society can always offer; they are approved Chapters of the Society, and in order to be a member of a Chapter, one must be a member of the American Society.

Carole Rike, Membership Secretary

RICHARD III SOCIETY, INC.
TREASURER'S REPORT AS OF 9/30/86

INCOME:

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TOTAL INCOME: $24,628.53

ADVANCES TO COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN:

| Library | 150.00 |
| Research | 100.00 |
| TOTAL ADVANCES: $250.00 |

EXPENSES:

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TOTAL EXPENSES: $26,589.77

CASH ON HAND: $17,604.69

Scholarship Fund:

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<td>Current Year Donations*</td>
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<td>Total Scholarship Fund: $8009.69</td>
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Comments:
Income and expense for the period are from approximately November 1, 1985 and through 9/30/86. 242 members had renewed for 1986-87. A goodly number are renewals from members who were not paid members in 1985-86.

Experiences are not typical for the Society - note the collection fees and legal fees in current year and telephone costs. These are comparable to costs in prior years, from available records, but in need of economy. Newsletter expense is highly understated, as no printing costs are included; charges are for paper stock only, at cost. If the Register is printed quarterly at a commercial establishment, estimated costs would be $1000-1200 per quarter.

*Scholarship Donations for current period include donations specifically to offset the high cost of collection from the prior officers.

**A portion of library donations for current year include donations specifically to offset the high cost of collection from the prior officers.

Respectfully submitted,
Carole Rike, Treasurer 1985-86

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23RD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, SAN FRANCISCO, CA.
OCTOBER 4, 1986

The 23rd annual General Meeting of the Richard III Society, Inc. was held on October 4, 1986 at Bardelli's Restaurant, 243 O'Farrell St., in San Francisco, CA. After registration, a social hour was held and members were urged in full in balls. Ricardian items for sale were snapped up almost as soon as they hit the table. Members had the opportunity to get acquainted while participating in various workshops of Ricardian interest. Following lunch, Dr. Buchanan Sharp spoke on 'Minority Rule'. Dr. Morris McGee, presiding over the AGM, lifted his glass in a toast to King Richard III.

The General/Business Meeting convened at approximately 2:00 P.M. Mary Jane Battaglia, 1985 Recording Secretary called the meeting to order. Mary Jane stated that we had 739 members currently enrolled in the Society and that 110 were present. Dr. McGee quipped at this point that our Society was legitimate whereas the Tudors were an illegitimate one.

Dr. McGee introduced Carole Carole, Secretary/Treasurer, and Mary Jane Battaglia, Recording Secretary. He read a letter from Prof. Veronica M. Kennedy, who had been unable to serve her term of office last year.

Joyce Hollins, Chairman of the AGM, was called upon and welcomed everyone to the AGM, acknowledging the efforts of Co-chairman Jacqueline Bloomquist. Due to the success of the sales table, members were promised to have an additional opportunity to purchase Ricardian items following the meeting.

A new award, The Dickon, was presented to Carole Rike by Dr. McGee. In presenting the award, Dr. McGee announced it was for 'Services above and beyond the call of duty'. This will become an annual award.

It was agreed to dispense with the reading of the 1985 AGM minutes, as they have previously been published. Rike gave the Treasurer's Report.

It was further agreed that the budget would not be adopted until the new board has a chance to look over the funds available and past year's statement. Rike proposed that we should be on a calendar year basis, with both accounting and budget.

Dr. McGee gave a report on the William Schanck Memorial Scholarship Fund. He stressed the worth of advancing the knowledge of Richard and his times.

Helen Mauer, Research Librarian, gave a report for herself and Tony Franks, Research Officer. Linda McLatchie's report was also presented by Battaglia.

Battaglia read the following results on adoption of the new by-laws: There were 255 mail votes and 51 AGM votes in favor, 10 mail votes and 0 AGM votes against, 10 mail abstained, as well as 1 AGM. The bylaws are passed. Battaglia made a motion that 'this gathering recommends to the newly elected officers that Article X of the bylaws be reconsidered and rewritten so as to provide for 1) Notification to the membership of proposed changes and 2) Provision of ratification of these changes by the General Membership. This motion was seconded and passed by a show of hands.

Following an introduction of new officers, there was a raffle and door prizes were given away. The meeting adjourned at 3:30 P.M.
WORKSHOP LEADERS:
A very special word of thanks and heartfelt appreciation for jobs very well done comes from Joyce Hollingsworth, Roseann Marth and Mary Miller, Helen Maurer, Pamela Garrett, Barbara Hirsch and Phyllis Young, Morris McGee and Kenneth Shepherd, all of whom conducted workshops at the 1986 AGM. Without their unique contributions of time and talent the AGM would have, indeed, been lacking.

CANADIAN MEETINGS OPEN TO U.S. VISITORS:
All American members of the Society are invited to participate in the Canadian monthly meetings when in the Toronto area. Meetings are held the second Sunday of each month. Contact Sheila O'Connor, 155 Keewatin Ave, Aprilia, Ontario, ONT M6C 2S1, CANADA for further information on location and times.

PEND PAL WANTED:
An English member of the Society writes in search of a correspondent in America. A 19 year old female student of English and Latin at Durham University in the North of England, Kimberly Wilson seeks either male or female individuals of the years 18-25 who would be interested in sharing an interest in Richard III. Kimberly can be reached at: 82 Ecclesfield Road, Chapeltown, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, S30 4TE, England.

ATTENTION PLAYWRIGHTS:
The Actor's Guild of Lexington, Kentucky is accepting one-act and full length original scripts for the guild's second annual New Theatre Festival next April. Contact Sheila O'Connor, 155 Keewatin Ave, Aprilia, Ontario, ONT M6C 2S1, CANADA for further information on location and times.

BOOKS:
For anyone trying to expand their personal Ricardian library, or wishing to make a needed and worthwhile contribution to the Society library, the Scholar's Book Outlet, 623 Ramsey Avenue, Box 605, Hillside, New Jersey, 07205 is a veritable gold mine which deserves our attention. Their recent sale catalogue featured an impressive array of hard-to-find or out-of-print works on medieval England at exceptionally attractive prices.

In a recent issue, the historical oddities and sometimes laughable items available through the Barnes & Noble catalogue were mentioned. In all fairness, it should also be pointed out that a more recent Barnes & Noble catalogue contained 14 selections that would make interesting additions to a Ricardian library. None were directly related to Richard, but would provide worthwhile background on the era, or comparison with other authors' works on similar topics. For the history buff, this is still a valuable source, even though a lot does have to be waded through and rejected.

CONDOLENCES:
Our condolences and sympathies are extended to the family and friends of longtime Society member, Mrs. Jean Taylor, of New Haven, CT, who passed away in April, 1986.

NEW FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBER:
Dr. Morris McGee, Chairman of the Schallek Memorial/Graduate Fellowship Committee announces the addition of Dr. Lorraine Attridge of the Bloomington Cross College Department of History to his committee, considering candidates for the Society's annual award. We welcome Dr. Attridge's assistance and expertise in this vitally ongoing contribution to the study of medieval history.

CROSS WORD PUZZLE ENTHUSIASTS:
While we are thrilled with the sort of international kudos Toby Freidenberg's crossword puzzles (see Canadian letter in the Post, this issue) have gained for the Register and were ecstatic to see another one in the current issue, Toby is begging for help from all you Ricardian trivia buffs that the Cross Clues, clues, and more clues are all we need! Ideas can be sent to Toby at 24 Rae Lane, Norwich, CT 06350.

ANSWERS TO FALL PUZZLE

Mail to: Toby Freidenberg, Register Director, Actor's Guild of Lexington, Inc., P. O. Box 517, Lexington, Kentucky, 40522.

ACROSS CLUES

1. the historic doubter
2. a clever detective
3. pastime of the 19th c.
4. Marlowe's choice for queen
5. a kind of arrow
6. Henry VIII's obsession
7. difficult bishop
8. of the thumb
9. a loyal soldier
10. a writer of prose
11. a widow's hero (2 words)
12. Edward's mother
13. a student of arms
14. the Irish king
15. Edward's kinsman
16. the chosen one
17. the blood of Christ
18. a widowed queen
19. a royal child
20. a loyal servant
21. the crab
22. the royal scepter
23. a loyal subject
24. a medieval term
25. a court official
26. a court official
27. a ship's officer
28. a court official
29. a court official
30. a court official
31. a court official
32. a court official
33. a court official
34. a court official

DOWN CLUES

1. a perfect place
2. a place of worship
3. a place of worship
4. a place of worship
5. a place of worship
6. a place of worship
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Toby Freidenberg
Connecticut
Local One-Man Play Depicts Richard III

By ELIZABETH JUDEN

Britain's King Richard III had a reputation for usurpation, child murder and a psychopathic hunger for power thanks to the writings of William Shakespeare and other British authors.

Dr. Charles Taylor, a University of Mary Hardin-Baylor drama professor, will give a somewhat different perspective of the much-maligned monarch in a one-man play titled "Devil Dickie 3 I's" (or "Richard III Revisited") at 8 p.m. Tuesday at the Cultural Activities Center.

Tickets for the production, which Taylor wrote, directs and performs, are $5 for adults and $3 for students with discounts available for CAC members.

"(Richard) has been accused. I guess, of everything including infanticide and usurpation. But no evidence that I've found proves any of that," Taylor said. "It's most important to me that I take a kind of historian's point of view, in a sense, that I don't take a point of view and let evidence show the truth.

"It's right there in the words. It's a matter of letting the evidence speak for itself."

"Devil Dickie 3 I's" first was presented at the University of Texas at Austin. Taylor also performed it for Teatrefest '86, the Texas Educational Theatre Association convention in Houston, and is tentatively scheduled to perform his show at Salado's Tablerock Festival in the summer.

Richard III, who lived from 1452 to 1485, was the last of England's Plantagenet kings and the last of the British monarchs to be killed in battle, Taylor said.

"Sir Thomas More and others have accused Richard (ex-post facto) of usurpation and of the murder of his nephews, Edward IV's two sons," Taylor wrote in the program notes for his Houston production.

"William Shakespeare, in two of his plays, unleashed the most formidable psychopath in dramatic literature, via the character of Richard, making him a crippled hunchback with a withered arm in addition to everything else."

Taylor said he is not trying to whitewash Richard, "although I feel Richard has taken a bad rap for things that haven't been proven.

"I'll be breaking no new ground here. Everything in my script is available to all historians. I'm not telling anybody anything they couldn't read themselves. I'm merely dramatizing it.

"And although Richard has been dead for 500 years, wars — academic ones — are still broiling around him, Taylor said.

"Two vocal and zealous groups, the anti-Ricardian Tudors and the pro-Ricardian Plantagenet supporters, hold opposite and violent views on the subject of Richard's character.

"The Hollingshead Chronicles was pseudo-history written for Tudor historians. Shakespeare took many of his thematic structures from the chronicles. But Shakespeare was writing to please. It was plum fashionable to hate Plantagenets if you were a Tudor."

"Today, historians on either side still hate or love Richard depending on their leanings, Taylor said. "The groups have almost come to blows," he said. "I think it's all kind of silly. After 500 years, who cares? Which is why I don't try to break new ground.

"Although the research into Richard's life and the historical accuracy are important to the actor, Taylor maintained, a one-man play in order to return to the stage.

"Once you're a performer, (with a medium of such) you have to get back up there; you find yourself missing it. One wants to perform.

"Now Taylor is a little more finicky about his theatrical projects than when he was younger. "I have to want to direct that play or act that part. It has to be something I'm compelled to attack," he said.

"There's no substitute for energy or vitality. I may not play it brilliantly, but I play it energetically. And I defy anyone half my age to do as well," he said.

"I'm doing this because this is what I do. It's natural for me to appear periodically on the stage. Just like preachers have to preach and teachers have to teach. I'm an actor and I have to get up on stage."

Shakespeare's Richard III is one of the characters Taylor liked best but never had the opportunity to play, he said.

"I had never done a one-man show," he said. "None of extant material was right for me physically, so I decided to write my own.

"Taylor has done his share of theatrical writing and is leaning now more toward the literary aspects of drama that the performance aspects, he said.

"He holds degrees in drama from UT and took additional studies in forensics at UMHB. Last summer Taylor earned a bachelor's degree in English from UMHB and he is pursuing other graduate courses in English and is writing a novel as part of a project through Texas A&M University in Bryan-College Station."

"I find more and more that I'm leaning in the direction of literature and creative writing," Taylor said.

"I find more and more I'm leaning in the direction of literature and creative writing."

Dr. Charles Taylor Portrays King Richard III

By ELIZABETH JUDEN

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