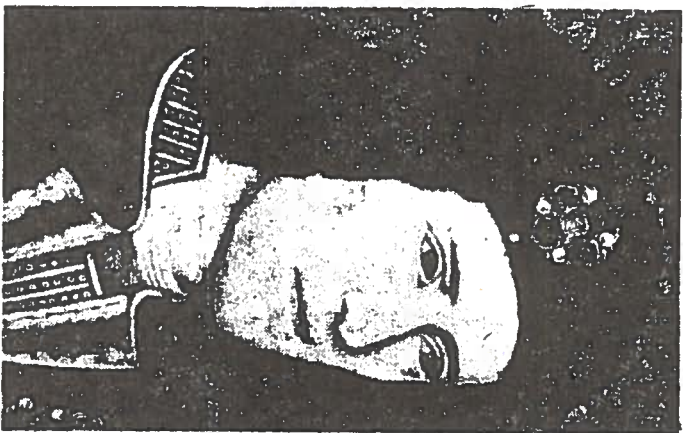


NAMES

Boston Globe,
August 23rd,
sent by Charles T. Wood



RICHARD III, REX STOUT AND THE AD

In yesterday's Boston Globe and other US newspapers there appeared an In Memoriam notice for Richard Plantagenet, placed by several branches of the Richard III Society, Inc. The society claims it has 2000 members throughout the world, all of whom believe that King Richard, who died in battle on Aug. 22, 1485, was a good man who was maligned, especially by Shakespeare and St. Thomas More. As Richard said in Shakespeare's play: "Every tale condemns me for a villain." The late mystery writer Rex Stout, who liked King Richard, was asked in 1970 to write the in memoriam notice, and society vice chairman William Hogarth, a Long Island art professor, said Stout used the word Laodiceans in the notice "to get people's antennae up and send them scurrying to the dictionary."

ABOUT THE LAODICEANS . . .

In 1970, at the urging of Bill Hogarth, Rex Stout wrote the *In Memoriam* which was repeated this year. Mr. Stout had shown himself a fierce partisan of Richard III in several of his Nero Wolfe books, was offered honorary membership, but faithfully paid his dues until his death some years ago. He explained that his doctors didn't want him to travel into the city from his hilltop home in Brewster, New York (readers can imagine how much he missed those dinners at "Rusterman's" in Manhattan . . . actually Christ Cella's), so he regretted not being able to attend our Annual General



Meetings. The notice was "the least he could do for us, and for Richard."

The reference to the Biblical *Laodiceans* was consciously used "to send you all to your dictionaries, or the Old Testament." A typical gesture from a gallant upholder of many unpopular causes, who is sorely missed by millions. As for the *Laodiceans* — go to your dictionaries, as Rex urged. You'll not find them explained here. The best memorial for Rex Stout consists of reading, or re-reading, his books . . . from the early "Ferdelance" (Wolfe's first appearance) to "The Doorbell Rang" (the ultimate put-down of the weird J. Edgar) . . . and a really great one, "The Black Mountain."

A PUTZLER PRIZE?

One priceless side-light of the *In Memoriam* stakes comes from Albuquerque, New Mexico. City Editor of the Albuquerque *Journal* would be mercifully not named, may deserve of reverse-Pulitzer Prize for obit of Susan Hogarth, loyally seeking to on the 22nd in the *Journal* reached department, she was told they have category as "In Memoriam" . . . and "only accept death notices from Patently explaining the non-immense demise of Richard III, she was advised the City Editor. When telephone listened in silence while Susan read Rex Stout notice, then comment don't care about someone who's long." The beautiful *New Mexico* many years been running a column *our 50 is missing* "about people who think the state is a foreign country of the States. We are almost inclined should be missing . . . or at least, or

BOOK REV

GROWING UP IN THE AGE OF Frances Wilkins. (Putnam 1977. 700 pages. \$6.95)

Frankly, this book is a disappointment. It is a book for children 8 years and over. There is nothing in its presentation or arch comments, that would attract more like a textbook of poorer quality. The title is misleading: it deals with the 16th century. On the plus side, the illustrations are plentiful.

The author conveys no vivid sense of what it was really like to period. A good historical fiction Rosemary Sutcliffe can make past alive for young readers. Surely better than this in a non-fictional age. Salzman's *LIFE IN THE 16th Century* (1926) is much livelier.

I had hoped I could recommend a book to introduce young readers to the period. My advice is to pass it by.