

needlepoint of a steam traction engine for the kneeling hassock of the Rev. Teddy Boston. You may see a color photo of it and of some of the other 1978 covers here.

As you have read in excerpts from letters from England published in the "Ricardian Register," the needlepoint covers are very much appreciated and have added to the beauty of the little church at Sutton Cheney. The pleasure and satisfaction expressed by the American members who have done the work is really heartwarming and a clue to how much can be accomplished when people work together even at such great distances as we are.

JANET B. SNYDER



LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

October 1, 1977 - September 30, 1978

Balance forward		\$120.01
Income from book sale	\$ 86.50	
Income from gifts	104.20	
	<u>190.70</u>	\$310.71
Expenditures		
Postage	70.06	
Book purchase	5.00	
United Parcel Service	<u>23.00</u>	
	98.06	\$212.65
Returned to Treasury		176.00
Balance to Julie Lord (new Librarian)		\$ 36.65

299 items circulated during the year

We wish to thank the following persons for their generous gifts to the library fund:

Frederick C. Avansino, Jr., Maude D. French, Katherine Hussey, Patty Miller, Susan Pashaian Depging, Joanne Simpson, and Dorothy Slawin.

We wish to thank the following persons for their generous gifts of books to the library, which will be integrated into the library holdings and included in the next library list:

Maude D. French, Susan Pashaian Depging, Dorothy Marsden, and Margaret Nelson.

It has been a pleasure to serve as American Branch Librarian these past ten years. My fondest good wishes go to Julie Lord as she takes on the Library for the years to come.

LIBBY HAYNES

FROM THE EXCHEQUER . . .

To all Ricardians who have donated to the Memorial Statue Fund, the Scholarship Fund and the general fund, may I say a public thank-you on behalf of the Society.

I had fully intended to thank each contributor individually by letter; however, the number of donations has been so great, that in the "pastoral" economy I am thanking you in this "pastoral" fashion.

As an example of members' generosity, today's mail brought 17 dues renewals. Of those 17 members, 14 also made donations to one or more funds. By the time this *Register* reaches you, I am confident that the Scholarship Fund will have topped the \$1000 to match the \$1000 donated anonymously as "seed" money (*Ed. Note: It has!*). And the Memorial Statue Fund is growing at an accelerating pace, so that the American Branch will soon be able to make a substantial cumulative contribution to England.

If you have already donated, grateful thanks. If you have been procrastinating, may I prod you to get out your checkbook and make as large a contribution as you are able.

LINDA B. McLATCHIE
Secretary-Treasurer
Sudbury, MA, August 7, 1978

P.S.: Keep those commemorative stamps coming in!

Long-time member Bill Cogswell ran this expedition in the Cocoa Beach, Florida *Sun-News*. Lt.-Col. Cogswell adds "I asked that it be in their regular weekly issue on the 23rd (one day after the battle), but, probably following Tudor practice, they ran it a week earlier. Oh well . . ."

IN MEMORIAM

PLANTAGENET,
Richard of Gloucester,
King Richard III of
England. Killed on
Bosworth Field August
22, 1485 by troops of the
usurping Henry Tudor.
"Loyalty Leads Me."
For the Richard III
Society, Inc., W. C.
Cogswell, Member.

The *International Herald Tribune*, Paris, ran a condensation of the original Washington *Post* article on July 21 (see last *Register*) and then a letter on August 15 from Francis Leary, author of "The Golden Longing" and "Fire and Morning" who has obviously been out of touch with the Society for many years.

Richard III

It is interesting that societies dedicated to vindicating Richard III sprung up about every 20 years. Earlier, the Fellowship of the Whyte Bear (Richard's badge) operated on lines similar to those of the Richard III Society (IHT, July 21). However, Richard's fervent partisans — how he could have used a few at Bosworth Field where half his army deserted him! — usually protest too much.

They confront Shakespeare's portrait of a malignant monster with an almost saintly image of virtue. But Richard was a man of his turbulent times and historical evidence indicates that he was in-

involved in the murder of Henry VI and in that of Henry's son, Edward, Prince of Wales. He usurped the throne in 1483 on a trumped-up charge of bastardy against his nephew Edward V and imprisoned the latter, with a younger brother, in the Tower of London, from which they never emerged alive.

Yet, it is likely that the Ricardians have a good case in exculpating their hero of the actual murder of the two princes. He had no sufficient motive compared with that of the probable culprit, his principal ally in the plot to seize the throne, the Duke of Buckingham.

The duke yearned for power, rebelled against Richard, killed the princes and threw the blame on the king. At least this explanation best fits all the circumstances of the most famous English historical mystery. Richard captured and executed the duke, but, unfortunately for his reputation, he bore the moral responsibility for the crime, which cost him his throne. However, during his brief reign, he was an effective monarch, abolishing onerous taxation, organizing a good administration, and establishing the College of Heralds. Moreover, he encouraged the new printing press and the widespread use of English in official business for the first time. It is regrettably true that this aspect of Richard has been generally overlooked in the picture of total evil created by the Tudor propaganda factory.

FRANCIS LEARY,
Paris.
(sent by Julie Vognar,
Berkeley CA)

HOW THE GOOD NEWS CAME TO PUDDLE DOCK, MAINE

On August 23, 1978 (Bosworth Day plus one) I was asked by our friend Midge Shelton from Damariscotta, Maine, to tell her group of friends at the Puddle Dock Shakespeare Society about Richard III according to the Society. I agreed, with the understanding that I would not be taken to task about substantiating facts for which I had no ready answers, and could forward answers to questions at a later date.

This agreed to, I set off for Puddle Dock on a lovely, sunny Maine morning with the "In Memoriam" notice from that Sunday's Boston *Globe*, the most recent *Register* and a *Ricardian*.

I had only to tell the group the Society's point of view: that Richard was a kindly man who lived only a short time as King, that he effected benevolent reforms, that research had been done to prove that probably he was 1) not hunchbacked, 2) not the murderer described in the play, and that 3) the Society is dedicated to further research and worthwhile efforts in restoring sites of historical value from his time.

The result was that, unanimously, the group voted to become members of the Society, and could not get enough information from me as to where they could look up more on the actual background.

Today I have mailed to them the Jackdaw on Richard III, a copy of "The Daughter of Time," *The Gazetteer*, the Pitkin Richard III, the NPG catalogue, Anthony Cheetham's "The Life and Times of Richard III" and Macmillan's "To Prove A Villain." I'm sure that by the time the Puddle Dock people have gone through this lot they will have no trouble in looking up other detailed material.

It was fun and gratifying to see how interested my new friends were, and I'm sure that other Society members will be welcomed accordingly if they are in the Damariscotta area at any time.

BETTY SCHLOSS
Southold, NY
August 31, 1978