

a moment or two. I suppose my eyes must have unconsciously adjusted to the subtle grades of brown because I suddenly saw the so-called signature right above the crease. The writing was tiny (about one-sixteenth of an inch in height), flared, and even the main downward sections of the strokes were considerably faded. I passionately yearned to have a copy of the words, but I realized no ordinary duplicating machine could pick up those faint outlines. I also doubted I could easily get permission to photocopy the signature. So I did the next best thing and set about to copy it freehand, using a modern ballpoint pen and having (admittedly) no artistic talent whatsoever. I believe my effort resulted in an honest facsimile, although the size of my letters turned out a little more than twice the height of the original.

A very nice copy

Blousof

I returned home to Los Angeles about a week later, searched for my copy of the Society's catalogue for the 1973 exhibition, and read: 'Literature: J. Forstall and F. Madden, The Holy Bible by J. Wycliffe, (Oxford, 1850) vol I p lxiii, no 162.' Obviously then, De Ricci had published his opinion at a later date. I continued reading: Provenance: The ownership of Richard III depends upon the signature on f. 1. Several late 15th century names also occur on f. 210, v.1 including 'John Thomas of Westfyrle,' West Fyrle is in Sussex near Lewes. In the mid 19th century it belonged to Thomas Banister Esq of the Middle Temple, in whose possession it was described by Forstall and Madden in 1850. It was purchased by Sotheby's on 10 June 1875 by Quaritch, and sold by them in 1884 to J.J. Astor, who gave it in the same year to the New York Public Library (ref) De Ricci 67). Then the catalogue continued in a way that actually brought a grin to my face: 'The rediscovery by Mr. Geoffrey Wheeler of this book, lost to British scholarship since it went to America, reaffirms Richard III's personal religion. Taken in conjunction with the Old Testament in English at Longleat which he also owned (no 154), it could suggest that he was the first English king who had read the Bible in his own tongue. The text is close to that of the Oxford MS Christ Church E4. The English forms used are quoted by Madden. Once again, this is a case of Richard III owning a book made before his time.'

Since I'm cursed (or, perhaps, happily blessed) with the infuriating trait of never taking anything too seriously (a quirk of character which will exclude me forever from the ranks of the scholarly class), I think it's fitting to close this informal little tale in an equally informal manner. Not too long after my return home from New York I found myself having a delightful lunch in a cozy pub in Berkeley, California. Seated across the table from me were Pam Garrett and my son, William. Both were obviously enjoying their food, too. Pam had stolen a few precious hours away from her studies at the local University to meet with me; William had managed a surprising twenty-four hour vacation from his studies at Santa Cruz to join us at this luncheon and to accompany me to the opera in San Francisco later that evening. The three of us were blithely yakking away about this and that, and the conversation finally came around to my encounter with the Wycliffe Bible, of course. I told my story. When I had finished I caught the gleam in Pam's eye. There was no doubt in my mind at that moment that she wanted to believe the words and the signature were indeed those of our Duke of Gloucester just as strongly as I wanted to believe that possibility. But William remained cool and impartial.

A tiny question still nagged at me. "Do you think there's any chance that the phrase could have been written in Italian, William?" He was being expensively educated in Renaissance Literature, Languages, and Dialects; he might as well put his esoteric knowledge to some practical use, I thought.

"There's no problem with the word 'vo.' In fact, it's still used that way in modern Italian. It's the rest of the phrase that bothers me." He thought for a moment. "Why don't you write it out for me, exactly as it appeared."

I snatched a piece of paper from one of Pam's notebooks and wrote, 'A vo' me lie.' I handed it across the table.

Pam was peering over his shoulder as he nodded. "Yes, you're right, that could be Italian."

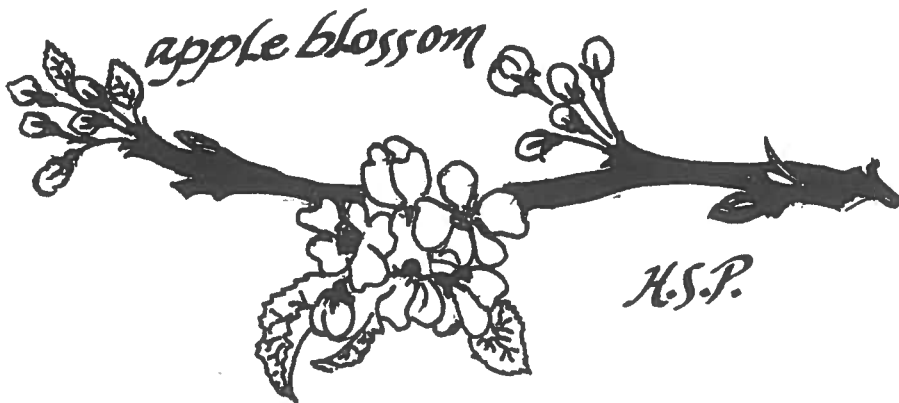
But Pam herself was quick to pounce on my error. "No, Frances, that's not what Richard wrote. The word is spelled 'l-y,' not 'l-i-e'!"

It was true; I had made an awful mistake. "I suppose that changes the whole picture, doesn't it?"

"Sure does," he smiled. "Written this way it's probably Provençal. Or French." He studied the corrected phrase again. "I think it is Provençal."

Pam seemed to agree with him, and I was satisfied, too. As I have stated, I seem to have an instinctive aversion to scholarship. But I suddenly began to have flashes in the head again. Provençal, eh? Was that langue d'oc or langue d'oïl? *Provence was very definitely languedoc territory. Well now, I started musing, why would Richard..?

*(langue d'oc means the dialects spoken south of the Loire; langue d'oïl those spoken north of the Loire--Ed.)



Northern California

On April 12, 50 of us gathered in the Panorama Room of the Hotel Claremont, an enormous white wooden outcropping on the West face of the Berkeley Hills. We had small talk and wine at 11:30, brunch at 12:30, and (what we were really there for) a talk by Professor Thomas Barnes of the University of California at Berkeley at about 1:30.

Hazel Peter gave the toast:

To Richard, whose courage and sense of loyalty illuminates not only his time but our own.

After brunch, Pamela Garrett opened the meeting. She thanked us all for the great turnout (for which she rightly credited Professor Barnes, though she neglected to include herself and her efforts to secure his presence), and for the extra money so generously contributed by attending (and non-attending) members to pay for the flowers and the wine. She indicated a table at the back of the room, where there were photographs of the unveiling of the Leicester Memorial Statue of Richard (see front cover), and read us some of the stirring words the present Richard, Duke of Gloucester wrote for the occasion of the unveiling. She also reminded us that the Duke is now, and will be through 1985, Patron of the Society.

She assured us that the plaque for Richard in Westminster Abbey is now a dead issue; the Dean's word is law. A few alternative suggestions were put forward, including one which we have been asked for the time being not to mention (suspense is good for the soul). Restorations to Warwick Castle were suggested, and an original suggestion was video cassettes for classroom use on what life was like in Richard's time.

Julie Vognar assured everybody that the Loyauté Me Lie-Ricardian Register would be forthcoming as soon as address labels arrived from the East. Pam is Supervising Editor (the Last Word Person), Hazel Peter Assistant Editor, in charge of art work, layout, and other sneaky things, and Julie is just plain Editor. Jacqueline Bloomquist is copyreader and syntax corrector to the Editor; in other words, what you are now reading would be even more indecipherable were it not for her services. Those of you Californians who are used to Pam's expert typing, please bear with Julie for a while. She may improve. Then again, she may not.

Pam then introduced Professor Barnes, with titles, and also mentioned that he was her "teacher, advisor, sometime father confessor, and friend," and Professor Barnes then spoke for about an hour, mainly about the continuity in governance between the late Plantagenet and early Tudor periods. He explained how the necessity of a certain kind of relationship between king and realm and a certain kind of king to go with it were brought into sharp focus during the crisis of the minority of Henry VI. There were a few questions afterwards, and much warm applause. The full text of Barnes' talk is in next Register.

Pam reminded us that the next formal meeting will be in October, probably the 4th, and the Officer's Club at the Presidio may not be available to us. New sites are needed!

Meeting adjourned about 3:30.

Julie Vognar
Secretary-Treasurer,
Northern California
Chapter

Southern California

Frances Berger, whose struggles with the New York Public Library and the probably Ricardian inscription in its Wycliffe Bible she has set down elsewhere in this newsletter, leads an unflappable group of Southern California Ricardians, mostly in the Los Angeles area. When they found out there was a chance that Richard's body had not been thrown into the River Soar, but instead remained beneath a bank parking lot which used to be part of Greyfriars' property, Frances, Pam Garrett and Helen Maurer decided to proceed to the spot with jackhammers (they would have succeeded, too, if the airlines had not become suspicious of three women travelling together and checking jackhammers with their luggage). If you're interested in joining the Southern California Chapter, call Frances at 213-988-7494, or write Frances T. Berger, 13565-E Valerio Street, Van Nuys, Ca. 91405.

Minutes of the Southern California Chapter, Richard III Society
February 1, 1981

The meeting was opened by Frances Berger who gave the Treasurer's Report and announced that the balance forward as of January 23, 1981 was \$208.33.

Mary Rowan introduced Ruth Beebe, formerly with the Los Angeles County Library. Mrs. Beebe has written a book on the subject of Elizabethan cooking entitled Sallets, Humbles and Shrewsbury Cakes. In her opinion, although the period was different from that of Richard III, the cooking remained primarily the same. Some of the interesting facts brought to our attention were:

-Elizabeth I brought the first fork to England from France and she was probably the only one allowed to enjoy its use at her table. Other guests used only a knife and spoon which they brought with them and were usually attached to their garments in some way.

-The upper classes ate few vegetables, but were great consumers of meat.

-Many beautiful culinary concoctions were for show only and not for eating.

-The poorer people probably enjoyed better health because they generally ate more grains and vegetables.

-Gilding was copiously used on the various foods by the upper classes.

-Fruits and berries were common, but were usually boiled and put into tarts and custards.

-A great deal of wine and ale was used on the meat and fruit dishes.

-To help the fishermen, fish days were decreed by law.

-Flower petals were used as decor and also to make a paste for gilding.

-Meat dishes were usually quite liquid and brothy; therefore, much bread was used to 'sop' it.

Mrs. Beebe brought samples of various spices used by the Elizabethans; also common were rose water, violet water, etc. Many of these garnishes are available at markets today.

After a break for refreshments thanks were given to Lenore Robinson for her generous and delightful hosting of the Christmas party.

Frances Berger passed around a pleasant note from the Cock 'N Bull restaurant expressing the hope that the Chapter will hold Richard's Birthday Party there again.

A letter from Edward Carpenter, the Very Reverend Dean of Westminster Abbey denying permission to put a plaque in the Abbey for Richard III was forwarded to Frances by William Hogarth. Frances read the letter to the members and alternatives were discussed.

The LML (Loyaulté Me Lie--the former California newsletter) will no longer be published in its past form. A national Society publication, the Loyaulté Me Lie-Ricardian Register will be compiled and edited in Berkeley and will be mailed directly to all Society members.

It was suggested that the Society should undertake an educational thrust to be aimed at the general public. Means of achieving this might be the use of PBS programs, traveling displays, brochures and printed matter, and the use of regular columnists.

A guest at the Christmas party gave a talk on brass rubbings and also showed some small brasses. Lenore Robinson said that this lady would allow a work party at her studio in Anaheim. Lenore will pursue the discussion with the thought of holding our April meeting there. A possible date is April 26.

Helen Maurer sent us a negative and print she had made of Richard's portrait which is exhibited in the NPG, London. The result was beautiful and prints will be available on request. The price will be announced.

Submitted by Vera Ballif



Herbalists Wanted

Mary Ohlson and I would be interested in exchanging information and plants with any budding medieval herbalists. I have started an herb garden under my roses and am interested in reproducing a fifteenth century herb garden under my hybrid teas and acacia tree (these anachronisms provided by my landlord).

Hazel Peter
Mary Ohlson
739 Elm Street
El Cerrito, Ca. 94530

Chicagoland News

The Chicagoland Chapter of the Richard III Society, Inc. spreads out over an even wider area than sprawling Chicago itself; the group is very active, and shows a particular interest in costumes, cuisine and dancing of the 15th century, as the following sets of minutes will illustrate:

Twelfth Night:

The Castle of Harvey, overlooking the banks of the Little Calumet, was resplendent in candlelight as the Chicagoland Chapter celebrated its fifth annual Twelfth Night Dinner.

This year the assembly included many honored guests in the persons of Joan Beaufort, Countess of Westmoreland, Margaret of Salisbury, Catherine Gordon, Lady Bona of Savoy, Anne Neville, Richard's standard bearer, the Fair Maid of Kent, and Richard himself who arrived in the company of his daughter, Katherine Plantagenet. Members had been asked to adopt a Ricardian personality and remain in character so that the other guests could play "Who Am I?"

An hour or so of socializing preceded the medieval dinner which was prepared by members and guests and served buffet style in the banner draped Great Hall of the Castle of Harvey. The recipes were obtained from no less than five medieval cookbooks and other authentic sources. Once again, we all enjoyed the cuisine of the Middle Ages which featured twenty some dishes (some of which were humorously nicknamed Chicken à la Friar Bertram, Rice ap Tudor, and Spiny Norman) plus hot spiced wines and cider. A toast to Richard was made by Susie Korytar (the Chapter president).

After dinner, the tables were taken down and the members of the Old Town Renaissance Consort led the Lords and Ladies in medieval dancing. In addition to several bransles of the Pavane, we performed the Nonesuch, which is a country dance. The Countess of Desmond would have been proud to watch Joan Beaufort and Margaret of Salisbury executing the various patterns of dances she had known. King Richard himself sat out the various dances, not because he was reluctant, but because he was a rod puppet which was designed by Judy Gerard (see photograph, p.).

Special thanks are due to Barbara Schaaf who donated the use of the Castle of Harvey, Susie Korytar who did the artwork and calligraphy on the invitations, the Dancers and Musicians of the Old Town Renaissance Consort, and the various friends and members of the group who prepared the meal.

March 21:

In the tradition of Rocky II and The Godfather II, the Chicagoland Chapter presented Medieval Dance II on March 21.

Once again, our teachers were two dancers and an instrumentalist from the Old Town Renaissance Consort who led us through some old favorites and some new dances. As a warm up, we reviewed the steps of two mime bransles (pronounced brawls) called "The Washer-woman" and "Peas." Both are danced in a circle with the dancers miming gestures of arguing washerwomen, and for "Peas" executing

jump steps to simulate peas popping in a pan. It was at this critical point that some of the dancers discovered they had two left feet, or didn't know their right from their left. Once this was sorted out, we progressed to learning Sellingers Round, a few steps from a jig, and the Canary, a dance which was brought from the Canary Islands and incorporates broad movements and stamping steps.

The Nonesuch appears to be the absolute favorite of the group even though it is not Ricardian, dating from the 1600's, and not courtly. It is a country dance in which the roots of the American folk dancing can be seen--especially the Virginia Reel. It is danced by four couples doing a variety of steps to an ever repeating melody. The dancers are left breathless at the conclusion.

Learning medieval dancing also teaches us something of the manners and style of the day. Chuck, one of our teachers, cautioned us to keep our arms low, hands below hip level. Raised arms, he said, came from a 20th century movie, not the Middle Ages. As fashion changed, so did dancing. Trains, dagged sleeves and hennins do well in stately pavaues and basse dances, but the Galliards and La Voltas of the Elizabethans could not be done until fashion changed.

Our next meeting will be June 6 and will be a visit to The King's Manor, a Chicago restaurant that specializes in medieval banquets.

Both sets of minutes submitted by
Elizabeth Argall

Beth herself edits the fine Chicagoland Newsletter, full of humor and informative articles. Dues to the chapter are \$6 a year, and anyone within hailing distance is welcome to join, just to receive the newsletter, and if you can make it to the meetings, so much the better! Contact Elizabeth Argall, 312-459-3147, evenings. Or write Chicagoland Chapter, Richard III Society, c/o Argall, 1430 Sandstone Drive #307, Wheeling, Il. 60090.

"In Search Of..."

Towards the end of April, a young man named Reed Brown, of Los Angeles, called me and said he was doing preliminary research for an "In Search Of..." television show about Richard III, and that he had been given my name by Bill Hogarth, largely because I have the West Coast Library in my house, and he wasn't planning on visiting New York, though the show would eventually be taped in England. I told him he was welcome to pick my brain and library, invited Pamela Garrett to come over for the encounter, and set up a date.

Mr. Bown seemed to Pam and me to be very young (she is doddering around 34 and I am 46, so no wonder), and did indeed pick our brains. Much to his credit, he did want to hear about some of the good things Richard had done, and about those who loved him, but mainly he wanted to know, "Did Richard Do It?" and was terribly disappointed that neither Pam nor I thought we knew. He seemed to have envisioned a portion of the show as a panel of experts sitting around saying, "Well, I think it was Buckingham because..." or "No, it was Henry," or "No it couldn't have been anybody but Richard," or "But John Howard..." or "Nonsense, they were never murdered at all." We pointed out to him that the more you learn about a subject, the less you feel you know, though if the subject

is a human being, you may feel you have grown closer to him and develop strong feelings about him. He then walked off with a goodly portion of my own and the Holmwood Memorial Library, gave us his address and phone number, and said he would be in touch. We strongly suggested that he contact Peter Hammond in London, and wished him well, hoping that if and when the "In Search of Richard III" show does develop, it will give the Society, and above all Richard, at least half a fair shake.

Just a few days ago, Mr. Brown called again, and said he had hurriedly prepared his report, since the people from "In Search Of..." going to London to tape the program left very soon after our discussion. He said that he had spoken with Peter Hammond, and that Jeremy Potter and perhaps Peter as well had agreed to be on the taping, which was now complete, and would be aired sometime after September. So maybe something interesting will come of all this! He asked if he might keep my books a couple of extra weeks, to check the final text against the information he had (I hope nobody takes Pam's and my word over Peter Hammond's and Jeremy Potter's!) and said that the show would indeed be a modified whodunit, but without any answer.

We'll let you know when it's to be shown.

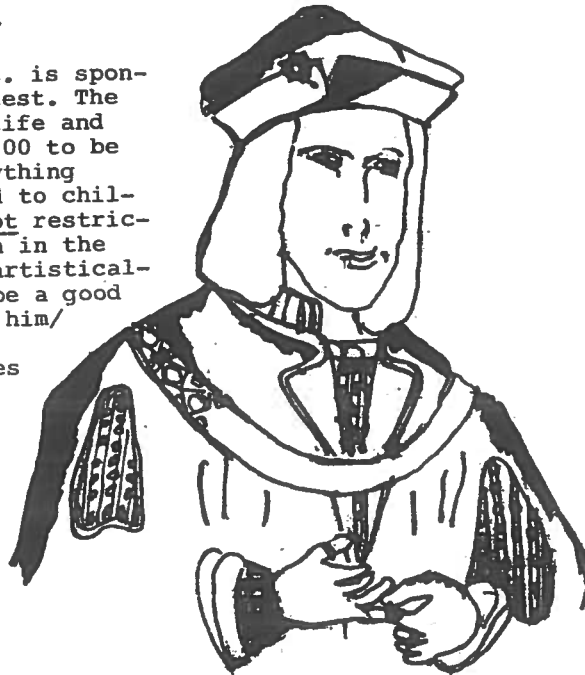
And, O joy, I am almost certain to get my books back!

----Julie Vognar

¹If you want to read a Ricardian book you can't find, write me, c/o the Holmwood Memorial Library, and you will either get the book for three weeks plus a Library Rate sticker to return it with, or I will tell you where you can get it, or I won't know. You can also contact Julie Lord, the official Richard III Society, Inc. Librarian, whose name is on the masthead in this capacity, for the same service.

ART CONTEST

The Richard III Society, Inc. is sponsoring a children's art contest. The theme is "Richard III, his life and his times." The prize is \$5.00 to be used for art supplies or anything else. The contest is limited to children 15 and under. We are not restricting the contest to children in the Society, so if you know an artistically talented child this may be a good way to introduce Richard to him/her. Mail entries to the L. M.L.-Register. Contest closes Oct. 1, 1981.



Drawing by Sasha
Peter, Age 11.