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Contributions
Contributions are welcomed from all members. Articles and correspondence regarding the Bulletin Debate should be sent to Peter Hammond and all other contributions to Elizabeth Nokes.

Bulletin Press Dates
15 January for Spring issue; 15 April for Summer issue; 15 July for Autumn issue; 15 October for Winter issue. Articles should be sent well in advance.

Bulletin & Ricardian Back Numbers
Back issues of the The Ricardian and The Bulletin are available from Judith Ridley. If you are interested in obtaining any back numbers, please contact Mrs Ridley to establish whether she holds the issue(s) in which you are interested.

For contact details see back inside cover of the Bulletin

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From the Chairman

Our anniversary year has begun at last and what a year it promises to be. As you will have seen, there is a full calendar of events, which includes the AGM and anniversary weekend in York. There are still some places left, so if you haven’t yet put in your application, don’t worry about it being after the deadline, put this down and DO IT NOW! Don’t forget that you can spread your payments throughout the year. There may also be places available for some of the other events, so please don’t delay. A lot of hard work is going into planning and organising these events and I’m going to take this opportunity to say ‘thank you’ to everyone involved. Thank you all very much. Let’s make this a year to remember, celebrating the events of the past and looking forward to the future – the next fifty years, perhaps.

I hope that everyone has now visited the Society’s enhanced web site, which went live at the end of January. Previous pages have been rewritten and expanded and a whole host of new pages have been added with several sections having a splendid ‘logo’ designed by Geoff Wheeler. It goes without saying that many people have worked hard to get this site up and running, and I thank them all, and especially Wendy Moorhen, who has not only co-ordinated it all, but in between pushing the rest of us to do our bit, has written many of the articles as well. Well done, Wendy!

As part of the anniversary celebrations, there will be four bumper issues of the Bulletin this year. There will be articles looking back over the events and personalities of the past fifty years, beginning with an account of how the Fellowship of the White Boar was re-founded in the 1950s. When one looks back, it is amazing to see how much was achieved by so small a group of people using limited resources and without the complex information technology that we take for granted today. They were truly pioneers and it is fitting that in this, our anniversary year, we remember and celebrate them and their achievements. Foremost amongst them all, of course, is our senior Vice-President, Isolde Wigram, who deserves our special thanks and appreciation and who could certainly share, with Saxon Barton, the accolade of ‘founder’.

As you will see, this issue of the Bulletin is a truly global collaborative effort. Whilst we will still have a Letter from America, we have also offered space to the other overseas branches to contribute on a regular basis and Victoria Moorshead kicks off with the Canadian Branch’s fortieth anniversary celebrations. The debate on historical novels and whether they are a good thing or not, combined with the reaction to the review of Isolde Martyn’s novel Moonlight and Shadow, has sparked off a great deal of correspondence, much of it from Australian members. Isolde herself has picked up the gauntlet in the response to the debate and provides a strong case in the novel’s defence. The contribution from America tells us a little more about the late Vice President Morris McGee.

On the subject of vice presidents, I am delighted to announce the first Australasian holder of this office, Rob Smith. He is the secretary of the New Zealand Branch and joined the Society in 1992. Rob has given sterling service to the Branch and next year will be masterminding the Australasian convention in Wellington. We congratulate him on his new post.

One topic seems to lead to another and in the listing of branch and group contacts, for the first time, we have included e-mail addresses which we hope will aid communication.

Also, in this special year, we might remind ourselves that the Society is not the only player on the Ricardian field and that there are other organisations promoting the interests of King Richard.
Personally, I see nothing wrong with this. It shows the strength of the argument for the king, and in the long run, diversity will serve to strengthen the cause we all share. One of these other organisations is the Richard III Foundation, and sometimes people ask if we are rivals or do we cooperate? To the first, I usually answer that, so long as we all have the same aims, there is no need for us to be rivals, and to the second, I can now report that I have had discussions with Joe Ann Ricca, the Foundation’s Chief Executive Officer, and, in the interests of both organisations and for the purpose of furthering research into the life and times of Richard III, we have agreed that each will advertise the other’s study days and we will begin an exchange of journals.

You will recall, I’m sure, that, in the Winter 2005 edition of the Bulletin, reference was made to an item in The Times newspaper which was somewhat disparaging about the Society. I wrote to the editor to complain and eventually, just after that edition of the Bulletin went to print, I received a charming and apologetic letter from the deputy editor, explaining that they had not meant to be rude about the Society. They were just concerned because we hadn’t submitted our usual In Memoriam notice.

Returning finally to the celebratory events of 2006, there will be many opportunities for me to meet members during the year and I greatly look forward to them. One of the great strengths of our Society is the enthusiasm and dedication of the members and I want our fiftieth anniversary to reflect this. We can all be justifiably proud of what has been achieved in fifty years from such small beginnings. Well done, all of you! Enjoy the celebrations, and ‘let the revels commence’!

Phil Stone
Celebrating 50 Years:
The Events – update

Arrangements for our events are moving forward and there are a few updates. Dr Rowena Archer of Oxford University will complete the line up of speakers for the day at Vicar’s Hall, Windsor Castle in October. She will talk about Alice Chaucer, Duchess of Suffolk and an aspect of rivalry between Eton and St George’s Chapel Windsor. As Rosemary Horrox recently observed about Alice ‘there is no keeping a bad woman down’. We are sure this will be another fascinating talk from Rowena.

The actor Michael Bennett has accepted our invitation to perform his one-man play at Barley Hall during the Members’ weekend in October and we hope to announce further attractions in the Summer issue of the Bulletin.

As already advertised, the Society’s Patron, HRH The Duke of Gloucester, will be joining members of the Society for the reception at Staple Inn and to present the prizes for the Schools’ Competition. In addition there will be two talks. The first will be from John Saunders on the history of the Society. John has been commissioned to write a series of articles for this year’s Bulletins celebrating some of the key personalities of the past fifty years and in this current issue he features Saxon Barton, Isolde Wigram and Elizabeth MacIntosh.

The second talk will be by John Ashdown-Hill. As members are aware, John has recently undertaken a successful project with regard to sequencing the DNA of Margaret of York. However, John has not been resting on his laurels and has recently initiated another intriguing project along the same lines. If you would like to be amongst the first to know more about John’s research on a subject close to the hearts of all Ricardians, join us at Staple Inn.

Please note that the Staple Inn event is on 19 May and not 25 May as shown on the booking form and calendar in the Winter issue of the Bulletin.

Places are still available for the events, so please join in these once-in-a-lifetime celebrations.

The Executive Committee

Who are our longest-standing members?

The answer to who is the longest-standing member, in the singular, is obviously Isolde Wigram who was instrumental in re-founding the Society in 1956 but, sadly, we don’t know who else joined the fledgling society in 1950s and who are still members today. We would, however, love to find out.

In 1985, Rimms Limited, the company which managed our membership function before it was brought back in-house, changed their computer system and all members on the system at that time were given a 1985 joining date and new membership numbers on the database. When the Society retrieved the details of our membership in May 2004 the Committee was somewhat perturbed to find this situation and we would like to rectify this loss of information.

So if you joined the Society in the 1950s or early 1960s please drop a line to the membership manager with the date, as far as you can remember, of when you joined. If you want to include any memories you have of the early days that would be an added bonus.

The Executive Committee look forward to hearing from you.
Introducing our new Hon Treasurer – Paul Foss

Following the announcement from Bill Featherstone that he wished to retire from his post as Treasurer, the Executive Committee have found someone willing to take over and we are delighted to welcome Paul Foss to the post. He was appointed at the end of November, and fully took over the reins - or rather, ‘the books’- at the end of January. Paul lives in Bristol and comes with much experience in accountancy and treasurership. Indeed, in one of his recent posts he tells us, he was responsible for handling an income of over a million pounds - alas, I suspect he may never get that sort of experience with the Richard III Society, though we can dream, of course. We greatly look forward to working with Paul as he continues with Bill’s good work of getting the Society fully solvent and in good financial heart to tackle whatever may come our way. It looks as if he can expect a busy year to begin his incumbency.

So, our thanks again to Bill for all his efforts, and very sincere welcome to Paul.

Paul’s contact details are on the back inside cover of the Bulletin.

Phil Stone

New Membership Manager

Just a reminder that we have a new membership manager, Brian Moorhen, and all communications on membership matters should be directed to Brian, contact details on the back inside cover of the Bulletin.

Wendy Moorhen

New Wills Co-ordinator

Maria Hale has decided to step down as the wills co-ordinator and Lesley Boatwright (Wynne-Davies) will now take on this role. Maria has co-ordinated this project, which is the transcription of wills proved in the Prerogative Court of York, since its inception.

I would like to thank Maria for her contribution over the past few years and to welcome Lesley to the role.

Lesley’s contact details are on the back inside cover of the Bulletin.

Wendy Moorhen
Enhanced Society Website

The Society’s new website finally went live on Tuesday 31 January following a year-long development. As stated in the Winter Bulletin, the aim of the site is to raise the profile of the Society, to provide a resource for those interested in Richard III, the Wars of the Roses and the late fifteenth century in general and to provide members with as much reference material about the Society as possible.

We have endeavoured to look at many facets of the life and career of Richard III. The brief biography is factual and it has been left to other writers, both guests and members, to provide their own analysis and interpretation of this most controversial of English monarchs. It therefore follows that their views are personal and based on their own researches. Thus the Society will present a balanced and informative view of the last Plantagenet king.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking those people who have contributed to the site and given so generously of their time. Content on Richard III, the Wars of Roses, and the Fifteenth century sections was provided by John Ashdown-Hill, Lesley Boatwright, Keith Dockray, Peter Hammond, Frederick Hepburn, Michael Hicks, Kenneth Hillier, Rosemary Horrox, Tig Lang, Toni Mount, Lynda Pidgeon, Tony Pollard, Mary O’Regan, Gordon Smith, Anne Sutton, Livia Visser-Fuchs, Ann Wroe and the late Bill Hampton. Carolyn Hammond and Anne Painter provided their personal recommendations to the fiction section. Richard Van Allen contributed the links for the Wars of the Roses and to the bibliographies. The website includes a number of articles and book reviews from The Ricardian, so thanks to the authors who kindly agreed to their work being reproduced and to Brian Bannister who formatted the scanned articles.


Special thanks are due to Helen Cox, Heather Falvey and Pauline Harrison Pogmore. Helen has designed the new Archaeology section, Heather has contributed her recent reworking of the Guide to Research which is now freely available online and Pauline has kindly allowed us to reproduce her Who was Who in the Wars of the Roses online. These contributions represent the kind of differentiator which makes our site unique.

Turning to illustrations, Phil Stone has already acknowledged the work of Geoff Wheeler who not only drew logos for the home pages but created over a hundred shields to adorn the sec-
tion on the battles. We are also fortunate in the generosity of Graham Turner who has allowed us to use several of his paintings and to Osprey Publishing who have given permission for use of Graham’s work where they hold the copyright. The Society of Antiquaries has continued to allow us to use their portrait of Richard on the website.

Last, but by no means least, there are two further colleagues who deserve accolades. Lesley Boatwright, who edited and proofed all the content and Neil Trump, our webmaster, who for the past two months has been chained to the PC and no doubt let out a long sigh of relief at midnight on the last day of January when he met our deadline of going live by the end of that month! Their dedication and commitment was truly remarkable and the Society owes them a debt of gratitude.

However, this is just the beginning. Websites cannot stand still and it is our intention to expand and grow over the coming months and years. New content is part of the development and there is the challenge that existing content is kept up to date and refreshed. To this end the website committee are delighted to welcome Tula Miller to the team in the role of web content manager.

Finally, the website is not the prerogative of the executive or website committees but belongs to you, the members. Unlike a printed book, a website can be changed and updated very quickly and easily and so we welcome your comments and ideas, and hopefully your contributions in the future.

Wendy Moorhen

The Ricardian
Just a reminder that the The Ricardian is being distributed separately to the Bulletin within the UK but the two publications will be in a combined package for overseas members.

Anne Sutton

Special Offer on Trust Publications
At the Richard III and Yorkist History Trust AGM in November last year it was agreed that in order to promote some of their publications there should be a special price on three titles, which the Society would publicise on the website. The online shop is currently under development (this means visitors and members can purchase online through a secure server by credit card) but in the interim the titles are available to members at the new discounted prices. These are:

- The Beauchamp Pageant – £30 plus £7.50 postage and packing
- The Merchant Taylors’ Company - £18 plus £4 postage and packing
- The Alien Communities of London in the 15th century—£15 plus £2.50 postage and packing

To order please contact Sally Empson, the Society’s Sales Liaison Officer. See inside back cover for contact details.

Howard Choppin

Schools’ Competition
The competition has now closed and the entries are being judged.

The poster competition for younger students has attracted more than 30 entries from a mixture of state and private schools in England and Wales. The standard of some entries is high, with evidence of thought, wit, and artistic skill. It is hoped to complete the judging by the end of February. There were 23 entries for the essay competition from a range of ages from 12 - 16 and both
sexes. As with the poster competition the standard looks to be high.

The winners will be announced on the website and in the Summer issue of the Bulletin. But in the meantime here are samples of two of the posters.

John Ashdown-Hill and Jane Trump

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KILLER CATARRH

A remarkable slant on the English language, discovered in The History of King Richard the Third, by Sir George Buck, one of the earlier authors to defend Richard III:

Not long after, King Edward died, and it was held doubtful upon what disease or evil he came to it. Polydore Vergil saith he died of a disease utterly unknown to all physicians, which showeth some that there was some foul play, and that may be understood to be either poison or sorcery. ... And Enguerant de Monstrelet writeth that some said he died of an apoplexy, and that some other said that he was poisoned in wine of Creu which King Lewis XI sent him. And Philip de Comynes seemeth to be of the same opinion, for he saith that Aucuns disaient que le Roi d’Angleterre avait été mourut d’un catarrhe: some say that King Edward died of a catarrh. For so they say in France when a great man is made away by poison. And of such a venomous catarrh died the young King Edward [VI.] And in this sense the French king Henry III died of a catarrh. And I came to understand it upon this occasion: it fell then unhappily that when I was in France and in the court, there was news brought that the Lady Mary Queen of Scots was beheaded in England, and at the arrival of this news they said that she had died of a catarrh.
From the Editor
The Knight Triumphant, The High Middle Ages 1314 – 1485, Stephen Turnbull, Cassell, 2001: from Chapter 12, ‘The Faded Roses’: ‘As to the conduct of Richard with regard to the mysterious disappearance of his nephews … it is now the unorthodox view to suggest that Richard had some part in their murder’. and
BBC TV Historic Palaces, 9 January 2006, included the Tower of London, and this comment: ‘… the Bloody Tower where the little princes are said [their emphasis] to have been murdered on the orders of Richard III’.

From Geoffrey Wheeler
Evening Standard 20 October 2005: Joan Rivers, ‘My London’, ‘Eating Out’: ‘what have been your most memorable London meals?’ ‘I had a great curry on Brick Lane recently. What made it memorable is that I found something floating in the curry. It turned out to be the lost princes Richard III was accused of murdering’. and
BBC Radio 4 Quote, Unquote 17 October 2005: Nigel Rees: ‘The quotation comes from Robert Fabyan’s The New Chronicle of England and France 1516. Who is he writing about? ‘Being a prisoner in the Tower he was secretly put to death by being drowned in a barrel of malmsey wine’
John Mortimer: ‘Clarence that was.’
NR: ‘Yes, the duke of Clarence. And who engineered this?’
JM: ‘Richard III –’‘Crookback Dick’.’
NR: ‘That’s right, Richard of Gloucester, 1478. And malmsey, what do you feel about that?’
JM: ‘Good drowning wine!’
NR: ‘If you have a sufficient quantity of it!’
Lynne Truss: ‘I think when he drowned in it, he didn’t like it afterwards, either!’ and
In the September 2002 ‘Media Watching’ pages of the Bulletin (p.34) we elaborated on the popular misconception that nursery rhymes, such as ‘Hey Diddle Diddle’, had any connection with Richard III, or similar historical characters. The most recent exploration, with further theories as to their derivation, was aired on the BBC Radio 4 series Book of the Week: Lost Worlds by Michael Bywater, read by Stephen Fry (19-23 December 2005). ‘Nursery rhymes all too often drifted from the adult world of satire, lament and admonition into the nursery, where their meaning was lost, and getting it back can be difficult. ‘Ring a ring a roses’ was once thought to refer to the plague, the ‘ring of roses’ being the initial rash of ‘buboes’, inflamed, infected lymph nodes, in groin and armpit, which heralded the arrival of the disease. Then the sneezing ‘Atishoo, atishoo’, and the general collapse: ‘we all fall down’. Except that’s not what the symptoms of bubonic plague are like; and the rhyme wasn’t first recorded until almost 150 years after the great plague. There’s less agreement about others. It’s widely accepted, for example, that ‘Hey Diddle, Diddle’, is an ‘occulted’ version of some Elizabethan scandal, probably sexual, if we only knew who the ‘cat and the fiddle’, not to mention the ‘dish, the spoon and the little dog’ were. ‘Georgie Porgie’ is said to refer to the habits of the Prince of Wales, later George IV. ‘Ba Ba Black Sheep’ remains completely impenetrable, although apparently originating in medieval times, when more or less everything was impenetrable to the 21st century mindset, but the meaning behind ‘Pop goes the weasel’, at least, is not entirely lost. The ‘weasel’ was either a small tailor’s iron, or a mishearing of ‘whistle and flute’ (Cockney rhyming slang for ‘suit’). The ‘Eagle’ was a well known music hall in London’s City Road, and ‘popping’ something meant pawning it, deriving probably from the expression ‘popping out to see uncle’ (‘uncle’ being the local pawnbroker), and so the story becomes clear: drinking and hanging around music halls
sapped the money, so next day it was a case of ‘popping’ the tools of the trade, which in turn meant you couldn’t work, which meant no money, and so the vicious circle against which the song admonishes. There is still a pawnbroker on the City Road: in three hundred year’s time, will they be singing ‘Pop goes the I-Pod’, and will our descendants know what it means?

and

From *Conspiracy Encyclopaedia*, Collins and Brown. ‘Assassinations’ Richard III fought and won the first phase of the Wars of the Roses for the House of York, but found himself a distant sixth in line for the crown. His only way to gain ultimate power was to murder or have murdered all who stood in his way until he finally ascended the throne, and it would take another war to bring him down’.

[NB however since immediately before the above entry the book also states: ‘England’s Henry VIII took eight wives …’ so who is going to take it seriously]

From Maureen Nunn

Joanna Denny’s book on Anne Boleyn (see also p. 44): ‘Nicolas Sander is responsible for much of the black legend that surrounds her. A Catholic priest … he was only five or six at the time of her death, but he invented a monstrous picture of her as the instrument of evil. … in that period, as in Shakespeare’s caricature of Richard III, the deformities of the body were believed to indicate the depravity of the soul’.

From J C Knights

May I strongly recommend to all members the series of detective novels by M J Trow about a schoolmaster called ‘Mad Max’ Maxwell, which are excellently plotted and very funny. Maxwell is enormously pro-Richard, whom he considers ‘much maligned’. As he does not drive he goes everywhere on a bicycle which he calls ‘White Surrey’! A possible candidate for membership?

The ‘University Challenge’ Challenge

On Monday 30 January a question on the popular BBC2 programme ‘University Challenge’ asked the teams what was the ritual punishment meted out to John Wycliff, and Richard III. A correct answer was not forthcoming and Jeremy Paxman supplied it [sic] – ‘they were posthumously beheaded’. Not surprisingly a number of members were upset by this and Society President and former Research Officer, Peter Hammond, has since commented:

‘It certainly does sound very odd to include Richard III in any list of people whose bodies were mutilated in ‘punishment’ after death. It is difficult to see what the question-setters had in mind unless they had a garbled memory of his bones being disinterred and thrown into the river Soar at the Reformation. So far as we know this wasn't in ‘punishment’ although who knows why it was done (if it was) since so far as we know other burials from the Blackfriars were not so treated. One other thing they might have had in mind was that his head is said to have struck the parapet of Bow Bridge as the body was carried back into Leicester on the back of a horse after the battle. The body certainly wasn’t being treated kindly but this again was not a punishment in the sense that Cromwell’s body was treated badly after the Restoration.’

From Phil Stone

On Sunday, 9th January, in ‘A Good Read’ on Radio 4, Sue MacGregor offered ‘Daughter of Time’, saying that she had greatly enjoyed it and that it had persuaded her to change her mind about Richard. Kerry Shale, the American actor, was a fellow contributor and he, too, had been persuaded. The third speaker, Michael Berkeley, the composer, wasn’t so sure, though he had enjoyed the book. After the programme, I wrote to Ms MacGregor saying how much I had enjoyed her comments and enclosing a leaflet with an invitation to join us.
**News and Reviews**

**Are we winning?**

At the beginning of the year I picked up a copy of the *Daily Telegraph* and there on the front page, in the contents column, a heading caught my eye – ‘A king and a saint head the list of villains chosen by historians to represent a millennium of infamy - see inside’.

‘Oh no,’ I thought. ‘Here we go again,’ and so with trepidation I opened the paper and turned to the article in question. Imagine my delight then, in running through the list, and coming to the fifteenth century, to find that Richard had not been nominated: the villain in the dock was Thomas Arundel, the Archbishop of Canterbury!

The article was a review of the lead article which appeared in the January issue of the BBC’s *History* magazine in which professional historians were asked to nominate historical characters whom they considered to be Britain’s most infamous villains over the last ten centuries. The winner of the title as the most infamous king went to, wait for it, King John, nominated by historian Marc Morris. Interestingly the person who nominated the Archbishop of Canterbury to represent the fifteenth century’s greatest villain was Professor Miri Rubin of Queen Mary University, London, who, it will be remembered, described Richard as one of the worst of Britain’s monarchs in her recent book *The Hollow Crown: a history of Britain in the late middle ages*, which upset many of our members.

As a matter of interest the saint nominated was St Thomas Becket: this was done by Prof. John Hudson of St Andrew’s university, which should cause a bit of a stir in ecclesiastical circles.

This then poses the question, are we turning the corner, is our crusade beginning to change the public perception of Richard? Unfortunately we are not out of the woods yet as BBC *History* have decided in their wisdom to invite readers to nominate whom they consider to be Britain’s worst villains. The real litmus test will be whether the general public will stay true to form in their ignorance of historical facts and vote Richard as the villain of the fifteenth century.

Within the society we do quite naturally tend to feel introspective, that we are the only ones with an uphill battle to defend the reputation of our chosen historical icon. However as can be seen from the item above there are other famous historical figures under attack. King John gets a lot of bad press and I have no doubt that the nomination of two Archbishops of Canterbury, one a saint, will outrage many people. As mentioned previously by our Chairman, there is even a move in Scotland to defend the reputation of Macbeth – Shakespeare has a lot to answer for.

However it is not only in the world of British history that there is concern for the truth. In the current issue of *Ancient Egypt*, the magazine covering the history, people and culture of the Nile Valley, there is an interesting item from their News and Reviews section. The article says that there is the possibility of a new Egyptian-themed epic coming out of Hollywood with reports circulating concerning a new film about Nefertiti.

The article goes on to bemoan the way that Hollywood and others have handled Egyptian subjects and to say – ‘So be prepared for a film that will no doubt include every now disproved fact by Egyptologists about Akhenaten and Nefertiti. It is sad that some film makers do not take the opportunity to get their facts straight. Thanks to the recent mummy films, a whole generation of filmgoers will think that Scarab beetles are man-eaters and that there were five canopic jars.’

Does all this sound familiar?

Richard Van Allen
Dr Lesley Boatwright Celebrates

Better known to members as Lesley Wynne-Davies, Dr Boatwright celebrated the successful completion of her PhD at the Civil Service Club in London on 28 January. Over fifty guests enjoyed Lesley’s hospitality, including friends and colleagues from the Society, the Friends of the National Archives, Keele University and University of London (where she gained her doctorate).

Lesley sends her apologies to those who it was not possible to invite due to limitations of space although she would have loved to have everyone there!

In future Lesley will be known by her original name of Boatwright in the Bulletin and in other Society activities and this issue marks her last appearance as Lesley Wynne-Davies in the contacts page.
St Etheldreda’s Church, Ely Place, 16 March
There will be a celebratory mass for Queen Anne Neville on the anniversary of her death. If you are interested in attending please contact John Ashdown-Hill.

Graham Turner:
The Society’s jousting artist
Graham will be holding an exhibition of paintings and prints alongside his father, Michael Turner, at Halton House, near Wendover, Buckinghamshire, from Friday 31st March to Sunday 2nd April 2006. The venue for the exhibition, Halton House, was built in 1884 and is the lavish former residence of Alfred de Rothschild. It is now a Royal Air Force Officers’ Mess and rarely accessible to the public. It is located on the B4009 between Tring and Wendover, near Aylesbury in Buckinghamshire.

The exhibition will include a large selection of original paintings, including the medieval, motor sport, aviation and military subjects for which Graham and Michael are well known, together with Studio 88’s full range of prints and cards. Admission is free and the exhibition is open from 10am - 9pm on Friday, 10am - 6pm Saturday and Sunday.

Further information from Studio 88 Ltd., P.O. Box 568, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP17 8ZX. Tel: 01296 338504. Website: www.studio88.co.uk

The Richard III Foundation Conference: The Yorkist Era
Saturday, April 1, 2006
The Richard III Foundation are pleased to announce their conference entitled ‘The Yorkist Era’. The location of the conference will be at the Farnham Memorial Hall, West Street, Farnham, Surrey. The hours of the conference are from 10 am to 5 pm with registration beginning at 9:30 am. Tickets for the event are £20 for patrons, £25 for non-members of the Foundation and £15 for half-day sessions. Tickets are non-refundable.

The speakers and their topics for the day include:
Professor Michael Hicks – ‘Queen Anne Neville and her marriage to Richard III’
Dr Sean Cunningham – ‘The National Archives and its collection’
Dr Ann Wroe – ‘Perkin Warbeck: Searching for an enigma’
Michael D. Miller – ‘The use of attainder and forfeiture by King Edward IV’
John Ashdown-Hill – ‘What can we learn from local repositories?’

Please note that this is a ticketed event. To order your tickets, please complete the form in the centerfold section and make your cheque payable to ‘The Richard III Foundation, Inc.’ and forward your form and cheque to Mrs Mary Kelly, UK Manager, 77 Deacons Green, Tavistock, Devon PL19 8BN.

Battlefields Trust Walk, Sunday 9 April
The Battlefields Trust have organised a walk of the battle of Barnet battlefield. The leaders are Jonathan Smith and Frank Baldwin. Rendezvous at 11 am at the Old Monken Halt pub at the north end of Barnet High Street, EN5. The nearest Underground station is High Barnet on the
Easter Team Jousters at the Royal Armouries, Leeds on 14-17 April

This is a very special event, where, instead of jousting ‘every man for himself’ as is usual, the jousters attend in teams of three, and joust as a team and not against each other. This year there will be five teams competing for the team trophy, the Royal Armouries ‘Sword of Honour’ including the current champions The Burgundians, The Royal Armouries, Destrier and the Order of the Crescent. For more information contact the Royal Armouries on 0113 2120 1916 or visit their website.

Other jousting events include a small ‘happening’ at Arundel Castle on 5-6 August and individual championships at the Royal Armouries over the August bank holiday. Thanks to Philippa Langley for bringing this to our attention.

St John’s Abbey Colchester

The Mid Anglia Group has been seeking a simple way in which to celebrate the Ricardian connections of St John’s Abbey, Colchester.

It is, in my view, highly probable that Richard himself stayed at the Abbey during his visit to Colchester (as duke of Gloucester), and it is certain that Lord Lovell took sanctuary there after Bosworth and from that safe haven plotted against Henry VII. The abbey itself may well have been implicated in these plots. Through my work with the Colchester Museums I was aware that there was little awareness or documentation in Colchester of the existence of a very fine early sixteenth-century pectoral cross, removed from the body of the last abbot of Colchester after his execution for opposing Henry VIII. This cross is currently preserved at Buckfast Abbey, Devon, ‘until the abbey of Colchester should be restored’! I therefore obtained from Buckfast Abbey a selection of electronic images of this cross, which have been used to compose a short Powerpoint presentation. This has been presented to Colchester Museums by the Richard III Society, Mid Anglia Group.

John Ashdown-Hill

St John’s Abbey Colchester

The Mid Anglia Group has been seeking a simple way in which to celebrate the Ricardian connections of St John’s Abbey, Colchester.

It is, in my view, highly probable that Richard himself stayed at the Abbey during his visit to Colchester (as duke of Gloucester), and it is certain that Lord Lovell took sanctuary there after Bosworth and from that safe haven plotted against Henry VII. The abbey itself may well have been implicated in these plots. Through my work with the Colchester Museums I was aware that there was little awareness or documentation in Colchester of the existence of a very fine early sixteenth-century pectoral cross, removed from the body of the last abbot of Colchester after his execution for opposing Henry VIII. This cross is currently preserved at Buckfast Abbey, Devon, ‘until the abbey of Colchester should be restored’! I therefore obtained from Buckfast Abbey a selection of electronic images of this cross, which have been used to compose a short Powerpoint presentation. This has been presented to Colchester Museums by the Richard III Society, Mid Anglia Group.

John Ashdown-Hill

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John Ashdown-Hill
The Re-founding: a brief history

JOHN SAUNDERS

We are this year celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the re-founding of the Fellowship of the White Boar, later to become the Richard III Society. That we are able to do so is thanks primarily to three people: Saxon Barton, Elizabeth Mackintosh and Isolde Wigram. Let me explain.

In 1924 Saxon Barton and a small group of friends founded the Fellowship of the White Boar. Up until the Second World War they had their triumphs and some disappointments, but they did establish the viability of an organisation dedicated to seeking historical justice for King Richard. The war inevitably saw the Fellowship drift apart, till at its end Saxon was very much a one-man band, still enthusiastic, but restricted by time and resources from being really effective. It looked as though the Fellowship would not survive into the second half of the century.

In 1951 a detective novel was published under the title of The Daughter of Time, which would have long-lasting repercussions for Richard III’s posthumous reputation. Elizabeth MacIntosh wrote it using the pseudonym ‘Josephine Tey’, and by that name she is known to most of us. By the time of the novel’s publication she was already an established and respected novelist and playwright.

The Daughter of Time is the story of the fictional detective Alan Grant who during a prolonged stay in hospital passes the time by investigating the ‘crimes’ of Richard III. He was prompted on this quest by being shown a portrait of the king, which he was convinced was not the face of a murderer. This conviction was fully vindicated by the novel’s conclusion: it was firmly in the revisionist camp. To reinforce the point its title came from the old proverb ‘Truth is the daughter of time’.

Early in 1952 a friend advised Isolde Wigram to read The Daughter of Time. Reluctantly, she did, and noted at a later date, ‘I had never learnt anything about Richard III at school, not having studied that period of history. I had seen Sir Laurence Olivier in a stage production of Shakespeare’s play, but my first anti-Richard indoctrination had been at a later date. I was ripe for conversion, and
converted I was to such an extent that I felt I had to do something about this manifest injustice. I have seldom felt such a compulsion.

This compulsion caused Isolde to read as much as she could about Richard III. The next book was Dominic Mancini’s *Usurpation of Richard III*, a significant step up from the novel, and being a critical contemporary source it might well have blunted Isolde’s enthusiasms. However, as she noted, ‘Since my mind, as far as Richard was concerned, was a clean slate on which Josephine Tey had sketched a few facts, the impression I got from Mancini is rather interesting, for I sensed political motivation where most modern historians see an almost completely unbiased source.’

Later in 1952 the BBC broadcast a radio adaptation of *The Daughter of Time*, which prompted a debate in the letter pages of the *Radio Times*, and Isolde followed this exchange closely. One of the letter-writers made reference to Philip Lindsay’s monograph *On Some Bones in Westminster Abbey*, which was the Fellowship’s riposte to the official report on the examination of the bones back in 1933. Lindsay had dedicated the book to Saxon Barton, Aymer Vallance and Philip Nelson, all members, together with Lindsay, of the old Fellowship. Isolde obtained a copy of the book early in 1953 and looked up details of the three in *Who’s Who*. Only Saxon’s entry made any reference to the Fellowship, and, keen to find out more, Isolde promptly wrote to him, but it was not until September that contact was finally made. Saxon confirmed the existence of the Fellowship, but regretted that it had been very inactive since the war. The crucial contact had however been made and now began a voluminous correspondence between the two that would eventually lead to the formal re-founding of the Fellowship and its metamorphosis into the Richard III Society.

During the time that Isolde was building up her knowledge of the period and following the path that would eventually lead to Saxon Barton, there had been two further media opportunities for pro-Richard supporters to make their views felt. During November 1952 there had been a vigorous exchange of letters in *The Daily Telegraph* over the fate of the princes, with contributions from Philip Lindsay, Laurence Tanner (Keeper of the Muniments at Westminster Abbey) and Isolde herself. Such exchanges certainly provided sufficient evidence that there was still much passion around the subject of Richard III amongst the public. The following August saw an *In Memoriam* notice for Richard III placed in both *The Spectator* and *The Times* by a teacher from Sussex. This was picked up by a number of other newspapers and generated further publicity for the revisionist cause. Interest was also developing across the Atlantic in the United States where *The Daughter of Time* had just been published. A great coup was when *Life* magazine devoted a feature to Richard’s supporters, which included an interview with Isolde.

Also in August 1954 there was another letter exchange, this time in the pages of the *Sunday Times*. It was all started by a letter from Mrs V.B. Lamb and again the subject-matter centred on the fate of the princes. One notable contributor to the exchange was the historian Professor Alec Myers of Liverpool University. Mrs Lamb herself was to play a significant future role in the Richard III Society. During the same month Professor Myers’ important article ‘The Character of Richard III’ appeared in the *History Today* magazine. This in itself prompted a number of letters in the next issue of the magazine, including one from Isolde and also from Audrey Williamson, another important future member of the Society.

Meanwhile the correspondence with Saxon continued and in one letter he noted, ‘You know I’ve let this subject rust since Munich, and I must sit down and read all my old notes once more, it’s a long time ago, and with the death of Philip Nelson and Aymer Vallance, both of whom had a very wide knowledge and more time than I, well, I feel rather a lone hand.’ But of course he was not a lone hand any longer and as the correspondence with Isolde developed Saxon soon realised that here was someone who could well put some much-needed life back into the Fellowship. They both wanted to meet and discuss future plans. An opportunity came during the au-
tumn of 1954 when Isolde was passing through Liverpool en route to Ireland. She had written to Saxon earlier in the year to make arrangements and in the same letter mentioned that her mother, Olivia Wigram, was writing a play about Richard III. But more of that later.

Isolde arrived in Liverpool on 7 September 1954 to meet Saxon and his wife Dorothy. Before that meeting she also had a short meeting with Professor Myers, at Liverpool University, who had agreed to meet her following their correspondence over the *History Today* article. Whilst the meeting with Myers did not quite live up to Isolde’s expectations, the one with the Bartons was a great success. Saxon gave her an effusive welcome and drove her to visit a number of Ricardian sites in the north, including Middleham. While there he undoubtedly told her all about the Middleham Memorial Window and the happy day back in 1934 when it was unveiled by Marjorie Bowen. They also talked about the Fellowship and how best to revive it.

Whilst Isolde was keen to be a part of the revived Fellowship she did not see herself necessarily being a driving force in it. As she later noted, ‘Though I might have aspired to convert Professor Myers to a convinced Ricardian, I had no aspirations about taking office in the Fellowship and I remarked with complete sincerity and lack of guile to Saxon Barton that perhaps the right person would come along.’ Saxon thought otherwise: the right person had already come along. Shortly after their meeting Saxon appointed her joint-secretary of the Fellowship. They had a further meeting later in the year, which included a visit to the site of the battle of Bosworth. In those days access to the battlefield was difficult and involved careful negotiation with overgrown paths and barbed wire fences. They found Dickon’s Well in a poor state, overgrown and covered with duckweed, and resolved to do something about it.

During October and November 1954 the letters page of *The Yorkshire Post* played host to an exchange about Richard III, stimulated by a BBC radio programme on the Princes in the Tower. The significance of this exchange was that it involved a number of former members of the Fellowship: Captain J.C.C. Foote, the Reverend Mr Thomas Young (a former vicar of Middleham), and Reginald Bunnet, a future stalwart of the Yorkshire Branch. A common theme of the letters was the need for a new organisation to promote the revisionist cause: Saxon and Isolde were not slow to respond.

By the end of 1954 Olivia Wigram had completed her play about Richard III. Olivia was not new to the genre, having had a play produced five years previously by the actor and director Leslie French, who had become a family friend. The final draft of her Ricardian play was entitled *Sun of York* and its first performance as an amateur production took place at the Tower Theatre during the spring of 1955 and was performed by the Proscenium Theatre Club. Leslie French directed and took the lead role. The play received positive reviews and these encouraged him to try for a professional production later in the year.

When the Fellowship had been founded in 1924 one of the original members had been a young teenager by the name of Patrick Bacon. In a remarkable coincidence thirty years later he was a member of the Tower Theatre Company and had joined the Proscenium Players for their first-night celebrations of the *Sun of York*. Isolde and Olivia were introduced to him and in his own words Patrick records what happened: ‘I introduced myself as the Chairman of the Theatre and had hardly mentioned the name Saxon Barton than she [Olivia Wigram] threw her arms in delight and with a shriek which could have been heard in Canonbury Square, she greeted me as the long lost first member.’ Henceforth Patrick would play a significant role in the re-founding and would in future years become the Richard III Society’s first Chairman and later its first President.

So, by mid-1955, with many Ricardian supporters emerging and much publicity generated through newspapers and Olivia’s play, there was considerable momentum developing behind a possible revival of the Fellowship. However momentum needs to be maintained and a number of other events were to do just that. First amongst these was a suggestion by Olivia that a dinner be held in London
Leslie French as King Richard III in Olivia Wigram’s play *Sun of York*
on Richard’s birthday to bring together his contemporary supporters. There could of course be no better venue for this than Crosby Hall, Richard’s own London home, and this was booked for 2 October 1955, his 503rd birthday.

Meanwhile arrangements for the professional production of Sun of York were progressing well. Leslie French had booked the Royal Court Theatre in Sloane Square for a short season during the autumn of 1955. Accordingly it was decided to use the October dinner also to launch the professional run of the play, which would have the additional benefit of increasing publicity for both events. This proved successful, with a number of papers covering the event, including London’s Evening Standard which noted that, ‘A group of men and women are to dine in London next month – on October 2, Richard III’s birthday … it will be the first dinner of the recently revived Fellowship of the White Boar.’

Over 150 guests attended the dinner. Unfortunately Saxon Barton was not amongst them. He had been unable to get down from Liverpool, but was represented by his son John. The television personality Gilbert Harding had accepted an invitation to speak, and true to form proved slightly controversial. Nonetheless the evening was a great success, with much praise going to the Wigams for their organisation and planning of the event. The dinner, by bringing together so many with an interest in the revisionist cause, had brought into the fold a number of new people who would in time play significant roles in the subsequent development of the revived Fellowship: amongst whom we can count Joyce Melhuish and George Awdry.

The professional run of Sun of York went smoothly with Leslie French again playing the lead, with Valentine Dyall, Richard Cazimir and Winifred Evans taking other key parts. It met with mixed reviews from the critics, but enthusiastic responses from the audience. Nevertheless it was one of the first plays since Shakespeare’s negative portrayal to present King Richard in a positive light, and importantly it gave much impetus to the revival of the Fellowship.

1955 had also seen the release of Sir Laurence Olivier’s film of Shakespeare’s Richard III and later in the year Paul Murray Kendall’s revisionist biography of the king was published. We have already noted the influence of Josephine Tey’s book and last year’s Bulletins carried a series of articles on the impact of Paul Murray Kendall. Tey, Kendall and Olivier have proved excellent recruiting sergeants for the Society over the years, and especially in the period around the re-founding in 1956.

With such momentum and increased interest it was decided formally to re-launch the Fellowship as a constituted body in January of the following year. The minutes of that first meeting set the historic scene: ‘The inaugural meeting of the re-constituted Fellowship took place at 7.30pm on Thursday January 26th 1956 in Room 17 of the Caxton Hall. 33 members and intending members were present …’ We have come a very long way since, but that’s another story.
We joined the Society early in the 1970s and during that decade and the next, its fortunes and membership burgeoned. This strong movement forward owed a lot to the exhibition, ‘Richard III’, staged at the National Portrait Gallery in London from the 27th June to 7th October, 1973, but there were also other important factors – the Society enjoyed the patronage of H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester, the media connections of Jeremy Potter, Chairman during this time, were useful in promoting publicity, and the programme of serious research, lectures, publications and seminars increased the standing of the Society in historical circles (so that it was no longer seen as a ‘Richard III Fan Club’).

Our own Gloucester Branch came into being at this time; it began as a nucleus of like-minded people whom Alan Sutton (now an established publisher of historical books) had contacted with the idea of forming a small study group, but membership grew rapidly and we had regular meetings, usually with a well-researched talk given by one of our members or a visiting speaker, and also visits to places of historical interest. We also had several successful meetings in conjunction with the Midlands Branches and the Chilterns Group. The London Branch and members of the Committee joined us to hear Charles Ross speak at a meeting held in Churchdown following the publication of his Richard III in 1981.

Branch matters gained impetus in 1983 when Gloucester celebrated the grant, five hundred years earlier, of its Charter of Incorporation by King Richard III; to quote the City Leisure Officer’s Press release: ‘…..’ Richard III was responsible for perhaps the most important gift that could have been bestowed on a mediaeval town, namely its right to be a County Burgh, (and) the Charter permitted the citizens of Gloucester the right to elect their own mayor, a sign of the City’s independence. The Bailiffs were promoted to sheriffs, certain taxes due to the Crown were excused and the future prosperity of the City Community assured.’

It was great to be a member of the Society in Gloucester, 1983 – to see the often-maligned king honoured as the city’s great benefactor and to have the pleasure of being involved in so many memorable occasions. Events, social, dramatic, sporting and academic in character, took place throughout the year, including the Richard III Society History Lecture, ‘Richard III, Man or Monster?’ given by Jeremy Potter, M.A., on 10 June.

Two books were published – The 1483 Gloucester Charter in History, (Herbert, Griffiths, Reynolds and Clark,) and King Richard’s Gloucester (Waters). The Great Debate’ on the motion: ‘King Richard III was More Sinned Against Than Sinning’, was held in the Council Chamber of the Guildhall on 30 August with Jeremy Potter and Keith Dockray supporting and Michael Hicks and Anthony Pollard contesting the motion. The debate was then opened for audience participation and a straw poll at the end showed the motion carried.

Charter Day, 2 September, and the days immediately following, were, of course the highlights of all the celebrations. The Society had given a plaque commemorating the award of the Charter and this had been installed on St Michael’s Tower at The Cross. The Duke of Gloucester arrived in the county by helicopter and was then driven into the city to perform the unveiling ceremony watched by a small crowd of local people, civic dignitaries and Ricardian supporters from the main Committee and from the Branches and Groups.

His Royal Highness was then driven to the...
City Museum in Brunswick Road where officers connected with the Museums Service and others, including ourselves, had the honour of meeting the Duke before and during his tour of the exhibition ‘The Golden Age of Richard III’. This was an excellent collection of nearly 200 exhibits, documentary, domestic and military by nature, but the highlights were the Charter itself, of course, and the Book of Hours, considered to be Richard’s, lent by Lambeth Palace Library, and a Wycliffe New Testament, also thought to have been the King’s which had been brought by air by special courier from America.

Next the Duke was driven out to the Oxleaze where representatives of Gloucester’s twinned cities were presented to him. An oak tree planting ceremony then took place, first by the Duke and then by the guests from the twin towns; these trees, with a number of others planted a little later, were to form what was to be known as ‘Richard’s Wood.’ His Royal Highness then went on to a reception attended by the civic dignitaries of the County, City and twinned towns while we Ricardians had our own tea party in the Parliament room in the Cathedral precincts where Councillor Peter Arnold, whose term of office as 500th Mayor of Gloucester had just concluded, chose to join us; Councillor Arnold proved himself staunchly for Richard throughout.

The day finished with a Military Tattoo and the Beating of the Retreat in Gloucester Park after which the Duke left; it had been a memorable day - but the celebrations were by no means over!

During the following afternoon 5000+ changes were rung on the Cathedral bells; Great Peter, reputed to be the heaviest bell in Europe, pre-dates Richard’s time and so he could have heard its sound, as we did the previous afternoon as we were having our ‘get-together’ in the Parliament Room. Its sonorous, almost portentous, ‘voice’ effectively silenced our social chatter for a few moments.

The ringing of the bells heralded the start of the ‘mediaeval’ procession from Westgate to the ‘Fayre’ in The Park; local societies and groups, many in costume, processed through the city with the School of National Equestrian’s mounted jousters also taking part in the parade. These staged a Jousting Tourney when they reached the park where there was, as the programme says, ‘all the fun of a typical mediaeval fayre’ with ox and boar roasts, Morrismen, dancing and stalls selling cider, honey and spices. A very fine musical fireworks display, given by Dragon Fireworks, brought the events to a spectacular end.

Later in the month, on the 23 September, the local radio station, Severn Sound, in conjunction with British Telecom, sponsored an orchestral concert in the Cathedral entitled...
‘Fanfare for Richard III’. The Severn Sound Radio Orchestra, the Sunlife Brass Band and the Cathedral Choir supplied the musical and choral items of the programme which was compered by Richard Baker, the BBC presenter, who also read extracts from the Charter, contemporary histories and Josephine Tey’s *The Daughter of Time*. The orchestral and choral features included ‘Zadok the Priest,’ ‘The King Shall Rejoice’, by Handel, and a ‘Gloucester Fanfayre’ composed by Derek Bourgeois and commissioned by British Telecom especially for the occasion. As the programme says: ‘The words “let us now praise famous men”, will resound with organ, brass band and orchestra, and be conducted by the composer.’

The programme ended with Choir, Orchestra, Organ and Congregation joining together to sing Parry’s *Jerusalem* – a stirring conclusion to an amazing tribute to King Richard and his namesake city.

The ‘Gloucester Fanfayre’ was also performed at the Civic Service which was the last event of Quincentenary Year that we attended as representatives of the Society. This was held on the 9 October and was followed by a reception at the Guildhall. Jeremy Potter wrote to the Mayor, Councillor Pullon, expressing appreciation of the whole series of events in these words: ‘At a meeting held yesterday the committee of this Society instructed me to write to you formally to express the Society’s deep appreciation and gratitude for the honour done to the memory of King Richard during Gloucester’s Quincentenary celebrations and for the courtesy and hospitality shown to members of the Society.’

We, too, certainly felt privileged to have been involved in such a splendid and stimulating programme of events.

**Please help with some puzzles in Logge**

We still have puzzles to be sorted out before the Logge Register of PCC wills can finally be published, and would welcome help from *Bulletin* readers.

First, what is the significance of the expression *equus sanatus*? Literally, it means ‘a cured horse, a horse made healthy’. In 1482, John de Boys, a gentleman of Emneth, (will 194) left his wife Katherine *duo equos cum uno equo sanato de optimis*, which literally means ‘two horses with one cured horse of the best’. He left his son Thomas two bullocks called steers, a ‘cured horse’, four silver spoons and two quarters of wheat for sowing. His other descendants got colts. Did John de Boys have two precious horses which had recovered from illness or injury, or should we look for another meaning? Moira Habberjam suggests that these horses were not so much ‘cured’ as ‘doctored’ – i.e., they were geldings. What do you think?

One of the bequests of Anneys Brews, widow of London (will 12) to her son-in-law was ‘my chane of Sypers’. The reading is unclear, and just possibly the word is ‘chare’, not ‘chane’. What is Sypers? Cyprus? What is a chain of Cyprus – a copper one? Or could it possibly be a chair of cypress wood? It does follow a featherbed and a warehouse counter in the list of bequests.

In will 29, one of the longest in the entire Register, John Croke, pelterer of London, leaves his son Richard lands and tenements in various places including some in a *vicus* called Athelstrete ‘near London’. The Latin word *vicus* can mean a street or an area: the civilian hangers-on of a Roman legion lived in a settlement outside the camp’s defences in an area called the *vicus*. So, what have we got here? It sounds like a street: Athelstrete; but why then say it is ‘near London’? Are there any topographers among you who know for certain what Athelstrete is called today, and if it is one street or an area of streets?

Now a religious query. John Don, senior, mercer of London (will 14), wants 100 virtuous priests in London each to sing 15 masses ‘of the annunciation of oure blissed lady *rorate celi desuper*’ for his soul. Is there a standard modern translation of this which would be used today if this mass were to be sung?

All suggestions gratefully received by Lesley Boatwright (address on the back cover).

Lesley Boatwright
The Man Himself

The Personality of Richard III: Some opinions by a psychiatrist, based on his portraits

This article, together with an introduction by Peter Hammond, was first published in The Ricardian in March 1977

A Note on Portraits
The article following was initiated by a study of the portraits of Richard III, and it was thought that a few introductory comments on these would be useful. The two particularly mentioned are that in the Queen’s collection (at Windsor), and the one which belonged to the Paston family (now belonging to the society of Antiquaries). These were both painted after Richard’s lifetime. Neither dates from earlier than 1516, and possibly from a few years later, but they may have been painted by artists who had seen him, and the Paston portrait at least may well be based on a now lost original. In the latter case the question arises as to how close to an original a sixteenth century artist would try to keep. In some cases the answer is obviously not very close (although this would depend on the competence of the artist), as a study of the series of portraits reproduced in the catalogue of the National Portrait Gallery exhibition shows.

However, that a sixteenth century artist could copy a portrait accurately if he wished, can be shown by comparing the great Coronation portrait of Richard II in Westminster Abbey with the picture of Richard II delivering the writ of Parliament to Ralph, 1st Lord Lumley. The latter was commissioned by John Lord Lumley about 1590, and in the background to the picture is a very good likeness of the Coronation portrait of Richard II. We need feel no doubt either that artists working within a few years of Richard III’s death were capable of producing a true likeness. We have the Torrigiano bust of Henry VII, generally accepted as being taken from life, which shows a face virtually identical to that in the contemporary portrait by Michel Sittow, also taken from life, in the National Portrait Gallery.

Finally, it may be said that a royal portrait painted in the fifteenth century would be expected to have a likeness to the sitter, and not be purely an exercise in the personification of regal virtues, nor in propaganda. Certainly these two earliest portraits of Richard under discussion show few elements of propaganda, hostile or otherwise, particularly in the fea-
atures. It has often been remarked that they show a man much older than Richard’s 33 years, and it has also been said that they approximate to the late medieval facial type for the man of care. It would therefore seem likely that some elements, at least, of a portrait taken from life exist in the copies we now have, elements which no later copyist would have an interest in inventing, which he would be quite capable of reproducing, and which could accurately reflect the contemporary view of Richard.

Peter Hammond

Why does Richard III hold such a fascination over us? Here is a king with a reign so brief that in order to gain a glimpse of his personality we can touch only on the recorded thoughts of those who met him, his own writing, and finally, the portraits of him. These portraits, on which I am building up my views of him, were painted by people, who, if not actually hostile to him, had, working during later reigns, no opportunity or wish to discover what manner of man he was.

Perhaps, if we are honest, the fascination of Richard lies in our lack of knowledge of his personality as much as in the suspicions and horror of his alleged crimes.

One wonders how often we look at his portraits and still see only the stamp of cruelty and cunning. The portraits which I have in mind for comment on his personality are the one in the Queen’s collection and the one which belonged to the Paston family. In both of these there appears a real attempt on the part of the artists to show the predominant features in Richard’s make-up. By comparison, the picture in the National Portrait Gallery seems a harsh and quickly executed work by which to hang the tale of a villainous ruler.

The feelings marked on Richard’s face in the two mentioned portraits are similar to those seen on the faces of many people seeking help for problems of acute or chronic anxiety.

Anxiety is a normal feeling and in a moderate degree is a helpful force in keeping us alert to our tasks and able, under stress, to increase our efforts. When it becomes excessive it is a handicap. In some people’s lives, anxiety may become a dominant factor, and they are then described as suffering from an anxiety state. With an acute anxiety state there may be one or more severe attacks associated with a stress. In chronic anxiety the person is disabled permanently to some extent.

Many of us would admit to being rather anxious personalities, although there are no figures to demonstrate this in the general population. However, some of us, and here I include Richard, may be crippled by anxiety gnawing away throughout our lives. The marks of anxiety in Richard’s portraits are betrayed by his preoccupied, apprehensive and distant gaze, his frown of tension, and the premature lines in the face of a man in his prime.

Anxiety affects all of us at times and, as explained, is a very necessary part of our coping with life. However, let us consider how constant, severe, worry or anxiety may arise and how it can also take a firm grip on our lives everyday. The problems of anxiety can cause are feelings of tension, fear or panic, with sleep disturbed by dreams, difficulty in relaxing and in going to sleep at all, restlessness, irritability and a quick temper. Feelings of depression may be super-added.

Anxiety may be generated in two main ways from early years but may not always be evident or troublesome until adult life. The first factor to consider is how much anxiety is inherited from parents. In people showing chronic anxiety, one study has shown that 73% of their parents and 25% of their sisters and brothers had the same problems.

The second factor is concerned with the amount of anxiety provoked in formative years and how much stress is experienced and dealt with successfully as we grow up. Here, again, genetic factors play a part, as the presence of older, anxious people in the family influence the young who tend to learn the timid and apprehensive reactions to life situations. Early traumatic experiences, such as separations from parents, also provoke anxiety in the young child and in later years he may react in an anxious way to any real or threatened loss.

In Richard’s case we cannot tell how much anxiety may have been inherited, alt-
hough there may be a pointer in the signs of instability shown by his brother, Clarence. From early childhood, in a time of violence, he was certainly subjected to anxiety-provoking situations such as captivity, exile and separation from parents. These must have made their mark on his personality and as he reached teenage years will have made him wary of the precarious state of his existence. He may, by then, have felt that the only person he could trust completely was himself, and that, therefore, some measure of reserve and even secretiveness were vital to his existence.

What was a trivial stress for one person could be overwhelming for Richard if he had become vulnerable in this way and developed this inadequate way of dealing with situations. It would have led to many a sleepless night and a high degree of wariness in his communications with others. Any change of environment, whether social or domestic, might lead him to react abruptly or violently, find it hard to solve difficulties and make decisions without stress to himself, or to perform some drastic (and later regretted) action.

He could well have retained insight into these shortcomings in his method of coping with life and then tried to ‘lean over backward’ in order to retain respect and popularity, and to relieve his own worry over the image of himself which he presented to the world.

Any thwarting or unexpected incident (e.g. Buckingham’s rebellion) could, in such an anxious and insecure person, elicit an initial response of extreme anger and hostility. This would be a sudden reaction to an unexpected loss of a source of trust and security, and would resemble the childhood response to separation from parents and friends. It would be a hard thing to bear for one who could not easily commit himself or his real feelings to others. The ensuing rage would be akin to the child’s ‘temper tantrum.’ His alternative would be a retreat from stress. If the intrigues of court life became a burden or a potential threat he might seek relief in surroundings where he felt secure. We know that he had this facility available in the North, and it is here that we might expect to see the personality of Richard in its most relaxed and happy form. Unfortunately, in turning from the court he must have been aware of possible dangers coming from that quarter, particularly the anger of himself appearing as a relatively unknown ‘quantity’ when most needed by his family and country and, of course, when he had most need of them.

At this point it is interesting to consider how far his attainment of the Crown could have been partially created by himself in his anxiety over the future of his family and the country. The idea of further war may have precipitated his move to the throne in his need to feel ‘wanted’ (in a child-like way) and also to avoid more bloodshed. His need to please (stemming from similar childlike feelings to avoid anxiety) may have required the minimum of prompting. With the step once taken the consequences had gone beyond his control; he would have placed himself in a position in which he could be influenced and exploited by others. An impulse may have played a part in his decision to hold the Crown, but remorse, coupled with feelings of guilt and fear, may have set in too late. By this one act he had increased his anxiety by an enormous amount.

Some attempts to decrease anxiety are found in people who adopt a very rigid or obsessional pattern in their lives. The obsessional person adheres to a very orderly, careful and conscientious life. Changes are resisted and if they do occur tend to cause anxiety. If Richard had adopted this mechanism of keeping his anxiety within normal limits any deviation from the routine could trigger panic or impulsive action. He may have developed the conviction that others were deliberately against him and upsetting him. This would be an indication of his feelings of inadequacy with oversensitivity to criticism and an inability to accept any form of praise. He would tend to retreat more into himself, brooding on his worries and never sharing them, or act in a hostile manner to the bewilderment of those about him. Again, the feelings of insecurity would arise and personal losses would have weighed heavily upon him.

It is not uncommon for one in this state of severe, longstanding anxiety eventually to tip
into a state of depression with its accompanying agitation, lack of sleep, unfounded feelings of guilt, withdrawal and lack of all interests. When one remembers that towards the end of his reign Richard was also suffering from the shock of the deaths of his wife and son, the grief or mourning process may have pushed him to the stage of depression where life is no longer worth living. One wonders, had Richard reached that point when Bosworth came upon him? Had he come to the state where anxiety and depression were his enemies and he no longer had the will, strength or wish to fight them? Was his final charge in the battle seen by him as a chance to end all the uncertainties and burdens with which his life had become surrounded?

Marjorie Weeks

NOTES AND REFERENCES
10. Slater and Roth, *op. cit.*, p.100.
From a historical novelist, Isolde Martyn

The hard grind of writing historical novels: ‘For herein may be seen ... murder, hate, virtue, and sin.’

Was the term sentencing a man to death used in Richard III’s reign? If a fictional character said George of Clarence had a brain like a pickled walnut, were walnuts around in 1470, let alone pickled? What colour was Isabella Neville’s hair? When was velvet invented? If a knight whistles up his horse and springs from an upstairs windowsill onto the saddle, will it ruin his chance of fatherhood?

Yes, you’ve entered the world of the historical novelist. Infotainment! Our task is to enthral and enlighten you, and within a few pages have you believing you are back in the fifteenth century with its smells and superstitions, splendour and rags. It requires effort: characters must be fleshed out, sets designed, places visited, plus there’s lots of research. It’s like a one-man film studio. The novelist becomes the historical advisor, screenwriter, casting agent, costume and set designer, location finder, vocal coach, sandwich-maker and director in one package.

Establishing the facts, historical novelists browse the university shelves for primary sources, seek out biographies of the breakers and shakers (you can’t have Warwick feasting at Westminster on 28 March 1461 when he is slaying his destrier at Ferrybridge) and chase up journal articles. We may email an expert, phone a university Classics Department to get a Latin quote right, beg the local heraldry wiz to dream up a surcoat device, consult a tame doctor on abscesses or the corner chemist’s book on poisons.

Illuminated manuscripts, Books of Hours and medieval artworks help with descriptions. The detail showing a well-dressed servant’s sleeve tippets sensibly looped up behind his back so he can easily serve his lord at the feast – perfect!

The number of areas where some research is needed can be daunting if you strive for authenticity. Take women’s clothing: knowledge of style, fabrics, dyes and accessories is needful. Do garters really keep her stockings up? How is her clothing fastened and – with sex scenes in mind – unfastened? Are her garments comfortable or restrictive? Imagine wet skirts flapping round your ankles. (Gentlemen, if you were wearing a houpelande, you’d experience this, too.) What does her clothing say about her marital status or calling? Does the weight of her headdress give her a megrim or pull her head back?

The same applies to male clothing. Think what the lads might have carried in their sleeves: frogs, prayer books, love-letters, daggers. How did the hose attach to his gipon? Does he put on armour? If so, what style? Does he wear the Yorkist rising sun or the Oxford star?

Then there are horses and their paraphernalia, a castle’s layout and terminology, food,
necessities, furnishings – the list is endless. How far could a man travel in a day depending on his transport/footwear, health, the state of the roads and the weather, not to mention his possible ignorance of the terrain? Do the characters know whether the world is round or flat? Does the hero believe that if he gives his wife pleasure during their love-making, she is more likely to bear a worthy son, or does he worry about Hildegard of Bingen’s warning that too much unbridled lust will make him go blind? What music does he hear? What stories does he know? Can he ‘play cards close to his chest’ at Richard III’s Westminster?

Novelists have to decide whether to make it easier for readers and opt for contractions in the dialogue or stick to ‘cannot’ and ‘shall not’. According to the Oxford English Dictionary, the first written mention of ‘tisn’t’ is 1803.

The use of an anachronism like ‘charade’ in a thirteenth-century setting can bring the reader back to her living room with a jolt. Even authentic words can have too strong a modern meaning. Prototype (from the 1550s) sounds very recent. Some words have changed their meaning, too. If a knight puts on his bassinet and picks up a faggot, could this be misconstrued?

Sometimes today’s world provides insights. For me, hearing someone in Weobley complain about his sports car’s tyres being slit by yobbos in Snowdonia made me think more deeply about what it might have been like to be an Englishman in Brecon in 1483. Adding the layer of Welsh resentment and the acts of vandalism gave extra realism to a novel set in Buckingham’s household.

Experiencing actual locations, too, flows through to our writing: glimpsing the swallow’s nest beneath the parapet, the houses in the cliffs at Amboise, the view from the castle battlements at Angers or Richmond, Yorkshire.

Most of the huge amount of information that novelists collect ends up on the cutting-room floor. Some of it gets sanitised. Today we might play down superstition, religious devotion, hunting and bedbugs. None of ‘You’re looking beautiful tonight, Mistress Shore,” murmured King Edward, plucking a flea from one of her tresses.’ Well-researched historical novels can permit conjecture in ways denied to academic historians. For example, creating a novel allowed me to suggest that Warwick’s bastard daughter, Margaret Neville, was the anonymous lady spy of Calais. Such a hypothesis is possible for, in honesty, fifteenth-century history is little more than gossip in letters and scraps of records pieced together by the professionals to form text books, and what clouds the truth even more is that contemporary histories, just like bestiaries, were designed to teach morality – and written by the winners. Vergil, Hall and Holinshed’s works were not just biased but didactic. ‘All is written for our doctrine, and for to beware that we fall not to vice,’ agreed Caxton.

Most history books seem to forget women existed. Just because the Croyland Chronicler doesn’t say so doesn’t mean the duchess and her ladies weren’t present in the great hall. Novels also permit us to put emotion back into history and explore personal interactions, such as the growing rift between Richard III and ‘him who had best cause to be true’.

At the end of all the novelist’s labour, the manuscript must be marketable, supply a setting acceptable to the publisher and a high concept that the sales reps can grasp easily so they can enthuse to the bookshops or the buyer for Walmart. The author must engage the editor/reader within the first few pages and keep her/him hooked with the pace, suspense, humour, emotional tension, sex, zesty dialogue, believable characters and lively narrative.

Now, finally, tell me, is it through history textbooks or a well-researched novel that you smell the roses, the ditches and the spilt blood of the fifteenth century? Surely good historical novels are allies to historians by encouraging further reading? The greater risk to whatever truth we discern by examining the past is surely from the screenplay premise stated by Robert McKee that ‘historical drama polishes the past into a mirror of the present’.
From Julia Redlich, a fiction editor

Congratulations in running the debate on this subject – and to the two ‘speakers’ involved who put their cases in such a straightforward and logical way.

After much fence-sitting my vote is given in favour of the novel. This is not entirely surprising because as a fiction editor and book reviewer the selection of novels and short stories, many of them ‘period pieces’, that arrive on my desk underline the comment in the introduction to the debate that some are good, some are bad and some truly awful.

However, many years in this particular line of work which has allowed me to talk to many authors of the blockbuster, literary and almost amateur variety, has shown that the historical novel is running pretty close behind whodunits and the category romance/bodice ripper genres in popularity. And if a love of the topic leads readers to want to learn more about the chosen period, I can only rejoice that (a) they want to read and (b) they are prepared to research.

This is, after all, the reason that a large amount of Ricardians joined the Society. As Shaun Tyas says, Josephine Tey’s The Daughter of Time has done more to interest people in the fact that there might be another side of the Richard III legend. The soundness of her research and the method of painting him almost whiter than white is debatable, but if it has introduced the Society and its aims to a wider field, then credit must be given.

Reading the book in the 1950s certainly spurred my interest that had already been hooked by Robert Louis Stevenson’s classic The Black Arrow. Watching a stage production at the Old Vic at the ripe old age of 10, I was stunned to find the hunchbacked black-clad Duke of Gloucester was a very different character to the wicked uncle who had done in those blond boys in Millais’ portrait/shampoo advertisement.

Currently, as secretary of the New South Wales Branch of the Society, I am interested to learn that many would-be members wanting to know more about us frequently refer to Tey’s book. And the younger generation appear to be keen readers of Sharon K. Penman’s novels. And if they are a reason for inquiries about the Richard III Society, then they are probably doing more good than some rather dry factual accounts that are depressingly biased in the other direction. No names, no pack drill ...

Let’s not forget how enjoyable it is to escape into the past and admire, criticise and query the vivid imaginations of the authors. When Tony Pollard put forward the idea of Anne Neville as Lady Macbeth, I recalled Elizabeth George’s short story I, Richard and her intriguing concept of Elizabeth of York’s being quite different to that innocent young girl in the familiar portrait.

Sure, there are some dreadful examples of hysterical historicals to be found, but if just one commuter reading one on a tedious journey is persuaded that Richard was in fact a Good Thing, then let’s look on it as another drop of water wearing away the stone of disbelief. Acceptance of the need for a fresh look at Richard, his achievements, life and times is the reason we are in existence.

From Mr J C Knights

What an excellent idea to have a debate on historical novels and what a pity that it turned out to be somewhat of a damp squib! Tony Pollard seemed to think that the subject was ‘historical novels about Richard III’, which is surely not the intention. In any event I agree completely with Shaun Tyas whose well argued and researched article makes out a very convincing case for the defence.
Richard and Anne’s Dispensation

MARIE BARNFIELD

I read with huge interest Peter Hammond’s article in December’s Bulletin summarising Richard and Anne’s marriage dispensation (based on English Historical Review, ‘English Royal Marriages and the Papal Penitentiary in the Fifteenth Century’, Peter D. Clarke, vol. 120, pp.1014-1029). That Gloucester would have failed to seek a dispensation, particularly with Clarence doing his best to sabotage the union, has always seemed to me inherently unlikely. However, this news still fails to explain the cryptic reference in the Act of Parliament of 1473/4 to the couple’s possible future divorce and attempt at remarriage, and a careful scrutiny of the dispensation does reveal a possible explanation.

Peter’s article describes the dispensation as releasing the couple ‘from the impediment of being related within the third and fourth degrees of kinship’ and explains that dispensations were required for ‘marriages between couples related within four degrees of blood or marriage (this is second cousin or nearer)’. On this basis, the degrees of kinship cited in Richard and Anne’s dispensation would be correct, as they were first cousins once removed.

Unfortunately, however, the above interpretation is one degree out. The Catholic Encyclopaedia explains that ‘persons were remote from one another by as many degrees as they are remote from the common stock, omitting the common stock ... first cousins would be ... in the second degree of consanguinity.’ (The ‘common stock’ is the term used for a couple’s nearest common ancestor.) That this was also the system in use in the fifteenth century may be illustrated by reference to the apostolic dispensation obtained by Henry VII and Elizabeth of York in January 1486. The earl of Derby testified ‘that the said king and lady are related in the fourth and fourth degrees of kindred, and he says that he knows this because John [de] Gaunt, duke of Lancaster, had in marriage a son John and a daughter Joan, of which son John was begotten John, duke of Somerset, and the said John, duke of Somerset, begat in marriage Margaret, mother of the said king, now wife of this sworn [witness], and that the said Margaret, [when] countess of Richmond, bore in marriage the said king Henry; and that the aforenamed Joan had a daughter named Cecily, duchess of York, who had a son, Edward IV, late king, who begat in marriage the said lady Elizabeth ...’ (Calendar of Selections from the Papal Regesta, vol. XIV, p.18)

To further complicate matters, a dispensation needed to absolve a couple from all prohibited relationships, not just the closest, and from relationships by marriage as well as by blood, relationship by blood being referred to as ‘consanguinity’, and relationship via marriage as ‘affinity’.

I am extremely grateful to Peter for forwarding me a copy of Peter Clarke’s article, which confirms that the dispensation released Richard and Anne ‘from the impediment of the third and fourth degrees of affinity’. They had, in other words, been granted a dispensation solely for a relationship by marriage, as second cousins-in-law once removed. This is the relationship the couple had incurred via Anne’s marriage to Edward of Lancaster. The dispensation should also, of course, have absolved them from the impediments of the second and third degrees of consanguinity, and this is surely what the couple would have requested. It is almost inconceivable that any medieval aristocrat would have been so ignorant of the rules regarding marital prohibition, and Anne had already experienced the acquisition of a dispensation for her sister to marry
Richard’s brother. The most logical explanation, therefore, is one which, in another context, Clarke refers to as ‘banal’, i.e. ‘that the proctor who drew up the supplications made mistakes.’ Unfortunately, banality is an all too common feature of human affairs.

If it is hard to believe that Richard and Anne would have been ignorant of the inadequacy of such a dispensation, it is almost as hard to credit that they would have proceeded with the marriage without rectifying it. Is it possible, then, that consanguinity in the second and third degrees, though omitted from the copy in the papal register, was included in the dispensation issued to the couple?

Whatever the explanation, marry they did, apparently without seeking any further licence from the Church. But, when? Peter’s article observes that: ‘Although Richard and Anne received their dispensation on 22 April ... political considerations, i.e. the division of the Neville estates, might have prevented it and they may not have been married before that dispute was finally settled in 1474.’ The case for a 1474 marriage has been, as readers may be aware, persuasively argued by Peter in Edward of Middleham (Gloucester Group Publications, 2nd edition) and consists of two main elements: first, the statement in Hearne’s Fragment that ‘Anne was wedded to Richard Duke of Gloucester after in the year of our Lord 1474; and, secondly, Croyland’s claim that the disagreement between the brothers first arose during the Michaelmas term of the first parliament of Edward’s second reign (which ran from October 1472 through to 1474) and the chronicler’s suggestion that the couple were not married until a settlement had been reached. Peter does note that the first reference to Anne as Duchess of Gloucester appears in a petition submitted to Parliament (by Ralph, Lord Neville) in the autumn of 1472, but argues that this may have been passed and copied into the rolls very much later. He identifies the second reference as that occurring in the final parliamentary property settlement with Clarence, usually dated to the first half of 1474.

It is an interesting interpretation, as it implies that Richard was sufficiently hardheaded to postpone the marriage until he had forced from Clarence a fair share of the Warwick inheritance. However, as Peter freely admits, both the above chronicles were written at some remove from the events in question, Croyland in 1486 and Hearne’s Fragment between 1516 and 1522. Also, though Croyland tells us that the quarrel arose during the first parliamentary session of Edward’s second reign, he incorrectly dates this session to 1471, so it is equally possible that the marriage dispute arose that year. Indeed, the earliest extant reference to the brothers’ quarrel was written in February 1472 (Paston Letters).

As regards the date at which Ralph Neville’s petition was written into the parliament rolls, the latest edition of these (The Parliament Rolls of Medieval England, ed. Given-Wilson et al., SDE, 2005) states that it belongs to the first roll of the parliament, which covers the first two sessions (the second ending on 8 April 1473). Indeed, according to the same edition the ‘1474’ Act dividing the Countess’s lands actually belongs to the roll covering the third session (6 October to 13 December 1473).

If the couple did not hold out for the more radical final property settlement, or for an amended dispensation, then there is no reason to suppose that they did not marry as soon as the dispensation reached England in May or June of 1472. Clarence had, in fact, as early as March 1472 agreed to a partial division of his lands with Gloucester. An early marriage would also make more sense of Sir John Paston’s belief in early June of 1473 that not only was the Countess in the process of joining Richard at Middleham but she was also planning to bestow upon him all her lands.

Clarence’s armed musters of autumn 1473, on this analysis, represent a revival of the property dispute after the marriage. On 6 November Sir John Paston wrote that Clarence was gathering forces to ‘deal with’ Gloucester. This activity coincided with an expected French-backed invasion by the Earl of Oxford and there was a suspicion abroad that George was using his quarrel with his brother as a cover for something more sinister (‘and some men think that under this there should be some other thing intended, an
some treason conspired ...'). In this context, it is interesting to find a reference to the 1473 dispute, hostile to Gloucester, surfacing in France. And this also confirms that Richard and Anne were married before that particular round of sparring began. In February 1474 the Milanese ambassador in France wrote home to his master claiming somewhat confusedly that '... the Duke of Lancaster, who by force had taken to wife the daughter of the late Earl of Warwick who had been married to the Prince of Wales, was constantly preparing for war with the Duke of Clarence.' (Laynesmith, *The Last Medieval Queens*, p.70) 'By force' no doubt means against the wishes of Anne’s guardian, Clarence.

The reference, in the subsequent parliamentary settlement, to Richard and Anne’s possible divorce and attempts at remarriage suggests that this new quarrel may have been sparked by Clarence’s discovery of the flaw in the dispensation. Whether it was a flaw in the document possessed by the couple, or whether Clarence had used contacts in Rome to search the papal registers, will probably never be known. Clarke’s article reveals that politically sensitive marriages were frequently prey to attempts by hostile parties to identify defects in the enabling dispensations; Louis XI, for instance, attempted to prevent Margaret of York’s marriage to Charles the Bold in this very way, with the result that the wedding was delayed whilst the couple obtained a second dispensation from the papal envoy in England.

However, the 1473/4 Act of Parliament strongly suggests that Richard and Anne had by that time taken steps to rectify the situation and were awaiting the outcome: ‘... if the said Richard, Duke of Gloucester, and Anne, be hereafter divorced, and after the same be lawfully married, this present Act be to them as good and available as if no such divorce had been had, but as if the same Anne had continued wife to the said duke of Gloucester ... And, over that, it is ordained by the said authority that if the said duke of Gloucester and Anne hereafter be divorced, and after that he do his effectual diligence and continual devoir, by all convenient and lawful means, to be lawfully married to the said Anne the daughter, and during the life of the same Anne be not wedded ne married to any other woman, that yet the said duke of Gloucester shall have and enjoy as much of the premises as shall appertain to the said Anne during the life of the said duke of Gloucester.’

Since we hear no more of any problems regarding the legality of the marriage, my guess would be that it eventually received the Church’s blessing. Whilst the evidence is lacking, we should remember that evidence for any dispensation was lacking until four months ago, and that we know of Margaret and Charles’ second dispensation only from its survival in the Burgundian archives. It does seem unlikely that the Church would have refused to correct what was probably its own mistake, or that Richard would have been bold enough to bastardise Edward V if his own marriage were invalid (or, indeed, that his enemies would have been too dim to take advantage of such an opportunity). Hearne’s Fragment may be right after all, and Richard and Anne did marry – though for a second time – in 1474.

Marie Barnfield
For most testators, the choice of burial place was simple: they asked to be buried in the local parish church. For some, a grave in the cemetery was enough; others had their eye on a more prestigious spot, in the chancel, or perhaps a special chapel.

Three London testators seemed to want the comfort of familiar surroundings. William Penbrygge, skinner, (will 15) asked to be buried in the Lady Chapel of St Antonines of London ‘in the place adjoyning to the sepulture of Rawlyn Skynnard even before the sett in the chapell wher I am wouned to sitt’; Richard Barett, haberdasher, chose burial ‘... within the chapell of the same churche where I was wonte to sytt afore the image there of seint Jame yf it maye so be done or elles as nyghe therto as it maye be done’ (111); and John Skyrwith (312), leatherseller, wanted to be buried ‘in the chapel of saint John ... afore the pewe where I am usid to sitte in the seid chapell’. It is noticeable that all three chose to sit in a chapel rather than in the church’s nave: a chapel’s cosiness may have fostered a greater sense of place – and I always thought that medieval churches had no real seats in the nave anyway.

We can perhaps detect devotion to a particular saint. Twenty-six of the 338 male testators and six of the 40 women asked to be buried in the Lady chapel, or near a statue of the Virgin; but four of these six were asking for burial near their husbands, so it was the men who had chosen the Lady Chapel. Other favoured saints are St Margaret (5 requests for proximity), St Nicholas (4 requests), and St John the Baptist and St Katherine (3 requests each). Peter Walpole (251) asked to be buried in St Andrews Holborn, London, ‘byfor the ymage of saint Ethildrede ... if I be buried there I bequeth v mark to the making of a new ymage of saint Ethildrede with the paynting and other necessaries to heir longing and more money if more nede’. He clearly wanted a splendid image to watch over him in his grave. Laurence Fyncham, fishmonger of London, left his soul, as was usual, to Jesus and Mary, but also to ‘her hooly moder saint Anne myn avowrie’ and asked to be buried in St Mary Magdalene beside Oldfishstreet in London ‘in a place their by me chosen a fore the image of swete saint Anne their’ (20).

For many of the testators, their choice was to join a loved or respected one, a family member, or a master. In particular, clerics asked to be buried near their masters and predecessors. Seventeen men, but no women, request burial near a parent. Fulk Bourchier, Lord Fitzwareyn (11), and Martin Bloundell, fruiterer of London (82), ask to be buried near their mothers. Sometimes it is a question of a family chantry chapel: two men named John Newburgh, a father and son, have a family chantry in ‘Byndon’ ready to receive their bodies. John Newburgh senior, who died in 1484, asked to lie ‘in a marble tomb built and set up for me in the chapel of Holy Trinity at the foot of my father’s tomb’ (260) and his son who died a few months later asked for burial ‘in my grandfather’s chantry at Byndon’ (165).

Some men did not request burial near family members, but near other people who had been important to them in their lives. John Don, senior, mercer of London, whose will contains no mention of wife or children (14), asked in 1480 to be buried before the high altar of St Thomas the Apostle, London,
where in late daies past is buried the body of Master John Mawnshill late my Curate and persone of the same church’. Then in September 1485 John Mustell, also a mercer of London, whose father was dead but whose mother and wife were still alive, asked to be buried in the same church ‘nygh to the place where the body of my maister John Don lieth if it may conveniently be don’ (248). In his will Don had left Mustell, one of his executors, ‘my white quyte, my large sauter and my litle maser with a fote the covereyng thereof maser and in the top of the covereyng a maidens hede gilt and in money x li.’ as well as leases in Cheapside.

It was natural to request burial near a dead spouse. In the nature of things, most of the 40 female testators were widows (as married women rarely made wills, and then only with the consent of their husbands), and 25 request burial near their husbands – much more commonly so than burial near the image of a saint, reflecting perhaps the reality of the direction a woman’s devotion was expected to take. But there were some widows who did not mention their dead husbands in their wills. Does this imply a criticism of the quality of the marriage? Joan Devyn (78) simply asks to be buried in Henley church. She says her son Thomas is not to obstruct her executors, and leaves two-thirds of her disposable property to the husband and son of her daughter Juliana. Nor does Margaret Gardynet (99) mention her husband when she asks for burial in the church of St Thomas’s Hospital in Southwark, where her son is the master. Agnes Catission (142) doesn’t even describe herself as a widow. She asks to be buried in Wisbeach church, and for a priest to pray for the souls of her parents, her friends, herself and her benefactors, which sounds as if she is a single woman; but then we find she has three daughters. She leaves one a rosary, and the other two a belt apiece, and that is all, scarcely the munificence of love. But we must always remember that wills may leave as much unsaid as is said, and inheritances may be transmitted in other documents, or have been handed over in the testator’s lifetime.

Many men ask to be buried near a dead wife. John Philepot, esquire, (224) had more grandiose ideas than most: ‘my body to be buried within the chapell which by the mercy and love of almyghty Jhesu I purpose of new to edifie and bild ...’ and when everything was ready, ‘my body or bonys and the bonys of Elizabeth late my wif shalbe laid and buried honestly within the seid chapell in tombe with stone and portrature of me and of my seid wiff and of my xvij children.’

Trouble might arise when a testator had been married more than once. This was perhaps more difficult for women than for men. A man could ask to be buried beside a dead wife, and expect his second wife dutifully to follow him underground when the time came. A man who had buried two wives may well have placed them together in his family space. Sir Roger Lewkenor, however, had choices to make. He requested burial in the parish church of Tratton ‘in a marble tombe which I ordeyned there beside the high auter ... item I will that the marble stone which I bought for my first wife be laid upon her at Arundell. Item that my ijth wifes bonys be laid in my tombe with me’ (9). Thomas Hoye, joiner of London, (35) asked to be buried by the morrow mass altar in Garlickhythe church in London, near his uncle John Derk. His wife Katherine is to arrange his funeral – and there are three former wives, Anne, Agnes and Margaret, to be prayed for. Where are these women buried?

A widow who remarried might well wish to be buried with her first husband, especially if she had had children, and the first marriage had been a long one – but could she do anything about it? Two of our 40 women testators are certainly in this position, asking for burial near their first husbands: Alice Warner (299) and Agnes Lytton (303). Alice Warner’s is a nuncupative will (i.e. a spoken will, made in extremis before witnesses), naming her husband Oliver Warner as residuary legatee and executor, but she asks for burial beside her former husband, Robert Colwich (40), and that masses should be arranged for his soul and hers. Agnes Lytton, now the wife of Robert Lytton, gentleman, was the widow of John Parys (265) and asks to be buried beside him in St Botolph Billingsgate.
She needs to ensure that John Parys’s will is properly carried out, and charges her executors ‘truly to performe the same’. Did the second husbands act upon their wives’ wishes?

A woman who had been widowed twice or more would not be in the same position as a man who had buried two wives. A man might well have buried two wives in the same place, and so could join them both when his turn came, but it is unlikely that a woman’s two husbands would be buried together, even if they were in the same church: their families might have had other ideas. Such a woman, therefore, had a choice to make. It may be that she chose to please her children—or that in this one last thing she would please herself. Anneys Brews (12) and Jane Barre (196) chose their first husbands, Frances Skulle (63) and Margaret Chocke (95) their second husbands.

There were, of course, ways of lessening the slight to the spouse not chosen. Masses and prayers could be set up in different churches for the spouses not selected as partners of your eternal rest, or artefacts given to the churches. A number of garments were offered for the making of vestments, or jocallia (precious objects) given to beautify a church. Maud Underhill’s silver candlesticks are a supreme example (50). ‘Item I biqueth to the making of ij candilstikkes of silvere [to the parish church of Watirlamehith] x marc. And I wolle that the names of all myn husbondes and my name and Alison Underhille, Johanne Spalding and Alice his wife been sett in the footes of either of the said candilstikkes and Water Underhille and me the said Mawde upon the said candilstikkes.’

Later in the will she names her husbands: ‘for the soules of my husbondes that is to saie, John Spalding, Roger Hethe and Alice his wife’ [Maud must have been Roger’s second wife] ‘... William Symondes and the said Walter Underhille ...’

Not everyone, however, was worried about his eternal resting place. Of the 378 testators, 26 men (but no women) say such things as ‘where it shall please God’, ‘where my executors choose’, on ‘in Christian burial’ when disposing of their bodies, and a few simply leave no instructions at all. One thing that emerges is that most of these 26 do not want their bodies taken a distance, and when we remember what happened to Henry V’s body we can perhaps see why. Thomas Warham (30) wanted to be buried in Croydon if he died within 10 miles of the place; if not, ‘where God disposeth’. William Chaunte (235) canon of the free chapel royal of St Stephen within the palace of Westminster, ‘knowing I am about to leave this vale of woe’, limited the journey of his corpse to just one mile: if he died within a mile of Westminster, then he wanted to be buried ‘in St Stephen’s lower chapel between the font and the west door’, but if he died elsewhere, he left it to his executors to decide. Even burial beside a loved one was not worth a journey for some testators: William Nyholasson, merchant of Lynn, asked for burial in Lynn ‘by Kateryn my wiff yf it happ me to dye in Lynne and els where as yt plesith God’ (282).

On the other hand, John Rogere (322) wanted to be buried at Lambourne beside his father, in ‘an honest tombe of marble’, no matter where he died, and took steps that no parson should impede this: ‘And if it fortune me to dye in any place out of Lamborne aforseid than I will that the curat in whos parish yt shall fortune me to dye have for his mortuary or oblation whether he wold clayme of me and for licence to be hadde for my body to depart thens to Lamborne aforseid and for all other charges that he coude aske of me of duete to pray for my soule xl s.’

And what are we to make of Sir John Elryngton’s last wishes? Treasurer of Edward IV’s ‘house’, he bequeathed his body ‘to be buryed at Shordiche chirch if any of my servantis will bringe me there or els there as shall please God best’. Why would his servants not take him for burial to Shoreditch? Why was it their responsibility? And if they refused, surely somebody else would have arranged it? He had a wife Margaret, several sons and daughters, and respectable executors, ‘John Elryngton the elder, gentilman, [probably his brother] and Robert Forster’ to whom he left 10 marks each for their labour. There is more in this than meets the eye. It is the discovery of odd little details like this that
Sir George Buck holds a special place in the historiography of Ricardian studies as the first to write a revisionist account of the king and his reign. However, Buck’s reputation as a responsible historian has suffered over the years due to the unfortunate circumstances in which the original manuscript was published. It was only in 1979, thanks to the tireless scholarship of Arthur Noel Kincaid, that a faithful copy of the History of King Richard the Third was finally committed to print. Subsequently Kincaid has been at pains to rescue Buck’s unfairly tarnished reputation, in much the same way that Buck himself sought to rescue Richard’s. Kincaid has methodically drawn attention to the very small number of Buck’s sources that cannot today be traced. Among these Kincaid listed ‘an old manuscript book’ containing a reference to a plot by Morton and a ‘certain Countess’ to poison the sons of Edward IV. That the identity of this ‘certain Countess’ is, as Kincaid suggests, none other than Margaret Beaufort cannot surely be doubted. What is of concern here is to show how the known events of summer and autumn 1483 lend support to Buck’s accusations against Henry Tudor’s mother and the Bishop of Ely, John Morton.

Historians have traditionally insisted that Margaret Beaufort’s clandestine efforts to place her son on the throne commenced only as a consequence of a widely accepted belief that the Princes were no longer alive. This, as we shall see, is false. Towards the end of July 1483 an attempt was made to abduct the sons of Edward IV from the Tower of London. Though the plan failed it was carefully organised, and may well have involved as many as fifty participants. Significantly, four men executed for their involvement were in addition accused of sending letters to Henry and Jasper Tudor in Brittany. This clearly implicates Margaret Beaufort, and at a time when the sons of Edward IV were still alive and known to be resident in the Tower.

That Margaret’s intentions focused solely upon her son, and did not include a restoration of Edward V, was confirmed within days of the attempted abduction. It is recorded that in early August 1483 a chance meeting took place between Margaret Beaufort and Henry Stafford, Duke of Buckingham. The duke is reported to have engaged the countess in a conversation concerning the strength of his own claim to the throne through the Beaufort line. The countess is said to have quickly reminded the duke that the senior Beaufort claimant was in fact her son.

Thus the attempted abduction, followed closely by the encounter with Henry Stafford, reveals that Margaret was conspiring against Richard from the very beginning of the reign (while the Princes were definitely alive) and that foremost among her thoughts was a keen appreciation of her son’s title to the throne. But fully to understand the real implications of this we need to return to the unsuccessful plot to apprehend the late king’s sons.

Dominic Mancini’s often-quoted recollection – that the Princes were seen less and less behind the bars and windows of the inner Tower until they ceased to appear at all – provides an important clue to what happened next. The boys disappeared because Richard ordered their removal to a secret location, not because he had arranged their murder. The attempted abduction convinced the new king that the Tower was no longer secure, and the positions of some of those arrested indicated that the conspirators had infiltrated the Tower itself. Unfortunately Richard remained on royal progress throughout the period of alarm,
and was thus unable to take personal control of the boys’ relocation. Here we have to inform ourselves of the possible outcomes of this far from satisfactory situation. As will become clear, a strong possibility is that the removal of the boys was known to those working against Richard, and that at some point thereafter the Princes fell into the hands of the conspirators – never to be seen again. Richard could not produce the boys to scotch rumours of their murder for one very good reason: he simply didn’t know what had happened to them. Game, set and match: Richard was effectively framed.

So far we have concentrated upon the countess of Richmond, in order to demonstrate her participation in the plot alluded to by Sir George Buck. It now remains to show how the bishop of Ely, John Morton, is likewise implicated in the scheme to dispose of the Princes.

By the beginning of August 1483 the royal progress had reached Gloucester. Here Richard was joined by the duke of Buckingham, who, after a short time, left for his Brecknock estates in Wales. Though the two men apparently parted on good terms, it was to be the last occasion on which they were to do so. As we have already seen, Buckingham talked shortly afterwards with Margaret Beaufort, before continuing his journey to Brecknock.

It is at this point that we must turn to perhaps the most important contemporary source for Richard III’s reign, the Crowland Chronicle. The famously anonymous continuator described how the duke, while at Brecknock, repented of his support for Richard and announced, by public proclamation, his intention to lead a rebellion in favour of Margaret Beaufort’s son. At the same time, according to the Crowland continuator, ‘a rumour arose that King Edward’s sons, by some unknown manner of violent destruction, had met their fate’. And, as we all know, also resident at Brecknock during this period was the mastermind behind the whole enterprise: the bishop of Ely, John Morton. Morton, again according to the Crowland Chronicle, persuaded Buckingham to write to Margaret Beaufort’s son in Brittany, inviting him to invade the kingdom. Thus the duke of Buckingham, under the influence of the bishop of Ely, renounced his allegiance to Richard in order to lead a rebellion in support of the bishop’s co-conspirator’s son. On top of this, the one piece of information that made everything possible is conveniently revealed: the Princes are dead.

Morton is apparently able to convince Buckingham that Henry Tudor should now become king in place of Edward V. He is able to do this because he has received information from Margaret Beaufort that the Princes are dead. The boys were abducted when Richard ordered their removal from the Tower, and probably died shortly afterwards. Safe in the knowledge that the sons of Edward IV had been eliminated, a rebellion in favour of Henry Tudor can now take place. Richard, unable to produce the boys, was thus condemned by his inability to counter the rumours of their deaths.

What I believe has to be accepted is that the interpretation presented here, based on the assertion of Sir George Buck, is as coherent as any that attempt to condemn Richard III. The known evidence shows that a plot to poison the Princes, orchestrated by Margaret Beaufort and John Morton, is entirely plausible.

**Reading List**


Although Thomas Wilkynson was elected president at a critical period in the history of Queens’ College and was one of the longest-serving presidents, little of his life and background is known. His request in his will that prayers be said for his parents at the priory and convent at Malton suggests that he was of Yorkshire origin. The heraldic arms which are associated with him, *Gules a fesse vair in chief a unicorn Or* are similar to those of the Wilkynsons of Elland in the West Riding, and it is quite possible that Thomas Wilkynson, vicar of Halifax, was his uncle. The vicar’s niece, Margery Wilkynson, married Nicholas Savile, nephew of Sir John Savile, lord of Elland. The Saviles were related to many of the leading families of Yorkshire, including the Gascoignes, Hoptons, Pylkingtons, Watertons and Redmans, who were associated with Richard III. A brother of Nicholas Savile married Lady Waterton, widow of one of the Watertons of Methley, who had cared for Richard and Isabella Plantagenet, the two orphan children of Richard of Cambridge, grandfather of Edward IV and Richard III. Isabella married Henry Bourchier, earl of Essex, the elder brother of Thomas Bourchier, archbishop of Canterbury, and it is possible that it was through this connection that Thomas entered the church and established his career within the archbishopric of Canterbury.

After gaining his degree at Peterhouse, Cambridge, Thomas Wilkynson was elected a fellow of Queens’ College in 1470/1. In 1473 he was presented to the rectory of Wimbledon, Surrey, by the archbishop of Canterbury, Cardinal Thomas Bourchier. When the rectory of Orpington, Kent, fell vacant in 1475, Thomas was presented to it, and in 1479 he became dean of Shoreham. This deanship covered 35 parishes in Kent. In the same year he was presented to the rectory of Harrow, a large parish in Middlesex. As recorded in the annals of Cambridge University, he still held these livings at the time of his death. In 1477 he was appointed dean of Pagham, a block of land covering the medieval bailiwick of Pagham in the Pallant of Chichester, Sussex, within the lordship of Canterbury, a position he seems to have held until he was elected president of Queens’ College.

From 1477 until 1483 he was treasurer of the archbishop’s household, a position which must have necessitated constant attendance on, and the complete trust of, the now elderly archbishop. Frequently on the move, visiting and entertaining at the archbishop’s properties in London and Kent, especially Knole Park in Kent, Thomas at this time may well have gained the experience and made the contacts which led to his election as president of Queens’; he seems to have acted as senior fellow of the college from about this period.

**Queens’ College**

The college was originally called ‘the College of St Bernard of Cambridge’, after the name of the hostel owned by Andrew Docket, who in 1448 became the first President of Queens’ College. When it obtained the financial assistance of Henry VI and others, it was renamed ‘Queen’s College of St Margaret and St Bernard’ in honour of Henry’s young wife, Margaret of Anjou. Until the Wars of the Roses were finally resolved, Docket must have had many moments of doubt concerning the future of his college, and the so uncertain
destiny of the queen and founder whose name it bore. It was not until 1473, when national stability returned, that Elizabeth, Edward IV’s queen, became interested in the college, styling herself ‘patroness’. Two years later, when a new set of statutes was issued, she assumed the title of *vera fundatrix*, ‘true foundress’. Henceforth the college was to be known as Queens’ College, in recognition of the role of both queens.

It was in 1477 that Richard, Duke of Gloucester, first became a benefactor to the college. An indenture was made between Richard, various of his trustees for the lordship of Foulmere in Cambridgeshire (once the property of Elizabeth, Countess of Oxford), and the president and fellows of Queens’ College, Cambridge. In return for the gift of this lordship, the college was to admit four priests well lerned and virtuously disposed as doctours of divinite, bachelors, opposers or masters of art, beyng prestes of habilite to proceede to be doctours and to preche the word of God as fellows, at a salary of £8 a year. They were to be called ‘the four priests of the duke of Gloucester’s foundation’, and their prayers were to benefit Richard, the king and queen, and other members of Richard’s family; and the saules of John Veir and dame Elizabeth, his wife, [that is, the earl and countess of Oxford whose former property Richard was handing over to the college] and of the special benefactours of the saide college, sir John Pylkyngton, sir John Huddleston, knightes, William Hopton sqwyer, Thomas Barowe, clerke, and William Tunstall, and other lovers of the saide duke of Gloucestre, the which were slain in his service at the batelles of Barnett, Tukesberry or at any other feldes or journyes, and for all cristen soulis’. Thomas Wilkynson may have been involved with the negotiations leading to this foundation, and he would certainly have known several of the families of the northern knights who were to be included in the priests’ prayers.

When Edward IV died on 9 April 1483, it must have been of some concern to Docket and the fellows to learn that the queen, their founder, had fled into sanctuary with the younger prince. Thomas was still at that time treasurer of Archbishop Bourchier’s household, and would have had some idea as to what was going on in the corridors of power. He may well have attended upon the aged archbishop when on 16 June he visited the queen in Westminster Abbey and persuaded her to allow the prince to accompany him to the Tower. Then, on 22 June, Dr Ralph Shaa, famous for his learning and eloquence, gave the sermon at St Paul’s Cross which alleged the bastardy of the sons of Edward IV, and that therefore the duke of Gloucester was the legitimate heir to the throne. Shaa was himself a fellow of Queens’ College, and thus a colleague of Thomas Wilkynson. One wonders whether they would have consulted with each other before the fateful sermon. They must surely have realised that Shaa’s college stood to benefit if that sermon helped Richard to become king.

It would be nearly a year before King Richard was able to visit Queens’ College. On 9 March 1484, he arrived with his train of courtiers, having set out from the city of London two days before. As Paul Murray Kendall suggests, ‘When Richard and Anne reached Cambridge, they tarried happily for a few days in the congenial cloisters of the University. ... Their stay at Cambridge [was] a serene interlude, brief and never to be recaptured.’ Whilst there, Richard was bountiful in his generous gifts to both King’s College and especially Queens’ College, bestowing grants amounting to 500 marks of yearly rent on it.

Andrew Docket was now elderly and probably semi-retired, and he may well have consulted the king to obtain approval for his successor. Two leading councillors accompanying the king, Richard Redman, bishop of St David’s, and Thomas Langton, bishop of St Asaph, would have known Thomas Wilkynson and probably supported his selection. Docket died on 4 November, and Thomas was duly elected a week later, in accordance with Docket’s will. But by then the rosy future must have looked much less certain, for within a few weeks of Richard’s departure from Cambridge, disaster had struck. His son Edward, Prince of Wales, had died, leaving Richard with no heir to the throne, and, five months after Thomas’s election, and almost a
year to the day after their visit to Cambridge, Queen Anne herself died.

It must have been with great sadness that Thomas and another fellow of the college attended her funeral, as recorded in the college accounts. Then on 22 August an even greater disaster befell them – Bosworth, and the death of Richard. The fellows of the college must have wrung their hands with worry, and rightly so, for immediately all the manors so generously granted by the king were taken away and any prospect of future royal support must have seemed highly unlikely. It is thought that Richard had plans to draw up new statutes for the college, but whatever his future plans were for the college, they would now have to be abandoned. The manors which had belonged to the earl of Oxford were returned to his son, and those given from the estates of Anne Neville ended up in the new king’s coffers. The number of fellows would have to be reduced, and new benefactors found. In 1485 there were 17 fellowships in existence, but when the four priests of Richard’s foundation were lost, the number was reduced to 13.

Despite this setback, the college successfully weathered the storm, and new benefactors were found, especially among the rich London merchants whom Thomas undoubtedly counted among his friends. In 1495 cloisters were added to the court, and land acquired across the river Cam, connected by the famous wooden bridge which still stands. By 1503 the inventories of the college indicate a great increase of wealth and comfort. Thomas continued to live at Harrow and Orpington, travelling regularly between the two rectories and visiting Queens’ College several times a year for the audits, election of fellows, and the Stourbridge Fair, which was held at Cambridge twice a year. On 1 September 1498, Henry VII and Queen Elizabeth visited Cambridge, but this queen does not seem to have done anything to further the prosperity of the college, nor are there any deeds in which she claims the position of patroness. Doubtless her husband would not have approved any unnecessary expenditure of this nature.

In 1496 Thomas acted as one of the commissioners for Middlesex for the collection of Henry VII’s forced loan. He was no doubt required to do so by the new archbishop of Canterbury, John Morton, and appears to have been highly successful, in that £1,013 6s. 8d. was collected from the clergy of that county, an amount not exceeded in any other county. In 1502 he was presented to the rectory of Ecton, Northants., which was in the gift of Sir John Montgomery of Cubley, whose daughter Anne married John, son of William Browne, lord mayor of London in 1507 and one of Thomas Wilkynson’s executors.

There is an intriguing entry in the college accounts for 1504 recording the expenditure incurred by the president and two fellows who had to appear before the Privy Council for an unrecorded reason.

**Thomas Resigns as President**

The next year, Thomas resigned as president, and the following letter is preserved in the college archives:

Rygght reverent and worshipfull and to us att all tymys most syngular and specyall good master, Wée your scolars and dayly heedmen humblie recomend us unto your masterschyp And for us as mysch as wee underston be ye letters of the most excellent princes my lady the kynges mother and allso by your letters that ye be at this tyme myndyt to resigne the presidentship of this our colage the qwenys colage, so that ye myght knowe our myndes in this thing, wherefor we write unto yower maistreship at this tyme signifyyng unto you yt we are fully determinate and doth promyse you to elect such a man as is thoght unto you necessary and profitable unto this our colage the lords bisshop of Rochester. In witness wherof we have sett to or seale, besechyng you to continew good maistre to the same colage and to all us: and we shall daiely pray for a long and prosperus contynance of your health to the plesour of God who preserve yowe. From Cambrige in haste the xiith daye of April.

The fellows sound quite saddened to let him resign, but clearly he had no option, for it is apparent that he is standing down at the
request of the king’s mother, Lady Margaret Beaufort, in order that her favourite, John Fisher, could be elected. There is no record that Lady Margaret had any other contact with the college, and Fisher resigned after three years. Thomas himself may have tired of the years of constant travelling between his various responsibilities in Kent, London, Harrow and Cambridge, and been only too pleased to resign. He does, however, seem to have continued as a fellow of Queens’ College until his death.

Thomas was to receive two final appointments, both in the north. He became a canon of Ripon Cathedral, and prebend of Studley Magna, both in the gift of the archbishop of York, Christopher Bainbridge. Bainbridge was the brother of Eleanor Coleyns, another executor of Thomas’s will. Their uncle was bishop...
Thomas Langton, one of King Richard’s councillors, who attended upon him during his visit to Cambridge in 1484, and (as suggested above) perhaps related to the Wilkynsons.

Wilkynson died on 13 December 1511 and was buried in Orpington Church as he had requested in his will if that was where he died. Charmingly he left in his will 13s 4d (one mark) to every Fellow of Queens’ College and also to every Fellow of Michaelhouse.

In 1512, Cardinal Bainbridge, now Henry VIII’s ambassador in Rome, helped to negotiate a bull whereby the Premonstratensian Order in England became completely autonomous and independent of Rome. Richard Redman, who had been commissary-general to the order for so long, had died and been succeeded by another Thomas Wilkynson, who now became ex officio visitor-general for the order in England. Was he close kin to Thomas of Queens’? The number of coincidences connecting the Wilkynsons, Langton, Bainbridges and Redmans would suggest that he was.

**Reading List**

General histories and biographies of the period have been consulted as well as the following more specialised sources:

- C.H. and T. Cooper, (eds) *Athenae Cantabrigienses*, 3 volumes, 1858-1913
- Davis Chambers, *Cardinal Bainbridge in the Court of Rome, 1509-1514*, 1965
- A.B. Emden, *A Biographical Register of the University of Cambridge to 1500*, 1963
- Halifax Parish Records, 1559-1640
- Queens’ College, list of Fellows, www.quns.cam.ac.uk
- A. Rinder, *A History of Elland*
- W.G. Searle, *A History of the Queens’ College of St Margaret and St Bernard in the University of Cambridge*, 1867, (pages 104-130 kindly sent to me by Dr R Rex, College Archivist)

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**The Lincolnshire Branch’s Postal Ricardian Book Auction**

The Lincolnshire Branch of the Richard III Society is raising funds by holding a postal book auction. If you would like details of the books on offer, please send an A5 s.a.e. to Tracy Upex, 32 Heathcote Road, Bourne, Lincs, PE10 9JT or e-mail mailto:ricardian.lincs@btinternet.com for a catalogue.

There are over one hundred books in the auction, most of them are Ricardian or Wars of the Roses titles. Many are out-of-print and there are a number of unusual items. Some do not even feature in the Richard III Society Library catalogue. Items listed include fiction and non-fiction, hardback and paperback, old and new, good and bad! There really is something for every Ricardian.
Unlike Richard III we are left in no doubt as to the character and appearance of his ‘great adversary of France’ King Louis XI. As well as the detailed ‘pen portrait’ in the writings of Philippe de Commynes, a number of likenesses survive in various forms, from the sketch of him at an early age in the drawings of the Bibliothèque D’Arras, where his unmistakable physiognomy is already apparent, to the outstanding profile portrait by Fouquet and contemporary medallion – where the prominent nose has been slightly diminished. The limestone carved head from Toul gives the added three-dimensional aspect to his appearance, whilst even the unaccustomed finery in which he is dressed in a manuscript illumination, presiding over the Chapter of the Order of St Michael, cannot disguise his unattractive countenance.

His well-attested preference for unassuming dress, often a pilgrim’s gown of coarse grey cloth, or nondescript hunting jacket, which emphasised the contrast between the bulkiness of his body, and his spindly legs, is well known, and on his head was a wool hood, his ‘bonnet’ for frosty mornings, or a hat stuffed with religious badges, so it is no surprise that it was in this guise that he wished to be shown on his tomb, after death.

In the recently-published exemplary survey and account of The Royal Funerals of the House of York at Windsor, a number of references are made to Louis’ instructions for this image, but it is a pity that the opportunity could not have been taken to include an illustration for the design, which still exists, particularly as for the similar ones for Edward IV and Henry VII, referred to in the text, we have only written descriptions. As the authors note, Louis’ tomb is regarded as one of the earliest examples of this genre for a praying, kneeling, figure.

True, in England, it is hard to discover a previous example, though that of Edward Despencer (d.1375) at Tewkesbury Abbey, unique in being placed on the roof of his chantry chapel, is a notable exception. On the continent, however, the fashion is becoming more widespread by the late 15th century. Though nearly all these were destroyed at the revolution, drawings of a number still exist in the collection of Roger de Gaignières and notable examples include Antoine des Essarts, Chancellor of Charles VII, Agnes Sorel (d. 1450), Jean Juvenal des Ursins (d. 1431), Jean de Salazar (unfortunately not Maximilian’s mercenary who fought beside Richard III at Bosworth, but his namesake, known as ‘Le Grand’ to distinguish him), and King Charles VIII (d. 1498).

The surviving drawing for Louis’ effigy is preserved among the papers of Jean Bourré, Treasurer of France, giving instructions to the painter Colin D’Amiens, in about 1481, to prepare a painted design for the tomb, though according to one authority ‘the amateurish drawing is probably by an official of the Treasury and is certainly not by Colin, a celebrated painter in his time’. The text includes the order ‘you must make the representation of the king, our lord; he is to be kneeling on a cushion, as below … with the most handsome face that you can do, young and full, the nose rather long and fairly high, as you know, and on no account make him bald’. Below a series of notes continues on how the image of Louis, in his hunting clothes, is to be altered and improved: ‘the nose aquiline, the hair longer at the back’. ‘It seems that Colin D’Amiens was to execute his painting from memory without recourse to the sitter – which as he
was to introduce gross flattery into his image of the fifty-eight-year-old king, was perhaps just as well.’ Even though the figure differs from conventional recumbent effigies, one important constituent to such tombs has been retained: the faithful dog, usually represented under the effigies’ feet, here becomes one of Louis’ faithful hounds, accompanying his master. The king’s devotion to these animals is exemplified in his reaction to the news of the death of Queen Margaret of Anjou: ‘As soon as Louis heard of her demise, he wrote to demand all her dogs: “She has made me her heir and this is all I shall get. I pray you not to keep any back, for you would cause me terribly great displeasure”.’

A desire for a similar figure to decorate his tomb was expressed by Henry VII in his will, but as we know from the existing effigy of the king and Elizabeth of York, by Pietro Torrigiano, his wishes were not carried out. It has been claimed that the design was to feature the very crown which was taken from Richard III’s helmet at Bosworth. Henry’s will reads: ‘Also we will let our executor cause to be made an image of the king, representing our own person, the same to be of timber carved and wrought with plates of fine gold, in the manner of an armed man, and upon the same armour our arms of England and France, enamelled, with a sword and spurs accordingly; and the said image to kneel upon a table of silver and gilt and holding betwixt his hands the crown which pleases God to give us with the victory of our enemy at our first field, and the image and crown we bequeath to Almighty God, our Blessed Lady St Mary and St Edward the Confessor’.

Reading List
Lorne Campbell, Renaissance Portraits, 1990
Mary Clive, This Sun of York, (1973)
Philippe de Comynnes, Memoirs, Translated and with an Introduction by Michael Jones, 1972
P.M. Kendall, Louis XI, 1971
P.M. Kendall, Richard the Third, 1961
P.M. Kendall, Warwick the Kingmaker, 1957
Nicholas Harris Nicolas, Testamenta Vetusta, volume 1, 1826
Anne F. Sutton and Livia Visser-Fuchs with Ralph Griffths, The Royal Funerals of the House of York at Windsor, 2005
Lord Twining, European Regalia, 1967
COATS-OF-ARMS OF SOME RICARDIAN CONTEMPORARIES

In the 1970s Lawrence T Greensmith wrote a series of articles under the above title for The Ricardian. These are now being reproduced as an occasional series in the Bulletin.

The Crosses of Berkeley

Perhaps for many, the name of Berkeley conjures up the castle rather than people; but the shield is a pretty one. Nowadays it is a chevron between crosses patty, but the earliest Berkeley shield bore I the chevron alone. It was always red, with the chevron first gold and then, by one of the ancient a methods of differencing, silver. Within a century, the silver chevron found itself with ‘difference by geratting’: yet another early method.

Geratting is ‘scattering’ the field with small charges. Such a scattering is described as *semy*. The blazon for France Ancient is ‘blue, semy-de-Lis gold’. There was more than one geratted coat for Berkeley: semy of crosses, of roses, of cinque foils. The Scottish branch (called Barclay) reduced their *semy* to three crosses only.

This was exactly what happened to the arms of France which came to have three fleurs-de-Lis only. It is arguable whether the original Berkeley geratting was of ten charges but that number is now usually specified: it is a practical one.

None of this sounds Ricardian, and indeed the Berkeleys were not conspicuous in Yorkist times. A Sir Maurice was knighted, after Tewkesbury; and later a Sir Richard was a Ricardian captain of the Isle of Wight. In *Richard III* Shakespeare names as Berkeley one of the two gentlemen attending on the Lady Anne (‘stay, you that bear the corse’). Of over twenty-five named in the D.N.B., spread over nine centuries, only one Berkeley is mentioned for the 15th century and not separately.

The cross patty is also called formy; it is also often *mis*-called Maltese. The Victoria Cross, shorn of decoration, is a good form of it.

The Stag’s Heads of Stanley

The Stanley arms are basically silver with a blue bend; and on the bend are three heads, those of stags, but you must not draw them wrongly.

In heraldry you will often find a lion’s face; a fox’s head, drawn similarly full face and neckless, is called a fox’s mask and not its face. A similar stag’s head is described as *caboshed*. The stags’ heads of Stanley are caboshed and they are golden.

Not so golden is the reputation of the family. A century-old account of the ‘Great Governing Families of England’ says very smoothly of the Stanleys ‘they have owed their prosperity in no slight degree to a ... power, so often and so successfully exerted that we may call it political “divination”’. In other words, they were good at choosing to be on the winning side. Ricardians have good reason to know.

These arms were borne by a Stanley as far back as 1281, when he became possessed (by marriage) of the Manor of Wirral Forest. The reason for the stags’ heads is plain to see. There were soon knights in the family, one being K.G. on the accession of King Henry V. The Stanley Chamberlain of King Henry VI became the first Baron, and his son Thomas, 2nd Baron, married a Neville, sister of the ‘King Maker’. He married his son George to a Strange heiress (hence the son’s title Lord Strange) who was a sister of Elizabeth Woodville. But Thomas, having done well, had not yet finished: he then married Margaret Beaufort about whose son we know only too well; and about Thomas’s own share at Bosworth we perhaps know even better. It is not surprising that he became the 1st Earl Stanley of Derby. The present Earl is the 18th and the arms remain unchanged.

[September 1972]
Correspondence

Dear Editor,

Thoughts of a new Ricardian … Why did I join? Something you always mean to get round to but don’t quite get there – like writing to your MP, cleaning out the shed or joining the local karate class. As a child I was always fascinated and enthralled by history: to see the castles and stately homes, to read of the exploits of Henry VIII and his six wives … I was lucky in having history teachers with a passion for their subject, who taught, discussed and brought events alive. ‘We need to plan and build for a better future but only through learning from history’. Ken Davies and Phil Snell of Kingsbury Grammar School have my eternal gratitude for giving me a passionate interest and a thirst to learn more.

My interest in the Tudor period continued, but was tempered by an article in a magazine, now long forgotten, that I read in my early twenties: ‘The Society of the White Boar’. The article was only a couple of pages long but it took hold and appealed to my love of history and the quest, dramatic but true, to right a wrong and establish the truth of a king.

I am currently employed as a Crime Scene Investigator for the British Transport Police, dealing with crime scenes ranging from major rail disasters, through murder to criminal damage and burglary. This as can be imagined keeps me very busy. Along with my three teenage children and my active interests in gardening, photography, music, theatre, sport, travel and cooking, I have managed to fit in a sociology course, a psychology course at Greenwich University and a diploma in Crime Scene Examination at Durham University.

The research bug grows and I was going to start an MSc in criminology at Birkbeck College, but King Richard has taken over and I am now commencing a project on ‘Richard the man, a historical and forensic perspective’, to include the mystery of the princes in the Tower. It is a relaxation and will give me a sense of satisfaction in hopefully presenting the real and alternative Richard to both history students and others.

My dream is to place evidence in schools for open discussion and to encourage projects and tasks through to university. My ambition is to see plaques all over England with ‘King Richard III, a man of honour, integrity and loyalty, a patriot and family man, who ruled with honesty and compassion, stayed here … visited here … established justice here …’ to rival the Tudors and their apparent domination through Tudor propaganda and Shakespearean myth.

My thanks to the lovely people that I have met on my visits and to the tireless endeavours of the volunteers in their efforts. Here’s to spreading the truth based on fact and evidence, and to many more fascinating visits.

Mickey Price, RFP, FFS, Dip CSE (Dunelm)

Dear Editor,

I would like to say how exciting it was to read in the Autumn Bulletin of the events arranged to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Society’s re-founding: 2006 already looks as if it is going to be a memorable and enjoyable year. I am particularly looking forward to the Members’ Day and AGM Weekend in York, and I would like to offer my thanks to all those who are working hard to make our anniversary a success.

I was also pleased to note the reservation with which the Society is approaching the forthcoming RSC production of Richard III, directed by Sulayman Al-Bassam (Bulletin, Autumn 2005, p.13) and that Phil Stone considers it to be extreme.

Personally, I am appalled by the way recent directors of Shakespeare’s play have hijacked the character of Richard to portray him in the guise of modern tyrants and dictators. We have already had to suffer the indignity of witnessing Richard in the guise of Hitler and now we are confronted with the prospect of watching him as Saddam Hussein. Are we to
expect the character to be used as a vehicle for any dictator, terrorist or anti-hero who might appear in the future?

I feel that the way the play is repeatedly interpreted has become not only ludicrous, but is now reminiscent of a pantomime. It has ventured beyond the realms of insult and is now bordering on the farcical.

I fail to see how something that has helped to destroy the name of a good and loyal man should be excused because it makes for good drama. What is literary merit, compared to a man’s reputation?

Some might argue that most modern audiences are aware that Shakespeare’s caricature in no way resembles the real man. However, we only have to watch recent television programmes such as Britain’s Greatest Monarch (Channel Five, 13 June) and more recently David Starkey’s Monarchy (BBC2 12 September) to see that this is clearly not the case. Schoolboy history still appears to dominate and, worse still, such programmes continually quote Shakespeare as if he were an historian. Thankfully most of us realise, considering the many anachronisms in his plays, that he certainly was not. However, there remains an element of the general public that misguided–indeed it has been put to me, quite seriously, that Richard must have been evil, because Shakespeare said so.

I truly feel that the time has come for us, as a society, to take steps towards distancing the person of Richard from the increasingly insulting dramatisation of Shakespeare, once and for all.

In line with our mission statement that ‘the traditional account of the character and career of Richard III are neither supported by sufficient evidence nor reasonably tenable’, I propose that the Society approaches the RSC with the suggestion that a disclaimer be printed in a prominent place in the programmes which accompany each production of the play, declaring that Shakespeare’s portrait in no way resembles Richard III and that the actions taken by the character reflect nothing of the real man.

Would this not be a wonderful way in which to celebrate fifty years of a society dedicated to a reassessment of Richard and a legacy of which we could all be justifiably proud? The least we can offer Richard is respect—five hundred years on, let us try to see that he gets it. Does loyalty bind us? I sincerely hope so.

Wendy Johnson

Editor: the Society has in the past approached presenters of the play, requesting insertion of programme notes, with varying degrees of success.

Dear Editor,

I refer to the question on page 6 of the Bulletin (Summer, 2005) from Patsy Conway re Richard adopting the boar as his emblem, and its significant connection with York. The comments made by Rupert Matthews were of little help in answering the question. So, to Patsy, the answer is: when the Romans came to York they called it Eboracum, interpreted as land of the boars. Richard knew this, and so did the people of the North, and with his love of Yorkshire, the Dales and the city of York, why not take the boar as his badge? Could he have wished for a better one—to see the Blanc Sanglier flying—name me any other that looks better …

Alan Bond

Editor: Alan enclosed illustrations of the white boar in glass from the Wellington Chapel in York Minster and from St Martin-cum-Gregory Church.

Dear Editor,

Could it be that we have another convert to our ranks? On reading the new biography of Anne Boleyn (my heroine—but that’s another story) by Joanna Denny, I was surprised to find an early chapter entitled ‘The Curse’ which describes the Battle of Bosworth and events thereafter and in which the author appears to be positively pro-Ricardian and anti-Tudor.

After the battle she states that out of fear Henry VII travelled in a specially armoured coach and in the first days of his reign passed an amazing series of acts. He suppressed the act of settlement that had confirmed Richard’s title to the crown (Titulus Regius). As
readers will know, by reversing the act, Henry legitimated all the children of Edward IV, so that while Richard had no motive to eliminate his nephews, as they were illegitimate, Henry had every reason to destroy them once he had reversed Titulus Regius, and was obliged to marry Elizabeth of York because her claim was now greater than his.

Ms Denny goes on to say that once on the throne Henry’s reputation was so poor throughout Europe that in 1507 he hired Polydore Vergil to rewrite history. He destroyed any documentary evidence that did not support the Tudor cause and the Yorkists were painted as responsible for every crime and murder over the past fifty years. His fiction stirred up great controversy, yet it became the authorised and official history for future writers (e.g. Shakespeare).

Denny then outlines Bacon’s view of Henry as a ‘dark prince and infinitely suspicious and his time full of secret conspiracies’, and notes that after Bosworth there were many contenders with a better claim to the throne than Henry. She mentioned Lambert Simnel’s invasion, and the battle of Stoke, where Henry was frustrated by the deaths of many of the leaders, Archbishop Morton having said that they would now never ‘get to the bottom of the affair’ – i.e. the mystery of the disappearance of the sons of Edward IV.

According to Denny, Henry feared that one or both of his wife’s brothers had escaped to Burgundy, waiting to mount a challenge to the throne. This demonstrates that the alleged murder of the princes in the Tower by Richard had not yet been contrived.

Thus ends the author’s narrative on this particular point, and how refreshing not to read the usual ‘spin’. For those who are interested, Ms Denny’s biography also paints Anne Boleyn in an entirely different light to that in other biographies and is well worth the read.

Linda Leo

(see also page 11 for Maureen Nunn’s Media Retrospective item)

Dear Editor,

It was very pleasing to have my Audience with King Richard III discussed in the most recent Bulletin, (Winter, 2005, pp.20-21 and p.41) and the vastly differing opinions caused me some amusement. As someone who has ‘trodden the boards’ for some twenty-five years, I am (obviously) unaffected by reviews (believe the good, you must also believe the bad, as they say). However, I feel inclined in this instance to make some kind of response.

Philippa Langley congratulates me on my ‘knowledge, wit and pathos’, describing how I had the audience ‘rolling in the aisles and then hushed to the point of hearing a pin drop’, recommending the show as a ‘not-to-be-missed evening’. Meantime Geoffrey Wheeler (who watched a DVD recording) is rather less complimentary. Mr Wheeler built up a fair old head of steam, his write-up reading as if he had merely sat down in front of the film version with the express desire of pulling it to pieces.

Describing me as a ‘petulant and whining’ and ‘wearisome’ individual, he suggests that I ought to acknowledge that without Shakespeare’s play there ‘would be no need for my performance’. (Arguably without Shakespeare’s play there would be no need for a Richard III Society, one might suggest?) Mr Wheeler presses relentlessly on, alluding to ‘rather desperate attempts at humour’, ‘maudlin sentimentality’ and ‘dubious historical references’.

The show, is, to a seasoned Mr Wheeler ‘the latest in a number of similar reincarnations’. Is it, I have to ask myself? I have to say that in the ten years I have been performing ‘An Audience’ I have come across no other similar productions. Maybe they are ten-a-penny outside the North of England, I really cannot say.

The DVD version Mr Wheeler came across was filmed as a student project (i.e. by people aged around twenty), and I feel they did a pretty good job (their tutor was very pleased with it). The actual production and direction was entirely out of my hands. The audience was a small invited group of largely history students (yes, ‘gratifyingly young’, Mr Wheeler, as students tend to be). Obviously the performance suffers slightly from being performed in front of only about fifteen people, most of whom had a very limited (if any)
knowledge of the Richard III controversy. I decided nonetheless to make the DVD available (at a low price), as any product rebuilding Richard III’s reputation is, at least to me, of some purpose.

Yet perhaps my main thought about Mr Wheeler’s viewpoint is that he failed to deduce that ‘An Audience’ is largely a piece of entertainment. It is not (mercifully?) an academic lecture, and is largely aimed at people with perhaps some knowledge of Richard III.

The whole premise of the show (i.e. King Richard ‘returning from the dead’ to discuss his life/death/reputation) is clearly somewhat preposterous, and lends itself rather to humour. If, via this humour I am able to convince the unconverted that the traditional image of Richard (i.e. the hunch-backed royal gangster) is way off the mark, then at least I am making some progress (?). If the show also appeals to die-hard Ricardians (as an evening’s entertainment), then that is a bonus.

‘An Audience with King Richard III’ is due to be filmed (for TV purposes) in front of an invited audience at Monk Bar in York next August. As one ‘petulant and whining’ individual to another, all I can do is cordially invite Geoffrey Wheeler to be part of that audience.

Michael S. Bennett

Dear Editor,

I must take issue with Geoffrey Wheeler’s review of Michael Bennett’s ‘An Audience with King Richard III’ (Bulletin, Winter 2005, p.20-21). Having myself attended a performance of Bennett’s one-man play I was amazed how Mr Wheeler appears to have totally missed the point. ‘An Audience with King Richard’ is an entertainment with a message: a light hearted attempt to bring a more favourable understanding of Richard to a potentially new audience.

Michael S. Bennett

Angela Moreton

Dear Editor,

In answer to a recent enquiry, (Bulletin, September 2005, and December 2005, page 40) I have been doing some research on the derivation of the name of the road in Carlisle called Rickergate, also the village named Rickerby, and the phrase ‘in Dickie’s meadow’. The name ‘Rickergate’ was first mentioned in the Pipe Rolls in 1230, named after Richard the Knight. The village of Rickerby means ‘the farm of Richard’, first mentioned in 1237. It could be the same Richard, but not ‘our’ Richard. The phrase ‘in Dickie’s meadow’ has largely fallen out of use, though it is still in general usage in the Appleby-in-Westmorland area. All I was able to find out – which I knew already – is that it means to be in deep trouble. I have consulted several copies of Brewer’s Dictionary of Phrase and Fable, but have not found its derivation. I wonder if any member has an old copy of the reference book, and would kindly see if it is in an older copy than I was able to find.

Marjorie Smith, Sec., Cumbria Group
Dear Editor,
I am surprised that Lynda M. Telford (Winter Bulletin, page 40) is not aware of the saying “never judge a book by its cover”. Her comments on the review of Isolde Martyn's book (re-titled Moonlight and Shadow by the American publishers) gave the impression she had not even read it (my apologies if I am wrong).

I have to admit to a personal bias here. Isolde is not only a recent past chairperson of the Sydney NSW Branch of the Richard III Society, but also a greatly valued friend. She is also the winner of several literary awards in Australia and the USA for her historical novels.

The book in question was originally published in Australia in 2002 as The Silver Bride and the cover was a delightful tribute to the portrait of St Dorothy from The Master of St Bartholomew's altarpiece, with nary a ripped bodice in sight.

Isolde Martyn's painstaking research is apparent in all of her novels, set in whichever historical period. As a fiction editor and book reviewer, I can recommend them to Bulletin readers - after all, we do need a break from academic work and research at times. I suggest they look out for The Lady and the Unicorn - published by Bantam in 1998 and renamed The Maiden and the Unicorn in the USA - to which The Silver Bride is a sequel.

Julia Redlich, Secretary, Sydney NSW Branch

The historical novels debate may raise controversy among many Ricardians, since that particular genre of fiction must be responsible for introducing new members to the Richard III Society. By how many hundreds would Society membership be depleted if it were not for The Daughter of Time? That book was responsible for stimulating the interest in Richard's cause in a great many members.

There are untold numbers of people who, although not academics, nevertheless have a great interest in the past. So what if that interest is derived from the pages of a novel? Or a television drama for that matter? If it brings a life-long interest in a subject, and perhaps leads to joining the Richard III Society, surely that can only be good. Some academics may feel precious about their scholarship, but how many, I wonder, have written a paper based on their exploration of a theme read in a novel?

Which leads me to Lynda Telford's letter (Winter 2005 Bulletin, p.40) in which she appears to take a swipe at Isolde Martyn's historical romance, although Mrs Telford does not actually name the book. I feel quite aggrieved at her tone as it appears she has not even read the book. She classes it as a bodice-ripper on the strength of a dust-cover photograph and one sentence in Anne Painter's review. Isolde Martyn is a lovely, gentle woman with a great sense of humour and a vast knowledge of medieval life, which she uses to bring depth and feeling to her historical romances. But, as I understand it, writers are at the mercy of their publishers, and so it would appear that Isolde's American publishers chose to change the name of her novel to the totally irrelevant one of Moonlight and Shadow. As published in Australia, the book bears Isolde's original title The Silver Bride and the cover plate features a beautiful picture of a serene young woman gowned in authentic medieval costume with her silver hair falling modestly down her back. Nowhere is there a suggestion of the garishness featured on the cover of the American version. And here the cliché re books and covers springs readily to mind. To augment Anne Painter's review, I attach my own which appeared in a recent edition of the New Zealand branch's Ricardian Times. It may help encourage Mrs. Telford and other Ricardians to read the book. Yes, it is a light, historical romance, but this genre, if well researched, can add to our knowledge of the period, whilst bringing a measure of light relief from the concentration required for study of scholarly tomes.

Margaret Manning, Editor Ricardian Times, New Zealand

THE SILVER BRIDE by Isolde Martyn
Reviewed by Margaret Manning

The story is what I would term a ‘light’ read, but that is not to say it is not full of descriptive passages that beautifully portray life
in medieval England.

The year is 1483, and in the early months of that year, Heloise and Miles are married at sword-point, and against their will, by Heloise's heartless father. Their slowly developing love for each other occupies the first half of the book which is mostly set in Brecknock Castle in Wales, the demesne of Harry, Duke of Buckingham. Miles is a senior member of Buckingham's staff and one of his confidants.

Although Heloise and Miles are entirely fictional characters, most of the others featured are historical. Some of the troubles between the Welsh and the English are highlighted with short but telling descriptive passages of castle and town life. The characters are well drawn and Buckingham's little son Ned is particularly appealing.

After the death of King Edward, the action moves, inevitably, to Northampton, Stony Stratford and, subsequently, London. From then on, the book is hard to put down. As the plot we all know so well unfolds, we see Miles torn between his loyalty to Buckingham, and knowledge that his master's traitorous plan is immoral and doomed from the start. How can he avoid sharing the same fate as his arrogant and proud master? This is where the page turning gets serious, because he appears to be inextricably linked with Buckingham in the plot. I will not divulge the ending; you will have to read that for yourselves.

But suffice to say, a few undisturbed hours with the book will transport you to some quiet English countryside where the characters lead anything but quiet lives, through the back roads of Wales and England to towns in the Midlands, and hence to the hurly-burly of London. There are great descriptions of Baynard Castle and Crosby Place and cameo appearances of the Duchess of York (calm, efficient and pious), Margaret Beaufort (chilling is the description that comes immediately to mind) and King Edward V (a spoilt wee brat with a toothache). Through it all, the deepening love between Miles and Heloise sustains them through their crises and the reader hopes against hope that they will prevail in spite of the evidence building up against them.

You must read this book; it stands alongside We Speak No Treason and The Sunne in Splendour.

Margaret Manning

Dear Editor,

I was astounded to read Lynda Telford’s criticism on my review of Isolde Martyn’s Ricardian fiction novel Moonlight and Shadow. It was pointed out that it may not be to everybody’s taste, but do we read every book or magazine, watch every TV programme?

As the Society’s fiction librarian I am invited to review new Ricardian novels from all over the world as a service to help members decide which they might wish to read – this has nothing to do with advertising the books. My reference to Amazon was merely because this book was written and published in Australia and is therefore not easily available in this country and I was using Amazon as a suggestion for obtaining books difficult to come by.

Anne Painter, Fiction Librarian

Dear Editor,

I was disappointed to see that Anne Painter’s book review in the Autumn Bulletin provoked the letter from Lynda M Telford, who described Isolde Martyn’s book Moonlight and Shadow as a bodice-ripper. I bought my copy of the novel in Australia, where the cover and the title of The Silver Bride caught my eye – so different from the American ones. I recommend it as a very enjoyable read, as the Duke of Buckingham comes very much to life.

Babs Creamer

Dear Editor,

I was interested in the debate on historical novels in the Winter Bulletin but was very surprised to see that both Tony Pollard and Shaun Tyas placed The Daughter of Time in that category. I had always understood that a historical novel was a book set entirely in a past period (covering anything from a few weeks to a lifetime), which dealt with that period as if it was just happening, or had very recently happened. It is generally written as if observing the events being treated, or in the first person, as though it is an account by one
of the characters actually involved. Surely *The Daughter of Time* is not in this category, being set entirely in the modern period when it was written, and not making any attempt to bring historical characters to life – simply discussing them on the basis of contemporary evidence.

If I am wrong, then the phrase ‘historical novel’ has a much wider application than I had realised.

I was also interested in the particulars of Sir William Catesby, and the reference to his descendant Robert Catesby, of Gunpowder Plot fame (or infamy). Another player in the story of Richard III was also connected with a later intrigue, of a very different type. Sir William Stanley’s brother was an ancestor of Thomas Wharton, the Whig MP and later Marquess of Wharton (died 1715), who was one of the chief architects of the Glorious Revolution of 1688, and claimed authorship of the song *Lillibulero*, which he said had sung James II out of three kingdoms.

The English language is becoming increasingly mangled these days, with old words being used incorrectly, and strange new words being employed whether they really exist or not – but I did not expect to see Geoffrey Wheeler helping this trend. On page 21 he refers to ‘the incessant denunciation of Shakespeare and actors …’: denunciation, surely?

**Carol Hartley**

Editor: in fact, according to Chambers Dictionary: ‘denounce, verb transitive. : to inveigh against, nouns. denunciation – denunciation’

**Dear Editor,**

A suggestion as to why Henry VI’s portrait may indeed be at Lennoxlove, a place which as you know did not receive its name till the reign of Charles II.

After the skirmish at Hexham during the wars, King Henry seems to have been briefly his own man enough to gallop off out of danger by himself, leaving his queen, Margaret of Anjou and her young son to fend for themselves in what was at that time thick forest. In Margaret’s later account, if genuine, they were set on by robbers and relieved of all they possessed. Later they joined the king in Edinburgh, where they were given hospitality by James II’s widow Marie de Gueldres until she and Queen Margaret fell out, both being strong-minded women.

As the king would have had to traverse the Fife coast northwards, there could have been two hosts to shelter him and see him across the ferry. One was Sir John Stewart of Darnley, who owned Fife land and was to be created first earl of Lennox two years after Tewkesbury. Less likely is his pious kinsman, James, Lord Hamilton, whose lands were on the whole further westward but who had married a widowed daughter of James II and may have entertained the Lancastrian king, with whose cause the young James III is known to have had sympathy.

The Lennox Stewarts developed close and lasting connections with France, where Queen Margaret of Anjou died in 1482, a pensioner of her cousin Louis XI. She may well have given the late king’s portrait to whoever had sheltered him on his lone ride. Certainly all that was left for the Spider King to seize in payment of the valiant queen’s debts were her hunting dogs. He was, to do him justice, fond of dogs, but the saintly king’s portrait would have been of value to him as he approached his own death with a frantic collecting of images and relics. The portrait of Henry VI can no longer have been at Dampierre, if so, and at that rate was by then in Scotland. Henry VII is usually identifiable, and, of course, may be there for later reasons. It would be of interest to hear a detailed description of this portrait.

**Pamela Hill**

Dear Editor,


On page 59 he quote Sir Walter Scott in his *History of Scotland* as being aware of the historical inaccuracies of Shakespeare’s plots:

‘All these things are now known, but the mind retains pertinaciously the impression
made by the imposition of genius. Whilst the works of Shakespeare are read, and the English language subsists, History may say what she will, but the general reader will only recollect MacBeth as a sacrilegious usurper, and Richard III as a deformed murderer'.

On page 269 on Richard III, on the invasion of Scotland in 1482 ordered by Edward IV which was to be led by his brother, Richard Duke of Gloucester:

‘The English army now swept into Edinburgh unopposed. But here the Duke of Gloucester faced a quandary. The king (James III) he had come to depose was a prisoner in his own fortress, and inaccessible without a major siege (for which Gloucester was unprepared and which he could not afford); the King’s uncle had the royal seals in the castle, and the would-be usurper, Albany, now seemed to be in two minds about his promised homage to Edward IV. It was impossible to know what Albany’s real agenda was, but it is unlikely that he planned the death of his brother, for the king had legitimate heirs with much better claims to the throne; possibly he only wanted to run a regency council for his young nephew, prince James. Be that as it may, Richard of Gloucester made the best of an impossible position: he extracted a bond for the repayment of Lady Cecilia’s dowry and went back home, pausing only long enough to capture Berwick Castle. Berwick-upon-Tweed thus became part of England again, and has remained so from that time forward’.

On page 272 on Tudor historians: ‘James III may, or may not, have been the least attractive of the Stewart kings of the fifteenth century, but he was certainly the worst served by ‘history’. Just as Tudor historians of the sixteenth century turned Richard III (‘Crookback’) into a monster of depravity …’

Vicki A Hild, Anchorage, USA

Dear Editor,

Earlier in 2005, I happened to turn on the television in time to catch a scene from Emmerdale. The villagers were holding a competition which required them to dress scarecrows that depicted famous Yorkshire men.

The winning scarecrow was a rather good Richard III. I watched the episode on ITV2 the following day and managed to take a photograph.

Susan Finch

Unfortunately, we are unable to reproduce the photograph as the copyright is owned by the television production company. Ed.

Dear Editor,

I was surprised to discover recently that Lord Olivier’s son, born only a few years after his father’s most famous portrayal of Richard in his film, Richard III [1955] was named, ‘Richard’. This particular naming, and coming so soon after the portrayal, does seem to beg several questions, not least of which is whether or not it was the form in those days for thespians to name their progeny after their most famous roles even when they were of evil, murdering tyrants, or whether or not Olivier was, in fact, a Ricardian, and does anyone in the society actually know?

Olivier’s portrayal of Richard was so ‘pantomime-esque’ that it also begs the question if this was actually deliberate? Did Olivier wish to create such an over-the-top caricature that no one in his or her right minds would ever believe that his megalomaniac monster was anything other than a work of fiction?

A brief trawl through Olivier’s family tree and that of Joan Plowright [Richard’s mother] failed to divulge any family precedents for the name of Richard. Olivier’s father was Gerard Kerr, his grandfather, Henry Eden, and his great grandfather, Dacres. Joan Plowright’s father was William Ernest and her brother, David. If Olivier had wanted to name his son after any of his most famous roles then surely wouldn’t Henry V have been a much more suitable choice? Not only was Prince Harry one of history’s unquestionable heroes but Olivier also had a family precedent in his grandfather.

Olivier’s first-born son [by Jill Esmond] was Tarquin; he had no children with Vivien Leigh; then had Richard and two daughters [Tamsin and Julie-Kate] with Joan Plowright.

There is of course Lord Olivier’s letter of
support for the statue of Richard in Leicester [1978] and his famous prologue to the 1955 film in which he praises the play, as a work of art.

But perhaps all of this is mere speculation. Perhaps Bruno Ganz’s [Downfall, 2004] son is ‘Adolph’ and Sulayman Al Bassam’s [The Baghdad Richard III, 2007] son is ‘Saddam’? Can anyone enlighten me? Was Lord Olivier a Ricardian?

Philippa Langley

Dear Editor,

I am not surprised that there has been no response to the debate on the subject of Perkin Warbeck. The matter appears to be closed for one, mostly psychological reasons: it is difficult even for ardent Ricardians to admit that the sons of Edward IV survived the reign of their uncle, but if we believe that they were dead we limit many other possibilities.

Michael K. Jones asserts in his book Bosworth 1485 that there had been an unsuccessful Woodville attempt to rescue the boys from the Tower. I have not heard of this before, but it is at least possible. Suppose it was, in fact, successful but kept quiet. This would explain their disappearance, the fact that ex-Queen Elizabeth came out of sanctuary and entrusted her daughters to the new king, her enemy, and also her involvement in the Lambert Simnel plot. It would also explain why, for once, Sir William Stanley literally stuck his neck out on the pretender’s behalf.

It seems to me that the behaviour of everyone both before and after Bosworth becomes much more credible if we suspend our belief that the boys were dead and most people knew it, and substitute a new idea that they were not dead, but had been taken out of the country and kept hidden, and everyone in high places knew it. As long as Richard remained on the throne and consolidated his position of strength and power they would have been little or no threat to him. It is doubtful if Yorkist supporters would want to replace an established Yorkist king with another Yorkist king. Even Clarence had to be a Lancastrian when he rebelled against Edward IV.

All that changed when Henry VII took the throne with a meagre right to reign. The Yorkist lords wanted to regain power and in the boys they had the means to attempt it. Gordon Smith’s article ‘Lambert Simnel and the King from Dublin’ (The Ricardian, December 1996) makes much more sense than the traditional story. Coronations were serious and sacred matters, and I doubt very much that the Irish lords would have dared to crown an obvious impostor. Something was going on in the background of the Lambert Simnel rebellion that needs closer investigation. It makes sense to me that Edward V was the ‘feigned boy’ who was crowned and that Lambert Simnel was planted by the Tudor regime as Gordon Smith suggests.

What does seem apparent is that by the time ‘the Duke of York’ came to public notice it was fairly widely known that his elder brother was dead, either from natural causes or maybe killed at the battle of Stoke. Ann Wroe in her book Perkin has given us so much new evidence to consider that it will take a long time for it to be assimilated, but personally I find the weight of the contemporary evidence comes down in favour of the pretender being exactly who he said he was, the duke of York and rightful king.

Facial evidence, although, of course, subjective, is compelling. Not only does the drawing of the young man strongly resemble Edward IV, but also Elizabeth Woodville, and even more startling is the resemblance to Elizabeth of York. Not only that, but a boatman’s son from Tournai, however well trained, would never have survived court life, let alone have spoken perfect court French, and even less likely spoken perfect court English.

Neither does the theory that the pretender was Margaret of Burgundy’s little boy at Binche satisfy. He would doubtless have been able to acquire languages, but I find it hard to accept that even Margaret of Burgundy would have attempted to put a base-born boy on the throne of England. Dynasty was important in those days, and to make someone of low birth a monarch was unheard of. Henry Tudor was royally born, even though he had more French royal blood than English. The pretender was obviously very at ease at court and
princely in his manners. What seems to have been lacking was the brutality of the age and a liking for violence. This could well have applied to young Richard of York, who, from what we know of his life as a prince, was brought up in his mother’s household and not taught the martial aspects of life in a warlike age. Such a young man would have been repelled by the Scottish army’s merciless raid and have quailed at facing the king’s army later when he marched with his band of mostly unarmed and untrained Cornishmen. Certainly it would have been in character for such a man to sign anything to save himself from a brutal death. The so-called confession in such circumstances becomes rather meaningless, rather on a par with the later ‘confession’ of Tyrell that he murdered the young princes. Henry was fond of confessions!

This is not intended to be academic or go into the evidence in detail. The ideas expressed here are purely personal reactions to a problem I have long considered. The people of the fifteenth century were not stupid cardboard figures who reacted in stupid cardboard ways. They were just as intelligent as we are and not easily duped by rank impostors. I feel sure that Perkin Warbeck would not have lasted a week or two in any court, let alone several years in most of the courts of Europe as did the Yorkist pretender. It is interesting that Ann Wroe makes clear in her book that even Ferdinand and Isabella continued to refer to him as the Duke of York even after his execution, and that no one ever comments adversely on his conduct or manners, which were certainly carefully watched and noted. I feel that we Ricardians all need to ‘think outside the box’ more, and I am pleased that people like Ann Wroe and Michael Jones are not only finding new and exciting pieces of evidence but recycling the old in ways that give us all a new perspective. I feel we also need to return to primary sources and put much more weight on actual events and the things people said at the time, not generations later, and be much more circumspect in our use of Tudor propaganda because, as I see it, that was the main purpose of the so-called ‘confession’.

Cherie L.W. Stephens, B.A.

Note: when I use the term ‘impostor’ I mean someone who is impersonating someone else, while by ‘pretender’ I mean someone who is exactly who he says he is, and is trying to reclaim a lost throne, as in the case of Bonnie Prince Charlie, who was known as ‘the Young Pretender’.
Richard III: Crown and People
EDITED BY JAMES PETRE

This very useful book consists of a selection of articles from The Ricardian between March 1975 and December 1981. The articles include discussions of many topics of interest to members old and new. NB: While some of the articles have now been overtaken by newer research they all give a good overview of the topic. The book is divided into six sections as follows:

- Richard and his family. This section includes articles on Richard’s appearance, deformity and personality, his illegitimate children and the death of Anne Neville.
- Richard and the Nobility. Here we find articles on the Duke of Norfolk and on Anne Mowbray and Richard’s son in law, the Earl of Huntingdon.
- Friends and Foes. There are articles in this section on those close to Richard, including Sir Robert Percy, James Tyrell and John Kendall and on those not so close such as William Colyngbourne. There is also an article on Sir George Buck, the author of the first serious defence of Richard.
- Sword and Standard. Here there are articles on armour and several on various aspects of the battle of Bosworth including the Stanleys, the heraldry displayed there and on White Surrey, the alleged name of Richard’s horse.
- The King and the Country. This section includes articles mostly on events in Richard’s reign such as his charter to Gloucester, his visits to Durham, Canterbury, Oxford and Nottingham, his ‘Castle of Care’, and the attitudes to Richard in the north and the south.
- Government and society. This section is more general than the title indicates and includes an article on the sweating sickness after Bosworth, the medieval attitude to children, Richard as the righteous judge and a discussion of the Chancery Warrants under Richard and transcripts and discussions of each warrant.

Richard III: Crown and People is available from the Sales Liaison Officer at £13 plus postage and packing
The Barton Library

Important Notice - New Society Librarian Wanted!
It is with regret that I have given in my notice as Society Librarian and custodian of the Non-Fiction Book Library. For various reasons I am no longer in a position to accommodate the books and I have other constraints which inhibit the time I can devote to the Library, its day-to-day administration and its on-going development.

The Society therefore requires a new Librarian and the Executive Committee would be delighted to hear from any member who would be interested in taking on the role. We are currently reviewing the role of the Library with a view to reducing its size and focussing on giving members access to out-of-print books and books of value and special interest instead of incorporating books readily available, so there could be exciting developments to get involved in. Also changes have already been implemented to make the responsibilities of the Society Librarian less time-consuming than before. Listed below are the existing responsibilities with comments:

Custody of the Non-Fiction Book Library & Loans to Members
- Circa 1500 books. (This number will reduce with the new focus.)
- Physical Requirements: Ceiling height has to clear 8ft 4ins and you must have 16-18 ft of wall available for shelving. (With the reduction of books, the wall space will reduce but the ceiling height will remain the same.)
- Shelving supplied.

Production of Library Catalogue
- The new catalogue has been produced and only new acquisitions need to be added.
- The catalogue is now online on the Society website. Hard copies will no longer be produced but a CD-Rom will be available. (No hard copies will be produced in future, but a CD can be used to send the catalogue to those not on the Web.)

Liaison with Executive Committee
- The Society Librarian is an officer of the Society and has a seat on the Executive Committee. However, if you are interested in the Librarian’s role but cannot find the time or live too far away from London to attend committee meetings, this need not be an issue when applying.

Bulletin Updates
- Quarterly update on pertinent Library news for members.

New Member Liaison
- Being the point of contact for new members.
- Liaison with the Membership Department to ensure new members have adequate information about the Library.

Library Auction
- Fund raising event for the Library.
- This is huge fun and I have expanded the books on offer to include non-Ricardian/fifteenth century books.
**Liaison with Other Librarians**
- The librarians work as a team to liaise and support each other which makes for good working camaraderie.

**Open Day**
- Presently suspended but these could be renewed at the new Librarian's discretion.

If you require further details or would like to discuss the post in more depth, please do not hesitate to contact me (tel. 01483 481305). If you would like to apply for the position, again please contact me either by phone or work email (jane.trump@capgemimi.com)

Jane Trump

**Notices From The Librarians**

**The New Library Catalogue is Here**
At last, after a much longer period than I anticipated, the new catalogues have finally been completed. You can find them online on the Society website within the Barton Library section. All the catalogues are produced in alphabetical order of author/editor so, despite having no indexes, they should be simple to navigate.

For those without access to the Web, we can produce a CD with the catalogue on for you. Those wishing to have hard copies are requested to advise the Society Librarian of the area of research/interest they are interested in (i.e. for the books and papers catalogues - Biography; Primary Sources; Social; Politics etc. or for the Fiction and Audio Visual catalogues, the particular author and/or title) as to print off the whole catalogue will take too much paper.

Jane Trump

**Non-Fiction Papers Library - New Service offered**
This year I held my first Non-Fiction Papers Library display at Fotheringhay Church in Northamptonshire. It went extremely well and I plan to hold many more displays in the months/years ahead. The subject of my display was Medieval Christmas and for this I collated a wide and varied collection of papers. Everyone I talked to was very positive, and this made me wonder if anyone would like me to collate packages tailored to their needs, i.e. talks, general meetings, visits etc? Depending upon location/dates etc, I may even be able to bring a selection from the Library to you. I can also give talks and presentations so please do contact me if you are interested in this service.

Rebekah Beale

**Fiction Library - Notice of Closure**
Please note that the Fiction Library would be closed from 1 March until 10 May. If you have any books on loan after 1 March, please can you keep them and return them to me after 10 May.

Many thanks.

Anne Painter

**New additions to the Papers and Fiction Books Library**
Listed below are a selection of articles and fiction books that have been added to the Non-fiction Papers and Fiction Papers Libraries.
Papers
ALLEN John (ed) The Pageant of the Shearmen and Taylors (an extract from Three Medieval Plays). This play is also known as The Coventry Nativity and is the only Coventry Corpus Christi play that exists.
ASHDOWN-HILL John The Bosworth Crucifix This article explores the provenance and transmission of the crucifix which was reportedly found in 1778 at the Bosworth battlefield site. It includes fascinating detail, well thought out (and referenced) arguments with black and white illustrations.
BLACK Maggie Courtly and Christmas Feasting (taken from The Medieval Cookbook) October 2005. A compilation of recipes arranged by Rebekah S Beale and used as part of a Non-Fiction Papers Library display at Fotheringhay Church on 10 December 2005.
EDGAR-BEALE RS The First Battle of St Albans 22 May 1455: Why Richard Duke of York Took Up Arms (from Living History Register Digest, Vol 23, No 1) This article looks at some of the possible reasons why Richard Duke of York took up arms against the traitors surrounding Henry VI.
EDGAR-BEALE RS The Battle That Did Not Happen: A Tale of Treachery at Ludford Bridge October 1459 (from Living History Register Digest, Vol 23, No 2) A detailed article exploring the events surrounding the abortive Battle of Ludford Bridge. This article uses plenty of contemporary and near contemporary references and seeks to draw a visual picture of events.
EDGAR-BEALE RS The Battle of Wakefield 30 December 1460 (from Living History Register Digest, Vol 23, No 3) This article explores the Battle of Wakefield from the view of Richard Duke of York and covers the events from the Act of Accord October 1460 through to his death at the Battle of Wakefield. Again this article is very rich in contemporary and near contemporary references.
ELLIS Christopher St Peter & St Paul Parish Church, Pickering A colour booklet introducing the reader/visitor to the parish church of St Peter and St Paul, Pickering. This church contains one of the most complete sets of medieval wall paintings in Britain – and this booklet provides a detailed tour of the paintings.

Fiction Books
HIGGINBOTHAM Susan The Traitor's Wife The book features Eleanor de Clare, niece of King Edward II, who is married to Hugh le Despencer and is also a lady-in-waiting to Queen Isabella.
SMEE Christina Loyalty Binds Me A blacksmith's daughter arrives at Middleham Castle and falls in love with Richard of Gloucester. Her devotion spans 24 years and follows his fortunes from the north of England to Bosworth Field.

Audio Visual Library Update
Latest additions to the audio-tape Library include Tarnya Cooper’s NPG lecture on their Henry VII portrait, to mark its 500th anniversary in 2005, an interview with John Ashdown-Hill on CBC Radio’s As it Happens, on the descendant of Margaret of York and mtDNA analysis (donated by the Canadian Branch), and BBC Radio 4’s Book of the Week, a five-part adaptation of Juliet Barker’s Agincourt, read by Jane Lapotaire.

Geoffrey Wheeler
Letter from Canada

Just as the Richard III Society celebrates the fiftieth anniversary of its re-founding this year, the Canadian Branch is also celebrating its own anniversary, the fortieth (ruby) anniversary of the Branch’s founding. Begun in 1966 by William and Anne Buyers, the Richard III Society of Canada has done much in our country to promote the cause of Good King Richard and the Society.

Currently, we have members in eight provinces and one territory. We have monthly meetings in Toronto and its surrounding environs where a dedicated core group faithfully appears once a month at a member’s home to discuss King Richard and his times. Recent Society meetings have included a DVD presentation of War Walks’ Bosworth Field episode and a paper comparing the use of the supernatural in Emily Brontë’s Wuthering Heights and William Shakespeare’s Richard III. Future meetings will include a paper on Richard’s loyalty and a screening of the earliest surviving American feature film, Richard III from 1912. In addition to the monthly meetings, we also have a Founders’ Day picnic in June, a memorial service for King Richard, his family and the fallen at Bosworth Field in late August, and an Annual General Meeting and banquet in October. We also publish a newsletter, The RIII, three times a year and have a library, named in honour of William and Anne Buyers, which contains more than 400 titles, including a 1768 edition of Horace Walpole’s Historic Doubts.

Over the years, we have undertaken various projects to celebrate King Richard and the Society. One AGM, some 25 years ago, was held at Casa Loma, a Canadian ‘castle’ (read: 20th-century folly). The resulting press coverage meant that the following Society meeting had approximately 40 people descend on a member’s one-bedroom apartment. In July 1983, we re-enacted a 15th-century coronation to celebrate the ascent of Richard III to the English throne five centuries earlier. In October 2004, we hosted the first Joint Canadian-American AGM with more than 50 attendees from across North America for a three-day event. The AGM featured a meet-and-greet, workshops on music of the Middle Ages and medieval manuscript illumination. The AGM also included a lecture on the York Corpus Christi play that Richard attended in 1483, plots and ploys to recover Richard’s reputation, a theatrical performance and a costumed banquet with live music. The 2004 AGM was the most ambitious undertaking of the Richard III Society of Canada in 20 years.

Recently the Richard III Society of Canada has had the opportunity to assist Branch and Group Liaison and Visits Officer John Ashdown-Hill with his attempt to locate a living descendant of Richard III’s sister Anne of Exeter. In 2002, a paper was presented on Margaret of York at a conference in Mechelen, Belgium. This paper hypothesized that one of the sets of bones found around the tomb site of Margaret actually belonged to her. The problem was, how were Margaret’s remains to be positively identified?

Mr Ashdown-Hill decided that mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA), which is inherited only from the mother and provides an unaltered link to past generations, might solve the mystery. Mr Ashdown-Hill decided that he would trace forward the female line of descent from the House of York to find a living descendant who could provide a sample of mtDNA to test against the possible remains of Margaret of York. Mr Ashdown-Hill’s research from hefty tomes such as the Plantagenet Roll of the Blood Royal led him to eventually cross the ‘pond’ with his research to Canada. With the assistance of Society members Catherine Shale and Megan Lillies in British Columbia, a living descendant of Anne of Exeter was found in Canada. The descendant, Joy Ibsen, who had immigrated to Canada approximately 40 years earlier from the UK, was located in London, Ontario in 2004.

In January of this year, we were lucky enough to have Jeff Ibsen, Mrs Ibsen’s son, and his wife, Alex, join us for a Society meeting in Toronto. Mr Ibsen has a background in medical privacy and advised his mother on the legal ramifications of sending her DNA to a stranger. Mrs
Ibsen agreed to assist in the research and kindly submitted a cheek swab just before Christmas 2004.

At the January meeting of the Richard III Society of Canada, with a file full of papers, Mr Ibsen detailed the correspondence and progression of the research into Anne of Exeter’s living mtDNA descendants. According to Mr Ibsen, his mother has been rather delighted with Mr Ashdown-Hill’s discoveries concerning her family tree. Mrs Ibsen has been interested in genealogy for years and she had traced her family back several generations on various lines, including one line that was linked with the illustrious parliamentary Pitts. However, she had met with a genealogical brick wall on the line that eventually led to Anne of Exeter. As any genealogist and family historian will know, tracing females is difficult due to surname changes, and the lack of public records created by females in the past. Mrs Ibsen’s interest in genealogy led her to self-publish her genealogical research, which Mr Ibsen kindly brought with him to the meeting and passed around to his captivated audience.

As mentioned earlier, this year marks the ruby anniversary of the founding of the Richard III Society of Canada. We intend to celebrate this occasion in October with a formal banquet meal following the AGM at an appropriately posh venue in Toronto. The city is replete with historical buildings, marvelous museums, renowned restaurants and fabulous follies. We will be spoiled for choice. It should be an auspicious launch to many more years of Ricardian allegiance in Canada.

Victoria Moorshead

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From the label of the wine imported by Stratford’s Wine Agencies. www.stratfordwine.co.uk

Battle of Bosworth
McLaren Vale Shiraz 2002

Our vineyard takes its name from the original Battle of Bosworth, fought on Bosworth Field, Edgehill, Leicestershire, England 1485. Here the last of the Plantagenet Kings, Richard III, was slain by Henry Tudor, becoming the last king of England to die in battle, ending the Wars of the Roses. The roots of my family’s battle were planted in the early 1840’s with the first Bosworth vineyard in McLaren Vale. Our modern day Battle of Bosworth saw us convert our ‘Edgehill’ vineyard to organic viticulture … We trust our battle has been worth it.

Cheers, Joch Bosworth.

The contributor did comment that the wine was good!
Mechelen – ‘Women of Distinction ..’

In the summer of 2005, Ricardians were invited to visit Mechelen in Belgium and take in the autumn’s exhibition showing there: ‘Women of Distinction – Margaret of York and Margaret of Austria’. However, as there were not enough applicants to make the visit financially viable, the main trip was abandoned but John Ashdown-Hill, the organiser, suggested that individuals might like to go under their own steam. This idea was taken up by various members and I was part of a group of five who eventually went over the weekend when the original trip had been intended, and I am pleased to report I am very glad that I did so. Eurostar was punctual, the sun shone most of the time, the food was very enjoyable and the exhibition itself, the main reason for being in Mechelen, was wonderful.

We had slightly unusual accommodation: at John’s suggestion we stayed in the Pastoral Diocesan Centre. This did involve making our own beds, but it was spotlessly clean and unbelievably quiet – a rare luxury these days. We enjoyed a varied breakfast in a vast dining room surrounded with religious paintings – just the five of us – and looking out onto a peaceful inner courtyard.

In two minutes we could be standing in the Grote Mark. From here on the Saturday morning it was a short stroll to the Lamot gallery housing the exhibition. We had booked tickets in advance and despite a very officious lady with a close eye on security, armed with the audio guide included in the price, we were soon enjoying portraits, drawings, miniatures on parchment, statuettes, reliquaries, jewellery and many artefacts connected with the lives of the two leading ladies. Margaret of Austria in particular had amassed a vast library as well as masks and drums from Mexico, a powder horn from India, stuffed birds from Guatemala and many more exotic items, and a household inventory of her residence in Mechelen. There was a miniature on parchment showing the best-known female writer in the Middle Ages, Christine de Pisan (1365-c.1423) writing in her workroom. There was an example of an extremely rare art form: an enclosed garden, produced only in Mechelen in the sixteenth century and a feminine form of devotion. There were Books of Hours, pendants, combs, pomanders, a folding portable altarpiece and a suit of armour made for the young Charles V. I saw playing cards, a set of twenty-seven wooden game pieces with carved portraits of historical figures, a stunningly beautiful portrait of Mary of Burgundy and also her petite crown (diameter 10 cm.). The treasures were just endless. The lighting was rather dim in some areas and the numbering of the items was slightly haphazard but that apart, it was a stunning display and we staggered out to revive ourselves with a superb lunch in a little café overlooking the art gallery. My salade niçoise was such a work of art in itself that Lesley Wynne-Davies was moved to take a photo of it.

The other theme of this weekend was ‘Mechelen – City in Female Hands’ and this was much in evidence. As we crossed the Grote Markt we faced the KBC bank and its façade was hung with huge portraits of eight ladies who obviously had local prestige. Although the literature we found in the Tourist Information Office was unfortunately not in English, I gleaned that some of their careers covered ballet, millinery, hockey and acting, among others. While strolling through to view the area where the two Margarets had lived, we passed a sweet shop and in its window their contribution was a large chocolate rendition of Margaret of Austria – like a portrait, not a sculpture, and far too expertly made to be eaten! In the baroque church of SS Peter and Paul, next to the site of Margaret of York’s former palace, we chatted to an MP from Antwerp: he told us that the heart of Margaret of Austria was buried in the chancel. A slightly Victorian-looking theatre now stands on the original site of Margaret of York’s palace and we explored this prior to crossing the road to examine the courtyard of the former Hof van Savoyen, Margaret of Austria’s
residence. Most of the building is of course altered and is offices but the courtyard with its small squared patches and tiny hedged borders retained some atmosphere. Retracing our steps across the Grote Markt we visited the vast, rather gloomy cathedral of St Rombouts and were rewarded with a wonderful Antony van Dyck painting of ‘Christ on the Cross’.

Passing the Cultural Centre, we checked that the plaque unveiled by the Society in October 2000 to Margaret of York was still in place, and then noticed a small garden with graceful sculptures of ladies dancing and a superb one of a swan in flight – and we also viewed the portraits in the small gallery. On speaking to the curator we learned the sculptress was Mariette Teugels. She appeared in the doorway and waved to us – apparently she owns the building and literally ‘lives over the shop’. As it was now getting dark we headed back to our accommodation to regroup later and were lucky to find a delightful restaurant in a corner of the square and a two-minute walk from the Diocesan Centre. Thus ended a very full day.

On Sunday we had to keep an eye on the time for our return to Mechelen station and thence to Brussels for Eurostar, but once again with Howard Choppin and Lesley I explored a further corner of the town not seen before. Passing a small museum, we were fascinated with models in the window of the frightening fiendish creatures which appear in Hieronymus Bosch paintings – if only the museum had been open – but as Lesley said, once purchased – where would one have put them? At the end of a tiny lane of quaint houses, we found a beguinage near a large Baroque church in the process of refurbishment. We read that the great seventeenth-century beguinage was on the UNESCO World Heritage List as of December 1998 along with twelve other Flemish beguinages. Outside one of the little cottages nearby was a tiny model of two figures, made up of tubes of metal, and we deduced they were advertising the house as that of a physiotherapist. It was just another of the delightful touches in this quaint old town. It was now time to collect our luggage from the Diocesan Centre and take a slow stroll to the station, where due to lack of open cafes, we progressed on to Brussels to enjoy a light lunch on the station concourse while watching the world go by. As there were no hitches on Eurostar, we soon reached London – the end of a weekend absolutely packed with memories of a lively, interesting time – it is a shame there was not greater support for this short break as it was so well worth it.

Jean E. Nicholls

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11 Whiteoaks Road, Oadby, Leicester LE2 5YL
or email dbaldwin@themutual.net.
Future Society Events

Reminder and Late Bookings

Study Weekend, 21-23 April
There are still places available for the Study Weekend which takes place in York. The theme of the weekend will be the Logge Wills. Speakers include Peter Hammond, Anne Sutton, Mary O’Regan and Lesley Boatwright. Full details and booking form in the Winter issue of the Bulletin. To learn more about previous study weekends visit the Society’s website: www.richardiii.net (Education/Study weekends.)

Wendy Moorhen

Bookable Events

British Museum Visit, Saturday 8 April 2006
On Saturday 8 April there will be an opportunity to visit the British Museum, to view a selection of medieval items, including hopefully some which are not currently on exhibition. Groups for the visit will be limited to FIFTEEN people and there will be two groups. The first visit will take place at 11.00 a.m., with a repeat visit at 2.00 p.m. Both visits will be guided by John Ashdown-Hill, and each will last about an hour. The visit will include items connected with members of the house of York, together with a selection of general fifteenth-century items, including jewelry, seals, silverware, ivories and enamels, architectural fragments, religious items and clocks.

Groups should assemble at the front entrance, under the portico at 10.45 (for the 11.00 a.m. visit) or 1.45 (for the 2.00 p.m. visit).

If you would like to take part in this visit, please book with John, either by e-mail or by telephone as soon as possible, and by Friday 31 March. Please state which visit you would prefer, and say whether or not the other group would be possible (in case your first choice is already fully booked). If booking by telephone please make sure you give a contact number.

Email John Ashdown-Hill ljfash@essex.ac.uk or tel. 01206-523267. [Please note: there is no coupon for this visit].

John Ashdown-Hill

Women of Power and Influence during the Wars of the Roses, 10 June
The East Midlands Branch presents a Study Day at the Leicester Adult Education College. See page 67 for full details and a booking form is in the centrefold section.

Sally Henshaw

Future Events

Norfolk Branch Study Day, 11 November
The theme for this years event will be the House of Lancaster

Annmarie Hayek
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**Branches and Groups**

**Continental Group**

**Reminder! 20th foundation jubilee – AGM of the Continental Group.**

After almost ten years we return to our former custom and meet in Holland again. The AGM will take place on the weekend of 5-7 May 2006, in the Cistercian abbey of Lilbosch, Pepinusbrug 6, NL-6102, Rj Echt/Province Limburg. The AGM will be held on Saturday 6 May after breakfast. Lectures are also part of the meeting. As usual we open the AGM with a little service. Meals served by the monks, especially during the day of the meeting for guests from outside, can be booked up to the last weekend in April 2006, via Rita Diefenhardt-Schmitt, Am Eichpfad 8, D-61479 Oberems/Ts., Tel. 06082-3 91 20, Fax: 06082-92 96 94. We will also visit the city of Echt during the weekend. The Abbey’s little guesthouse with nine simply-equipped bedrooms has been booked for the Continental Ricardians. Fellow Ricardians and other guests are warmly welcomed. Outside the Abbey plenty of accommodation facilities are offered. Please make your own arrangements. For help you can contact the Echt Tourist Board, Nieuwe Markt 55, NL-6101, CV-Echt. Tel. (0)475-410 697, Fax. (0)475-387 121, or from Regionkantoor VVV Noord- em Midden Limburg, Postbus 4315, NL-5944 ZG Arcen, Tel. (077) 358-67 67, Fax. (077) 352-66 25, email: info@regiovwl.nl, url: www.lekker-genieten.nl. We all here look forward to the event, and we hope you can take part too.

*Rita Diefenhardt-Schmitt*

**The East Midlands Branch presents:**

**Women of Power and Influence during the Wars of the Roses**

On Saturday 10 June 2006 a Study Day will be held at the Leicester Adult Education College, Wellington Street, Leicester, from 09.30 until 16.30

The study day will feature talks on:

- Elizabeth Woodville & the Battle of Stoke, by David Baldwin
- Behind the throne – the role of women 1066-1500, by Jean Townsend
- Lady Margaret Beaufort, by Angela Smith
- Margaret of York – recent DNA studies, by John Ashdown-Hill

Tea/coffee & biscuits/cake are included in the price. Own arrangements for lunch.

See form in centre pages for tickets.

**Gloucestershire Branch**

The Halloween Branch meeting was exceptionally well attended and the ‘open’ discussion on ‘Medieval Witches and Witchcraft’, prompted by Gwen Waters’ engrossing introductory talk, proved both stimulating and lively. Such was the interest generated we plan to include a visit from an actual witch in our next programme.

Christmas was celebrated with two events. The Branch met for a real medieval feast at the Coynes’ home in the Cotswolds. Attendees brought their own medieval dish and an entire afternoon was required to consume the assembled fare. Ricardians are, of course, noted for their feasting capabilities and the participants certainly maintained the tradition. The Bristol Group returned to a Cotswold setting for Christmas Dinner when we met at the Castle Inn at Castle Combe. It is difficult to imagine a better location for this annual festive get-together. The village buildings are primarily all of the fifteenth century and the grouping around the Inn particularly pleasing. It is easy to appreciate why Castle Combe has been so often voted the most attractive village in England.
The new year began with a talk by Liz Claridge on ‘Roger Mortimer and the Controversial Death of Edward II’. The recent resurgence of speculation about the demise of this unfortunate monarch encourage a lively debate – did he die horribly, as outlined in the conventional story, or did he live out his time in sunnier climes while one of his erstwhile jailers occupied the splendid tomb? Another medieval intrigue set to provide ongoing controversy!

Forthcoming Events:
Saturday 8 April ‘A New Look On The Renaissance’. Talk by Suzanne Doolan [Branch]
Sunday 7 May The Newport Medieval Ship and Medieval Fair [Field Visit: Branch]
Saturday 20 May Kentchurch Court, Herefordshire [Field Visit: Bristol Group]
Saturday 3 June ‘Did Edward IV’s Family Policy Make The Reign Of Richard III Inevitable?’ Talk by Stephen David [Branch]
Saturday 17 June The Churches of North Herefordshire and South Shropshire with Mickie O’Neill [Conducted Field Visit : Bristol Group]

Keith Stenner

Norfolk Branch
The raffle at the Study day in Norwich in November raised £73 which has been donated to Ricardian Churches Restoration Fund. Many thanks to all who took part.

Study Day 11 November 2006: The House of Lancaster featuring Prof Tony Pollard, Dr Rosemary Horrox, Dr Michael K Jones and Dr John Watts. Price £18.00. For application form please ring Annmarie Hayek, 01603 664021

Annmarie Hayek

Scottish Branch
Diary Dates 2006
Sunday 23 April AGM in Peebles. Lunch at Parkland Hotel followed by a visit to Neidpath Castle
Sunday 2 July Visit to Dunfermline Abbey, lunch in the Commercial Inn (haunted 17th century hostelry), followed by an afternoon visit to Falkland Palace (home to Scotland’s kings, Perkin Warbeck and a real tennis court)
July 15-16 First round of Scottish Jousting Tournament, Museum of Scottish Country Life, Kittochside, East Kilbride
July 22-23 Second round of Scottish Jousting Tournament, House of the Binns, near Edinburgh
July 29-30 Third round of Scottish Jousting Tournament, Culzean Castle near Kilmarnock
Friday 29 September to Branch visit to York to take part in the Society AGM and fifty-year celebrations
Sunday 1 October Christmas lunch or dinner. Venue to be confirmed
Saturday 2 December The Christmas Lecture at Edinburgh Castle. Subject: The 1482 Invasion. Speakers to be confirmed
Sunday 3 December

Philippa Langley
West Surrey Group Report – Spring 2006

We visited Kenilworth in July where we spent a long time exploring the sprawling ruins of what was once a magnificent and imposing castle on a par with its neighbour Warwick, but sadly, unlike the Kingmaker’s great residence, Kenilworth was allowed to fall into disrepair after the Civil War. There is, nevertheless, a lot to see, with glorious views from the top of the Norman keep overlooking the site of the vast Great Mere, a shallow lake which once surrounded the castle. The palace was substantially improved in the 1300s by John of Gaunt, who extended the former Great Hall into one of the finest 14th-century rooms in England. The intricately carved stone-work panels and window frames also gave continuous seating along the sides of the hall and the high, wide windows provided adequate light for writing and sewing. The still-to-be-seen projecting oriel allowed the lord privacy at mealtimes and even had its own fireplace, in addition to the great fireplace in the main hall. The hall originally had a hammer beam roof and must have been similar to Westminster Hall. In Elizabethan times Robert Dudley added further buildings, including a new gatehouse to impress distinguished visitors, with a great garden (recently restored) inside. Queen Elizabeth was a frequent visitor to the Earl of Leicester’s grand palace.

On the Saturday evening we returned to the castle to see a performance of Shakespeare’s Henry VI, Part 2. This was very well acted within the ruins, which were especially atmospheric when an almost full moon rose above us. Needless to say, we were not impressed by the usual portrayal of Richard as a hunchbacked villain.

The following day we tried twice to visit the Beauchamp Chapel at St Mary’s Warwick. Each time it was closed or ‘unavailable’ which was very disappointing. I wrote afterwards to the Parish Administrator to register our disappointment and received a charming reply stating the usual reason of shortage of volunteers to guide visitors around the Church.

In August we met at Framlingham Castle in time for lunch together before thoroughly investigating the castle, where we found the ‘talking guides’ were excellent, as was the museum. Next we visited Framlingham Church where we saw the tomb of Henry Fitzroy, an illegitimate son of Henry VIII. Then on to Gipping, the home of the Tyrell family, to see the delightful little chapel of St Nicholas, built by Sir James Tyrell in the 1470s close by his isolated manor house, which sadly has long since disappeared. The tiny chapel has some medieval treasures, a beautiful wall painting at the east end and some unusual and precious glass in the east window which dates from around the 1490s. It is a jumble of stained glass fragments that may once have come from throughout the chapel. These fragments, although with no complete composition, give enough details to see that they come from artwork of the finest quality. There is an exquisite weeping woman, a bishop and an Archbishop, believed to be St Thomas of Canterbury, a haloed king and a boar’s head with a peacock fan in its mouth. This is the Tyrell family emblem. One wanted to stay for hours, just to try and piece this medieval jigsaw together.

The following day we went to Clare Country Park, where some of us scaled the heights (formerly the motte) of the castle, which was built in 1090. The views from there were well worth the climb. The castle was abandoned in the 15th century but there is a great deal to see in the Park. The Great Eastern Railway once ran through the castle grounds and although that too has gone, the track is now a very pleasant walk, running alongside the River Stour. The Visitor Centre in the old station goods shed is well worth a visit and features exhibitions about the castle, railway and the flora and fauna of the area. A short walk from here are the ruins of Clare Priory where ancestors and relatives of Richard and Queen Anne Neville were buried. We saw the plaque in memory of this which the Society erected on the ruined walls. There was also a 14th-century sedilia among the ruins. From there we walked through the pretty little town of Clare and visited its lovely church. Then on to the magnificent, cathedral-like church at Long Melford, which has the most incredible collection of medieval stained glass, including the famous rabbit window, which I have long wanted to see. It is very tiny and represents three rabbits with only three ears between them, although each rabbit appears to have two ears! There was a programme on TV some time ago about this symbol, the origins of which are unknown but has been seen in
ancient places in the Middle East and, I believe, even as far away as China. Does anyone know more? There is also a portrayal in stained glass of Elizabeth Talbot, Duchess of Norfolk (and sister of Eleanor Butler). Apparently Lewis Carroll modelled his duchess in *Alice in Wonderland* on this piece of medieval glass.

When we were on a course at Oxford in March we met a charming lady who is a guide at Westminster Abbey. She very kindly offered to give some of us a private tour, which we arranged for September. We met our guide at the West Door after battling our way through crowds who were watching the filming of *The Da Vinci Code* outside the Abbey. We were indeed fortunate to have such a marvellous guide who showed us absolutely everything, including Queen Anne’s memorial plaque, which some of us had not previously seen. We were greatly privileged to be allowed into the Inner Sanctuary to see the shrine of Edward the Confessor and tombs of Edward I, Edward III, Philippa of Hainault and Richard II. At the end of a most absorbing morning, our guide took us to see the ancient door, which is the oldest in the Abbey, through the peaceful little cloister and into the lovely college garden behind the Abbey. This is a haven of tranquillity and we seemed a million miles away from the hustle and bustle outside and crowds of tourists and visitors inside.

Also in September two of our members were able to attend the Branches and Groups Meeting at Bridport. They were most impressed and thought it an excellent occasion. Hopefully, these meetings should happen on a regular basis and be opportunities to meet face to face with members from neighbouring branches/groups, to pick up suggestions and ideas for each others meetings and to receive feedback on each others ideas. Any information gathered could be passed to the Society’s committee for general distribution. One of our major gripes is the poor communication between the groups/branches and the central committee, so John Asdown-Hill’s plan to hold these meetings regularly, with the UK divided into four areas, is an excellent suggestion. They would need to be fairly frequent and possibly covering more areas in order that all members may have an opportunity to attend. [*]

In October several of our group attended the Richard III Foundation’s 2005 Conference on ‘Francis, Viscount Lovell: Family, Friends and Foes’ at Minster Lovell. It was a pleasure to return to Minster Lovell, surely one of the most evocative of Ricardian sites and one of the most romantic of ruins. We wandered through the old walls and along the riverside at dusk and would never have been surprised to see Francis appear on his destrier. Indeed, from what we were told by a local gentleman, he has been seen. That, however, is another story!

The lectures were absorbing, particularly ‘The Anatomy of Minster Lovell’ by Dr Simon Townley, on the village’s medieval topography with emphasis on the manor house and church. At the end, the Lance and Longbow Society displayed a magnificent visual layout of the battle of Stoke, narrated superbly by Matthew Bennett. Although we were not all able to stay for the full weekend, we all thoroughly enjoyed the conference in the company of like-minded Ricardians and greatly appreciated all the work and organisation put into it by the Foundation.

In November we met at Jean and Jim’s house for a sale of some of our books and a lively debate on the Re-adoption of Edward IV and the remaining years of his reign.

In December, we all met with spouses and guests for our Christmas lunch at a very convivial country pub where we ate, drank (a very good wine named ‘Richard’s’) and made merry until well into the afternoon. We believe that we may even have persuaded the publican to join our group.

*Renée Barlow*

*Editor: meetings between members of branches and groups and the executive committee have taken place since 1978 so it is not as if this is a new initiative.*
**Worcestershire Branch**

October saw us at Beoley in the church hall of St Leonard’s, which contains a Sheldon tomb, of a man who fought at Bosworth. Our quiz went very well, with as many silly answers as right ones, and a good bit of learning going on. The sales table also raised money for branch funds – a welcome boost, as we have an expensive year in 2006.

Our November meeting was a talk by Kevin Down, on ‘Dominic Mancini – Usurpation, a close reading’. Mancini wrote *The Usurpation of Richard III* in 1483 and it finishes when the princes are in the Tower. Mancini wrote as an outside observer uninvolved in the events unfolding around him. An alternative translation of the title can be the ‘occupation’ of the kingdom by Richard III. It was completed in Lille in France and was not intended for general publication but written for Angelo Cato, Mancini’s patron. Mancini was born around 1434 and died between 1494 and 1509. He was a clergyman, entering religious orders, possibly the Augustinian Friars, and a Christian humanist, poet and author, writing a book on the four virtues in 1484. Angelo Cato was physician to the king of France, councillor and bishop, and intended to present a copy of Mancini’s report to Frederick, Prince of Taranto, son of the king of Naples. Mancini came to England in the summer of 1482 (the exact date is not known), but his summary of Edward IV shows he had not been in England for long. The manuscript was finished in December 1483 at Cato’s home in Borganse. Mancini did not speak English so he was reliant on informants, but Latin was used by the clergy. Mancini did not leave London during his stay. His sources are not listed: one possible source is Peter Carmeliano, another Italian humanist, who was in England in 1480 and was rector of Ripple, while another might have been Giovanni Gigli a papal tax collector, also an author, who wrote a book on Lent for John Russell. Kevin held a question and answer session after the talk, which was a valuable insight into what has become an important source of information used by those who would point to Richard as a usurper and murderer.

In December we held our Christmas party in Upton Snodsbury village hall. We played Ricardian bingo using small post-it notes to cover the answers as each name was called out as in a bingo game, the difference being that those names not immediately recognised were explained, and the heroes and villains booed as appropriate. A bring and share tea followed: the variety of foods that our members bring is quite surprising.

We embark upon our twentieth anniversary year in 2006. The Worcestershire Branch will be holding a ‘20th-Anniversary Banquet’ on 10 June 2006 at Inkberrow Village Hall, 19.00 for 19.30. Medieval costume will be optional and welcome drinks will be provided. You may bring other drinks if you wish.

This will be a wonderful event celebrating our first twenty years in which our Group/Branch has developed into a vibrant, knowledgeable and friendly organisation, and we would therefore like to extend a special welcome to any past members of our Group/Branch and of course any other members of The Society who would like to join us. Tickets will cost £10.00 each. We look forward to meeting some of our fellow Ricardians.

Tickets can be obtained from: Mrs June Tilt, 2 Morgan Court, Worcester Road, Malvern, Worcs. WR14 1EX. Please send cheque or postal order and S.A.E.

**Future Programme**

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<th>Event</th>
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<td>11 March</td>
<td>Illustrated talk by Paul Renfrey – ‘Castle Cerrick Cennen’ – venue Upton Snodsbury Village Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 April</td>
<td>AGM followed by a visit to St Nicholas church – venue St Nicholas Church Hall, Warndon, Worcester</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 May</td>
<td>Outing to Goodrich Castle (English Heritage) led by Pat Parminter.</td>
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The Worcestershire Branch enjoys a full and varied programme, full details of which can be obtained from Branch Secretary, Val Sibley, on 01564 777329

*Jane Tinklin*
Yorkshire Branch Report
Our medieval banquet took place on 22 October at the Black Swan, Peasholme Green, York, but could not be reported until now due to Bulletin deadlines. Although fewer people attended than in 2003 it was agreed that the food was better this time, and there was some extra room (though not much) for costume display. As before, ‘Trouvère’ provided effective music. We were pleased to see some new members, and hope they will continue to support our events.

In connection with the banquet, CDs of pictures taken there by John Audsley are available at modest cost. Contact Moira Habberjam for details, on 0113 267-5069 or e-mail habberjamgm@tenoorl.fsnet.co.uk.

The Branch ended 2005 with its commemoration of the battle of Wakefield on 30 December. Over twenty members and friends – again including some new faces, always very welcome – gathered at Sandal on a very cold and ominously grey day with recent snow still lying on the grass. Pauline Pogmore had put her skills as a professional florist into creating another striking arrangement of flowers to be left at the battle monument in Manygates Lane. One unexpected change to the monument was that the little statue of Richard, Duke of York seems to have been beheaded. We trust that the civic authorities will remedy this before next year’s commemoration, and may well give them a gentle push in that direction if need be. Our Chairman, John Audsley, gave a short address, including the information that he had recently read that there are three possible sites for this battle. Now why doesn’t that come as a surprise?

As advised in the Autumn Bulletin our Spring Lecture, on Saturday 8 April 2006 at the Leeds City Art Gallery, will deal with the ongoing excavations at Harewood Castle near Leeds, and will be given by members of Ed Dennison Associates, the team responsible for the work. Local members will know that the castle has been out of bounds to the public for many years, and it will be interesting to see just what has survived of the medieval building, as well as what is being done to analyse and preserve what remains. The lecture starts at 2.00 p.m. but the lecture theatre will be open from one o’clock. If you are thinking of attending you might like to know that the Gallery has quite a civilised café open at lunchtime.

The Branch’s magazine, Blanc Sanglier, has reached volume 40 and so may be considered the Grand Old Man (or Lady) of such publications. Subscriptions are now due if you haven’t already paid, and should be sent to our Treasurer Christine Symonds at 2 Whitaker Avenue, Bradford BD2 3HL.

Our website, www.richardiiiyorkshire.co.uk gives details of other Branch events and publications. To accompany her Who Was Who in the Wars of the Roses, and in answer to several enquiries, Pauline Pogmore has now prepared sets of full-colour illustrations of the banners of the main participants in the fighting, at only £3.50 for over seventy banners. They can be obtained directly from Pauline - to whom cheques should be made payable - at 169 Albert Road, Sheffield S8 9QX; please include a first-class stamp to cover return postage.

Angela Moreton
New Members

UK 1 Oct - 31 Dec 2005

Pamela Aylott, Lincoln
Janet Blake, Caulcott
Victoria Chamberlain, Southampton
Elizabeth Collins, Basingstoke
Rachel Cowpe, Peterborough
S Creaton, Cheltenham
Primrose Croy, London
Beryl Davy, Bishop's Stortford
A. Evans, Penzance
Timothy Evans, London
Patricia Fallon, Stockport
Susan Glew, Doncaster
David Griffith, Edgbaston
Nigel Latter, Wolverhampton
Christine Neate, Newport

Jill Ogdren, Manchester
Chris Perry, Bexhill-on-Sea
Rosalind Shorrock, High Wycombe
Deborah Smith, Luton
Louise Solt, Peterborough
Renee Southgate, Portland
Jane Tieman, Croydon
Edward Triance, Huntingdon
Marilla Walker, Truro
Judy Wallis Price, Boston
Janet Walters, Oldbury
Matt Ward, Nottingham
Jo Wilkinson, Flintshire
Mary Wilcox, Norwich
Anna Zakharova, Welshpool

Overseas 1 Oct - 31 Dec 2005

Lotta Amnestal, Eskilstuna, Sweden
Rosemary Burgess, NSW, Australia
Alex Birkett, Dunlop, Australia
Judith Howard, NSW, Australia

Alain Marchandisse, Belgium
Thomas Mckercher, Toronto, Canada
Ann Macnamara, NSW, Australia
John Neil, Dayton, Ohio

US Branch 1 Oct - 31 Dec 2005

Sheila Bloom, Virginia
Abigail Humburg Comber, Indiana
Gilda Felt, Arizona
Ronald Horton, Oklahoma
Patricia Jackson, Kentucky
Audrey Jankucic, New Jersey
Anne LaRue, Massachusetts
Tiki Lawson, Florida
Kenneth Lowe, Oregon
Bruce Miller, New York
Pamela Muha, Maryland

Henry Mulloy, Massachusetts
Ariella Nasuti, Massachusetts
E. Warren Perry, Washington, D.C.
Michael Richard Polino, Illinois
Leslie Rovin, Pennsylvania
Claudia Saber, Missouri
Margaret Schroeder, Illinois
Alexandra Service, Virginia
Joan Singer, Wisconsin
Kate Skegg, Illinois
Betsy Yancey, Virginia
Obituaries

Morris McGee

Society Vice-President Morris ‘Sam’ McGee passed away last year. He was elected to office in 2002. In 1999 Morris stepped down from the Selection Committee of the American Branch’s Schallek Memorial Fellowship and at that time his fellow committee member, the late Charles Wood, ‘tossed a few well deserved laudatory insults his way’. Charles’ words have been chosen to serve as Morris’ obituary in the Bulletin.

Semper Fi*, Sam

Sam may claim that he spent his career as a professor of English at New Jersey’s Montclair State University, but even though his academic specialty involves Shakespeare and other dubious Tudor characters, he’s actually a Marine. His active service may have ended in Korea, but as he would be the first to point out, there is no such thing as an ex-Marine. That reality made him absolutely the right pick as first Chair of the Schallek Selection Committee. Given the talent of our applicants, picking winners is never easy, and the process is further complicated by applicant interests that seldom match up with those of the Selection Committee. Sam, though, has always had a genius for cutting through academic nonsense.

If historians on the committee (and we have always dominated numerically) insisted that only a project in history deserved funding, Sam would insure that deserving literary critics and students of art received fellowships too. If the historians preferred a study of Calais defenses in the Yorkist era, he would counter with funding for beer making as practiced in the fifteenth century. He made his decisions stick too, and not just because they were those of a no-nonsense Marine. Rather, he made them acceptable with telling quotes from his own literary creation, the endless tale of a Yorkist survivor in Tudor times that had us much too doubled up with laughter to protest. And, with the passage of time, even we historians can now see that his decisions were eminently correct. In short, he made Schallek Fellowships into everything that Bill and Maryloo hoped they would be, so as he steps down, all I can say is: Semper Fi, Sam, Semper Fi.

*Semper Fidelis, ‘always faithful’

Barbara Saunders

A Branch Tribute

In May 1986, Barbara Saunders attended the second meeting of the newly-established Western Australian Branch of the Society. At this meeting she was elected treasurer of the fledgling branch and thus began a nineteen-year association with a keen group of people.

Barbara was never one to sit back and let others do the work. She contributed in her role as treasurer and then took on the development of the branch library, a collection now numbering some 300 volumes covering Ricardian fact and fiction and wider fifteenth-century material. Barbara also catalogued numerous relevant articles, audio and visual resources, which have been of immense educational value to members. Two years ago I took over responsibility for the library and when Barbara handed over to me all the records and catalogues they were in impeccable order. This was a typical example of her considerable organisational ability.
Her friends within the branch have all appreciated Barbara’s commitment and her willingness to use her abilities to assist others. She was a good friend and colleague and the results of her librarianship are a fitting memorial to her, indeed we have agreed to rename the library in her honour.

Helen Hardegan

A Personal Tribute
Helen has written about my Mother’s contribution to the West Australian Branch and I know how much she will be missed at their meetings. Many members in the United Kingdom who knew her will be equally saddened by the loss.

I just want to add a few sentences from a personal perspective. It is probably true to say that I would not have developed my own interest in history and would not have joined the Society had it not been for the influence of my Mother. Many holidays spent in the West Country and elsewhere, which always included visits to historic places, were undoubtedly the source of my own passion for the past. She always encouraged, and in many respects shared, this growing interest, and this was especially true of matters concerning Richard III and the Society.

The family had migrated to Australia in 1968 and in more recent years Mother made two visits to the UK: one in 1985 when she participated in Joyce Melhuish’s tour of the Loire in France and the other in 1990 during which she attended the Society’s Triennial Conference in York. She was looking forward to making another visit this year for the anniversary celebrations, but unfortunately she lost her battle against cancer and died shortly before Christmas.

My Mother enjoyed her membership of the Society and was always a loyal and enthusiastic Ricardian. I will miss her very much.

John Saunders
**Calendar**

We run a calendar of all forthcoming events: if you are aware of any events of Ricardian interest, whether organised by the Society - Committee, Visits Team, Research Committee, Branches/Groups - or by others, please let the Editor have full details, in sufficient time for entry. The calendar will also be run on the website, and, with full details, for members, on the intranet.

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<td>18 March</td>
<td>Annual Requiem Mass, Minster Lovell</td>
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<td>London day visit. British Museum and Charterhouse</td>
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<td>10 June</td>
<td>Worcestershire Branch 10th anniversary banquet, Inkberrow</td>
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<td>East Midlands Branch Study Day, Leicester</td>
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<td>7-10 July</td>
<td>Long weekend visit based on Chester</td>
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<td>20 August</td>
<td>Bosworth, traditional site, Sutton Cheney etc.</td>
<td>Visits Committee</td>
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<td>9 September</td>
<td>Day Visit, Romney Marsh and Smallhythe</td>
<td>Visits Committee</td>
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<td>29 September</td>
<td>AGM and Members’ Weekend. York</td>
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<td>21 October</td>
<td>‘Chivalry, the Order of the Garter and St George’s Chapel’, Vicars’ Hall, Windsor</td>
<td>See Winter 2005 issue</td>
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<td><strong>2007</strong></td>
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<td>13-15 April</td>
<td>Australasian Convention, to be held in greater Wellington area, New Zealand</td>
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<td>Early May</td>
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