



## Richard III's 'Beloved Cousyn'

### John Howard and the House of York

John Ashdown-Hill

To be published 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2009  
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**The first-ever biography about John Howard with *new* revelations as to why he became Richard III's main supporter.**

John Howard, a fifteenth-century Suffolk gentleman founded a dynasty of dukes of Norfolk which has lasted to the present day. In 1455 Howard was untitled and obscure – at his death in 1485 he was Earl Marshal, Duke of Norfolk, Lord Admiral and a very wealthy man.

The author examines Howard's reasons for supporting Richard III, even at the cost of his own life; he reveals how Richard became king in 1483 and looks at Howard's involvement with the fate of the 'princes in the Tower' and of the royal secrets he knew through his association with the private life of Edward IV.

- '*Beloved Cousyn*' brings out many fascinating details which have previously been overlooked.
- With new discoveries and interpretations it is an important contribution to Ricardian scholarship, exploring in detail his central relationship with the royal house of York.
- From the moment of Edward IV's coronation Howard rose rapidly, becoming a knight, a peer and an admiral. He was acquainted with at least three of Edward's known sexual partners
- Rewrites the history of shipbuilding, outlining Howard's naval innovations, hitherto ascribed to the Tudors.

**John Ashdown-Hill** is an historian and a member of the Royal Historical Society, the Society of Genealogists, the Richard III Society and the *Centre Européen d'Etudes Bourguignonnes*. He is author of *Eleanor, the Secret Queen: the Woman who put Richard III on the Throne* and of *Mediaeval Colchester's Lost Landmarks*. He also writes regularly for *The Ricardian*. He lives in Colchester.

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