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The Richard III Society of Canada
Membership Secretary
c/o 156 Drayton Avenue
Toronto, ON M4C 3M2

Tradition: Richard imprisoned his two nephews in the Tower of London, then had them murdered.

Fact: Neither the date, nor the place, nor even that the Princes were murdered can be proven. All that is known for certain is that they disappeared from public view in the late summer of 1483.

Anthony Cheetham in *The Life and Times of Richard III* notes, "Richard stands convicted not so much by the evidence against him as by the lack of evidence against anyone else." But there were other players in this medieval drama. *Was it Henry Stafford, Duke of Buckingham? Margaret Beaufort? Bishop Morton?* Perhaps it was Henry Tudor, who defeated Richard in battle and was crowned Henry VII.

Richard extended the scope of trial by jury, passed laws to prohibit the intimidation of juries and established the first system of bail for prisoners awaiting trial, while prohibiting the seizure of their property before they had been found guilty by due process of law.

A Contemporary View Of Richard III

"He contents the people where he goes best that ever did [a] Prince, for many a poor man hath suffered wrong many days, hath been relieved and helped by him, and his commands... God hath sent him to us for the weal of us all."

— Thomas Langton,
Bishop of St. David's (Church)

A Contemporary View Of Henry VII

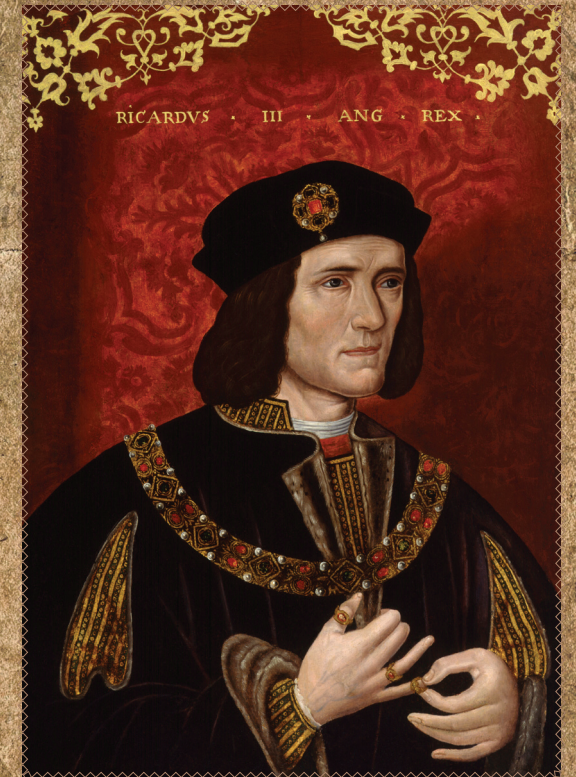
"The King is rather feared than loved, and this was due to his avarice... The King is very powerful in money but if fortune allowed some lord of the blood royal to rise and he had to take the field, he would fare badly owing to his avarice; his people would abandon him."

— The Milanese ambassador
to England

A Contemporary Comment on Richard's Death

"King Richard, late mercifully reigning upon us was... piteously slain and murdered, to the great heaviness of this City..."

— Entry in the City Records of York, following news of Richard's death at Bosworth



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Richard III
Society
of Canada

The Richard III Society of Canada is a branch of the international Richard III Society, which is based in Great Britain. There are currently over 4,000 members worldwide.

Benefits of membership include our Canadian newsletter, the *RIII*; an international magazine, *The Ricardian Bulletin*; and a scholarly journal, *The Ricardian*, as well as regular email updates. The Buyers Library, with over 400 books, articles and audio-visual media, is available to members, as are papers and articles from the Barton Library in England. Books, clothing and other items of Ricardian interest are available for purchase from our Sales Officer.

The Society is open to all, scholar and amateur alike. Canadian Society meetings are held nine times a year in or near Toronto, including October's Annual General Meeting. Some members in other areas also meet informally. Activities include friendly debates, researching and presenting short papers about the life and times of Richard III, and educating the public at various events.

Membership fees are \$70 per year, \$60 for seniors and students, \$80 for family. The Society year begins on October 2nd, Richard's birthday.

Visit our website at
<http://home.cogeco.ca/~richardiii>

(September 2014)

The Richard III Society of Canada Founded 1966

In the belief that many features of the traditional accounts of the character and career of Richard III are neither supported by sufficient evidence nor reasonably tenable, the Society aims to promote, in every possible way, research into the life and times of Richard III, and to secure a re-assessment of the material relating to this period and of the role of this monarch in English history.

Tradition: Richard had a withered arm.

Fact: The recent discovery of Richard's bones shows scoliosis, a curvature of the spine, which did not prevent him from being acknowledged as a great soldier. Both arms are of normal length. A German knight, Nicholas von Poppelau, who visited England in 1484, described Richard as "lean with delicate arms and legs, also a great heart".

Tradition: Richard usurped the throne from his own nephew, Edward V.

Fact: After the death of Edward IV, evidence was produced that the late King's marriage was illegal because of his previous betrothal to another woman, a contract that was equivalent to marriage. Edward's children were thus rendered illegitimate and ineligible to assume the throne. An Act of Parliament confirmed the acceptance of this decision by the nobility and commons.

Tradition: Richard is responsible for instigating the murder of his brother George, Duke of Clarence.

Fact: The real causes of Clarence's trial and execution were his own designs on the throne and his outspoken criticism of the Queen's ambitious family.



- I enclose: ☐ \$70.00 Cdn Regular annual membership
☐ \$60.00 Cdn Senior / Student annual membership
☐ \$80.00 Cdn Family annual membership

Payable to The Richard III Society of Canada. Year begins October 2nd.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ Prov.: _____ Postal Code: _____
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