

The Journal of the Richard III Society of Canada

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Notes from the Chair

Welcome to another edition of the *RIII*!

This pandemic has unequivocally changed all our lives, in so many ways. For those whom tragedy has touched, our deepest condolences to you. I hope that for everyone, your interest in Richard III, the Wars of the Roses, or medieval history in general has been a respite for you from the events of the wider world, and a point of connection with others. We are grateful for your friendship and your membership.



It is with sadness we report the passing in March of member Joy Ruttan of Aylmer, Quebec. A retired teacher, Joy had been a member of the Society for some 30 plus years, and although I never had the opportunity to meet her in person, hers was a name long recognized as a stalwart Ricardian. *Requiescat in pace.*

In case you've missed this... the **Stratford Festival in Ontario** will host a live Meighan Forum presentation on **Thursday, July 7th**, entitled **Richard III: Discovered and Uncovered**, in support of their production of Shakespeare's *Richard III* this season, starring Colm Feore.

If you can, do come out to support Sheilah, our Society, and the cause of King Richard III!

As always, look for our *In Memoriam* to King Richard III and those who fell at Bosworth Field in the August 22nd edition of the Globe and Mail.

After a rest over the summer months, we will resume our Zoom meetings by welcoming a guest speaker to our meeting on **Sunday, September 11th**.

Stephanie Lahey will speak on "Parchment Quality and Scribal Choices in Later Medieval England."

We've decided to hold our Annual General Meeting by Zoom, to allow participation by members across the country. Mark your calendar for 2pm EDT on **Saturday, October 1**. An invitation with further information will be sent out to members prior to the event.

And finally, a reminder that it is membership renewal time again. You will note we have included the Canadian Branch 2022-2023 renewal form in the pages of this issue of *RIII*.

Please print out the remittance form and mail it to the Membership Secretary at 156 Drayton Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M4C 3M2, along with your cheque in

Canadian funds, made payable to *The Richard III Society of Canada*. If you cannot print out the form, please record the requested personal information on a piece of paper and mail it with your cheque to Sheilah. Please remember that your payment must be submitted by **October 2nd**, and post-dated cheques are accepted. If you wish to pay via PayPal with a credit card, please contact membership@richardiii.ca

Should you have any questions about the Branch, the Society or your membership, do not hesitate to contact me, or a relevant member of the Executive Committee, by the email or phone numbers listed in this edition of the *RIII*.

Vivat Rex Ricardus!

— *Tracy*

From the Editor

If you were present at the event or have seen the video, you will remember how Jordan Heron added to our re-creation of the Coronation of Richard III in July 1983. He studied the character of the king, and "became" Richard, offering a compelling physical presence which reflected the monarch's visage to a remarkable degree.

I've been in occasional contact with Jordan through the last three decades, and was not at all surprised when he posted on Facebook that he was undertaking a journey to observe and report on the modern invasion and carnage in the Ukraine. To support friends there, he felt compelled to offer what help he could, especially by filming and telling the story of a people "*[whose] biggest fear is that they would be forgotten by the world and would face this fight alone.*" "*This is not [just] a war on Ukraine; this is a war on freedom.*"

I'm in no way suggesting that Jordan is a reincarnation of Richard III, but in both men I see a fearless determination to be part of the action and champion the side of justice.

Christine Hurlbut,
Editor

Membership inquiries

Please contact our Membership Secretary at membership@richardIII.ca. or by mail at 156 Drayton Ave., Toronto, ON M4C 1M2.

This is renewal time: a membership form is attached at the end of this issue.

***Richard III* event at Stratford**

— by Sheilah O'Connor, Toronto, Ontario



In 2020, the Stratford Festival in Ontario planned to celebrate the opening of its new theatre with a production of *Richard III* starring Colm Feore. Covid-19 delayed it, but it is back this year and so is the Society's presence!

Some may remember that Artistic Director Antoni Cimolino was keen to involve the Society. That has not changed.

On July 7th, at a Meighan Forum presentation on "Richard III: Discovered and Uncovered", in front of a live audience, a panel will discuss Richard III and the various influences Shakespeare combined in creating one of his most memorable characters. The panel comprises our own Sheilah O'Connor; Susan Troxell, Acting Chair of the U.S. Branch; scholar Randall Martin from the University of New Brunswick; and Artistic Director Antoni Cimolino. Please attend if you can.

Sheilah will present the historical Richard, Susan will describe the discovery of his remains in 2012, and Randall Martin is covering the play. This will be followed by questions from the audience.

To buy tickets and for more information, see [Richard III Discovered & Uncovered](#). See the full season playbill here:

<https://www.stratfordfestival.ca/WhatsOn/ThePlays>.

(To follow a link, hold down CTRL and click on the blue text.)

A Tradition Continues

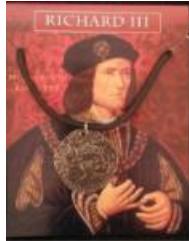
~ Catya Hynard, Sales Officer

In previous years, whenever Martha Henry was involved in a production of *Richard III*, Ms. Henry would purchase Ricardian boar lapel badges for her castmates and members of the production, to commemorate their time together. Ms. Henry participated in productions of *Richard III* both at the Stratford Shakespeare Festival, as an actor, and as director in the Birmingham Conservatory at Stratford Shakespeare Festival where she worked for many years, helping familiarize rising young actors with classical texts over a 5-month long winter program, enabling them to join the Stratford company the following season.

At Stratford, Ms. Henry played Lady Anne in the 1977 production of *Richard III* and Queen Margaret in 2011 and was meant to play Cecily, Duchess of York in Stratford's latest staging before the pandemic paused the production in 2020. Sadly, Ms. Henry died in October 2021.

However, Ms. Henry's delightful tradition has been taken up, unknowingly, by a young thespian debuting at Stratford this summer.

In May, a gentleman reached out to me to inquire about purchasing a number of replica boar lapel badges, which he had found on our website at <https://www.richardiii.ca/ricardian-memorabilia/>. I provided an update on available items for purchase, and shared what we had in stock. He purchased three items: our two remaining coin pendants and our last boar pin badge, which were then mailed out to him in Stratford.



Richard III Coin Pendant on a cord

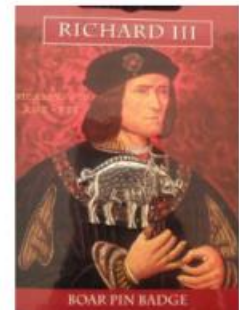
The coinage of Richard III followed the pattern of previous reigns. The portrait, only used on his silver coinage, was stylised though it became increasingly distinct. (7/8" / 2.3 cm diameter)

\$4.50

Boar Pin Badge

The white boar was Richard III's emblem; many supporters wore a boar badge to show their loyalty. Precious metal badges were reserved for the King's most important & powerful allies. This boar has a chain & collar around its neck. It wears a crown and has a heraldic crescent symbol above its front legs. (3/4" x 1 1/8" / 3 x 1.8 cm tail to snout, toes to back)

\$4.50



The gentleman followed up to let me know that the items arrived safely, and shared with me that these had been purchased for his son, Bram Watson, who is one of two actors portraying the young Duke of York in this season's production of Richard III. Bram is a third-generation actor to tread upon the boards, following in the footsteps of his grandfather and uncle.



The coin pendants were purchased as a thank you to two stage managers in the production, and the boar badge as a commemorative gift to Colm Feore, who is portraying Richard III.

For those of you visiting Stratford this season, keep an eye out for young Mr. Watson!

Below is an excerpt from his biography, as provided by the Stratford Festival at <https://www.stratfordfestival.ca/WhatsOn/PlaysAndEvents/Production/Richard-III>.



2022: Duke of York in *Richard III*. Stratford debut. Bram is thrilled to be following in the footsteps of his uncle and grandfather — both of whom started their arts careers as child actors with the Stratford Festival — by making his professional stage debut in the inaugural season of the magnificent new Tom Patterson Theatre. In his spare time, he enjoys cycling, scootering, music, science, math, coding and playing Minecraft with his friends.

English in the Late Fifteenth Century

— Elaine Duncanson, Kitchener, Ontario

Introduction

A language is a living entity, therefore it changes. A language is part of a culture and it is also the means to convey that culture. When studying a language, it is wise to look at its origins and its development. It is akin to an archeological dig — with less mud.

Linguists noted similarities in several ancient languages and assumed that they must have originated from a common source which they called *Indo-European* even though they had no evidence of its existence. English is descended from the Germanic branch and, as we will see, there were many other influences over the centuries. Each of these left their mark like layers on the landscape.

I studied linguistics in the French Department at the University of New Brunswick, specializing in sociolinguistics – the interaction of language and society. Most of my work pertained to modern situations, so here I am using the theory I learned to map out a new story.

The Alphabet

An early writing system was the Phoenician alphabet which was known from about 1000 BC. About 19 of our letters can be traced back to this source. Both the Greek and Roman alphabets can be traced back to the Phoenicians.

The Runic alphabet was used mainly in northern England and also in Scandinavia and Germany. It had 24 characters but in 9th century Northumbria it had 31. Characters were added to indicate the sounds of the language. This was the first manner of writing Old English. Christian missionaries brought with them the Latin alphabet.

The Latin alphabet had 23 letters, which were applied to the Old English sound system. There were not enough characters for all the sounds so four others were added. After the Norman Conquest, the Anglo-Saxon symbols were gradually replaced, first by French scribes who preferred their more familiar characters and later by continental printers who did not have those symbols.

In the late Middle Ages “v” and “j” were distinguished from “u” and “i” which had previously been interchangeable. When a medieval child recited the alphabet, it was common to include two characters that were not letters. The child would finish by saying “x, y, z, et, tittle, amen”. By the end of the Middle Ages the “tittle” fell out of schoolroom use. Numbers were only written in Roman symbols. Arabic numerals came later.

Runes	Anglo-Saxon	Name	Meaning (where known)
F	f	feoh	cattle, wealth
U	u	ur	bison (aurochs)
Þ	þ	þorn	thorn
Ð	ð	os	god/mouth
R	r	rād	journey/triding
Ā	c	cen	torch
X	g[li]	giefu	gift
W	w	wyn	joy
N	h	hægl	hail
I	n	nied	necessity/trouble
Ī	i	is	ice
T	j	gear	year
Ț	ǣ	ēoh	yew
Ʒ	p	peor	?
Y	x	eoht	7sedge
ƿ	s	sigel	sun
ƿ	t	tiw/tir	Tiw (a god)
ƿ	b	beorc	birch
ƿ	eoh	eoht	horse
ƿ	m	man	man
ƿ	l	lagu	water/sea
ƿ	ng	ing	Ing (a hero)
ƿ	oc	epel	land/estate
ƿ	d	dæg	day
ƿ	a	ac	oak
ƿ	æ	æsc	ash
ƿ	y	yr	bow
ƿ	ea	ear	7earth
ƿ	g[y]	gar	spear
ƿ	k	calc	7sandal/chalice/chalk
ƿ	k	(name unknown)	

1 Runes with their English equivalents

As a personal aside, I object to those who sometimes advocate “simplifying” spelling. To do this would obliterate the history of our language.

Pax Romana

When the Romans invaded Britain in 55 and 54 BCE, they brought with them their support system of government officials, craftsmen, cooks and many others. Usually, four legions were stationed in Britain which meant 18,000 – 24,000 soldiers. They were urban folk from a sophisticated society. The Celts by contrast were a farming people, mainly an oral society, who were ruled by a warrior class and Druid priests. They spoke Celtic dialects that later became Breton, Irish, Scottish Gaelic, and Welsh.

The local people learned to communicate with their conquerors for government and administrative matters in Latin. In the marketplace and at home they still spoke their own language. This situation is called *diglossia* two languages spoken in one community for different purposes. The Romans established schools for their own children and soon Celtic children were attending, learning

to read and write Latin. Romans saw government, war, and cultural activities as intertwined. All their officials were literate in both Roman and Greek culture and expected to continue in their new province.

In this period, all the arts flourished, towns were established with fine buildings in more durable materials. The Celts had built crude circular huts of wood or wattle and daub with turf or thatched roofs. London was the largest town with 30,000 inhabitants. During the Pax Romana trade flourished and people prospered. The Celts were noted for their metalwork and intricate designs as this shield proves.

In time, Celtic words and Latin words were used as the speaker wished. An example of how this may have occurred is familiar to me. In Moncton, New Brunswick purists, both Anglophone and Francophone, cringe when they hear local speech. Standard French is *le stationnement* but one is more likely to hear *le parking*. Another example is *le weekend* instead of *le fin de semaine*. That is *Franglais* and is what happens when languages are in contact. Educated speakers use each language correctly in formal circumstances but speak more casually if it suits them. If these patterns become established, they are accepted as part of the dialect of the community.

English has always had a rather 'klepto' attitude toward words. If they like it and it is useful, they adopt it. The Celtic community borrowed words for food, drink, household items, clothing, buildings, settlements, military and legal institutions, commerce, and religion. Vulgar Latin was still in use but it was not as widespread in Britain as it was on the Continent.

After about 350 years of occupation the legions were recalled to Rome in 410 and this left Britain without protection. They left behind a fairly large, sophisticated, and literate society.

Old English

By this time, scrolls had been replaced by books and the language added another layer. In the fifth century Germanic tribes of Angles, Saxons, and Jutes invaded from northern Europe. The Angles spoke *Englisc*, which gave us



2 Ceremonial Celtic shield

basic words: wife, child house, meat (food) eat, drink, fight. The writing conventions that we know today were absent. No capitals, no punctuation, no paragraphs. Even word spacing was not consistently observed nor the division of words.

Like Latin and German, Englisc was inflected. If you remember from your study of those languages, the nominative, genitive, dative and accusative cases had varied endings which were applied to nouns, pronouns and adjectives. There were also two forms of the verb “to be” like the Latin *esse* and *fui*. There was great variety in editing texts which means that a text presented in its original form could only be read by a specialist in the language.

text here is from an 11th-century manuscript. However, a Northumbrian version has also survived in an 8th-century manuscript, which is thus very close to the language Bede himself must have used. The differences are very evident, though in only one case (l. 3) does an important variant reading occur.

West Saxon	Northumbrian
Nu we sceolan herigean heofonrices weard,	Nu scylun hergan hefaenricaes uard,
metodes mihte 7 his modgeþanc,	metudes maecti end his modgidanc,
wera wuldorfæder, swa he wuldres gehwæs,	uerc uuldurfadur, sue he uundra gihwæs,
ece drihten, ord onstealde,	eci dryctin, or astelidæ,
He æres[t] gescop eorðan bearnum,	He aerist scop aelda barnum
heofon to rofe, halig scyppend;	heben til hrofe, haleg scepen;
þa middangeard moncynnes weard,	tha middungeard moncynnes uard,
ece drihten, æfter teode,	eci dryctin, æfter tiadæ,
firum foldan, frea ælmihtig.	firum foldu, frea allmectig.

*Now we shall praise the keeper of the heavenly kingdom,
the power of the lord of destiny and his imagination,
the glorious father of men, } when of every glorious thing
the deeds of the glorious father, }
he, the eternal lord, ordained the beginning.
He first shaped for the children of earth
the heaven as a roof, the holy creator;
then the guardian of mankind, the eternal lord,
afterwards made middle-earth;
the almighty lord (made) land for living beings.*

3 Caedmon's Hymn in West Saxon, Northumbrian, and modern English

The fifth and sixth centuries were the Dark Ages since urban society collapsed and the Latin language was largely abandoned. The church kept some form of Latin learning alive. By the end of the 5th century, the foundation of the

English language was laid. The invaders called the Celts *wealas* which means foreigner. This word eventually changed to *Welsh*.

Of all woods worthiest, speaking these words:
 'Long years ago (well yet I remember)
 They hewed me down on the edge of the holt,
 Severed my trunk; strong foemen took me,
 For a spectacle wrought me, a gallows for rogues.
 High on their shoulders they bore me to hilltop,
 Fastened me firmly, an army of foes!
 'Then I saw the King of all mankind
 In brave mood hastening to mount upon me.
 Refuse I dared not, nor bow nor break,
 Though I felt earth's confines shudder in fear;
 All foes I might fell, yet still I stood fast...

 Black darkness covered with clouds God's body,
 That radiant splendor. Shadow went forth
 Wan under heaven; all creation wept
 Bewailing the King's death. Christ was on the
 Cross.

From the 6th to the 8th century conversion to Christianity occurred and many ecclesiastical words were added to the vocabulary: angel, bishop, candle, church, martyr, priest, school. Since Christianity is a book-based religion, missionaries brought many books with them: Bibles, the Gospels, liturgical and patristic works, and textbooks to train clergy. Each of these handwritten manuscripts was rare and valuable. Each one found a place in a monastery or a school or with a rich man.

4 *The Dream of the Rood*, anonymous

Christian poet was Caedmon whose hymn is presented in two dialects of Old English with a modern translation. There is also an anonymous ancient poem *Dream of the Rood* that sounds rather modern to me that shows influences of Christian, Germanic and classical thought. Even in the so-called “dark ages” some fine literature was produced. We have no way of knowing how much more did not survive until the modern era. A more familiar text but in Old English is *The Lord's Prayer*. All the ideas are present although the words we know are somewhat different.

By 630 Augustine had enough teachers to send some to East Anglia and in two generations they had produced scholars whose works were used throughout the Middle Ages. In 634-5 King Oswald, who had converted to Christianity

The earliest known

Fæder ūre þū þe eart on
heofonum,
Sī þīn nama ġehālgod.
Tōbecume þīn rīce,
ġewurpe þīn willa, on eorðan
swā swā on heofonum.
Ūre ġedæġhwāmlīcan hlāf syle
ūs tō dæg,
and forġyf ūs ūre gyltas, swā
swā wē forġyfað ūrum
gyltendum.
And ne ġelæd þū ūs on
costnunge, ac ālȳs ūs of yfele.
Sōplīce.

Father of ours, thou who art in
heavens,
Be thy name hallowed.
Come thy kingdom,
Worth (manifest) thy will, on
earth as also in heaven.
Our daily loaf do sell (give) to
us today,
And forgive us our guilts as
also we forgive our guilters
And do not lead thou us into
temptation, but alese (release/
deliver) us of (from) evil.
Soothly (Truly).

5 The Lord's Prayer in Old English

while in exile, returned home to Northumbria with Aidan from the monastery of Iona. They brought a different form of Christianity from Ireland and worked to convert the realm.



6 The Book of Durrow, c. 650- 700

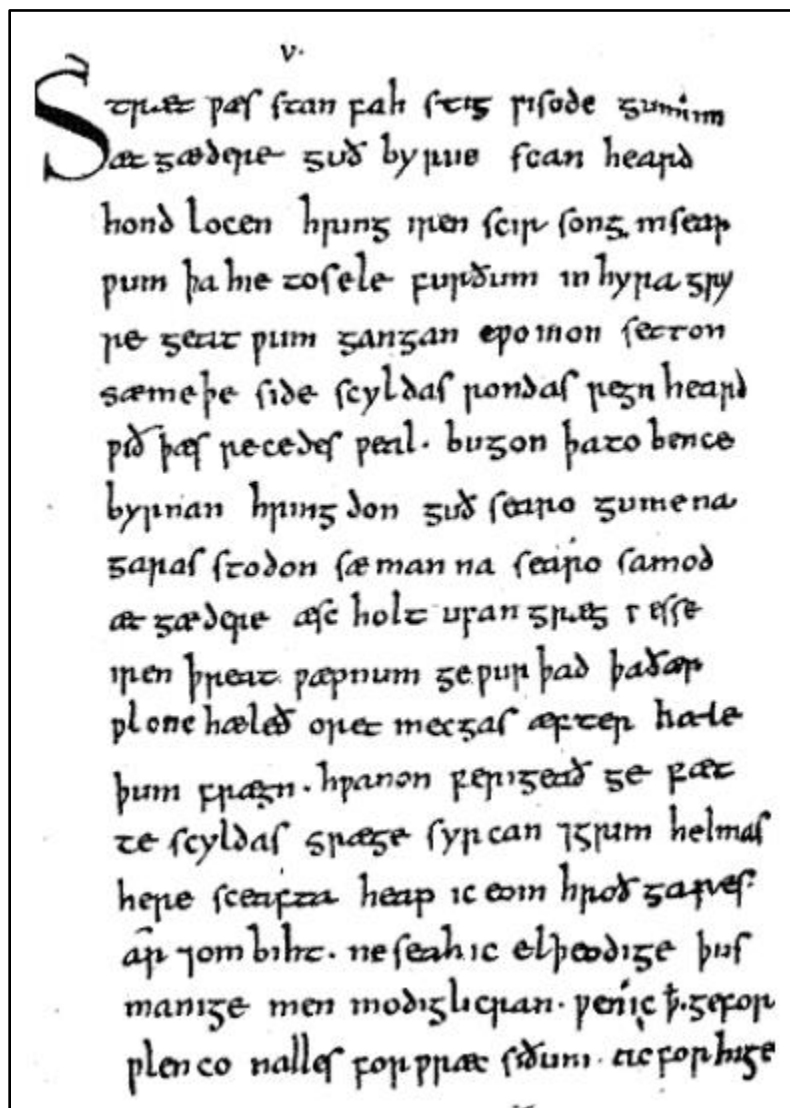
The Venerable Bede wrote his *Ecclesiastical History of the English People* in Latin in 731. He also taught students, one of whom taught Alcuin of York, and in turn he taught Charlemagne. From Charlemagne's court came an improved script which included smaller letters within words. Scribes were able to write more quickly because of it.

In the 8th through 10th centuries the Vikings invaded and settled. They spoke Old Norse

and added more words: give, law, leg, skin, sky, take, they. Vikings were pagan and illiterate with no respect for churches or monasteries or their treasures. They destroyed as they went and between 835 and 885 no written work has been found.

1066 and all that

The Norman invasion brought another significant linguistic transition to Britain. Once again, a foreign language was in use by the elites for government and administration. French was spoken at court and by the ruling class. Yet the language of the common people remained English. In the pasture they had sheep, cows, swine but on the table the lords and ladies had mutton, beef and pork.



7 Beowulf in Old English (Anglo-Saxon) – translated from runes

This new period of diglossia added to the English language and also separated the elite from the common folk. One may ask why there was not a thorough change to French at this time. Language is an important part of identity, whether as part of a group or personally. If a group feels attacked from outside, the differences may be exaggerated. Language is part of their sense of solidarity.

The nobles wanted positions of power, to retain their lands, have some role in government. Thus, they learned to communicate in French and have their sons and daughters educated to fit in, so they could gain lands and titles and marry well. The common folk retained their own ways which included their language.

They viewed the invaders with suspicion and apprehension. This phenomenon is called *convergence* for the nobles and *divergence* for the common people.

It is interesting to note that women, particularly from the upper class, tend to standard language while men use more robust expressions to show strength. For them, “a good oath” is a show of masculinity. Lower class men especially spurn the speech of the elite as too feminine.

One important addition to literature in this period was the poem *Beowulf*. Previously the poem had been known in the oral tradition. When it was finally written down it became the shining example of Old English, Anglo-Saxon culture.

Most of these Anglo-Norman kings were unable to communicate in English although some used it for swearing. William the Conqueror spent most of his reign in France and attempted to learn English but gave it up at age 43. For the next three, William II, Henry I, and Stephen it is not known if they spoke English. Henry II understood it but did not speak it. Richard I and John are also unknown quantities. By the end of the fourteenth century, Richard II addressed the people in English related to the Peasant’s Revolt of 1381.

Middle English

Discussion of Middle English can become complex. Linguists place divisions between Old English and Modern English as much by preference as by evidence. It is like standing at the edge of your riverfront property and saying: “All the water between my boundary markers belongs to me.” The river flows along without noticing you. One way of describing this period is to look at it in three stages.

Early Middle English, from about 1100 to about 1250, still used the Old English writing system. Central Middle English, from about 1250 to about 1400, saw a gradual formation of a literary dialect. At this time spelling was greatly influenced by the Anglo-Norman system, many words were added from that source, and the final unaccented *e* was not pronounced. The London dialect was becoming distinct as was shown in the writing of John Gower and Geoffrey Chaucer.

The late Middle English period, from about 1400 to about 1500, saw the spread of the London literary dialect and the gradual split between the Scottish dialect and the other northern English dialects. The Midlands triangle is a line drawn from London to Oxford to Cambridge and back. This was an area of power and prestige and its dominance drew others to follow their lead. Language shift occurs with demographic changes, economic, or social or political pressures, or a change in attitudes or values. A minority language will move toward a dominant language.

A “dialect continuum” explains how people of different regions or towns may or may not understand each other. People who live close to a dialect border or have regular contact with the other people understand their dialect. Two towns or counties over the first group may not understand the third group. There is enough similarity between dialects that near neighbours can understand but increase the distance and you decrease the understanding. Politically the English looked to the court and London for their standard while the Scots looked in a different direction for their standard. Power, whether social or political influences a language.

The chief differences between Old English and Middle English showed the development of a separate language from the Latin of centuries before. Natural gender was substituted for grammatical gender. Declension of nouns and adjectives disappeared and that was largely the case for pronouns.

The dialects of Middle English are usually divided into three large groups: Southern – southeastern or Kentish and southwestern; Midland – Mercian dialect from Old English times from the Thames to southern South Yorkshire and northern Lancashire; and Northern – Scottish Lowlands, Northumberland, Cumbria, Durham, northern Lancashire, and most of Yorkshire.

Caxton and printed books

In 1436 in Germany, Johannes Gutenberg began designing a machine to print text. When completed it could produce up to 3,600 pages in a day compared to a few by hand copying. In 1452, the year King Richard was born, metal plates were used in printing.

The printing press made a great change in the language. For one thing, spelling was not standard but often reflected the pronunciation of the region. Choices had to be made on words according to the region. One dialect is not necessarily better than another but power, whether political or social, will influence the final decision. The court was in London, the nobility was often at court so they spoke the London dialect. Most of them were rich and could afford to buy books for their library and donate some books to schools or monasteries on their estates. Thus, the printer often chose the London dialect for the standard by the printer. In time, this dialect became known beyond London and court circles and was taught in schools. The common folk continued with their local dialect while the educated and the upper classes increasingly spoke the London dialect until it became the standard language.

Printed books no longer had intricate illumination for the first word of the chapter nor the elegant carpet page. Coloured inks and gold were no longer used to embellish the pages making a book cheaper to produce. No longer did it take weeks or months to produce one manuscript copy as a prized possession.

A few weeks of type-setting and printing could produce several books at a more affordable price. A man who formerly counted himself fortunate to possess two or even three books could hope to own a dozen. The effect on society was dramatic.

Plantagenet courts



8 Edward III (ruled 1327 – 1377)

Stepping back a bit, we look at the court of Edward III, which represented the summit of medieval kingship. He presided over a court that lived and breathed the culture of chivalry. A quotation from Roy Strong in *The Spirit of Britain*: “In Edward III image and reality met to the acclaim of his people. In Richard II, there remains only the image, self-proclaimed, assertive, elegant, and supremely fashionable. He appears not as a hero of the battlefield or the tournament, roles which best befitted a medieval king, but as a ruler obsessed by his own divinity.”

He was followed by Henry IV, who was the first king who spoke English as his mother tongue and not French as previous generations. His son, Henry V, led two successful invasions into

France, establishing England as one of the strongest military powers in Europe.

He was succeeded by his son Henry VI who was only nine months old. His weakness as a ruler encouraged powerful nobles to look for ways to end his reign and set aside his queen, Margaret of Anjou, who cared little for the English. The wars of the Roses lasted about thirty years. Fear, plotting, exile, battles and executions took their toll on the country. Quiet study and regular trade were interrupted as loyalties were tested. Both Edward IV and Richard III were great-great grandsons of Edward III.

The court of Edward IV was described as “the most splendid... in all Christendom”. He had expensive power symbols for personal display as well as many jewels, fine clothes, furnishings, and more than forty books, some of them beautifully illuminated manuscripts. Chivalry was not dead at court but in an atmosphere of splendour and luxury the virtues of courage, loyalty and courtesy were not so prominent.

Words that are carefully selected have power and significance. It is interesting to note the personal mottos of two regal brothers, presumably chosen after much thought. For Edward IV it was “Comfort and Joy” while for King Richard it was “Loyalty binds me.”

Richard, Duke of Gloucester

As the son of a powerful nobleman, and the eleventh of twelve children, Richard Plantagenet was supremely wellborn and well connected. As the youngest of the surviving six and the fourth son, little was planned for his future. He may have been destined for the Church. Like all children of the nobility, he was taught his letters and how to read.

He would have heard the servants speaking their own northern dialect while his parents likely spoke the London dialect. He would also have heard visitors who may have spoken French. In church he would have heard Latin and learned his prayers in Latin. Once he could read in English, he would have learned Latin. Every nobleman needed to understand the laws, be able to participate in government and administration, and communicate with ambassadors.

One can imagine the young child listening to the groom who was helping him mount his pony and answering him in the same northern speech. He may have spoken to nursery maids in the same way. When speaking to his parents, he would have responded with the London dialect that they expected him to use on all important occasions. His tutors would have reinforced this correct speech.



9 Richard III, earliest surviving portrait

When he was about seven or eight, like all sons of nobles, he was sent to another household to be a page and continue his education towards knighthood. When he was about fourteen, he became a squire. Besides becoming proficient in horsemanship and using various weapons Richard learned French and continued Latin since both were needed at court.

Conclusion

The English language began with Celtic dialects, some of which are with us today in modern form. Those people recorded their thoughts and actions with a runic alphabet. Then the Romans came with their sophisticated and literate society. The people of Britain added more words to their vocabulary from Latin than any of their Germanic kin on the Continent.

Caedmon and the author of *Beowulf* provided literature that reflects their age and culture, yet still resonates with us today. The arrival of Christianity from the Continent and from Ireland encouraged literacy and added new words to the lexicon. Monasteries preserved at least some of the Latin learning when other Germanic tribes invaded and brought their language. The Vikings destroyed what they did not understand or value but they gave us more words and influenced place names.

The Norman conquerors were like the Romans in that they brought not only their language but also their culture. French was the language of the court, with its emphasis on chivalry, elegance, and manners. English adopted many words of French origin as well as the jousts and tournaments, and respect and gallantry towards women. In modern life we have traces of chivalry which we call 'courtesy' and 'good manners.'

The writing system was still in transition but becoming more like what we have now. The London dialect was becoming standard English due to the prestige and power of those who spoke it rather any inherent quality. Education was available to more than just the nobility and Latin and Greek culture and literature were again studied. English literature was flourishing with Langland's poem *Piers Plowman* in middle English and Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* in the East Midlands dialect, reflecting the linguistic triangle.

With the advent of printing and the Wyclif bible, more people had access to literature. English became more standardized and moved towards to the modern form we know today. In the late fifteenth century, the English language was established in the country. Local dialects were used consistently by the local folk and many of these are recognizable today.

The nobility educated their children to a high standard which meant they needed to speak well in court, to foreigners, and to diplomats, be clear and firm with stewards, housekeepers, and other high-ranking servants. They also

needed to be able to converse with tradesmen and merchants as well as grooms, blacksmiths and nursery maids. This meant knowing the London dialect as well as a local dialect and probably Latin and French.

No recordings of King Richard's speech were ever made so we have made an educated guess as to what and how he spoke. Clearly, he spoke English and felt that at his coronation it was important for his people to hear him take his oath in a language that most of them used. This shows loyalty to his people.

Finally, here is a demonstration on YouTube of how Richard III likely sounded when he spoke. It's presented by Dr. Philip Shaw of the Department of English at the University of Leicester.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XxRzEXiQ66M>

Visual references

- 1 Old English Runes with their English equivalents
- 2 Celtic shield design, first or second century BCE. Photo: Don Bryce, 2015
- 3 Caedmon's Hymn in West Saxon, Northumbrian, and modern English
- 4 The Dream of the Rood, anonymous, 7th – 8th century. Translated into modern English by Charles W. Kennedy.
- 5 The Lord's Prayer in Old English
- 6 The Book of Durrow, c. 650- 70
- 7 Beowulf in Old English (Anglo-Saxon) – originally written in runes
- 8 Edward III (ruled 1327 – 1377), by William Bruges. Public domain.
- 9 Richard III, earliest surviving portrait. Public domain



Online explorations

Do you spend a lot of time in front of a flickering computer screen, for work, study or amusement? If so, you've probably got some favourite websites or Facebook pages which you keep revisiting to sample intriguing and ever-changing content. Please share your favourite medieval (ish) "finds" with other readers.

To start off: I savour the energy and creative spark in two Facebook sites:

- Rosalie's Medieval Woman, authored by an engaging Australian woman who strives for absolute authenticity in costume re-creation.
<https://www.facebook.com/rosaliesmedievalwoman/>
- The River Thames Mudlarking Finds. Licensed treasure spotters show off the treasures they've found at low tide in the heart of London. Be prepared for surprises! This is a private group: join to see the posts.
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/741963675849764>

Ed.



Custom Memorabilia: original art by Casey Glasgow

— Catya Hynard, Toronto, Ontario

Available for the 2021-22 Ricardian 'year' only, you can purchase the following custom-ordered memorabilia items featuring Casey Glasgow's winning entry from the 2021 Original Art Contest. All prices are in Canadian dollars.

Pictured below are an array of items available for ordering, being closely guarded by (clockwise, from left) Daisy-Mae, Nyx and Charlie, and (in the photo on the right) investigated by Louis. Thank you to AJ Hunter for sharing these pictures!



**Custom Order: Frosted Pint Glass****\$21.99**

NEW! Summer Special Edition! Looking for the perfect cup for your favourite summer drink? Look no further than this custom 17 oz frosted pint glass.

Buyer feedback: *"This is now my favourite pint glass!"*

Thanks to Chris Dickie for this picture of his custom glass!

**Custom Order: Coaster set****\$19.99**

Grab the attention of your guests with this set of 4 coasters with rounded corners. Includes holder. Measures 4"x 4"

Buyer feedback: *"Logo came out nice, and well made."*

**Custom Order: Mousepad****\$15.99**

Mousepad features an anti-slip, rubberized base and the smooth fabric top allows your mouse to glide with ease. Measures 7.5"x9"

Buyer feedback: *"I think this is the best item. Very thick, large, good materials used and the logo looks great on it!"*

**Custom Order: 16 oz Frosted beer stein****\$29.99**

Kick back and enjoy a cold drink from this 16 oz frosted beer stein.

Buyer feedback: *"Design looks great and pops especially when full! Well-made, nice large handle, and good volume. A clear glass would make it even better."*



Custom Order: Playing Cards

\$16.99

Add more fun to game night with this customized deck of playing cards.

Buyer feedback: "Everyone loves these! Nice simple design, high-quality item. (However) the plastic storage case is terrible and not easily re-useable. Doesn't match the card quality so I've ordered plastic cases through Amazon."



Custom Order: 11 oz Mug

\$14.99

Start the day with a smile with this customized 11 oz mug; white handle and inside.

Buyer feedback: "Design comes out well and very subtle in size. Not a mug though, just a coffee cup. For something like this, I find it too small and the handle not large enough."

Thanks to Mona Albano for this picture of her custom mug!

You can order custom memorabilia by email to sales@richardiii.ca or by mail to Sales Officer, 55A Colbeck Street, Toronto, ON M6S 1T8

Shipping cost for custom memorabilia orders is calculated by the company fulfilling the orders, which will ship directly to you.

Please write a cheque to *The Canadian Branch of the Richard III Society* or use PayPal. Email sales@richardiii.ca for PayPal payment details.

Please Note – 5% of the order is added to PayPal payments to cover fees.

If you are looking for something specific and need assistance with online research, do not hesitate to reach out to me at the sales address and I'll be happy to provide what information (and online links) I can. Happy online shopping!



The Richard III Society of Canada Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the 2022 Annual General Meeting of the Richard III Society of Canada will be held on **Saturday, October 1st** at **2 p.m.** by Zoom.

The agenda will include reports from the Officers, the presentation of the annual accounts and the election of the Executive Committee for the next twelve months.

Nominations for the Executive Committee may be made and should reach the Elections Officer, 156 Drayton Avenue, Toronto, ON M4C 3M2, duly proposed and seconded no later than September 18th. A written acceptance of such nomination must similarly reach the Elections Officer with or separately from the nomination. AGM attendees are permitted to make nominations from the floor; these shall be valid if duly seconded from the floor and if the nominees signify their willingness to stand for election. In accordance with the current branch constitution (Section 7 A (v)), executive committee members must be in a position to personally attend at least two of the minimum three required executive meetings held each year.

Additional items for the agenda, proposed and seconded, should reach the Chairman, Tracy Bryce, by September 18th. These may be submitted by mail to the address in this *RIII*, phone to 905-634-4377 or email at chair@richardiii.ca.



Richard III Society of Canada Meeting Schedule 2022-2023

During the pandemic, our meetings will be conducted remotely. Currently, we are using Zoom. Meetings are usually on the second Sunday of the month and are at 2 p.m. Eastern time.

Date	Paper/Activity
September 11, 2022	Stephanie Lahey <i>Parchment Quality and Scribal Choices in Later Medieval England</i>
October 1, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. (Eastern Time)	AGM via ZOOM
November 13, 2022	Ray Rawlings <i>Marriage, Sex and Prostitution in Medieval England</i>
January 8, 2023	Sheila Smith <i>Katherine Neville, Duchess of York</i>
February 12, 2023	<i>To Be Announced</i>
March 12, 2023	Juliet Howland <i>Philippa of Clarence: The Mother of York</i>
April 9, 2023	Catya Hynard <i>TBA</i>
May 7, 2023	<i>TBA</i>
June 11, 2023	<i>TBA</i>

Please also look for our emails about remote meetings in other areas.

Richard III Society of Canada Executive 2021–2022

Chair: Tracy Bryce, *Chair@richardIII.ca*

Vice-Chair: Andrea Reynolds, *ViceChair@richardIII.ca*

Treasurer: Victoria Moorshead, *Treasurer@richardIII.ca*

Membership & Corresponding Secretary: Sheilah O'Connor,
Membership@richardIII.ca

Editor, *RIII*: Christine Hurlbut, *RIIIEditor@richardIII.ca*

Librarian: Victoria Moorshead, *Librarian@richardIII.ca*

Sales Officer: Catya Hynard, *Sales@richardIII.ca*

Thank you to Mona Albano, *mona.albano@gmail.com*, for helping to produce the *RIII*.

2022/2023 Membership Renewal

Membership fees are due by **2 October 2022** for the year ending the following 1 October. If you do not wish to renew your membership, please contact the Membership Secretary (address below) to avoid unwanted mailings.

ALL PRICES ARE IN CANADIAN DOLLARS.

HOW TO RENEW:

1. Choose your Membership Type:

Richard III Society of Canada:

- (a) You can become a **SINGLE** member by paying \$72.00 annually.
- (b) You and one member of your family can hold a **FAMILY** membership for \$82.00 annually. Family memberships receive only one copy of all publications from the UK and Canada.
- (c) If you are 65+ years of age, you can become a **SENIOR** member for \$62.00 annually. Two **SENIOR** members living at the same address can hold a **SENIOR FAMILY** membership for \$72.00. You will receive a single copy of all publications from the UK and Canada. **NOTE:** *The age for Senior member has changed. If you became a Senior member at age 60 between 2016 and 2020, you retain this level, but as of October 2021, the required age for Senior membership is now 65+.*
- (d) If you are a full-time student (high school or post-secondary) you can become a **STUDENT** member for \$62.00 annually. You will receive all publications from the UK and Canada, and invitations to meetings.

- (e) If you already pay your membership fees directly in £ Sterling to the Richard III Society in Britain, you can become an **AFFILIATE** member of the Richard III Society of Canada for an additional \$25.00 Canadian. You will then also receive the *RIII* and invitations to Canadian Branch meetings. Please provide us with your British membership number for confirmation (this number is on your *Bulletin* mailing insert and your membership card).

THERE'S AN ALTERNATE MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY:

- (f) **BRANCH ONLY** member. For \$25.00, you receive:
- Three issues of the *RIII* by email
 - Access to the Buyers Library
 - Attendance at meetings
 - Recognition as a member of the Canadian Branch

The **Branch Only Membership** category **DOES NOT INCLUDE:**

- Recognition as a member of the Richard III Society
- Society Membership card
- *Bulletins* or *Ricardians*
- Eligibility to stand as a member of the Branch executive

We hope that this category of membership will accommodate those Ricardians who find the overseas membership cost prohibitive, and who will not miss receiving the parent Society publications.

2. Fill out the remittance form.
3. Make your cheque payable to *The Richard III Society of Canada*. Cheques post-dated to October 2, 2022, are acceptable. For a small additional fee, we can accept credit cards through PayPal. Please contact the Membership Secretary for instructions.
4. Send the remittance form and your cheque to: **Membership Secretary, Richard III Society of Canada, 156 Drayton Avenue, Toronto, ON M4C 3M2**

Questions?

Contact our Membership Secretary
by mail at 156 Drayton Avenue,
Toronto, ON M4C 3M2
Canada

by e-mail at membership@richardiii.ca

or by phone at +1 (416) 693-1241

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The Richard III Society of Canada 2022/2023 Membership Remittance Form.

Fees are due by 2 October each year.

Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss Dr. Other _____ (Check one)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Membership Category: (Check only one)

OR...

Society Memberships: This entitles you to full Society and Canadian Branch membership

- ☐ Single, \$72
- ☐ Senior, \$62
- ☐ Senior Family, \$72
- ☐ Student, \$62
- ☐ Family, \$82

Branch Memberships:

☐ **Affiliate, \$25** **British membership number** _____

(This entitles you to an additional Canadian Branch membership. You already pay your Society membership dues directly to the UK in pounds sterling.)

OPTIONAL DONATION: I wish to make a one-time donation of \$_____, to support the activities of the Branch. I understand the Richard III Society of Canada is not a charitable foundation and a Canadian tax receipt cannot be issued for my donation.

Please indicate if you will allow your contact information to be shared only with other members of the Society, for meeting organization and event notification:

Yes No

Please submit your remittance as soon as possible. **Members who have not renewed by 31 October 2022 will be removed from the membership roster.**