

Book Reviews

RICHARD III AND THE NORTH. Edited by Rosemary Horrox. Studies in Regional and Local History Number 6, Centre for Regional and Local History, Department of Adult and Continuing Education, University of Hull, 1986. £4.95 inc. p. & p. from Publications Office, 49 Salmon Grove, Hull HU6 7SZ.

It is perhaps surprising that study of Richard III and his dealings with the north of England has long been delayed, for it is thirty years since P. M. Kendall's popular biography drew attention to this northern dimension. The theme was taken up by A. J. Pollard and Professor Charles Ross but now this collection of essays gives insight on the extent of surviving material relating to Richard's activities in the north, both as duke and king. While pursuing different aspects of Richard's career in the north, collectively these essays succeed in offsetting the rather romantic isolationist view adopted by Kendall. They present what amounts to a balanced assessment of the northern connection with reminders as to its relative newness and brevity, the existence of dissenters and, most important of all, the integral place which this association had in the wider Yorkist scheme of things.

In the opening essay Dr. Michael Hicks seeks to present a true picture of Richard's northern connections, laying due emphasis upon the duke's late arrival in the region. He concludes that it cannot safely be assumed that he enjoyed the support of all northerners at all times. The argument that the chief mover behind Gloucester's promotion there was not the king but the duke himself is not entirely convincing. From 1471, Hicks argues, there were no more unconditional grants of land. Gloucester had 'to pay', for what he wanted (pp.14-15). His own starting point, however, is the *unconditional* grant of the great Neville lordships, surely one of the most substantial grants (their members are cited in the confirmation of 1475: *CPR 1467-77*, p.483), which he received in the north? The subsequent references seem very small fry by comparison, made under quite normal and quite generous terms. No increase in the £100 farm was demanded of Gloucester in 1475 when the grant of the shrievalty of Cumberland was extended to include among other things a single sum of £40 payable by the citizens of Carlisle. Can it be assumed, even, that initiative came from Richard? Might not Edward, desirous of certain properties have been offering his brother compensation, as for example in the Chesterfield and Scarsdale exchanges, where Edward reserved them for himself and 'in recompense', gave Richard further property in the north? As Dr. Hicks tells us, Richard's crowning glory was Edward's grant to him in 1483 of the whole of Cumberland as a county palatine.

Dr. Michael K. Jones has produced some interesting new material on the family who, probably above all other, can be held to account for the outcome of Bosworth. Stanley influence in the north west was a power to be reckoned with and Dr. Jones discusses the extent of Yorkist difficulties in dealing with this. He re-examines another Tudor myth — that of the supposedly inveterate enmity

between Stanley and Gloucester — cutting through the biased and prejudiced sources to achieve a more balanced view of the relationship, even if it does *lean* towards the traditional idea. One instructive discovery that has been made is proof that Stanley's son, Lord Strange, was not sent as a hostage for Stanley's good behaviour until quite some time after the latter's departure from Richard's court. Both father and son were together in the north in mid-July 1485.

If the Stanleys have traditionally been regarded as the villains, then most certainly the city of York has been accepted as the mouthpiece and centre of favourable attitudes to Richard. David Palliser's balance sheet tends to confirm this view. He explores in turn Richard's dealings with the corporation and with ordinary citizens. Although support was clearly not unanimous the evidence is there of a loyalty and affection between Richard and the city which went beyond the simple feudal tie. There must be some irony in the earliest reference to Richard as 'crochebake', coming from a place which generally regarded him as a benevolent prince. In a brief contribution Pamela Tudor-Craig reinforces the notion of Richard's fondness for York in an examination of his visit on 29 August 1483.

A striking theme brought out in these essays is the extent to which 1483 changed the relationship between Gloucester and the north. Dr. Hicks draws an important distinction between the summoning of a northern retinue to uphold Gloucester's role as protector and the proposal to use such a retinue to make Gloucester king. Dr. Jones shows how Stanley's relationship with Duke Richard was not and could not be the same as that with King Richard. Dr. Rosemary Horrox assesses the generally changing nature of Richard's northern connection in her excellent introduction and in her contribution on the East Riding of Yorkshire discusses how, as king, Richard's lordship was more attractive than it had been as duke and how Northumberland was alienated after 1483 by the determined refusal to allow Percy to succeed as head of the council of the north when Richard went to Westminster. The evidence that Gloucester's influence far exceeded what might be justified or expected on the basis of his very limited East Riding estates is a point of general significance and interest. It is a reminder of the dangers of attempting to make 'tidy geographical units' when dealing with affinities.

Produced as a typescript, the volume is well presented with a high standard of accuracy, both in text and footnoting. Conspicuously absent is a good map of Northern England showing the numerous places cited, something which would have greatly assisted the reader. The gummed pages are, alas, beginning to come unstuck, a fate most copies will suffer if this book gets the use which it deserves.

ROWENA E. ARCHER

BOOK ILLUMINATION IN THE MIDDLE AGES. AN INTRODUCTION. Otto Pächt. English edition. Harvey Miller Publishers, London, in conjunction with Oxford University Press, Oxford. 1986. £24.

A full bibliography of Otto Pächt's work in the field of book illumination has been added to this volume, and in many respects it represents a tribute to the author's work of more than sixty years, prefaced as it is in its English edition by

J. J. G. Alexander, in the German one by Dogmar Thoss and Ulrike Jenni, and produced by Michael Pächt. The economical text is based on that of a series of lectures given at Vienna University 1967-8 and has all the immediacy of the spoken word. Pächt talks urbanely to the reader, a lucid argument runs smoothly from example to example and picture to picture, the last being so well placed that the reader rarely has to turn a page to find them and can study them in precise conjunction with the text, just as the original student must have heard Pächt and seen his slides. It is a book of accumulated wisdom, subjects being explained with a simplicity belying the vast, hidden structure of the author's learning. No wonder that pupils and fellow historians have been so concerned to see these lectures made available to everyone.

The book examines the format and style of book illumination — the relationship between script, picture and ornament, and the solutions found at different periods to the same problems of lay-out — a story of 'the conflict of surface and space'. The change from papyrus roll to parchment codex via the diptych and the *libelli* of the first century A.D., and the subsequent impetus to decorate the Christian word is explained in all its implications. The chapter on the Initial in its zoomorphic, kaleidoscopic (ambivalent moving forms), figure, monogram, historiated and inhabited phases is one of the most curious and exciting, both because of the sheer vitality of the subject and the learned insights presented by the author. From the twelfth century the pictorial impulse dominated decorative and abstract ornament, a major crisis occurring in the fourteenth century with the influence of three-dimensional painting. This crisis was resolved most successfully, but briefly, by such masters as Jean Fouquet and the Master of Mary of Burgundy. Picture finally vanquished script and 'the days of the illuminated book were . . . numbered'.

The illuminations are generally high quality: 210 in black and white and thirty-two colour plates with gold. The price is consequently most reasonable. Particular delights are the drawings from Gregory's *Moralia in Job* produced at Cîteaux in the early twelfth century, the various Apocalypse paintings and the associated and unique cosmic vision of the Rhenish nun, Hildegard von Bingen in her *Revelations* of circa 1165, the magnificently involved tree of Jesse in the Beatus Initial of the early fourteenth century English Gorleston Psalter, or the vivacious drawings of the Carolingian Psalter at Utrecht, circa 830.

It is a book to introduce anyone to the art of the illuminated manuscript, an art in its own right as the author has always been at pains to point out; it repays effort. Read, for example, Pächt's description of a Beatus initial from its first impression to his analysis of its make-up (pp.85-6).

ANNE F. SUTTON

Notes on Contributors

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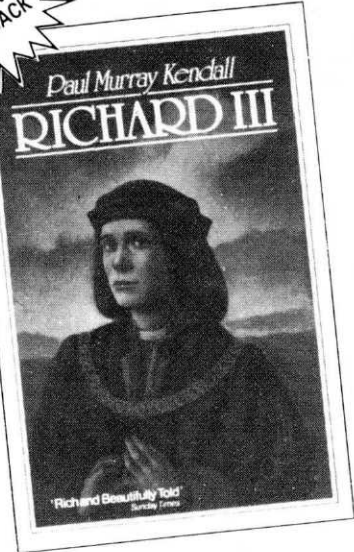
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Livia Visser-Fuchs is working on the literary background and propaganda of Anglo-Burgundian relations of the Yorkist period.

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R. Horrox and P. W. Hammond (eds.), *British Library Manuscript 433* (4 vols. Upminster and London 1979-83), vol. 1, pp.45-6.

Daniel Williams, The hastily drawn up will of William Catesby Esquire, 25 August 1485, *Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society Transactions*, vol. 51 (1975-6), p.48.

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