

Book Reviews

YOUNG MEDIEVAL WOMEN, ed. Katherine J. Lewis, Noel James Menuge and Kim M. Phillips. 1999. Sutton Publishing, Stroud, £45. ISBN 0-7509-1586-2

The growing amount of research on medieval women is enabling greater specialisation to take place, and the present volume adds considerably to our knowledge of concepts and attitudes relating to young women. All the contributors have worked, or work, at the Centre for Medieval Studies at the University of York, and the volume reflects the interdisciplinary approach of the Centre, the contributors making use of sources and methodologies from several traditional disciplines. The value of an interdisciplinary approach is particularly great for the Middle Ages where it enables the researcher to gain much deeper insights into gender. The volume concentrates on the later Middle Ages, and there is much of interest on the fifteenth century.

The collection opens with a chapter by Kim Phillips on 'Maidenhood as the Perfect Age of Woman's Life', arguing that in contrast to the model for men, who reached their peak in middle age, women's teens and early twenties constituted their perfect age. She uses as evidence the depictions of the virgin-martyrs, and also of the Virgin Mary who was often portrayed as a maiden at her assumption and coronation. The 'Pearl Maiden' in the late fourteenth-century poem also falls into this age group, although she had died as an infant. This image of the maiden was widely disseminated in medieval society. A different aspect of this theme is taken up by Katherine Lewis, 'Model Girls? Virgin-Martyrs and the Training of Young Women in Late Medieval England', who sees the lives of virgin-martyrs as being used in the training of girls in order to provide them with models of behaviour. In particular, she looks at the popularity of the life of Saint Katherine and its inclusion in manuscripts which would have been read within the lay household. Saint Katherine was highly educated, and also described as a household manager, running her household in a Christian way, and she would therefore be seen as an excellent role model for teenage girls.

The interdisciplinary approach enables the contributors to re-examine medieval notions of female sexuality, and to show that the emphasis on misogyny is often an over-simplification. This comes out in Kristina Gourlay's chapter on 'A Positive Representation of the Power of Young Women: the Malterer Embroidery Re-examined'. This is an early fourteenth-century embroidery which depicts traditional stories of men who succumbed to the power of young women. Ms Gourlay accepts that the scenes show the powerful influence of women and love, but she argues that the men played an active role in their seductions; she also points out the humour and irreverence in some of the scenes. Isabelle Mast, writing on 'Rape in John Gower's *Confessio Amantis* and Other Related Works', shows by close textual analysis that, in contrast to other writers, Gower tried to bring out the pain and humiliation felt by women who had been raped, and did not use rape to portray women as deceitful temptresses. Noel James Menuge, 'Female Wards and Marriage in Romance and Law: a Question of Consent', investigates the value of comparing legal documentation with romances so as to assess the meaning of consent to marriage, and the pressure which could be brought to bear on young women. She finds that the romances provide contextual details lacking in the legal accounts, and that taking the two types of material together brings out the complexities and ambiguities of the concept of consent.

Three of the chapters will be of particular interest to fifteenth-century historians. P.J.P. Goldberg writes on 'Pigs and Prostitutes: Streetwalking in Comparative Perspective'. Using the Capitular Act Books for York, he argues that prostitution was a part-time occupation for young women, mainly involving streetwalking, in contrast to the institutionalised brothels of southern Europe. In fact, he argues that the only organised brothels in England were in Sandwich, Southampton and Southwark, places frequented by southern European sailors and traders. Lilas Edwards, 'Joan of Arc: Gender and Authority in the Text of the *Trial of Condemnation*', uses the text of the 1431 trial to see how Joan's identity was constructed by both her and her judges. Whereas Joan saw herself as a specially chosen daughter of God, her judges focussed on her disobedience to the authority of the Church. Readers of *The Ricardian* will be especially interested in the chapter by Joanna Chamberlayne, 'Crowns and Virgins: Queenmaking during the Wars of the Roses', which makes use of documentary, literary and visual sources to emphasise the links between queenship and virginity, and the parallels drawn between the queen and the Virgin Mary. Particular attention is paid to the queenship of Elizabeth Woodville, who, despite being a mother and widow at the time of her marriage to Edward IV, was constructed in Marian terms.

The book contains an immense amount of interest both the scholar and the general reader, and is likely to provoke further work. It is a pity that its price may well deter many from reading it.

JENNIFER WARD

ESTRANGEMENT, ENTERPRISE AND EDUCATION IN FIFTEENTH-CENTURY ENGLAND. Edited by Sharon D. Michalove and A. Compton Reeves. 1998. Fifteenth Century Series 5. Sutton Publishing Ltd, Stroud, £40.

ISBN 0-7509-1384-3

If anyone were in any doubt about the need for fifteenth-century historians to get away from three-word alliterative titles, this volume of proceedings from the first conference of the North American branch of the Richard III Society should do the trick. Spurred into action by such a heap of polysyllables, I searched in vain for 'Estrangement', found little in the way of 'Enterprise', and only one essay which dealt centrally with 'Education'. Conference proceedings are always mixed bags, but what makes the choice of title here particularly curious is that this collection does possess some common themes. Although Sharon Michalove's own piece on the education of aristocratic women is rather out on a limb, the other essays are all concerned to a greater or lesser degree with what several contributors call the 'civil service' of fifteenth-century England: its mind-set and ethos, its personnel, its relationship with prevailing political mentalities and power-structures.

In many ways, it is De Lloyd Guth who, in a short, unwieldy and frequently obscure piece, sets this theme for the volume. In a preamble to some brief comments about Reynold Bray, Guth proposes that fifteenth-century historians have paid insufficient attention to the role of 'civil service' in the century's politics: it was, he suggests, the Brays of this world who were responsible for what orderly government there was, and who eventually triumphed when a king came along in the shape of Henry VII with the sense to give them free rein. Much of what Guth says in his piece — about historiography, about 'civil service', and about the sources of order — is questionable. Even so, this is an essay full of suggestion, and it is hard not to feel that its author is onto something: as the century wore on, interest in their government does seem to have increased among the English, and they were coming to be as readily concerned with its machinery as with its morality; it seems that administrative — and authoritarian — solutions began to command more public attention. In all, it would be nice to see a more developed treatment of what is handled only sketchily here.

Some of the same themes arise in Ralph Griffiths' keynote address, which challenges the Westminster-centredness of explanations of the Wars of the Roses, arguing that the major causes of fifteenth-century political convulsion lay in the more distant parts of the realm, where English imperial pretensions encountered the unpleasant realities of overstretched resources and overmighty locals. 'In short', he says, 'the Wars of the Roses were wars of the provinces and the dominions'. To resolve this situation, Henry VII had the right approach: the restriction of English ambitions to a more manageable sphere, and the replacement

of an unreliable aristocracy by a corps of closely-controlled and expert administrators. Doubtless in the interests of discussion at the conference, Griffiths has pushed his mould-breaking argument as far as it will go — indeed, perhaps further — but there is no doubt that it deserves serious attention: fifteenth-century historians have been slow to adopt the British perspectives which have been so fruitful for those working in other periods, and this piece brings some important issues to light.

As its author would be the first to acknowledge, however, it is open to challenges. One reason why Griffiths boggles at the task facing fifteenth-century government is his view that it is up to the king and his officers ('the state', as he presents it) to do the work, and on the basis of inelastic resources. One might question this view of later medieval authority, which instantly turns everyone else into subjects and ignores the aristocratic ethos — of homage, trust, delegation, and magnanimity towards powerful vassals — which was at least as central to concepts and structures of rule as Griffiths' more (as it were) 'governmentalist' one. For Griffiths, allowing the aristocracy to exercise public power is a kind of backsliding, from which Henry VII wisely turns away; and the nobility are an alien force, presented in Fortescuan terms, as irridentist, or power-hungry, their sphere of operations 'the provinces', where they have established hegemony at the crown's expense. In this respect, 'the provinces' seems a much less well-founded term than the dominions — England was a realm very much in touch with itself, and the provincial noblemen named by Griffiths were all men with interests close to the core of royal power which would normally be damaged by any misbehaviour at the periphery. More importantly, it was through this nobility above all that the crown was able to hold down the vast domains which had always formed part of its estate: the possession of extensive peripheries was, after all, nothing new, and Griffiths' introductory remarks to this effect need qualification. Government was thus, in part, about managing aristocrats, a task which could be quite easily and cheaply discharged if the king had the right personal skills and attitudes.

It must be right to draw attention to long-term trends in shaping the context of the mid-fifteenth-century crisis, but it is not clear that (as Griffiths argues) these trends rescue Henry VI from a central role in causing the Wars of the Roses. Two processes were affecting the relationship of centre and periphery as the later middle ages wore on: the first is the development of an alternative image of government — one close to Griffiths' own, but it is important to understand that it is one image, not *the* image, and an interloper at that; the second is the attenuation of ties linking the constituent parts of the Plantagenet empire together — particularly, in our period, the mounting anglo-centricity of the kings and most of their noble subjects. These developments certainly make the task of rule more difficult — and that is where I would agree with the thrust of Griffiths' paper — but the undeniable fact

of a breakdown of control under Henry VI (rather than under Henry II, or Edward I, or Edward III, for example) must be traced partly to that king's utter failure to rule either the aristocracy or the peripheries in the way they needed to be ruled.

That failure set the terms for the rest of the fifteenth century, since — for reasons of dynastic accident, foreign intervention and other relatively superficial causes — the polity was less able to pull itself out of instability than it had been following earlier crises involving the monarchy. This is surely the condition which underlies the questions Colin Richmond is asking in his entertaining piece on Richard III and Richard Nixon, and also the discussion which followed it (given some 'judicious editing', apparently, though it's hard to imagine the author consenting to that!). How did people reconcile themselves to Richard III's usurpation and the murders which attended it? Why were some shocked enough to resist while others acquiesced? Why did some resisters only act after a period of acquiescence — in October 1483, for example, or in 1484, or even at Bosworth? Part of Richmond's purpose is to uncover the morality of fifteenth century politics. Part of it is to recognise that these people and their predicaments were not just simplified figures in a historical narrative, but real men and women, and to explore ways of capturing their real-ness in our treatments of past events. These are admirable and important initiatives — and, as the discussion reveals — there are no easy answers in this kind of game. Even so, it is surprising that none of the discussants seems to take account of the sheer instability of authority in the second half of the fifteenth-century as an explanation for both brutal and time-serving behaviour. Equally, if we want to know why people at first accepted Richard III's coup, we could look at comparable periods of terror: the regimes of the Despencers after 1322 and of Richard II after 1397 both produced shock, tacit obedience, and the kind of decay of allegiance experienced after 1483. Scrutinising the events of Richard's usurpation in such loving detail can make them appear more unique, more detached from historical and socio-political processes, than they actually were.

The other essays — in their different ways — provide some supportive information and insight for an examination of 'civil service' and political morality. Charles Moreton discusses the 'diary' which Sir Roger Townshend made in 1492. Details of his activities as a justice of assize in the Home Circuit are combined with events of local interest, including his own riding injury which seems to have marked the beginning of his withdrawal towards death in 1493. Compton Reeves produces an efficient biography of Lawrence Booth, Queen Margaret's place-man in the see of Durham who was forced to seek accommodation with the triumphant Yorkists just a few years after his elevation: he nicely brings out the way in which, for Edward IV as much as for his predecessor, the bishop could be a valuable counterweight to Neville influence in the region. Philip Morgan presents a convincing case for linking a pedigree roll in the John Rylands Library with the

dynastic ambitions of the De La Poles in the last decades of the century. Dynastic history was so complex by the 1480s, that the roll itself, helpfully illustrated in a series of beautiful plates, is a prototype of the royal family trees in our textbooks: Lancaster has a thin green line, York a fat red one (with Edward's sons laconically dismissed); Tudor, for the sake of security, a clearly-marked black one. Ricardians may be particularly interested in the support — albeit partisan — which the roll provides for the story of Lincoln's recognition as Richard III's heir. Sharon Michalove rounds off the collection with a wide-ranging essay on the education of aristocratic women in later medieval England. Her central point is a valuable and perceptive one: that the tendency of historians to take their definition of education from the humanists has meant a failure to recognise the different priorities which shaped 'nurture' in this period; *useful* learning — in manners and management — was actually imparted to aristocratic girls quite as readily as to aristocratic boys. It is a salutary reminder of a point which the writers in this collection raise time and again: we need to keep testing out interpretative assumptions against the ways contemporaries saw their world.

JOHN WATTS

EDWARD IV: A SOURCE BOOK. Keith Dockray. 1999. Sutton Publishing, Stroud, £12.99
ISBN 0-7509-1942-6 (pb)

One of the most obvious facts about Edward IV is that he is the only medieval English king who was both usurper and usurped, in that order. Was this the result of tensions created largely by long-term changes in political attitudes, expectations and demands, or was his temporary loss of the throne, like the treachery of not just one, but two, brothers, attributable primarily to the clash of individuals?

This is a book for those historians who tend to see history as scenes in a play which focuses on individuals and their actions and motives; who are, as Keith Dockray puts it, 'however reprehensibly, drawn to the study of personality, politics and the none too recent past'. The emphasis here is on personalities. Politics, in the sense of the art and science of government, are certainly touched upon, but it is the interaction of people which is the focus of attention. Anyone who wants to discover what effect if any Edward IV's policies had on England's economic development, for instance, will go away empty-handed.

A consequent characteristic of this book is that it is primarily a source of *opinion*. It is, above all, a demonstration of why a man and his actions can be

interpreted so very differently by different commentators. The Introduction puts this point squarely from the outset. Edward IV's reputation, despite moments of calm, has tended to oscillate wildly from one extreme to the other (not that he is the only king to have suffered this fate). Even contemporary historiographers presented very different portraits of him. Dockray prefers the balanced interpretation put forward by Charles Ross, his former tutor, in Professor Ross' biography of Edward IV. He is less pessimistic than Professor Ross was about the usefulness of attempting to reconstruct the personality politics of Edward IV's reign mainly from the surviving historiographical sources. But the very fact that such diverse opinions can be held and, in the holders' opinion, substantiated does raise questions about the exercise.

Part of the problem is that historians tend to use dubious criteria for assessing the evidential worth of chronicles. C.L. Kingsford, writing about English historical literature, not surprisingly tended to be concerned about the literary merit of the works in question. That is certainly no guide at all to their value as evidence. As literature, Thomas More's 'History of King Richard III' has merit. As evidence for events of the time, however, it is of uncertain and probably very variable value. Modern historians, while generally following Kingsford's lead, emphasise the claims made by the authors to inside knowledge. Again, even if we can be sure that an author did indeed have inside knowledge (and the English works are generally anonymous), it does not follow that he is reliable on matters of fact, let alone impartial in matters of opinion. The author or compiler of the latter part of 'The Great Chronicle of London', for example, said that he had been an apprentice to Sir Thomas Cook in 1468, when he was charged with treason. Nevertheless, he contrived to be wrong on almost ascertainable matter of fact relating to that trial. Similarly, the second continuator of the Crowland Chronicle claimed to be far more knowledgeable than the first continuator and may have been a royal official of some sort. Speaking of later summer 1469, he asserted that the Earl of Warwick and Duke of Clarence were forced to release the king after a mass refusal to respond, until the king was at liberty, to summons for 'all [the king's] liege men to come to [his] defence' against the rebellious Humphrey and Thomas Nevill of Brancepeth. No such summons (presumably a commission of array) was issued. Warwick probably dealt with the Nevills from his own resources, since he was based close to his main area of influence. The second continuator's story was presumably concocted by him or others to disguise the fact that the king had himself persuaded his captors to release him 'by fair speech and promise'; in other words, he had given undertakings which he subsequently broke. That at least is what John Warkworth believed. He, who seems to have been relatively well-informed about events in the city of York even if he was confused about other matters, makes no mention of any refusal to respond to a call

to arms. Finally, Thomas More may have had access to well-informed older men, but his higher purpose almost certainly led him to be economical with the truth as he knew it.

Yet Dockray is quite right to refuse to regard near-contemporary historiography as valueless. There is nothing to stop historians controlling these sources against other, more reliable evidence. Even the simple application of logic can help to tilt the balance towards or against belief. The second Crowland continuator's story is, after all, improbable not merely because Warwick had his own manpower resources close to hand, but also because even the king's propagandist admitted that he was unpopular in the late 1460s and early 1470s. So it is possible to arrive at a fair if not certain estimate of the reliability of most works of historiography as a source of evidence for facts. And the more a particular source appears to omit or skew the facts, the less well-informed or indifferent its author's opinions are likely to be.

What this book does very well is to examine the nature of the past and current debate about Edward IV. Indirectly, it reveals the assumptions which lie unacknowledged at the heart of historical judgment-making – the common assumption, for example, that the Tudors stood for progress, state-building, independent financial strength, necessary control of overmighty subjects, and so on, that these are good things of themselves, and that it is therefore a tribute to Edward IV to regard him as a proto-Tudor. In addition, the selection of sources reflects well the preferred choices of many of today's historians.

What the book does not really do, because the selection of sources is largely what has shaped current opinions (or the nearest thing to a majority view among historians today), is provide much of a basis for questioning that view. There is much more good-quality, strictly contemporary material available than is reflected here. In terms of advancing the debate, it would have been helpful to have fewer quotations from the Milanese ambassadors in France and rather more from Louis XI's ambassadors in England, and to restrict the Tudor historiographers in favour of the accounts of particular episodes given, for example, by the Hanse merchants in the late 1460s or the Merchant Adventurers a decade later. But to say this is to criticise the book for not being something else. Anyone new to the debate about Edward IV has here a clear, compact, vigorous and frank introduction to the position today and to the sources which have mainly informed it.

PENNY TUCKER

LAY TAXES IN ENGLAND AND WALES 1188-1688. M. Jurkowski, C.L. Smith and D. Crook. 1998. Public Record Office Handbooks No. 31. The Public Record Office, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DU, £30.00 ISBN 1-873162-64-2

Those of us who use medieval- and early-modern taxation records have long been infuriated by the current finding list in the Public Record office reading rooms for E 179, the class created in the mid-nineteenth century to bring together some 22,000 documents for England and a further 1,000 for Wales, starting chronologically with the Saladin Tithe of 1188 and ending with the last Stuart taxes, before the Glorious Revolution. It is a dog-eared and much amended set of typescript volumes, giving only the barest details of each document in the class. Anyone wishing to consult the records for a particular town or village usually has to scabble around the general county lists, ordering documents only to find that the section covering that place has not survived, or that the document consists of a writ and a short final account and nothing else. The E 179 project, based at the Public Record Office, has set out to remedy this situation. Eventually there will be a full database of all the records which will enable all entries for a particular locality to be retrieved at speed. The first section of that database, covering the Home Counties and the Cinque Ports, will soon be ready, to be followed by that for the East Midlands. Given the intensive use made of these records by economic, social and local historians, this is much to be welcomed. In the meantime, those working on the project have produced this extraordinarily useful guide to lay taxation in England and Wales from 1188 to 1688.

The book is worth having for the introduction alone, which provides a detailed account of lay taxation imposed by the rulers of England between these dates. No attempt is made to discuss taxes before 1188 because there is so little information about them. The chief focus of the book is in fact on the period between 1300 and 1688, and the tax referred to as the lay subsidy. It was laid on the laity, and based on the amount of their moveable wealth and income. Other levies such as tonnage and poundage, and other customs duties and excise taxes, are excluded from this story. What the introduction gives us is a brief (53 pages) history of lay taxation in these five centuries, starting with the Saladin Tithe, then the carucages of 1194 to 1224; scutages; tallages on the royal demesne and on royal boroughs; feudal aids; the fractional taxes on moveable property between 1207 and 1332; 'fifteenths and tenths' 1334-1624; the infamous poll taxes of 1377-81; the income taxes of the fifteenth century; the alien subsidies; Tudor and Stuart lay subsidies; prerogative taxes; forced loans; benevolences; forced privy seal loans; ship money; Civil War and Commonwealth taxation; and the later Stuart Taxes. It is a clear, readable and invaluable account, a boon to both researchers and to teachers of history alike.

There follows a complete chronological table of taxes 1188-1679, again

invaluable, as is the classified list at the end of the book, and then what amounts to the equivalent of the *DNB* of lay taxation. A detailed account is given of each tax, be it a lay subsidy, a benevolence or a forced loan. The date of the grant is established first, then the purpose for which it was demanded, and on which the proceeds were supposed to be spent. How the tax was to be assessed and levied is discussed, as well as the collection date, and the amount to be raised is compared to the amount actually realised. But these are not arid accounts. Amongst them there are some gems. Take the entry for the Income Tax of 1404. The Commons, we are told, were not happy with this tax on incomes. They insisted that it was not to be a precedent for any future grant of taxation, and made it a condition that no record be kept of it. Not only were the records destroyed afterwards, but no mention of the tax was allowed to be made on the parliament roll. Times, alas, have changed. Better still is the story behind the Benevolence of 1481-82, to finance Edward IV's war against the Scots. Letters were sent to English cities and towns asking for their 'assistance'. Some responded with men for the campaign, others with money, but none of them seemed to have liked it. Substantial individuals were also approached for contributions, and all those over the age of 16 were reminded that the alternative to paying up was military service, and that 'they would spend less than they would in two days if summoned to go in their own persons'. Small wonder that in the Parliament of 1484 an act was passed banning any further such benevolences, and public feeling was strong enough to prevent Richard III from breaching its provisions.

Obviously, a work such as this is never going to be complete, and there are bound to be some inaccuracies. The account of the alien subsidy granted in 1440 perpetuates the myth that it was only levied on the Irish until 1442. That was not the case. The first grant was to run for three years, and the Irish had to pay it. But, when it was renewed, in the Parliament of 1442, to run consecutively from the expiry of the first grant, the Irish and the Channel Islanders were exempted. On the other hand, this reviewer (who ought to have known) was not aware that Edward IV stopped levying the alien subsidy on the death of Henry VI in 1471, because in 1453 it had been granted to that hapless king for life, nor that attempts were actually made to collect the grant of 1487. The whole history of taxation is so complex that a work such as this will always need revision and correction. This is not a criticism. What the authors have given us is a clearly set out and very readable work of reference, which is easy to use. That in the process they have also provided us with a important historical analysis of taxation before 1688 is even more to their credit. Those working on the history of the later middle ages, and of the early modern period, should either buy the volume or make absolutely certain that their nearest reference library has a copy.

J.L. BOLTON

Notices of Books and Articles

The following list consists of recent books and articles, mainly published in the last twelve months, although earlier publications may be included. The appearance of an item does not preclude its subsequent review.

BOOKS

Dominique Cardon, *La Draperie au Moyen Âge. Essor d'une Grande Industrie Européenne*. 1999. 661 pages. 220 illustrations. CNRS Éditions, Paris, £43.25.

ISBN 2-271-05592-X

The author covers all matters to do with the wool industry, from the growing of the wool to its transport as cloth around Europe. The book should act not only as an useful introduction for those new to the subject, as well as a source of new data for the specialist from the author's study of the industry in Southern France, Aragon and Catalonia, a crescent of territory stretching from Montpellier to Valencia and including Majorca. Extensively illustrated with many unfamiliar images.

ARTICLES

Marc Boone, 'Apologie d'un banquier médiéval: Tommaso Portinari et l'Etat bourguignon', *Le Moyen Age*, volume 105, number 1, 1999, pages 31-54.

Vindication of the reputation of Portinari, painted rather black by e.g. De Roover and Vaughan, containing much up-to-date information about Burgundian ducal finance under Charles the Bold and after, and the alum trade.

Helen Combes, 'Piety and belief in fifteenth-century London: an analysis of the fifteenth-century churchwardens' inventory of St Nicholas Shambles', *Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society*, volume 48, 1997, pages 137-52.

The inventory is compared to others. It includes thirty-three books and many vestments, some for a boy-bishop, and liturgical furniture. The author's analysis provides extensive information about the parish and the religious life of its inhabitants.

Ben Daw, 'Elections to the Order of the Garter in the reign of Edward IV, 1461-83', *Medieval Prosopography*, volume 19, 1998, pages 187-213.

Discusses individually the thirty-six elections of Edward's reign, the reasons behind them, as well as the king's overall policy, which became more politically motivated as time went by.

Michael Hicks, 'From megaphone to microscope: the correspondence of Richard, Duke of York, with Henry VI in 1450 revisited', *Journal of Medieval History*, volume 25, number 3, September 1999, pages 243-56.

Examined in detail the eight documents that survive, discussing York's change of focus and ending 'Underlying all [York's] future relations with the crown ... was a distrust born of [Henry's] dishonesty'.

M.A. Hicks, 'Between Majorities: the "Beauchamp Interregnum", 1439-49', *Historical Research*, volume 72, number 177, February 1999, pages 27-43.

Denies there was such a collapse of Beauchamp influence, looks at the impact of minorities generally, analyses in particular the 'fate' of the Beauchamp lands themselves, partly with the help of Exeter Record Office, Chanter MS 722.

Alexandra F. Johnston, 'The emerging pattern of the Easter play in England', *Medieval English Theatre*, volume 20, 1998, pages 3-23.

A study of the ceremonies of 'creeping to the cross', burying the cross, and more elaborate 'plays' or recreations of the Resurrection performed at Easter. The surviving texts are considered as well as the other documentary evidence that these plays were performed (e.g. at Wells Cathedral 1470-71, or at parish level at Reading in the sixteenth century). It is postulated that increasingly elaborate liturgical ceremonies fostered plays of a mimetic kind from an early date; and the civic Resurrection plays of York and Chester are placed in this tradition.

Olga Horner, ' "Us must make lies" ': witness, evidence, and proof in the York *Resurrection*', *Medieval English Theatre*, volume 20, 1998, pages 24-76.

Analysis of the versions of the Resurrection story available to the York playwright and how he used them. The author uses the experience of modern productions of this play and their audiences, and also the iconography of the Easter Sepulchre (illustrated).

Medieval English Theatre, volume 19, 1997, pages 26-120.

Contains a discussion of the painting of a medieval theatre, showing the presentation of the Martyrdom of St Apollonia, by Jean Fouquet in the mid fifteenth century. Three articles by Gordon Kipling and Graham Runnalls. With other medieval illustrations of theatrical performances.

Craig Taylor, 'Sir John Fortescue and the French Polemical Treatises of the Hundred Years War' Notes and Documents, *English Historical Review*, volume 114, number 455, February 1999, pages 112-29.

The author, who is in the process of editing the French treatise *Pour ce que plusieurs* (1464), explores the relationship between fifteenth-century English and French political treatises, with particular reference to the Yorkist succession and the Salic Law.

Notes on Contributors

J.L. Bolton was a Senior Lecturer in the History Department at Queen Mary and Westfield College from 1965 to 1994 and is now Senior Research Fellow in the History Department there.

B.M. Cron is a mature extra-mural student at Massey University, Palmerston North, New Zealand, working on an MA thesis on the historiography of Margaret of Anjou, and a biography of the queen.

Penny Tucker is a co-author of *The History of Bethlem [Hospital]* and has written articles on a range of political and legal issues. Currently working on a comparative study of major borough courts in the later Middle Ages.

Livia Visser-Fuchs is finishing a thesis on Jean de Wavrin's historical work and the reputation of Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick, in the Low Countries.

Jennifer Ward. Formerly Senior Lecturer in History at Goldsmiths College, University of London. Author of *English Noblewomen in the Later Middle Ages*, Longman 1992.

John Watts is a fellow of Corpus Christi College, Oxford. His book, *Henry VI and the Politics of Kingship* has recently appeared in paperback.

Instructions to Contributors to the Ricardian

Contributions are welcomed on any subject relevant to the aims of the Society. These may be illustrated by photographs (glossy prints showing good contrast) or by line drawings. All contributions, including letters, must be typewritten, with double spacing and adequate margins, on one side of the paper only. Permission must be obtained for the use of copyright material, but this is not usually necessary for short quotes. References and footnotes must be given in one sequence at the end of the article. Details need not be given in full for second and subsequent references to the same source. They must take the form of the following examples: R. Horrox and P. W. Hammond eds., *British Library Manuscript 433*, 4 vols., Upminster and London 1979-83, vol. 1, pp. 45-46.

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.

Anyone interested in taking display advertisement space – full, half or quarter page – or in placing an insert should contact the Editor. (Classified advertisements should be sent to the Editor of the Bulletin).

Contributions for the March 2000 issue of the Ricardian must reach Miss Anne Sutton, 44 Guildhall Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 1QF, by 31 December 1999. Articles should be sent well in advance. Further advice on presentation may be obtained from the editor.

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