

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

A Map of Tudor London. England's Greatest City in 1520. Town and City Historical Maps. 2018. Historic Towns Trust, £8.99. ISBN 978-0-9934698-3-1

A full colour map in exceptional detail of the city at the end of the fifteenth century. There is a directory of streets and buildings (many vanished entirely), with an introduction to the topographical history of London. It covers the 100 parishes, company halls, religious houses and the green spaces. On the reverse there is a map of the ward boundaries. The results of the latest archaeological and historical research are included. Illustrations of certain buildings.

Nicola Clark, *Gender, Family, and Politics. The Howard Women, 1485-1558.* 2018. 224 pages. Oxford, Oxford University Press, £60. ISBN 978-0-198784-81-4

Chapters cover kinship and its dominating effects, material culture and patronage, marital strife, court life and treason, and the part played by religion. The position of high-ranking women, their careers and deaths are described.

A.J. Pollard, *Sir Thomas Markenfield and Richard III.* Aspects of Markenfield, Number 8, The Friends of Markenfield 2018. 16 pages. Illustrations. The Friends of Markenfield, The Gatehouse, Markenfield Hall, Near Ripon, North Yorkshire, HG4 3AD, cost £5 incl. p&p. ISBN 978-1-07238-07-9

A brief account of Sir Thomas (c. 1447-97) who came to Bosworth, even if he did not fight there, and probably took part in the 1481-82 Scots campaigns. His service and relationship to Richard of Gloucester as duke and king is described. Markenfield itself was part of the Percy lordship of Tickhill, but Sir Thomas was also tenant of Eryholme on the River Tees, part of the honour of Richmond which passed to Richard in 1471. He was indentured at £10 a year. Sheriff of Yorkshire 1484-85. His wife was Eleanor, daughter of Sir John Conyers, steward of Richmond from 1463 (d. 1490). Readily reconciled to Henry VII.

Margaret Poulter, Valerie Potter and Vic Harrup, *The Making of a Borough. Orford and Its Charter of Elizabeth I 1579*. 2018. 122 pages. Softback. Illustrated. Orford Museum, £14.50 plus £1.50 p&p. Order from Orford Museum Trust. Mre E. Spinney, Brundish Lodge, High St., Orford, Suffolk, IP12 2NW.

ISBN 978-0-9554738-1-4

Although this book is dominated by the 1579 charter granted to Orford, its full text (Latin and translation), its aftermath, and the changes to the town's government in 1835 and since, there are useful chapters on the Middle Ages (castle, lords, economy, taxation, ships, piracy and fish). It also covers the town's earlier charters from 1194, including a confirmation from Richard III. Richard's charter is one of the three which survive, and is illustrated. Copious illustrations with several maps including that of Matthew Paris and the survey of c. 1530.

ARTICLES

Julia Boffey, 'Robert Fabyan's two hats: compiling *The Great Chronicle of London* and *The New Chronicles of England and France*', in *Editing and Interpretation of Middle English Texts: Essays in Honour of William Marx*, edited by Margaret Connolly and Raluca Radulescu, Brepols Turnhout, 2018, pages 173-88.

An inquiry into the purposes and audiences of these two chronicles now acknowledged to be the compilations of Robert Fabyan, draper and alderman of London (1494-1503). *The Great Chronicle* covers 1189-1512 and was copied by two scribes, the second identifying himself as Fabyan; *The New Chronicle*, 1439-1512, survives in the same hand. The author compares the level of coverage in the two, of such events as the battle of Barnet, adding Vitellius A xvj and other compilations for further comparison. Their structure is compared, noting that the original planned end of *GC* was probably 1496 when Fabyan indexed it. It is suggested that *GC* may have been intended as an archive copy, while *NC* was aimed at a new audience, less interested in the minutiae of London politics. It is noted that Fabyan refers to a 'dereste frende' whose 'scyence' would improve it, and that plans for the printing of *NC* were apparently stalled and did not take place until after Fabyan's death.

Adalgisa Mascio, "'Almost too ruinous to be repaired": the unknown treasurers project at the National Archives and the Court of Common Pleas *brevia* files', *Archives*, volume 53, number 136, April 2018, pages 1-11.

The story of the *brevia* files from creation to accessible archive as CP 52. Common Pleas was the major court for debt and land disputes in England for 700 years, and its central records are the plea rolls (CP 40). The files contain the

writs (*brevia*) sent by the court to the county sheriff, signifying the first step in bringing an action, most often in the form of a *precipe* writ. The author gives details of the original clerks' archival practices, the previous efforts to sort these records and of the 'unknown treasures project'. Explains the call-up system now in place. Illustrated.

Medieval Prosopography. Those who Worked, those who Fought, and those who Prayed, in Honour of Joel T. Rosenthal, edited C. Barron and Amy Livingstone, volume 33, 2018. This includes a number of articles of relevance to Yorkist England:

Ralph Griffiths, 'From Bologna to Brecon. The cosmopolitan world of a pre-Reformation archdeacon': William Walter who may have had Thomas Langton as an early patron; he achieved the archdeaconry of Brecon in 1504, after a career in Rome, which included enthusiastic intrigue in search of preferment.

Clare A. Martin, 'The Woolmen of London: early formation and later development of the company up to 1600': these men were the early controllers of the London weighing beam for wool (the tron), and regulators of wool packing throughout the country; they had fluctuating fortunes as the wool trade changed and became dominated by the Merchant Staplers (including regulations of 1472 and 1482), but they successfully negotiated new ordinances in 1587; their medieval fraternity was in St Olave Hart Street and then Crutched Friars.

Shannon McSheffrey, 'Richard Caudray (ca. 1390-1458) Fifteenth-century churchman, academic and ruthless politician': clerk of the king's council 1421-35 and dean of St Martin le Grand 1435-58; he was in the service of both John Holland and Henry Holland, dukes of Exeter. An innovative clerk to the council; as dean he led a successful campaign to reinforce both the sanctuary privileges of St Martin's against the city of London, and its boundary wall. As a supporter of Henry Holland he became involved in questionable tactics over property at Amptill and ended in the Fleet prison.

Leah Rhys, 'The aldermen of the Ironmongers' Company, 1400-1580': an examination of their origins, acquisition of wealth, education and marriage; with a table showing trades, offices, properties, and family.

Christian Steer, 'A community of the dead in late medieval London': the wills of 187 testators of St Nicholas Shambles 1258-1548 (when the parish was destroyed) provide details about the churchwardens, clergy and parishioners. They reveal the previously unknown cloistered cemetery, which doubled as a meeting place, where tombs of leading parishioners were best able to attract prayers from the living. (The skeletons of this vanished church and cemetery were examined by Bill White, a past member of the Richard III Society, published 1988).

Robert A. Wood, 'The ownership of books amongst the London rectors in the late fourteenth and fifteenth centuries': based on 117 wills of the commissary and archdeacon's courts only. Educated men, their careers mostly ended with a

London rectory, they rarely owned a conspicuous collection of books, nevertheless they provide the first known reference to a *Piers Plowman*, and several university bequests.

Kim Overlaet, “The “joyous entry” of Archduke Maximilian into Antwerp (13 January 1478): an analysis of a “most elegant and dignified” dialogue’, *Journal of Medieval History*, volume 44, number 2 (2018), pages 231-49.

Describes the ceremony and its political context, both national and local, with an emphasis on its spatial dimensions, investigating how the various urban groups ‘made use of significant public spaces ... to give extra weight and meaning ... to their performances and ... positions’. For example, the archery guilds occupied the space outside St George’s Gate and had their second stage in front of nearby St George’s church.

Nigel Saul, ‘Commemoration of the war dead in late medieval England’, *Monumental Brass Society Transactions*, volume 19, part 5, 2018, pages 383-415.

Concentrates on those who died in battle, or of their wounds afterwards, from the 1340s; approximately thirty tombs survive, and details of others can be culled from the works of antiquaries. Discusses why texts on tombs rarely refer to fact of death in battle and notes the emergence of ‘ultimate sacrifice’ motif, from the late eighteenth century. Types of monument are discussed. Included are a useful summary and illustrations of the tombs of the Wars of Roses.

Christian Steer, ‘The death of Achilles: the funerary brass of Sir Humphrey Bourchier’, *Monumental Brass Society Transactions*, volume 19, part 5, 2018, pages 425-444.

Sir Humphrey Bourchier, the eldest son of John Lord Berners (d. 1474) and his wife, Margery Berners, daughter and heir of Sir Richard Berners called Lord Berners, died in his father’s lifetime at the battle of Barnet. Not to be confused with his namesake and cousin, Lord Cromwell, who also died at Barnet. Both were buried in Westminster Abbey. Biography with discussions of tomb and the text on it (the only part of the tomb that survives) which compares him to Achilles, another ferocious fighter. Discussion of this unusual classical reference, the likely providers of his memorial (including Sir John Say), and the popularity of the legends of Troy. Pedigree and illustrations. See also this author’s article, ““The lords barons slaine at Barnet Field””, *The Ricardian*, vol. 26 (2016).

Christian Steer, 'The Franciscans and their graves in medieval London', in *The Franciscan Order in the Medieval English Province and Beyond*, edited by Michael Robson and Patrick Zutshi, Amsterdam University Press, 2018 (ISBN 978-94-6298-647-3), pages 115-38.

The Greyfriars of London (established in 1224 on Newgate Street) have left a unique record of 682 burials in their church, the inscriptions and locations, made in the 1520s; this can be supported by lesser lists made by antiquaries. The Franciscans buried people with great care, from queens and earls (including Elizabeth de Burgh, ancestress of the house of York) down, and men from all the ranks of their order. This study concentrates on the burials of the friars and their location, for example William Goddard the elder (d. 1497), a committed supporter of the house of York, and the many confessors of monarchs. The cloister was the special place for the burial of friars. The surviving list is as methodical as were the burials themselves, carefully aligned and coordinated with the wishes of influential benefactors or senior brethren; the list was a necessary guide, perhaps used additionally to guide tourists and visitors. There were four chapels of All Hallows, the Virgin Mary, the Apostles (which was to become the private chapel of the Blount family and included, for example the first Lord Mountjoy and his son who died at Barnet), and St Francis. The type of monument chosen for friars is discussed, as well as the importance of hanging tablets, the use of a numbering system, and the doubling up of graves, and obliteration of some inscriptions by footfall. The financing of the friars' monuments required careful financial management and the charity of Londoners. Illustrations include a map of the burials.

This volume also contains: Michael Robson, 'A biographical register of the English Province of the Greyfriars: a sample from the custody of York' (pages 67-92), and Bert Roests, 'Later medieval Franciscan preaching in England' (pages 139-58).

Anne F. Sutton, "'Promised large things": the town and port of Poole in the 1460s to 1480s' *Publications of the Dorset Archaeology and Natural History Society*, volume 139 (2018), pages 52-63.

An investigation of Richard III's promise to Poole, possibly made after Poole's watchmen at Wyrebarowe had tried unsuccessfully to lure Henry Tudor to land in 1483 during the Autumn Rebellion. Richard is known to have built part of the quay wall which served as a defence towards the sea. It is suggested here that his 'large' promises could have included a charter of incorporation and self-government. The history, trade and prosperity of this harbour and town, which were still subject to manorial government under the manor of Canford, is described: the manor was briefly in the king's control 1478-85. It had been a possession of the Montagu earldom of Salisbury, but tail male had barred its descent to the heiress, Alice Montagu, who married Richard Neville, made earl of Salisbury in her right. Alice recovered her estate in Canford in 1461 just

before she died, and it stayed with her heirs, passing to the duke of Clarence 1471-78. Richard III's queen was Alice Montagu's granddaughter. The men of Poole (mayors, merchants and MPs), who might have pursued Richard's promise, are investigated, and suggestions are made about what they might and should have done.

Anne F. Sutton 'England and Brittany 1482-86: politics, trade and war', *Nottingham Medieval Studies*, volume 62 (2018), pages 137-77.

The political relations between England, the Low Countries, France and Brittany, from the death of Charles the Bold, the treaty of Arras late 1482, and Louis XI's invasion of Picardy which placed Calais at risk, are the background of this study. The mercantile community of England were convinced that Edward IV would go to war with France in early 1483; a war hoped for by the garrison of Calais. This threat of war ended with Richard III's accession. Richard released the wine fleet stopped by Edward, and urged that diets be held with France and Brittany. The war with England's long-term ally, Brittany, from October 1483 to April 1484, was precipitated by the duke of Brittany's act of war in giving Henry Tudor ships to support the Autumn Rebellion in England (a war largely ignored by historians). The description of the conflict pays particular attention to the ships involved, and the seamen and administrators who supported Richard with enthusiasm, and won the war. The diplomacy with the erratic Duke Francis of Brittany, and with his counsellor, Pierre Landais (including the negotiations to return Henry of Richmond to England) is covered. It is suggested that the archers ordered by Richard in 1485 were in fact for Maximilian, because Francis was incapable of using them effectively, and because Maximilian's success was the best means of securing Brittany from a French takeover.

Malcolm Thick, 'The sale of produce from non-commercial gardens in late medieval and early modern England', *The Agricultural History Review*, volume 66, part 1, 2018, pages 1-17.

This article considers how much private gardens contributed to the supply of vegetables and fruit available for purchase. The late medieval section studies the produce of Norwich Cathedral Priory's gardens as recorded in its garden accounts, which cover thirty-four years between 1329 and 1540. It is impossible to calculate the size of the priory's garden operation not only because the records are sparse but also because only surplus food products were sold (the balance of items not consumed by the convent), together with some cash crops. The former included leeks, onions, garlic, beans, apples, pears, parsley and other herbs and nuts; the latter teasels (and occasionally madder) for the East Anglian cloth trade, and osiers. Records relating to private non-monastic gardens are even rarer, but frequent references in manorial records to

messuages and cottages with closes or curtilages, plus archaeological evidence of backyards or back gardens to cottages, indicate that gardens were ubiquitous. It is likely that surpluses were taken to market, especially as no English commercial market gardens have been identified before c.1500.

C.M. Woolgar, 'Medieval food and colour', *Journal of Medieval History*, volume 44, number 1, February 2018, pages 1-20.

The importance of colour in food is discussed from many points of view: the humoral, moral, and spiritual. Many examples are taken from recipe books from many countries and tracked through the centuries; the suitability of certain foods for colouring; the changes in value and desirability of colours; the importance of brightness and light; the desire for decoration such as heraldic devices; the development of serving practices and finishing of dishes at a servery; and the officials employed from kitchen to table. The subject mostly concerns elite households, but includes the quantities of spices and colouring agents bought for both the very great and for lesser, more abstemious households.

**Edward IV's 'Memoir on Paper'
to Charles, Duke of Burgundy:
the so-called 'Short Version of the Arrival'**

LIVIA VISSER-FUCHS

Nottingham Medieval Studies, vol. 37 (1992), pages 1-53.

This article discusses the career of the signet letter which described Edward IV's successful campaign to recover his throne in 1471; who wrote the text and why, and how it was used, copied, translated and expanded, illuminated and maligned.

Illustrated with contemporary miniatures of the battles of Barnet and Tewkesbury and the killing of Edward of Lancaster, published here for the first time (black and white).

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