

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

Christopher Brachmann, editor, *Arrayed in Splendour. Art Fashion, and Textiles in Medieval and Early Modern Europe*. 2019. 264 pages. 3 black and white and 111 colour illustrations. Brepols Publishers, Turnhout, Belgium. £85.

ISBN 978-2-503-57965-8

Introduction and eight contributions. Those of most interest for the Yorkist period are Lisa Monnas, 'All that glitters: cloth of gold as a vehicle for display 1300-1550', and Katja Schmitz-von Ledebur, 'Representatives of power – tapestries made for kings and emperors'.

Rosamund Garrett and Matthew Reeves, *Late Medieval and Renaissance Textiles*. 2018. Published to accompany the Exhibition 14 June to 13 July 2018. Sam Fogg, 15D Clifford Street, London W1S 4JZ.

ISBN 978-1911300-489

Foreword and Catalogue of thirty-six items covering 200 years. The earliest items of *opus anglicanum* of England (panels of saints) in the catalogue are dated from circa 1400, and there is an orphrey of Christ on the Cross 'probably London, c. 1480-1500'. Other items come from France, the Netherlands, Germany, Spain and Italy, and include fragments of tapestry (perhaps from a throne canopy) and the marriage of Blanchfleur from the story of Garin and Bégon, dated to circa 1460. Bibliography. Magnificent illustrations, including details.

Dorian Gerhold, *London Bridge and Its Houses, c. 1209-1761*. Publication by the London Topographical Society, Number 182. 2019. 168 pages, 124 illustrations. £28 to non-members plus postage and packing; obtainable from the Society's website.

ISBN 978-0-902087-69-9

A description of the houses on the Bridge and their occupants. How they changed over these 500 years. Newly commissioned drawings show the houses and their interiors c. 1250, the middle part of the Bridge c. 1590, and the roadway c. 1630 and the travellers across the Bridge. The many new discoveries include the original layout of the shop-houses, the chapel, stone gate, and

drawbridge of c. 1209. An appendix traces the houses back to 1358. Based on the amazing surviving records of the Bridge House Estates, the charity created by the medieval citizens of London, which still supports all the bridges over the River Thames. Extensively illustrated.

Hannes Kleineke, editor. *Pardon Rolls of Edward IV and Henry VI, 1468-71*. 2019. xii and 137 pages. List and Index Society, Volume 360. The List and Index Society, c/o The National Archives, £30.00 (pbk). ISBN 978-0-9554738-1-4

A calendar of the general pardons granted by Edward IV in the crisis years from 1468 to 1470, and in the name of Henry VI during his Readeption of 1470-71. The volume contains 1,980 separate entries and is rendered accessible by indices of personal and place names and of statuses and occupations. As individual pardons covered multiple offences, the rolls calendared here give a broad range of addresses and variant spellings of individual names, and thus provide a useful address book for Yorkist society, beyond their value as supplements to the long-published and widely used patent rolls.

Kim Woods, *Cut in Alabaster. A Material of Sculpture and Its European Traditions 1330-1530*. 422 pages. 194 colour illustrations and 5 black and white. 2019. Brepols Publishers, Turnhout, Belgium, £150. ISBN 978-I-909400-26-9

Alabaster was widely used in Europe (marble was more common in Italy), and especially popular in the period covered by this study. The properties of the two mediums are explored and location of the quarries. English works in alabaster were produced for the home market, but they were also extensively exported. The practitioners, their methods and trade, are at the centre of this study which also includes two case studies of known sculptors. The status of alabaster in court culture and religious practice in comparison with other materials such as bone and ivory is another subject. Specific works of art receive particular attention: the tombs of Edward II and Charles the Noble of Navarre, and the foundation of Margaret of Austria. The two genres of tombs and altarpieces and the types chosen are also considered and how they changed. There was diplomacy behind some gifts or purchases, the choice of imagery and its meanings; alabaster was a medium which appealed to both rich and poor (and was affordable). Extensively illustrated.

Moor Medieval. Exploring Dartmoor in the Middle Ages. Edited by David Stone and Richard Sandover on behalf of the Moor Medieval Study Group. 2019. Obtainable from Dartmoor National Park Authority, Parke, Bovey Tracey, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ13 9JQ (mark for attention of Emma Stockley), £15 plus £3 p&xp. Or consult the website of the national parks. ISBN 978-0-9554738-1-4

Dartmoor dominates South Devon, a resource from Prehistoric times onwards for its few inhabitants and surrounding villages. The Domesday Survey is an exceptionally valuable source for recreating the landscape of 1000. It changed its status under the Norman and Plantagenet kings from forest to chase in 1239, and became part of the duchy of Cornwall in 1337. Several historical specialists contribute 'boxes' on medieval population change, documentary records, building types (e.g. long houses, hall houses), agricultural technology, medieval road network (droveways and tracks), and local pottery. Chapter 4 'Black Death and Aftermath 1349-1400'; chapter 5 'Later Middle Ages 1450-1525' calls this period a golden age for Dartmoor, with rising population, and expanded production of tin, cloth and meat. Chagford stands out as an especially prosperous tin town with excellent records (courts rolls eg. 1431-32, 1483 etc.), with Ashburton and Widecombe. Figures, Tables, Photographs and Bibliography.

ARTICLES

Clive Burgess, "According to his wise discretion": civic catholicism in fifteenth-century Bristol – and beyond', *Historical Research*, volume 92, number 257, August 2019, pages 479-99.

A study largely based on the excellent record of Ricart's *The Maire of Bristowe is Kalendar*, which describes the care with which the civic elite, and in particular the mayor, took part in and observed the proper annual observation of divine service in each of the town's churches, and the correct observance of the chantries set up by citizens. Discusses how unique this supervision was, compared to other cities: Bristol was fortunate in that it had no dominating religious institution or great lord, and no special cult-fraternity; and it had the great example of the merchant and burgess, William Canynge's foundation to illustrate this principle of civic supervision.

Esther Liberman Cuenca, 'Town clerks and the authorship of custumals in medieval England', *Urban History*, volume 46, number 2, 2019, pages 180-201.

An examination of the expertise and duties of the common clerks employed by towns and in particular their role in copying, redrafting and caring for the documents of their town's government, privileges and customs. Their training, apprenticeship, and legal knowledge as well as the oaths they swore to serve to their towns, are among the subjects addressed. The clerks who recorded their names in the books they compiled, such as Daniel Rough of New Romney, and John Carpenter and William Dunthorne (1470-90) of London, and Robert Ricart of Bristol (1478-90) are listed. Tables; illustration.

Gwilym Dodd, 'County and community in medieval England', *English Historical Review*, volume 134, number 569, August 2019, pages 777-820.

The important work of scholars such as Susan Reynolds, Simon Walker and Peter Coss is reinforced by this useful examination of the county community, commons, *gens*, people or 'lieges', supported by an examination of 312 petitions (late thirteenth century to mid-fifteenth century) to parliament, covering a wide variety of topics from local bridge repair, raids, defence, the activities of officials, or fee-farms. The author reiterates the identification with one's birthplace; the unity imposed by county levies of men and taxes; the deep-rooted habits of collective action; the shared obligations to obey and serve; and re-examines the role of the gentry and the possible role of magnates and their affinities which 'may well be exaggerated'. The communal identities of urban companies and fraternities are compared and the roles of the clerks who enrolled the petition and those who made the original are discussed. The evolving role of MPs is considered crucial. (Two texts given in full; figures; List of County Petitions c. 1276-1377, with their originators and subject.)

Gail McMurray Gibson, 'The Macro Manuscripts and the making of the morality play', *Bibliographical Society of America*, volume 113, part 3, 2019, pages 255-95.

A detailed account of the early preservation of and interest in medieval play texts, in particular the sequence of *Wisdom*, *Mankind*, and *The Castle of Perseverance*, and the coinage of the genre term 'morality plays'. These three fifteenth-century plays (originally untitled) are still called the Macro Plays after their first known collector the Reverend Cox Macro (1683-1767) an antiquary of Bury St Edmunds, who had an interest in early drama. Two of the plays had been copied out by Thomas Hyngham, a fifteenth-century monk of Bury St Edmunds, and they had passed into the ownership of a local recusant, Robert Oliver. From Macro they went to John Patteson (1755-1833), mayor of Norwich, a collector and amateur historian, who was forced by financial circumstances to sell most of his collection; the miscellany was bought by Hudson Gurney (1755-1864), the banker and collector, in 1821, at a time of dawning interest in early plays. (The correspondence between Dawson Turner, an antiquarian, whose entire family was engaged in his researches, Hudson Gurney and Sir Francis Palgrave, is extensively mined by the author.) A few early play texts had excited interest in the eighteenth century, and Thomas Sharp of Coventry (1770-1841) was the first to secure as an illustration for his *Dissertation on the Pageants or Dramatic Mysteries Anciently Performed at Coventry* (1825), of the stage design for the *Castle of Perseverance*. John Payne Collier (1789-1883), the Shakespeare scholar (and forger) had extensive access to Gurney's library and introduced the plays to the public in his *The History of English Dramatic Poetry to the Time of Shakespeare* (1831). The plays were edited in 1904 for the Early English Text Society by A.F. Pollard (with a misleading account of

their provenance) and since re-edited by Mark Eccles in 1969. In 1936 the collection was bought by the Folger Shakespeare Library. Illustrations including portraits of all owners, and the plan for the Castle of Perseverance. Members will remember Richard III's interest in the plays of York and Coventry.

Richard Goddard, 'Female merchants? Women, debt, and trade in later medieval England, 1266-1532', *Journal of British Studies*, volume 58, July 2019, pages 494-518.

This article systematically examines the debt records, in particular statutes staple, of those towns that have them, to tabulate and count the number of women engaged in trade -- the law merchant, unlike the common law, was not encumbered with the rules of coverture. Customs accounts are the main source for women in overseas trade (figures being small). Most women traders worked with male partners, usually their husbands, and they operated mainly within the household. The long period studied (divided into shorter periods: 1286-1312; 1353-1449; and 1450-1532) shows the deterioration of numbers of women registering debts from a high point around 1300 (over 30%) and after 1305 when women rarely achieved more than six percent. Certain economic factors were shared with men over these years, but male hostility strengthened against women in business, female access to capital lessened, the common law's emphasis on coverture began to dominate, and the 1413 Statute of Additions' demand for a precise definition of the persons involved in a transaction had a damaging effect. They were affected by 'status, capital, geography and the vagaries of the English economy' (p. 517). Many examples are given of individual women traders, and the benefit of living in certain towns which were more favourable to female trading is clearly demonstrated.

James Ross, 'The English aristocracy and mesne feudalism in the late middle ages', *English Historical Review*, volume 133, number 564, October 2018, pages 1027-59.

Examines how feudal services and incidents ('a web of rights and duties that connected lords and tenants') continued into the sixteenth century; with an historiography and definitions. Examines the assertion of each of these fiscal rights (relief paid when lands entered; wardship of a minor heir, payment of an aid when the eldest daughter of a lord married, etc) by the lords who had them; windfalls included escheats on death with no heirs, or the sale of a valuable wardship. The devices to avoid payment, such as the use and entail, are covered. The general poor survival of records leads to an emphasis on the Stafford dukes of Buckingham (who held the honour of Gloucester), the Luttrell lords of Dunster, the de Vere earldom of Oxford, the duchy of Lancaster, and to a lesser degree the honours of Richmond, Clare and Bolingbroke; the value of careful monastic records of the rights of a house and the erratic survival of the

accounts of feodaries are noted. There is a resulting difficulty in assessing overall income, but the conclusion reached is about 10-15 per cent of income. The persistent demand for personal homage and its oath comes in for particular study, for example by the thirteenth earl of Oxford (who expected it even from an important London abbot) and the Luttrells; the value of this ceremony was also noted by Thomas Littleton in his *New Tenures* (1481). The continued use and value of the knight's fee (and castle guard) as a basis of local loyalty, lordship and worship to a lord is examined and how ownership of these and the other feudal connections contributed to a lord's affinity and capacity for military array based on his tenants, supplementing any retaining by indenture. Many individual examples are given. Tables.

Anne F. Sutton, "‘To be of oon demeanyng and unite for the wele of your self and of the contre there’: Yorkist plans for the Lorship of Ireland, the last phase’, *The Fifteenth Century* XVII (2020), edited by Linda Clarke, pages 35-59.

Richard III's energetic policy as regards a more unified Ireland under his rule, possibly as an incorporated body free from inappropriate statutes of the English parliament is the subject of this essay. Three embassies were conducted by William Lacy, clerk of the king's council, and Thomas Barrett, Bishop of Annaghdown. The advantages of the Yorkist kings were their Irish descent, both Anglo-Irish and Gaelic, and the popularity which their father the duke of York had gained there. Richard's experience of border conditions in the north of England, the names of his advisers and his relationship with the earl of Kildare are discussed, as are his five charters to Irish towns and his reform of the Irish coinage. The use of the statute of Henry FitzEmpress after Bosworth by Kildare is examined. The legend of the countess of Desmond who danced with Richard III is found to be a possibility.

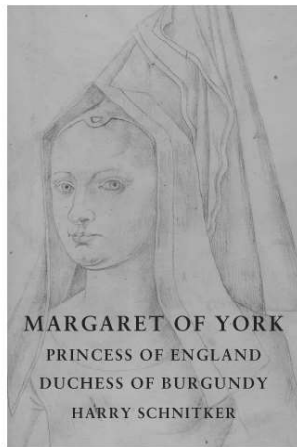
Sheila Sweetinburgh, 'Those who marched with Faunt: reconstructing the Canterbury rebels of 1471', *Southern History*, volume 39 (2017), pages 36-57.

Nicholas Faunt, mayor of Canterbury, was executed for treason on 29 May 1479; he had participated in Fauconberg's campaign and was made an example of by Edward IV. A list of his confederates had been handed over to Edward by George Browne, who changed sides just before Tewkesbury. This article attempts to identify the men in the list by rank, official posts, trade, craft, and neighbourhood and thereby assess how far down the social scale the rebellion stretched, who were willing rebels, and who were compelled to join. Summarises the social and political involvement of the citizens of Canterbury from 1400, including the episodes of Cade, the royal charter of 1453, the declaration for York in 1460 led by Robert Horne, John Scott and John Fogg, and especially the popularity of Warwick along the south coast. Warwick's Kentish affinity and Faunt's power among the civic elite are linked to the so-called 'sack' of Southwark in September 1470 and to the support for Warwick

when he landed 17 September. Faunt was elected mayor at this time and the events of his mayoralty are traced, as well as his defence of the city. Fauconberg left Canterbury too late to attack Edward, and Faunt was among the captured rebels. The financial punishment of the other rebels, the rebuilding of relations between king and city, with a note that Faunt's son, William, became sheriff, concludes the study.

Robert A. Wood, 'Richard Osbarn, Guildhall Chamber clerk, 1400-37', *London and Middlesex Archaeological Society Transactions*, volume 69 (2018), pages 181-95.

Osbarn's background and education (probably in the clerical hierarchy of the city) are unknown; his wife appears to have been a silkwoman and he had two brothers of whom Thomas became a mercer and survived to be his brother's executor. He was appointed clerk of the chamber in 1400, also called the controller, a very influential, permanent officer, who supported the annually elected financial officer, the chamberlain of London; they oversaw the collection of the city's landed income, the fees paid by apprentices, and the administration and care of the city's orphans and their estates. The author explores Osbarn's particular connections with Stephen Speleman, (chamberlain 1391), John Marchaunt, common clerk (from 1399), and Richard Odyham (chamberlain 1390) and the Odyham family, for which he undertook executorships and responsibilities. He was executor to a remarkable number of London men and women. He lived in the parish of St Michael Bassishaw, adjacent to Guildhall, and managed to acquire a small estate, left to his son William. The author has found no evidence to support the theories that he copied out literary texts or that such an important civic official was in any way a heretic. Pedigrees.



NEW TITLE AND
SPECIAL OFFER FROM
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YORKIST HISTORY TRUST

Harry Schnitker's
*Margaret of York, Princess of England,
Duchess of Burgundy (1446–1503)*

From the moment in 1468 when Margaret of York (1446–1503), sister of Kings Edward IV and Richard III, married Charles the Bold, Duke of Burgundy, she played a central role in Burgundian society and cultural life. Throughout her life, she maintained excellent relations with her step-daughter, Mary of Burgundy, and her step-son-in-law, Maximilian I of Habsburg, as well as with members of the nobility, clergy and the leading men of her dower towns. A woman in a world of men, she was none-the-less able to establish and maintain her authority and influence through her household and affinity, through her patronage of the arts, of religious orders and of humanist learning. Madame la Grande, as she was called later in life, owned an important book collection, was devout and passionately interested in the renewal of the Church, and successfully played her part on the public 'stage' when necessary. This new study looks at all these aspects of Margaret's life, not omitting, for example, the role of the women who influenced her, her support of the crucial Habsburg marriage, and her attempt to influence English politics by encouraging Yorkist pretenders. There are appendices and a full index and colour pictures.

This substantial book is now published and is available from the Trust publisher, Shaun Tyas. It is bound in real cloth, with a colour dustwrapper (though greyscale on this advert), has 352 pages of text and a further 16 pages of colour plates on art paper: ISBN 978-1-907730-54-2. The normal price is £35, but the **special offer to members of the Richard III Society is £30, post-free in the UK, £5 extra as a part-contribution for European postage, £10 for USA or Australia.** Contact the publisher on 01775 821542 to use a credit card, or you can pay by Paypal to the email address: shaun@shauntyas.myzen.co.uk or send a cheque to Shaun at 1 High Street, Donington, Lincolnshire, PE11 4TA, UK.