

Tudor Life

THE
TUDOR
SOCIETY

GIANT CHRISTMAS Edition

Members Only

Nº 4

December 2014

**TUDOR
FUN**
Christmas
"Pull-out"
Section

GAME OF THRONES & Tudor Women by *Jamie Adair*

PULL-OUT



Elizabeth Seymour - Teri Fitzgerald

Henry Tudor, Richard III and the Stanleys - Mike Ingram

In the Footsteps of the Six Wives of Henry VIII - Sarah Morris

Dance music in the late 16th century - Jane Moulder

Jasper Tudor and William Herbert - Debra Bayani

AND MUCH MORE!

A MASSIVE 104 PAGE EDITION!

Wassail, drink ale!

December 2014

Welcome to December's Tudor Life magazine! It's turned into an amazing bumper issue and I'm so very grateful to all those who have shared their knowledge and expertise with us this month. There are some fantastic articles here and I will



certainly be enjoying them while cuddled up on the sofa, in front of the fire with a glass of mulled wine. I do hope you enjoy the Christmas section too, Tim had great fun devising the Henry VIII cut-out figure and Verity enjoyed testing it out!

Tim and I would just like to take this opportunity to wish you a very Merry Christmas and to thank you for being a member of the Tudor Society, we are enjoying getting to know members on the forum and in the live chats.

Merry Christmas!

CLAIRE and TIM RIDGWAY



Pages 22-34



Pages 43-51



Pages 2-7



Pages 52-58



Christmas Special
Pages 66-83



IN THIS
MONTH'S
EDITION

Pages 38-42



Pages 8-10



TudorLife

Contents

- | | |
|--|---|
| 2 In the footsteps of Anne of Cleves <i>by Sarah Morris</i> | 64 Sweet Irony <i>by Kyra Kramer</i> |
| 8 Recreating the dance music of the 16 th Century <i>by Jane Moulder</i> | 66 Tudor Recipes <i>by Claire Ridgway</i> |
| 11 Charlie on Books <i>by Charlie Fenton</i> | 71 Christmas Word Search <i>by Tim Ridgway</i> |
| 12 On this day in Tudor History <i>by Claire Ridgway</i> | 72 Henry VIII Cutout <i>by THE TUDOR SOCIETY</i> |
| 14 Plymouth, a city with Tudor history <i>by Cliff Barry and Claire Ridgway</i> | 73 Tudor Rose Decoration <i>by THE TUDOR SOCIETY</i> |
| 20 The Tudor Martyrs <i>by Gareth Russell</i> | 74 Christmas Pomander <i>by Claire Ridgway</i> |
| 22 FEATURE: The Princess Myth - Game of Thrones <i>by Jamie Adair</i> | 75 CHRISTMAS WISHES <i>by THE TUDOR SOCIETY</i> |
| 35 Comparing George Boleyn & Edward Seymour <i>by Clare Cherry</i> | 76 A Short Christmas Story <i>by Beth von Staats</i> |
| 38 Henry Tudor, Richard III & The Stanleys <i>by Mike Ingram</i> | 80 December Feast Days <i>by Claire Ridgway</i> |
| 43 Elizabeth Seymour <i>by Teri Fitzgerald</i> | 84 National Portrait Gallery <i>by Melanie V. Taylor</i> |
| 52 Two Rival Earls of Pembroke <i>by Debra Bayani</i> | 90 Tudor Ingenuity <i>by Beth von Staats</i> |
| 59 Henry VII and Elizabeth of York <i>by Olga Hughes</i> | 94 Events Calendar |
| | 99 Upcoming Books |

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ANNE OF CLEVES, 4TH WIFE OF HENRY VIII

Back in September 2013,
Natalie Grueninger and *Sarah Morris*
published the first in their series of
“*In the Footsteps*” books.

In this article, Sarah discusses
following the trail of *Anne of Cleves*

Unlike our debut *In the Footsteps* book, which is a comprehensive guide to all the locations relating to Henry’s second wife, this second book sets out to detail around ten of the most significant lodgings associated with each of Henry’s six consorts. On this occasion, our intention was

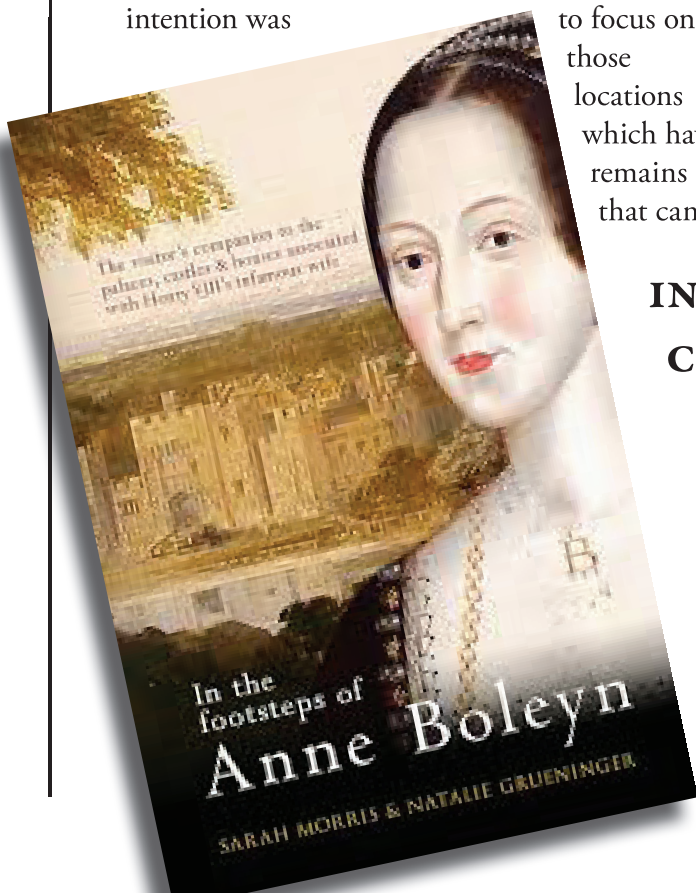
to focus on those locations which have remains that can

still be visited today. However, occasionally we opted to include the story of a palace or castle now lost, but which has particular significance or intrigue attached to its history.

Natalie and I were about to forge into new territory. Having completed our journey with Anne Boleyn, five other, very different women awaited us; each one had a unique story to tell. It was time to let each of these women reveal themselves to us through the places that had shaped their character and born witness to the drama of their fascinating lives.

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ANNE OF CLEVES: A JOURNEY THROUGH ANNE’S EARLY LIFE

I was tasked with going in search of the early life of Henry’s fourth wife, Anne of Cleves, or to give her her birth name, Anna von Jülich-Kleves-Berg. I knew the salient points of her story; apparently rejected by her intended husband upon first sight, subsequently divorced



to make way for the vivacious Catherine Howard, yet somehow managing to navigate the dangerous politics of the Tudor court to outlive the king and form affectionate relationships with both of Henry's daughters. Upon her natural death during the reign of Mary I, she was the only one of his wives to be granted the honour of a burial in Westminster Abbey.



Would I understand more about the challenges that awaited her in England? This was my hope.

Natalie and I decided to devote a good proportion of the section related to Anne of Cleves to her early years, as well as investigating three key points on her progress from Dusseldorf

to England; Antwerp, Bruges and Calais. This was largely because, as far as we could tell, Anne's previous biographers had done no more

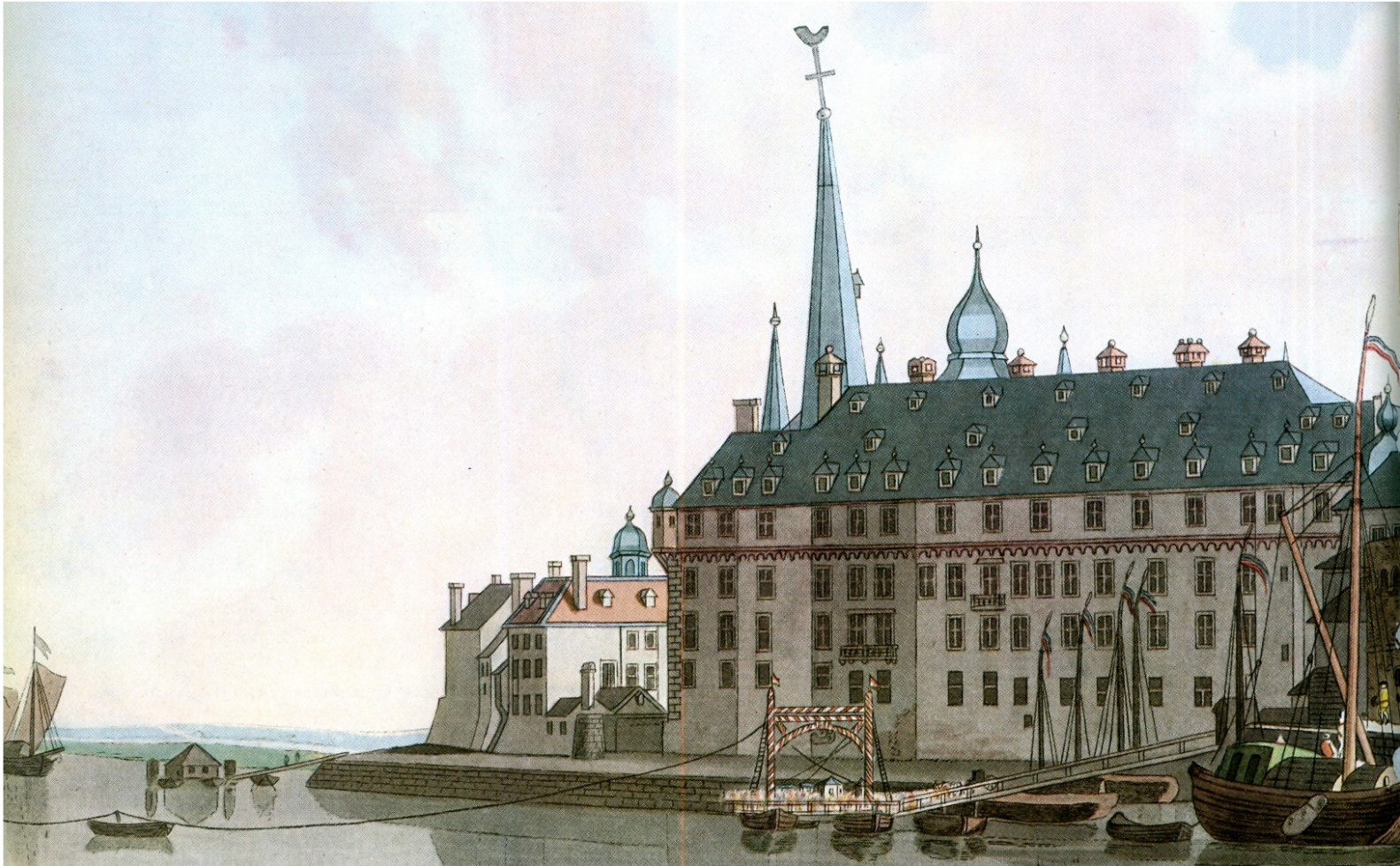
than to mention many of these locations in passing. Of course language, in this case German and Dutch, has historically limited access to this part of her life to an English speaking audience. But we hoped that by sheer tenacity we would overcome such hurdles.

In August of this year (2014), having done three or four months of preliminary research, I set off for continental Europe. It would be a journey of adventure that would take me from Anne's birthplace in Dusseldorf to her childhood homes of *Schloss Burg* and *Schwanenburg*,

a visit to the place where Holbein is reported to have painted Anne's familiar image, today called *Schloss Hambach*, before travelling overland through Antwerp and Bruges as I followed Anne on her way to England. In this post, I will mainly be focusing on my encounters with three of these locations, all in Germany; the City Palace of Dusseldorf, *Schloss Burg an der Wupper* and *Schwanenburg* in *Kleve*.



In my younger days, I overlooked Anne as 'boring', but as the years advanced, I eventually came to appreciate that there was something of substance about this dignified woman. Yet what early influences had shaped her character? What kind of woman would I meet as I accompanied her across time from her homeland in Germany, through the former Low Countries to her new home in England? Would I come to a deeper appreciation of her character and qualities?



THE CITY PALACE OF DUSSELDORF

Dusseldorf is our first stop, the principal centre of the ducal court in the sixteenth century. Here a medieval, three-sided courtyard palace once fronted onto the River Rhine. It was the place of Anne's birth on 22 September 1515. Etchings that show how the sixteenth century palace looked still survive, including a view of gentlemen of the court practicing their swordsmanship within the central courtyard. It was from the Old City Palace that Anne departed her homeland for England in late November 1539. The building was remodelled in later centuries, but sadly was virtually destroyed in a catastrophic fire in 1872. Later, bombing during WWII swept away almost all of the remains. Today, only a single tower still stands in the heart of Dusseldorf's *Altstad* [Old Town] marking the site of this once great, historic building.

For me, Dusseldorf was not an easy place to visit. Although it was the height of summer, the weather was unseasonably cold and rainy. With little to see and soggy feet, I was happy to pack my bags and leave the city, with its grey, leaden skies behind. My destination was not

far away as the crow flies, but buried deep in the heart of the leafy Rhine Valley, the contrast could not have been greater. I was heading to *Schloss Burg an der Wupper*.





SCHLOSS BURG AN DER WUPPER

About half an hour's drive away from Dusseldorf to the south east lies another of a handful of ducal palaces that were frequented regularly by the Dukes of *Jülich-Kleves-Berg*: *Schloss Burg an der Wupper*. The castle is perched high up on a rocky promontory, surrounded by undulating, forested valleys. Once a ruin, extensive restoration in the late nineteenth / early twentieth century has recreated the place where Anne is known to have spent a considerable amount of time with her sisters, Sybille and Amelia as a child, always under the watchful eye of their mother, the 'Lady Duchess'. It is an enchanting place; its isolated position, where only the sound of the wind can be heard once all the tourists have departed, allows you to appreciate the quiet domesticity of Anne's privileged life, educated 'at the elbow' of her Catholic mother.

The guide who met me at the castle – an American who has lived with his German wife and family in the area for the last twenty-six years – described Anne's upbringing. Taught to read [in German], so that as a noblewoman she would be able to manage the household, Anne would have also studied the bible and learnt needlework. Accomplishments such as playing musical instruments, dancing, singing, hunting or hawking, so admired at the English court, would have been an anathema to Anne. It struck me then just how hopelessly ill-equipped the young twenty-five year-old who arrived in England would be to engage the king and

impress her contemporaries.

Visiting the castle is a delight. Based on extensive records, archaeological evidence and early etchings, the building has been faithfully restored. A courtyard castle with strong defensive walls, the ducal apartments command stunning views across the valley. Of particular interest is the *Rittersaal* [Knight's Hall] where it is believed the celebrations for the betrothal of Anne's elder sister, the very beautiful Sybille, were held in 1526. There is no reason to believe that Anne was not present with the rest of her family to wish her sister well. However, I most enjoyed whiling away the time in the nearby *Kemenate*, or parlour, the main room used during daylight hours by the duchess and her children. Here, I think more than anywhere in Germany, I touched the spirit of young woman whose destiny would lead her to a very foreign land.

I was soon leaving behind a windswept plateau. I wished my guide a grateful 'adieu', and headed off on the next stage of my German odyssey, northwards to *Schwanenburg* in the town of *Kleve*.





SCHWANENBURG, KLEVE

Sixty miles north of Dusseldorf lies another grand ducal palace: *Schwanenburg* (Swan Castle). This mighty, medieval fortress is again cited high on a plateau, this time dominating the town of Kleve and the surrounding countryside, overlooking the River Rhine. According to a local guide, much like the English court, the Dukes of Kleve regularly relocated their place of residence, with the ducal family and court arriving at *Schwanenburg* each spring. Thus, Anne would have known the castle and town well, visiting it regularly during her early life. But it was also here that her brother, by then duke, commanded that all gentlemen travelling with Anne to England for her wedding should assemble 'in appropriate attire and armour'. Thus from Dusseldorf, Anne travelled with her ladies to *Kleve* via *Berg* [probably *Duisburg*], where the full train consisting of 263 persons and 228 horses finally assembled; Anne herself travelling in a chariot similar to the one shown. Sadly, *Schwanenburg* fell into disrepair



after the decline of the duchy. Gradually, buildings were dismantled, with the once magnificent great hall being amongst the first casualties in the late eighteenth century. Around the same time, part of the castle was used as a prison. At this time, the remaining interiors in the ducal apartments were irrevocably lost.

It seems that the castle's fate would be finally sealed when the town of Kleve and its castle was bombed heavily by allied forces during the Second World War. At the end of that night, little was left standing. However, miraculously this was not the end for *Schwanenburg*; it became one of the first buildings in Germany to be restored after the end of the conflict in the 1950s. Although none of the great public or the private apartments were returned to their original condition, one can again sense the scale of the medieval building and visit the *Schwanenturm* (Swan Tower) to enjoy commanding views across the Rhine Valley.

A DESTINY FORGED

Progressing in Anne's wake, I eventually left Germany behind, entering Belgium. In the sixteenth century, this area of Europe made up part of what was known as the Low Countries; a territory commanded by the Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V. Driving along Germany's hair-raising autobahns, I was left reflecting on what I had learnt about Anne's early life.

Through the sheer scale and dominance of the buildings I had visited, I sensed firsthand the power and wealth of her family; Anne may not have been a royal princess, but neither was she from a provincial backwater. She was part of a powerful dynasty of noble blood. I had learnt of the great love that existed between her parents in the love letters they exchanged and wondered whether this had left Anne with fairytales of her own happy ending - fairytales that were soon to be precipitously dashed. Perhaps the loving environment in which she was raised also did much to explain her gentle and accommodating temperament. I would hear much more of this in the accounts of Anne written by the English nobility who were sent to escort Henry's bride to England. Yet I already knew that Anne would never dazzle the capricious king as her namesake, Mistress Boleyn, had once done. She could not charm him with her tongue, or her graces. It is easy to see why she must have seemed awkward and out of place at the English court.

Perhaps one of the few things that worked in Anne's favour was the interesting religious milieu in which she was raised. I had learnt how the ducal court in the sixteenth century was the conduit of new trends coming from France, with her father also interested in humanist learning. Despite being raised by a Catholic mother, in time, her sister Sybille would become a devout protestant following her marriage to the Duke of Saxony. Surely these differing influences touched Anne's conscience deeply. Perhaps she learnt to navigate both sides of an ever growing religious divide. Maybe on account of this, she was able to bend 'like a willow' and accommodate the great changes in religion that swept through



England in the last twenty years of her life.

Antwerp, Bruges and Calais lay ahead of me

The child Anne had once been was being left behind in amongst the great cities and lush valleys of the Rhine. A woman of considerable kindness and composure was emerging. I was to accompany this most agreeable of travelling companions as she was received by the Company of Merchant Adventurers in Antwerp. It would be Anne's first official reception by the nation that would soon call her queen, and five hundred years on, there were still mysteries to be solved and architectural gems to be uncovered.

Sarah Morris is the author of "**In the Footsteps of Anne Boleyn**" along with Natalie Grueninger. At the end of 2015 they will be releasing their next book "**In the Footsteps of the Six Wives of Henry VIII**" (and we can't wait!)

Sarah has an interesting website which can be found at:
<http://www.anneboleybook.co.uk/>



Piva performing in costume at "Lutherfest" in Osterwieck, Germany. A scene reminiscent of a Breughel painting.

RECREATING THE DANCE MUSIC OF THE LATE 16TH CENTURY WITH PIVA

When interest in early music was aroused in the mid to late 1970s there were a number of groups who performed and recorded the dance music of the Tudor and Elizabethan period. Many of these CDs are still available today but their performance techniques and approaches can now sound a bit dated, especially in the light of recent research and knowledge about period instruments and performance practice. Nowadays, early music has become more specialised and many of the professional performers are now focusing on "art" or sacred music with the result that there are fewer groups who are fully exploring and performing the popular dance and ballad music repertoire. This was the main reason why Eric Moulder established the group Piva back in 2002. Eric became aware that this repertoire was being overlooked by professional musicians partly because, on the surface,

dance music isn't technically challenging. For example, a dance can be just 16 bars long with a simple harmonic accompaniment – all played and over within 25 seconds! Consequently, the Renaissance dance repertoire has become the staple for the many amateur groups who find that the music is approachable and playable. Piva however feels that this music deserves to be explored, developed and played on the professional stage.

There were a number of collections of dance music printed throughout the 16th century – Pierre Attaignant, living and working in Paris in the 1530s; Tielman Susato, a music publisher and trumpeter from Antwerp in the 1550s and Michael Praetorius, a German working in the late 1500s/early 1600s. These collections contain vast numbers of dances usually in 4 or 5 parts and they reflect the different dance styles of the day. Pavanes, galliards, almaines, gavottes, branles (pronounced brawls) to name but a few.

In terms of playing this dance repertoire it is important to understand that what was printed was, in effect, a shorthand or an aide memoire for the musician. These short dances would not just be played once or twice, but played a number of times to allow the dance to be fully performed and a number of dances would be grouped together to form a suite. A good musician would not simply play the same thing over and over again as that would be very boring! Instead, they would improvise around the structure of the music. In this period, professional musicians would have served an apprenticeship, the same as with any other trade, and part of their education would have been to learn how to perform “divisions” or what we would call improvisation. This then makes the music much more interesting to listen to – and certainly much more interesting for the musician to perform! This is the approach that Piva has taken with their music and even after many years performing the same pieces in their concerts, they are still finding new variations in the music. No two performances are quite the same.

During the 16th century composers would very rarely specify the instrumentation for a musical ensemble, it was left to the musicians to decide which instrument the music was to be played on. Consorts could be “pure” - where all the instruments performing the piece are from the same family, such as recorders, viols or crumhorns; or it could be a “broken” consort. This does not mean the instruments are defective – it signifies that instruments from different families play together in the same piece, often playing stringed and wind instruments together.

The members of Piva are all multi-instrumentalists with each playing perhaps three or more instruments in a concert. Between the 5 members of the group they play recorders, violin, viol, bagpipes, hurdy

gurdy, shawms, dulcians, crumhorns, shawms, rauschpfeifen, Renaissance guitar and percussion. A great deal of consideration is given to which instruments are used for each piece, something they are sure the 16th century musicians would have done. For example, a stately march can have more impact when played on a consort of loud shawms or rauschpfeifen than if it were played on quiet recorders.

Piva plays a mixture of pure and broken consorts and the instrumentation they use varies from piece to piece and their choice of



instruments will help enhance the character of the music. For example, on their CD of English dance music, “Heigh Ho Holiday”, a lively country dance called All in a Garden Green features bagpipes and hurdy gurdy whilst the more refined and soulful piece, Daphne is performed on violin, recorders and dulcian.

It is this freedom of instrumentation, arrangements and improvisation which gives members of Piva a challenge when selecting and performing their repertoire – but it’s a challenge they are happy to face. They believe that they are true to the performance practices and instrumentation of the professional and court musicians of the Tudor period whilst not ignoring their own contemporary influences – something they are sure that a Renaissance musician would have done.

JANE MOULDER

MEET OUR NEW COLUMNIST...

JANE MOULDER AND HER MEDIEVAL GROUP PIVA

For more information about Piva and find out where they're performing, visit their website at www.piva.org.uk. Alternatively you can "like" them on Facebook www.facebook.com/PivaRenaissanceMusic

Jane Moulder

had produced a series of 4 tune books featuring music from different periods. These, together with Piva's CD can be purchased directly from The Piva Shop. There are also links to download their music via iTunes or CDBaby.



*Members of Piva: left to right
Jane Moulder, Tony Millyard, Anne
Wride, Eric Moulder (Director), Jude Rees*

Check out PIVA's latest album:

[http://
www.
cdbaby.
com/cd/
piva](http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/piva)



Charlie

The Autobiography of Henry VIII, With Notes by His Fool, Will Somers

Our Books



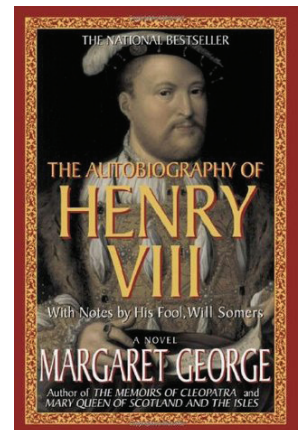
Everyone knows Henry VIII, but most remember him only for his six wives. They think of him as the ruthless obese man that beheaded two of his wives, yet he wasn't always like that. This novel shows his change in character and tries to explain why. It is a book that gives us a unique perspective on the story: Henry's, albeit fictional. The Autobiography of Henry VIII by Margaret George is a book that historical fiction lovers should not miss out on.

It is the only novel that I have read from Henry VIII's point of view - most are from the perspectives of his wives - and it is very enlightening as a result. However, part of me wished that it wasn't told in an autobiographical style. That's because, with hindsight, Henry knew what was going to happen in each of his marriages. He is looking back on his life, so we do not have an unbiased account. He refers to Jane Seymour as his 'beloved wife', and, even when he was recalling first meeting her, Anne Boleyn was shown very negatively. George does try to combat this by adding notes by Henry's fool, Will Somers. These do help shed some light on some of the events in Henry's life, but more often than not break the flow of the story.

My favourite part of the novel was when Henry first met Katherine of Aragon. The author has him loving Katherine even when she was betrothed to his brother Arthur. He says 'I loved her, then and there. Doubtless you will say I was only a boy, a ten-year-old boy, and that I had not even spoken to her, and that it was therefore impossible for me to love her. But I did'. His love for her is shown through their many years of their marriage, until the lack of a male heir finally breaks them apart. I always believed that Henry married Katherine originally for love and it is good to see someone else supporting this view, instead of just showing them when their relationship was near enough over.

There were not many things that I disliked about this novel, as George told Henry VIII's story from a surprisingly accurate light. I liked that she paid attention to Henry's earlier years, instead of ignoring them like many novels and movies do. The only downside was that this novel did not show Anne and Henry's relationship in a flattering light. Instead of showing them as intellectual equals, George seems to focus on Henry's thoughts afterwards and their arguments. Yes, they did argue, but I am sure that they had good times too.

I would recommend this book to anyone interested in Henry VIII and his six wives. The reader can actually imagine what it was like in his head and almost justify some of his actions. In my opinion, that is a good thing. People just need to keep in mind that it is an autobiographical style, so Henry is supposedly writing it after the events happened.



Charlie Fenton has recently published her Anne Boleyn novel, *Perseverance*, and has started a blog and Facebook page called *Through the Eyes of Anne Boleyn* to document and share her research into Anne Boleyn's life. She is also a student and is currently studying Medieval History in college.




Charlie writes monthly book reviews for the *Tudor Life Magazine*



DECEMBER'S ON THIS

<p>1 December 1581</p> <p>Alexander Briant, Roman Catholic Priest, was hanged, drawn and quartered at Tyburn.</p>	<p>2 December 1546</p> <p>Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey, was arrested and charged with improper heraldry.</p>	<p>3 December 1536</p> <p>A proclamation was made to the rebels of the Pilgrimage of Grace offering them a pardon.</p>	<p>4 December 1555</p> <p>Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, was deprived of his archbishopric by papal bull.</p>	<p>5 December 1560</p> <p>Death of King Francis II of France and King Consort of Scotland as husband of Mary, Queen of Scots.</p>
<p>11 December 1577</p> <p>Burial of Benjamin Gonson, Treasurer of the Navy, at St Dunstan's Church.</p>	<p>12 December 1574</p> <p>Birth of Anne of Denmark, Queen of England, Scotland, and Ireland as consort of James I, at Skanderborg Castle, Jutland, Denmark.</p>	 <p>Symbol of the Pilgrimage of Grace, courtesy of Luminarium.com</p>		<p>13 December 1577</p> <p>Sir Francis Drake left Plymouth for his circumnavigation of the Globe.</p>
<p>17 December 1538</p> <p>Pope Paul III announced the excommunication of Henry VIII.</p>	<p>18 December 1555</p> <p>Burning of John Philpott, former Archdeacon of Winchester and Protestant martyr, at Smithfield for heresy.</p>	<p>19 December 1562</p> <p>The Battle of Dreux between Catholics, led by Anne de Montmorency, and Huguenots, led by Louis I, Prince of Condé. The Catholics were victorious.</p>		
<p>21 December 1495</p> <p>Death of Jasper Tudor, 1st Duke of Bedford and 1st Earl of Pembroke, at Thornbury. He was laid to rest at Keynsham Abbey, near Bristol.</p>	<p>22 December 1541</p> <p>Members of the Howard and Tilney family, plus their staff, were indicted for misprision of treason for covering up the "unlawful, carnal, voluptuous, and licentious life" of Queen Catherine Howard.</p>	<p>23 December 1588</p> <p>The assassination of Henri de Lorraine, 3rd Duke of Guise and founder of the Catholic League, at the Château de Blois. He was killed by King Henry III's bodyguards.</p>		
<p>25 December 1634</p> <p>Death of Lettice Blount (née Knollys, other married names: Devereux and Dudley) at the age of ninety-one at her home at Drayton Bassett.</p>	<p>26 December 1546</p> <p>Henry VIII made some changes to his will to ensure successful transfer of royal authority to his son, the future Edward VI, and to prepare for Edward reigning during his minority.</p>	<p>27 December 1539</p> <p>Anne of Cleves landed at Deal in Kent. Anne was to be Henry VIII's fourth wife and their marriage was agreed upon by a treaty in September 1539.</p>	<p>28 December 1510</p> <p>Birth of Sir Nicholas Bacon, lawyer, administrator and Lord Keeper of the Great Seal in Elizabeth I's reign.</p>	

DAY IN TUDOR HISTORY

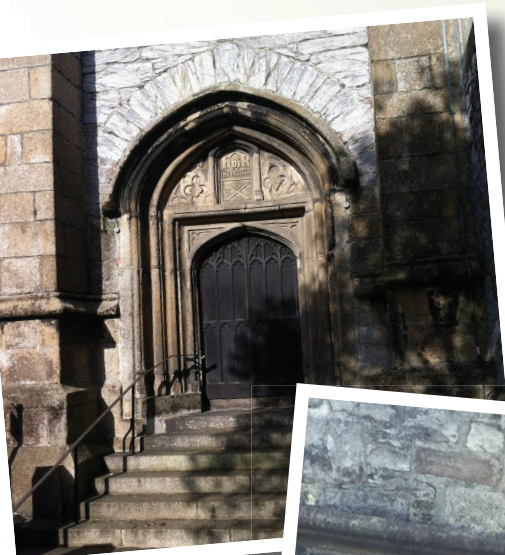
6 December 1555 Death of Thomas Cottisford , clergyman, translator and reformer, at Frankfurt while in exile in Mary I's reign.	7 December 1545 Birth of Henry Stewart (Stuart) , Duke of Albany and Lord Darnley , grandson of Margaret Tudor and second husband of Mary, Queen of Scots .	8 December 1542 Birth of Mary, Queen of Scots , at Linlithgow Palace, Scotland.	9 December 1538 Execution of Sir Edward Neville , Gentleman of the Privy Chamber, for treason.	10 December 1541 Executions of Sir Thomas Culpeper and Francis Dereham , alleged lovers of Queen Catherine Howard , at Tyburn for treason.
14 December 1542 Death of James V of Scotland and accession of Mary, Queen of Scots .	15 December 1560 Death of Thomas Parry , Comptroller of the Household to Elizabeth I and Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire.	16 December 1485 Birth of Catherine of Aragon , first wife of Henry VIII and daughter of Ferdinand II of Aragon and of Castile, at Alcalá de Henares.		
			Catherine of Aragon	
			20 December 1541 Agnes Tilney , Dowager Duchess of Norfolk, who was imprisoned in the Tower of London following the fall of her granddaughter Catherine Howard , begged Henry VIII for forgiveness.	
			24 December 1545 King Henry VIII made his final speech to Parliament.	
29 December 1605 Burial of George Clifford , 3rd Earl of Cumberland, courtier, naval commander and Elizabeth I's champion, at Holy Trinity, Skipton.	30 December 1568 Roger Ascham , scholar and royal tutor, died. He was buried at St Sepulchre without Newgate, London, in the St Stephen's chapel.	31 December 1600 The East India Company, or "Company of Merchants of London trading into the East Indies", was chartered, i.e. given royal approval, by Queen Elizabeth I.		



PLYMOUTH, A CITY WITH A RICH TUDOR HISTORY

Discover this beautiful English city
with photos from Cliff Barry...

Thank you so much to Cliff Barry for sharing his wonderful photos of historic Plymouth. The city's most well-known link to Tudor history is the story of Sir Francis Drake playing a game of bowls on Plymouth Hoe in 1588. According to the story, Drake was informed of the approach of the Spanish Armada but commented that there was plenty of time to finish his game and defeat the Armada. But there is more to Plymouth's Tudor history than an apocryphal story and there are many buildings still standing today which have links to the Tudors and Tudor times. Here are a few of them...

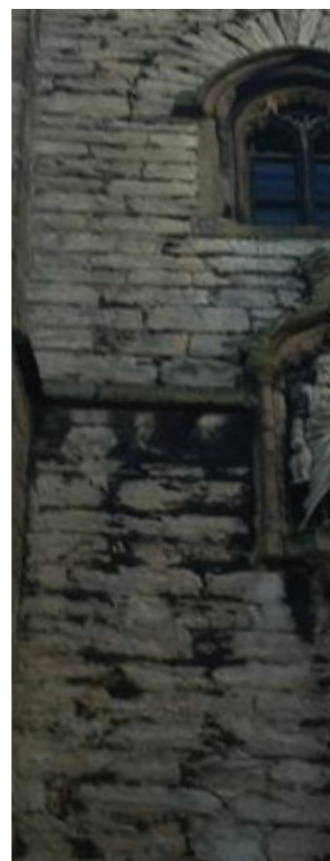




St Andrew's Church

Also known as Plymouth Minster, St Andrew's Church dates back to 12th century. In the 15th century, various building projects were completed, including the addition of a new north aisle, the building of the West Tower and a new Lady Chapel. The church has quite a few links to Tudor history:

- **Catherine of Aragon** - After landing at Plymouth on 2nd October 1501, having sailed from northern Spain, Catherine of Aragon gave thanks to God at St Andrew's for her safe arrival.
- **Sir Francis Drake** – Drake was a regular worshipper at St Andrew's and it is said that he heard the bells of the church ringing as he landed at Plymouth after his circumnavigation of the earth. Drake also scratched a voyage plan on one of the walls and that can still be seen today.
- **Seafarer Sir Richard Grenville and Admiral Sir John Hawkins**, seen as “the chief architect of the Elizabethan navy”, worshipped at the church.



The



Merchant's House

This beautiful building was built in the early 16th century and then improved by William Parker, an Elizabethan privateer and merchant who became Mayor of Plymouth in 1601 and who made it his home.

The house was rescued from decay in 1970 by Plymouth City Council and opened as a museum in 1977.

See <http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/homepage/creativityandculture/museums/museummerchantshouse.htm>



Tudor Buildings

The Barbican quarter of Plymouth is the place to go for seeing original Tudor buildings such as the one that houses the Liberty Dress and Knitwear shop.

PLYMOUTH - A HISTORICAL CITY



The Prysten House

This beautiful three storey townhouse located near St Andrew's Church dates back to c.1498 when it was built by local merchant Thomas Yogge. It is the one of the earliest surviving domestic buildings in the city and is owned by St Andrew's Church. It is made of Plymouth limestone, has granite door and window frames, and a galleried courtyard. The building houses the Plymouth Tapestry which was completed in 2000. It measures 8.4m and is based on a 16th century document recording the appointment of Thomas Brooke as Plymouth's first schoolmaster in 1561. The bottom floor of the building is home to Tanners Restaurant.

PHOTOS: CLIFF BARRY

TEXT: CLAIRE RIDGWAY



The Tudor Martyrs

The Victorians were a lavishly sentimental bunch. They loved the extremity of emotion and they had none of our cultural hang-ups about projecting their standards onto the study of history. Indeed, quite the opposite: in Victoria's Britain, the nation's sense of their country's superiority was as lively as it was unshakeable.

James Anthony Froude, in his sober histories of sixteenth-century England, saw Henry VIII as one of the founding fathers of the British Empire, exonerating men like Cromwell, Norfolk and Suffolk from complicity in Anne Boleyn's judicial murder, because they had been like the Nelson and Wellingtons of the sixteenth century and they therefore could not have been party to such a horrid plot. Meanwhile, writers like Jane Austen, Charles Dickens and Agnes Strickland did not hesitate to lambast Henry as 'a regal ruffian', a depraved and horrible creature who had been utterly devoid of the qualities that would have made him the thing which Victorian readers and writers alike held in highest regard - a gentleman.

In their love of the grand moments of historical drama, the Victorians ransacked the pantheon of the past for heroes, villains, ladies and lotharios. Marie-Antoinette, vilified in left-wing histories which sought to lift the French Revolution's historical reputation from the gutter where it had lain ever since it ended in such bloody and ignominious failure in 1794, was placed in a sentimental spotlight by the right-wing and she soon took on a cultural reincarnation that saw magazine sketches of her stuck on the walls of little

girls' bedrooms across Western Europe. Her quasi-secular and sentimental cult gathered momentum until the First World War, when the world was inundated with new sorrows and the Romanov princesses rose to replace her in the collective memory of butchered innocents. Before then, the Tsarina Alexandra had a large portrait of her above her desk in Saint Petersburg, two female Oxford professors claimed to have seen her ghost in the gardens at Versailles and anyone who has read Frances Hodgson Burnett's *A Little Princess* might recall how Sara fortifies herself from her cruel classroom bullies by imagining that they are the uncouth, murderous revolutionaries and she is the beautiful, maligned and dignified Marie-Antoinette.

The Tudors offered up even more inspiration for the Victorians. Jane Austen thought Elizabeth I was awful and Queen Victoria was much keener on emphasising her descent from Mary, Queen of Scots, whom she idolised, than her role as Elizabeth I's eventual successor, since she saw Elizabeth as a cold and unfeeling tyrant for failing to embrace married life, a role which Victoria famously took to with near-unhinged vigour. In a similar vein to Marie-Antoinette, Anne Boleyn and Catherine Howard were bathed in the warm light of Victorian sentimentality. This fascination had important outcomes, too. In order to appease the Queen's obsession with her tragic forebears,



the Tower of London yeomen fixed upon the Tower Green as the site of the scaffold where Anne Boleyn, Margaret Pole, Catherine Howard and Jane Grey had met their deaths, because the Queen wanted to see where it was and no-one was exactly sure. The modern yeomen repeat that the queens died where the memorial to them now stands. Victoria also paid for the markers on Anne and Catherine's graves during the renovation of the chapel of St. Peter-ad-Vincula. Prior to that, the two queens had no earthly tombstones.

But by far and away, the lion's share of Victorian attention was poured onto Mary, Queen of Scots and Lady Jane Grey. Like Marie-Antoinette, they were often seen as too pure, too passionate, too lovely and too gentle for the ugly and pernicious world of dishonourable politics. Mary's multiple marriages and tragic end were re-written to suggest perfectly natural feminine frailty, with her only fault being that she fell victim to brutes unworthy of the name of men. Jane, whose posthumous fame has no greater memorial than Paul Delaroche's iconic painting of her execution in which she, the virgin-martyr, achieves an apotheosis of

vulnerable loveliness, was depicted in literally thousands of popular sketches, magazine articles, novels, serial stories and plays. Her terrible death caught the imagination, while her youth meant that she could easily be divorced from the more contentious political topics raised by Mary I or Elizabeth I. She confirmed Victorian views of women; she did not challenge them.

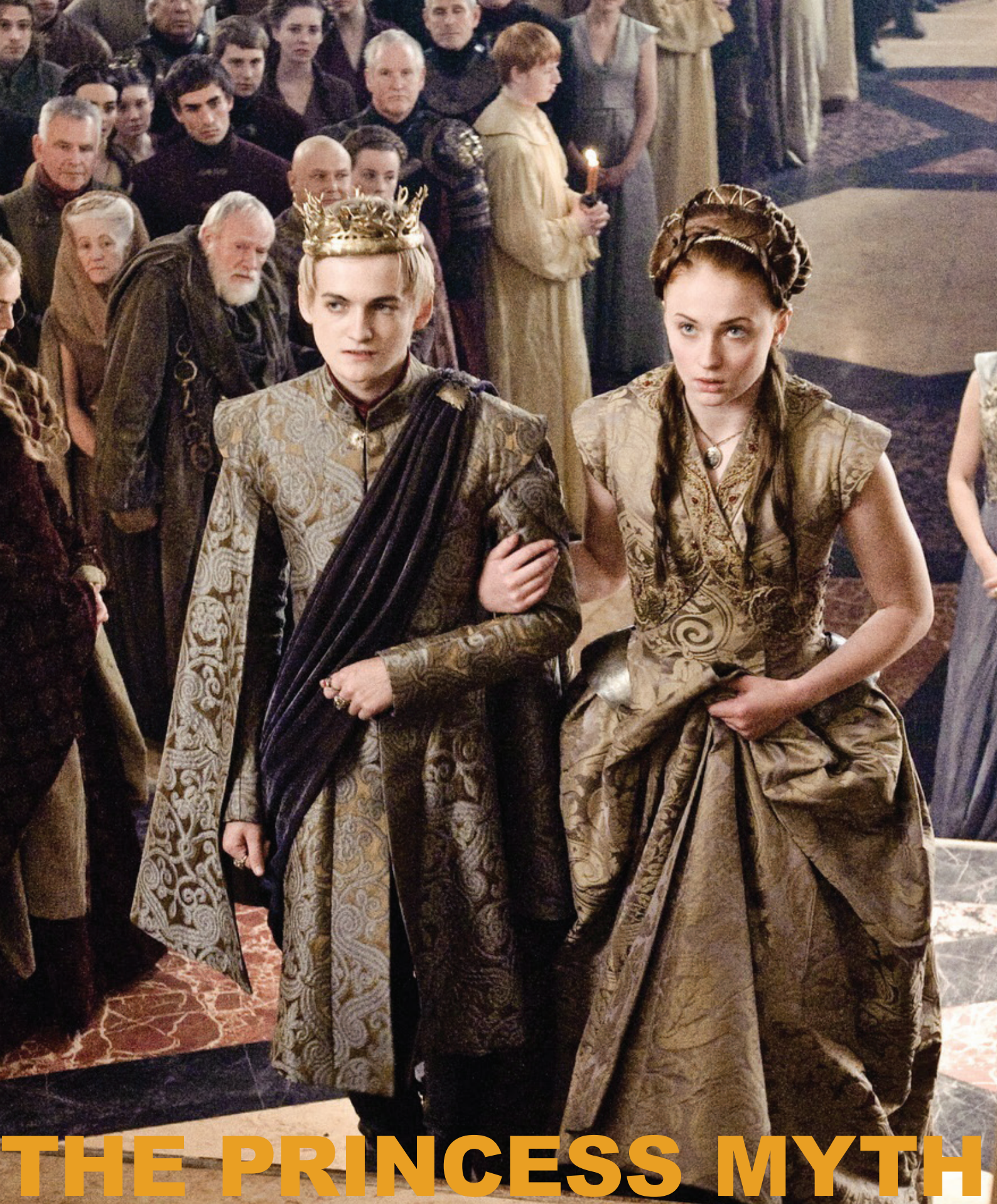
Jane's role as posthumous celebrity in popular culture had more negative consequences, too. Victorian Britain's obsession with her reached such a commercially profitable stage that a talented writer called Richard Patrick Boyle Davey penned an account of Jane's short reign, claiming he had uncovered documents in the archives of Genoa in Italy that had had been written by a merchant who lived in London throughout 1553, called Spinola. Desperate to make his biography stand out, Davey resorted to forging the evidence and "Spinola's" account of Jane's physical appearance and key moments in her life were repeated in every biography until the 21st century when Leanda de Lisle's research proved them to be utterly false.

Those sketches that we have all seen of the Tudor royals and, in many cases, the stereotypes we and our culture continue to carry about them, in one form or another, were birthed not by sixteenth-century reality but by the nineteenth century's exploding publishing industry, cheaper books, growing literacy, muscular sense of cultural self-confidence in a seemingly unassailable empire, and a public fascinated by stories of virtue, venom and a family that we remain captivated by to this day.

**GARETH
RUSSELL**



Our regular columnist **Gareth Russell** has been incredibly busy in the world of history in recent years. He has recently published "**An Illustrated Introduction to the Tudors**", amongst other historical books, his next book "**A History of the English Monarchy**" will be published early in 2015



THE PRINCESS MYTH

GAME OF THRONES

Game of Thrones has caught the imagination of audiences around the globe. In this month's featured article, **Jamie Adair** examines its links to real history and a "princess myth"...

For his *A Song of Ice and Fire* series, George RR Martin snatches dollops of history from the Wars of the Roses, the Hundred Years War, the Tudors and many other periods and blends them together into a soufflé containing the juiciest historical figures and events. One of Martin's ongoing themes is an examination of the princess myth.

When George RR Martin began writing his *A Song of Ice and Fire* series in the early 1990s, the myth that princesses lived a better, more happily-ever-life was quickly disintegrating. The world no longer saw Prince Charles and Princess Diana's marriage as a horse-drawn fairy tale. Rather, when we peeked behind the curtain of palace protocol, we found adultery, depression, eating disorders, and self-harm.

Conversely, around the same time, Disney released *Aladdin*, the tale of a poor boy who uses his first wish to become a prince so he could court a princess. The film grossed \$504 million worldwide, cemented Disney's previous successes with animated princesses (*The Little Mermaid* and *Beauty & the Beast*) and fueled subsequent forays into more princess stories, including 2010's *Tangled* (\$591 million) and last year's *Frozen* (\$1.3 billion).

The princesses are big business for Disney. They reportedly earn the Mouse House \$4 billion/year in toy and show license fees. Critics charge that Disney's marketing juggernaut has created a destructive princess culture in which heroines capture a prince's

heart through beauty and passivity and not their own agency.

At a minimum, after eighty years of animating fairy tales, Disney has created a different, arguably dominant, image of the Middle Ages – and this one whitewashes the gritty realities of the feudal caste system, famine, peasant revolts, and women's position as what was often effectively chattel.

Although, to the best of my knowledge, George RR Martin hasn't overtly criticized Disney, he has previously criticized the "Disney" Middle Ages – a term that typically refers to a muddled stew of medieval, Renaissance, and Regency costumes and buildings seasoned with a modern perspective. The Disney Middle Ages exemplifies the medieval tropes that dominate the film industry, a "neomedieval" world that feels like the Middle Ages but has limited historical basis.

This fantastical mélange has a genuine effect on our perception of history. In his



essay “The Disney Middle Ages,” Paul Sturtevant discusses one study that reveals that “children raised on Disney have trouble assimilating historical fact due to their preconceived notions about the Middle Ages; their understanding of the Middle Ages is by definition neomedieval.”¹

Martin has stated that realism is a major goal in his novels and that he had a problem with the “quasi Middle Ages” in the fantasy novels he has read. He felt they were “getting it all wrong. It was a sort of Disneyland Middle

their work.”²

Consequently, it probably isn’t a coincidence that the fates of *Game of Thrones*’ queens and princesses like Sansa Stark and Selyse Baratheon – and I use the term *princess* loosely to refer to the daughter of a duke-like person (that is, a high lord) – reveal the stark reality of the life of princesses, one that Disney’s commodification of medieval princesses often eclipses.



Ages, where they had castles and princesses and all that. The trappings of a class system, but they didn’t seem to understand what a class system actually meant... It was like a Ren Fair Middle Ages. Even though you had castles and princesses and walled cities and all that, the sensibilities were those of 20th century Americans.” In his April 2011 interview with *Time* magazine, Martin again used the phrase “Disneyland Middle Ages” to describe of fantasists who create cardboard settings in

The Marriage Pawns: Sansa and Elizabeth of York

In a way, Sansa Stark – the high-lord Ned Stark’s auburn-haired daughter who has romantic visions of princes, glorious knights, maidens fair, marriage, and

1 As cited in Dr. Shiloh Carroll’s essay “George R.R. Martin’s Quest for Realism in *A Song of Ice and Fire*” on Academia.edu.

2 “John Hodgman interviews George R.R. Martin.” Sept. 21, 2011 on PRI.org, “GRRM Interview Part 2: Fantasy and History” by James James Poniewozik , April 18, 2011.



Ned Stark (Sean Bean) and Lady, Sansa's direwolf. © HBO

chivalry –embodies the popular conception of the Middle Ages, the Disney Middle Ages.³ Initially, for Sansa, knights are not the people who – in Tywin's words – are good at “brutalizing peasants.”

A cruel reality pounds on her door when Sansa's prince is the one who kills her father and orders his knights to beat her. Tellingly, it's the men who reject knighthood, or are rejected by it, who rescue Sansa. As Dr. Shiloh Carroll points out, the men “who defend [Sansa] against Joffrey's abuse are Tyrion Lannister, Dontos, and Sandor Clegane, none of whom are knights or particularly beautiful.”

Sansa's harsh life experiences force her to grow up and abandon her idealized view of her medieval-esque world. In fact, Dr. Shiloh Carroll describes Sansa as a “proxy for the audience; she is like a child who has been raised on neomedieval ideas of the Middle Ages who must be reeducated to understand the brutal reality of them.”⁴ It's no coincidence that Lady, Sansa's direwolf – basically a symbolic avatar – is killed off at the beginning of her story. Sansa must self-mortify or kill off the “princess” part of herself to survive.

Our first defining image of Sansa – the girl who longs to be queen -- foreshadows her journey, which echoes that of medieval princesses like Henry VIII's mother Elizabeth

of York (b.1466-d.1503). In the first episode, Sansa begs her mother to make her father agree to the proposed match with Joffrey, noting she would be queen one day: “it's the only thing I've ever wanted.” The road to queenship in both *Game of Thrones* and the Late Middle Ages, however, is not always a storybook journey. Sansa's character goes from a naïve girl dreaming of a fairy-tale ending to one who has the painful realization that her security, and even life, are only as strong as her family's political power.

Sansa's fate does nauseating flip-flops with the roiling seas of Westerosi politics. By the end of Season 4, the powers-that-be have entertained at least four marriages for Sansa – Joffrey, Loras Tyrell, Tyrion (whom she wed), and Robin Arryn.

Until she married Henry VII, Elizabeth of York's future was equally uncertain. Counting Henry VII, Elizabeth was set to wed four men: George Neville, the French dauphin, and maybe even Richard III.



Elizabeth of York

3 A point first raised by Dr. Shiloh Carroll.

4 S.Carroll.

At the beginning of *Game of Thrones*, Ned Stark and Robert Baratheon agree that Sansa and Joffrey would wed to join their houses. In exchange for becoming hand of the king, Ned might become the grandfather of a king.

After the Lannisters and Starks go to war, Sansa's betrothal and position become far less secure. To grant crucially needed support during the Battle of Blackwater, the Tyrells want Margaery to marry Joffrey, which ends Sansa's betrothal to the young king. Sansa is still a valuable prize however. The Tyrells plot to marry Sansa to Loras Tyrell, an idea that sends the young girl's heart pit-a-pat. But, when Littlefinger's spy tips off the Lannisters to this scheme, they force her to marry Tyrion.

At the end of Season 4, with her marriage to Tyrion still unconsummated, Sansa flees with Littlefinger to the Vale. Before her demise, Lysa Arryn floats the idea of Sansa and her heir Robin marrying. Yet Littlefinger has the hots for Sansa. Will the newly widowed Littlefinger try to marry Sansa instead? Time will tell, but Sansa's experience with arranged marriages synthesizes that of many princesses and noble daughters like Elizabeth of York.

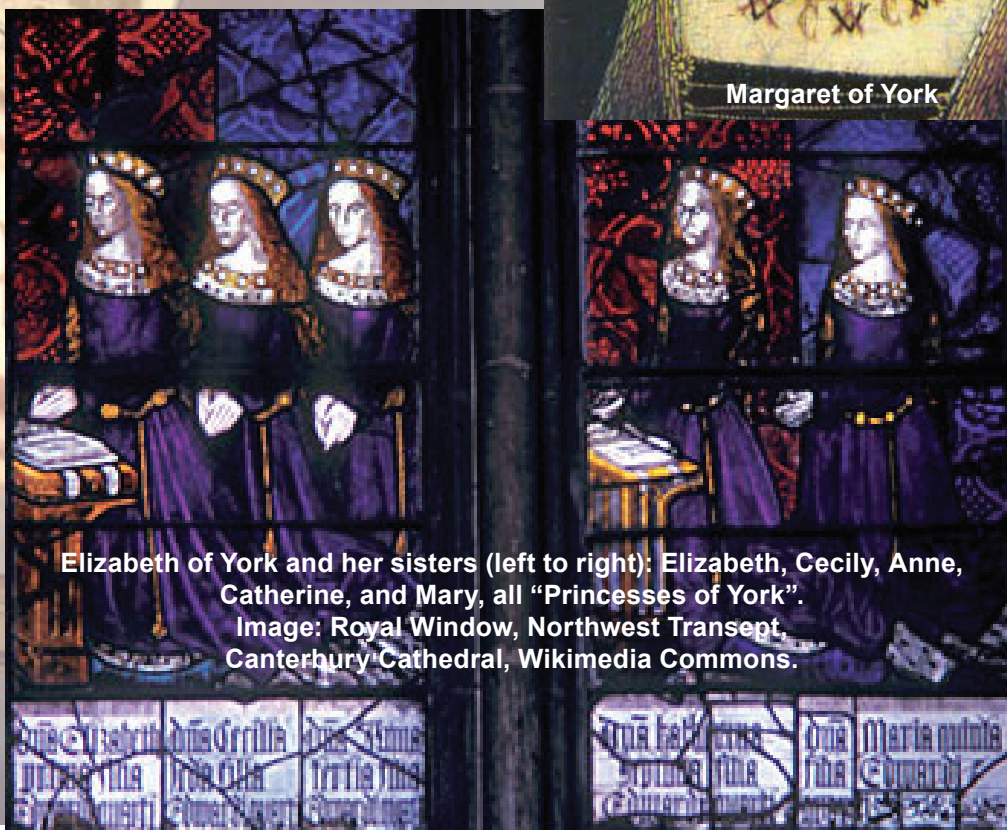
Like Sansa, Elizabeth may have dreamed of becoming a queen one day. Brilliant dynastic matches were certainly a topic of conversation during Elizabeth's childhood. In the 1470s,

her parents, Edward IV and Elizabeth Woodville, schemed endlessly to find the most advantageous matches for their, as of 1475, six surviving children. Brilliant matches for such a large brood could immortalize Edward IV's dynasty and create a network of royal kin to rival that of the Holy Roman Emperor.⁵

Elizabeth also might have grown up hearing tales of the wedding of the century between her aunt Margaret of York and the insanely wealthy Charles, Duke of Burgundy. Considering Elizabeth's father arranged this union, she likely expected to marry a king or duke just as grand—even as a little girl. In such an atmosphere, it is hard to believe that Elizabeth would *not* have expected to become queen one day.



Margaret of York



Elizabeth of York and her sisters (left to right): Elizabeth, Cecily, Anne, Catherine, and Mary, all "Princesses of York".

Image: Royal Window, Northwest Transept, Canterbury Cathedral, Wikimedia Commons.

Elizabeth of York's marriage prospects switched courses each time Edward's enemies needed appeasement. By the time she was ten, Edward had offered Elizabeth up for marriage to his at least enemies twice.

As one of Elizabeth of York's biographers, Nancy Lenz Harvey, writes:

"Her purpose from birth had been to supply the needed alliance through marriage. She may have been a princess, may have carried royal blood in her veins, but she was to be bought and sold to the most important bidder."

In 1470, to appease her father's rebellious kingmaker, Richard Neville (Earl of Warwick) Elizabeth was to wed his nephew, George Neville, Duke of Bedford. After Edward defeated Warwick at Barnet in 1471, Edward cancelled the betrothal. After Edward waged war against France in 1475, as part of the peace terms, he agreed to a marriage pact between Louis XI's son, the dauphin, and Elizabeth. Her engagement began to fall apart in 1477 when Louis refused to pay the £60,000 dowry he owed Edward. By December 1482, Elizabeth's engagement was off: Louis married his son Charles to the daughter of the Holy Roman Emperor instead.⁶

6 Licence, A. *Elizabeth of York: The Forgotten Tudor Queen* (Kindle Location 1127).

When the political winds blew in Elizabeth's favor, she led a glamorous life. In 1475, when her brother Richard wed Anne Mowbray in the Queen's Chapel at Westminster, Elizabeth sat in a place of honor with her parents under a gold canopy draped with azure carpets decked with golden fleur-de-lys. In a celebratory tournament three days later, she awarded Sir Richard Haute a golden letter "E" studded with a ruby.⁷

After Elizabeth's father suddenly died after a fishing trip in 1483, her bright future evaporated. Her brother Edward V vanished, and Richard III made himself king. Elizabeth's family lived in sanctuary in Westminster Abbey, their power vanished, and the teenage princess became incredibly vulnerable. Ultimately, Elizabeth became queen, but only after facing death and hardship.

From this point, onward, Sansa's trials as a medieval princess share more in common with Catherine of Aragon's experience before she married.

7 Licence, A. (Kindle Locations 1102-1105).



When Sansa first arrived in King's Landing, her life was pretty glamorous. Here the Knight of the Flowers, Loras Tyrell (Finn Jones), gives Sansa a rose. © HBO

Sansa and Catherine of Aragon: Engagement Stalemates

Marriages to secure peace or cement military alliances date back to the time of the Ancient Babylonians and Egyptians, at least two thousand years before Elizabeth of York wed Henry VII in 1486.⁸ Presumably, marriage pacts are a kissing cousin of the practice of providing “diplomatic hostages” to secure peace.

In a world without international courts, what could force a king to honor an alliance better than having one of his sons or daughters a knife’s throw away from you? To use a *Game of Thrones* example, as part of the peace terms Balon Greyjoy had to send his only surviving son, Theon, to live with the Starks. This was to ensure Balon’s good behavior (no more rebellions, no alliances with Baratheon enemies).

The same practice existed in the real world. Some famous examples of diplomatic hostages include Vlad Tepes, also known as Dracula, who lived at Ottoman Sultan Murad II’s court after Vlad’s father sent him there to secure a military alliance, and the Roman general Aetius, who lived at the same court as Attila the Hun as a boy.

The reality for diplomatic hostages was if their fathers rebelled, their captors might kill them. The situation for diplomatic brides whose families failed to honor their marriage treaties or, worse, declared war wasn’t quite as precarious. However, there was no guarantee the groom’s family would be kind to the bride.

Even the process of selecting a future queen could be harsh: appearance mattered and rulers aggressively pursued the most lucrative

and strategically advantageous alliances. As stormy seas tossed her ship during her voyage to marry Catherine of Aragon’s brother Juan,



Catherine of Aragon

8 Podany, Amanda H. “Diplomatic Marriages” on the Oxford University Press Blog.

Margaret of Austria wrote a slightly bitter rhyme:

*"Here lies Margot, the willing bride
Twice married – but a virgin when she died."*⁹

Before her betrothal to Juan, the French king had spurned Margaret. Even marriages by proxy could be easily annulled if they weren't consummated. As David Starkey wryly puts it, "A bride could be sent out on 'approval', only to be turned down on some technicality which the Church was usually happy to endorse, if a better bargain came along."¹⁰

During the fourteenth century French typically required prospective royal brides to stand for naked inspection by elderly women. Isabeau of Bavaria's father refused to submit his teenage daughter to this indignity, saying, "I would be furious if my daughter were sent to France, only to have her returned to me; she is so dear to me that I will marry her here, close to me, in my own time"¹¹

Given the role of diplomatic marriages, it's not surprising Sansa ends up in hot water when war breaks out between the Starks and Lannisters. Sansa effectively becomes a Lannister prisoner.

As tensions rise, Sansa isn't treated well. Joffrey even has her publicly beaten for

her brother Robb's victory at the Battle of Oxcross against the Lannisters.

Sansa summed up her harrowing experience to the tribunal investigating Lysa Arryn's "suicide" as follows:

"Since my father was executed, I have been a hostage in King's Landing. A plaything for Joffrey to torture, for Queen Cersei to torment. They beat me, they humiliated me, they married me to the Imp."



Catherine's parents, Ferdinand of Aragon and Isabella of Castile, Henry VII, and Arthur, Prince of Wales.

The situation for Catherine of Aragon quickly became tenuous and unpleasant after the political undercurrents

changed following her first husband Arthur's death.

When Catherine and Henry VII's first son Arthur wed in November 1501, there was much rejoicing. For Henry VII, the marriage formalized an alliance with the mighty Isabella of Castile and Ferdinand of Aragon. Ferdinand proposed the union to Henry in 1488. In 1489, the two parties finally signed the marriage treaty. Catherine grew up in Spain, receiving regular news about Arthur, including reports of his skill with Latin, his height – he was not a sickly weakling like historians previously assumed -- and good looks.¹²

The newlyweds spent a miserably frigid winter at the dank, dirty Ludlow Castle in Wales. By April 1502, Arthur was dead.

By the time the black velvet-draped litter



Joffrey commands Ser Meryn Trant to beat Sansa for her brother Robb's victory at Oxcross. © HBO

⁹ Starkey, D. *Six Wives of Henry VIII*. p. 19.

¹⁰ Starkey, D. *Six*. p. 19.

¹¹ See Froissart.

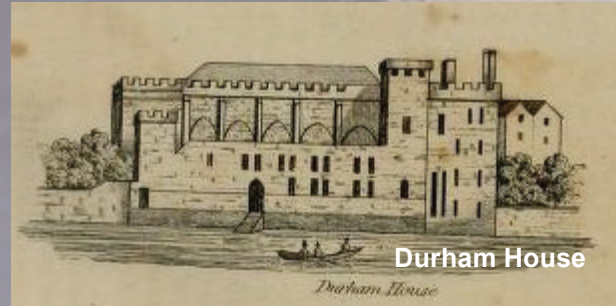
¹² Starkey, D. *Six*. p. 27.

carrying the young widow was weaving its way to London, fetid negotiations for Catherine's future had already begun. As the Tudors and Spaniards played diplomatic chess, Catherine's fate was frozen in a political stalemate.

Through his envoy Hernán Estrada, Catherine's father Ferdinand sent word of his deep distress and concern: Henry must return his grief-stricken daughter to them immediately -- and repay the dowry, a request he was certain the avaricious Henry would reject.¹³ In a scenario vaguely similar to that of Margaery marrying Tommen after the first heir Joffrey dies, Ferdinand and Isabel aimed to marry their daughter to the Henry VII's second son, the new heir to the English throne, Prince Henry -- the future Henry VIII.

The negotiations dragged on for years while Catherine lived in social isolation with her cadre of ladies at Durham House, which she moved into in May 1502.¹⁴ The gloomy atmosphere was closer to a strict convent than a giddy palace. Catherine's grim chaperone Elvira Manual kept watched Catherine carefully to ensure her reputation stayed

beyond reproach. Strict Spanish protocol required unwed princesses like Catherine be segregated from men.



Worse, Catherine's feuding staff -- particularly her male household who were upset at being demoted to English ranks -- turned her household into a hissing nest of snakes.

Despondent about her uncertain status and lack of family, Catherine became obsessed with religious observances and fasting. Stress began to ruin her health and she frequently missed her periods. Henry VII became so alarmed that he made young Henry request that the pope to ask her to eat.¹⁵ (The pope's response, incidentally, negated Catherine's control over her own body: it sanctioned Henry to prohibit her religious observances if they endangered her health.)

¹³ Tremlett, G. *Catherine of Aragon: The Spanish Queen of Henry VIII*. p. 96.

¹⁴ Tremlett, G. p. 94.

¹⁵ Tremlett, G. p. 103.



Henry VII, Margaret Tudor, and the future Henry VIII in mourning after Elizabeth of York's death. Image: From the Vaux Passional. Wikimedia Commons.



Henry VIII in 1509t

Being trapped in a foreign country, widowed, financially pressured, and powerless did not help matters. Despite Catherine's insecure status, her parents expected her to act as their agent in England. When Ferdinand and Isabel went to war in 1503, Isabel even instructed their seventeen-year old daughter to raise 2000 infantry if Henry VII did not support them.¹⁶

After Elizabeth of York died in February 1503, Henry VII suggested that he, himself, marry Catherine – a repellent and “evil” notion in Isabel's view.¹⁷ After Isabel demanded her daughter return to Spain, Henry finally agreed to marry his son to Catherine and signed the treaty in June 1503.¹⁸

Prince Henry and Catherine pledged

their troth two days later. Following the pope's dispensation over a year later, they married in late summer or early fall of 1504.

No sooner was Catherine wed, than a double tragedy struck. Her mother, who held the Castilian kingdom in her own right, died on November 26th, 1504 – and it was unclear if Catherine's father would retain power in Castile. Henry VII assumed Catherine would no longer have a close tie to the ruler of Castile, so she became a far less impressive catch for his son. As a result, Henry VII began to backpedal on his son's marriage to Catherine.

On June 27, 1505, the night before his son's fourteenth birthday – the age of consent and the day Henry's wedding to Catherine was to be solemnized -- Henry forced his son to repudiate his marriage to Catherine. The young Henry protested to Bishop Foxe that his marriage to Catherine was against his wishes. Henry also cut Catherine's funds off and urged her to live at court to economize.

For the next four years, until Henry VII's death in 1509, Catherine lived within reach of her husband with limited contact and little respect. She was bound to the young Henry, even though he didn't acknowledge her as his wife.

After Henry VII died, Henry VIII wasted no time in remarrying Catherine and staging a jubilant joint coronation ceremony with her. Her life should have been fantastic from this point onward. However, she failed in her most critical role: bearing sons.



Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon's coronation

16 CSP Spain, 1, 385 in Tremlett, G. p.105.

17 Starkey, D. *Henry* p. 190.

18 Tremlett, G. p.100.

Selyse, Melisandre & Anne Boleyn: The End of the Game

Shortly before Ned's death shatters Sansa's world, Septa Mordane walks with Sansa into the throne room and informs her that one day Sansa's husband will sit on the iron throne, and Sansa will present her son to the court. Sansa anxiously replies, "What if I have a girl?" Septa Mordane dismisses this fear. But, Sansa's anxiety remains. She truculently asks, "What if I only have girls?" Her words are haunting, especially given the trials of medieval queens. Elizabeth of York died during her last attempt to bear a son. Henry VIII jilted Catherine of Aragon after she bore three stillborn sons – and, arguably, killed Anne Boleyn after she failed to give birth to a healthy son.



Sansa frets to Septa Mordane (Susan Brown) about not having sons. © HBO



Selyse (Tara Fitzgerald) keeps her stillborn sons in jars on her mantle. © HBO

Game of Thrones replays a phantasmagoric version of Catherine's story after her marriage in the character Selyse Baratheon. Selyse is a dour, mirthless aging woman. Stannis and Selyse dutifully force themselves to sleep with each other, hoping Selyse will become pregnant. The only child they have, however, is a daughter Shireen.

Selyse is an exaggerated and distorted version of Catherine of Aragon. A reputed seven pregnancies between 1509 to 1518 took their toll on Catherine's figure. The Venetian ambassador Giustiniani described her as "rather ugly" and the French king, Francis I, said that Henry "has an old deformed wife while he is young and handsome."¹⁹ Like Catherine and even Mary I, Selyse is desperate to have a son. Selyse is a little off her rocker though. In her chamber, she keeps jars containing her stillborn sons, preserved in embalming fluid.

In a curious echo of Henry's belief he had no sons because he slept with his brother's wife, Selyse believes that she and Stannis have no sons because Stannis brother, Robert Baratheon, deflowered Selyse's cousin in their wedding bed.

Selyse's storyline even contains a darkly drawn, counterfactual Anne Boleyn: Melisandre. Martin incarnates the blackest rumors about Anne Boleyn in the commoner – Melisandre was once a slave from Ashai – who persuades a king to adopt a new faith. Whereas Anne Boleyn was rumoured to have cast a spell over Henry VIII, Melisandre *has* magical powers. Melisandre does not

use magic to seduce a king; she seduces Stannis through her sexual allure and charisma. And, she promises Stannis a longed for son.

These storylines repeat common mythologies about Anne Boleyn. George RR Martin isn't attempting to tarnish Anne or Catherine's names with these portrayals. He also creates other characters, like Sansa and the compassionate Margaery, who embody their more sympathetic traits.

The characters' stories exaggerate real events – Anne Boleyn never cast any spells and Catherine of Aragon never kept her stillborn sons in jars on a mantle. Still given the pressures of the lives of medieval princesses like Catherine of Aragon, it is easy to imagine how they might have lost their minds.

George RR Martin's subtle exploration of the princess myth reincarnates the harsh circumstances of women's whose lives became diplomatic chips for their fathers to play. By incarnating Elizabeth of York and Catherine of Aragon's stories in Sansa and Selyse, George RR Martin presents a composite portrait of the downside of being a medieval princess or queen.



As Melisandre (Carice van Houten) seduces Stannis (Stephen Dillane), she whispers to Stannis that she will give him sons. © HBO

19 Starkey, D. *Six*. p. 161.

Perhaps responding to criticism or simply waking up to the new millennium, Disney debunked some of its most harmful princess tropes in last year's *Frozen*, including princesses who win through passivity and storylines in which *females* are always in *jeopardy* need to be rescued, "fem. jep." as they call it in the trade. Still, the Middle Ages that Disney has constructed lingers on as a cultural myth and does a lasting disservice

to the brave real-life princesses and queens. Certainly, these women did not face starvation or perform backbreaking labor like medieval peasant women, but as hostages, warriors, birthing machines, and mothers, they required a fortitude missing from *Sleeping Beauty* and *Cinderella*.

JAMIE ADAIR

OUR FEATURED GUEST WRITER...

Jamie Adair is a Boston-based writer who loves the Wars of the Roses and medieval history. She is the editor of the *History Behind Game of Thrones* website.

<http://history-behind-game-of-thrones.com/>

History Behind Game of Thrones is a history website that attempts to draw parallels between *Game of Thrones* and history. This website also publishes interviews with historians and "straight" (no *Game of Thrones*) history articles.



Comparing George Boleyn & Edward Seymour.....

Clare Cherry, co-author of “George Boleyn: Tudor Poet, Courtier and Diplomat” delves into the lives of Edward Seymour and George Boleyn...

Edward Seymour was born around 1500. George Boleyn was born around 1504, making the two men of similar ages.

Both were born into great luxury and privilege. Both were introduced to the court by their fathers at a young age and became Henry VIII's courtiers. Both became Gentlemen of Henry's Privy Chamber, and went on to have successful court careers. Both had sisters who went on to become Henry's Queen Consorts. Both were highly ambitious and were accused of arrogance by their contemporaries. Both favoured religious reform. Both died on the scaffold on false charges; George for treason, Edward for felony. Both died bravely.

Although there are substantial similarities between the two men, there are also substantial differences.

Edward had a total of twelve children; George had none. Ironically it is George whose marriage is constantly referred to as being particularly unhappy, despite there being no evidence to support that assertion. Yet it is Edward whose first marriage was most definitely an unhappy one. His first wife, Catherine Fillol, who he married around 1518, was accused by her husband of misconduct which resulted in him questioning paternity of the two sons, John and Edward, born during their marriage. His second marriage was significantly more successful, resulting in the birth of ten children, but his second wife, Anne, was accused of arrogance during her own lifetime by contemporaries.

Whereas George Boleyn died at the age of about 32 in 1536, Edward Seymour went on to become Lord Protector to his young nephew, Edward VI, and was not executed until 1552 at the age of around 52. The circumstances of their respective falls could not have been more different. George died primarily because his sister failed to provide Henry with a son and Henry wanted a way out of his marriage, not caring who he destroyed in the process. Edward died primarily due to disagreement over policy, both foreign and domestic, which called into question his competence.

Despite their mutual pride and ambition, just how similar were they in personality and character? They would certainly have known each other relatively well, despite the fact that Edward wasn't appointed a Gentleman of the Privy Council until March 1536 i.e. just two months before the fall of the Boleyns. Did they get on? Did they like one another? Whether they did or not, they would have put on a front for the sake of harmony within the Privy Chamber, but was it through gritted teeth? How did Edward feel as he watched George die? Edward had helped push his sister forward as a replacement to Anne. Did he feel partly responsible for the travesty of justice which was taking place in front of him?

All of these are questions are unanswerable, but the two men headed different factions at court, and were in competition for power and influence. That alone is enough to put a strain on any man's friendship.

As to their respective personalities and characters, Thomas Wyatt refers to Rochford's pride in his poetry following George's death, but no one else refers to it. Yet as early as February 1547, less than a month after Henry VIII's death, Edward was pronounced Lord Protector and was being declared 'dry, sour and opinionated', whilst by 1549 his former supporter, William Paget told him, 'Your Grace is grown in great choleric fashion', due to Edward's increasing arrogance and refusal to listen to the advice and dissenting views of the Regency Council. Would George's personality have followed in a similar direction had he been in Edward's position?

As Lord Protector, Edward made himself highly unpopular with his fellow nobles by his bombastic and aggressive attitude to those who disagreed with him. He took a utilitarian approach to the Privy Chamber, and when his policies floundered he found himself isolated. Would George have made the same or similar mistakes? With his political acumen, intelligence and diplomatic skills, could he have done a better job? Comparing and contrasting the two men becomes problematic when one died so young that he had neither the chance to become as powerful or make as many mistakes as the other.

George was certainly highly intelligent and gifted, as primary sources clearly demonstrate. I haven't yet researched Edward to the same extent, but what I have read about him is extremely contradictory.

One thing I can say with certainty is that George Boleyn could never be described as sour or dry. Comparisons were made even during their lifetime between the charismatic Thomas Seymour as opposed to his dour brother. Perhaps a similar comparison could be made between George Boleyn and Edward Seymour. But which one was the better man?

Both characters have their fair share of contradictions and flaws. Though George was charismatic, witty and fun loving, he also had a reputation as a womaniser. Though Edward purportedly stood up for the common man, he amassed substantial wealth and properties, which opened him up to allegations of hypocrisy. George was passionate about religious reform but condoned the deaths of those who refused to sign the Act of Supremacy, also opening himself up to allegations of hypocrisy. Edward's concerns for the poor would support the notion that he was a compassionate man, yet that did not prevent him from sanctioning his own brother's execution in 1549, a act which severely damaged his reputation. George was supportive and caring towards his sister, Anne, yet thought nothing of turning his back on his sister Mary in her hour of need.

If we ask whether George Boleyn and/or Edward Seymour were competent and capable men then we can look at their careers, the outcome of their actions, and what their contemporaries thought of them. In that sense to compare the two is both unfair and unjust. Both of them were trusted by Henry VIII and were given positions of extreme trust, power and importance, but we can't possible know how George would have coped with being Lord Protector to a nephew King. His career would suggest he would carry the position off with aplomb, but the same could be said for Edward. And although George Boleyn died young, he died on a career high. He died at a time when he was one of the most powerful and influential men in Henry's court. Edward, though he lived to

be the most powerful man in the land for a period of just under three years, and though he proved himself to be a competent military man, also lived long enough to see his career turned to dust; his political acumen and competency called into question.

If we ask whether George Boleyn and/or Edward Seymour were decent/honourable men, then what's the yardarm for that assessment? They were men of their time for sure. It's difficult, therefore, to judge them. Their peers, however, did judge them. Both were held to be proud, and both amassed enemies, as will all men who hold that level of power. But Edward's treatment of his brother damaged his reputation during his lifetime, and his arrogance and aggression towards his fellow nobles greatly exacerbated his fall. Both exhibited, throughout their respective careers, a callous disregard for anyone who opposed them. They could both be hard and ruthless, but neither one of them would have reached the heights they did in the Tudor court without that ruthless streak. They were both highly ambitious men.

There is no way of judging who was the better man, whether in talent or humanity. Comparing competency and capability is impossible for the reasons set out above. Comparing their characters and personalities is somewhat easier. Though both were proud, Edward's pride expanded with his power, and eventually helped destroy him. His ruthlessness also grew with power, when he destroyed his own brother. But we can't really know how George would have acted and responded in a similar position. As to personality I think it reasonable to suggest that George Boleyn was far more charismatic than Edward Seymour, and was generally more popular. But irrespective of that, each of them, in very different ways believed they were acting in the best interests of their King and country. Whether Edward succeeded in his role as Lord Protector is a question that falls outside the remit of this article.

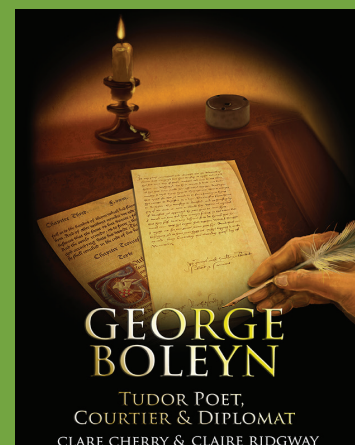
Perhaps the best way to summarise the two rivals, and the best way of comparing and contrasting them, is to say that whatever their similarities and differences, neither of them deserved to die.

CLARE CHERRY



Nerdalicious.com.au, and author Susan Bordo's The Creation of Anne Boleyn website.

Clare Cherry lives in Hampshire with her partner David. She works as a solicitor in Dorset, but has a passion for Tudor history and began researching the life of George Boleyn in 2006. She started corresponding with Claire Ridgway in late 2009, after meeting through The Anne Boleyn Files website, and the two Tudor enthusiasts became firm friends. Clare divides her time between the legal profession and researching Tudor history. Clare has written guest articles on George Boleyn for The Anne Boleyn Files,



Henry Tudor, Richard III and the Stanleys

History has painted the
Stanley brothers as the greatest
fence sitters of all time, only joining
the fray after the battle was over.
Mike Ingram considers if this a fair
assessment...

Much of the negative interpretation of the Stanley brothers comes from a single line in Polydor Virgil's account of the battle of Bosworth which said:

*“withall to Thomas Stanley, who was now approchyd
the place of fight, as in the mydde way betwixt the
two battaylles, that he wold coom to with his forces,
to sett the soldiers in aray.”*

In much the same way, another line which says that Richard was on Ambion Hill, was for several hundred years, taken to mean that the battle was fought on the hill itself. Painstaking archaeology, proved the latter to be wrong in 2010, and that the battle was fought nearly two miles away. By finding the battlefield, it is now possible to re-examine the sources and

the role the Stanley's played not only in the battle, but the reign of King Richard III. And they show that they were not as neutral as they appear in many modern retellings of the story.

Thomas Stanley was introduced to court by his father, and by the age of nineteen was listed as a squire to Henry VI. Around 1451, he married Eleanor,

daughter of Richard Neville, 5th Earl of Salisbury and sister of Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick. When his father died in 1459, Thomas, aged 24, inherited not only extensive lands in Cheshire and Lancashire centred on Lathom, but also the titles of Baron Stanley and King of Mann.

When war erupted between the Lancastrians and

the Yorkists the following year, despite his Yorkist connections, Thomas seems to have supported the King. On 23 September, a Lancastrian army under Lord Audley intercepted the Earl of Salisbury and his men *en-route* to Ludlow at Blore Heath near Market Drayton. Thomas was close by, but did not take part in the ensuing battle. Whether he simply did not reach the battle in time, or held back so as to avoid the likelihood of having to fight his father-in-law and his own brother William, who was with the Earl of Salisbury, is not known. Whatever the reason, it seemed to have not affected Thomas' career much, as the following year he was fighting with the Lancastrians at the Battle of Northampton, after first being knighted by Henry VI. It is not clear where his brother was at this time, who despite one account saying that he robbed Queen Margaret of Anjou's baggage after the battle, was more likely with Salisbury laying siege to the Tower of London.

After Edward IV was crowned King on 28 June 1461, Thomas joined his brother-in-law, the earl of Warwick, in mopping up Lancastrian resistance in the North. For some time, the Stanleys had been involved in a vicious feud with the Harrington family from Hornby for dominance over North Lancashire. After Thomas and his eldest son



Thomas Stanley

John were killed at the battle of Wakefield in 1460, the inheritance was passed to John's two young daughters. The Stanley's quickly gained their wardships, effectively taking control of all the Harrington lands. William Stanley then locked both girls up in his fortress at Holt. When Warwick rebelled against the King, Stanley found his loyalties divided.

In May 1470, fleeing Edward, Warwick made his way to Manchester looking to Thomas for support, however he seems to have declined, and Warwick fled to France. But, when Warwick returned four months later, he joined

Warwick in the restoration of Henry VI forcing Edward to flee England. Shortly before Edward's return in the spring of 1471, Thomas had the Harrington girls married to members of his own family; Anne to his son Edward Stanley, later Lord Mounteagle, Elizabeth, to John Stanley, thus securing title over their lands. However, James and Robert Harrington, John's younger brothers, refused to give up Hornby. Thomas promptly laid siege to the castle, bombarding it with a cannon called *Mile-end* which he hired from King Henry VI.

Around the same time,

Thomas' wife died severing the link with the Nevilles. When Edward returned, it is noted that Sir William Stanley was among the first to rally to his cause. Thomas was preoccupied, possibly still laying siege to Hornby and did not take part in the Battles of Barnet or Tewkesbury that followed. With Warwick and the remaining Lancastrian nobility dead, Edward gave all of Warwick's lands north of the Trent to his brother Richard. He also removed Thomas as Chief Steward of the county palatine of Lancashire and gave that to Richard as well. It was one of Stanley's most lucrative and prestigious posts and it must have hurt. According to Michael K. Jones in his book *Bosworth 1485, Psychology of Battle* Richard joined the Harrington's and fought against the Stanleys in a number of skirmishes. It was around this time that according to the Stanley legend, Richard assembled an army at Preston intending to attack and burn Lathom, but was put to flight by the Stanleys at Ribble Bridge. Richard seems to have come off worse in this occasion as his banner was taken by a Jack Morris of Wigan and was kept as a

trophy at Wigan church for some forty years.

Thomas seems to have been back in favour with Edward by the end of the year as he was appointed Steward of the king's household, and became a regular member of the royal council. Early in 1472, Thomas married again and it would have far reaching effects and seemed to have the blessing of Edward. His new wife was Margaret Beaufort, countess of Richmond and mother of Henry Tudor. At least on the surface, Stanley seems to have had a new found loyalty to Edward and his brother and when Edward led an expedition to France in 1475, he took a retinue of 40 lances and 300 archers.

However, he might have had ulterior motives, as he also commend himself to the favour of the French King, Louis XI. There was also some level of reconciliation with Richard, as Thomas served with a large company in his campaign in Scotland in 1482, and playing a key role in the capture of Berwick.

When Edward IV died, Richard seized control of the new King. On 13 June 1483, Lord Hastings was arrested, during a council meeting and summarily executed. At the same time, Thomas, his wife Margaret and Bishop Morton were also arrested and Thomas was wounded in the scuffle. Thomas and Margaret were freed soon after but Morton

was given into the custody of the Duke of Buckingham. Why any of them were arrested is not known, but it was almost certainly involved a plot against Richard. Before the end of the month Richard was proclaimed King. Thomas Stanley bore the great mace at his coronation, and Margaret waited on the new queen. He was also elected to the Order of the Garter, taking the stall vacated by Lord Hastings. To all appearances, Stanley was a pillar of the Ricardian



Edward VI, c.1520, posthumous portrait from original c. 1470–75

regime.

A number of plots and rebellions against Richard soon followed, the largest of which was led by the Duke of Buckingham, who had been Richard's closest ally up to that point. All the rebellions had one thing in common: they were in one way or another all connected to Stanley's wife, Margaret Beaufort. At Margaret's side throughout most of the unrest was John Morton, probably one of the most brilliant minds of his age, if somewhat Machiavellian in character. Historians frequently excuse Stanley on the grounds that he did not know what his wife was doing. However, as a senior member of the court how could he have not known?

Between 1483 and 1485, whilst in exile first in Brittany, then in France, Henry Tudor plotted to seize the throne with the help of his mother and Morton. Not only was Thomas aware, chronicles of the time suggest he was actively involved. The Tudor chronicler, Polydore Virgil wrote that *"...for that soon men of name passyd over dayly unto Henry, others favoryd secretly the parteners of the conspiracy. Amongest these principally was Thomas Stanley, William his brother, Gylbert Talbot, and others"* and that Henry *"sent unto Margaret his mother, to the Stanleys, to the lord Talbot, and others, certane of his most faythfull servants with secrete messages..."* The French chronicler Jean Molinet also suggests that

when Hammes Castle near Calais went over to Henry in November 1484, Stanley had been corresponding with its commander James Blount. As the date of Henry's invasion drew near Thomas took leave to return to Lathom. It is probable that by this time Richard suspected something, as he asked that his son, George Stanley, Lord Strange, take his place at court.

Henry Tudor landed unopposed at Milford Haven on 7 August 1485. Richard was at Nottingham when he was told of the invasion and ordered Lord Stanley to join him at once. According to the Croyland chronicle, Stanley excused himself on the grounds of illness. Any doubts as to the Stanleys intentions evaporated when Lord Strange tried to escape, and according to the Croyland chronicle, when he was questioned, he admitted that his Uncle William had gone over to Henry. Richard proclaimed them traitors, and let it be known that Strange's life was hostage for his father's loyalty in the coming conflict.

In the meantime, Henry was marching through Wales towards England, gathering supporters on the way. Around the time he crossed the River Severn, Henry wrote to his mother and Thomas that he intended to go to London. When Henry reached Shrewsbury on 17 August, he found the gates shut to him. We are told that it was one of William Stanley's men who negotiated their opening, to

allow Henry to continue on his march. Two days later, Henry reached Stafford, where according to both the Ballad of Bosworth Field and the Croyland chronicle, he met with William Stanley who was camped at Stone, 12km (8 miles) away, for the first time. Then on 20 August, as Henry reached Litchfield, according to Virgil, he discovered that Thomas Stanley had been there three days earlier with up to 5,000 men and had marched *"without delay, to a village caulyd Aderstone, meaning ther to tary till Henry showld draw nere"* The contemporary *Ballad of Bosworth Field*, probably written by an anonymous Stanley supporter says that William was with him, and that Lord Stanley had the vanguard, whilst Sir William was the rearguard. This is in keeping with the general narrative, if William had followed behind after Stone, and Thomas had gone ahead to Atherstone. Intriguingly, the same account says that William had to leave quickly as Thomas was about to be attacked by the King. There is certainly some evidence that some sort of engagement took place at Atherstone. This evidence was enough for Michael K. Jones to suggest in his book (before the actual site was found), this might have been where Bosworth was fought. But in reality was probably a skirmish between the Stanley's and the local levy or Richard's scouts.

Virgil then tells us that

Henry met with the Stanleys at Atherstone on 20 August, where they took one another by the hand and, “...all ther myndes wer movyd to great joy”. Here, the three seemed to have stopped and waited. Considering up to this point they had been moving quickly across the country, why has never been satisfactorily explained. Somehow, Henry needed a tactical advantage over Richard’s vastly superior army. It is therefore likely that as Thomas was in the area sometime before, he had found a site that would give them that advantage. The site was a marsh which would restrict the movement of Richard’s cavalry and limit the use of his cannons, as their shot would simply bury itself in the ground, rather than bounce across the landscape. Behind the marsh was rising ground which would also give them a height advantage. They had created a trap for Richard, and all they had to do was wait.

Richard, alerted to their location after the earlier skirmish, left Leicester on 21 August, spending the night on Ambion Hill, less than two miles from the battlefield. The next morning, Henry and the

two Stanleys prepared for battle. It is at this point in the narrative that Virgil wrote the line “*withall to Thomas Stanley, who was now approchyd the place of fight, as in the mydde way betwixt the two battaylles, that he wold coom to with his forces, to sett the soldiers in aray.*”.

The discovery of the real site of the battle in 2010, shows that the site they had chosen for the battle was actually half way between Atherstone and Ambion Hill. Therefore, it is much more likely that Virgil was telling us that Thomas was leading the way and he would get the army into position, ready to spring the trap. Henry, according to Virgil, was worried by this remark. This has also been taken as more evidence that the Stanley’s were sitting on the fence. However, as it can be seen above, this simply was not the case, and a more plausible explanation is that Henry, not being a warrior, did not understand what they were doing and concerned that the plan might not work. *The Ballad* says that because of Henry’s small numbers, Thomas then lent him four of his best knights, and no doubt their retinues. Would he have done this if he was sitting on



the fence?

Why Richard left his unassailable position on Ambion Hill is not known, but sometime late that morning he marched his army towards the battlefield. The *Ballad* says that as Richard approached the site, he saw Thomas on the high ground in front of him and ordered Lord Strange’s execution (another clear indication that Richard knew which side the Stanley’s were on). With the Stanley’s directly in front of him, whichever direction Richard now turned, he risked being attacked in his rear or flank, forcing him to deploy for battle, in the marsh. The trap had been sprung.

MIKE INGRAM

Mike Ingram is a military historian, lecturer, and battlefield guide, and the author of “**Battle Story: Bosworth 1485**”. His expertise is in the Wars of the Roses and he regularly runs courses about this and other subjects. He can sometimes be found taking tours at Bosworth Battlefield.



Elizabeth Seymour...

There were many fascinating women in the Tudor court. Here **Teri Fitzgerald** gives an excellent overview of the life of **Elizabeth Seymour...**

In March 1537, Elizabeth, Lady Ughtred, a young widow living in York, wrote to Thomas Cromwell, then Lord Privy Seal and chief minister to Henry VIII. She had hoped to obtain a grant of land from one of the recently dissolved monasteries, however, Cromwell had more ambitious plans. A marriage was arranged between Elizabeth and his only son, and heir, Gregory ...

Born around 1518, a younger daughter, and one of the ten children of soldier and courtier, Sir John Seymour of Wulfhall, Savernake Forest, Wiltshire, and his wife, Margery née Wentworth, Elizabeth was the widow of Sir Anthony Ughtred, governor of Jersey, who had died in 1534.

Of the ten children born at Wulfhall, six survived:— three sons: Edward, Henry and Thomas, and three daughters: Jane, Elizabeth and Dorothy. Edward, Thomas, Jane and Elizabeth were courtiers. The intelligent and dangerously ambitious Edward and Thomas, would both be executed during the reign of Edward VI. Henry Seymour, who did not share his brothers' ambition, lived away from court, in relative obscurity, and escaped their fate. Dorothy Seymour married firstly, Sir Clement Smith of Little Baddow,



Essex and secondly, Thomas Leventhorpe of Shingle Hall, Hertfordshire.

Details of Elizabeth's early life and education are scarce, however, surviving letters reveal that she was an intelligent woman, who could read and write proficiently. She was also skilled with a needle: Elizabeth presented the king with "A fine shirt with a high collar" as a new year's gift in 1532. She played a brief, but prominent role in the 1530s and 1540s during the rise to power of her father-in-law, Thomas Cromwell and subsequently, during her brother, Edward's time as Lord Protector of his nephew, Edward VI. Elizabeth lived under four Tudor monarchs, married three times and by her first two marriages had seven surviving children. She is best known as the wife of Gregory Cromwell.

In 1531, she married Sir Anthony Ughtred, Governor of Jersey, who died in 1534. In 1537, she married Gregory Cromwell, 1st Baron Cromwell, the son of Thomas Cromwell, who died in 1551. She married her third and last husband, John Paulet, Baron St John, the son of William Paulet, 1st Marquess of Winchester, in 1554.

Elizabeth was probably born at Wulfhall around 1518, possibly as early as 1516, but certainly no later than 1519. Her year of birth is not recorded and relies on the identification of a portrait by Hans Holbein the Younger, on the grounds of provenance, as a member of the Cromwell family, probably Elizabeth Seymour. The portrait is inscribed *ETATIS SVA 21*, indicating that the sitter is in her 21st year. Art historian Roy Strong stated that "*The portrait should by rights depict a lady of the Cromwell family aged 21 c.1535-40.*" The painting may have been commissioned around the time of her marriage to Gregory Cromwell. Historian Derek Wilson, in *Hans Holbein: Portrait of an Unknown Man*, observed that "*In August 1537 Cromwell succeeded in marrying his son, Gregory, to Elizabeth Seymour,*" the queen's younger sister. He was therefore related by marriage to the king, "*an event worth recording for posterity, by a portrait of his daughter-in-law.*" However, Herbert Norris, in *Tudor Costume and Fashion*, noted that the sleeve of the sitter's clothing is in a style set by Anne of Cleves, which tends to suggest that the portrait was painted in 1540, possibly in April when Thomas Cromwell

was created Earl of Essex and her his son became lord Cromwell.

The portrait, dated circa 1535–1540, is exhibited at the Toledo Museum of Art, as 1926.57, with the title, *Portrait of a Lady, Probably a Member of the Cromwell Family*. The National Portrait Gallery exhibits a similar painting, *NPG 1119, Unknown Woman, Formerly Known as Catherine Howard*, which has been dated to the late 17th century. The National Portrait Gallery remains undecided about the sitter's identity. A miniature, painted by William Essex, with the title *Portrait of a Woman Called Princess Mary, Duchess of Suffolk*, (1498–1533), that was commissioned by Queen Victoria in 1844, is based on the Holbein portrait held at the Toledo Museum of Art.

In January 1531, Elizabeth married, as his second wife, Sir Anthony Ughtred, of Kexby, Yorkshire. In the same month, Henry VIII granted the couple the manors of Lepington and Kexby, that were previously held by Cardinal Thomas Wolsey.

The couple had a son, Henry, and a daughter, Margery (or Margaret). Henry Ughtred, was born in 1533 at the castle of Mont Orgueil, Jersey. He married Elizabeth, the daughter of John Paulet, 2nd Marquess of Winchester and his first wife Elizabeth Willoughby, and the widow of Sir William Courtenay. After his wife's death in 1576, Henry remarried, however the identity of his second wife is unknown. He and his wife died in Ireland in 1598. Margery Ughtred, probably born around 1535 in Kexby, after her father's death, married William Hungate of Burnby. The Hungates were a prominent Yorkshire family of ancient lineage, with landholdings in North Dalton, Burnby, Hayton, Saxton, Sherburn and Cowick. Ralph Hungate, a servant of Thomas Cromwell, acted as his clerk or deputy in his office steward of the royal lands north of the Trent river in 1539. William and Margery had two sons, William and Leonard, and were still living in 1598.

During her first marriage, Elizabeth was well-placed at court, in the service of Anne Boleyn, to support her husband's interests. In August 1532, the pro-Boleyn Sir Anthony Ughtred's



appointment as captain and Governor of Jersey, was almost certainly due to the influence of the future queen. He served in person, and remained in the post until his death.

Ughtred died 6 October 1534 in Jersey, and was buried in the chapel of St George, Mont Orgueil. After her husband's death, Elizabeth returned to Kexby, where her daughter, Margery was born. Her one year old son, Henry, remained on the island for a time, in the care of Helier de Carteret, Bailiff of Jersey.

Elizabeth and her sister, Jane, served in the household of Anne Boleyn, the second wife of Henry VIII. In his quest for a male heir, the king had divorced his first wife, Catherine of Aragon, whose only surviving child was a daughter, Mary. His marriage to Anne Boleyn had also resulted in a single daughter, Elizabeth. The queen's miscarriage of a son in January 1536 left her vulnerable. The king, convinced that Anne could never give him a son, increasingly infatuated with Jane Seymour, and encouraged by the queen's enemies, was determined to replace her.

When Queen Anne failed to produce a male heir after almost three years of marriage, the able and ambitious Edward Seymour and his family, gained wealth and power as Jane Seymour

supplanted Anne in the king's affection. In March 1536, Edward was made a gentleman of the privy chamber, and a few days later, he and his wife, Anne and his sister Jane, were lodged at the palace at Greenwich in apartments which the king could reach through a private passage.

In May 1536, Queen Anne was accused of treason and adultery with Mark Smeaton, a court musician, as well as the courtiers Henry Norris, Sir Francis Weston, William Brereton and her brother, George Boleyn, Viscount Rochford. Accused of treason, incest and plotting the king's death, Queen Anne was imprisoned in the Tower, awaiting her trial. At this time Jane Seymour resided with members of her family, first at the home of Sir Nicholas Carew in Surrey and then moved closer to the king, to a house at Chelsea, formerly owned by Thomas More. While the king's second wife prepared for her execution, Jane was planning her wedding, "splendidly served by the King's



cook and other officers” and “most richly dressed.” The trials and executions of the queen and her co-accused followed swiftly, and on 30 May 1536, eleven days after her Anne’s execution, Henry VIII and Jane were married.

A week after his sister’s marriage to the king, Edward Seymour was created Viscount Beauchamp. Two days later he received a grant of numerous manors in Wiltshire, including Ambresbury, Easton Priory, Chippenham, and Maiden Bradley. On 7 July he was made governor and captain of Jersey, and in August, chancellor of North Wales. He had livery of his father’s lands in the following year, was on 30 January granted the manor of Muchelney, Somerset, and on 22 May sworn of the privy council. In the same month he was on the commission appointed to try Lords Darcy and Hussey for their role in the pilgrimage of grace. On 15 October he carried Princess Elizabeth at Edward VI’s christening, and 18 October was created Earl of Hertford. Thomas Seymour was also made a gentleman of the privy chamber in 1536, and knighted 18 October of the same year. He was made captain of the Sweepstake in 1537.

When Henry VIII sought to divorce his first wife, Catherine of Aragon and marry Anne Boleyn, Jane, who had previously served in Catherine’s household, had remained loyal to her and her daughter, Mary. Elizabeth and her first husband, Sir Anthony Ughtred had supported Anne Boleyn and benefited from her ascendancy. It is not surprising therefore, that she was not included in the new queen’s household.

There is no evidence that Elizabeth benefited directly from her sister’s royal status,

before the news of a royal pregnancy became public knowledge in 1537. The impending birth of an heir to the throne would dramatically increase her value as a potential bride.



On 18 March 1537, then a young widow of reduced means, residing in York, Elizabeth had written to Thomas Cromwell, then Baron Cromwell and Lord Privy Seal, who had previously offered to help her, if she was ever in need. She had hoped to “*be holpen to obtain of the king’s grace to be farmer of one of these abbeyes if they fortune to go down ...*” Cromwell, no doubt encouraged by the Earl of Hertford,

proposed instead that she marry his only son and heir, Gregory. By June, it appears that Cromwell’s offer had been accepted.

On hearing the news, Arthur Darcy, the son of Thomas Darcy, 1st Baron Darcy de Darcy, assured her that “*I would have been glad to have had you likewise, but sure it is, as I said, that some southern lord shall make you forget the North.*”

—Elizabeth Cromwell, letter to her father-in-law, Thomas Cromwell, October 1537

On 3 August 1537, Elizabeth married the seventeen year old 1537 Gregory Cromwell. Her brother, Edward Seymour, Viscount Beauchamp, wrote to Cromwell on 2 September 1537, to know how he has fared since the writer’s departure. Wishes Cromwell were with him, when he should have had the best sport with bow, hounds, and hawks and sends commendations to his brother-in-law and sister, adding: “*and I pray God to send me by them shortly a nephew.*”

The couple would have three sons: Henry



Cromwell, 2nd Baron Cromwell (1538 –1592), Edward Cromwell (1539 – before 1553), Thomas Cromwell, (1540 –1611), and two daughters: Catherine Cromwell (c.1541 –), and Frances Cromwell (c.1544 –1562).

On 12 November, three months after their wedding, Elizabeth and Gregory took part in the queen's funeral procession. Queen Jane's death on 24 October, twelve days after being delivered of the king's longed-for son, the future Edward VI, naturally came as a blow to the Seymour family and proved to be a setback to Edward Seymour's influence. He was described in the following year as "*young and wise,*" but "*of small power.*" For Thomas Cromwell, the death of the queen would have disastrous consequences.

Elizabeth and Gregory's first child, Henry, was born in May 1538, at Lewes Priory in Sussex, which had recently been acquired by Thomas Cromwell, and where they had recently arrived with a large retinue. Elizabeth's father-in-law spared no expense in providing for her comfort while she awaited the birth of his first grandchild: his accounts for April 1538 noted the enormous sum of £44 15s spent on things she needed at her "lying down," and a further 16s 4d for a "*carriage of stuff from Stepney to Lewes for my Lady.*" A

second son Edward, who was probably born at Leeds Castle in Kent, followed in 1539.

Gregory appears to have been devoted to his wife and children. In December 1539, while in Calais waiting to welcome Henry VIII's new bride, Anne of Cleves, he wrote to his wife at Leeds Castle, addressing her as his "*loving bedfellow*", describing the arrival of Anne of Cleves, and requesting news "*as well of yourself as also my little boys, of whose increase and towardness be you assured I am not a little desirous to be advertised.*" The couple's third son, Thomas, was born the following year. In January 1540, Elizabeth was appointed to the household of the new Queen.

Thomas Cromwell was created Earl of Essex on 17 April 1540 and Gregory assumed the courtesy title of Lord Cromwell. In May, Elizabeth, Lady Cromwell watched her husband compete in the May Day jousts at the Palace of Westminster and afterwards feasted with the queen and her ladies. Anne of Cleves would not remain as queen for long, however, as the mercurial Henry VIII had set his sights on Catherine Howard, the pretty young niece of the Earl's rival, the Duke of Norfolk, and he wanted a speedy divorce.

Thomas Cromwell was at the height of his ascendancy, however his political enemies were gaining ground and his time in power would soon come to an end. He was arrested at a council meeting at on the afternoon of 10 June 1540, accused of treason and heresy, taken to the Tower and his possessions seized. He was condemned without a trial and his sentence was later confirmed by an act of attainder. Elizabeth and Gregory's whereabouts at this time are unknown.

Soon after his arrest, Thomas Cromwell wrote a desperate letter from the Tower to the king to plead his innocence and appealed to him to be merciful to his son and the rest of his family.

In July, fearing for her family's future security, Elizabeth wrote to the king, to assure him of her loyalty and that of her husband:

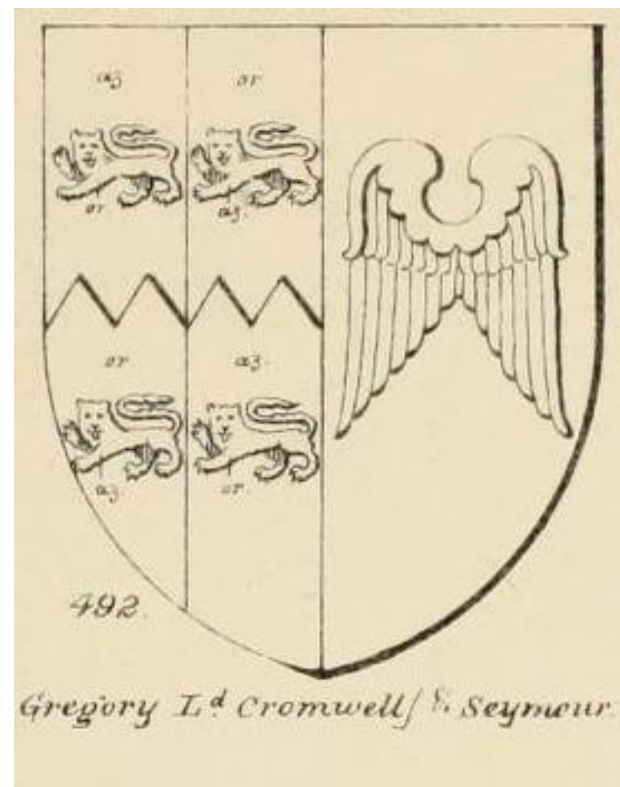
This undated letter is placed at the end of July 1540 in *Letters and Papers of the Reign of Henry VIII*. It was probably written while Thomas Cromwell was imprisoned in the Tower, as Elizabeth refers to her father-in-law, and not her late father-in-law. Moreover, it was customary at that time to write "may his soul God pardon" or something similar when referring to someone who had recently died, which she did not do. The letter, which has been cynically interpreted by more than one writer as a betrayal of her father-in-law, was almost certainly written on the advice of her brother, Edward, or at the king's command. It is evident that Elizabeth and Gregory were in real danger from the royal wrath and that she was prepared to do what was necessary to ensure their survival.

Thomas Cromwell was beheaded on Tower Hill on 28 July 1540, the same day as the king's marriage to Catherine Howard. He was buried in an unmarked grave in the Chapel of St. Peter ad Vincula in the Tower. It is unknown if Gregory and his family were present either at his execution or burial.

Elizabeth and Gregory were not implicated, although it would be several months before their desperate situation was to be resolved. They had been dependants of Thomas Cromwell, with no home and little income of their own. The king was inclined to be merciful and Elizabeth

was included in the future Queen Catherine's household as one of her attendant ladies.

On 18 December 1540, less than five months after his father's execution, Gregory Cromwell was created Baron Cromwell of Oakham in the County of Rutland, and summoned to Parliament as a peer of the realm. This title was a new creation, rather than a restoration of his father's forfeited barony. The following February he received a royal grant of lands that had been owned by his late father, including Launde Abbey. At the coronation of King Edward VI, on 20 February 1547, Elizabeth's husband and her brother, Henry were invested as Knights of the Order of the Bath.



Following the death of Henry VIII in 1547, Edward Seymour was created Duke of Somerset, appointed lord protector of his nephew, Edward VI and governor of the king's person. Thomas Seymour, furious that his brother should be both lord protector and governor, demanded the latter role for himself. Although he had been created Baron Seymour of Sudeley and appointed lord high admiral on 17 February,



he felt that as the king's uncle, he should have a greater role in government. Dissatisfied with his place in the new regime, he embarked on a series of intrigues that ultimately led to the scaffold. He had secretly married the late king's widow, Catherine Parr, who died in September 1548, a few days after giving birth to the couple's only child, Mary. Thomas Seymour was found guilty of treason and executed 20 March 1549.

Lady Cromwell became a widow again upon the death of Gregory, from sweating sickness, in 1551. He died at Launde Abbey 4 July 1551 and was buried 7 July in the chapel at Launde. In London, Henry Machyn recorded the events in his diary:

And died my Lord Cromwell in Leicestershire and was buried with a standard, a banner of arms, and coat, helmet, sword, target, and escutcheons and herald.

Gregory lies buried under a magnificent monument in the chapel at Launde. The initials "E C" can be seen in the intricate entablature



beneath the pediment.

Edward, Duke of Somerset, whose position had been seriously undermined by the trial and execution of his brother, was deposed as lord protector in January 1550, but restored to the privy council in April of that year. On 16 October 1551 he was arrested on a charge of high treason and sent to the Tower, followed two days later by his wife. He was tried by his peers in December 1551 and executed 22 January 1552. The Duchess would remain a prisoner in the Tower for the remainder of the reign. Since the Duke had been found guilty of the lesser charge of felony, and not for treason, his lands and titles were unaffected, however an act of parliament was passed on 12 April 1552 declaring them forfeited and confirming his attainder. In May, the Duke's daughters, Margaret, Jane, Mary and Katherine were placed in Elizabeth's care. She was granted 400 marks by the council for the provision and education of each of her nieces per year, as well as the lease of her minor son's house, Launde Abbey, by way of an inducement. However, by October, the arrangement was placing the widow under considerable strain.

On 25 October 1552, Elizabeth wrote to

her friend, Sir William Cecil, of the privy council, requesting to be relieved of her troublesome nieces, who did not take her advice "*in such good part as my good meaning was, nor according to my expectation in them*". Her husband's family were all dead, her own surviving family did not live nearby, and she no longer had the support of her husband or her brother, Edward. She reminded Cecil that she had no near relations who could give her advice. Her pleas were ignored however, and her nieces would remain with her until August 1553 when their mother, Anne, Duchess of Somerset, was released from the Tower by Mary I.

Two recent biographers of Thomas Cromwell have stated that Elizabeth married her third husband, three days after the death of Gregory Cromwell. That would have been surprising, as that was the day of his funeral! It was between 10 March and 24 April 1554, when Elizabeth married, as his second wife, John Paulet, Baron St John, who would outlive her. There were no children of this marriage. Elizabeth's two eldest sons married John Paulet's daughters. Her eldest son, Henry Ughtred, who appears to have been the 'black sheep' of the family, married



Elizabeth, the widow of Sir William Courtenay, after 1557 and Henry Cromwell married Mary sometime before 1560. Details of Lady St John's later life remain obscure, however she and her husband appear in the records from time to time in matters relating to her son, Henry Cromwell's minority and suits for the continuation of royal grants at the commencement of each new reign.

Elizabeth, Lady St John, died 19 March 1568, and was buried 5 April in St. Mary's Church, Basing, Hampshire. John Paulet married, before May 1571, Winifred Brydges, daughter of Sir John Brydges. He succeeded his father as Marquess of Winchester in 1572.

TERI FITZGERALD

Portraits in this article...

TOLEDO MUSEUM OF ART

[http://classes.toledomuseum.org:8080/emuseum/view/objects/asitem/People\\$00401771/0?t:state:flow=3a9fa7bb-9034-458f-b35b-26b0c673e3dc](http://classes.toledomuseum.org:8080/emuseum/view/objects/asitem/People$00401771/0?t:state:flow=3a9fa7bb-9034-458f-b35b-26b0c673e3dc)

NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY

<http://www.npg.org.uk/collections/search/portrait/mw01146/Unknown-woman-formerly-known-as-Catherine-Howard?LinkID=mp00802&role=sit&rNo=0>

Royal Collection Trust

<http://www.royalcollection.org.uk/collection/421718/portrait-of-a-woman-called-princess-mary-duchess-of-suffolk-1498-1533>

Letters...

ELIZABETH TO THOMAS CROMWELL

Wood, Mary Anne Everett, ed. (1846). Letters of Royal and Illustrious Ladies of Great Britain, from the Commencement of the Twelfth Century to the Close of the Reign of Queen Mary II. London: Henry Colburn. pp. 353-354, 355-356

<http://archive.org/stream/lettersroyaland00greegoog#page/n372/mode/2up>

GREGORY CROMWELL TO ELIZABETH

Wood, Mary Anne Everett, ed. (1846). Letters of Royal and Illustrious Ladies of Great Britain, from the Commencement of the Twelfth Century to the Close of the Reign of Queen Mary II. London: Henry Colburn. pp. 357-358

<http://archive.org/stream/lettersroyaland00greegoog#page/n376/mode/2up>

ELIZABETH TO HENRY VIII

Wood, Mary Anne Everett, ed. (1846). Letters of Royal and Illustrious Ladies of Great Britain, from the Commencement of the Twelfth Century to the Close of the Reign of Queen Mary III. London: Henry Colburn. pp. 159-160

<https://archive.org/stream/lettersroyaland02greegoog#page/n172/mode/2up>

Two Rival Earls of Pembroke: Jasper Tudor and William Herbert.

.....

While researching her book on
Jasper Tudor, **Debra Bayani**
became interested in the life of
William Herbert, the Yorkist Earl
of Pembroke and an
opponent of Jasper...

Despite the fact that Tudor and Herbert would become rivals, they also had much in common. First and foremost they were both of Welsh origin and both were among the first Welshmen ever elevated to the English peerage. Jasper and his brother Edmund, born of a Welsh father and French mother, became respectively Earl of Pembroke and Earl of Richmond in 1452, while William Herbert was the first full-blooded Welshman to be so enobled in 1468, when he was appointed in Jasper's stead. They would both be Earls of Pembroke, call Pembroke Castle their home and be, in turn, guardians of the future Henry VII, Jasper's nephew, the posthumous son of his brother who was possibly murdered at the hands of Herbert and his supporters. A final point these men had in common is that, apart from being celebrated by bards, Jasper and William failed to inspire contemporary writers as much as they both deserved and have both

been largely ignored by modern-day historians. Jasper Tudor and William Herbert, both strong heroic men, alike in so many ways and possibly friends at some point, would grow to hate one another terribly and become each other's arch enemies.

About the time of the early stirrings of the Wars of the Roses, on 5 January 1453, and a few days after the court had returned from the Christmas celebrations at the King and Queen's manor of Pleasance near Gravesend,



Pembroke Castle



the first ever knighting of three Welshmen took place at the Tower of London. Two of these Welshmen were King Henry VI's half-brothers, Edmund and Jasper Tudor, whose blood ties came through their mother, the French princess Katherine de Valois, dowager Queen of England. Following the death of her husband King Henry V, Katherine had married the Welshman Owen Tudor, a descendant of the Welsh princes, with whom she had at least four children, including Edmund and Jasper. Now in their early twenties, these two young men were raised from obscurity to be ranked among the premier earls of the kingdom. This magnificent knighting ceremony was part of their ennoblement and the brothers were richly dressed in velvet, cloth of gold, and furs. A few others were knighted alongside them: the two sons of the Earl of Salisbury, Thomas and John Neville, William Catesby of St Ledgers, John Lewkenor and William Herbert (the third Welshman). This occasion is the first known association of William Herbert and the Tudors. Soon afterwards he became a household councillor of Jasper's.

In the past, William's father, William ap Thomas, had been a faithful supporter of the King's father, Henry V, and had fought at his side in France at the famous Battle of Agincourt in 1415. For this, William ap Thomas had later been rewarded with a knighthood by Henry VI. It was because his father had been a supporter and long-term associate of the Duke of York's that William Herbert, following in his father's footsteps, had grown to be an adherent of the Duke.

During the summer of 1453 Henry VI had his first major mental breakdown, something that would be recurrent for the rest of his life. Even the birth of his long-awaited son in October that year could not restore him to his right mind. The King was unable to govern the country and the realm became divided into two factions. The Tudors' loyalty to York was confirmed in January 1454 when they accompanied the Duke and his supporters to London, along with the Earl of Warwick

and a large following, and all were in danger of being arrested for treason on the orders of Queen Margaret. In March, the Tudor brothers, together with the other peers who were members of the Privy Council, gave their full support to York, electing him as Lord Protector for the time of the King's illness and even, should it be necessary, until the King's son became of age.

In the early stage of the Wars of the Roses, both the Tudors and William Herbert favoured the same king, the Lancastrian King Henry VI, but at the same time were adherents of the Duke of York. Edmund and Jasper had not yet associated themselves with Queen Margaret and her favourite, the Duke of Somerset – and, while Edmund was sent to Wales by the summer of 1455 to take control over the state of chaos caused by the local rulers, Jasper himself remained constantly at the King's side. It was probably because of York's genuine protestations that his intention was only to depose the government of the Duke of Somerset, and not to be disloyal towards the King, that Edmund and Jasper were inclined to his side during this uncertain period.

From the beginning of Edmund and Jasper's ennoblement William Herbert and his maternal half-brother Thomas Vaughan were appointed as Jasper's household councillors and Jasper even shared a house in London with this Thomas Vaughan. In fact, several accounts suggest an early friendship between the Tudors and William Herbert. In October 1453, Edmund granted him an annuity of £10 per annum for life, a gesture certainly made out of friendship since Herbert did not hold any offices for Edmund. Receiving an annuity without holding an office normally meant that it was a reward for good services performed without being under obligation to do so. A contemporary poem composed, in late 1452, by the famous Welsh bard Lewis Glyn Cothi confirms an earlier friendship:

*If Jasper was being pounded,
He'd [William] pound through a*

*thousand men.
The nobleman's full of sincerity
(that will serve him well);
Gwilym is true and skilled
For one God before everything else,
Also from the Crown, kindly eagle,
And above for the earl of Pembroke
and his men.*

When the King recovered from his 18-month long catatonic state, towards the end of 1454, York's protectorship was no longer needed. Consequently, he was dismissed from his duty and most of the magnates he had appointed were replaced by Queen Margaret's favourites. York rightly felt betrayed and feared a reaction from the Queen's favourites, which eventually led to the crisis that precipitated the first real battle of the Wars of the Roses, the 1st Battle of St Albans, on 22 May 1455. This resulted in a victory for York and the death of Somerset – for which York was soon after pardoned by the King.

The Tudors' association with York did not end at St Albans – however, they preferred to tread a middle path between the opposing factions, perhaps in the hope of a solution on which all involved could agree. York was reappointed as Protector in November 1455; however, the reason for this is not very clear because King Henry was not reported to be ill. By February 1456, York was once again deprived of his protectorship and he retreated to one of his castles, possibly to make plans – and look for aid – for an attempt to seize the throne. But York was being harassed by the royalists and in September, while he was resident at the Bishop of Salisbury's house in Fleet Street, London, the heads of five dogs were impaled in front of his lodging, each holding in its jaws an insulting verse suggesting the Duke deserved to die.

Situations and associations changed rapidly. At the same time, York's prominent retainers William Herbert, Herbert's kinsmen the Vaughans, and his father-in-law Walter Devereux decided, or perhaps were ordered, not only to reassert their master's rights

over those castles of which he had formerly been constable but, more importantly, to re-establish his authority there and neutralize potential rivals in the region. By April 1456, Devereux had started things by seizing the mayor at Hereford while Herbert attacked the Earl of Wiltshire's property. The Herbert clan went on to gather a force of around 2,000 men which advanced into south Wales. They seized Carmarthen Castle, which was not able to withstand so big a force, and there took prisoner Herbert's former ally Edmund Tudor. This proved to be fatal for Edmund, who died suddenly only two months later under circumstances that have never been explained. The plague has been suggested as the cause of his death but perhaps more likely, although there is no specific proof, is that Edmund's death - clearly a great shock to everyone, following so soon after the events of that summer - might have resulted from neglect during his imprisonment or from violence on the part of the forces of William Herbert and Walter Devereux. Foul play is mentioned as the cause of Edmund's death by several surviving documents, one being the Calendar of the Patent Rolls, which declares that *'Edmund, late earl of Richmond, was seized during his marriage with Margaret, daughter and heir of John, late Duke of Somerset'*, and

another is an elegy for Edmund written in 1461 by the bard Dafydd Nanmor, which laments: *'For us it is sad to see how happy his enemies are, they obliterate us. There was no sadness for even a moment without joy and a leader'*. Soon afterwards Herbert and Devereux were accused of treason; the surviving document is not clear on exactly what grounds but the reason can be guessed. Devereux was imprisoned and Herbert had seven tuns of Gascon wine confiscated, but later that year he and many of his kinsmen were pardoned. That he was pardoned also implies he was found guilty of a crime. Sadly, however, the surviving documents are not complete. The Duke of York's direct involvement in Edmund's death cannot be proven but since the disturbances were caused by his adherents, and all occurred soon after York was dismissed from his duty as Lord Protector, it does seem suspicious.

After Edmund's death, Jasper took pity on his young pregnant widow, Margaret Beaufort. Her son Henry, Jasper's nephew, was born at Pembroke Castle where he would stay under his uncle and guardian's safe wing for the next four years. In 1461, after a series of battles - amongst them the Battle of Mortimer's Cross where Jasper's father Owen was beheaded by another half-brother of William Herbert's, Roger Vaughan - things abruptly changed



Raglan Castle

when Henry VI was deposed by Edward, eldest son of the Duke of York (who had been killed in battle the previous year). Edward was proclaimed King Edward IV, William Herbert and his brother-in-law Walter (son of Walter Devereux, now dead) being named amongst a small number of Yorkist leaders. In order to deal with his lack of authority in Wales, Edward appointed William Herbert chamberlain of South Wales and steward of Carmarthenshire and Cardiganshire. It was very clear that the new King's intentions were to replace Jasper as the premier Welsh nobleman and effective leader of Wales. Furthermore, Herbert was created Lord Herbert of Raglan, Gower and Chepstow. At the same time, Walter Devereux was created Lord Ferrers of Chartley. It was not just at a political level that Jasper was replaced by Herbert, he was also pushed aside on a more personal level. Herbert was ordered to seize Pembroke Castle and, although Jasper himself was not present at the time, William must nevertheless have been very pleased to find four-year-old Henry Tudor inside. Edward IV appointed William to be Henry's new guardian and reserved the boy's marriage for one of his daughters. Henry's seizure must have been devastating and frustrating for Jasper, to say the least, especially seeing Henry living in the household of a man who had played some kind of role in his father's death.

Jasper and William would continue in vigorous rivalry during the next few years. Herbert was appointed Chief Justice of North Wales as well as Constable of Denbigh Castle in 1467, but Jasper, with a large force, marched from Harlech to Denbigh and seized and sacked the town. Edward IV ordered Herbert and Devereux to seize Harlech Castle, the only remaining Lancastrian stronghold left and a safe haven for Lancastrian refugees. Jasper's force, on the way back from Denbigh to Harlech, was confronted by William Herbert's brother Richard, while Herbert himself approached Harlech. William's men divided into two or three attacking forces but Richard Herbert nevertheless outnumbered and defeated Jasper's army. In the aftermath, several of Jasper's men were taken and put to death, but Jasper himself and many others managed to escape when all seemed lost. William Herbert was able to seize Harlech Castle and as a reward he received Jasper's forfeited earldom of Pembroke in 1468. Thus becoming the first ever full-blooded Welshman to be advanced to the peerage. Jasper was not the only one dismayed by Herbert's elevation. The Earl of Warwick, who himself came from a family of earls and dukes and had worked hard to better his own position, considered Herbert, now elevated to his equal in rank, to be an upstart of lower birth plucked from relative obscurity.





Harlech Castle

With the exception of Edward IV, Warwick had been the most powerful and wealthiest noble in the realm and, since the administration of the country was mainly left to Warwick, his position after the accession of Edward had been stronger than ever. In 1464, however, the Yorkist King was married in secret to Elizabeth Woodville, thereby terribly offending Warwick. From then on relations between Warwick and Edward became increasingly tense. When Edward's own over-ambitious and jealous brother George, Duke of Clarence, defected to Warwick's cause the two started to rebel against their King. Warwick's friend and deputy in Calais, Lord John Wenlock, was involved in a Lancastrian conspiracy, in which Warwick and George joined him. On 26 July 1469, Warwick's forces clashed near Banbury with the royalist forces led by William Herbert in the battle later known as Edgecote Moor. The Royalists were defeated, possibly because the Earl of Devon

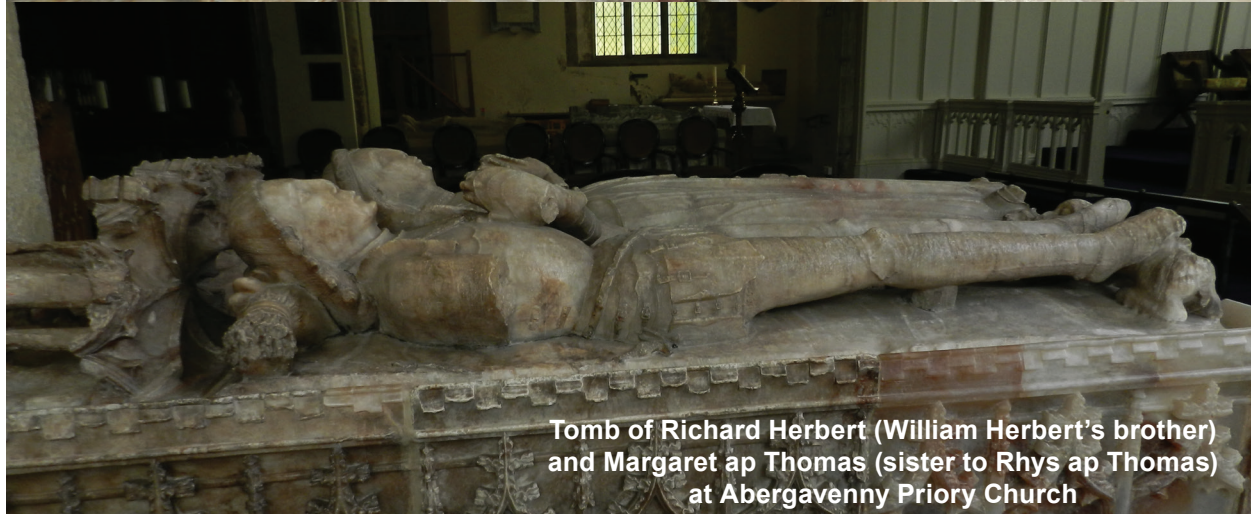
left Herbert to fight the rebels alone. William and Richard Herbert were caught and taken to Northampton. After writing his final will the next day, William was beheaded, as was his brother Richard a day later on the 28th. It is said that they had both fought bravely and that William begged for his brother's life to be spared. Herbert's death must have been a great relief to Jasper and two years later he was able to take personal revenge on Herbert's half-brother Sir Roger Vaughan, the man who had been responsible for the execution of Jasper's father Owen. Edward IV had sent Vaughan to kill Jasper, but, instead, Vaughan was caught and executed by Jasper while residing at Chepstow Castle.

The deaths of William and Richard Herbert and of Roger Vaughan were lamented in several elegies, including in a poem composed by the famous Welsh bard Guto'r Glyn:

*Three strange years these have been:
three betrayals there were across Britain.
Where there was a feast of knives and food,
the crowd at the feast were hewn down to the ground.
If there was betrayal in Salisbury,
it was no more treacherous than what happened in Chepstow;
no treachery was ever born except you,
only Banbury was as much of a betrayal.
There was a sign around the killing of Sir Roger
(he was my lord) that Jesus was angered.
Because of Sir Roger Vaughan
and the death of our earl, Wales is weak.*



Tomb of Gwladys ferch Dafydd Gam and William ap Thomas (Herbert's parents) in Abergavenny Priory Church



Tomb of Richard Herbert (William Herbert's brother) and Margaret ap Thomas (sister to Rhys ap Thomas) at Abergavenny Priory Church

Herbert's death did put an end to a large number of Jasper's problems but the Wars of the Roses were definitely not over yet ...

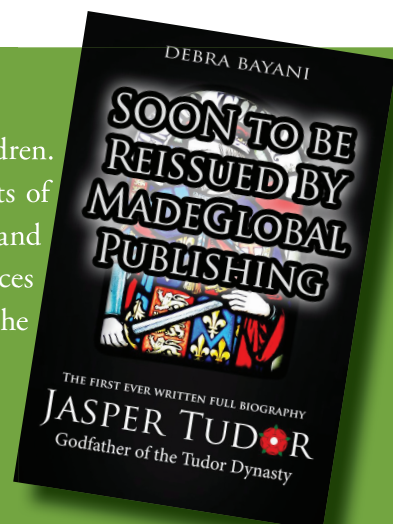
DEBRA BAYANI

SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER READING:

- D. Bayani, *Jasper Tudor, Godfather of the Tudor Dynasty* (2014).
- Duchy of Lancaster., Minutes, Accordance, 651/10534 m. 3
- H.T. Evans, *Wales and the Wars of the Roses* (1915).
- P.A. Johnson, *Duke Richard of York 1411–1460* (1991).
- *Journal of Medieval Military History*, Volume IX (2011).
- *The Paston Letters*, ed. J. Gairdner (1904), Vol. 1, pp. 263, 266.
- William Worcester *Annales*, vol. 2.
- www.gutorglyn.net

Debra Bayani is a researcher and writer, living in the Netherlands with her husband and children. She previously studied Fashion History and History of Art. She is fascinated by all aspects of life in Medieval Britain and the Middle Ages in general, especially the Wars of the Roses, and has spend many years researching this period. Currently she is working on a guide to places connected to the Wars of the Roses. Debra's debut non-fiction book, the first biography on the subject, 'Jasper Tudor, Godfather of the Tudor Dynasty', was published in 2014.

Her website can be found at: www.TheWarsOfTheRosesCatalogue.com



Henry VII and Elizabeth of York – A Long Betrothal?

.....

Olga Hughes from
Nerdalicious.com explores the
background to the marriage which
cemented the Tudor dynasty...

We will unite the white rose and the red.
Smile heaven upon this fair conjunction,
That long have frowned upon their enmity...
O, now let Richmond and Elizabeth,
The true succeeders of each royal house,
By God's fair ordinance conjoin together,
And let their heirs, God, if thy will be so.
Enrich the time to come with smooth-faced peace,
With smiling plenty and fair prosperous days!

Like most marriages among the nobility the marriage of Henry Tudor and Elizabeth of York was not a love match. It was arranged by their mothers, who were plotting against King Richard III. In 1483 Richard of Gloucester had announced that the marriage of King Edward IV and Elizabeth Wydeville was invalid, and therefore all of their children illegitimate. Richard deposed young Edward V and the dowager Queen Elizabeth, alone and powerless, fled to sanctuary with her younger son and five daughters. When rumours arose of Edward V and Richard Duke of York's murder Elizabeth's long-time friend, Margaret Beaufort, became enmeshed in a rebellion against King Richard III.

Buckingham's rebellion, as it is called, was a plot to free the 'Princes in the Tower'. It failed. Margaret Beaufort was stripped of all her lands and titles, and left in her husband Thomas Stanley's custody. But Margaret was not to be cowed. She approached Elizabeth



Wydeville, still in sanctuary with her five daughters, and the two women plotted to bring Henry Tudor back home. Margaret's son would capture the throne from Richard III and marry Elizabeth's eldest daughter Elizabeth of York. The marriage would be a symbol of unity between the two rival houses of York and Lancaster.

In fact Margaret Beaufort may have been cherishing the idea of her son marrying a York princess long before Richard III took the throne. Her husband Stanley would recall in a testimony to Rome that *"long before communing was had between the said lord Henry and lady Elizabeth about contracting marriage, the said sworn [witness] heard Richard, earl of Salisbury, and the lady Margaret, wife of this sworn [witness], mother of the said king that now is, and divers other noble and illustrious persons saying that the said king Henry and lady Elizabeth were related in the fourth and fifth degrees of kindred, and reciting the degrees aforesaid, and affirming that they*

were true degrees lineally drawn from the said duke of Lancaster."

Many years before Margaret had been negotiating with King Edward IV to bring her son Henry out of exile. Edward was perhaps considering marrying Henry to one of his daughters to reign him in. Henry was considered the Lancastrian heir and still somewhat of a threat. An undated draft of pardon from Edward IV to Henry Tudor is written on the back of a 1452 patent of creation of Edmund Tudor as Earl of Richmond, which may suggest that Edward considered granting Henry his former title again. Edward may also have been trying to lure Henry back to England to capture him. For Margaret Beaufort however, the hopes of her son marrying a York princess would eventually be realised.

On Christmas Day of 1483 in Rennes St Pierre Cathedral Henry Tudor swore an oath promising to marry Elizabeth of York and

began planning his invasion. Incredibly, the plan came to fruition. Henry Tudor was completely inexperienced in battle, had an army half the size of Richard III's and should have lost the Battle of Bosworth. But Henry, with the help of his step-father Thomas Stanley, won the crown of England. One of Henry's first acts was to send for Elizabeth of York, who was sequestered at Sheriff Hutton awaiting the outcome of the battle. Elizabeth was taken to her mother Elizabeth Wydeville in London to await her future husband.

Henry VII's detractors have long criticised him for not playing out the fairytale notion of sweeping into London and marrying his bride immediately. Francis Bacon, writing comfortably after the Tudor reign was over, has cast the most doubt on the relationship between Henry VII and Elizabeth of York. While most historians have questioned Bacon's views of the

marriage, the idea has endured that Henry VII purposely delayed and even tried to get out of marrying Elizabeth of York.

“Whereupon the King presently that very day, being the two and twentieth of August, assumed the style of King in his own name, without mention of the lady Elizabeth at all, or any relation thereunto.” Bacon’s History of the Reign of King Henry VII

It is often repeated that Henry VII wanted to distance himself from his future wife’s own valid claim to the throne and that he wanted to establish his own claim by his right of conquest. There is no denying that Henry wanted to be seen as having his own valid claim to the throne as his claim by bloodline was dubious. However one has to wonder if this is truly the case in regards to the marriage itself. Five months is hardly enough time for a king to establish his

rule. The delay in Elizabeth’s coronation may shed more light on Henry wanting to establish his claim before his wife’s. Yet the marriage itself would not ensure Henry’s supposed quest for acceptance. Elizabeth’s bloodlines were desirable to strengthen that of his heirs.

Considering the actual timeframe there hardly seems to have been any delay. Henry Tudor was victorious at Bosworth on the 22nd of August 1485. On the 15th of September writs were issued for Henry VII’s first parliament to commence on November 7th. In the meantime Elizabeth of York settled in at her future mother-in-law’s house of Coldharbour where Henry could visit her. The couple were able to get to know each other in relative privacy. One could speculate that Margaret Beaufort, who had been all but childless most of her life, delighted in welcoming son back to England and her future

daughter-in-law to her home. Elizabeth herself may have welcomed a rest after the last two emotionally draining years of her life.

Henry’s own coronation took place on the 30 October 1485. It is sometimes claimed Elizabeth of York did not attend the coronation and Margaret Beaufort held a prominent place instead, but as no record of the coronation has survived this is impossible to say. Margaret’s attendance was mentioned by Bishop Fisher in her funeral sermon and he said that she “wept marvellously”.

In any case Henry could not marry Elizabeth until two things were accomplished. As Elizabeth had her legitimacy rescinded by her uncle in an Act of Parliament, Henry also required an Act of Parliament to overturn it. Henry not only repealed Richard III’s *Titulus Regius* he ordered all copies to be destroyed on pain of punishment. Once Elizabeth’s



legitimacy as the heir of Edward IV was re-established, a papal dispensation was necessary.

The couple did have a dispensation issued previously. However the first dispensation had been issued sometime around the 27th March of 1484, when Elizabeth Wydeville and Margaret Beaufort had first arranged the marriage in secret. Secrecy was essential lest Richard seek to thwart the marriage, and the dispensation was issued for “Henry Richmond, layman of the York diocese, and Elizabeth Plantagenet, woman of the London diocese.” One can see how this dispensation could be questioned. Richard III had captured the throne by declaring Edward IV’s heirs illegitimate, so it is not surprising that Henry Tudor would leave nothing to chance. Henry and Elizabeth applied for a second dispensation, or a re-issue of the original dispensation, for a double fourth degree of consanguinity. Eight witnesses’ testimonies were submitted with the petition to James of Imola, the papal legate to England and Scotland. Imola emphasised Elizabeth’s legitimacy and the wish to be wed as soon as possible.

on behalf of the most serene prince and lord the lord Henry, by the grace of God king of England and France and lord of Ireland, of the one part, and of the most illustrious lady, the lady Elizabeth, eldest legitimate and natural daughter of the late Edward....whereas the said king

has by God’s providence won his realm of England and is in peaceful possession thereof, and has been prayed and requested by all the lords of his realm, both spiritual and temporal, and also by the general council of the said realm, called Parliament, to take to wife the aforesaid lady Elizabeth, he, wishing to accede to the petitions of his subjects, desires to take the aforesaid lady to wife.

Now the couple needed to wait for the dispensation to be issued. Going back to Henry’s parliament, there are another two points to consider. Firstly Henry sought the public backing of Parliament for the marriage. This is often deliberately misconstrued as Parliament demanding that he delay not further and marry Elizabeth. On December 10, Sir Thomas Lovell, Speaker of the Commons, announced that Henry “*wishes to take for himself as wife and consort the noble Lady Elizabeth, daughter of King Edward the fourth; from whence through the grace of God, it is hoped by many that the continuation of offspring by a race of kings, as consolation to the entire kingdom.*”

“Thereupon the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in that same Parliament, rising from their seats and standing before the King seated on his royal throne, bowed their heads, made the same request with lowered voice: to whom the King indeed responded with his own voice “According to their desires and requests, he himself was equally pleased to proceed.”

It would seem this was

no more than a prettily staged affair in order for Henry to display he had the full backing of Parliament and the realm in his marriage. The Croyland Chronicle notes that the discussion had taken place with the “king’s consent”.

The second point that may allude to Henry’s plans for his marriage to Elizabeth is the titles and lands granted to the dowager Queen Elizabeth Wydeville and her family. The repeal of *Titulus Regius* also restored Elizabeth Wydeville to her “state, dignity, pre-eminence and name” and all properties that had been stripped from her by Richard III. The bulk of her income from her dower properties came from the duchy of Lancaster, which was traditionally managed by the Queen consort. Therefore when Elizabeth Wydeville retired from court she transferred all of her properties to her daughter Elizabeth of York, her rightful heir and Queen consort and Henry VII granted her an annuity in place of the income.

All of the Wydeville family who had suffered during the reign of Richard III had their titles and lands restored. It would appear that Henry was concerned with elevating his future wife’s family to their former dignity.

The rumours that Henry was planning on marrying someone else, either Anne, Duchess of Brittany or Katherine, the youngest daughter of his former guardian, William Herbert, Earl of Pembroke, seem to

have originated with Bernard Andre, who placed the rumours sometime around Christmas. Bacon espouses that *“it bred some doubt and suspicion amongst divers that he was not sincere, or at least not fixed in going on with the match of England so much desired: which conceit also, though it were but talk and discourse, did much afflict the poor lady Elizabeth herself.”*

Wedding preparations had commenced. A payment was made to Richard Doland, *clerk of the works of the king’s wardrobe, for divers stuffs bought for the day of the solemnization of the king’s marriage* and

Elizabeth’s wedding ring was delivered in late December. The dispensation arrived on the 16th of January 1486. Henry, now armed with the backing of parliament, the eager blessing of the people and an irrefutable dispensation, married Elizabeth in a magnificent ceremony on the 18th of January 1486.

Still not quite satisfied, the cautious Henry obtained a further dispensation on the 2nd of March 1486 referring to the first impediment and a possible one of the fourth degree of affinity, not mentioned previously. The pope confirmed this grant and the right of succession

of Henry and his heirs on 27 March 1486, threatening any who challenged it with excommunication. Henry would not fall victim to the same fate Elizabeth’s parents had. No one could question the legality of his marriage, his Queen’s legitimacy or that of his future heirs.

And one can’t accuse Henry of delaying any further. Elizabeth of York gave birth to the great hope of the Tudor dynasty, Prince Arthur, just eight months after the wedding day.

OLGA HUGHES

nerdalicious

everything to feed your inner nerd

Olga Hughes has a BA in Fine Art and is currently studying Literature. She lives in South Gippsland, Victoria, with her partner C.S. Hughes where they run pop-culture website **Nerdalicious**.



There is already Christmas music playing in stores here in the USA. Seriously. What used to be the solemn occasion of Advent has now become the Advent of Sales, wherein lo the people do need to buy stuff to give one another to celebrate the birth of a poor carpenter who was a rabid anti-materialist.

AH, THE SWEET IRONY.

Christmas was a bit different for the Tudors. For one thing, the period before Christmas and the morning of Christmas was a serious time of religious reflection and contemplation. That night and several evenings following after, however, were a time to party like it was 1499.

During those 12 Days of Christmas it was the duty of the Lord of Misrule to make the yuletide as gay as possible. John Stow, in his God's-gift-to-historians book *Survey of London*, recorded that [spelling modernized to a bit to make it an easier read]:

"in the feast of Christmas, there was in the king's house, wheresoever he was lodged, a Lord of Misrule, or Master of merry disports, and the like had they in the house of every noble man, of honor, or good worship, were he spiritual or temporal. Amongst the which the Mayor of London, and either of the sheriffs had their several Lords of Misrule, ever contending without quarrell or offence, who should make the rarest pastimes to delight the Beholders. These Lordes beginning their rule on Halloween, continued the same till the morrow after the Feast of the Purification, commonly called Candlemas day [February 2nd]: In all which space there were fine and subtle disguisings, Masks and Mummeries, with playing at Cards for Counters, Nails and pointes in every house, more for pastimes then for gain."

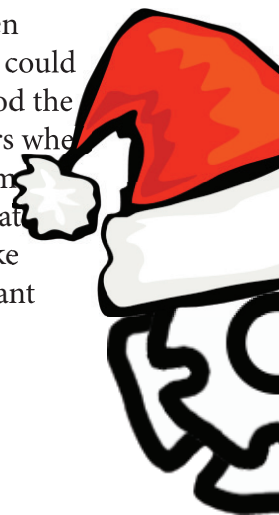
The office of the Lord of Misrule is much older than a medieval custom. According to Samuel L Macey's book, *Patriarchs of Time*, having a chief reveller dates all the way back

to pre-Christian times. The Romans would celebrate their midwinter feast, Saturnalia, with a "mock king" who led the games and "commanded" people to eat, drink, and be merry. It was also a Saturnalia tradition for life to be turned topsy-turvy, with masters attending the servants/slaves.

The Lord of Misrule was an important appointed position in the Tudor court. Not only did you get a chance to shine before the monarch by providing magnificent entertainments, you got to throw your weight around and make demands on others who were your rank (or higher). The monarch was also likely to gift you with monies and luxury items, sometimes as much as a minor nobleman would make in a year. Being the Lord of Misrule for royalty was a lot of work, but it was typically a lucrative career choice.

Under the boy-king Edward VI a would-be Lord of Misrule by the name of George Ferrers convinced the court that a better -- perhaps more Protestant -- title for his job would be Master of the King's Revels. Ferrers, who was a lawyer and poet, performed his office so well that the king Edward rewarded him lavishly.

The Master of Revels under Queen Elizabeth I was influential in ways they could not of predicted. During this time period the theater, which was overseen and censored by the Master of Revels, blossomed and the decisions of what plays and what playwrights to show at court could make or break an artist. In July of 1579 a distant kinsman of the Howard family named



Edmund Tylney (Tilney) became the Master of Revels and held the office until 1610.

Almost the entirety of William Shakespeare's career fell within the dates of Tylney's tenure. Tylney is the fellow who made plays a higher priority than the dances or masques, and put Shakespeare under Queen Elizabeth's nose. It was Tylney who brought plays under royal protection and helped prevent the Mayor of London from closing down the theaters in 1592.

In short, without a Lord of Misrule the whole world could have lost (or never found) one of the greatest writers to ever exist in the English language.

Elizabeth must have been pleased with Tylney's services, since he provided such

exceptional entertainment for her. Thanks to Tylney, she became an ardent patron of Shakespeare. Good Queen Bess liked the Actor from Avon so much that she started commissioning plays from him directly. Legend has it that *The Merry Wives of Windsor* was written in just two weeks at her demand. At the time, the word "merry" was also slang for "sexually aroused", equivalent to the word "horny" in modern times.

Now that you are aware of it, this fact will haunt you during the festive season ... especially when you hear the song "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas".

Happy Holidays!

KYRA KRAMER

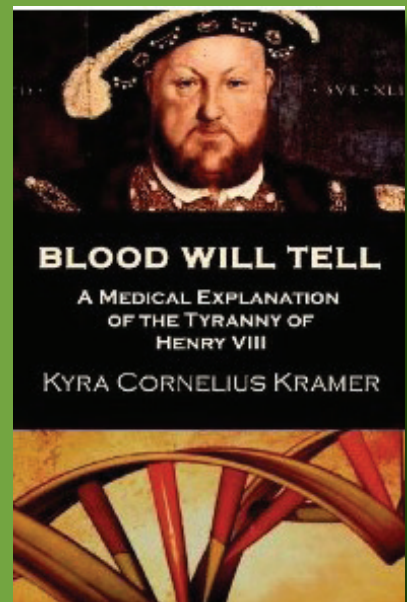
“

Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas

”



Regular columnist **Kyra Cornelius Kramer** is the author of "**Blood Will Tell: A Medical Explanation for the Tyranny of Henry VIII**", is a freelance academic with BS degrees in both biology and anthropology from the University of Kentucky, as well as a MA in medical anthropology from Southern Methodist University.



TUDOR RECIPES

We start our bumper Christmas "Pull Out" section with a selection of delicious, mouth watering Tudor and Christmas inspired recipes. You'll love making this food and drink and maybe we'll all understand a little more how life might have been 500 years ago!

Queen Mary's Tart

This sweet treat is said to have been introduced to the Scottish court by either Mary, Queen of Scots or her mother Mary of Guise, consort of James V. Both women were said to have enjoyed sweet treats and made desserts popular at court.

Preparation Time: 15mins

Cooking Time: 20mins.

Pre-heat oven to: 220C/425F - gas mark 7

Ingredients for 4 to 6 people.

8oz (225g) puff pastry

2 tablespoons of apricot jam

2oz butter (50g)

2oz sugar (50g)

2 eggs, beaten

2oz mixed peel (50g)

1 Tablespoon of sultanas



Courtesy of bakingmakingandcrafting.com

Roll out the puff pastry and line a 7inch (18cm) flan dish.

Spread evenly with the apricot jam.

To make the filling, cream the sugar and butter and mix in the beaten eggs, peel and sultanas.

Pour the filling, thin and runny at this stage, into the pastry case.

Bake in the pre-heated oven for 20mins, or until the filling is set and golden-brown on top.

Serve hot or cold with single cream or apricot sauce (melted jam, watered down).

Enjoy!

Mince Pie

During the 12 days of Christmas, people would visit their neighbours and friends and enjoy the Christmas “minced pye” which would often contain 13 ingredients, to symbolise Jesus and his apostles. The mince pie would be rectangular, or crib shaped, rather than our present day round ones and would be a minced meat pie rather than containing just dried fruit and suet. The mutton in the pie would be to symbolise the shepherds to whom the Angel Gabriel appeared.

A cookbook written by Elinor Fettiplace (1570-1647) gave a recipe for mince pies:

Parboile your mutton, then take as much suet as meat, & mince it both small, then put mace & nutmegs & cinamon, & sugar & orange peels, & currance & great reasins, & a little rose water, put all these to the meat, beat your spices & orange peel very small, & mingle your fruit & spice & all together, with the meat, and so bake it, put as much currance as meat & twice as much sugar as salt, put some ginger into it, let the suet bee beef suet, for it is better than mutton suet.

Sheila McVey from <http://findingshakespeare.co.uk/> “translated” this recipe for a modern audience:

- 8 oz. lean, cooked, mutton/lamb
- 8 oz. beef suet
- 8 oz. currants
- 8 oz. raisins
- ¼ teaspoon ground ginger
- ¼ teaspoon ground mace
- ½ level teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg
- 1 level teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 well-rounded teaspoon salt and two of dark brown sugar
- Finely grated zest of an orange (or ½ Seville orange if you can get one)
- 6 tablespoons of rose water
- A good glug of sweet sherry
- About 1½ lbs short crust pastry



Chop the meat finely, mix with the rest of the ingredients except the sherry and rosewater and leave in the fridge overnight for all the flavours to mingle and develop. The next day, stir and add the sherry and sufficient rosewater to moisten the mixture without making it too wet.

Roll out the pastry as thin as possible, cut rounds to the correct size for your pie tin and mound up the filling, squeezing it down a little as it will shrink during cooking. Moisten the edges of the lids with a little cold water pop over the filling and crimp around the tops to seal well. Prick a couple of times with a skewer or slash with a knife. Glaze well with a beaten egg.

Bake in the centre of a hot oven (220°C/gas mark 7/425°F) for about 20-25 until golden and sizzling.

For a delicious modern version of mince pies see

<http://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/2174/unbelievably-easy-mince-pies>

Wassail

Wassailing was a popular tradition of the Tudor Christmas season and its focus was the wassail bowl, a wooden bowl containing up to a gallon of hot ale, apples, spices and sugar. We do not have much information about wassailing in Tudor times but there is one description from the reign of Henry VII which describes a very formal occasion where the steward and treasurer were present, along with their staves of office. The steward would enter the court with the “wassell” and cry out “wassell!” three times and then the people would reply with a song. Although this sounds rather formal, Sim is of the opinion that, in general, wassails were more informal and that it was common for people, even of “high” society, to share a communal wassail bowl of drink. At the bottom of the wassail bowl was a crust of bread which, at the end of the wassail, was presented to the most important person present. Apparently, this is where our present day tradition of “the toast”, at wedding receptions and parties, comes from.

3l ale or stout
12 small apples
3 tbsp honey
¼ tsp freshly-ground nutmeg
¼ tsp powdered cinnamon
2 tsp freshly-grated ginger

Bake the apples in a hot oven until they begin to split. Divide your ale between two pots. Place about $\frac{3}{4}$ in one pot and heat this gently until warm. Place the remainder in a second pot (which must be able to hold all the liquid), add the apples, honey and spices to this and bring to the boil. Now pour the warmed

ale into this and turn off the heat. Keep pouring the heated ale between the two pots until a large amount of froth has accumulated on the top (this is the Lamb's Wool). Pour into a heated bowl and gather your guests around to drink.



Based on an Elizabethan recipe and modernized by Celtnet.org.uk

**GOT A TASTY RECIPE?
WE'D LOVE TO INCLUDE IT
IN FUTURE EDITIONS!**

Hypocras

Hypocras, or Hippocras, was a popular drink in the medieval era.

To make a lot of good hypocras, take an ounce of cinamonde (cinnamon), known as a long tube cinnamon, a knob of ginger, and an equal amount of galingale (galangal), pounded well together, and then take a livre of good sugar; pound this all together and moisten it with a gallon of the best Beaune wine you can get, and let it steep for an hour or two. Then strain it through a cloth bag several times so it will be very clear.

Modern version:

- 3 bottles of red wine
- 170g brown sugar
- 1 tbsp grated ginger
- 4 cinnamon sticks pounded in a pestle and mortar
- 12 cloves
- 1 tbsp galangal
- ½ tsp each of cardamom, nutmeg, mace, long pepper (substitute whole black peppercorns if not available)
- grains of paradise (use ginger if not available).

Pour the wine into a large pan and gently heat until it is just at the point of boiling. Add all the other ingredients and stir until the sugar has dissolved. Reduce the heat and keep stirring for a few minutes before turning off the heat and allowing the mixture to cool. Once the mixture has cooled, strain through a muslin cloth to remove the excess spices (one recipe tells you to save the spice mixture so that it can be added to your next stew). Serve warm or cold as an aperitif.



Mulled Wine (Mrs Beeton's recipe)



Mulled wine is a more modern version of hypocras. To every pint (500 ml) of [red] wine allow 1 large cupful of water, sugar and spice to taste. Boil the spice in the water until the flavour is extracted, then add the wine and sugar, and bring the whole to the boiling-point, then serve with strips of crisp dry toast, or with biscuits. The spices usually used for mulled wine are cloves, grated nutmeg, and cinnamon or mace. Any kind of wine may be mulled, but port and claret are those usually selected for the purpose; and the latter requires a very large proportion of sugar. The vessel that the wine is boiled in must be delicately cleaned, and should be kept exclusively for the purpose. Small tin warmers may be purchased for a trifle, which are more suitable than saucepans, as, if the latter are not scrupulously clean; they spoil the wine, by imparting to it a very disagreeable flavour. These warmers should be used for no other purpose.

Shortbread

A traditional Scottish shortbread recipe. Shortbread was said to have been enjoyed by Mary, Queen of scots.

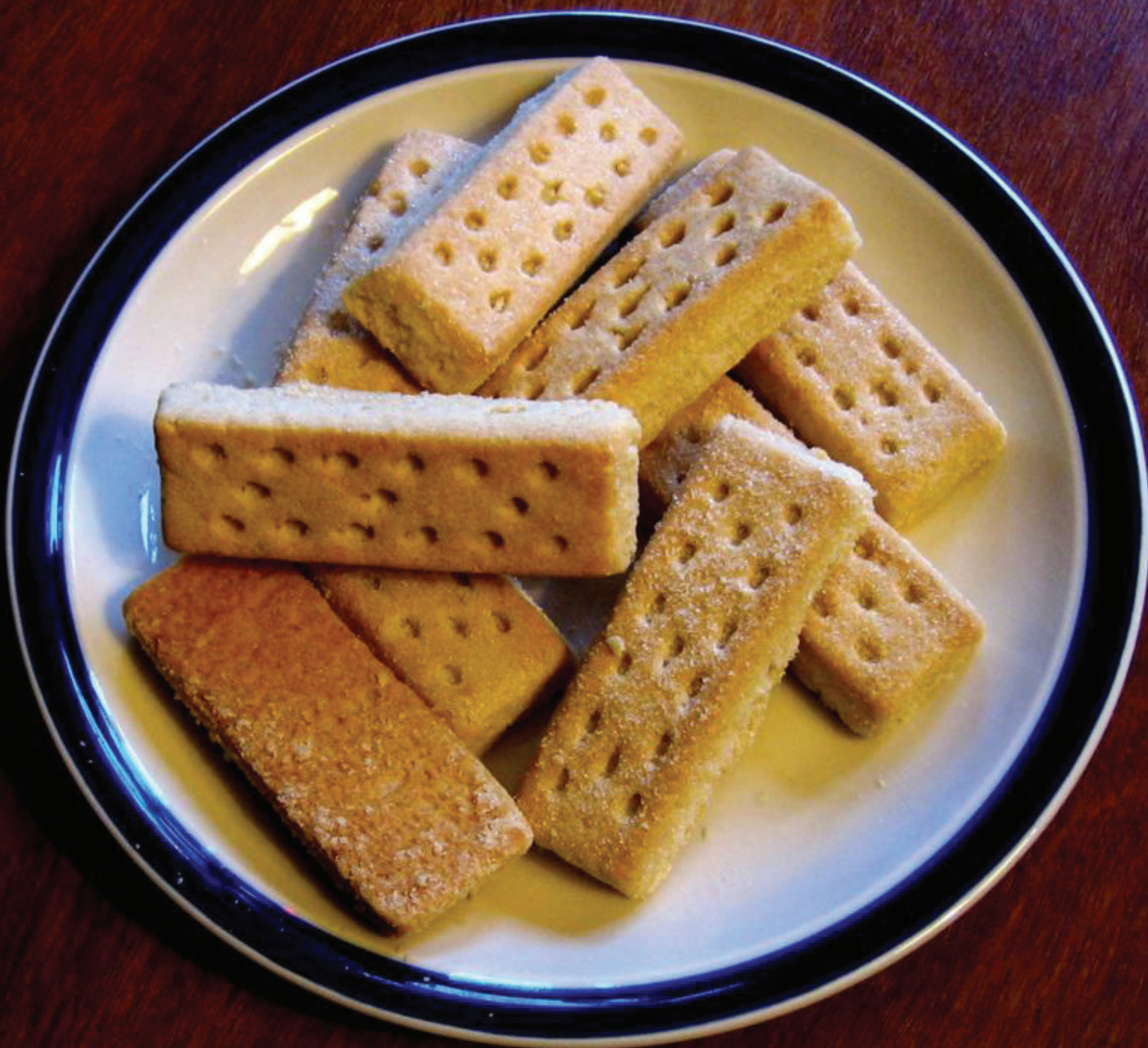
1 cup butter -- softened

3/4 cup dark brown sugar

2 cups flour

Preheat the oven to 300° F. Cream the butter in the bowl of an electric mixer. Add sugar and beat until light and fluffy. Add the flour, 1/3 cup at a time, until a soft dough is formed. (Do not overbeat!). Cut into rounds. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes, or until rounds are just firm to the touch.

(Michelle de Tomasso, GodeCookery.com)



CHRISTMAS WORDSEARCH

C	O	T	E	W	P	K	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D
N	H	C	E	U	V	M	S	R	S	Y	Y	L	A	W
R	N	B	O	Y	B	I	S	H	O	P	U	A	A	T
Y	I	D	M	U	O	N	E	J	E	L	N	M	S	H
E	O	B	A	L	Z	C	L	A	U	T	S	B	A	S
S	Y	R	S	E	V	E	W	G	O	M	A	S	H	I
D	Q	L	I	A	P	P	U	S	R	H	F	W	Y	B
R	T	G	A	B	R	I	E	L	N	G	O	O	S	E
I	H	F	M	M	S	E	F	V	X	P	R	O	T	U
W	B	I	O	P	I	W	A	G	A	W	I	L	E	D
F	E	S	P	P	M	N	N	C	K	S	L	O	E	C
T	I	F	T	O	N	O	S	A	O	D	C	N	O	A
R	D	H	E	Y	C	Y	T	D	W	P	M	I	O	R
A	R	J	V	T	R	R	P	J	U	G	I	A	B	O
L	U	O	M	E	G	A	A	W	A	S	S	A	I	L
T	K	T	Y	U	V	Y	N	S	A	M	R	T	P	Y
H	I	E	I	E	B	D	G	F	P	L	U	E	U	U
N	N	S	C	K	P	C	E	D	Y	O	L	E	V	W
B	G	Q	U	T	E	H	L	A	D	V	E	N	T	L
E	S	T	N	I	C	H	O	L	A	S	J	P	X	O

yule
advent
kings
boybishop
mincepie
misrule
wassail
carol

hypocras
stnicholas
lambswool
shepherd
angel
gabriel
goose



Stick this page to some thin cardboard. Then cut out Henry VIII and the other parts carefully, remembering to leave the base around his feet. Cut a small notch into the base where shown to make the stand for him. Also cut the small holes for his hat and by his hand for other items.

Henry VIII Christmas Cutout



3 - White



2 - Red

1 - Green



TUDOR ROSE DECORATION

Cut each of the shapes using the templates shown here from coloured felt or cloth. Using a running stitch, connect all of the layers, leaving a small gap where you can add some stuffing/padding to give the Tudor Rose depth.

Now properly stitch up your Tudor Rose. You can either attach a safety pin to the back to make a badge, OR you can use another red, white and yellow layer on the back to make a Christmas tree decoration.



4 - Yellow



CHRISTMAS POMANDER

You can make a very simple pomander to hang in a room or wardrobe by studding an orange with cloves and rolling it in spices. Here are some simple instructions...

INGREDIENTS

- 1 orange
- Cloves (about 25g)
- Ribbon
- Masking tape
- Cinnamon (can use orris root powder too but it is a common allergenic)
- Pins
- Greaseproof paper
- A cocktail stick
- Paper bag or tissue paper

METHOD

Knead the orange gently in your hands to soften the skin.
Apply the tape onto the orange so that the orange is divided into 4 equal parts.
Use the cocktail stick to pierce the skin of the orange and poke the cloves in – space them slightly apart as the orange will shrink as it dries.
You can cover the orange or make patterns with the cloves.
Sprinkle the cinnamon (and the orris root if using) onto the greaseproof paper and roll the orange in the spice.
Place the orange in the paper bag or wrap in tissue paper and leave in a warm place, like an airing cupboard, for a few weeks until the orange is hard and dry.
Remove the tape and replace with the ribbon, tying a decorative bow.
Hang in your wardrobe or place in a room and enjoy the fragrance.





GILL



CLAIRE AND TIM

**HAPPY CHRISTMAS
FROM THE
TUDOR SOCIETY**

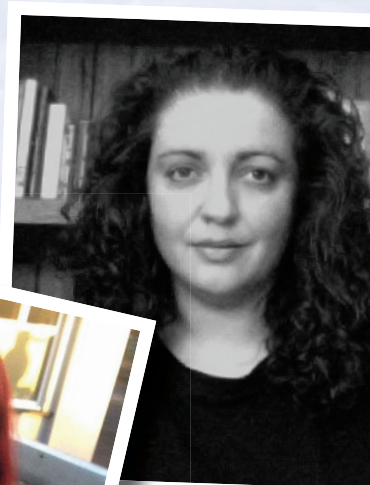
BETH



JANE



CHARLIE



OLGA



GARETH

**WISHING YOU AND
YOUR FAMILY
A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY
AND AMAZING 2015**

A SHORT CHRISTMAS STORY...



QUEEN ANNE BOLEYN HISTORICAL WRITERS SHORT STORY

THE LORD OF MISRULE

Christmas, 1517, Austin Friars, London

POV: Thomas Cromwell

Lord in heaven, life be damn good. The Boston Guild men prayed over Saint Thomas Beckett's yellowed toenails, and here I be, home in time for Christmastide. Aye, the dead Archbishop did us great favor, he did. Not only did my dear friend James Edwards and I arrive home safe despite the channel's winter squalls, but we missed near all the fasting of Advent. O Lord I thank thee. Three masses just today be near enough for me, though there be much to be grateful, I do confess.

Dear old Henry Wykes sure did take care of me, I tell you. First he hired me to manage his lucrative clothing mercantile. Then he offered me up his pretty and hot-blooded widowed daughter in marriage – all in exchange for bailing his arse out of a tangled and convoluted legal mess. Not a bad trade, I say – lots of profit to be made in that arrangement, with the luck of side benefits from a wild and randy bed warmer to boot. With a few crowns in my pocket, a new home rented for a steal from the Augustinian friars, and a pretty little wench filled with child, even my low-born seed donor is impressed. Aye Walter, I met His Holy Father Pope Leo. What do you think of that? It be too late for you old man. There be no crowns going to Putney for your sorry shriveled cod piece.

Tonight be finally time for our holiday feast, praise God. The Yule log gifted from the Boston Guild of St. Mary to my wife for all she suffers with a ruffian like me burns heartily in the hearth, and all those I hold most close scuttling all about. There be Bess' kin Henry and Francis Wykes, my sister Katherine and her Welshman husband, Morgan Williams, James and his fair wife Alice, and aye, the Abbot of the Augustinians. That be Bess who invited the old crow, bribed by the two fine geese baking in the kitchen, me thinks.

A tad drunk from all the ale and mead pouring in abundance, a sorry jolly bunch

are we. Poor Bess, heavy with my seed, she banters on with our guests and directs the servants. She'll make a good mother, my pretty little lady will, but she needs to stop chiding me. My God in heaven that woman can preach, correcting my words to the King's English each time I speak like the Putney cur I am. Bless her on her mission, Lord. God knows I need the lessons. As I pat my bonny wife's bottom as she passes, good old Henry Wykes gives a corrective glare, his smile wide. "Thomas, you are incorrigible, lad. Do tell us all about your exploits with James Edwards in Italy with those Boston Guild men. Why Bess says it was quite the adventure."

I laugh heartily at the thought of my latest travels, the guild's finances now secure in perpetuity with farthings flowing from the pockets of those gullible fools who drop their coin in exchange for a ticket straight to heaven. What be the problem? Everyone wins in this deal of indulgences. The priests of the Guild Chapel of the Blessed Virgin Mary get their cut of the bounty, the Boston St. Mary's Guild theirs, and the fools in line leave with the peace of mind their mothers avoid the wrath of purgatory. Need some more gaudy idols for St. Botolph's, Father? No worries, you are all set now good man.

I swig down some ale, but before I can get out a damn word, James blurts to Master Wykes, "Oh my lord, oh my lord... It certainly was a grand adventure. In spite of the God awful journey, we did have fun aplenty!"

James looks over at my Elizabeth, who suddenly is paying apt attention. "Dear Bess, your husband is a wily one, he is. We did get those Bulls signed, thanks be to his cunning ways. Thomas, please... do tell, man."

He holds up a goblet and bellows so the dead can hear. "To Crom, the Pope's most beloved confectioner."

Morgan Williams holds up his goblet. "To Crom! Confectionier annwyl y Pab! "

James drinks his ale down quick and declares, "Now this be a wonder of God, I do promise. Crom surely be the Lord of Misrule."

"My brother the Lord of Misrule you say James? Aye, true... and not just this night, trust me on that."

I look to dear Katherine and raise my finger to my lips. "Shhhhhhhhhh, Katherine. That all stays in Putney. I am a respectable gentleman now." I pause, unconvinced with my proclamation. "Well, Lord knows I do try."

My dear sister smiles broadly, her husband nodding his approval. "Aye, Tom.. a true gentleman. No one at home would know ye. Praise God for that."

I look around, and everyone stays all quiet, gawking at me as I be King Harry himself. "Aye, you will not hear this from that God awful new Latin fairytale of Thomas More's or in the writings of Erasmus. In my Utopia, the Pope trades indulgences for indulgences, and he be quite fat."

Our neighbor the Abbot's cheeks grow red. "Careful now, Thomas. The Friars own where ye rest your head," he chides.

My Elizabeth, she gives me the eye and chimes in merrily, "Thomas... you be going straight to hell speaking of His Holy Father so. Do go on, but respectfully, dear husband."

That damn Abbot smiles broadly at her. Did the dog just wink? The old goat takes a shine to my wife... my wife. I shall be a watchin' him right close. I hear the stories of what happens in those monasteries, debauchery aplenty.

I glare over at my Bess and mouth her a kiss. "Look around, love. This be all for

you and that babe that be baking.”

She smiles wide, and waves her finger at me in jest. I take a long swig of ale, and go on. “Well, it went like this. James and I ventured on to Boston, lovely city that, and met with these fine guild men. The papal bulls for their sale of trips to heaven near expired, much income was soon to falter. So we hatched a good plan, we did. Eh, James?”

“Crom did... not we, Crom did!... And it be a grand one!”

Morgan Williams and dear old Wykes raise their goblets. “Hear! Hear!”

“A grand one, eh? Grander than the swindling he did to get me out of my legal entanglements?” asks Henry Wykes.

“Hell yes! Hell yes! Our Lord of Misrule ruled the day!” James declares merrily, laughing.

“Oh now, Mr. Wykes! I be the lawyer, not Tom. Best be careful, or he’ll swindle you, too,” Morgan offers, laughing at his own chide. Why not? He be a merry one. Dear Katherine smacks his arm in jest. They two be a fine pair, and right good to me when no one else took notice.

“Me swindle my wife’s father? You just be jealous, Morgan Williams. Where that Welsh education get you, mate? Just when did you be crowned the Lord of Misrule?”

We laugh mighty, even the Abbot, the ale flowing. I pause and look about the room. All eyes, though most bloodshot from the ale and mead, are all on me still. “Listen, in Boston we all decided we’ll send me, James and some of those fine guild members to Rome, seek an audience with His Holy Father, and get the bulls signed that way. So, bold as brass we went our way. Dumb dolts we be. We traveled far at many a crown’s expense to learn His Holy Father holds court like the Holy Roman Emperor himself. There be no audience for the likes of us, as we’d die waiting, many a Lord and Ambassador ahead. Alas! We thought all was for naught.”

“For naught? When with Crom, nothing is for naught. We wasted not a farthing,” James offers, his wife Alice patting his shoulder with approval.

“Oh be still, James, you dog,” I chide. “Well, like the dolts we be, we wait two long days in line, finally near to the front. Then, we be told, in Latin yet, “Sorry, good Englishmen, His Holy Father is going on a hunting trip in the morn’. You be out of luck this day and more on hence. Oh, damn it. This was not goin’ well for sure.”

“Aye, you all be right fools,” jests dear old Henry Wykes, his wife laughing.

“Elizabeth’s man be many a thing, but no fool, love.” This kindly woman looks to me, waving her hand encouragingly. “Do go on, Tom. Me thinks you are a cunning one,” she says with a knowing smile. My Bess, she never can keep tales close, bless her heart.

“Aye, I shall then, dear mother.” I pause and scratch my head to keep them guessing just a tad more. “I conjured, let us then go to this hunt of his, wait there where they be no line ‘til he returns. So off we went.”

“Crom, you forgot to mention how you bribed one of the Cardinals many a crown for the locale of that hunt!” There he goes again. James will be the death of me.

We all laugh heartily, especially the now near drunk Abbot, and I retort, “Well thank you so very much, you scoundrel. My dear wife will be lecturing me plenty now.” She waves her finger at me again, teasingly, me once more forgiven.

"Yes, I bribed a Cardinal. I'll say many a 'Hail Mary' later." I pause and drink more ale as all have a hearty laugh at my expense. The Augustinian be spewing his brew, ale rolling down his chin.

"Thanks be to God! Four of these fine guild men sing in the abbey choir, so I offered, do sing for the Pope when he arrives. Maybe we shall get his attention, and seeing he be fat, we shall bring this jolly man's sweet meats along." I snicker. Every man has his price.

"His Holy Father be rich in crowns, so we done bribed him with confections. With him gushing with the Holy Spirit these blessed voices did raise, and with sugary snacks plenty, His Holy Father signed off on the Boston Guild of St. Mary's Bulls, just like that, not reading a word." Now everyone be rolling with hearty laughter and good cheer.

"Dear Thomas, did the Pope bless you? Lay hands on your head and pray for your eternal soul? I pray so, God knows you need it," Henry Wykes joyfully chides. We all laugh again. Bess, her father be a fine man, bless his soul.

I smile wide as the moon and say in all seriousness so dearest old Wykes knows I speak truth, "Dearest father, yes he did. The Pope said, in proper Latin, of course, 'You be no doubting Thomas, dear man. Go in peace and spread to all in England the true religion. And, many indulgences go to you if you name your first born for one of the great Bishops of Rome.'"

I look to my wife, and as if on cue, she speaks. "I desire to name the babe Henry after my father and His Grace, but just for you Thomas, I will indulge. What shall we name him then?"

"Well, Bess... I be the Lord of Misrule, so what do you think of Pius?" I say with a snicker.

She laughs, and shakes her head. "Try again, my lord."

"Boniface? No... how about Innocent?"

We all now be laughing, again. "Innocent was no innocent," chimes my neighbor Augustinian in jest. "Best you think of another."

I look to my wife, smiling broadly. "Bess, love. You choose. I be daft at this."

She rubs her belly gently, and says with a wide smile, "Gregory. I do like the name Gregory."

I rise and bow deeply to my wife. Aye, yes, she rules me in truth. She will have her way yet again. "My countess declares the babe in her belly shall be named Gregory. Let's now go feast."

"Don't forget to thank the Lord for your blessings, good man, and pray heartily" says the Abbot with good cheer as we begin seating at the finely decorated table. "Gregory is a fine name, but only if the Lord blesses you with a boy."

"The babe's a boy, Father. The Lord of Misrule commands it."

BETH von STAATS

DECEMBER FEAST DAYS

Make sure you enjoy ALL of the
feast days this month ...
not just the modern ones!

Advent

Advent, or the four weeks leading up to Christmas, was a time of fasting, or abstaining from meat, which did not end until Christmas Day, or rather midnight mass on Christmas Eve. Christmas Eve was particularly strict, with eggs and cheese also being ruled out, but then it was followed by feasting on Christmas Day.

6 December – Feast of St Nicholas

On the 6th December (the feast of St Nicholas), Tudor people would often celebrate the Boy Bishop, a tradition which had been going on since the 10th century. This tradition would usually consist of a boy from the choir being chosen on St Nicholas's Day to lead the community, and do everything apart from leading the mass from Vespers on the 27th December until the 28th December (Holy Innocents' Day). Historian Alison Sim writes of how Boy Bishops would lead processions around their communities, collecting money for the church and parish funds, and that the Boy Bishop of St Paul's Cathedral would lead a procession through the city of London to bless the city.

The tradition was a reminder of Jesus being asked by his disciples “Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” and Jesus, in reply, calling a child to himself and saying “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven and was a lesson about humility and belonging to God's Kingdom.” It was a lesson in humility and belonging to the Kingdom of God.

The tradition of the Boy Bishop went on until 1541, when King Henry VIII banned it, perhaps because he felt that it was mocking Church authorities and himself as head of the Church. Although the tradition made a brief return in Mary I's Catholic reign, it disappeared again in Elizabeth I's reign.

The Cathedrals of Hereford and Salisbury still continue the tradition of Boy Bishop today.

DECEMBER FEAST DAYS

6 DECEMBER

The Feast of St Nicholas

8 DECEMBER

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

25 DECEMBER

Christmas Day

TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

28 DECEMBER

Childermas

8 December – The Feast of the Immaculate Conception

The feast day celebrating the immaculate conception of the Virgin Mary in the womb of her mother, St Anne, meaning that Mary had been conceived free from the taint of original sin.

25 December – Christmas Day

Christmas Day in Tudor times was an end to the fasting of Advent, the four weeks leading up to Christmas, a time when Tudor people were not allowed to eat eggs, cheese or meat. On Christmas Day, the festive celebrations began early with a mass before dawn and then two further masses later in the day. Church congregations held lighted tapers as the genealogy of Christ was sung, and then they went home to enjoy a well-deserved Christmas Day feast.

Henry VIII was one of the first people to have turkey as part of his Christmas feast, after the bird was introduced into Britain in the 1520s. It soon became a popular meat, but such feasting was only enjoyed by those of high society, and not by the masses. The famous Tudor Christmas Pie was a coffin shaped pie crust containing a turkey stuffed with a goose, which was stuffed with a chicken, which was stuffed with a partridge, which was stuffed with a pigeon. If that's not enough, the pie was often served with hare, game birds and wild fowl. Pig's head, or boar's head, was also a popular Christmas dish.

The Lord of Misrule was a popular part of Tudor Christmas traditions and involved a commoner playing the "Lord of Misrule" and supervising entertainments, drinking and revelry, and, in general, causing chaos.

Henry VII loved the tradition and had a Lord of Misrule and an Abbot of Unreason, and it seems that his son, Henry VIII, enjoyed the tradition too, because not only did he appoint a Lord of Misrule for his own court, but also for Princess Mary's household in 1525. During Edward VI's reign, the Duke of Northumberland is known to have spent a huge amount of money on the tradition, but neither Mary I or Elizabeth I kept it.

Trivia: Did you know that the Holy Days and Fasting Days Act 1551 stated that on Christmas Day people must walk to church?



Twelve Days of Christmas

During the Twelve Days of Christmas, which started on Christmas Day, work for those who worked on the land would stop and spinners were banned from spinning. Work would not start again until Plough Monday, the first Monday after Twelfth Night. The Twelve Days of Christmas were a time for communities to come together and celebrate. People would visit their neighbours and friends and enjoy the Christmas “minced pye” which would contain thirteen ingredients, to symbolise Jesus and his apostles.

The mince pie would be rectangular, or crib shaped, rather than our present day round ones, and would be a minced meat pie rather than containing just dried fruit and suet. A cookbook dating back to around 1545 gave the following instructions:-

“To make Pyes – Pyes of mutton or beef must be fyne mynced and ceasoned wyth pepper and salte, and a lyttle saffron to coloure it, suet or marrow a good quantite, a lyttle vyneger, prumes, greate raysins and dates, take the fattest of the broathe of powdred beyfe, and yf you wyll have paest royall, take butter and yolkes of egges and so tempre the flowre to make the paeste”.

The mutton in the pie symbolised the shepherds to whom the Angel Gabriel appeared.

On Christmas Eve, a log known as the Yule log was brought into the home. It was decorated with ribbons and then lit and kept burning through the twelve days of Christmas. It is thought that this tradition had its roots in the midwinter rituals of the early Vikings who built huge bonfires for their festival of light. People thought it was lucky to keep some charred remains of the Yule log to light the next year’s Yule log.

The chocolate Yule Logs that we see in the shops at Christmas time are a reminder of this old tradition.

28 December – Childermas

This feast day, also known as Holy Innocents' Day, commemorated the massacre of baby boys which King Herod ordered in Bethlehem, in an attempt to kill the infant Jesus Christ. The innocent babies were seen by the Catholic Church as the very first martyrs.



HOW MANY SANTA HATS CAN YOU SPOT?

Throughout this special Christmas Tudor Life magazine there have been lots of Santa hats *including* the one shown here. They've been hiding in plain sight to give the magazine a little bit of Christmas cheer.

As a little bit of fun, why don't you see if you can find them all. There are 12 in total, and if you can find them all then you're entitled to a glass of your favourite mulled wine (or whatever drink you would like to celebrate with). So ... what are you waiting for? Get looking!

HINT: There's MORE THAN one on the front page of the magazine...

QUIZ ANSWERS: PAGE 105



NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY

Melanie V. Taylor, our regular art columnist, has been to see the stunning exhibition at the NPG...

I have finally managed to get to the National Portrait Gallery, Charing Cross Road, London, which was mobbed by people wanting to get into the Grayson Perry exhibition. That did not bother me as I was wanting to see *The Real Tudors : Kings & Queens Rediscovered*. What a treat.

This may be a small exhibition, made up mainly of the NPG's own collection, but there

are additions from private collections including the Chequer's Ring made for Elizabeth I, Mary's Prayer Book, Henry VIII's rosary, an amazing bust of Henry VII and the exquisite Coronation Miniature of Elizabeth I.

The first room is dedicated to both Henrys and is dominated by the Walker Gallery portrait of Henry VIII painted by the workshop of Hans Holbein (the Younger). Next to it is the cartoon by Holbein himself, for the Whitehall mural where Henry stands $\frac{3}{4}$ face to us, but what is so evident that, despite the glorious clothes, the essence of the man comes through. Henry was no oil painting! Holbein and his workshop capture the ruthlessness and ego of the man. His stance challenges us to defy him, but we are cowed by the pure power of this fat



man portrayed in these two large images.

Henry VII is such a contrast to his father, Henry VI, who comes across as a man who we know from other sources, was careful with money. You get the impression of frugality in the portrait of the man by an anonymous Anglo-Netherlandish artist by the way the lips are tight and the tentative position behind the wall where words are written. Henry VII holds a rose and it may be that this portrait was created as part of a possible marriage contract between Henry & the widowed Margaret of Austria, dowager Duchess of Savoy, daughter of Emperor Maximilian I, in 1505. Reciprocal portraits of Margaret were exchanged and an example of the third portrait of Margaret that may have been sent by her brother Philip the Handsome, Duke of Burgundy, is in the catalogue. It is thought this may be the portrait of Margaret that is in the Royal Collection. Next to this portrait is an illuminated prayer book dating from c1500, clearly originating from a Netherland workshop. The delicacy of the naturalistic marginalia and the illumination of Christ as Salvatore Mundi are beyond words. The suggestion of a shadow under the flowers makes me wonder whether this is by the Cast Shadow Master. Whichever workshop this came from, it would have cost a king's ransom and in today's market, it is priceless.

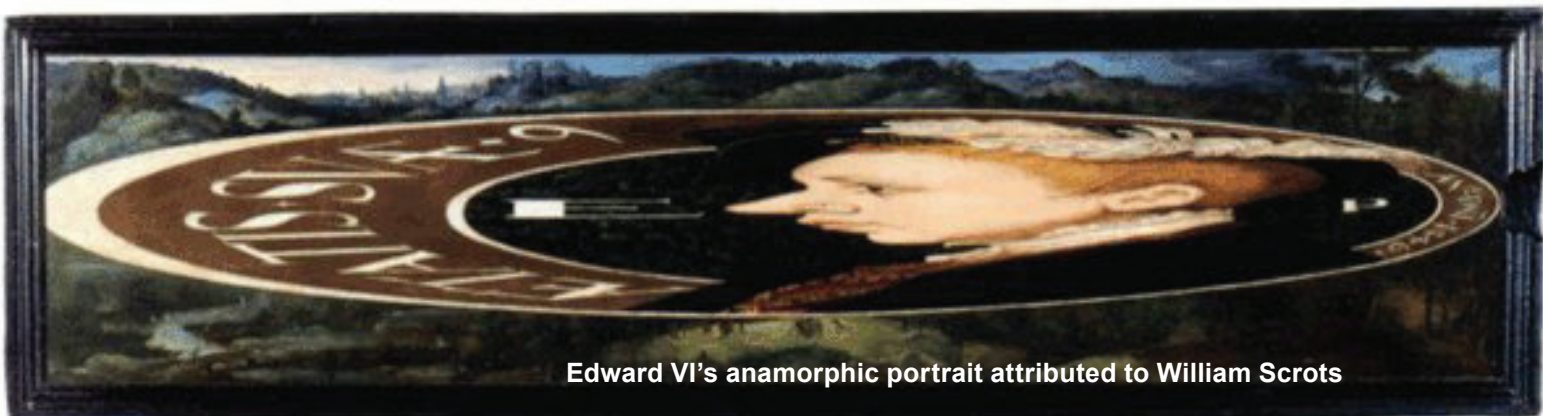
The funeral effigy of Henry VII (d.1509) attributed to the Italian Pietro Torrigiano is just as breath-taking. Taken from a plaster death mask, Torrigiano has created this effigy of the dead King Henry that was carried in a traditional rite of monarchy to establish the unbroken passage of power to the next generation. The head would have had a wig and the false body would have been life-size and dressed in rich robes and laid on golden cushions. The open eyes have been

carved into the closed lids of the death mask and the line of the original plaster mask can be seen along the hairline, down the sides of the hair to the jaw. This remarkable effigy speaks across the centuries and you can get really close and see the worry lines in the forehead and the way the skin creases in Henry's face and neck.

The carved boxwood rosary of Henry VIII is like the man – larger than expected and ornate.

The next room contains portraits of Edward as Prince. These are attributed directly, or the workshop of William Scrots, who Henry VIII had invited to Court after the death of Holbein, and of course Anon. Scrots had been court painter to Margaret of Austria, Regent of the Hapsburg Netherlands, and was paid the exorbitant sum of £62 10s per annum. From these paintings we see that Edward is posed in a similar manner to his father. In the portrait lent from a private collection, and in my opinion, the superior of the two similar portraits, Edward's expression is also similar to his father. It is not a compassionate face, neither does he appear tolerant. The anamorphic profile portrait by Scrots is in the exhibition. The anamorphic portrayal of the prince seems to be Scrots showing off and I wonder whether he is parodying the anamorphic skull Holbein painted in the double portrait we know as *The Ambassadors*. Perhaps it is Scrots way of telling future audiences that he is just as good as the Swiss painter, and we know from the records that Scrots certainly commanded a much higher salary than Holbein.

Seeing the work by Hans Eworth was like meeting old friends. They are of Mary I and sit next to the one of her by Master John whose portrayal of Princess Mary is flat but decorative. Eworth, like Holbein, was an artist of immense talent except he doesn't seem to



Edward VI's anamorphic portrait attributed to William Scrots

have caught the imagination of the Victorian art historians in the same way Holbein did. Perhaps this is why Eworth is not quite as famous as the Swiss master. It might also have something to do with the fact he painted 'Bloody Mary', whose religious persecution gave her the nickname and the bias against Catholics in England from the end of her reign until the 1829 Catholic Relief Act.

Eworth and his brother feature in the 1550 records of the Dutch church in the City of London. The brothers had been accused of being Anabaptists and were escaping religious persecution in the Hapsburg Netherlands. England had broken with Rome and many fled Europe and came to what appeared to be the more religiously tolerant England. We do not know exactly when the Eworth brothers appeared, but it is believed to have been in the mid-1540s.

The small portrait of Mary that was sent to Philip II is here and this is the one that he complained about saying that the artist had made her prettier than she actually was. Mary is clearly anticipating her forthcoming marriage and looks almost eager.

The large portrait of her as Queen makes her a very stern featured, serious authoritative figure and both are beautifully painted.

Also featured, as part of Mary's supporting evidence if you like, is her prayer book. I was so glad to see that the attribution to this artist is now given as Anon. Roy Strong attributed the illumination of the Prayer Book to Levina Teerlinc some years ago, then said how weak the rendition is. The double page image is a photograph I took when I had the privilege to study the prayer book at Westminster Abbey some years ago. The caryatid figures may be Adam & Eve and the margin is full of symbolism. This page is never shown but the full page illuminations of Mary at her devotions are on the web.

There is later work and study that has been done on Teerlinc by me and, in particular, Emma Butterworth of the Philip Mould Gallery, London. Emma has a growing photographic collection of unsigned miniatures that appear to be by the same artist and even

though the Coronation miniature, which is labelled as by Anon in this exhibition, also appear to be from the same brush, the NPG has not attributed this miniature to Teerlinc. It is generally accepted that the Coronation miniature is by Teerlinc, but the curators of any exhibition will always be very cautious about making different artistic attributions to any work previously identified and attributed by someone as eminent as Roy Strong. The lack of a peer reviewed academic paper identifying a definitive body of work will be the reason why artists remain Anon and since neither Emma, I or anyone else has yet to publish one with a group of definitive works and challenging Dr Strong's attributions, this will be the reason why.

The group of portraits of Elizabeth feature the Phoenix, Coronation, Ditchley portrait, and two versions of the Armada portrait. In the latter the queen is weighed down by the weight of the ropes of pearls around her neck. These include a rope of black pearls and there are enough bows on her gown to make them resemble resting butterflies! Seeing these two portraits alongside the more restrained Ditchley and Phoenix portraits it becomes apparent that Elizabethan taste had, in some cases, a lot to be desired. The saying that 'less is more' springs to mind, but even so the anonymous artists of these two portraits were desiring to flatter the queen.

For those of you who have read my novel, *The Truth of the Line*, and are able to go to the exhibition, you will be able to see the 1572 miniature of Elizabeth next to the famous Chequers Ring with the two tiny enamelled portraits of Elizabeth and most likely her mother, Anne Boleyn, hidden under a lid covered in a diamond E overlaying a blue enamelled R and surrounded by rubies. A pearl hides the catch to open the ring. I believe this may have been created by Nicholas Hilliard, but there is no evidence for this so it is speculation on my part. He was trained as a goldsmith as well as a 'painter in little' and created many of the miniature portraits Elizabeth gave as gifts to various diplomats and favourites. What strikes you immediately,

is just how small Elizabeth's finger must have been. When you see the Coronation portrait sitting next to the Coronation miniature you can compare how the artist of the former must have had knowledge of the miniature in order to paint the much larger portrait. The artist could not have been Teerlinc since she died



Coronation Portrait of Elizabeth I - Anon

in June 1576 and the dendrochronology of the Baltic oak board of the bigger image gives a date of between 1595 and 1600 for the felling of the tree. I would dearly love the time to be able to research the possibility that this large portrait was painted by Hilliard as part-fulfilment of the renewal terms for his lease from the Goldsmith's Company of 30 Gutter Lane. We know from records that a large portrait of Elizabeth was part of the negotiated terms, but it is always stated that the portrait has been lost. I wonder whether this is a copy of the lost original as is always suggested, or if it is the original itself? Is there an academic paper out there refuting this idea? I have not come across

one yet, but that does not mean to say it doesn't exist. Comparison of pigments used in portraits such as The Phoenix and the large Coronation portrait could suggest these portraits came from the same workshop. Certain new non-invasive scientific processes may identify the pigments as being from the same source, such as particular

blues being lapis lazuli may come from the same mine. The reason

I suggest this is because we are creatures of habit and artists are not necessarily driven by economy. Depending on the client, the cost of pigments would be something taken into account when considering a commission. The more high profile the sitter, then the more expensive the pigment and the artist would have their own preferences regarding their sources. Also, how long would it take for the oak to be sufficiently aged in order for an artist to be able to paint on the surface? Depending on the scientific analysis at least it may be possible to identify a workshop as being the creators for some of these portraits, if not

necessarily the individual artist. I had this conversation with the American conservator/artist, Timothy Mayhew-David who lectures at Harvard and other various universities. It was Timothy who told me about the use of a non-invasive technique being undertaken at the Fitzwilliam, Cambridge to identify the sources of pigments and the possibility of being able to build up a database that MAY eventually lead to the identification of various artistic workshops, if not even the individual artist. However, this all takes a lot of money so we will have to wait for a suitable sponsor with the wherewithal to fund the research into, and hopefully, identify (or perhaps not) a workshop and/or the artist for specific royal portraits by Anon or 'attributed to'.

There are various touch screens in the last two parts of the exhibition. One that shows what secrets have been revealed during the conservation and cleaning of these portraits and another that reveals the virtually invisible

way miniature portraits are created. This information is enhanced by the catalogue, which is a wonderful mine of information for those who are unable to get to London, but have access to the technical various videos that are on the NPG's website.

The whole exhibition closes in London on 1st March and is then due to go to Paris. It will then be on show at The Louvre and will be enhanced with various portraits of the French kings and queens of the period, such as François Clouet's large portrait of Francis I, and I hope too, his miniatures. This will give us the opportunity to compare the work of the French master of portrait miniatures to that of our own Nicholas Hilliard, England's first internationally renowned artist.

If you have the opportunity to get to see either exhibition, go.

MALANIE V TAYLOR

Our regular art history columnist, **Melanie V Taylor**, is an art historian and the author of "**The Truth of the Line**". She runs www.TheTruthOfTheLine.co.uk where she regularly writes about her research on the art of the Tudors.



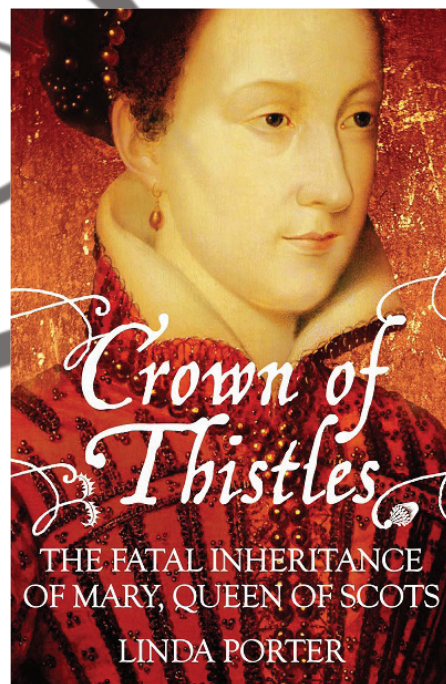
**HAVE YOU BEEN TO SEE THE
NPG EXHIBITION?
IF SO, PLEASE SHARE YOUR
THOUGHTS ON THE
TUDOR SOCIETY FORUM.**



As always, one person who is on the live chat with
Linda Porter will win a copy of
**Crown of Thistles: The Fatal Inheritance
of Mary, Queen of Scots.**

JOIN *Linda Porter*
**IN OUR DECEMBER
LIVE CHAT**

*Talk and Chat date and times
will be announced on the site*



*It's the
AMAZING*

DECEMBER Giveaway!

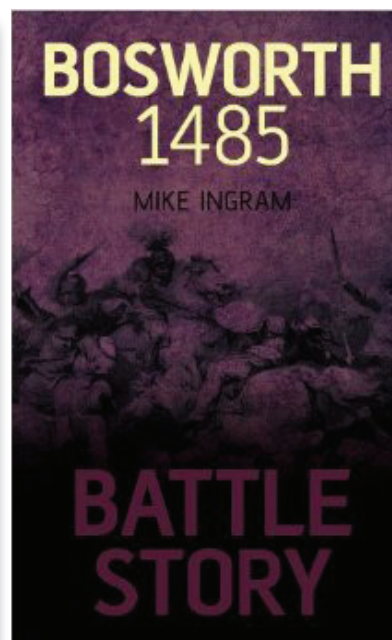
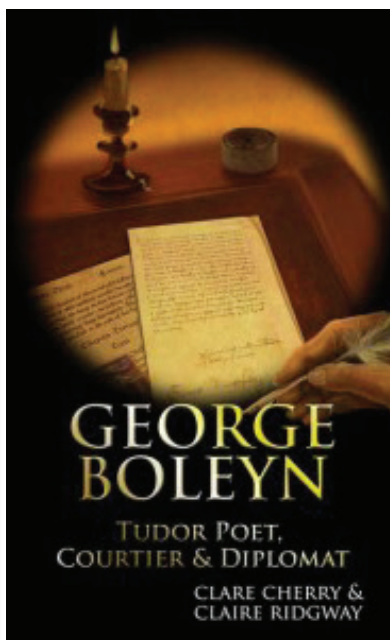
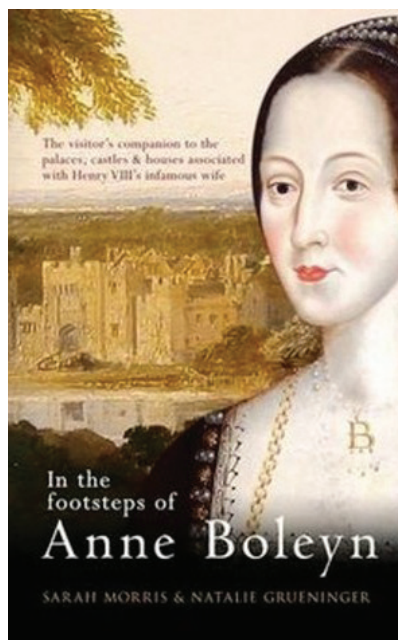
*Don't
miss it!*

**PRIZE
GIVE-A-
WAY**

Congratulations to member **Margaret Ward** the winner from November's giveaway of
"Tudor", "Je Anne Boleyn", "The Truth of the Line" and "Blood will Tell".

Also congratulations to **Sharon Conrad**, the winner of Karen Bowman's books
"Essex Boys" and "Essex Girls"

As always, **one lucky member** of the **Tudor Society**
will receive a copy of the following books
as part of our regular **MEMBERS PRIZE DRAW!**





TUDOR INGENUITY: Saint Nicholas Owen *by Beth von Staats*

Beth's Tudor

brother of two Jesuit priests. A gifted craftsman of carpentry and masonry, “Little John”, a devout Roman Catholic, entered the service of Jesuit Superior Henry Garnet in 1588. For the next eighteen years, “Little John” Owen worked exhaustively to insure the survival of the Roman Catholic faith in England and Wales, sharing his gifted ingenuity to protect the lives of priests and their harboring hosts throughout the realm.

In 1559, Queen Elizabeth, Regina convinced Parliament to pass the Act of Supremacy and the Act of Uniformity, which turned England into an exclusive Anglican

“I verily think no man can be said to have done more good for all those who laboured in the English vineyard. He was the immediate occasion of saving the lives of many hundreds of persons both ecclesiastical and secular, and of the estates also of these seculars, which had been lost and forfeited many times over if the priests had been taken in their houses.”

—Father John Gerard, Society of Jesus – Autobiography of an Elizabethan
(translation from Latin by Philip Caraman)

“Necessity is the mother of invention.”

This common English proverb, originally penned in Latin by William Horma, headmaster of Winchester and Eton, in the early 16th century, aptly describes the steadfast mantra of the remarkable and brilliant Saint Nicolas Owen, English history’s most acclaimed master of Tudor Era ingenuity.

Nicholas Owen, nicknamed “Little John” due to his exceptionally short stature, was the son of Roman Catholic reclusants and the

religious nation by statute. Initially, the Elizabethan regime turned a blind eye to Roman Catholics refusing compliance, simply fining people for failure to attend services. Unfortunately, on April 27, 1570, Pope Pius V excommunicated Queen Elizabeth. In so doing, he encouraged her overthrow by force. By papal authority, the outright murder of England’s queen was legitimized, leading to a host of plots to overthrow her in favor of a Roman Catholic monarchy. Beyond the ramifications to the Elizabethan regime, Roman Catholics

Tidbits



in England were consequently persecuted, any variance from Anglican Uniformity suspect of treasonous activity.

Within this dangerous culture, beyond the celebration of mass being unlawful, it also became illegal for any Roman Catholic priest educated and ordained in Europe to enter the country. Any priests caught within the realm were arrested, tried and executed for treason, with many of their reclusant hosts meeting similar fates. Those whose lives were lengthened or who survived the Penal Laws altogether during the reigns of Queen Elizabeth, Regina and later King James VI and I, often had just one man to thank, Nicholas “Little John” Owen.

Nicholas Owen was a clever, original and inventive man. Using his gifted carpentry and masonry skills, “Little John” traveled most commonly with Father Henry Garnet and his protective hosts, Anne Vaux and her sister, Eleanor Brooksby, throughout England’s countryside. At every manor, estate and country home where he lodged, “Little John” built ingeniously designed and elaborate “priest holes”. Hinslip House alone had eleven hiding places scattered throughout the property. One Elizabethan official finding a “priest hole” at Hinslip only after wainscot was stripped and walls smashing about, described that “two cunning and very artificial conveyances” were discovered, “so ingeniously framed, and with such art, as it cost much labor ere they be found.”

Though scarcely larger than a man with dwarfism, “Little John” worked alone. During daylight he worked as a common laborer to detract attention from himself, while through the night “Little John” engineered and creatively crafted hiding places behind hidden doors, walls, hearths and cabinets. The variety of “priest holes” equaled in number those he built, no two alike. So expert was “Little John’s” craftsmanship that it is believed that there are still “priest holes” out there yet to be discovered.

Once Elizabethan authorities came to know of the creation of “priest holes”, those engineered by Nicholas Owen over time by necessity became increasingly more sophisticated. At Baddesley Clinton mansion, for example, Owen engineered secret trap doors in the turrets and stairwells, connecting them with the sewer system. He also ran feeding tubes into hiding spaces, so priests could receive nourishment while hidden, sometimes days or weeks at a time. There are also “more easily discovered priest holes” engineered, which laid in front of a more elaborate “priest holes” hidden directly behind them. Authorities discovering no one in the first hiding spots moved on, leaving priests safely hidden farther on beyond the decoy.

Over the course of the eighteen years he worked in partnership with the Vaux sisters, Father Henry Garnet and other priests and reclusants, Nicholas Owen was involved in exploits beyond his design and construction



P. EDUARDVS OLCOENVS ende NICOLAUS OYDOENVS beide van Societeit worden op t'grouwelijckste ghepincht. Den eerften wert daernaer ghehanghen. Den tweeden siet onder het pinighen.



**Baddeslet Clinton House
priest hole**

Catholics after the Gunpowder Plot of 1606 finally led to the ultimate captures of both Father Henry Garnet and Nicholas “Little John” Owen. This time King James VI and I’s agents knew exactly who they had. Despite a grotesque ulcer on his abdomen, small stature and an injured leg, Nicholas Owen was tortured mercilessly in hopes he would disclose the location of his “priest holes” and the whereabouts of priests and reclusants still at large. Unwilling to speak more than prayers to the Virgin Mary,

of “priest holes”, several which also highlight his courage, wherewithal, and ingenuity. Before his ultimate fall, “Little John” was arrested and released twice, first in 1581 and then again in 1594, neither time giving in to his true activities despite torture, both times released with authorities unknowing who was in their grasp. In 1597, “Little John” then masterminded the prison escape of Father John Gerard from the Tower of London. Father Gerard later escaped again to Europe. Encouraged



Boscobel priest hole



Harvington Hall

he was tortured literally to death by racking, no trial or execution needed.

Nicholas “Little John” Owen was canonized by Pope Paul VI on October 25, 1970. One of the Forty Martyrs of England and Wales, Saint Nicholas Owen is aptly Roman Catholicism’s Patron Saint of Illusionists and Escapologists. His annual Feast Day is March 22nd.

by other Jesuits, Father John Gerard wrote his autobiography, historians’ most treasured contemporary source of the “cloak and dagger” lives reclusants and their priests led.

A massive crackdown against Roman



**Harvington Hall Priest Hole
Chimney**

RESOURCES:

- Caraman, Philip, John Gerard:
Autobiography of an Elizabethan,
London, 1951. (Latin to English
translation of original prose composed
by Father John Gerard, SJ.)
- Childs, Jessie, God's Traitors, Terror &
Faith in Elizabethan England, The
Bodley Head, 2014.
- Kopel, Dave, Nicholas Owen,
Dave Kopel, Research Director,
Independence Institute @ [http://
www.davekopel.com/Religion/
nicholas-owen.htm](http://www.davekopel.com/Religion/nicholas-owen.htm)



Bowers House,
Nateby hide, 1st floor



Boscobel priest hole hidden beneath a spiral stone
staircase at Sawston Hall



Priest hole at Boscobel House



Harvington Hall Priest Hole under the stairs

Events Calendar

December 2014 / January 2014

Now until 31 December 2014

The Life and Times of Richard III Exhibition, Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre. See <https://www.facebook.com/events/224289407763903>

Now until 21 January 2015

Treasures from the Royal Archives, Windsor Castle. See <http://www.royalcollection.org.uk/exhibitions/treasures-from-the-royal-archives>

Now until 13 February 2015

(Wednesday to Sunday 12pm, 1pm, 2pm & 3pm)

Nottingham Castle Cave Tours, Nottingham. See <http://www.experiencenottinghamshire.com/whats-on/nottingham-castle-cave-tours-p611691>

Now until 1 March 2015

The Real Tudors: Kings and Queens Rediscovered, National Portrait Gallery, London, UK. See <http://www.npg.org.uk/whatson/realtudors/display.php>

12 October through to 1 February 2015 –

Exhibition at Ordsall Hall in Salford, Manchester, UK, The Tudor Child: Clothing and Culture 1485 to 1625. See <http://www.tudortailor.com/news/the-white-lady-plays-host-to-the-tudor-child/>



1 November – 7 December

Louisiana Renaissance Festival. See <http://www.larf.org/>

21 November – 4 January

Hampton Court Palace Ice Rink. See <http://www.hrp.org.uk/HamptonCourtPalace/WhatsOn/hamptoncourtpalaceicerink>

22 November – 21 December

Great Dickens Christmas Fair, Daly City, CA. See <http://dickensfair.com/>

29 November – 24 December

The Magic of Christmas Past, Hever Castle, Kent. See <http://www.hevercastle.co.uk/whats-on/magic-christmas-past/>

1 December – 6 January

Christmas at Windsor Castle. See <http://www.royalcollection.org.uk/event/christmas-at-windsor-castle-2014>

1-3 December

Christmas Decoration Workshop, Haddon Hall. See <http://www.haddonhall.co.uk/special-events/christmas-decoration-workshop1/>

2 December - 8-10.30pm

Haunted Heritage Ghost Walk, Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre. See <https://www.facebook.com/events/520566734756327>

2,9,16,23,30 December

Somerset House: The Old Palaces Tour, Somerset House, London. See <http://www.somersetshouse.org.uk/events/2014/12>

4-7 December

Pirates in Paradise, Key West, Florida. See <http://www.piratesinparadise.com/>

4,6,11,13,18,20 December

Free Guided Tour: Historical Highlights, Somerset House, London. See <http://www.somersetshouse.org.uk/events/2014/12>



5 December

Christmas Wreath Making, Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire. See <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/events/christmas-wreath-making-Keni-05-12-2014/>

5-7 December

Utah Winter Faire, Farmington, Utah. See <http://www.utahwinterfaire.com/>

5-7 December

Fort Taylor Pirate Invasion, Key West, Florida. See <http://www.forttaylorpirates.com/>

5-7 December

Dickens on the Strand Festival, Galveston, Texas. See <http://www.galvestonhistory.org/events/dickens-on-the-strand/dickens-on-the-strand>

6-23 December

The Christmas Market and the Gingerbread Christmas, Leeds Castle, Kent. Open daily 10am-5pm. See <http://www.leeds-castle.com/What%92s+On/Events+and+Activities>

6-31 December

Christmas quiz and prizes included in the price of the ticket at Ye Olde Tudor World (Falstaff Experience), Stratford-upon-Avon. See <http://www.falstaffexperience.co.uk/page.php?linkid=5&sublinkid=220>

6-7 December

Tudor Christmas Weekend, Haddon Hall. See <http://www.haddonhall.co.uk/special-events/tudor-christmas-weekend/>

6-7 December

Yuletide Wollaton Tudor Christmas Celebrations, Wollaton Hall, Nottingham. See <http://www.experiencenottinghamshire.com/whats-on/yuletide-wollaton-tudor-christmas-celebrations-p633101>

6, 7, 13, 14, 20 and 21 December

Christmas shows about some of the legends and traditions of Christmas at Ye Olde Tudor World (Falstaff Experience), Stratford-upon-Avon. See <http://www.falstaffexperience.co.uk/page.php?linkid=5&sublinkid=220>

7 December – 12.30-4pm

Tree Dressing, Weald and Downland Open Air Museum, West Sussex. See <http://www.wealddown.co.uk/Events/What-s-On-at-the-Museum-Full-Calendar/>

9 December

Study day - Close-up and Personal: Portrait Miniatures in the Royal Collection, Windsor Castle. See <http://www.royalcollection.org.uk/event/study-day-close-up-and-personal-portrait-miniatures-in-the-royal-collection>

9-11 December

Christmas Candlelight Tours, Haddon Hall. See <http://www.haddonhall.co.uk/special-events/christmas-candlelight-tours-2014/>

10 December - 7.30-9pm

Leanda de Lisle "Richard III, Henry VII and the Princes in the Tower" talk at Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre. See <https://www.facebook.com/events/1447858192148624>

10 December

Carols around the Christmas Tree, Palace of Holyrood House, Edinburgh. See <http://www.royalcollection.org.uk/event/carols-around-the-christmas-tree>

12 December – 5-8pm

Selly Manor Traditional Christmas, Selly Manor, Birmingham, UK.

12-23 December

Light Up the Palace, Hampton Court Palace. See <http://www.hrp.org.uk/HamptonCourtPalace/WhatsOn/ChristmasLightTrail>

13 December

Tudor Christmas, Ravenwood Castle, New Plymouth, Ohio. Join King Henry VIII and his royal court for dinner and entertainment! Call (740) 596-2606 now for reservations. See <http://www.ravenwoodcastle.com/event/tudor-christmas>

13-14 December

Visit Santa, Haddon Hall. See <http://www.haddonhall.co.uk/special-events/visit-santa-2014/>

13-14 December

Christmas at the Castle, Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire. See <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/events/christmas-weekend-at-kenilworth-castle-Keni-13-12-2014/>

13-14, 20-21 December

Meet Green Father Christmas, Weald and Downland Open Air Museum, West Sussex. See <http://www.wealddown.co.uk/Events/What-s-On-at-the-Museum-Full-Calendar/>

**13-14 December**

Ingleside Renaissance Faire, Ingleside, Texas. See <http://www.inglesidetxchamber.com/index.php/ingleside-calendar-events/renaissance-faire.html>

15 and 19 December

Christmas Lunch at Shakespeare's Birthplace, Stratford-upon-Avon. See <http://www.shakespeare.org.uk/visit-the-houses/whats-on/christmas-lunch-shakespeares-birthplace.html>

16, 17, 21, 22 and 23 December

Courtyard Carol Singing, Hampton Court Palace. See <http://www.hrp.org.uk/HamptonCourtPalace/WhatsOn/CourtyardCarolSinging>

18, 19, 23 December

Twilight Magic of Christmas Past, Hever Castle. See <http://www.hevercastle.co.uk/whats-on/twilight-magic-christmas-past/>

19 December – 6.30pm

Charity Christmas Carols at the Castle, Sudeley Castle. See <http://www.sudeleycastle.co.uk/event/christmas-carols-castle/>

20 December - 7.30-9pm

Carols at Warwick Castle. See <https://www.warwick-castle.com/event/10/carols-at-warwick-castle.aspx>

24 December

Christmas Ghost Tour, 6pm, Ye Olde Tudor World (Falstaff Experience), Stratford-upon-Avon. See <http://www.falstaffexperience.co.uk/page.php?linkid=5&sublinkid=220>

26-28 December

Tudor Christmas, Weald and Downland Open Air Museum, West Sussex. See <http://www.wealddown.co.uk/Events/What-s-On-at-the-Museum-Full-Calendar/>

KNOW AN EVENT NEAR YOU?

**LET US KNOW THROUGH THE CONTACT PAGE AND WE'LL
MAKE SURE IT GOES IN FUTURE EDITIONS OF**

Tudor Life

26 December - 4 January

The Winter Trail, Leeds Castle, Kent.
See <http://www.leeds-castle.com/What%92s+On/Events+and+Activities>

27 December – 1 January

Winter Walks, Hever Castle. See <http://www.hevercastle.co.uk/whats-on/winter-walks/>

27 December – 1 January

Tudor Christmas, Hampton Court Palace. Celebrate the festive season in style by joining King Henry VIII and his courtiers for Tudor Christmas entertainments. - See <http://www.hrp.org.uk/HamptonCourtPalace/WhatsOn/TudorChristmas>

31 December

New Year's Eve Ghost Tour, Ye Olde Tudor World (Falstaff Experience), Stratford-upon-Avon. See <http://www.falstaffexperience.co.uk/page.php?linkid=5&sublinkid=220>

7 January - 25 November 2015

Madame Parboiled Interactive Dungeon Show, Ye Olde Salutation Inn, Maid Marian Way, Nottingham. See <http://www.experiencenottinghamshire.com/whats-on/madame-parboileds-interactive-dungeon-show-p606351>

10-18 January (weekends)

Riverdale Kiwanis Medieval Faire, Fort Myers, Florida. See <http://www.medieval-faire.com/>

21-24 January

Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Winter School. The course will be structured around the RSC's productions of Love's Labour's Lost, Love's Labour's Won (also known as Much Ado About Nothing), and Oppenheimer. See <http://www.shakespeare.org.uk/visit-the-houses/whats-on.html/winter-school-2015.html>

24-25 January

The Dragon Festival, Melbourne, Florida. See <http://www.medieval-faire.com/>



24 January - 1 February (weekends)

Hoggetowne Medieval Faire, Gainesville, Florida. See http://www.gvltculturalaffairs.org/website/programs_events/HMF/medieval_index.html

25 January - 2-4pm

Tudor Stuff, Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge Rangers Road, Chingford, E4 7QH. Costumed guides bring the Hunting Lodge alive. See <https://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/Pages/Events/history-tudor-stuff.aspx> and <http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/green-spaces/epping-forest/visitor-information/Pages/queen-elizabeths-hunting-lodge.aspx>

30 January - 1 February

Katharine of Aragon Festival, Peterborough Cathedral. See <http://www.peterborough-cathedral.org.uk/katharine-of-aragon-festival-2015.html> for programme.

30 January - 1 February

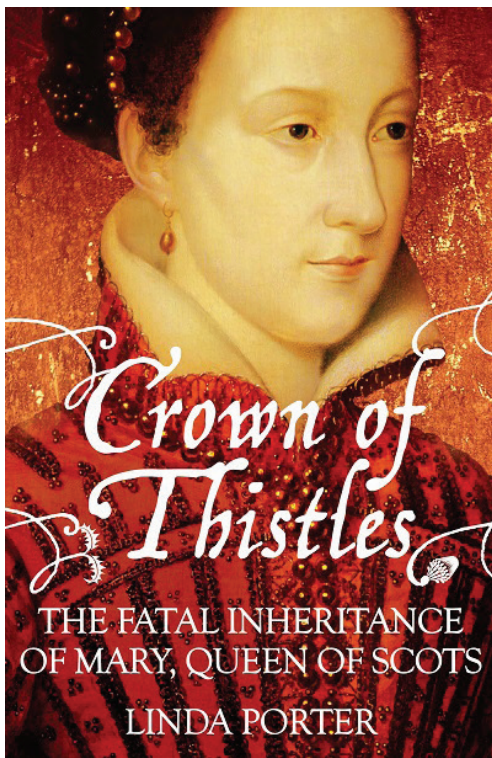
Treasure Coast Pirate Fest, Fort Pierce, Florida. See <http://www.treasurecoastpiratefest.com/>



DECEMBER'S GUEST SPEAKER LINDA PORTER

3 Queens - Catherine Parr, Mary I & Mary, Queen of Scots

Linda Porter has a B.A. and a D.Phil from the University of York, where she studied under the direction of two inspirational professors, Gerald Aylmer and Gwyn A. Williams. She spent nearly ten years lecturing in New York, at Fordham and City Universities among others, before returning with her American husband and daughter to England, where she embarked on a complete change of career. For more than twenty years she worked as a senior public relations practitioner in BT, introducing a ground-breaking international public relations programme during the years of BT's international expansion. The attractions of early retirement were too good to miss and she has gone back to historical writing as well as reviewing for the BBC History Magazine, The Literary Review and History Today.



Recent and upcoming books

NON - FICTION

***Illustrated Kings and Queens of England* by Claire Ridgway, Tim Ridgway & Verity Ridgway**

Release date: 24 November (Kindle), hardback coming soon.

With stunning colour illustrations of the 59 English kings and queens from Alfred the Great to Elizabeth II, *Illustrated Kings and Queens of England* is packed with interesting facts about the wonderful English monarchy.

This coffee-table book shows the fascinating progression of English history. Every monarch has a biography plus details of their birth and death dates, the dates they ruled and details of their offspring.

Each monarch is accompanied by a vintage Victorian etching, lovingly restored to perfect condition and vividly colourized. These images bring each monarch to life. Anyone with a love of British history will adore this keepsake book.

See English history as you've never seen it before.

ASIN: B00Q34BNH6

ISBN: 978-8493746483



ILLUSTRATED
KINGS AND QUEENS OF ENGLAND

CLAIRE RIDGWAY

***Mary Queen of Scots* by Antonia Fraser**

Release date: 8 January 2015

Mary Queen of Scots passed her childhood in France and married the Dauphin to become Queen of France at the age of sixteen. Widowed less than two years later, she returned to Scotland as Queen after an absence of thirteen years. Her life then entered its best known phase: the early struggles with John Knox, and the unruly Scottish nobility; the fatal marriage to Darnley and his mysterious death; her marriage to Bothwell, the chief suspect, that led directly to her long English captivity at the hands of Queen Elizabeth; the poignant and extraordinary story of her long imprisonment that ended with the labyrinthine Babington plot to free her, and her execution at the age of forty-four.

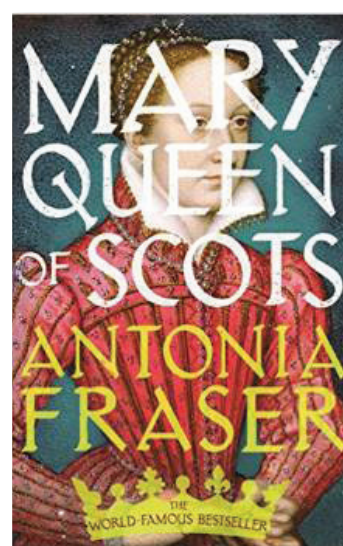
Paperback: 800 pages

Publisher: Re-issued by Phoenix (8 Jan 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1780229267

ISBN-13: 978-1780229263



The Medieval Housewife and Other Women of the Middle Ages by Toni Mount

Have you ever wondered what life was like for the ordinary housewife in the Middle Ages? Or how much power a medieval lady really had? Find out all about medieval housewives, peasant women, grand ladies, women in trade and women in the church in this fascinating book. More has been written about medieval women in the last twenty years than in the two whole centuries before that. Female authors of the medieval period have been rediscovered and translated; queens are no longer thought of as merely decorative brood mares for their royal husbands and have merited their own biographies. In the past, historians have tended to look at what women could not do. In this book we will look at the lives of medieval women in a more positive light, finding out what rights and opportunities they enjoyed and attempting to uncover the real women beneath the layers of dust accumulated over the centuries.

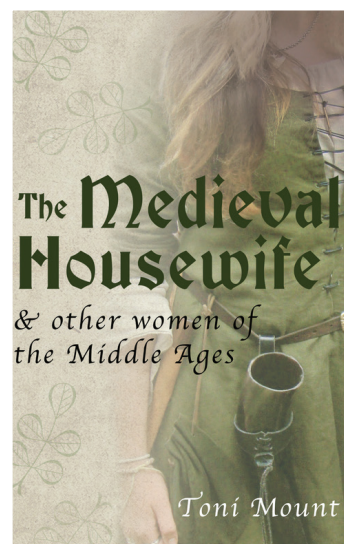
Paperback: 96 pages

Publisher: Amberley Publishing (5 Nov 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1445643707

ISBN-13: 978-1445643700



Digging for Richard III: The Search for the Lost King by Mike Pitts

Release date: 11 November (US)

The story of the archaeology behind the dig that found Richard III, told through a fascinating array of photographs, diagrams, and firsthand accounts.

In August 2012 a search began and on February 4, 2013 a team from Leicester University delivered its verdict to a mesmerized press room, watched by media studios around the world: they had found the remains of Richard III, whose history is perhaps the most contested of all British monarchs.

History offers a narrow range of information about Richard III which mostly has already been worked to destruction. Archaeology creates new data, new stories, with a different kind of material: physical remains from which modern science can wrest a surprising amount, and which provide a direct, tangible connection with the past. Unlike history, archaeological research demands that teams of people with varied backgrounds work together. Archaeology is a communal activity, in which the interaction of personalities as well as professional skills can change the course of research. Photographs from the author's own archives, alongside additional material from Leicester University, offer a compelling detective story as the evidence is uncovered. 41 illustrations in color and black-and-white.

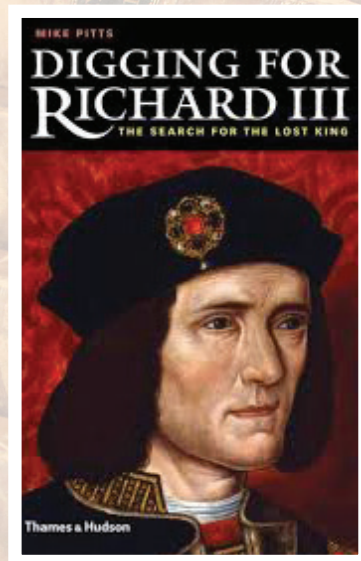
Hardcover: 208 pages

Publisher: Thames & Hudson; 1 edition (November 11, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0500252009

ISBN-13: 978-0500252000



***Fashion in the Time of William Shakespeare: 1564-1616* by Sarah Jane Downing**

Release date: 21 October

Garments and accessories are prominent in almost all of William Shakespeare's plays, from Hamlet and Othello to A Midsummer Night's Dream and Twelfth Night. The statement 'Clothes maketh the man' was one that would have resonated with their audiences: the rise of England's merchant class had made issues of rank central to Elizabethan debate, and a rigid table of sumptuary laws carefully regulated the sorts of fabric and garment worn by the different classes. From the etiquette of courtly dress to the evolution of the Elizabethan ruff, in this vibrant introduction Sarah Jane Downing explores the sartorial world of the late-16th century, why people wore the clothes they did, and how the dizzyingly eclectic range of fashions (including ruffs, rebatos and French farthingales) transformed over time.

Series: Shire Library (Book 785)

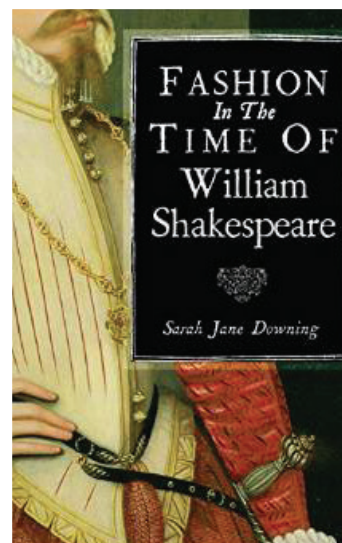
Paperback: 64 pages

Publisher: Shire (October 21, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 074781354X

ISBN-13: 978-0747813545



***Christendom Destroyed: Europe 1517-1648 (Penguin History of Europe)* by Mark Greengrass**

Release date: 28 November

From peasants to princes, no one was untouched by the spiritual and intellectual upheaval of the sixteenth century. Martin Luther's challenge to church authority forced Christians to examine their beliefs in ways that shook the foundations of their religion. The subsequent divisions, fed by dynastic rivalries and military changes, fundamentally altered the relations between ruler and ruled. Geographical and scientific discoveries challenged the unity of Christendom as a belief community. Europe, with all its divisions, emerged instead as a geographical projection. Chronicling these dramatic changes, Thomas More, Shakespeare, Montaigne, and Cervantes created works that continue to resonate with us.

Spanning the years 1517 to 1648, Christendom Destroyed is Mark Greengrass's magnum opus: a rich tapestry that fosters a deeper understanding of Europe's identity today.

Series: Penguin History of Europe

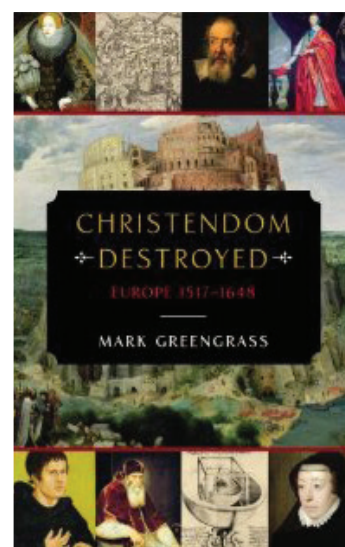
Hardcover: 752 pages

Publisher: Viking Adult (November 28, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0670024562

ISBN-13: 978-0670024568



Lady Katherine Knollys: The Unacknowledged Daughter of King Henry VIII by Sarah-Beth Watkins

Release date: 30 January

Katherine Knollys was Mary Boleyn's first child, born in 1524 when Mary was having an affair with King Henry VIII. Katherine spent her life unacknowledged as the king's daughter, yet she was given prime appointments at court as maid of honour to both Anne of Cleves and Katherine Howard. She married Francis Knollys when she was 16 and went on to become mother to many successful men and women at court including Lettice Knollys who created a scandal when she married Sir Robert Dudley, the queen's favourite. This fascinating book studies Katherine's life and times, including her intriguing relationship with Elizabeth I.

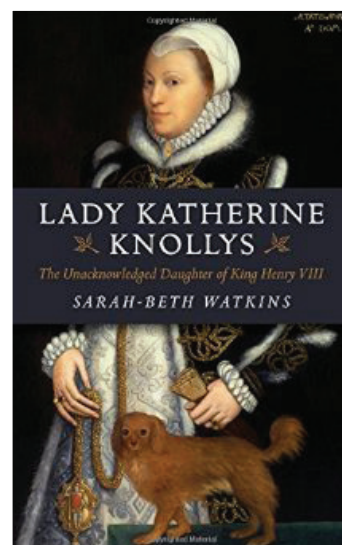
Paperback: 132 pages

Publisher: Chronos Books (January 30, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1782795855

ISBN-13: 978-1782795858



The Betrayal of Richard III: An Introduction to the Controversy by V.B. Lamb

Release date: 2 February 2015

ISBN: 9780750962995

No further details at present.

The Little Book of Mary, Queen of Scots by Mickey Mayhew

Release date: 5 January 2015

Mary Queen of Scots is perhaps one of the most controversial and divisive monarchs in regal history. Her story reads like a particularly spicy novel, with murder, kidnap, adultery, assassination and execution. To some she is one of the most wronged women in history, a pawn used and abused by her family in the great monarchical marriage game; to others, a murderous adulteress who committed regicide to marry her lover and then spent years in captivity for the crime, endlessly plotting the demise of her cousin, Queen Elizabeth I of England. This book covers the entire breath-taking scope of her amazing life and examines the immense cultural legacy she left behind, from the Schiller play of the 1800s to the CW teen drama Reign. Temptress, terrorist, or tragic queen, this book will give you the lowdown on one of history's most misunderstood monarchs.

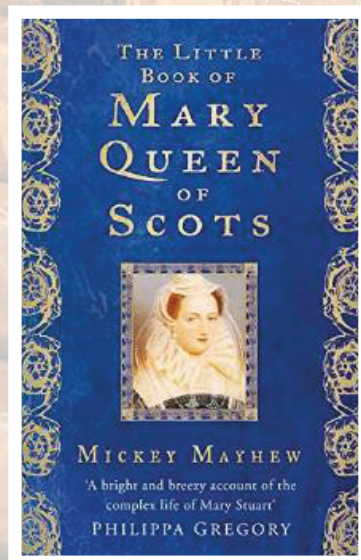
Hardcover: 192 pages

Publisher: The History Press (5 Jan 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0750961511

ISBN-13: 978-0750961516



The Dublin King: The True Story of Edward Earl of Warwick, Lambert Simnel and the 'Princes in the Tower' by John Ashdown-Hill

Release date: 5 January

No further details at present.

Hardcover: 224 pages

Publisher: The History Press (5 Jan 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0750960345

ISBN-13: 978-0750960342



FICTION

Cor Rotto: A Novel of Catherine Carey by Adrienne Dillard

Released: 6 November

The dream was always the same ... the scaffold before me. I stared on in horror as the sword sliced my aunt's head from her swan-like neck. The executioner raised her severed head into the air by its long chestnut locks. The last thing I remembered before my world turned black was my own scream.

Fifteen year-old Catherine Carey has been dreaming the same dream for three years, since the bloody execution of her aunt Queen Anne Boleyn. Her only comfort is that she and her family are safe in Calais, away from the intrigues of Henry VIII's court. But now Catherine has been chosen to serve Henry VIII's new wife, Queen Anne of Cleves.

Just before she sets off for England, she learns the family secret: the true identity of her father, a man she considers to be a monster and a man she will shortly meet.

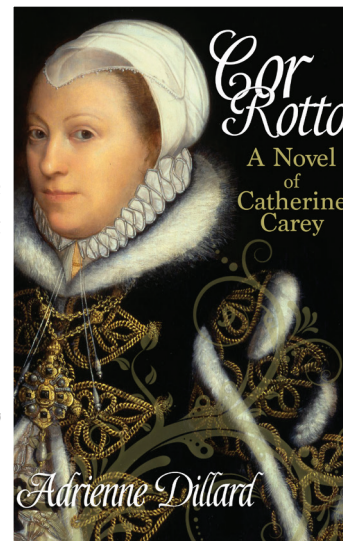
This compelling novel tells the life story of a woman who survived being close to the crown and who became one of Queen Elizabeth I's closest confidantes.

Paperback: 312 pages

Publisher: MadeGlobal Publishing (6 Nov 2014)

ISBN-10: 8493746479

ISBN-13: 978-8493746476



A Traitor's Tears (An Ursula Blanchard Elizabethan Mystery) **by Fiona Buckley**

Release date: 30 January

When Ursula Blanchard's neighbour is murdered, she is once again involved with matters of espionage and affairs of state.

July, 1573. Recently widowed, Ursula Blanchard is living a quiet life on her Surrey estate, caring for her infant son. But her peaceful existence is shattered when Ursula's neighbour Jane Cobbold is found dead in her own flowerbed, stabbed through the heart with a silver dagger - and Ursula's manservant Brockley is arrested for the crime. Determined to prove Brockley's innocence, Ursula seeks help from her old mentor Lord Burghley. But when a second death occurs and the queen's new spymaster, Francis Walsingham, gets involved, once again Ursula is reluctantly drawn into matters of espionage and affairs of state.

Series: An Ursula Blanchard Elizabethan Mystery (Book 12)

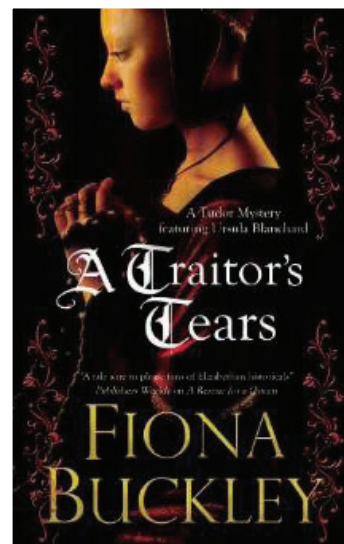
Hardcover: 384 pages

Publisher: Severn House Large Print; Lrg edition (January 30, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0727897438

ISBN-13: 978-0727897435



Tudor Life

Have your say...

We'd love to include a "writers letter" into the Tudor Life magazine. If you've got something that you want to add to the discussions, something that you've got a particular interest in, maybe something you want others to know then we would love to hear all about it!

So, please send any letters you have to our society secretary to the email address gill@tudorsociety.com with the title "Magazine Writers Letter" and we'd be pleased to include it.

The Tudor Society Team.



TudorLife

REGULAR CONTRIBUTORS

Claire Ridgway
Gareth Russell
Charlie Fenton
Melanie V. Taylor
Kyra Kramer
Beth von Staats

ART

LAYOUT Tim Ridgway

VIDEO

VIDEOGRAPHER Tim Ridgway

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Gillian Bowman Johnstone
gill@tudorsociety.com

CONTACT

info@tudorsociety.com
Calle Sargento Galera, 3
Lucar 04887
Almeria
Spain

ONLINE

www.TudorSociety.com

Copyright © 2014 All Rights Reserved
Reproduction in whole or part without
written permission is prohibited.

IN JANUARY'S TUDOR LIFE MAGAZINE

TONI MOUNT

Tudor Diet

MICKEY MAYHEW

Mary, Queen of Scots

NATALIE GRUENINGER

Katherine of Aragon and Ludlow

MIKE INGRAM

Bosworth Battlefield

PLUS ... OUR REGULAR ITEMS

Melanie on Art
Gareth on History
Tudor Tidbits
Recipe of the Month
Tudor Feast Days
Character of the Month
On this Day in Tudor History
Tudor Themed Puzzle Page
Tudor Events
Upcoming Books



DON'T MISS
THIS MONTH'S GIANT
GIVE-AWAY & EXPERT TALK!