



**Admin Tim**

*September 19, 2015 - 12:00 am*

Well, it's time that we got started officially. WELCOME Gareth! Thanks once again for an amazing talk. I'd like to know how you know so much about history... we're always in awe at the ease with which you explain things. Can you tell us a little about your background please?



**SBryson**

*September 19, 2015 - 12:00 am*

Great time for me!



**Boleyn**

*September 19, 2015 - 12:00 am*

Yeah I'm good



**Damsellll**

*September 19, 2015 - 12:00 am*

Hi Tim. The timing is perfect for me. It's 9am Saturday morning in Brisbane



**Boleyn**

*September 19, 2015 - 12:01 am*

Hello Damsellll didn't see you there.



**Admin Tim**

*September 19, 2015 - 12:01 am*

That's two Austrialians at the same time - welcome Damsellll



**garethr**

*September 19, 2015 - 12:01 am*

That's very kind of you, Tim. If I was to date it back to being interested in History, I can remember loving the Bible stories we learned at Sunday school and my great-grandfather had seen the "Titanic" being built as a child in Belfast, so he told great and very sad stories about it and its impact on the city when it sank.



**garethr**

*September 19, 2015 - 12:02 am*

But I started reading Tudor history at 8, after seeing "Anne of the Thousand Days" on television, so I think I've been reading about it for so long. I'm not really sure how to explain how much I enjoy it, except there's a great quote from an Hungarian writer called Antal Szerb who described History as a place he loved as much as tea "his country of refuge". I suppose I feel that way about i



**garethr**

*September 19, 2015 - 12:03 am*

\*it



**SBryson**

*September 19, 2015 - 12:04 am*

Beautiful quote!



**Boleyn**

*September 19, 2015 - 12:04 am*

Gareth What made you want to write about K.H



**Admin Tim**

*September 19, 2015 - 12:04 am*

and how amazing to be able to quote Hungarians in an off-the-cuff answer.



**garethr**

September 19, 2015 - 12:05 am

He wrote a book about an 18th century jewellery heist in France called "The Queen's Necklace", which was the last book he wrote before he was arrested during the Holocaust. It's the most beautiful read!



**Claire**

September 19, 2015 - 12:05 am

Must add that to my "to read" list!



**Admin Tim**

September 19, 2015 - 12:05 am

@gareth. Do you mind me asking where you are in the world right now? Oxford, NY, Ireland?



**Ceri C**

September 19, 2015 - 12:05 am

Would that be the affair of Marie Antoinette's necklace which she never actually bought?



**Boleyn**

September 19, 2015 - 12:06 am

This home and a big sister's home is our refuge Gareth.



**garethr**

September 19, 2015 - 12:06 am

That's correct, Ceri C. It's hauntingly lovely. It's description of Marie-Antoinette when she's first "introduced" is a superb piece of historical writing. Boleyn, it's a good question and I suppose the answer's philosophy in a way - fate or a weird series of accidents.



**garethr**

September 19, 2015 - 12:07 am

When I was 18 I had it in my head that I could be published and sat down to write a book that looked at queens who were beheaded or died violently. The only chapter I ever finished was on Catherine Howard. Looking back on it now, I disagree with almost everything I wrote. But it's so odd that the first piece of historical non-fiction I ever wrote as narrative, and not a school essay, was about her



**Boleyn**

September 19, 2015 - 12:08 am

LOL, I suppose many of us could say the same thing.



**chmac**

September 19, 2015 - 12:08 am

so what things changed for you?



**Claire**

September 19, 2015 - 12:08 am

I've become very fond of Catherine since I've been researching her.



**garethr**

September 19, 2015 - 12:09 am

\*her. It wasn't my intention to study her solely for my postgraduate dissertation, but I was suggested to do so by my supervisor, because her career offered a neat framing device for a thesis - 16- months in the household's existence. I expected Catherine to be that framing device, not to find out enough new detail that it changed my idea of her and her career.



**Ceri C**

September 19, 2015 - 12:09 am

I think one of the most fascinating things about history is the way that our opinions change as we learn

more.



**garethr**

*September 19, 2015 - 12:09 am*

In turn, I was doing a play about the French Revolution as if it happened in a kind of modern-day setting and a professor who worked in New York saw it and said there was someone she knew in New York who might like my style of writing. We met when I was there and now I'm turning that research into a biography.



**Boleyn**

*September 19, 2015 - 12:10 am*

I don't believe that K.H was a bad sort, she made some bad choices, but then didn't we all when we were younger.



**garethr**

*September 19, 2015 - 12:10 am*

I completely agree, Ceri C. When I was working on a book I wrote about the First World War called "The Emperors", my views on the Archduke Franz Ferdinand changed dramatically - I found him a lot more sympathetic - as I researched.



**Claire**

*September 19, 2015 - 12:11 am*

I'm so glad that Catherine is getting attention now, with you, Conor and Josephine Wilkinson writing about her. It will be interesting to compare what you all think about her.



**Boleyn**

*September 19, 2015 - 12:11 am*

Ceri C you are right there.



**garethr**

*September 19, 2015 - 12:11 am*

Likewise with William the Conqueror (what a horror!), William II and Edward II when I wrote my history of the English monarchy.



**Hunter S. Jones**

*September 19, 2015 - 12:11 am*

Have you ever found anyone you liked less as you researched them?



**garethr**

*September 19, 2015 - 12:13 am*

That's a great question, and yes. In "A History of the English Monarchy", I came away appalled by William the Conqueror and Edward I. With the Catherine book I'm working on now, which is called "Young and Damned and Fair", I'm not so much changing my views of Henry VIII as find a lot more reasons to support them. The dislike and revulsion is deepening.



**Ceri C**

*September 19, 2015 - 12:13 am*

I like the title.



**garethr**

*September 19, 2015 - 12:13 am*

I also researched all the characters for my French Revolution play, "The Gate of the Year", and I wrote about a very celebrated politician Jacques Necker, who I found it more difficult to warm to after researching him than before.



**garethr**

September 19, 2015 - 12:14 am

Thank you, Ceri C. I spend a long time thinking about it and then it leapt out at me while I was reading a poetry anthology. I love coincidences like that!



**Boleyn**

September 19, 2015 - 12:14 am

I'm glad I'm not the only one who feels intense dislike for H8 Gareth



**Ceri C**

September 19, 2015 - 12:14 am

Whose poetry? Pope?



**garethr**

September 19, 2015 - 12:14 am

I suppose for me it was political reasons I found to dislike him this time, Boleyn.



**garethr**

September 19, 2015 - 12:14 am

Which surprised me!



**Boleyn**

September 19, 2015 - 12:14 am

Most of you know the choice set of names I call him



**garethr**

September 19, 2015 - 12:15 am

It sounds so like Pope, doesn't it? I hadn't thought of that! It's actually from a 20th century poem by Stevie Smith.



**Boleyn**

September 19, 2015 - 12:15 am

I'm not overkeen on the Duke of Norfolk either



**SBryson**

September 19, 2015 - 12:15 am

No I don't like Norfolk either



**garethr**

September 19, 2015 - 12:15 am

Well, you and most of his relatives have that in common!



**Ceri C**

September 19, 2015 - 12:15 am

OK - surprised!



**Ceri C**

September 19, 2015 - 12:16 am

Never liked Norfolk.



**Ceri C**

September 19, 2015 - 12:16 am

Never liked Norfolk.



**Ceri C**

September 19, 2015 - 12:16 am

What draws you to so many diverse periods of history, Gareth?



**Damsellll**

September 19, 2015 - 12:16 am

Who was your favourite monarch to research for A History OF The English Monarchy?



**Boleyn**

September 19, 2015 - 12:17 am

What are your views about King John, Gareth. He's another monarch which I am not keen on



**garethr**

September 19, 2015 - 12:18 am

I'm interested in something that's really gathered pace (I think!) in Tudor history reading circles over the last few years, which links (a little!) to my talk. I'm interested to hear what you think: do you think there's been a dying off or cooling down of interest in Mary, Queen of Scots?



**garethr**

September 19, 2015 - 12:18 am

Like Jane Grey, she was a cultural phenomenon in the Victorian era, but I don't think there's same passion or sustained interest in her as there was, say, 20 years ago?



**Admin Tim**

September 19, 2015 - 12:18 am



Mary queen of who **Boleyn**

September 19, 2015 - 12:19 am

Mary QoS is a very complex person Gareth, trust me, I've been most industrious in that department



**Claire**

September 19, 2015 - 12:19 am

I think that series "Reign", which I believe to be nothing like Mary's actual life (although I haven't seen it) has heightened interest in her.



**Admin Tim**

September 19, 2015 - 12:19 am

She does have a fascinating story though (joking aside).



**Claire**

September 19, 2015 - 12:19 am

I used to get crazy emails whenever I posted about her on The Elizabeth Files!



**garethr**

September 19, 2015 - 12:19 am

John was a pretty vile character, Boleyn. A wretched and horrible man who, unlike the Conqueror, was also a poor king.



**LadyMichelle**

September 19, 2015 - 12:20 am

So very true Claire. The series has drawn interest in her life.



**Hunter S. Jones**

September 19, 2015 - 12:20 am

She was the opposite of E1, wasn't she? All heart, no head (terrible pun)



**Boleyn**

September 19, 2015 - 12:20 am

But King John did have some very strange traits to his character



**Ceri C**

September 19, 2015 - 12:21 am

I loved that joint bio - I thought it so illuminating to compare their lives.



**Ceri C**

*September 19, 2015 - 12:21 am*

lives



**garethr**

*September 19, 2015 - 12:21 am*

It really was and it did so in an engaging style. In terms of the nature versus nurture issue, it's also so interesting to me that Mary seemed so different to her son, James.



**Boleyn**

*September 19, 2015 - 12:22 am*

King John could never pass a begger without throwing a few coins into his bowl.



**Admin Tim**

*September 19, 2015 - 12:22 am*

Gareth, do you think that we don't hear much about James because we're so deeply "into" the Tudor period, or has his reign just been missed out by people's general historical perceptions?



**Hunter S. Jones**

*September 19, 2015 - 12:22 am*

Likewise, Gareth. James wasn't like either parent, was he?



**Boleyn**

*September 19, 2015 - 12:23 am*

I always say that Mary's problems began and ended with France.



**garethr**

*September 19, 2015 - 12:23 am*

Everyone is, I think, shades of grey and I try to avoid painting anyone as inherently saintly or irredeemable. Occasionally, you come across someone so jaw-droppingly awe inspiring that you can't help but stand in wonderment at them (for me, that happened with Empress Zita of Austria in "The Emperors"). John had certain likeable traits and many deplorable ones.



**garethr**

*September 19, 2015 - 12:23 am*

For me anyway!



**garethr**

*September 19, 2015 - 12:24 am*

Tim, it's such a good question and I think the most obvious answer is also the correct one, which is - yes. James was also clever and successful as king in many ways, but he lacked Elizabeth's charisma and her dignity. James inspired respect, in most quarters, but never awe and almost never love.



**Boleyn**

*September 19, 2015 - 12:24 am*

Hunter no doubt you have heard the rumours about James's parentage? That James may well have been fathered by Rizzio



**garethr**

*September 19, 2015 - 12:25 am*

So I wonder if contemporary attitudes to him, as a sort of poor spin-off to the Elizabethan era, have continued to influence us.



**Claire**

September 19, 2015 - 12:25 am

I was interested in what you said in your talk about people forgetting about the awful last years of Elizabeth I's reign because they then found things to complain about with James I. What do you think of the whole "Golden Age" label for her reign?



**garethr**

September 19, 2015 - 12:26 am

He had a lot of the physical traits of his Stewart grandfather, King James V, but also the temper of his English grandmother, Margaret Douglas.



**Boleyn**

September 19, 2015 - 12:26 am

James was known as the wisest fool in Christendom.. but in many respects he was perhaps the luckiest Stuart of all, because all his forebears met their death somewhat brutally



**Hunter S. Jones**

September 19, 2015 - 12:26 am

Paintings, not pictures...



**Boleyn**

September 19, 2015 - 12:27 am

either by murder, or in battle and as we know in the case of his mother she lost her head



**Ceri C**

September 19, 2015 - 12:27 am

My daughter, who is fascinated by the Stuarts, lays the blame for many of the causes of the later civil war with James - he sowed the seeds.



**LadyMichelle**

September 19, 2015 - 12:27 am

I haven't heard of Rizzio being James' father. Very interesting.



**garethr**

September 19, 2015 - 12:28 am

I don't know if there's such a thing as a golden age, if we expect it to mean a universal glitter. In Elizabeth's case, the dire treatment of Catholics - particularly in the final 25 years - the Tyrone rebellion in Ireland, the implosion of politics thanks to court faction in the Essex years, the recession, the harvest failures in the last decade.



**Boleyn**

September 19, 2015 - 12:28 am

Lady Michelle it was merely rumoured that Rizzio was James's father, possibly to discredit Mary and/or James.



**garethr**

September 19, 2015 - 12:28 am

But there was more on the credit side for Elizabeth than debit - the greatest achievement being the maintenance of nearly half a century of peace and monarchical rule that enabled her people to live safely and for the arts and sciences to flourish under her.



**garethr**

September 19, 2015 - 12:29 am

Yes, that's true. Rizzio was also famously ugly, so he'd have been an unusual choice for someone like Mary, who was beautiful and very aware of her status, to take as a lover.



**LadyMichelle**

September 19, 2015 - 12:30 am

@Boleyn: I got that just never heard of it before.



**Hunter S. Jones**

September 19, 2015 - 12:30 am

Rizzio worshiped Mary & some women find that to be a very desirable trait



**garethr**

September 19, 2015 - 12:30 am

True - but she'd more worshippers than Isis in her heyday



**Boleyn**

September 19, 2015 - 12:30 am

but if you put a picture of Rizzio/darnley and James together, you can see certain characteristics in James that are also evident in Rizzio's portrait. I see nothing of Darnley in James



**LadyMichelle**

September 19, 2015 - 12:30 am

@garethr: LOL



**Hunter S. Jones**

September 19, 2015 - 12:30 am

But, could she trust them?



**Boleyn**

September 19, 2015 - 12:30 am

but then this is purely my own opinion



**garethr**

September 19, 2015 - 12:31 am

I'm being flippant, but Mary walked through clouds of adoration from the moment she could toddle. Whatever charisma is, she had it seeping out of every pore. A point which John Guy makes brilliantly in his biography of her.



**garethr**

September 19, 2015 - 12:31 am

For me, you can see a lot of the Douglas/Darnley/Lennox traits in James - and not always for the positive. There are also some problems with the chronology of Rizzio as the alleged father, particularly the extent to which he was spied on and the fact the rumours don't pop up until quite a bit later.



**Boleyn**

September 19, 2015 - 12:32 am

If Mary had only worked with her brother and by extension with Elizabeth, I think things may well have turned out a little differently



**garethr**

September 19, 2015 - 12:32 am

It's true - she was dealt a bad hand and she played it poorly.



**Hunter S. Jones**

September 19, 2015 - 12:32 am

What do you think of the Bothwell marriage?



**Boleyn**

September 19, 2015 - 12:33 am

I agree Gareth, I doubt Mary would have even contemplated sleeping with anyone else but Darnley





**garethr**

September 19, 2015 - 12:33 am

If I'm honest, I'd have to hedge back on that because I haven't studied it enough to say with confidence about what is a very fraught and horrible issue - whether the Queen was raped or whether that was used as an excuse after it happened?



**garethr**

September 19, 2015 - 12:33 am

Either way, it was a political disaster that she embarked upon during a period of emotional instability and, quite possibly, trauma.



**Hunter S. Jones**

September 19, 2015 - 12:33 am

Fair enough



**Boleyn**

September 19, 2015 - 12:34 am

Rape or compliance re Bothwell. ah yes a real bugbear to try and figure out here Hunter



**Boleyn**

September 19, 2015 - 12:34 am

I agree there Gareth, as there was the scene with Pierre when she had first returned to Scotland



**LadyMichelle**

September 19, 2015 - 12:35 am

Yeah what's up with her and Bothwell?



**Ceri C**

September 19, 2015 - 12:36 am

Whatever the truth of it, she was certainly unfortunate in the men in her life.



**garethr**

September 19, 2015 - 12:37 am

Yes, she certainly was! Mary is a stark reminder of how even the most glamorous and charming sixteenth century woman could be dragged down by her society's attitude to power and gender.



**Boleyn**

September 19, 2015 - 12:37 am

Pierre imagined himself to be in love with the queen and was found in her bedchamber on 2 occasions, the first time Mary laughed it off as a sort of game but the second time he was in big trouble. Thomas Randolph, the English Ambassador, believed (as did others) that Pierre being in her room wasn't as innocent as she declared



**LadyMichelle**

September 19, 2015 - 12:38 am

@Ceri C: so true, she made some bad choices. Not sure who was advising her, but I don't think they did their job to well.



**Boleyn**

September 19, 2015 - 12:38 am

Randolph, believed that Mary had openly encouraged Pierre's suit.



**Ceri C**

September 19, 2015 - 12:39 am

Yes, the most successful women to hold power then tended to be widows - like Margaret of Austria and Marie de Guise.



**Doc Clark**

September 19, 2015 - 12:40 am

or Catherine da Medici



**Hunter S. Jones**

September 19, 2015 - 12:40 am

Mary was my first Tudor person of interest, She led me to an interest in the entire era. By today's standards, probably a narcissist who believed what she wanted was justified. Being queen added to the delusion...



**Ceri C**

September 19, 2015 - 12:40 am

Elizabeth excepted of course!



**Boleyn**

September 19, 2015 - 12:40 am

I kind of get the feeling that Mary was in many ways trying to immitate Elizabeth. Elizabeth was able to make love (loosely worded) to her courtiers, without allowing any man to get to close to her. Mary tried to do the same thing but her games of courtly love went too far.



**garethr**

September 19, 2015 - 12:41 am

Very much so. In the later part of Henry VIII's reign, Margaret's niece, Mary of Hungary, ruled the Netherlands on the Emperor's behalf and she was a real firecracker. Engaging, intelligent and she left diplomats quaking. They used to complain she was so physically active in the hunt that they couldn't keep up with her. By that point, she was the widow of King Louis II of Hungary.



**garethr**

September 19, 2015 - 12:42 am

Although I'm interested in 'soft power' too, which is why I was so drawn to the figure of James's wife, Anne of Denmark, in my talk, because Anne or Anna is usually dismissed as a frivolous and gaudy "party queen". She was certainly extravagant, but she was also savvy, manipulative and influential.



**LadyMichelle**

September 19, 2015 - 12:42 am

@Boleyn: interesting angle, but yes, her heart must have ruled her a bit more than most. Maybe a fault.



**Ceri C**

September 19, 2015 - 12:42 am

She's someone who is never talked about though.



**garethr**

September 19, 2015 - 12:43 am

She was born a Lutheran, fiercely resented having to attend Presbyterian services when she married James and became Queen consort of Scotland, but her sympathy (and alleged secret conversion) caused major political incidents in Scotland in the 1590s and England in the 1600s and 1610s.



**garethr**

September 19, 2015 - 12:44 am

Ceri C, true - which leans to Tim's point about us perhaps imaging the early Stuart era as another world, beyond the Tudors. Anna's role as the first queen consort since Katherine Parr, seventy years earlier, made her a political and courtly anomaly, which many English courtiers struggled to adjust to!



**Boleyn**

September 19, 2015 - 12:44 am

Lady Michelle you have no doubt seen the film Mary Queen of Scots with the brilliant Glenda Jackson as Elizabeth. In that Film Glenda says This woman is first a monarch, whilst Mary is a woman first then a monarch. You are right in saying Mary's head ruled her heard.



**Claire**

September 19, 2015 - 12:44 am

I must research Anne of Denmark, she really does sound fascinating.



**Ceri C**

September 19, 2015 - 12:45 am

It's amazing that a Lutheran mother and Presbyterian father produced a High Church Anglican and quasi-Catholic in Charles I. I'd like to know more about Anne of Denmark, I think.



**garethr**

September 19, 2015 - 12:45 am

For most of them, a queen consort had been an exercise in theory. Who was still in service in the English court by 1603 when Anna and her children arrived south, and could remember having either a queen as consort or separate households for royal children?



**Boleyn**

September 19, 2015 - 12:45 am

Gareth have you heard the rumours from some boffins, who believe that Anne of Denmark may well have been black



**LadyMichelle**

September 19, 2015 - 12:46 am

@Claire: ooo yes Claire that would be so interesting. You don't hear much about her, Anne of Denmark.



**garethr**

September 19, 2015 - 12:46 am

The best academic biography of her is a study of "Anna of Denmark, Queen of England: A Cultural Biography" by Lewis Barroll. Leanda de Lisle also gives her the proper amount of attention in "After Elizabeth", which I just love as a book.



**Boleyn**

September 19, 2015 - 12:46 am

I believe this to be properganda, but I think the boffin went on to explain that he belived that because of Charles 1st dark or swathy complection, it must have been in Anne's bloodline.



**garethr**

September 19, 2015 - 12:46 am

Boleyn, yes, I've heard it. Considering she was paler than fresh snow, it's an interesting and bizarre point to make.



**Admin Tim**

September 19, 2015 - 12:47 am

<https://domoregooddeeds.wordpress.com/2012/10/12/queen-anne-of-denmark-sir-francis-drake-were-black/> ... but ... I don't think so!



**Boleyn**

September 19, 2015 - 12:47 am

It is a bizarre theory too Gareth.



**garethr**

September 19, 2015 - 12:47 am

There is the same rumour about Charles II, who was very dark, but all the male members of the French

royal family were dark after 1589. Comments about how the "Bourbon look" in men was a handsome face, dark eyes and swarthy complexion are still being made right the way down to the end of the Versailles system in 1789.



**Boleyn**

September 19, 2015 - 12:48 am

it's hogwash, but it did give me a giggle



**garethr**

September 19, 2015 - 12:48 am

By the time Charles I married Henrietta-Maria, the French royal house already had marriages with Italian heiresses, like Marie de Medici, which explain the darkness.



**Boleyn**

September 19, 2015 - 12:49 am

yep.



**Claire**

September 19, 2015 - 12:49 am

I had someone telling me in no uncertain terms that all of the Tudor monarchs were black.



**garethr**

September 19, 2015 - 12:49 am

Henrietta Maria was irked by how swarthy her eldest son was, because she believed her paleness and her husband's was more becoming. Whereas her son's complexion reminded her of her brother King Louis XIII and her father, Henri IV.



**Ceri C**

September 19, 2015 - 12:49 am

With red hair?



**Admin Tim**

September 19, 2015 - 12:49 am

People do like a good conspiracy theory. The more difficult it is to prove, the more true it must be!



**LadyMichelle**

September 19, 2015 - 12:50 am

@Claire: seriously? Oh my!



**Boleyn**

September 19, 2015 - 12:50 am

Claire.. What!!! that's mad completely



**garethr**

September 19, 2015 - 12:50 am

She was much more relieved when the other children popped along, like Mary and James II, both of whom were pale to the point of translucence.



**Claire**

September 19, 2015 - 12:50 am

@LadyMichelle, he was really cross with me when I said that I didn't agree!



**LadyMichelle**

September 19, 2015 - 12:50 am

@Admin Tim: so very true.



**Doc Clark**

September 19, 2015 - 12:51 am

I think those boffins, Bo, may be the same people who think that Cleopatra of Macedonian descent was black. But I believe the theory that Anne of Denmark was black is based on the misinterpretation of a drawing of Anne of Denmark in black make-up for a Masque.



**LadyMichelle**

September 19, 2015 - 12:51 am

@Claire: well! They told you! LOL



**Boleyn**

September 19, 2015 - 12:51 am

Hello Doc glad to see you



**Doc Clark**

September 19, 2015 - 12:51 am

yes I finally got off of work earlier enough to catch a chat!



**garethr**

September 19, 2015 - 12:52 am

The most infuriating riposte is, "But how do you KNOW it's not true?" Well, since we can't prove a negative, I don't know that Jane Seymour NEVER went riding on the rings of Jupiter on a pet unicorn called Trixie-Bell, but I'm willing to guess that she didn't. It's an enraging line of "argument" to deal with!



**Boleyn**

September 19, 2015 - 12:52 am

Well at least you now know what SWMNBN means



**SBryson**

September 19, 2015 - 12:52 am

Love it Gareth!



**Claire**

September 19, 2015 - 12:52 am

Ha! That's brilliant, Gareth!



**LadyMichelle**

September 19, 2015 - 12:52 am

@garethr: that wou



**Doc Clark**

September 19, 2015 - 12:52 am

LOL



**Boleyn**

September 19, 2015 - 12:52 am

Gareth, Jane seymour did have a pet unicorn but H8 ate



**Ceri C**

September 19, 2015 - 12:52 am



**Boleyn**

September 19, 2015 - 12:53 am

it



**LadyMichelle**

September 19, 2015 - 12:53 am

that would be a great book Gareth



**garethr**

September 19, 2015 - 12:53 am

Hello, Doc Clark, and yes I've wondered if Anna donning "black face" for The Masque of Blackness early in James's reign might have led to the confusion by people who saw Inigo Jones's sketch for the Queen and her ladies' costumes.



**garethr**

September 19, 2015 - 12:53 am

<http://imgc.allpostersimages.com/images/P-473-488-90/29/2937/MRZRD00Z/posters/inigo-jones-costume-design-for-the-daughter-of-niger-from-the-masque-of-blackness-by-ben-jonson.jpg>



**Hunter S. Jones**

September 19, 2015 - 12:54 am

Hey Gareth, what led to your love of history?



**Ceri C**

September 19, 2015 - 12:54 am

So by the same token, there must have been a black actor at the Globe in order to play Othello.



**LadyMichelle**

September 19, 2015 - 12:55 am

@garethr: so what is next on your to do list? Books, research, relaxing?



**Doc Clark**

September 19, 2015 - 12:55 am

There's another thing to consider to with people mistaking white Europeans being black skinned, and that's the phenomenon of certain white, pink and red pigments tarnishing to black, garethr



**Doc Clark**

September 19, 2015 - 12:57 am

But yes, I think you're dead on the money about the Masque of Darkness



**Admin Tim**

September 19, 2015 - 12:57 am

Tonight's WINNER of "A History of the English Monarch" is ... Damsellll ... well done. Please could you send an email to me [info@tudorsociety.com](mailto:info@tudorsociety.com) with your name and postal address so we can get your copy sent out. WELL DONE and CONGRATULATIONS!



**garethr**

September 19, 2015 - 12:57 am

It was Sunday school, Hunter; a great-grandfather who told wonderful stories of Edwardian Belfast, and then a voracious obsessive reading that began when I became interested in the Tudors after watching "Anne of the Thousand Days" and the Romanovs after a documentary on the Anastasia case.



**garethr**

September 19, 2015 - 12:57 am

Congratulations, Damsell!



**LadyMichelle**

September 19, 2015 - 12:55 am

@garethr: so what is next on your to do list? Books, research, relaxing?



**Doc Clark**

September 19, 2015 - 12:55 am

There's another thing to consider to with people mistaking white Europeans being black skinned, and that's the phenomenon of certain white, pink and red pigments tarnishing to black, Gareth



**Doc Clark**

September 19, 2015 - 12:57 am

But yes, I think you're dead on the money about the Masque of Darkness



**Admin Tim**

September 19, 2015 - 12:57 am

Tonight's WINNER of "A History of the English Monarch" is ... Damsellll ... well done. Please could you send an email to me [info@tudorsociety.com](mailto:info@tudorsociety.com) with your name and postal address so we can get your copy sent out. WELL DONE and CONGRATULATIONS!



**Gareth**

September 19, 2015 - 12:57 am

It was Sunday school, Hunter; a great-grandfather who told wonderful stories of Edwardian Belfast, and then a voracious obsessive reading that began when I became interested in the Tudors after watching "Anne of the Thousand Days" and the Romanovs after a documentary on the Anastasia case.



**Gareth**

September 19, 2015 - 12:57 am

Congratulations, Damsell!



**Boleyn**

September 19, 2015 - 12:57 am

Well done Damselllll happy reading.



**SBryson**

September 19, 2015 - 12:58 am

Congratulations Damsellll!



**Gareth**

September 19, 2015 - 12:58 am

Well, Lady Michelle, I'm actually adapting my novels, "Popular", for stage for the wonderful and beautiful (if terrifyingly enormous!) MAC theatre in Belfast, but as soon as I finish the Catherine manuscript, I'll be heading off for a long weekend away!



**LadyMichelle**

September 19, 2015 - 12:58 am

Congratulations Damsellll, enjoy!



**Claire**

September 19, 2015 - 12:58 am

Congrats Damselllll, it's a wonderful book.



**Boleyn**

September 19, 2015 - 12:58 am

Anastasia yet another one of history's mysteries



**Ceri C**

September 19, 2015 - 12:58 am

Congrats Damsellll



**Admin Tim**

September 19, 2015 - 12:58 am

Hi Laurie, glad you've made it on. Sorry that you missed the talk... I always post a transcript of the talks

a few days afterwards.



**garethr**

*September 19, 2015 - 12:58 am*

I'll have to be back to sit in on the auditions in Belfast, which start on 9th October.



**Hunter S. Jones**

*September 19, 2015 - 12:59 am*

Congrats Damsell! Gareth, that is amazing. What a gift to know your g-grandfather!



**Hunter S. Jones**

*September 19, 2015 - 12:59 am*

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**LadyMichelle**

*September 19, 2015 - 12:59 am*

@garethr: that sounds wonderful. Have a great time!



**Claire**

*September 19, 2015 - 12:59 am*

Thank you so very much, Gareth, for staying up late and chatting with us. As usual, you've been fabulous.



**garethr**

*September 19, 2015 - 1:00 am*

Thank you so much for having me; it's been my pleasure and thank you all so much for your great questions and points. I always have such a great time here!



**Boleyn**

*September 19, 2015 - 1:00 am*

Well said Hunter, I'm sure Gareth's grandfather would be as proud as punch



**Admin Tim**

*September 19, 2015 - 1:00 am*

Yes. Thank you Gareth for your excellent video and for tonight's live chat. Your talk covered things I'd never thought about. Thank you so much!



**LadyMichelle**

*September 19, 2015 - 1:00 am*

Thanks to Claire, Tim and Gareth. See you all the next time.



**Claire**

*September 19, 2015 - 1:00 am*

Now to research Anne of Denmark!



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**SBryson**

*September 19, 2015 - 1:00 am*

Thanks Gareth, that was a great and very interesting chat!



**Boleyn**

*September 19, 2015 - 1:00 am*

Thank you so much Gareth, for your time. I hope that you will be able to pop in again soon and let us all know how you are getting on



**Doc Clark**

*September 19, 2015 - 1:00 am*

Yes, thank you



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**Doc Clark**

*September 19, 2015 - 1:00 am*

Yes, thank you



**Ceri C**

*September 19, 2015 - 1:00 am*

Thanks Gareth.



**Hunter S. Jones**

*September 19, 2015 - 1:00 am*

Thanks Gareth. Many thanks to Claire & Tim for making this possible for us!



**garethr**

*September 19, 2015 - 1:00 am*

Yes! Do! Claire, if you ever write a biography of her I'll be over the moon with happiness!



**Claire**

*September 19, 2015 - 1:01 am*

Thank you everyone!



**Claire**

*September 19, 2015 - 1:01 am*

@Gareth, another one to add to the list!



**garethr**

*September 19, 2015 - 1:01 am*

I will. I'm finishing over the next week - I'm in Oxford all of next week to do the very last of my fact checking - and then I'll let you all know how it gets on. Thank you so much for your time.

01 am

Thank you everyone!



**Claire**

*September 19, 2015 - 1:01 am*

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**garethr**

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**Claire**

*September 19, 2015 - 1:02 am*

Thank you everyone for joining us. Good night and have a lovely weekend. P.S. There's a new Claire Chats video on the site on Henry VIII and Catherine Howard's 1541 progress.



**Boleyn**

*September 19, 2015 - 1:03 am*

Goodnight everyone.



**Ceri C**

*September 19, 2015 - 1:03 am*

Goodnight



**Admin Tim**

*September 19, 2015 - 1:03 am*

Goodnight. Off to bed now.