The King we Love to Hate?

It has often been said that history is written by the victors, so Richard's subsequent vilification can be attributed to significant Tudor propaganda. Shakespeare's Richard III describes him as a deformed hunchback who had murdered his way to the throne. The unknown fate of his young nephews helped to cement his reputation as a ruthless and bloodthirsty killer.

However, viewed more dispassionately, Richard emerges as a brave soldier, decisive leader and a well educated and clever man. There is little evidence of deformity or that he perpetrated acts of senseless violence. He was born into a violent world where war was never far off and the throne could be won or lost at the point of a sword.

Some societies have been in existence for many years and have dedicated themselves to finding out more about Richard's reign and character. Perhaps it is because we know little of the real Richard that we are still so fascinated by him?

NEW THEATRE, HINCKLEY. ichardus tertius Actio prima On WEDNESDAY, August 27th, 1800, Their Majefly's Servants from the Theatre Royal, Cheltenham, Flizabetha. Re Will Perform SHAKESPEARE's Celebrated TRAGEDY of Regima ardinalis Cantuariensis Archigiscog King K Vuntius Edwardus row, quinderim Annor Richardus dur Glocestria The IIIrd. Or. Tux Buckinghamia The BATTLE of BOSWORTH FIELD. Rinexus This HISTORICAL PLAY is one of SHAKESPEARE's beft Productions, and fnews in firong colours, the artiful hypoerify and crustly of RICHARD. His murdering the two Infant Princes in the Towers, mult, operate forcibility on the feeling mind; and his fubiquent downfal when killed by RICH-MOND, is what every one will rejoice at. Upon the whole, it may be firity faid, that no PLAY ever exhibited gracter variety of character, or was better calculated TO PLEASE AN ADDENCE. Barones fastingus Stanlente Lowardub King Richard, Mr. MARSHALL. King Henry, Mr. RICHARDS.-Buckingham, Mr. WHARTON. Duke of York, Mifs M. MARSHALL.-Prince of Wales, Mifs MARSHALL. Stanley, Mr. CHAMBERLAIN.-Catefby, Mr. H. CHAMBERLAIN. Sir Walter Blunt, Mr. WALTON.-Norfolk, Mr. STANLEY, Lieutenant of the Tower, Mr. ADAMSON.-Lord Mayor, Mr. LE BRUN, And, Richmond, Mr. FIELD. Ionehus Epifcopub Elienfis Ancilla rogma Catyberns - Jurigoritud Queen, Mifs ERRINGTON.-Duchefs of York, Mrs. BLANDFORD. And, Lady Anne, Mrs. PITT. towardus squestinis ordinis Eruns Duris Glocestria Serieus Regis Hardingus mileo Calegatus Cius Londoniensis Chorus Tumul Quantium Cuitum To which will be added, the very interefting MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT of Lock & Archigeloond Eboracenfis Serme Lichar Die due Enoral Tesis Vermins Sermens ad arma A LEICESTERSHIRE STORY. Vaghamme Old Brummagen, Mr. CHAMBERLAIN. Captain Cheerly, Mr. WHARTON.--Vain, Mr. STANLEY. Briximarti, Mr. H. CHAMBERLAIN.--And, Ralph, Mr. FIELD. Condux Shoxi Flant Equestris ordinis Mifs BLANDFORD Laura, Mifs MARSHALL,-Selima And, Fanny, Mrs. FIELD. TICKETS to be had at the Printers, the Principal Inns, and of MR. ADAMSON. 12 Ward, Printer, Hinchley.



Shakespeare's Richard III play handbill, Hinckley, 1800.

List of dramatis personae for Richardus Tertius a play by Thomas Legge performed in 1579. Legge's play does not show Richard as deformed. Source: Northamptonshire Record Office.



Bosworth Boar badge: This silver badge was found on the Bosworth battlefield site in 2009. Richard used the white boar as his personal emblem and this badge would have been worn by a prominent member of Richard's retinue. The boar symbol has been adopted by various Ricardian societies so is still popular today.

The Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland



Working in Partnership with

