

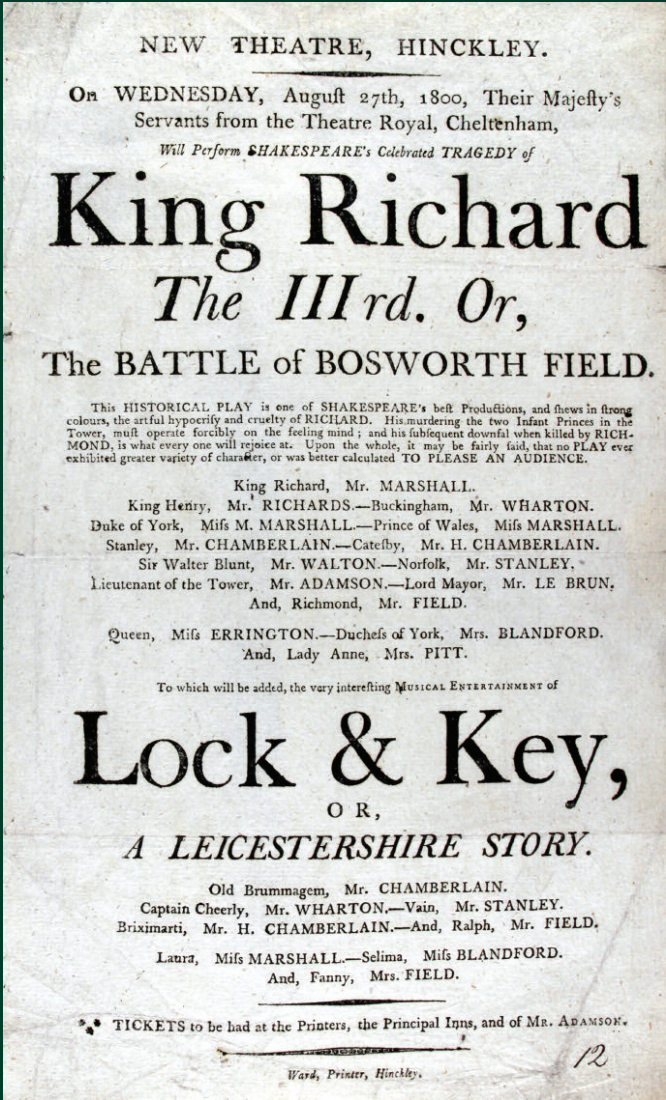
The King we Love to Hate

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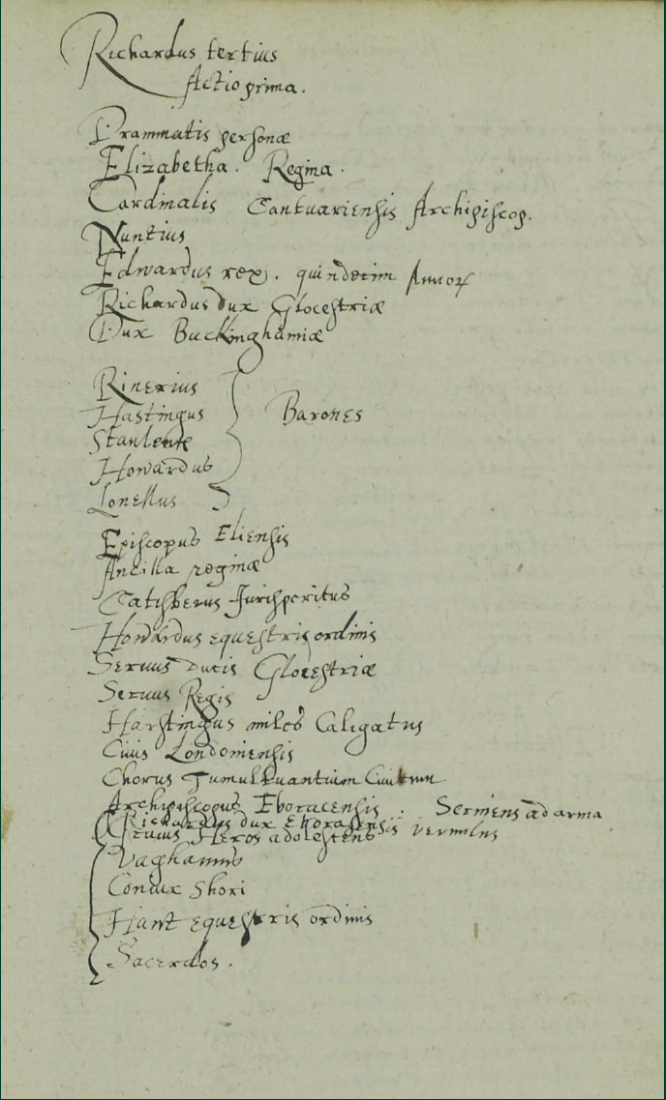
It has often been said that history is written by the victors, so Richard's subsequent vilification can be attributed to significant Tudor propaganda. Shakespeare's Richard III describes him as a deformed hunchback who had murdered his way to the throne. The unknown fate of his young nephews helped to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

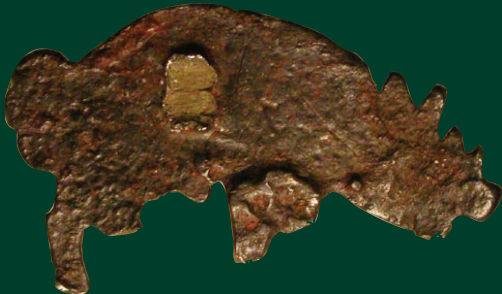
Some societies have been in existence for many years and have dedicated themselves to finding out more about Richard's reign and character. Perhaps it is because we know little of the real Richard that we are still so fascinated by him?



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.