

RICHARD III: THE MALIGNED KING

Annette Carson

The History Press, June/July 2008, hbk, 320 pp., 27 colour plates, £20

**A rejection of traditional assumptions about King Richard III
and a major reassessment of what really happened
when he came to the throne of England**

Richard III, King of England from 1483 to 1485, created good laws that still protect ordinary people today.

Yet history concentrates on the fictional hunchback depicted by Thomas More and William Shakespeare: the wicked uncle who stole the throne and killed his nephews in the Tower of London.

Voices have protested over the years, urging a more reasoned view to replace the traditional black portrait. But historians, whether as authors or presenters of popular TV history, still trot out the old pronouncements about ruthless ambition, usurpation and murder.

Annette Carson seeks to redress the balance by examining the events of his reign as they actually happened, based on reports in the original sources. Eschewing the overlay of assumptions so beloved by historians – about character, motivation and hidden intentions – instead she traces actions and activities using facts and time-lines revealed in documentary evidence.

Daring to investigate areas where historians fear to tread, this book raises some controversial questions. Was Edward IV assassinated? Did Queen Elizabeth Woodville engage in witchcraft?

The final truth about events 500 years ago may never be uncovered; but after centuries of defamation, the case for reassessment is overdue a fair hearing.

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