



The Richard III Foundation, Inc.

Hon. Patrons: Prof. Anne Curry FRHistS, Robert Hardy CBE FSA

UK Office: 24 Floral Court, Ashted, Surrey KT21 2JL, England.
Public Relations Director (UK): Andy Smith, Tel: 07737 271676.

NEWS RELEASE

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FOUNDATION WELCOMES OPPORTUNITY TO SET RECORD STRAIGHT ABOUT MUCH-MALIGNED RICHARD III

Will archaeologists solve the 500 year old mystery of defeated king's last resting place?

Excavation work begins this weekend in Leicester in an attempt to locate and identify the remains of King Richard III, the last Plantagenet king of England and the only English king to die in battle.

The Richard III Foundation, Inc. has given a warm welcome to this important archaeological project and said that film of the dig should be broadcast, and a documentary programme made that sets the record straight about the much-maligned King Richard.

Richard III was killed on 22 August 1485 at the Battle of Bosworth. He is recorded as having fought bravely to the end. His body was removed from the battlefield by the victorious army of Henry Tudor and was buried three days later in nearby Leicester – but the precise location of Richard's last resting place has never been found. Archaeologists believe they have now found the site of the church where he was buried. It is now a car park.

Channel Four will be filming the excavation this weekend but a spokesman for the company has said that the footage will not be screened unless there is a major discovery.

Joe Ann Ricca, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of The Richard Foundation, Inc. said: "We are delighted that there is a serious effort to locate and identify the remains of King Richard III but we

are concerned about Channel Four's apparent lack of commitment to this project. Thanks in large part to Shakespeare's caricature of the last Plantagenet king, Richard III is never given a fair or balanced treatment in books, films or TV documentaries. Shakespeare's depiction of Richard is a grotesque caricature and the Shakespearean version of Richard's life and times is wildly inaccurate.

"Everyone who cares about fair-mindedness and accuracy should write to Channel Four urging them to broadcast the excavation, whatever the outcome, as this is a major archaeological event and deserves to be taken seriously. I hope that C4 will take a stand and not just screen footage of the Leicester dig but also do their best to explain the facts about King Richard's life and times. It is high time the media showed Richard in his true light. The reality is that Richard III did much good for his country and was betrayed at Bosworth, where he died a true English hero."

The Richard III Foundation, Inc. will be holding a major conference at Market Bosworth on Saturday 13th October on the subject "Richard III: Monarch and Man". The conference runs from 8.30am to 5.00pm and speakers include: Robert Hardy, Hon. Patron of The Richard III Foundation, Inc.; Steve Goodchild, Chairman of the Tewkesbury Battlefield Society, on "The Arrival: The Role of Richard, Duke of Gloucester at Tewkesbury"; Dr Craig Taylor on "Chivalry and the Wars of the Roses"; Dr John Alban on "From Ashwellthorpe to Bosworth: A Yorkist Soldier"; David Baldwin on "The Character of Richard III"; Mark Downing on "Military Effigies in the Yorkist Age"; and Dr David Hipshon on "The Princes in the Tower: Contemporary Assumptions".

The Richard III Foundation, Inc. is an international not-for-profit educational organization promoting knowledge and understanding of the life and times of Richard III and seeking to correct the distorted picture of the king that has come down to us through literature and popular culture. The Foundation provides grants and scholarships to help promote the study of King Richard and the Wars of the Roses.

For more details on the Foundation and its 2012 Conference, go to www.richard111.com or visit the Foundation's page on Facebook, or write to: Andy Smith, Public Relations Director (UK), The Richard III Foundation, 24 Floral Court, Ashted, Surrey KT21 2JL.

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Press contact: Andy Smith, tel 07737 271676