

Chairman's Note

Welcome to the summer edition of *The Protector's Pen* for 2017

The theme of this year's Reith lectures on Radio 4 has been the relationship between history and fiction, a subject worth exploring in the context of the Association and our objective of improving our knowledge of the 17th century. In this issue we have reviews of fiction presented in three different ways: a novel, a play, and a film. Do any of them help or do they hinder our understanding of the past?

None of them can, nor do they pretend to be, serious history and the degree of accuracy of the characters, the setting and the storyline varies between all three.

John Newland's review of the film **Cromwell** makes a solid defence of a movie that is so full of historical inaccuracies that many would dismiss it out of hand. The late Ivan Roots, our president for many years, reviewed the film in 1981 and was appalled by the abuse of the historical record and pointed out that the 'film will be around for many years, adding to the myth, detracting from the man'. But John's review places the film in the context of being made in 1970 and allows for dramatic licence, and states that it is, after all, a movie. I have met many people, some of whom are members of the Association, who have said that they became interested in Cromwell because of the film. So does the fiction detract from the man or fascinate and create interest?

The play **The Hypocrite** was an absolute hoot and like the reviewers I hope that it gets an extended run somewhere else. It was completely sold out in Hull, and contained a number of local jokes so maybe, just maybe, it will help to ensure that the story of Hull in the civil war is remembered. And although there was dramatic licence aplenty, at its core was Hotham's dilemma of how to please everyone and ensure his own survival. He failed in fiction as well as in life.

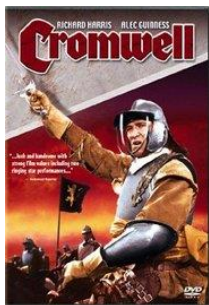
The novel reviewed, **The Black Friar**, is on a different level to the other two creations. The author knows her period and the detail of the tensions in London under the Protectorate was convincing. The central characters are fictional but the background is factual. Does that diminish or add to our understanding of the past? Some authors of historical fiction include as a postscript a note of the actual history to reinforce the difference between the real and the made-up, which is useful for those who have no pre-knowledge.

If academics worry that Hilary Mantel's Thomas Cromwell is thought by students to be the real Thomas Cromwell, they shouldn't. If fiction helps to attract and engage interest in the past we should all be grateful, and take the opportunity to develop it and if necessary point out what is imagined and what is proven.

What do you think?

John Goldsmith

Chairman



Notes from the Council

The Council has met twice since the last edition of *The Protector's Pen*, in late March and the middle of June. Issues discussed, other than routine business, have been:

- How to develop schools' membership; we are trialling free membership from September
- Agreeing to go ahead with a new interpretation board at Marston Moor with the Battlefield's Trust
- A possible additional Study Day on the theme of why Cromwell is important, aimed at new members and others
- Considering a replacement volume for *Cromwell Four Centuries On*, for new members
- Reflecting on the results of the membership survey and the lessons to be learnt

If any member would like to raise an issue with Council, or make any proposals for future events or activities, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

If you have some time and would like to become more involved with the running of the Association please do not be shy. Step forward and let us know what you might be able to do.

To contact the Association by email please use:

chairman@olivercromwell.org

or write to:

John Goldsmith
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Cambridge
CB23 7DL

Cromwell Day Service 2017

The annual Cromwell Day Service, the service of commemoration to mark the anniversary of Cromwell's death, will take place on Saturday September 2nd, a day early as the 3rd falls on a Sunday this year. Due to building works at the Palace of Westminster it is not possible for us to hold the service at the traditional venue of Cromwell Green, by the statue of Cromwell, overlooking Parliament Square.



St Giles' Cripplegate Church
(courtesy <http://www.stgilesnewsite.co.uk/history/>)

The service will be held instead at the church where Cromwell was married in 1620, St Giles' - without - Cripplegate, Fore Street, which is in the centre of the Barbican development. The post code for the church is EC2Y 8DA. The service will start at 3.00pm, and will be conducted by the Rev. Dr Tim Woolley. The address will be given by Dr Stephen Roberts, a vice president of the Association. After the service you are invited to stay for tea and biscuits (and possibly even cake!).

The nearest Underground stations are Moorgate and Barbican. If coming from the Barbican Centre, exit the Centre on Level 2 following signs for the Osteria Restaurant. With the restaurant on your right go straight ahead through the doors and follow signs for the Barbican Highwalk. Turn right and walk south, you will see the Church below and ahead of you on your right. A set of steps leads down from the Highwalk to the Church after about 100m. The main entrance to the Church is on the north side facing the Barbican Centre.

Permission has been given for a wreath to be laid before the service at 2.30pm at the foot of the bust of Cromwell which is on the exterior of the Guildhall Art Gallery, on the east side of Guildhall Yard, EC2V 7HH. Members are invited to observe the wreath-laying, though as other events are taking place in the Guildhall immediately prior to this, please do not assemble before 2.20pm at the earliest. The Art Gallery itself, which is free admission, is well worth visiting beforehand and has the remains of London's Roman amphitheatre in its basement. The nearest Underground stations are Bank, St Paul's and Moorgate.

After the wreath-laying it is a short walk to St Giles', with ample time allowed. The suggested route is to exit Guildhall Yard at the west corner and turn right into Aldermanbury, left into Love Lane and right at the end into Wood Street. Follow Wood Street north, crossing London Wall with care; there are pedestrian lights. At the end of Wood Street turn left and St Giles' is in front of you.



Guildhall Art Gallery (© City of London)



Bunhill Fields Cemetery
John Bunyan & William Blake

In the morning a guided visit has been arranged to Bunhill Fields Burial Ground to the north of the city on City Road, EC1Y 2BG. There are several of Cromwell's 18th century descendants buried here, as well as Charles Fleetwood, John Bunyan, Daniel Defoe and William Blake. Nearest Underground stations are Old Street or Moorgate.

Full details are on the booking form enclosed with this mailing.

Timetable:

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 11.00 | Guided visit to Bunhill Fields Cemetery, Islington |
| Lunch | Many places nearby, including within the Barbican Centre - not provided |
| 14.30 | Wreath-laying, exterior Guildhall Art Gallery |
| 15.00 | Service St Giles' Cripplegate |
| 15.45 | Refreshments at St Giles |

Cromwell Association AGM 2017

Shrewsbury turned out to be an inspired choice for the location of our 2017 Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 6th May at the University Centre.

The meeting was well attended with the highest number of members present for several years as well as a number of guests and friends. It was very encouraging that we had a mixture of both local members, who had not previously attended an Association event, and two members from Australia, so literally from near and far.

The meeting received the Trustees' Annual Report which detailed our activities in the calendar year 2016. The minor constitutional changes proposed were passed unanimously and will be implemented from the next AGM. There were no changes to the officers or trustees with Miranda Malins and Jonathan Fitzgibbons both elected to serve a further three-year term.

There followed a discussion of the future of Cromwell Day Services in the light of the continuing difficulty of accessing Cromwell Green. The consensus view was

that the closest Saturday to 3rd September would be an acceptable date for future services, and that the membership was not averse to the service being held outside London, possibly with an accompanying programme of events.

Following the meeting, Dr Jonathan Worton gave an illustrated lecture of the Civil War in Shrewsbury which was excellent preparation for the guided walks given in the afternoon led by Dr Worton and our president, Professor Peter Gaunt. The afternoon concluded in the café at Shrewsbury Museum.

During the day over £200 was raised from the raffle and a sale of donated books, all of which will help to off-set the running costs of the Association.

Thanks to Peter Gaunt for organising a successful day.



Rowleys House and Mansion (built in 1618 - the first brick house in Shrewsbury), Plaque on Old Shrewsbury Grammar School (Charles 1 Coat of Arms), a Local Hostelry!

In the press

How to live in the past

A review of the third in a series of books by Ian Mortimer entitled *The Time Traveller's Guide to Restoration Britain*. These books are more about everyday life in this period, eg how people lived, what they wore, what they ate, etc and also how London coped with the Great Fire. Not so much history as a journey to take the reader back to this time and experience life as it unfolded.

i Paper : Friday 12 May 2017

Century of the Soldier Conference 2017

Helion & Company presents its 2017 Century of the Soldier Conference in Shrewsbury - Saturday 23rd September (see events diary). This year the focus is 'Home and Away: the British Experience of War 1618-1721'. Professor Peter Gaunt is the keynote speaker and will open the conference. Full details can be found at:

<http://www.helion.co.uk/CoS-CONFERENCE-2017.pdf>

CENTURY OF THE SOLDIER
HELION & COMPANY - conference 2017 -
SATURDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER, 9AM-5PM
ROWLEY'S HOUSE, BARKER STREET, SHREWSBURY, SY1 1QH

Helion and Company are proud to announce the third Century of the Soldier conference. This year's conference is being supported by the Place and Shot Society and once again we will be at Rowley's House, Chester University's education hub at the heart of historic Shrewsbury. This year we will see the Cromwell Association, The Battlefields Trust and the British Civil Wars Regimental and research team come and join us on the day.

We shall be joined at lunchtime by members of Col. Nicholas Dewener's regiment who will be giving a brief demonstration of the exercise of arms, and we are delighted to be joined by Professor Peter Gaunt of Chester University as our keynote speaker who will open the conference.

The end of session plenary will be hosted by Professor Malcolm Rossiter. Once again, we have a wide range of papers covering a variety of topics, and many of the delegates will be publishing with Helion. It is intended that the day will offer a stimulating and informative environment, facilitating research and promoting interest in this most important and fascinating of wars in Britain's past.

The theme of this year's conference is 'Home and Away: The British Experience of War 1618-1721', and we will be launching new publications on the day with special introductory offers. Drinks will be available through the day and a buffet lunch will be provided.

NEW RELEASES AVAILABLE AT INTRODUCTORY PRICES

PAPERS

PETER GAUNT (keynote speaker) - Far and Afield: fighting, campaigning and travelling during the English civil war
SIMON MARSH 'This Disarmed Multitude' - The Impact of the Levelling Campaign on the East of Essex's Army and its Reconstitution for Second Newbury
RACHAEL ABBISS 'Warfare in the Wilderness: Indian War of 1683'
LAURENCE SPRING 'For God's sake come home' - civilians following the army

KEITH DOWEN Britain and the Parliament 1620-1621
ALAN TURTON - Basing House, the Archaeology of the Siege
DAVID FLINTHAM - Wenceslaus Hollar c. 17th century war: a useful for all Commanders?
JOHN DAY - 'Bloodier than Cromwell?' Michael Jones and the defeat of Royalist Ireland 1642-9

Century of the Soldier 1618-1721 2017

TICKETS: £30 PER PERSON Tickets include lunch and unlimited drinks throughout the day.

To order your tickets please go to www.helion.co.uk/centuryofthesoldier, email Charles Singleton (charlesingleton@yahoo.co.uk) or call 0121 705 3393

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The Association's Online Directory of Parliamentarian Army Officers

May 2017 saw the launch of the Association's Online Directory of Parliamentarian Officers, the Association's major project of recent years and the culmination of almost two decades' work

From time to time the Association has undertaken major projects, often linked to key anniversaries. Thus, to mark the Association's own fiftieth anniversary, during the 1980s we commissioned and supported the publication of *The Cromwellian Gazetteer*; more recently, to mark our seventy-fifth anniversary, we published *Cromwell Four Centuries On*, and to help mark the four-hundredth anniversary of Cromwell's birth, we published *Cromwell 400*. But around the time of the quatercentenary in 1999 and in light of a clear decision to take on something big and ambitious for the start of the new millennium, the Association decided to launch a longer-term project, namely a biographical dictionary or directory of parliamentarian officers.

By the time we launched our project there was a lot of work already completed and published: Peter Newman's biographical dictionary of royalist officers, which in some ways might serve as a model for our work; Laurence Spring's excellent regimental studies of Waller's and the Eastern Association armies; the series of booklets by Alan Turton and Stuart Peachey on the military units raised and operating in south-west England and on the regiments of the Earl of Essex's army; and pamphlets on several other individual regiments, many of them published by Partizan Press. But there was a clear need both to draw together that existing work on parliamentarian officers and to undertake substantial, new, source-based research in order to produce a single, much fuller and widely-accessible resource giving key biographical and service information about the parliamentarian officer corps. That was the project which we launched just before the turn of the millennium and which has now gone live online.

From the outset, not only were we realistic about the scale of the project and the difficulties likely to be encountered en route, but we also put in place some clear parameters. Aware that Ian Gentles and Malcolm Wanklyn were undertaking their own extensive work on the New Model Army officer corps, we decided from early on that we would not include officers who served exclusively in the New Model; the recent appearance of Malcolm Wanklyn's impressive two-volume biographical study of the New Model officers has vindicated that decision. It was never our intention to include officers in the armies raised in England and Wales for the two wars against the Scots (1639 and 1640) or for service in Ireland in 1641-2, nor those Scottish officers who campaigned in England and Wales in 1643-6 as part of the Scottish Covenanter Army - though those few Scots who became regular officers in English armies are included. Equally, we do not cover staff officers of an army or a regiment, quartermasters, surgeons or clerks or officers in the train of artillery. Regimental chaplains are not routinely included, but those who held quite senior military rank and who clearly on occasion led and commanded men in the field - rather than just stirring them up by preaching, praying or leading psalms - are here.

Our aim was to focus on parliamentarian officers who fought in the main civil war of 1642-6 and on the officers of units and regiments remaining outside the New Model who campaigned in the renewed fighting of 1648 and 1651. The directory has strong coverage of officers from (but not below) Cornet/Ensign, through Lieutenants, Captain-Lieutenants, Captains, Majors and Lieutenant-Colonels, up to the rank of Colonel and, indeed,

beyond. We are, of course, constrained by the surviving source material, which tends to be much stronger and fuller on senior officers (Captain and above), though information about a good number of the more junior officers, below that rank, has been recovered and is included. Again, bounded by the strengths and weaknesses of the sources, the directory is fuller and stronger on the officers of the regular marching armies than on those who spent most of the war in a garrison or in county-based, militia-type units which rarely or never campaigned further afield with one of the main marching armies; though again a fair bit of information about such officers has been uncovered and plenty of those type of figures are included in the directory. The directory is therefore at its strongest and fullest in providing information on the parliamentarian army officers in the principal and regional armies of 1642-5, but it ranges far wider than that and its coverage is significantly broader.

As well as pulling together existing modern listings and histories of regiments and armies, the directory rests upon a huge amount of new work on the contemporary, primary sources. Many of those have been transcribed and published - for example, the letterbooks of Sir William Brereton and Sir Samuel Luke, the minutes of the Dorset and Stafford committees, the biographies or journals of John Hutchinson and Adam Eyre, the printed volumes of heralds' visitations, vestry minutes and parish registers and the mass of official reports and information found in the *Commons Journal*, *Lords Journal* and the volumes of the *Calendars of State Papers*. But over and above that, substantial archival research has been undertaken in a range

(cont'd)

The Protector's Pen

of national and local repositories and records offices, most notably amongst the mass of military accounts, warrants and other financial papers found in the so-called 'Commonwealth Exchequer Papers' (in The National Archives, SP28). The initial research and writing was undertaken in stages, each stage focussing on a particular region of England and Wales (for which purpose six main regions were identified early in the project) or on one of the main parliamentary armies or large brigades (Essex's, Waller's, Myddleton's, the Eastern Association, the Northern and so on). From quite early in the project, it was decided that the eventual publication and dissemination of the material should principally be electronic, making it all available online, and for that purpose one of the last main

tasks and stages was to pull together the assorted regional and army material and to produce a single, readily accessible and easily searchable directory, in which all the officers covered (over 4,000 of them at the moment) are listed alphabetically.

The important rider 'at the moment' has just been alluded to, because while the launch of the directory on the British History Online website in May 2017 marked a finishing post for the Association, it is not *the* finishing post. We are under no illusion that we have produced a fully comprehensive directory of all the (non-New Model) army officers who fought for parliament and in parliamentary units in England and Wales during the civil war. There are bound to be gaps and the advantage of

electronic publication is that it should be fairly easy to fill those gaps from time to time by adding completely new officers and by supplementing existing entries where further important information comes to light, as well as enabling us to correct errors which may have crept into the text. So this will be a continuing project. However, the lion's share of the work is done, complete and now fully and freely available online and, in view of the time and costs it would entail, we do not envisage undertaking further major research work on this. Its launch marks a major achievement for the Association, a milestone for us and for this project, and a substantial contribution to our knowledge and understanding of the civil war and the parliamentary cause.

Peter Gaunt

Launch event

The publication of the long awaited Directory of Parliamentary Officers was marked by a reception at the Institute of Historical Research, the parent body of British History Online. The opportunity was taken to invite a wide range of 17th century scholars and leading figures from the military history and re-enactment worlds. Although inevitably not everyone was able to accept, the turnout on the night was very respectable, including most of our own vice presidents as well as many who had not engaged with the Association previously. It was a good opportunity to publicise not only the Directory but also the Association and what we do.

The past Director of the Institute, Lawrence Goldman, welcomed guests to the event and remarked that the Directory was an excellent example of the Institute's method of working, by making research, founded on primary sources, available. This was the intention of the Institute's founder AHR Pollard, and one which new technology made easier.



Association member Vic Jackson (left) at the launch with Jonathan Blaney of the IHR

Professor Peter Gaunt then spoke on behalf of the Association reminding the audience of the lack of any previous attempt at a comprehensive listing of parliamentary officers, whilst Edward Peacock's Directory of Royalist Officers had been compiled in the 19th century. He then introduced Dr Stephen Roberts who, as the editor of the Directory, had led the project from the outset. The work of the researchers on the project, Tim Wales in particular, was properly acknowledged as was the commitment of the Association to seeing the project through to completion.

Jonathan Blaney and Philip Carter from the Institute then explored the Directory in a little more detail, explaining how it could be used as a searching tool but also as a more sophisticated research tool.

Guests then had the opportunity to explore the new Directory for themselves.

There has been some coverage about the Directory outside the Association and it is very much hoped that the endeavour will generate more interest in what we do.



Sean Kelsey (left) and Tim Wales (right) two of the researchers on the project with Philip Carter of the IHR

The Protector's Pen

Using the Directory

Jonathan Blaney, who has undertaken putting the Directory online was asked to provide a brief technical note to give a bit of detail about how it can be used.

The Cromwell Association Online Directory of Parliamentarian Army Officers has been published on British History Online and is freely available for all to use: <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/no-series/cromwell-army-officers> .

The directory has entries for over 4,000 parliamentarian officers, with biographical details, a list of armies they were known to have belonged to, and primary and secondary source references.

The amount of information varies greatly, with some entries being extremely short and others far longer, but the shorter entries will no doubt provide a starting point for further research. For example, the entry for William Ogee simply notes that he was an ensign in Thomas Ballard's regiment of foot in the Earl of Essex's Army in 1642, and refers us to Peacock's Army Lists. Further down the page is a much longer entry for John Okey 1606-1662, who, we are told, holds the dubious distinction of having been sentenced to death by both the Protectoral and the Stuart regimes.

By publishing this biographical directory on British History Online (BHO), the Cromwell Association has ensured a wide readership. BHO receives well over 10 million page impressions a year and is a long-established and much used academic resource. A further benefit is that BHO results come very high up in

Google search results, so many readers can be expected to come to the site without knowing beforehand that the directory exists.

Users can search the whole of BHO and see results from the directory alongside other matches from other publications, or can search the directory alone, or just on a letter of the alphabet. So in the directory we can find 13 results for 'sword', six for 'pistol' and another 13 for 'musket'.

The Cromwell Association also agreed to make the data that lies behind the online directory available to anyone, on a Creative Commons licence. This means that anyone can use the data as long as they give credit to the Cromwell Association, do not use anything they produce commercially, and agree to share their own outputs in the same way.

The data, which is in XML, a mark-up language, can be downloaded from <https://github.com/ihr-webmaster/cromwell-army-officers-data> (there is also a link from the front page of the directory). This will give researchers who want to play around with the data the ability to do more complex searches than the BHO web interface will allow. For example, it would be relatively easy to extract the life dates of all the officers in the directory and calculate their ages during the Civil War or their average life expectancy.

Maybe a new generation of researchers will now be inspired by finding the directory online, and perhaps even downloading the data, to do new and fascinating work with this valuable resource.

The screenshot shows the British History Online (BHO) website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, Search, Browse catalogue, Subject guides, Using BHO, About, and Support us. A search bar is located in the top right corner. Below the navigation bar, the breadcrumb trail reads: British History Online (no series) > The Cromwell Association Online Directory of Parliamentarian Army Officers. The main heading is "The Cromwell Association Online Directory of Parliamentarian Army Officers", followed by "Edited by Stephen K Roberts. Compiled by Tim Wales." A paragraph of text describes the resource, mentioning it contains names of over 4,000 officers who served in the armies of Parliament during the first English civil war (1642-6). Below this, there is a citation box with the following text: "Citation: [BHO] The Cromwell Association Online Directory of Parliamentarian Army Officers, ed. Stephen K Roberts (2017), British History Online http://www.british-history.ac.uk/no-series/cromwell-army-officers [accessed 18 June 2017]." A "Table of contents" section is visible, with a search bar for "Search within this publication". At the bottom of the page, there is a cookie notice: "We use cookies on this site. More information about how you can control your browser cookies is available on our privacy page." with "OK" and "Give me more info" buttons.

The Protector's Pen

Theatre Review - The Hypocrite

A riotous new comedy from award-winning playwright Richard Bean and presented by the Royal Shakespeare Company, the Hull Truck Theatre and Hull UK City of Culture 2017.

The story begins at the end, so we all immediately knew the fate of Sir John Hotham who in 1642 was charged by Parliament to secure the arsenal at Hull and deny entry to King Charles I. Were it to be that simple!



The play then takes us back to the Hotham household a few months before, where Sir John is wondering how he can possibly raise the £2000 he needs as a dowry to rid himself of his lovesick daughter to a wealthy local puritan whose gold would enable him to mortgage his estates. By chance, this exact sum arrives in the form of two purses, each of £1000: one from the parliamentarians (John Pym) commissioning Hotham to take Hull for Parliament, and one from the King to secure his loyalty (and the arsenal!).

All seems sorted, apart from the minor fact he has committed to both sides and used their money for his own gains.

All goes well until the King appears before Hull's Beverley Gate....and from this point on Hotham's head is on the line as he tries to convince the Mayor (Royalist), the captain of the garrison (Parliamentarian), Money Lender (only in it for the gold), James, Duke of York and Prince Rupert of the Rhine (possibly Royalist...but somehow (a) trapped in Hull, (b) dressed up as street fish-selling maids and (c) involved in an impossible love-quad with Sir John's daughter and son!) - that he is both Royalist and Parliamentarian, get the money back from the local puritan and survive the conflict with his head attached.

Needless to say, he is unsuccessful in all these quests and pays the ultimate price.

This is a fine comedy-farce with an excellent cast; from Mark Addy as Sir John and Caroline Quentin as Lady Sarah, through Pierro Niel-Mee and Sarah Middleton (no relation) as his son and daughter and the splendid minstrels to Ben Goffe - soldier, ghost and King Charles!

We thoroughly enjoyed this play and hope that it appears on stage again in the near future; but don't expect to get an insight into the history of the time.



The circumstances playing out in 1642 at Hull merely provide a suitable backdrop to this entertaining evening.

Simon and Maxine



Michael Byrd 1943-2017

It was with great sadness that the news of the death of Michael Byrd, former secretary of the Association, was given to the AGM at Shrewsbury. Michael died on 1st May only a few days before the meeting having been a life member since the 1970s and a Council member and officer for nearly twenty years.

Michael was born in Spalding but spent most of his early life in Australia and Canada. On a visit to the UK in 1967 he met his future wife Sylvia and they married the following year. After a short time in Canada they returned and settled in East Anglia. His career was spent working as a fire and security surveyor for Eagle Star Insurance, but his passion was for Cromwell.

The minister conducting his funeral service, at which the Association was represented, made reference to Michael's commitment to the Association almost from the off, and reflected on many conversations he had with Michael about Cromwell and the civil wars. Michael's daughter Emma-Jane, in a moving eulogy, said that Oliver Cromwell felt like a distant relation in the family, and that Michael was always fascinated by Cromwell and the period.

Michael joined the Council of the Association in 1987 and took on the role of the Association's librarian, one which he continued until the books were transferred on loan to the Cromwell Collection in Huntingdon Library fifteen years later. During that time Michael had moved from Maldon to Pinchbeck to be closer to family - and moved the extensive collection with him. In 1997, in addition, he took on the role of secretary, a job made easier by his taking early retirement in 1999. He continued in that role until he stood down in 2005.

Although no longer on Council, Michael was a loyal and regular attender at Association events until ill health in the last couple of years prevented him from doing so. Michael could always be relied upon to ask a relevant and thoughtful question to any speaker, and to contribute to the success of any event. Over the years he wrote several short articles for Cromwelliana, and he did suggest that he might write a history of the Association, a task now left for others. His warm and friendly personality, and a dry sense of humour, meant that he was good company and he had many friends in the Association. His interests though were not restricted to Cromwell, he had broader local history pursuits; he was involved with a rural housing trust and worked as a volunteer in the local Sue Ryder bookshop. Most important of all to Michael was clearly his family; he leaves Sylvia, his children Emma-Jane and Gavin, along with six grandchildren.



Michael Byrd with the late Barry Coward at the 2005 AGM

In the press

New Model Navy

As a Dutch raiding party bore down on the home moorings of the bulk of the Royal Navy in 1667, Peter Pett faced a dilemma: should he obey his orders to save the flagship of the British fleet or send his collection of model vessels to safety? These models would later enable the fleet to be rebuilt and if they had fallen into Dutch hands, would have given them an insight into British naval designs and a strategic advantage. The Dutch to this day, however, remain proud of the raid and the captured coat of arms from the *Royal Charles* is on display in Amsterdam's Rijksmuseum.



Dutch attack on Royal Navy, Medway, 1667 by Pieter Cornelisz van Soest
© National Maritime Museum

i Paper : Monday 22 May 2017

Nantwich Museum Summer Talks Programme Unveiled

Nantwich Museum will stage a series of walks and talks to complement its 'Nantwich Besieged' exhibition which opens on July 21st, 2017 (see events diary). The exhibition will examine life in the town during the English Civil War.

Durham's tribute to Scots who fell to Cromwell

An article giving details of the Scottish soldiers who died after being taken prisoner by Oliver Cromwell's troops nearly 400 years ago and was commemorated in the English city on this day where they died.

i Paper : Friday 12 May 2017

The Protector's Pen

Coins buried during English Civil War found on Lincolnshire farm

More than 1,000 silver coins buried on the 'front line' during the English Civil War have been discovered in a farmer's field in Lincolnshire. The hoard of 17th century coins was found near the village of Ewerby. Council finds officer Adam Daubney said the discovery was 'monumental'.

"The hoard tells us about the uncertainty and fear that must have been felt at the time, but quite why it was buried - and by whom - is impossible to say.

"It might have been buried by someone who went off to fight and never returned. Interestingly, several of the estates that lay close to the site of the hoard were fined after the war for supporting the king."

Extract from BBC News : 16 November 2016

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-lincolnshire-38003071>



Coins from the reigns of Edward VI, Elizabeth, Mary, James I and Charles I
© Lincolnshire County Council

Evidence of a Civil War ditch in Newark

Severn Trent Water's £60 million investment in Newark has unearthed key information regarding the town's history during the English Civil War. Work carried out on Queens Road revealed new evidence of a defensive ditch that was built to protect Newark during the 17th century.



Siege map and earthworks in Newark.
(Courtesy : National Civil War Centre)

Civil War Battle Flag

An extremely rare 25 foot square Parliamentary battle flag from the English Civil War has gone on display for the first time in 350 years, when the National Army Museum reopened in March this year after three years of refurbishment work.



Rebel Flag – back after 350 years

Of the hundreds of civil war Parliamentary battle flags that were made and carried on campaign, only around half a dozen have survived - mainly in private collections. But the one going on permanent public display has a particularly remarkable history. For most of the past three-and-a-half centuries, it has been kept safe and sound by the family of the man who originally formed and ran the Parliamentary regiment which used the flag. That man was a wealthy 17th century Derbyshire industrialist by the name of Sir John Gell. He was a politically complex figure

who was initially a royalist (who enthusiastically helped Charles collect unpopular taxes) - but who (for mainly religious reasons) subsequently fought for Parliament against the King.

The flag forms part of the National Army Museum's substantial collection of Civil War weapons, armour, clothing and documents. Among the other Civil War treasures on public display at the museum are the cavalry armour and the military coat of one of Sir John Gell's most senior officers, Major Thomas Sanders.

National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea, London SW3 4HT



<https://www.nam.ac.uk/>

Stuart Jennings, from Warwick University and academic adviser to the National Civil War Centre, located just a few hundred yards from the find, said: "This is a truly exciting discovery. During the British Civil Wars the town was one of the most heavily defended in England and we have substantial surviving earthworks from the period like the Queen's Sconce fort. But we know that much more awaits discovery under the ground. After King Charles lost the north of England at the Battle of Marston Moor the chief threat to Newark would come from this direction. So to find such substantial defences and deep ditches to the north of the town is not surprising. We also know from documentary evidence that local people were conscripted to do much of the work. The trench was part of a massive network of fortifications which by 1645 kept at bay a vast Parliamentary and Scots army numbering 16,000. It will be fascinating to see what emerges from a detailed analysis of the objects recovered."

Newark Advertiser, Dec 23, 2016 (extract)

Some questions to our vice president... Stephen Roberts

Stephen Roberts, as you will read elsewhere in *The Protector's Pen*, has been the driving force behind the Directory of Parliamentary Officers project which came to fruition in May. He is also going to give the address at this year's Cromwell Day service so it is appropriate that he is the focus of this issue's feature on our vice presidents. He was asked to give some personal background information and then consider some questions.

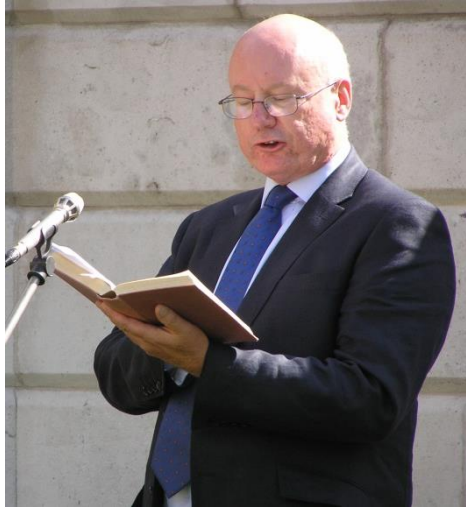
I was born and brought up in Bridgend, Glamorgan, and my family has very deep roots in that area. I was educated in a boys grammar school that turned comprehensive while I was there, and then studied at the Universities of Sussex, Exeter and London. I taught briefly at Exeter University, did a couple of years as a research assistant on the early history of the coal industry, then worked for the Workers' Educational Association for 15 years, teaching and organising courses in adult education. For the last 20 years I've been at the History of Parliament, leading a talented team working on the House of Commons 1640-1660.

What led you to study the history of the 17th century?

I 'did the Tudors and Stuarts' at school, but it was the Special Subject at Sussex, on the English Revolution 1647-60, that really enthused me for the subject, and led to my choice of postgraduate study. Sussex was a very exciting place intellectually, at that time, in the early 1970s. There was no History Department as such, but Schools of Study, where subjects were taught and studied in an interdisciplinary context. This led students to pursue their studies in directions not usually possible at that time in traditional universities.

Who has influenced you the most as a historian?

My Special Subject tutor at Sussex, Michael Hawkins, combined intellectual



brilliance with approachability (not always a natural mix among academics), and at Exeter I benefited enormously from Ivan Roots's enthusiasm and insight. Michael is happily still with us, but a number of great historians who've influenced me a lot are no longer around: Ivan, Gerald Aylmer, Christopher Hill, Austin Woolrych, David Underdown. All blokes - but I'm a huge admirer of the late Joan Thirsk too. I'm also influenced a lot by my immediate colleagues in my Section at the History of Parliament; a very talented group that I'm privileged to lead.

Your work has included a number of local or regional studies. How important do you consider this approach to be to understanding the period?

Either explicitly or implicitly, local context has been uppermost in nearly all my own work. Since schooldays I've been interested in local history, which no doubt sprang from my sense of my family's ancient roots in my part of south Wales. More generally, I don't think the period (or any period) can be understood without reference to social and economic factors. For a while that hasn't been the most fashionable of approaches, but I think younger historians are beginning to look afresh at context, and I'm confident that regional approaches will come back into fashion!

In contrast, your work at the History

of Parliament Trust is, on the surface, about individuals. Is that the case or are they regional studies as well?

We write biographies and constituency articles, but the regional context is inevitably very prominent. We can't hope to understand the motivations of MPs, particularly the rank-and-file majority of members of the Commons, without appreciating where they came from and what concerns they brought to Westminster from their constituents.

Do you think that there is a place these days for the non-professional historian to make a contribution to 17th century studies?

Definitely. The work of the Cromwell Association over the last 20 or 30 years has been a great success story, because it brings together the enthusiasms and skills of both professionals and non-professionals in a productive and harmonious way. For me the Association is part of the culture of levelling the divide between 'teachers' and 'learners' that took me into WEA work 35 years ago. I remember with great affection the weekends that John Sutton and I used to run at Barlaston, in Staffordshire, attended by a number of people prominent in the Association then and now. The sharing of knowledge and enthusiasm on those occasions was truly memorable.

How important do you regard online sources in general for historians of the period?

Online resources are of the greatest importance. I use them every day. The pity is that so many are behind 'pay-walls' and are not accessible to the general public, though some, like Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, can be accessed from public libraries. The Creative Commons agreement we signed for the Online Directory of Army Officers means that anyone can access it from anywhere, free of charge, which is a tremendous thing, in my view.

(cont'd)

The Protector's Pen

What do you think the Association should concentrate its resources on (now the Directory is completed)?

I don't see the Directory as completed, just resting at base camp. I hope it will continue to evolve and improve. There will always be the need for resources to be allocated to existing projects, some

inherently expensive, like sites and monuments. But I think the Directory has at least shown the potential for new online resources, which are a way to make a worldwide impact, in theory at least. A register of Cromwellian memorials in churches?

If you had the opportunity to ask Cromwell a direct question, at any point in his life, what would that question be?

On 17 Nov. 1648, the day after the Army Remonstrance was published: "Should the king's head come off?" But would I get an answer?

Cromwell Association News

Have you received our emails?

Since the last issue of *The Protector's Pen* there have been two emails sent to all the membership who have given an email contact address. If you have given us your address but have not received the emails please can you check that your mailbox is working correctly and resend your address and contact details to:



membership@olivercromwell.org

Treasurer's tidings

On behalf of the Trustees, heartfelt thanks to all who have donated so very kindly in the past year. Due to your generosity we are enabled to fund projects which would not be covered by subscriptions and the other usual sources of income. All donations, however small, are extremely welcome.



Thanks also to all those UK taxpayers who have completed and sent me their Gift Aid declarations. Our annual refund is now a major source of income. Incidentally, if I already have a form on file and if your tax status or address has not changed, then it is unnecessary to submit a fresh one again each year.

Lastly, a word about subscriptions. The Trustees run the Association's finances with great care and prudence but we are not immune to cost increases, especially printing and postage. We have held subscription levels unchanged for the past ten years and hope to maintain them

for even longer, but with one exception: overseas postage rates have become so high that we are asking our overseas members to pay an additional £5 a year. They will have the consolation, however, that sterling's devaluation will more or less cancel out the increase for many, if not all.

Updating our website

Work is in hand to up-date our website to give it a completely new and refreshed look. There will also be new content including the archive of Cromwelliana, so please look out for our improved website www.olivercromwell.org coming later this year.



The next issue of *The Protector's Pen* will include a full description of the changes.

Sites and monuments update

Work is in hand at the moment to develop a new interpretation board for Marston Moor; a project which is being led by the Battlefields Trust but to which the Association is contributing. No definite date as yet for the completion of the project.



Meanwhile, in Worcester we are working with an alliance of different heritage organisations for an interpretation panel to be placed at the confluence of the rivers Teme and Severn, a site of strategic importance in the civil wars.

A further project of interest in Worcester is a proposal for a monument to US Presidents Adams and Jefferson who visited in 1786, and who noted the enormous significance of the events of 1651 in the creation of their own nation.

If members of the Association would like to make proposals for the location of any new monuments, relevant to our objectives, then please do send them in to:

monuments@olivercromwell.org

Membership survey

Many thanks to all members who contributed to the survey. The response received has provided some useful guidance for Council and also some reassurance that we are providing a programme that broadly meets expectations; but clearly (as always) there are things we could do better. We will try. At future Association events, Council members will wear name badges - so if we do not say 'hello' to you please do not hesitate to come and say hello to us and make your views known.



If any member would like to see the analysis of the responses as presented to Council please email:

chairman@olivercromwell.org to request a copy.

Thanks to John Newland for organising and analysing the survey.

The Protector's Pen

Study Day 2016 : Interpreting Cromwell and the Civil War



Museums, galleries and battlefield sites have all contributed to our understanding of Cromwell and the civil wars.

This Study Day took place in Leeds on a windy, grey day in November 2016, but in the Royal Armouries the talks fizzled with energy and interest. The focus of the day was to examine how various civil war sites have been developed and maintained, how they meet the challenges of the present, and their plans for the future.

The morning kicked off with our own John Goldsmith leading us on a riveting romp through the history of collecting civil war



memorabilia, starting with the amassing of war booty during the war, abruptly halted by the Act of Oblivion which banned remembrance and limited collecting to

wealthy gentleman right up to the mid-19th century. John identified 1845, the publication of Carlyle's great work and the year of the Museum Act, as the turning point, after which museums started collecting artefacts from the civil wars in a more systematic and professional manner.

This comprehensive introduction was followed by Simon Marsh from the *Battlefields Trust* who gave a fascinating



overview of how the way we remember battles has changed down the centuries. The medieval tendency to build monuments on battle sites disappeared after the Reformation and more attention was given to the human casualties of war. Waterloo was the catalyst for change, due to the enormity of its impact; and finally the Great War represented a return to the medieval mindset, with the serried ranks of graves in multiple cemeteries.

Dr Ceri Jones finished off the morning with a very interesting session on living history and its role in memorialising and interpreting historical sites. She explained that living history was used predominantly with young people and had received some bad press because it has been seen as superficial, focussing on what wasn't available in the past. However, at its best, living history can add another



dimension to our understanding and interpretation of the past. She gave some examples of best practise and pondered on how it could be applied to Cromwell.

After lunch, a very entertaining and slightly irreverent Michael Constantine from the *National Civil War Centre* at Newark made accounting sound fun as he impressed on his audience that making money from a site was vital to avoid cutbacks or closures. He took us through the establishment of the NCWC and the lessons they learned in the early days



The Royal Armouries, Leeds

And, subsequently, how they have improved their exhibitions and what they are planning for the future.

Keith Emerick of *Historic England* followed to explain how his organisation maintained and interpreted key sites. He told us the story of Beverley Gate in Hull,



Beverley Gate, Hull

the site of Sir John Hotham's famous stand in 1642. Local pressure had prevented the Council from filling in the sunken site and raised awareness of this important piece of local history. *Historic England* have encouraged both outreach in schools and the performance of a play by a local and well-known playwright about defiance in general, thereby raising awareness of the role of Hull in the Civil War (see the article Theatre Review : The Hypocrite in this edition of Protector's Pen). (cont'd)

The Protector's Pen

The final presentation of the day was from Keith Downen, Assistant Curator of European Armour at the *Royal Armouries*, Leeds. He focussed on the history, and continuing display and interpretation of the Civil War collections at the Royal Armouries, both at the Tower of London and at Leeds; and specifically covered the collection at Littlecote which was acquired for the nation in 1985 and now forms the

core of the Civil War collection. Research into the 17th century collection is ongoing with many projects taking place over the next few years. There are over 60000 objects in the Royal Armouries' collection which students and bona fide interested persons are able to access. Even today, the Army still refer to body armour throughout the ages to gain insight into its design and how this can be used to

influence development of future body protection.

To round off the day, all 6 speakers were available for a question and answer session.

Thanks to Peter Gaunt, our chairman for the event, who kept the day on track throughout.



Alexander Popham (1605-1669)
(courtesy Royal Armouries)



Alexander Popham Buff Coat
(courtesy Royal Armouries)



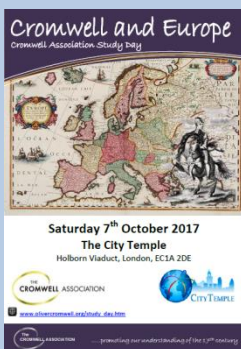
Littlecote Great Hall
(courtesy Royal Armouries)

Study Day 2017: Cromwell and Europe

To be held on Saturday 7th October at City Temple on the Holborn Viaduct in London.



The theme of this year's annual Study Day is Cromwell and Europe. Given the current position of the UK negotiating our exit from the European Union it seems like an appropriate time to consider what was happening in Europe during the English civil wars, the Commonwealth and Protectorate. A booking programme for the event is enclosed with this mailing and more details of the contributors and their papers are on the website.



We are fortunate to have been able to attract five speakers, each very much an expert in their own field. The combination of papers will provide a thought-provoking day which will be of interest to all who share a fascination in Cromwell and the 17th century.

For the venue we are returning once again to The City Temple, on Holborn Viaduct, in central London. It is readily accessible from several Underground stations including St Paul's, Chancery Lane and Farringdon.

The Study Day is also an opportunity to meet other members of the Association and chat over coffee in the morning or at lunch. It is also an opportunity to encourage potential new members to come along and see what the Association does, so do spread the word.

City Temple, 31 Holborn Viaduct, London, EC1A 2DE

0207 583 5532

<http://www.city-temple.com/>

https://twitter.com/City_Temple

<https://www.facebook.com/CityTempleLondon/>

Please make sure that you return the booking forms by the deadline date of **Thursday 28th September**.

Charles II and Henry Cromwell - an answer

In the March 2017 edition of *The Protector's Pen* Geoffrey Bush queried a claim made in the Wicken church guide that during the Restoration period Charles II visited Henry Cromwell at nearby Spinney Abbey, seeking refreshment en route to or from Newmarket.

As I noted in my *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* entry for Henry, there is no doubt that in 1662-3 he bought from his wife's family, the Russells, Spinney Abbey at Wicken in Cambridgeshire, and he spent his final decade there, being buried in Wicken church in 1674. I also wrote that 'Noble and others relate colourful but unlikely stories of Charles II visiting him there at least once while travelling to or from Newmarket.'

Mark Noble, in his *Memoirs of the Protectoral-House of Cromwell*, relates the anecdote in detail: '...in this employment [working the land] he [Henry] was discovered by his sovereign k. Ch. II who, in returning from Newmarket in the month of Sept. 1671, expressing his wish to call at some house to take refreshment, Lord Inchiquin, Henry's brother-in-law, then with his Majesty, observed that there was a very honest gentleman in the neighbourhood that would think it an honour to entertain his Majesty, which the king was pleased with and desired him to conduct them to his friend's seat; when they came into the farmyard (which led to the house) his lordship taking up a muck-fork and throwing it over his shoulder, went before Mr. Cromwell, who was then in the yard and wondering at so large a company coming so unexpectedly upon him, and still more so at this ceremony of the muck-fork, nor was the king without his surprize. What, says his Majesty of fun, is the reason of this? Why, sire, says the muck-fork bearer, this gentleman before whom I carry this implement of husbandry is Mr. Henry Cromwell, to whom I had the honor of being mace-bearer when he was in Ireland. Charles laughed, poor Mr.

Cromwell was confounded; but the ease of the sovereign dissipated all disquietude; the hungry company were treated with what the hospitable Henry had and they all departed with good humour and pleasure on all sides.'

Noble claimed that this version of the encounter had been communicated to him by the Rev. Edward Turner of Burwell and was to be preferred to other accounts he knew of which claimed that Henry Cromwell quickly shot out of the door on news that the king was approaching his house, leaving his wife to entertain the royal party in his absence but 'with great elegance'. Indeed, by the latter half of the eighteenth century several versions of the story were in print. For example, when Thomas Gibbons published a sermon he had preached at the death of Henry's grandson, William Cromwell, in July 1772, he added stories about Protector Oliver Cromwell and his sons Richard and Henry, including a rather thinner and toned-down anecdote of the royal visit to Spinney Abbey: there Henry enjoyed 'the humble happy occupation of husbandry, in which King Charles the II^d found him employed when, as I have been well informed, he honoured him with an unexpected visit, in an excursion he made for that purpose from Newmarket.'

How credible are these stories? Noble may have been unwise to trust the Rev. Turner, for there is a particular problem with his version of the anecdote, namely the role and presence of Inchiquin. Murrough O'Brien, first Earl of Inchiquin, was an Irish landowner who played a major role in the conflict there during the 1640s and early 1650s, switching between supporting parliament and the king. But during the later 1650s, when he converted to Catholicism and was viewed as an enemy and traitor by the parliamentary regime, he was in exile on the Continent. He was not related to Henry Cromwell by birth or marriage, he was not in Ireland during Henry's time in office there and he held no position in Henry's administration or

court. Nor was he much in favour with or a courtier of Charles II at and after the Restoration. From 1663 until his death in 1674 he was living in semi-retirement in south-west Ireland and thus would not have been accompanying Charles II to and around Newmarket in 1671.

Even if we leave aside Noble's blunder and return to the simpler version of the anecdote, which was circulating and finding its way into print in the latter half of the eighteenth century, I have found no contemporary or near-contemporary evidence for it. While it is not completely implausible - Charles II certainly paid frequent visits to Newmarket during his reign and Wicken is only around 6-7 miles away (though it is north-west of Newmarket and so not on the king's direct route to or from London) - it remains unproven and probably unprovable. To my ears at least, it has more of the air of a humorous concoction than the ring of truth - 'colourful but unlikely' was my opinion when I wrote the entry on Henry Cromwell and, unless and until firmer and more contemporary evidence comes to light, I stand by that judgement.

Peter Gaunt



Henry Cromwell
(portrait by an unknown artist after a contemporary portrait 'By courtesy of the trustees of the British Museum')

Teachers Day 2017

The 27th June saw our third Teachers Day, although the first one in Oxford. We gathered in the impressive Tsuzuki lecture theatre in St Anne's College to hear Professor Ronald Hutton, Dr Elaine Murphy, Professor Ted Vallance and Professor Ann Hughes debate three questions around Oliver Cromwell's life and career. The audience of about 60 was made up of A level teachers and year 12 students (plus a few Association members) who listened carefully as Ronald and Ted discussed whether Cromwell became Lord Protector to return England to political stability. The consensus of the first debate broke down a little in the second session which asked why modern historians often disagree with the contemporary view of Cromwell as a hypocrite; Ann and Ronald had very different ideas as to why this was, and expressed their views with great fluency and passion. The third debate asked, controversially, whether Cromwell should be deemed a war criminal. The debate between Elaine and Ted was fiery and passionate and the students loved it!



Anne Hughes (left), Elaine Murphy and Ted Vallance discussing Cromwell and Ireland

St Anne's served a fine sandwich lunch and the afternoon session was an open forum. The panellists talked about university applications at their respective institutions and then various students asked a number of very intelligent and taxing questions. The panellists were very impressed by the quality of the students' questions, which showed huge interest and understanding. With luck, this is a very good omen for the future of 17th century history at Universities!

One teacher spoke for them all in his thank you email: '*The pupils were very impressed with the panel debates, and have come away from Oxford energised and enthusiastic.*'

Teachers Day has become an important part of the calendar, but we are considering altering the format a little bit next year so that we are attractive to a greater cross section of schools. If you know any schools who might like to receive information about our programme, please get in touch.

Serrie Meakins

education@olivercromwell.org

Book Review - The Black Friar

Once more, S.G. Maclean takes us back into the dark and murky world of Royalist plots against Oliver Cromwell and the Protectorate. The reader quickly becomes enticed to enter the darkness of internal rivalries, fanaticism, disappearance of children and together with this there is an excellent blend of historical and fictional characters with superb descriptions of places in London during this era. Furthermore, it develops the readers' imagination and pictures can soon be built up to give a fascinating experience of the happenings of this novel set in the 17th century. It does not take long to become drawn into this book.

The main characters all appear again from S.G. Maclean's first book in this series, *The Seeker*. Damian Seeker, one of John Thurloe's intelligence officers, whose task it is to protect The Lord Protector and keep law and order on the streets of London and anywhere else the commonwealth requires. Seeker has been summoned to an old monastery due to a body being found by a stone mason working there. Unfortunately for Seeker this is not just anybody, Seeker knows this person and that it is murder. To add to the general unrest in London by Royalist plotters and religious fanatics, you wonder, could this murder be connected to any one of these groups?

Not only does Seeker have the safety of The Lord Protector to worry about but he also has a personal request from an unlikely person, a Royalist sympathiser and suspected activist, to look into the disappearance of her young child maid.

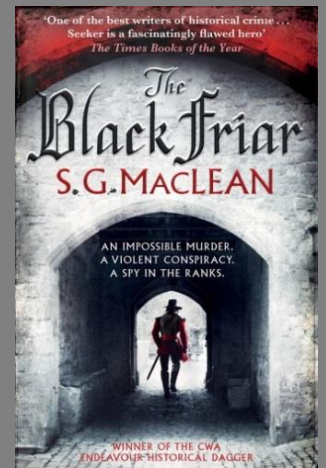
If this sounds all a little complicated to you, it is far from it. S.G. Maclean rolls out this storyline with great fluidity and pace. You are soon intrigued as to how these seemingly unconnected occurrences transpire on the pages before you.

This novel brings the ordinary lives of the people of London during the 17th century into the conflict of the state, and no matter how hard people try, they get drawn in. Not even love can escape the conflict.

An excellent read, set in the aftermath of the civil war, a worthy sequel to *The Seeker*.

Paul Robbins

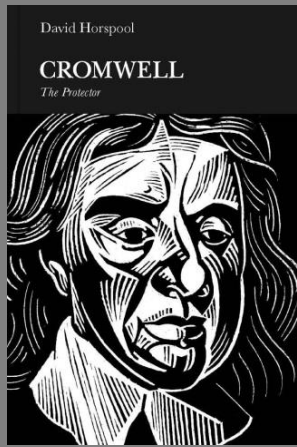
S G Maclean, *The Black Friar*, (Quercus), RRP: £19.99 (hardback)



The Protector's Pen

Book Review – Cromwell: The Protector

'Not another biography of Oliver', I hear you cry! Yet this new study, published as part of Penguin's 'Monarch' series, is not without interest – or controversy. As the author concedes, some 'justification' is needed for Cromwell's inclusion in a list of kings and queens, 'even in square brackets'. That Oliver is something of a special case is emphasised by the fact that, while all other volumes in this series are bound in immaculate white covers, this book is presented in a suitably dour shade of Cromwellian black.



Part of me cheers Cromwell's addition to this series – not least because it confounds the Royalist fiction that Charles II's reign began on 30

January 1649! Oliver undoubtedly deserves recognition in a list of British (yes, British!) heads of state, as does poor old Richard who has seemingly been overlooked! But should Oliver really be included in a series explicitly on 'monarchs'? There's the rub. The author claims that Cromwell is included in the series on the grounds that 'a "monarch" is not necessarily a king or queen, but a sole ruler.' Yet, I worry that this book, by its very nature, propagates the rather regrettable historiographical cliché about Cromwell being a king in all but name, thereby eliding the stark differences between Cromwellian rule and Stuart kingship in the decades either side of the 1650s. While the primary purpose of this book is to ensure that the 1650s are not lost in the story of England's monarchy, there's a danger that it really produces the opposite effect: that Cromwell's reign becomes just another episode in the grand narrative of England's monarchical destiny. Putting that quibble aside,

however, Horspool has produced a very readable survey of Cromwell's life replete with thought-provoking passages and memorable phrases – not least his characterization of Oliver as 'a champion ditherer' at times of difficult political decisions. This is a portrayal of Cromwell 'warts and all': the author does not shy away from examining 'the most notorious blot' on Cromwell's reputation – his campaign in Ireland. He also pays close attention to accusations of duplicity and hypocrisy levelled against Cromwell by friends and enemies alike. Like many recent biographers, however, the author suggests that Oliver was more likely a man of conviction than an incorrigible schemer; albeit adding that our understanding of his motivations ultimately 'has to fall back on our instincts about his sincerity'.

This book packs a great deal into just 111 pages; at times it is quite densely written and just occasionally has the quality of some of Oliver's more opaque parliamentary speeches. The chronological coverage is also rather uneven: by far the longest section deals with the period from the end of the first Civil War through to 1653; the Protectorate itself merits a mere 15 pages. There are also noticeable gaps in historiographical awareness – the failure to incorporate the findings of Andrew Barclay's important study of Cromwell's early years is particularly regrettable. Overall, I suspect experts are unlikely to learn anything new from this book while the casual enthusiast will doubtless lament a lack of detail, particularly the rather fleeting descriptions of Cromwell's military engagements. On balance, I would probably recommend this book to anyone wanting to get up to speed quickly with Cromwell and his times, but I'd also urge them to move on to more detailed biographies and studies thereafter.

David Horspool, *Oliver Cromwell: The Protector* (Penguin Monarch Series, 2017), RRP: £12.99 (hardback)

In the press

Charles I: King and Collector

A collection of art assembled by King Charles I will be reunited for the first time in 400 years at an exhibition at the Royal Academy of Arts after it scoured the galleries of Europe to track down treasures lost to the nation.

The exhibition will run from 27 January to 15 April 2018.

i Paper : Tuesday 23 May 2017



Van Dyck's *Cupid and Psyche*
Royal Collection, Kensington Palace

Charles II: Art & Power

The restoration of the monarchy in 1660 led to a resurgence of the arts in England. From John Michael Wright's monumental portrait of Charles II in his coronation robes and a glittering silver-gilt plate which adorned the high-altar of Westminster Abbey during the King's coronation, to old master paintings, tapestries and spectacular silver-gilt furniture, the exhibition shows the rich material world of Charles II's court and the role of the arts in the re-establishment of the Stuart monarchy.

The exhibition will run from December 2017 at the Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace.

i Paper : Tuesday 23 May 2017

The Protector's Pen

Film Review - Cromwell (1970)

This is the past as all good Cromwellians and true would like it to be. It covers the period from just before 1640 to 1653 with the establishment of the Protectorate. As played by Richard Harris, this is a story shown mainly through Cromwell's eyes. The operative word is 'mainly'. In a sense, in this film you get double your money. As a counterweight to Harris is Alec Guinness in the role of Charles I.

Exuding patrician sangfroid to his fingertips, especially on 30 January 1649, Guinness almost steals the show. He excels at depicting Charles as the character that has come down to us through the historical record. That is, someone having an utter personal belief in his divine right to rule absolutely and a complete incapacity to deviate from this. From the start, Guinness is the perfect balance to Harris's characterisation of Cromwell as the bluff, no-nonsense and down-to-earth squire. This version of Cromwell would never describe a spade as an agricultural implement.

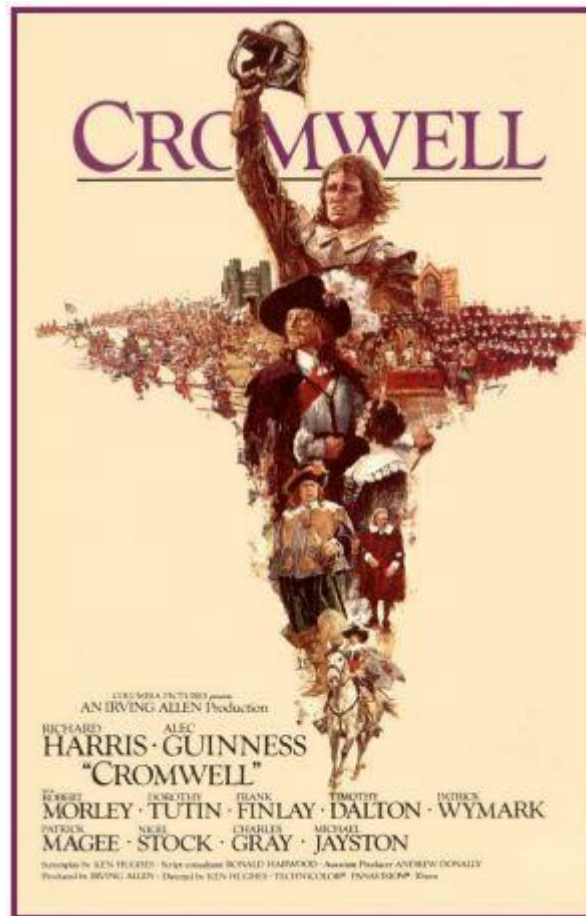
A main chunk of the film is the actual First Civil War with the Battle of Naseby in June 1645 as its centrepiece. According to this alternative historical narrative, it is the Parliamentarians that are outnumbered instead of the Royalists. No matter, our guys still come out on top. The battle scenes are well done and convincing. The battle was shot in Spain with General Franco providing 400 men from the Spanish Army to fill the ranks. The incongruity of having a fight for democracy and liberty enabled by an authoritarian regime appears not to have been noted.

This film comes at a point and at a time in Britain where society was emerging from the conformity of the past half-century with a freeing up of social and sexual attitudes. By the end of the 1960s, this shift was clearly in place in society as a whole and especially in the culture of theatre and cinema.

This cultural shift can be traced from the Angry Young Men of the 1950s with the play, and later film, of *Look Back in Anger*, through the early 1960s' emphasis on 'The North' with *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning* (1960) and *A Taste of Honey* (1961), to Lindsay Anderson's *If...* (1968). By the late '60s the focus

had moved from Jimmy Porter's railing against the Establishment in his 1950s bedsit to the centre of the Establishment, a British public school.

Here, in the heart of the ruling class, there evolves not just dissent, but revolutionary action by violence. Stifled by their environment and the system, sixth formers start shooting up the audience at the annual prize giving. The film ends in the midst of the gun battle. This is Jimmy Porter but a Jimmy Porter now emboldened to the point of, 'up with this, we will no longer put'.



All of this - May '68, the upheavals on the streets of France, in the UK and elsewhere - set the background and backdrop for Cromwell in 1970. It was a film whose time had come. By then, not only was it OK to attack the Establishment, it had become de rigueur. For the movie industry, money being always the bottom line, this was therefore the way to go. With an autocratic 17th century English King (Charles I) and one that got their comeuppance from a 'man of the people' (Cromwell), you just could not do better than this for a story. Best of all, it was true, or, it could be portrayed as such on the screen.

As a narrative, it was even better. Whilst *If...* had been revolutionary fervour writ large, that's all it was. Those taking on the forces of the Establishment at the public school had no plan beyond revolution. Cromwell was different. It had an objective beyond the gunfire. The story could be pitched, and was, as

the heroic defence of a democratically elected Parliament. It was therefore a defence of the people and of democracy itself. This ticked all the correct cultural boxes, especially for the United States. It didn't take much to insinuate a foreshadowing of 1776 into an England of the 1640s for an American audience and a potentially bigger box office. That a few historical details had been changed here and there wasn't going to be allowed to obstruct the telling of the tale.

In the film, Parliament itself was reduced from two Houses to a one-chamber House of Commons in which the Lords also sat. As the focus of the film was Cromwell and he sat as an MP in the

(cont'd)

The Protector's Pen

Film Review - Cromwell (cont'd)

Commons, this was alright. Additionally, Sir Edward Hyde did not give evidence against the king as a witness for the prosecution at Charles's trial as the film has him doing. It still looks impressive and sounds as though it should have happened. This is dramatic licence and this is a movie.

Despite all this and other considerations where the proven historical record is referred to and then given a flexibility of interpretation that is blatant in its untruthfulness, this film still works as a valid historical text. It does this because it adheres to the fundamental rule of a film biography (a 'biopic'). It follows in the footsteps of its subject. If a biopic does this, which this one does, it will open up a sense of the emotional validity of the subject, their time and the events that person is

caught up in. Knowing in your head is one thing; that's just facts. Being drawn into the topic emotionally is something other and deeper. This is what a proper biopic must do in order to work. This film delivers the goods. *Cromwell* is the past as all good Cromwellians and true would like it to be. It's not and yet it is. As Alfred Hitchcock said, 'It's only a movie'. Still, that is its strength. Agreed, details are amended and sometimes just made up. However, watching it, you get a signal clarity on the flow of events as they tumble out in sequence. This enables the watcher to grasp the core of the political narrative of the 1640s and 1650s. That is why this film has endured for nearly 50 years. This is why it will continue to do so.

John Newland

Publications, Exhibitions and Events

| <u>Date (2017)</u> | <u>Venue</u> | <u>Details</u> |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Jun 16 - Aug 18 | London Museum | Great Fire evening walks |
| Summer 2017 | Commandery, Worcester | 'Worcester's Civil War Story', a new interactive experience |
| Summer 2017 | Nantwich Museum | A series of summer talks as part of the 'Nantwich Beseiged' exhibition |
| Jul 29 | Nantwich Museum | The Battle of Nantwich by Julian Humphrys, Battlefields Trust |
| Aug 3 | Nantwich Museum | Barthomley in the Civil War: a workshop led by Keith Lawrence |
| Aug 3 | Commandery, Worcester | 'Runaways, Deserters and the Negotiation of Parliamentary Authority in Civil War England 1642-1651', Dr David Appleby |
| Aug 5 - 6 | Great Chalfield Manor | English Civil War Society re-enactment |
| Aug 10 | Nantwich Museum | Maps and Models by Martyn Hotchkiss |
| Aug 17 | Nantwich Museum | Coin Hoards by Keith Lawrence |
| Aug 26 - 28 | Scampston Hall | Sealed Knot, Scampston Hall, Major Muster |
| Aug 26 - 28 | Commandery Worcester | Battle of Worcester weekend: The Storming of Fort Royal |
| Sep 3 | London | Cromwell Day (see article in this newsletter) |
| Sep 9 - 10 | Corfe Castle | English Civil War Society re-enactment |
| Sep 16 | Cromwell Museum | Civil War re-enactment (1300-1630) |
| Sep 21 | Commandery Worcester | Battle of Powick Bridge (375 th Anniversary 23/9) - talk by Howard Robinson, Local Historian and descendant of Oliver Cromwell |
| Sep 23 | Rowley's House, Shrewsbury | Battlefield Trust and Helion and Company, Century of the Soldier Conference 2017 |
| Sep 23 - Sep 24 | Edgehill | Sealed Knot, Edgehill 375 th Anniversary. Major Muster |
| Sep 27 | Sidney Sussex College Cambridge | Cromwell Museum Annual Dinner (1930- 2200) |
| Oct 7 | London | 'Cromwell in Europe' : Cromwell Association Study Day |
| Dec 8 - May 13 2018 | Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace | Charles II: Art & Power - exhibition |
| 2018 | | |
| Jan 27 - Apr 15 | Royal Academy of Arts | Charles I: King and Collector - exhibition |

All information correct at time of going to press

