

Domenico Mancini : an entirely new edition

Domenico Mancini de occupatione regni Anglie



New Translation with Introduction
and Historical Notes by
Annette Carson

This new book by Annette Carson is a wholly new edition of the report penned by Domenico Mancini, the Italian who visited London in 1483 and wrote a first-hand account of Richard III's accession to the throne.

Mancini was there when Richard was appointed Protector, after first being denied that office by those whose aim was to keep him from power. His is the earliest document that reports the general understanding that Edward IV's will provided for a protectorate.

But, like so many reports by foreign-born chroniclers, Mancini's version of how England was governed during a protectorate was sadly inaccurate and ill-informed. Yet it is a major source used by all historians.

Worse still, the original translator of Mancini's document (in 1936) regarded Richard III as a murderous villain and used condemnatory language to suit his prejudices. The title he invented was

'The Usurpation of Richard III', a deliberate mis-rendering of Mancini's original Latin. As a result, every time this important eyewitness source has been mentioned for the past 85 years, the use of that controversial title has been unavoidable. Until now.

In future there will be two versions available to researchers, and only this new edition uses Mancini's actual words in its title. Not only does it offer a new and more accurate translation, capturing the nuances of Mancini's own language and meaning ... it also presents a thorough analysis that does not take his report at face value: one that clearly shows where his knowledge and understanding are lacking.

- * What were the influences that coloured Mancini's attitudes?
- * Why did he so disparage Edward IV and the Yorkist court?
- * More importantly, how did he influence the Ricardian story told by Tudor writers?

Author Annette Carson is a non-fiction writer with a preference for history and biography, and was a member of the Looking For Richard Project that found the grave of Richard III in 2012.

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