

Richard III, merchants and money

Dr Richard Goddard (University of Nottingham)

Richard's III's reign came at a major turning point in English economic history: from the 1440s until the 1470s, England had been gripped by a severe economic depression, a function not of civil conflict or strife but rather the result of high epidemic mortality, a reduction in the amount of coinage in circulation, and a contraction in international trade. This had important consequences for what might be described as the 'economic polices' of the Yorkist kings. First, desperate pleas by merchants to increase the number of coins in circulation resulted, amongst other measures, in the minting of new gold and silver coins. This public lecture will examine the coins minted in Richard's reign and look at the impact of these issues. Second, the blame for recessions is often laid at the door of 'foreigners'. In Richard's reign the situation was little different: English kings often enacted policies which sought to disadvantage foreign merchants who were seen as a threat to the livelihoods of English businesspeople. A series of statutes were passed during Richard's reign against what was perceived as unfair foreign competition; many of these imposed financial restraints upon foreign merchants and their businesses. Accordingly, this talk will examine what impact these policies had, particularly upon English merchants and their commercial activities. Furthermore, I will explore the extent to which these policies reflected an understanding of the shifting commercial circumstances of the period.

Richard Goddard is Associate Professor of Medieval History at the University of Nottingham. He has written extensively on the economic and social history of later medieval England in peer-reviewed journals. His books include *Lordship and Medieval Urbanisation: Coventry, 1043-1355* (Woodbridge, 2004); with John Langdon and Miriam Müller (eds), *Survival and Discord in Medieval Society: Essays in Honour of Christopher Dyer* (Turnhout, 2010); and *Credit and Trade in Later Medieval England* (Basingstoke, 2016).



*Richard III gold Angel, worth 6s 8d
(now worth £29,500).*



*Date and time: 5.50-6.30 pm, Tuesday 28th May, 2019. Venue: King Richard III Visitor Centre
Request your place by emailing: info@kriii.com (event is free, but space is limited to 80 max.)*