

MW

MEDIEVAL WARFARE

VOL III, ISSUE 6

WWW.MEDIEVAL-WARFARE.COM // KARWANSARAY PUBLISHERS

UK £ 5.75



9

MYTHS AND LEGENDS

In the Medieval world

THEME - THE WORLD OF ARTHUR // WILLIKIN: THE REAL ROBIN HOOD // THE DEATH OF ROLAND
SPECIALS - MYSTERIOUS HERITAGE IN SYRIA: QASR AL-HAYR // BUCKINGHAM VS RICHARD III

The large format photo book:

Edelman-Bedelman

RICH MAN-POOR MAN

Clothing from the World of the Limbourg Brothers

This gorgeous book depicts the people and clothing of 15th century Europe in spectacular, full-colour photographs. Experience the Middle Ages as never before.

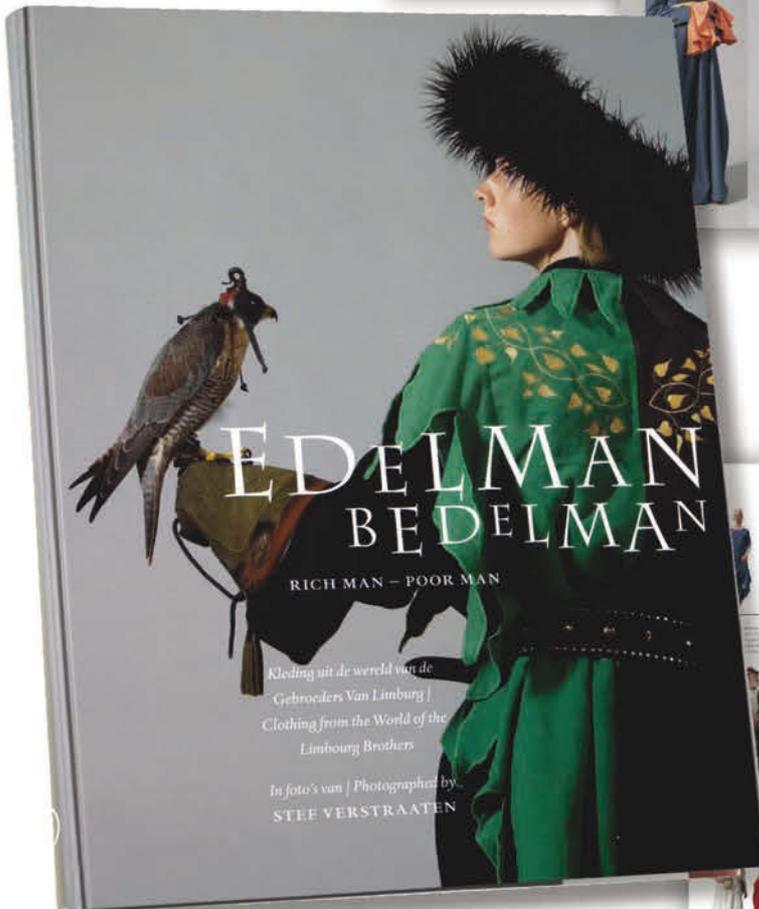
Photo book, large format (38 x 29 cm),
240 pages / 200 full-color photos
Photography by Stef Verstraaten, with
text by Clemens Verhoeven and Jacobus
Trijsburg.

€ 49,⁵⁰

(shipping not included)

The book is available from:

www.kp-shop.com



mw

MEDIEVAL WARFARE

Publisher: Rolof van Hövell tot Westerfliet
Editor in chief: Jasper Oorthuys
Editorial staff: Dirk van Gorp (editor Medieval Warfare), Duncan B. Campbell (copy-editor).
Marketing & media manager: Christianne C. Beall

Contributors: Raffaele D'Amato, Patrick Baker, David Balfour, Jean-Claude Brunner, Sidney E. Dean, Filippo Donvito, Bouko de Groot, Kai Grundmann, Sean McGlynn, Elizabeth Norton, Konstantin Nossow, Peter Konieczny, Owen Rees, Nils Visser, Nicholas Whaley.

Illustrators: Giorgio Albertini, Ganbat Badamkhand, Carlos Garcia, Vladimir Golubev, Milek Jakubiec, Juhani Jokinen, José Daniel Cabrera Peña, Maxime Plasse, RU-MOR.

Design & layout: MeSa Design (www.mesadesign.nl)
Print: PublisherPartners (www.publisherpartners.com)

Editorial office

PO Box 4082, 7200 BB Zutphen, The Netherlands
Phone: +31-575-776076 (NL), +44-20-8816281 (Europe), +1-740-994-0091 (US)
E-mail: editor@medieval-warfare.com
Customer service: service@karwansaraypublishers.com
Website: www.medieval-warfare.com

Contributions in the form of articles, letters, reviews, news and queries are welcomed. Please send to the above address or use the contact form on www.medieval-warfare.com.

Subscriptions

Subscription price is €33,50 plus postage surcharge where applicable. Subscriptions can be purchased at shop.karwansaraypublishers.com, via phone or by email. For the address, see above.

Distribution

Medieval Warfare is sold through retailers, the internet and by subscription. If you wish to become a sales outlet, please contact us at service@karwansaraypublishers.com

Copyright Karwansaray B.V. All rights reserved. Nothing in this publication may be reproduced in any form without prior written consent of the publishers. Any individual providing material for publication must ensure that the correct permissions have been obtained before submission to us. Every effort has been made to trace copyright holders, but in few cases this proves impossible. The editor and publishers apologize for any unwitting cases of copyright transgressions and would like to hear from any copyright holders not acknowledged. Articles and the opinions expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of the editor and/or publishers. Advertising in *Medieval Warfare* does not necessarily imply endorsement.

Medieval Warfare is published every two months by Karwansaray B.V., Rotterdam, The Netherlands. PO Box 1110, 3000 BC Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

ISSN: 2211-5129

Printed in the European Union.

Contents

THEME - Myths and legends in the Medieval world

News & letters	4
Larger than life	6
Historical introduction	
Theoderic the Great	9
The ancient warrior and his medieval legacy	
The death of Roland	13
The Battle of Roncevaux Pass	
The Grunwald Swords	18
Blades of victory, symbols of freedom	
<i>Dux Bellorum, Comes Britanniarum?</i>	20
The Arthurian legend in light of military history	
William of Kensham	27
Hero of the resistance	
The legend of Prester John	34
A mysterious letter to the Christian West	
Andreas Baumkircher	38
An Austrian giant cut short	
Qasr al-Hayr	43
Mysterious heritage amidst the Syrian Desert	
Buckingham's Rebellion	48
The uprising that threatened Richard III's throne	
Reviews	53
Books and games	
On the cover	58

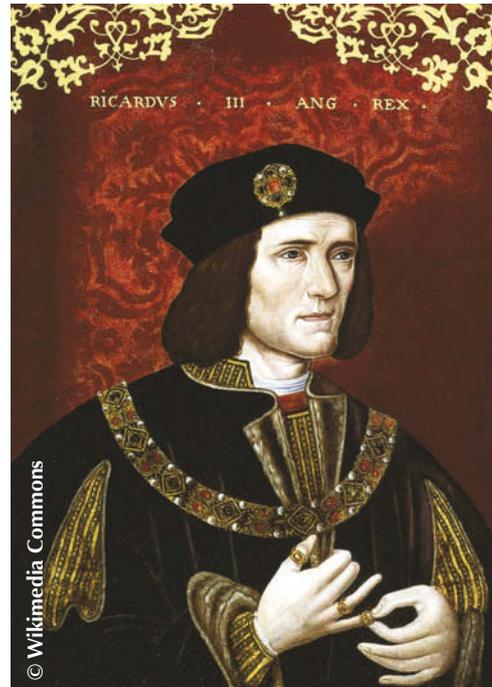
Erratum

One of our observant readers has found an error in the article by Andrei Pogăciaş in *Medieval Warfare* III.5, which focuses on the *Life of Alfred* by Asser. On page 12 of the issue, in the third column, first paragraph, it says that a certain Aethelwald rebelled against Aethel-

wulf, the father of the future King Alfred. This was a misprint for Aethelbald, the second son of Aethelwulf.

Dirk van Gorp
Editor, *Medieval Warfare* magazine

When Richard III invaded Scotland



The military reputation of Richard III focuses mostly on the Battle of Bosworth, where he was defeated and killed. However, a new article is shining light on a more successful military campaign that Richard led just before he took the English throne.

Sean Cunningham, a Principal Records Specialist at the National Archives in Kew, has examined how Richard, when he was still just the Duke of Gloucester, personally commanded a war effort that humbled the Scots and recaptured the city of Berwick-upon-Tweed. He provides a glimpse of Richard's abilities and how he was able to become King less than a year later.

In an article entitled 'The Yorkists at War: Military Leadership in the English War with Scotland, 1480-82', Cunningham details how diplomatic relations between England and Scotland, which were often strained, broke down in the late 1470s, and how the chaotic situation along the border propelled both countries into war. The man at the centre of

the action was Edward IV's brother, Richard, Duke of Gloucester, whom Cunningham calls the "undisputed lord of the north." While Edward IV remained in the south of England, it was Richard who led the English forces, establishing defences against the Scots and leading raids and *chevauchées* into Scottish territory.

Government records show that the English were able to use their resources to bring more supplies and men into the region, and used their navy to take control of the seas. Edward IV, having decided not to personally lead the campaign, made his brother Lieutenant-General for the invasion. Richard and his forces left York on 15 July 1482, marching on the city of Berwick-upon-Tweed. While some of his army besieged the city and its castle, Richard took part of his force to the Scottish capital at Edinburgh, where he hoped to do battle with the Scottish King James III.

Cunningham writes, "As it turned out, [James'] rule was preserved by the treason of his Stewart uncles – the Earls of Athol and Buchan, and the Bishop of Moray. They averted military disaster by kidnapping James at the Scottish mystere at Lauder, hanging several of his low-born companions. The king was removed from any position of public authority and locked in Edinburgh castle."

Richard soon realized he would not be able to capture Edinburgh, and brought his forces back to Berwick, where he oversaw the capitulation of town and castle on 24 August 1482 – this would be the last time that Berwick changed hands between England and Scotland. While some contemporary chroniclers and historians have criticized Richard for not trying to take Edinburgh, Cunningham notes that he "was probably making the best of the unexpected political situation in Scotland and was conscious of his inability to keep his army in the field beyond the limited period of service."

Moreover, Cunningham adds that the campaign had "demonstrated to the duke and his followers that he possessed and had