

La Prinse et mort du roy Richart d'Angleterre, based on British Library MS Harley 1319, and Other Works by Jehan Creton

Jehan Creton accompanied Richard II on his expedition to Ireland in 1399 and witnessed his capture by Henry Lancaster, who usurped the throne to reign as Henry IV. Creton's account is of crucial importance for historians of the period, as he contradicts the official version of events in the Parliamentary Roll. Until now, historians have had to rely on a 200-year old edition by an antiquarian with no specialist knowledge of Middle French: the Rev. Webb's edition of 1824 has all the disadvantages of a publication of that era. Creton's other known writings – the two epistles and four *ballades* – are edited here and his debt to Valerius Maximus in the epistle to the duke of Burgundy identified for the first time. A complete translation has been added, plus quality reproductions of the original miniatures which Creton specified as an integral part of his work.

LORNA A. FINLAY has degrees in French and Medieval Studies from the University of Aberdeen where she was also awarded the Frederick C. Roe Prize for excellence in French language. She has studied extensively in France, particularly at the University of Rennes, Brittany, and in Paris, as well as in London. Her researches into the deposition of Richard II in 1399 were begun under the supervision of †Armel H. Diverres, sometime Carnegie Professor of French in the University of Aberdeen. The present edition was originally submitted as her doctoral thesis, which she has completely revised for publication from the original manuscripts.

Cover illustration: Figure XIII. King Richard is ambushed by Northumberland (BL MS Harley 1319 fo. 44r.) © The British Library Board.



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