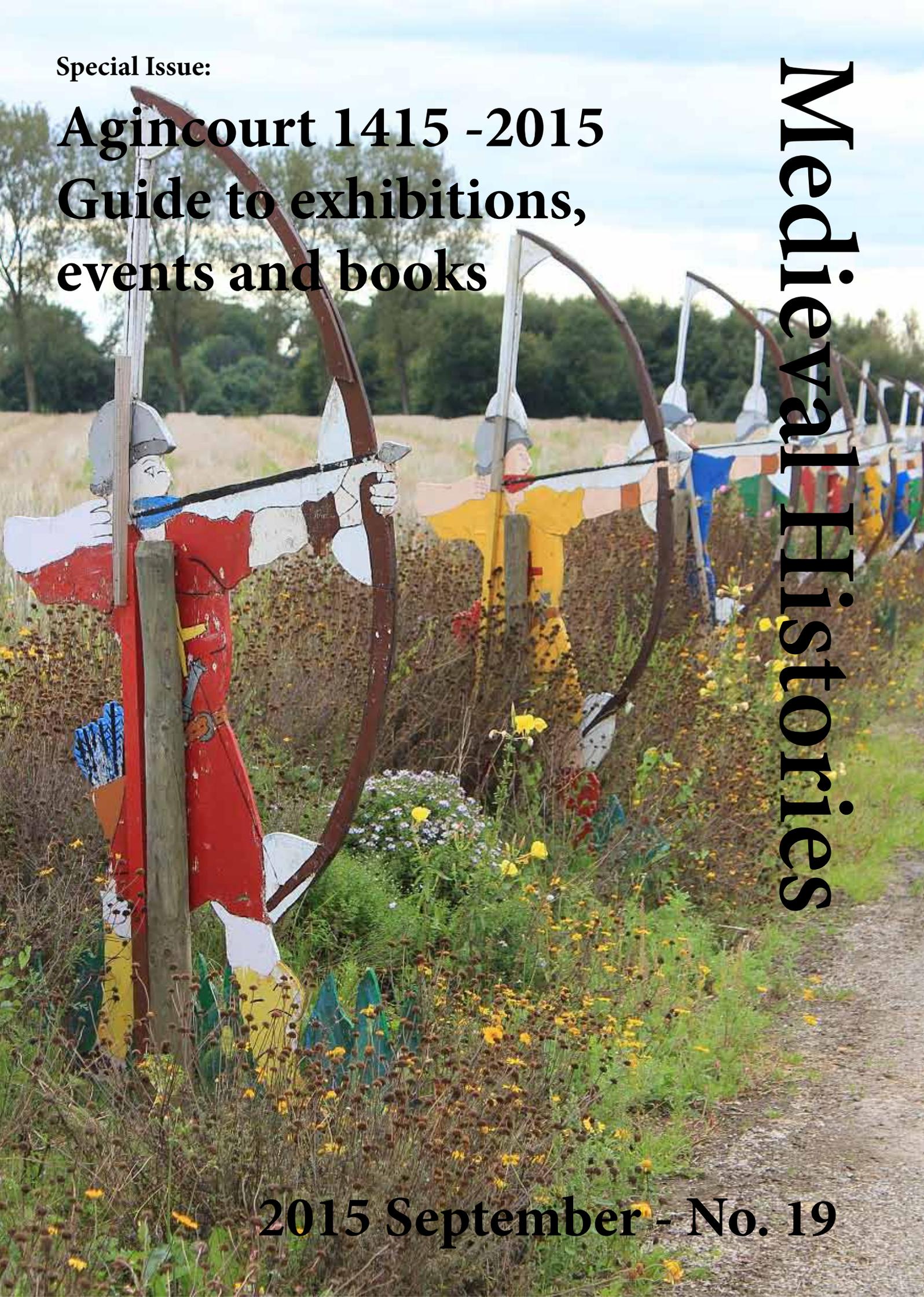


Special Issue:

**Agincourt 1415 -2015**  
**Guide to exhibitions,**  
**events and books**

**Medieval Histories**

**2015 September - No. 19**



# We few, we happy few, we band of brothers....

What's he that wishes so?  
My cousin, Westmoreland? No, my fair  
cousin;  
If we are mark'd to die, we are enow  
To do our country loss; and if to live,  
The fewer men, the greater share of honour.  
God's will! I pray thee, wish not one man  
more.  
By Jove, I am not covetous for gold,  
Nor care I who doth feed upon my cost;  
It yearns me not if men my garments wear;  
Such outward things dwell not in my de-  
sires.  
But if it be a sin to covet honour,  
I am the most offending soul alive.  
No, faith, my coz, wish not a man from Eng-  
land.  
God's peace! I would not lose so great an  
honour  
As one man more methinks would share  
from me  
For the best hope I have. O, do not wish one  
more!  
Rather proclaim it, Westmoreland, through  
my host,  
That he which hath no stomach to this fight,  
Let him depart; his passport shall be made,  
And crowns for convoy put into his purse;  
We would not die in that man's company  
That fears his fellowship to die with us.  
This day is call'd the feast of Crispian.  
He that outlives this day, and comes safe  
home,  
Will stand a tip-toe when this day is nam'd,

And rouse him at the name of Crispian.  
He that shall live this day, and see old age,  
Will yearly on the vigil feast his neighbours,  
And say "To-morrow is Saint Crispian."  
Then will he strip his sleeve and show his  
scars,  
And say "These wounds I had on Crispin's  
day."  
Old men forget; yet all shall be forgot,  
But he'll remember, with advantages,  
What feats he did that day. Then shall our  
names,  
Familiar in his mouth as household words-  
Harry the King, Bedford and Exeter,  
Warwick and Talbot, Salisbury and Gloucester-  
Be in their flowing cups freshly  
rememb'ed.  
This story shall the good man teach his son;  
And Crispin Crispian shall ne'er go by,  
From this day to the ending of the world,  
But we in it shall be remembered-  
We few, we happy few, we band of brothers;  
For he to-day that sheds his blood with me  
Shall be my brother; be he ne'er so vile,  
This day shall gentle his condition;  
And gentlemen in England now-a-bed  
Shall think themselves accurs'd they were  
not here,  
And hold their manhoods cheap whiles any  
speaks  
That fought with us upon Saint Crispin's  
day.

*William Shakespeare: Henry V*

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## Medieval Histories

- read about new exhibitions,  
books, research and much more

Editor-in-chief: Karen Schous-  
boe

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## Photo (frontpage):

Path towards the Museum-centre  
at Azincourt in France © Paul  
Hermans.

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tribution licenses



# Agincourt 1415 -2015

The battle at Agincourt in Nord-Pas-de Calais in 1415 is famous for the heroic fight between the outnumbered English archers and the French iron-clad chivalry. This October England and France commemorates the battle with memorial services, exhibitions and books

The battle of Agincourt in 1415 had an enormous significance:

It was a battle between an outnumbered and cornered English army and a huge French force. Nevertheless, the underdog, Henry V and his army won the day. This win was not least due to the brilliant deployment of the famous English archers wielding their longbows against the heavily armoured French cavalry. However, the military strategy also played a significant role as did - perhaps - the stupidity of the French. Hence the battle of Agincourt is a

favoured subject for military historians as well as re-enactors. October 2015 sets the scene for multiple commemorations and events celebrating the 600-year anniversary.

## Agincourt 600

To coordinate the initiatives an English and English registered charity - **Agincourt 600** - was specifically set up by a number of prominent English partners. The aim has been "to promote international friendship and understanding and advance knowledge and commemoration of the battle".

Included in this program are a service of **commemoration in Westminster Abbey**, exhibitions, academic conferences, a concert of French and English 15th century music, a one-man-show, guided walks through the city of London and fundraising events of diverse character. A **calendar lists** the all the events.

## Introductionary readings

At the website it is possible to read a number of interesting introductions to the battle and its historical context:

- Are there eyewitness accounts of the battle of Agincourt?
- Did Henry V Found the Royal Navy?
- D-Day 1415: Can we know the size of Henry V's Fleet in 1415?
- How did the city of London celebrate Henry's return?
- Can we follow Henry's route today?
- How did the city of London react to news of the battle?
- How many French prisoners survived the massacre which took place at the battle of Agincourt?
- What was the Hundred Years' War?
- What horses did the king have personally for the expedition?
- Where was Agincourt fought?
- How did the city of London fund Henry V's expedition of 1415?
- Did Henry V Fear the Scots?
  
- What equipment was supplied to members of the royal household for the

1415 campaign?

- What did John Mowbray, Earl Marshal, take with him on the campaign?

## Commemorative Publication

"Agincourt 600" is also responsible for the major commemorative publication, which will be at sale this week.

### Agincourt 600

Triumph, Brilliance and Controversy Six Hundred Years on

The official commemorative publication  
Ed by Robert McCall and Professor Anne Curry

Published by Arthur Moore 2015

Table of contents:

- Introduction by Dr. Sinclair Roberts
- The Battle of Agincourt By Professor Anne Curry, Southampton University
- Henry V's Strategy in 1415 by Stepehn Cooper
- On the trail of Henry V, by Peter Hoskins
- Agincourt 1415 – a graphic Novel by Kevin Gill
- The death of Edward, Duke of York by Michael Jones
- The First Biographer of Henry V by Geoffrey Hilton
- The Agincourt Campaign week by week by Dan Spencer



£6.95

# AGINCOURT 600

Triumph, Brilliance and Controversy Six Hundred Years on



The Official Commemorative Publication

Edited by Robert McCall

# Agincourt in the Royal Armoury

To commemorate the 600th anniversary of the Battle of Agincourt there will be a Royal Armouries' special exhibition in the White Tower at the Tower of London.

The Battle of Agincourt will reveal the moving story of the road to battle, the events of 25 October 1415, and the aftermath; exploring the popular myths, reality and legacy of this extraordinary battle.

The exhibition brings together rare and iconic objects for the first time, including medieval arms and armour, art, music, sculpture and manuscripts from the Royal Armouries' own collection and leading European institutions. The exhibition includes spectacular illuminated manuscripts from the British Library and the Lambeth Palace as well as French loans including the spectacular jeweled ring of John the Fearless, regent of France, which has been lent by the Louvre. The ring is a very delicate object showing what is believed to be a precise portrait of the duke, who, as a brother of the king of France, played an important role in the events at the beginning of the 15th century.

As part of the museum's commemoration of the 600th anniversary of the battle of Agincourt, the Royal Armouries commissioned a bespoke diorama of the battle with David Marshall, model maker of MMDioramas, along with the Perry brothers of Perry Miniatures. The diorama was carefully made according to measure and clay collected from the battlefield was molded into the model of the quagmire, in which numerous French men-at-arms are said to have been stuck, killed or just plain suffocated to death. In itself the Tower is an important venue to visit as this was where – initially – some

of the high-ranking prisoners from the battle were kept; one of whom was Charles, Duke of Orleans. Visitors will be able to listen to the poignant tales of the French prisoners in the aftermath of battle.

## Visit

### **The Battle of Agincourt**

Royal Armouries at the Tower of London  
23.10.2015 – 31.01.2016

*Charles d'Orlean in the Tower of London. An illuminated folio from a manuscript of poems written by Charles during his imprisonment. Charles (139?-1465) was kept prisoner for 25 years (1415-1440) following his capture at the battle of Agincourt. Royal MS. 16 F.ii, f. 73r © British Library*





# Highlights in the Tower



*One of the more accurate images of a knight kitted out for the battle comes from an unlikely source, a sculpture of St George from St Albans Cathedral, depicted head to toe in authentic contemporary armour.*

*Ring with a portrait of Jean sans Peur (John the Fearless). Although he did not fight personally at Agincourt the Duke of Burgundy, who was a brother of the French king played a significant role in the events in 1415. © Louvre*





## For the Boys...

We - of a certain age - all remember the major highlight of the museums of our childhood: the dioramas. Before youtube this was - apart from immersions into books - the closest we might get to time-travel.

For a long time, though, these delights have been stored in dusty warehouses, forgotten and unloved.

However, in connection with the major exhibition at the Tower this autumn, a special diorama was commissioned.

Its construction was overseen by David Marshall of **MM Dioramas**, working in close collaboration with the Perry brothers of **Perry Miniatures**, who completed the action figures. The Sceptre of Henry V For the first time in 600 years, a sceptre King Henry V gave to the City of London in gratitude for its support in the Hundred Years' War will go on public display. Providing a visual interpretation of the terrain, the key protagonists and some of

the main points of action during the day, the ambitious detailed model has taken over two years to complete and features over 4,000 individually painted figures. Into the ground has even been molded a couple of handfuls of the original mud scooped up from the famous quagmire in which so many fine french men-at-arms suffocated or drowned.

Already, the diorama has garnered an enormous interest among curators and communication experts. The reason is, that such dioramas still seem to be able to fascinate both children and grown-ups. It is arguably still the best way of getting a sense of the strategy of this most famous battle!

**The Royal Armouries' blog** has a series of posts describing how the diorama was brought about.

Photos: ©HRP/R. Lea Hair and James Mason

# The Sceptre of Henry V

For the first time in 600 years, a sceptre King Henry V gave to the City of London in gratitude for its support in the Hundred Years' War will go on public display.

The City of London helped finance the Battle of Agincourt, loaning Henry 10,000 marks (about three million pounds in today's money). After Henry's forces won so decisive a victory at Agincourt on October 25th, 1415, the king had the sceptre made and presented it to the city as a thank you gift.

Made by the finest craftsmen — including French ones — of the age, the sceptre is 43 cm long and made out of two spiral-carved stems of rock crystal with ribbons of inlaid gold. At the top of the sceptre is a gold crown topped with fleurs-de-lis and crosses and decorated with gemstones from around the world: red spinels from Afghanistan, sapphires from Ceylon, pearls from the Arabian gulf. Inside the crown is the king's coat of arms painted on parchment. The sceptre was made between 1415 and February of 1421 when it appears in a painting of the coronation in Westminster Abbey of Catherine of Valois, wife of Henry V

Henry V's Crystal Sceptre is as beautiful as it is mysterious.

Over the last six centuries, only a handful of people have seen or touched the Crystal Sceptre (or Mace), and it has not been previously researched, exhibited, written about, or photographed. But now, one of the City of London's most iconic treasures will go on display at Guildhall Art Gallery to mark the 600th anniversary of the

Battle of Agincourt. According to recent research by Dr Michael Hall and Ralph Holt, the Crystal Sceptre was given by Henry V to the City of London as a mark of his gratitude to the City for providing the funds to fight the historic battle.

'Unveiling the Crystal Sceptre: Henry V's Gift to the City', which opens on Saturday 24 October, will be a unique opportunity to view the jewel and discover the story of the City's financing of the Battle of Agincourt. The exhibition will also chart the pilgrimage made by the king, following



his victory paying homage to his chosen patron Saints. As well as the Crystal Sceptre, the exhibition will display the Hedon Mace, a weapon used at Agincourt and subsequently encased in silver-gilt, and some of the coins made at the time from silver mined at Combe Martin, and displaying Henry V's head.

Dr Michael Hall, Curator of Exbury House, Hampshire, and independent art historian, said: "The most remarkable aspect of the story surrounding the Crystal Sceptre is that it is still safely in the hands of those for whom it was made 600 years ago – the City of London. As well as being a rare and surviving English royal treasury object, the precious materials – rock crystal, gems and gold – make it an object of great beauty which has been carefully hiding in plain sight for six centuries. The City of London should now take great pride and pleasure in sharing this relic of Henry V on the 600th anniversary of Agincourt."

Dr Clare Taylor, who has worked with Dr Michael Hall and Ralph Holt, who uncov-

ered the new research, commented: "I am delighted that Guildhall Art Gallery will exhibit this magnificent City treasure and, for the first time, tell its fascinating story. Over the last 600 years, the Crystal Sceptre has made the most fleeting of appearances at the Silent Ceremony at the Guildhall and at coronations, and few people, even, distinguished historians, knew much about its background. I am hugely grateful to Dr Michael Hall and Ralph Holt for their work to research the Crystal Sceptre, and I am sure that visitors to the art gallery will enjoy this opportunity to see it."

Sonia Solicari, Principal Curator at Guildhall Art Gallery, said: "The exhibition opens on the day before St. Crispin's Day and will be a fitting and timely tribute to the City of London's link to the Battle of Agincourt in this anniversary year. For the very first time, people will be able to see this legendary monarch's gift to the City and I am sure that they will be fascinated by its history and beauty."





A catalogue of the Lord Mayoral regalia, including the Crystal Sceptre, and the gold and silver collection at The Mansion House will be launched to accompany the exhibition. Dr. Hall and Mr. Holt with the help of Dr. Clare Taylor, wife of former Lord Mayor Sir Roger Gifford, have authored the book on the silver and gold of Mansion House. The book, the third in a series about the collections of Mansion House, covers more than 80 precious objects, including the regalia of the Mayoralty.

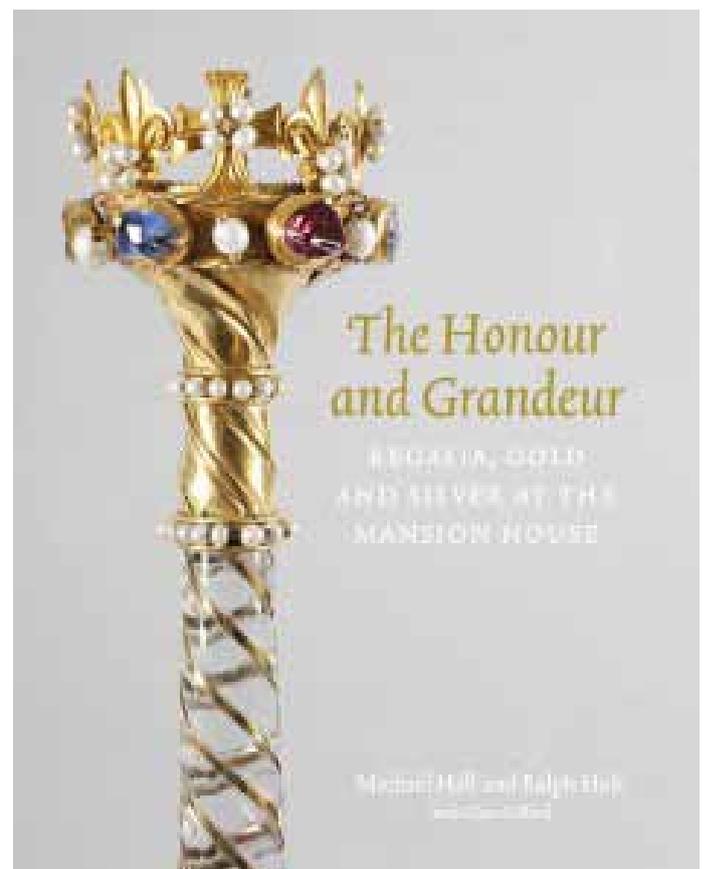
## VISIT:

### **Unveiling the crystal Sceptre: Henry v's Gift to the City**

Guildhall Art Gallery, London, EC2  
24.10.2015 – 03.12.2015

## **The Honour and Grandeur: Regalia, Gold and Silver at the Mansion House**

Paul Holberton Publishing 2015  
ISBN: 978-1-907372-89-6



# The Sinews of War

The Wallace Collection in London holds a very important number of late medieval weapons. As part of the commemoration of Agincourt 1415 an exhibition reveals its treasures.



*Visored Bascinet c. 1390 -1410, Milano. © Wallace Collection*

The Battle of Agincourt (25 October 1415) is often remembered as a victory of English longbowmen over French knights, and has come to symbolise the victory of common people over aristocrats, of technological progress over conservatism, of modern military efficiency over out-moded tradition. In reality, what was one of the most famous battles of the Hundred Years War was ultimately won in a hard-fought hand-to-hand struggle between armoured knights on both sides, with the English archers joining the fray not with their bows but with hand-weapons.

This special display brings together original weapons and armour dating from the time of the battle, exhibiting them alongside other medieval pieces in the Wallace

Collection and from the museum's library and archive. The aim is to explore the real story of this fascinating but sobering moment in history. The exhibits also include rare books from the Wallace Collection archive, exploring the ways in which this historic event has been remembered over centuries.

The exhibition is accompanied by a number of videos in which the curator, Dr. Tobias Capwell, discusses the arms and armaments in detail. He is personally experienced in the noble art of medieval combat and a well-known champion.

## VISIT:

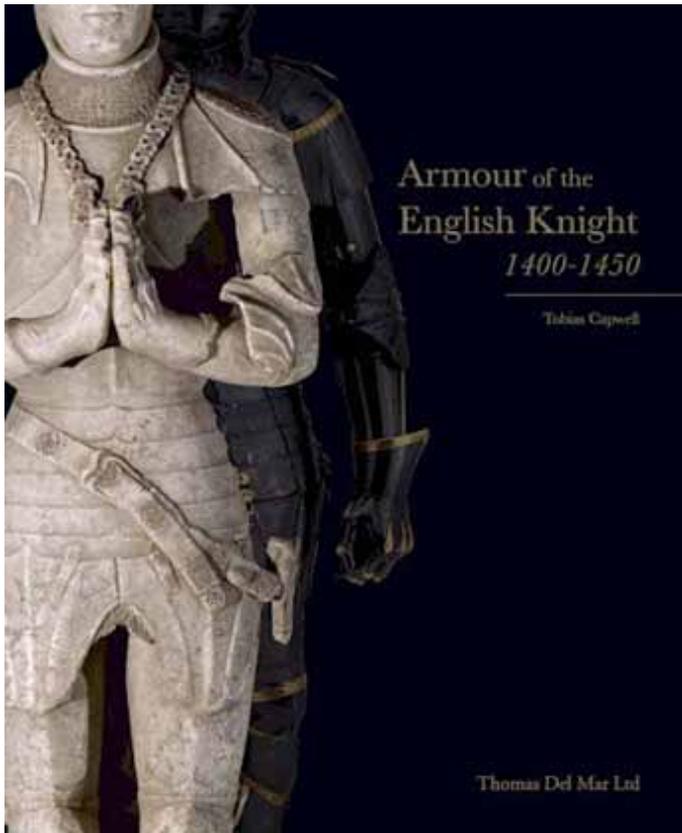
**The Sinews of War: Arms and Armour from the Age of Agincourt**

01.09.2015 - 31.12.2015

*Mail collar 15th century © Wallace Collection*



# Armour of the English Knight 1400-1450



engraved and gilded decoration, the form, function and style of which was as characteristic of the English as were their feared longbowmen.

Employing rich imagery in diverse media, combined with detailed technical and decorative analysis, *Armour of the English Knight* creates a unique visual journey through the physical world of the late medieval armoured warrior.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Tobias Capwell is the Curator of Arms and Armour at the Wallace Collection. He is also a renowned champion of European tournaments in the 21st century

© *Toby Chapwell*

## Armour of the English Knight 1400-1450

by Tobias Capwell

Thomas Del Mar Ltd 2015

ISBN: 9780993324604

This detailed, lavishly illustrated book chronicles the armour worn by English men-at-arms during the later phases of the Hundred Years War, as they fought through the great victories and humiliating defeats in France that would ultimately lead them into the War of the Roses.

For the first time, many unknown or rarely published visual and documentary sources have been brought together to reveal the beautiful and intimidating accoutrements of the war-like English. Huge sums were paid by the chivalric elite for human exoskeletons of hardened steel glittering with





## Azincourt and Marignan 1415 – 1515

This year France remembers the defeat at Agincourt in 1415 and the victory at Marignano in 1515. An important exhibition at Musée de l'Armée in Paris tells the story

In 1415 the small expeditionary force of perhaps 6-8000 men led by king Henry V defeated a huge French army mustering 24.000 at Agincourt. It is believed that between 4-6000 French soldiers and men-at-arms perished in the battle and that perhaps 1400 – 1600 were taken prisoners in order to be ransomed. In France the grief and shame was overwhelming. Today, historians are still debating to what extent it was the English army, which defeated the

French or whether the latter simply lost at Agincourt through stupidity and lack of courage.

What is not debatable, is that a hundred years later, the French army led by Francis I were victorious at Marignano outside Milan. During these 100 years the composition of the French army changed decisively as did the weapons.

This autumn the Musée de l'Armée tells this story through a fascinating exhibition – Chevaliers & Bombardes.

Focus is on:

- archaic tactics to modern technical solutions
- reflection upon the experiences to the reformation of the army by Charles VII
- the Italian wars and the success of the French artillery.

A number of exceptional objects are exhibited here:

- The canon of Louis XI
- The sword of Louis XII
- The armour of Francis I
- Manuscripts and illuminations
- The Treaty of Troyes 1420
- An early canon
- A longbow from Mary Rose

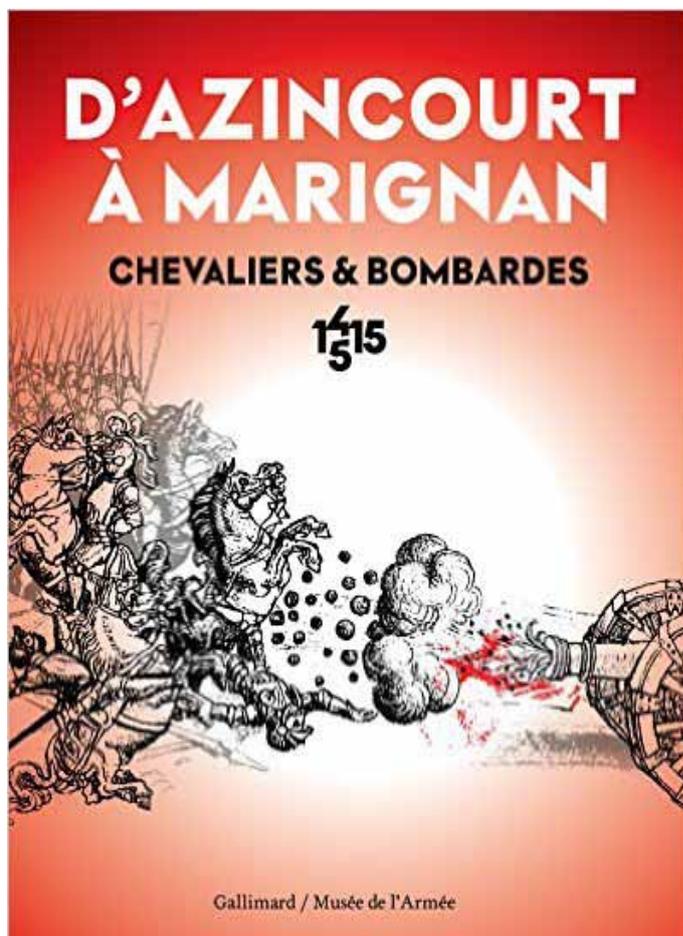
The exhibition is accompanied by numerous dioramas (multimedia)

**VISIT:**

### **Musée de l'Armée**

Hôtel des Invalides, 129 rue de Grenelle,  
75007 Paris  
07.10.2015 – 24.01.2016

*Canon called « de Bâle », probably made by Jean Cambier between 1420 and 1430*  
© HMB – Historisches Museum Basel / P. Portner



**READ MORE**

### **Knights & Bombards**

English Pamphlet)

### **D'azincourt à Marignan**

Catalogue ed by Valérie Toureille  
Éditions Gallimard 2015  
ISBN : 9782070149490





## Henry V at Westminster

In August 1422 Henry died at Vincennes and his body was embalmed and rested for a time in Rouen Cathedral, until he was returned to England. At his magnificent funeral four horses drew the chariot into the nave as far as the choir screen.

The saddle, helm and shield, which were part of his funeral 'achievements', were for many centuries kept by his grave

This saddle is the earliest surviving example of a new light-weight type, originally covered with blue velvet. The lime wood shield has a small section of crimson velvet remaining on the inner side, showing the arms of Navarre (Joan of Navarre was his stepmother, so this shield may have belonged to Henry IV). The front of the shield had been painted with the arms of France and England. The five-section domed helm, about sixteen inches high, with an applied decorated band of copper alloy round the bottom edge, is a tilting (jousting) helm so would not have been

worn in battle. A finely balanced 15th century sword with a cross of St George in the pommel, found in the Abbey triforium in 1869, is thought, at present, to be part of this funeral armour and is now displayed with it.

**A service to commemorate the anniversary of Agincourt** will be held in Westminster Abbey on 29 October 2015

A conference will be held at Westminster School on 28 October discussing aspects of **the funerary achievements of Henry V**



# Henry V at Azincourt

The main commemorative event will take place in France at the battlefield itself on the 25th of October

How do you commemorate a resounding defeat? The French have taken the occasion to involve representatives from both the French and the English armies.

The morning begins with a service in the nearby Abbey of Auchy-lès-Hesdin, where a memorial plaque commemorates the interment of 17 French men-at-arms, which were killed in battle.

Special focus is on “La Gendarmerie Nationale” which traces its beginning to the death of **© Projet Gallois de Fougères Les gendarmes Aymeric Savary et Kristian Boulinguez au-dessus de la sépul-**

**ture de Gallois de Fougères et Jean des Quesnes, deux chevaliers dont ils ont reconstitué les armures.**

who was the first provost of the marchals. Later in the morning a new monument will be unveiled in the battlefield. This will be followed up with parades, decorations and speeches.

The official organisers is the Centre Historique Médiéval.

**Centre Historique Médiéval.**

24, rue Charles VI  
62310 Azincourt



**Pin it**

**25 OCTOBRE 2015**

**GRATUIT**

**À 9H30 : À AUCHY-LÈS-HESDIN**

**CÉRÉMONIE RELIGIEUSE À L'ABBATIALE**

**À 11H30 : À AZINCOURT**

**SUR LE CHAMP DE BATAILLE (D104) .....**

**INAUGURATION D'UN MONUMENT**

**SUR LA PLACE DU VILLAGE .....**

**CÉRÉMONIE MILITAIRE**

**REMISE DE DÉCORATIONS**

**PRÉSENCE DE MILITAIRES**

**DE L'ARMÉE FRANÇAISE ET ANGLAISE.**

Possibilité de se garer à l'entrée du village - Pas de restauration - Ouverture du CHM à 14H00



*The Gendarmes, Aymeric Savary and Kristian Boulinguez, standing in front of the monument for Gallois de Fougères, Jean des Quesnes and thorteen other French Men-at-arms. © Projet Gallois de Fougères*

## The Dead Frenchmen at Azincourt

The number of French and English soldiers, who died in 1415 is naturally debated.

On the eve of the battle the survivors began the first clean-up, robbing the dead of whatever they could carry away and sell. The following days the peasants arrived to further salvage what was left. Chroniclers tell that the bodies were left completely naked on the battlefield. Most of the commoners were buried in large pits, which were consecrated. Afterwards thorn-bushes were spread on top to stop animals (boars) from digging the dead up.

Several sources reveal that the nobles were especially cared for by servant and kindred. Whenever they could be found, they were retrieved, washed and brought

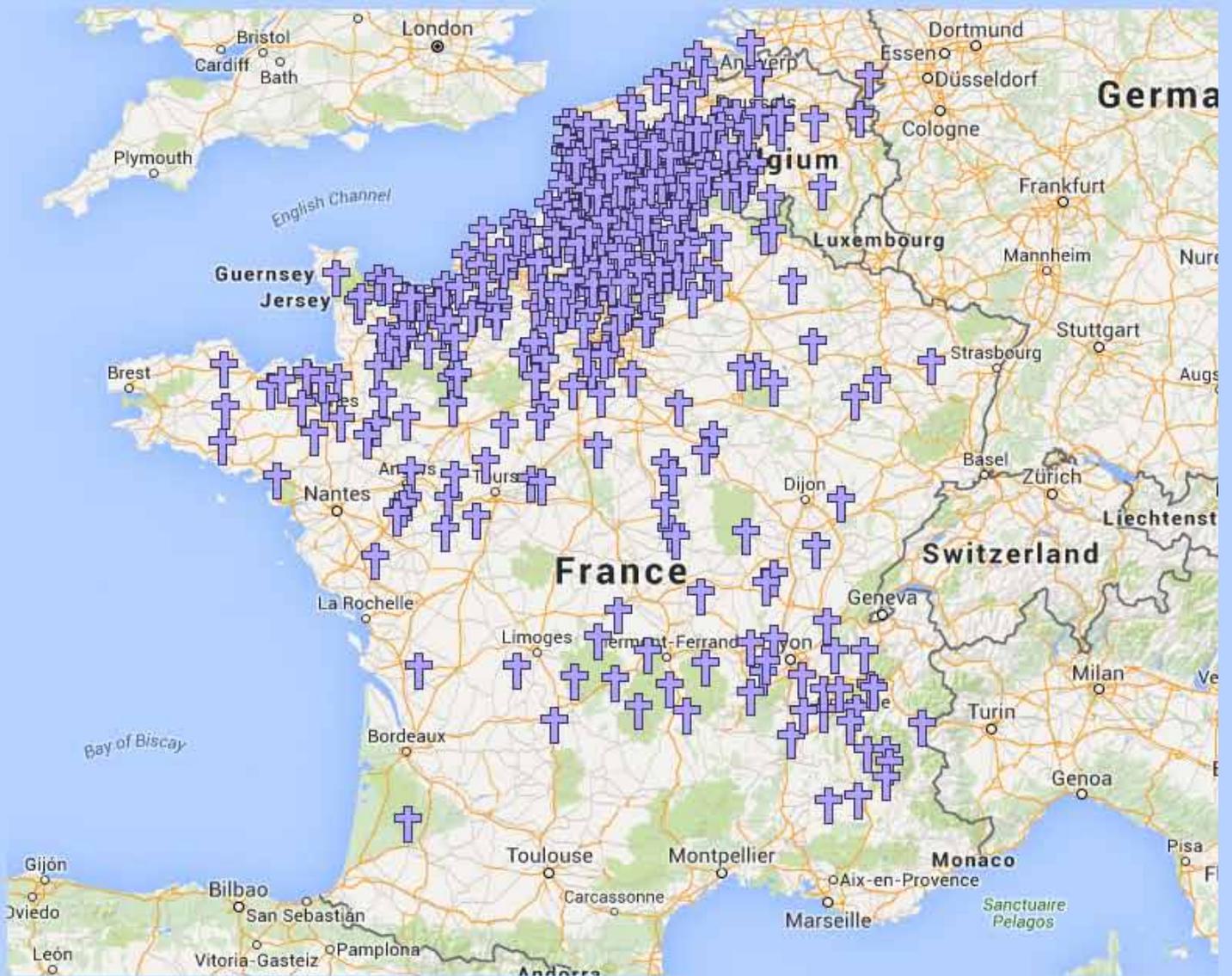
back to their home.

The “official” French number is something like 6000. Of these c. 500 were men-at-arms, who were brought home and buried locally. In 1865 a french historian worked through the sources and the lists and identified the majority, which France 3 recently mapped together with a group of historians.

This map is very interesting, as it demonstrates the “local” character of the army, which the french fielded.

### SOURCE:

**Azincourt 1415 : d’où venaient les chevaliers français morts à la bataille ?**



## The Interment of the Duke of Brabant

“They took it [the body] to saint-Pôl, where they put it in a lead coffin with spices and aromatic herbs. On the vigil of All Saints, the next Tuesday, the cortege went to Tournai where the bishop and chapter came out to meet it and accompanied it beyond the city with much lamenting. On Wednesday, November 1, the cortege came to Hal and rested for the night in the church of St. Mary, where vigils and exequies were performed. On the next day, November 2, the corpse was taken to Brussels and put in the church of Saint-Goule, where exequies were celebrated. Then the three Estates assembled and accompanied

the bier between Brussels and Hal. On November 3, it was taken to Fure, where in the church of St. John after solemn requiem mass, the duke was buried alongside his first wife.”

From: *Chronique des Ducs de Brabant par Edmond de Dynter*. Ed. by P.D.X. De Ram, 6 vol. Brussels 1854 -1860, vol 3: 304. Here quoted from: *Grief and memory after the Battle of Agincourt* by Megan Cassidy-Welch, In: *The Hundred Years War II*. Ed. by L.J. Andrew Villalon and Donald J. Kagey. Brill 2008 p.141-42

# Agincourt 1415 – A List of Books

## The Battle of Agincourt

By Anne Curry

Yale University Press 2015

ISBN-10: 0300214308

ISBN-13: 978-0300214307

Published in partnership with the Royal Armouries, this comprehensive, sumptuously illustrated volume provides a defining reassessment of England's legendary victory on the fields of Agincourt on October 25, 1415.

Dramatized by William Shakespeare in *Henry V*, the Battle of Agincourt changed the course of the Hundred Years War and Britain's relationship with her longtime enemy, France.

In a remarkable work commemorating the 600th anniversary of arguably the most iconic military engagement of the medieval era, a wide range of experts examine the battle in its political, cultural, and geographical contexts, detailing strategies, tactics, armor, weapons, and fighting techniques while exploring the battlefield experiences of commanders and ordinary soldiers alike.

## The Battle of Agincourt: Sources and Interpretations

by Anne Curry

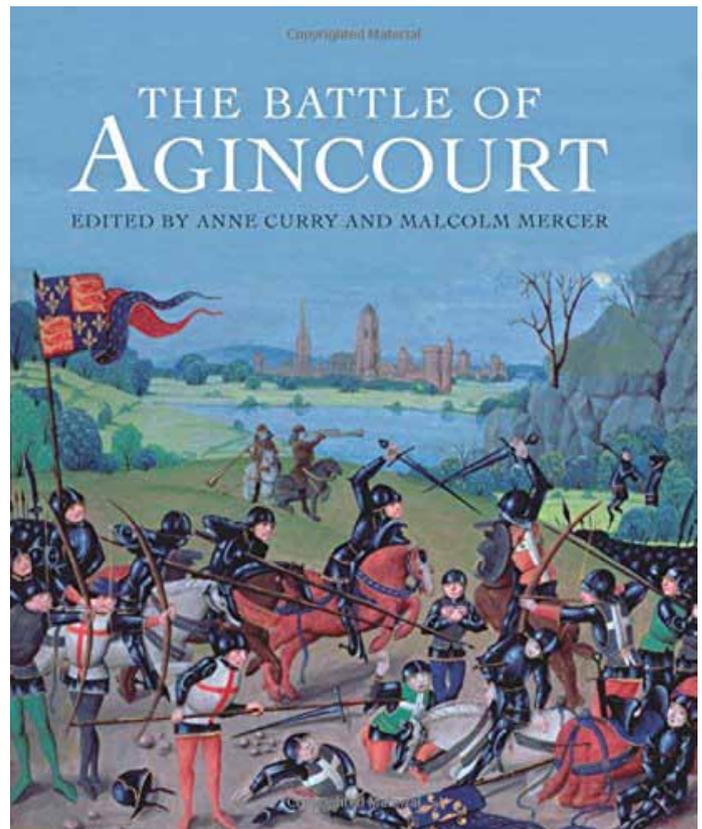
Series: Warfare in History

Boydell & Brewer 2000

ISBN-10: 1843835118

ISBN-13: 978-1843835110

Accessible collections of primary sources covering the Hundred Years War are still



In addition, this all-encompassing study offers deep analyses of many artifacts and aspects of the battle and its aftermath that have rarely been covered in other histories, including medicine and hygiene, the roles of faith and chivalry, the music of the times, and the experiences of women.

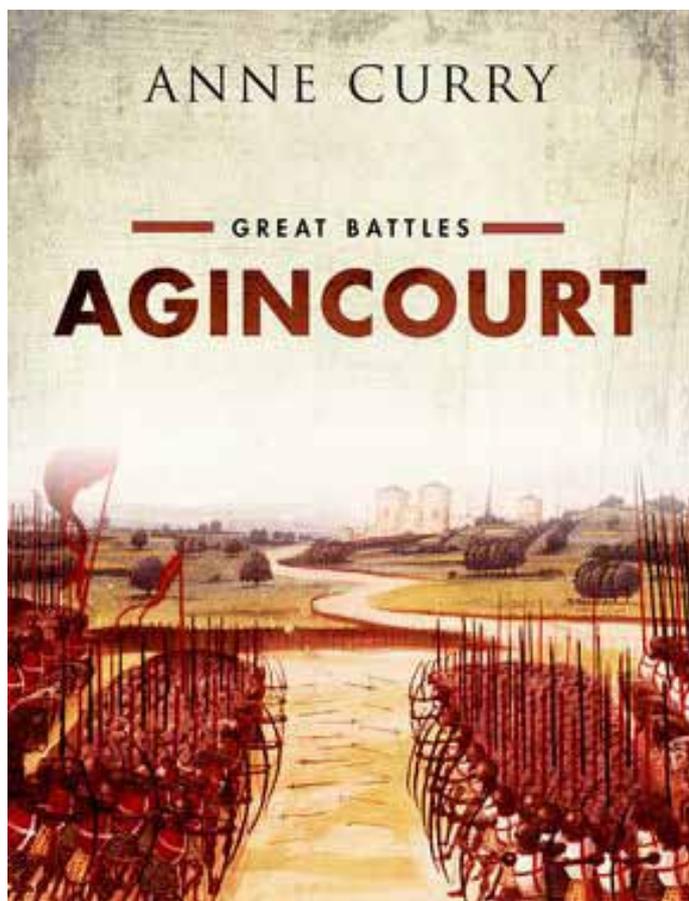
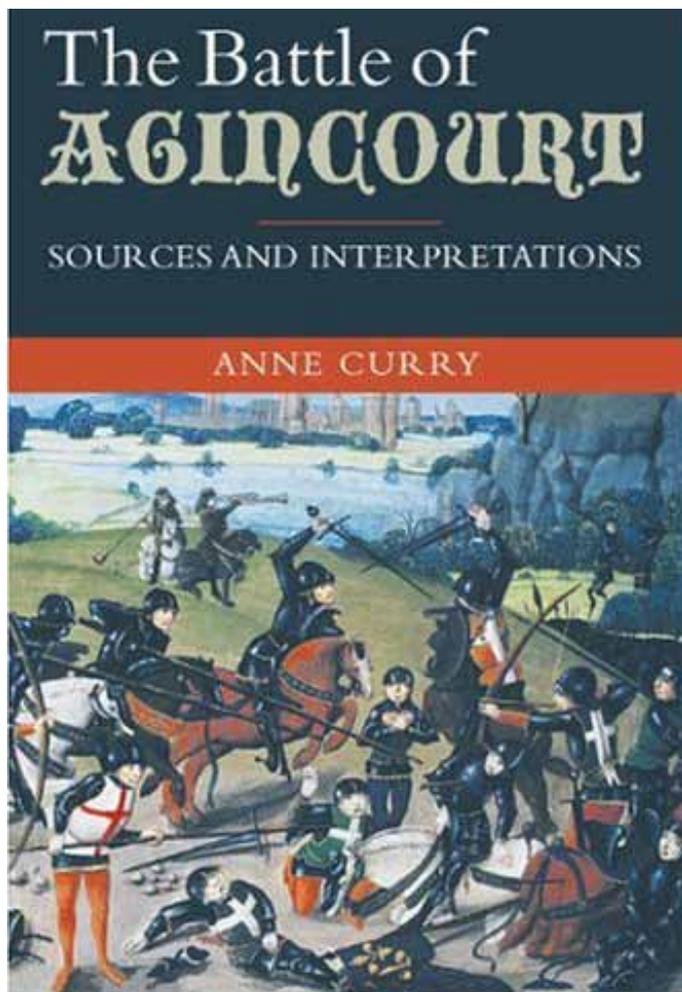
remarkably few and far between, and teachers of the subject will find Curry's volume a valuable addition to their bibliographies and teaching aids.

"Agincourt! Agincourt! Know ye not Agincourt?" So began a ballad of around 1600. Since the event itself (25 October 1415), the great military engagement has occupied a special place in both English and French consciousness, respectively as ei-

ther one of the greatest military successes ever, or as the “accursed day”.

Much ink has been spilt on the battle but do we really know Agincourt? Not since Harris Nicolas’s *History of the Battle of Agincourt* (1827-33) has there been a full attempt to survey the sources until now.

This book brings together, in translation and with commentary, English and French narrative accounts and literary works of the fifteenth century. It also traces the treatment of the battle in sixteenth-century English histories and in the literary representations of, amongst others, Shakespeare and Drayton. After examining how later historians interpreted the battle, it concludes with the first full assessment of the extremely rich administrative records which survive for the armies which fought “upon Saint Crispin’s day”.



## Agincourt

By Anne Curry

Series: Great Battles Series

Oxford University Press 2015

ISBN: 978-0-19-968101-3

Agincourt (1415) is an exceptionally famous battle, one that has generated a huge and enduring cultural legacy in the six hundred years since it was fought. Everybody thinks they know what the battle was about. But why and how has Agincourt come to mean so much, to so many? Why do so many people claim their ancestors served at the battle? Is the Agincourt of popular image the real Agincourt, or is our idea of the battle simply taken from Shakespeare’s famous depiction of it? This book shows just why it has occupied such a key place in English identity and history.

## Agincourt: Myth and Reality 1415-2015

by Stephen Cooper

Pen and Sword 2014

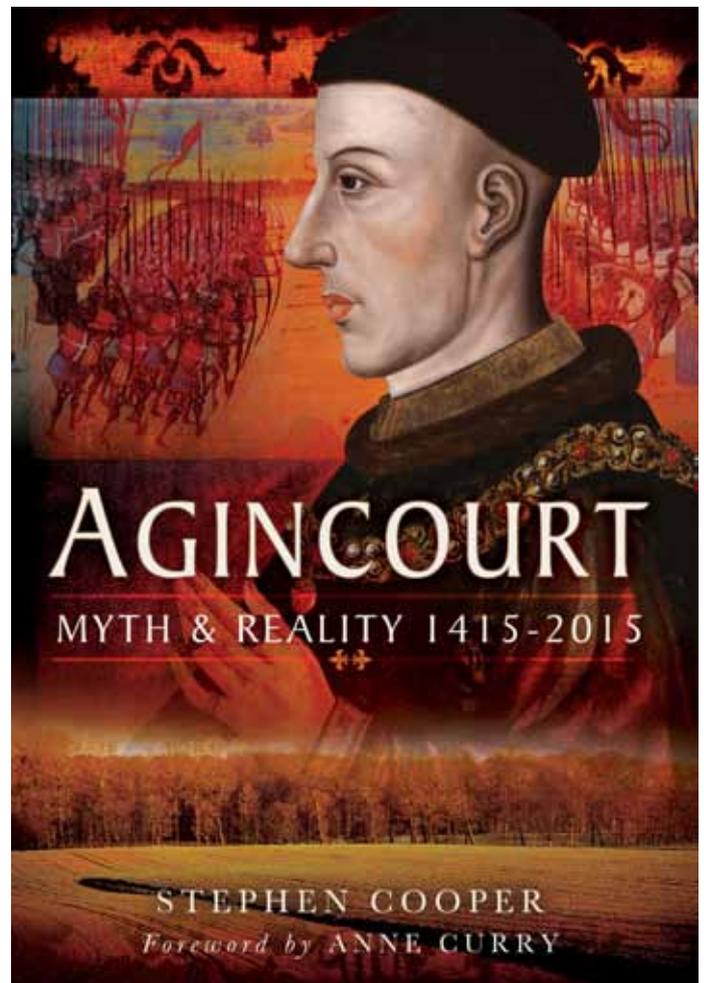
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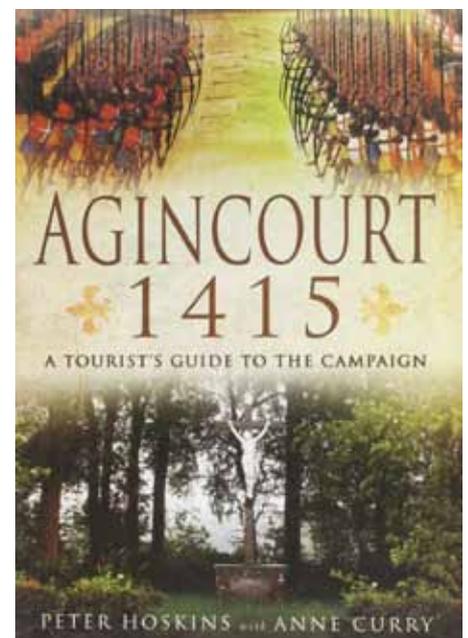
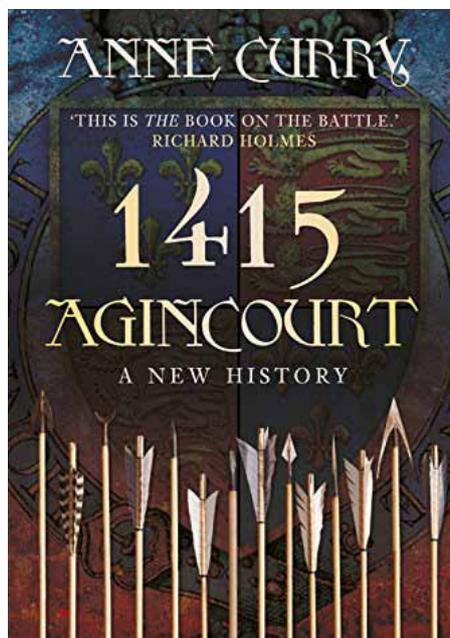
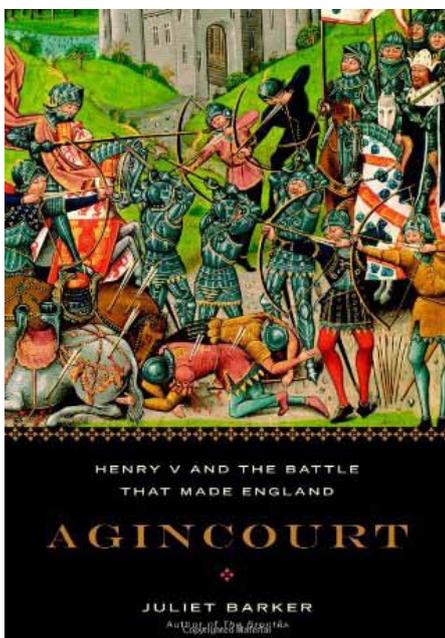
The overwhelming victory of Henry V's English army at Agincourt in October 1415 has passed into myth – as one of the defining events of the Hundred Years War against France, as a feat of arms outshining the previous famous English victories at Crécy and Poitiers, and as a milestone in English medieval history.

This epic story of how an exhausted, outnumbered army, commanded by an inspirational leader, crushed a huge French force on French soil has given rise to legends and misconceptions that make it difficult for us to reach a clear understanding of what really happened on the battlefield 600 years ago.

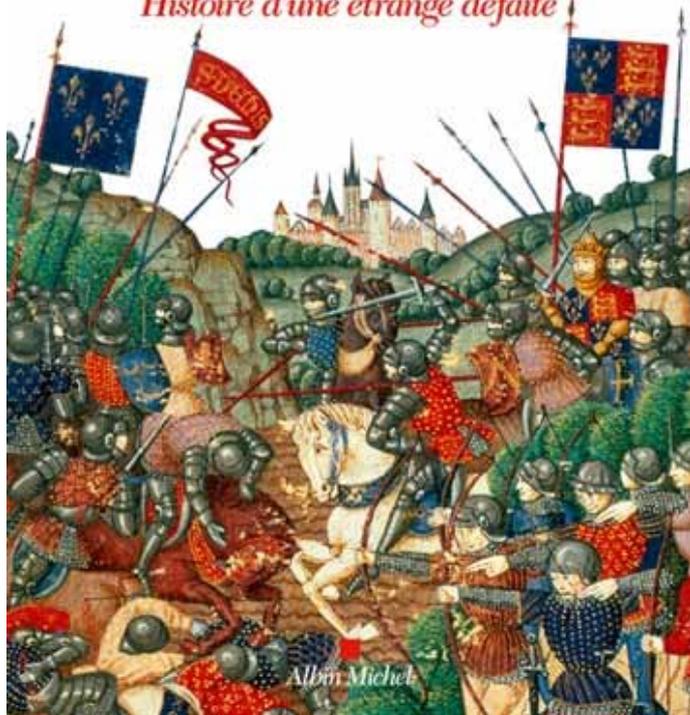
But that is what Stephen Cooper attempts in this thoroughgoing, perceptive and fascinating reconstruction and reassessment of the battle and its history. In graphic detail he describes the battle itself and



the military expedition that led to it. He examines the causes of the conflict and the controversies associated with it, and traces how the story of the battle has been told over the centuries, by eyewitnesses and chroniclers and by the historians of the present day.



Valérie Toureille  
**Le drame  
 d'Azincourt**  
*Histoire d'une étrange défaite*



When the French lost the battle at Agincourt in 1415 they were unprepared for the defeat, where much of the political and military elite lost their life. For the English, although outnumbered and worn to the bone by marching through the bleak autumn landscape in Pircady, it was a great victory. As at Crécy and Poitiers the dreaded English archers made the difference.

In the aftermath of Agincourt France experienced a huge and unprecedented crisis. The country was divided between two competing legitimate governing sovereigns: the French Dauphin and the King of England. It took thirty-five years for France to regain its unity. In this long period of setbacks and disappointments, the events surrounding Joan of Arc are usually claimed to have played an important role. However, she would hardly have had an effect if a movement of resistance had not been formed in the aftermath of Agincourt.

Somehow, Agincourt, came to signal both the end of the chivalry and the growing national sentiments which fed the continuous war between France and England. In this new book Valérie Toureille tells this story.

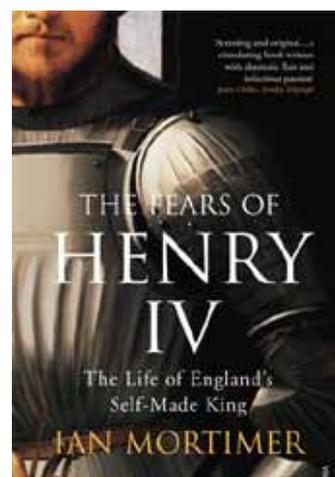
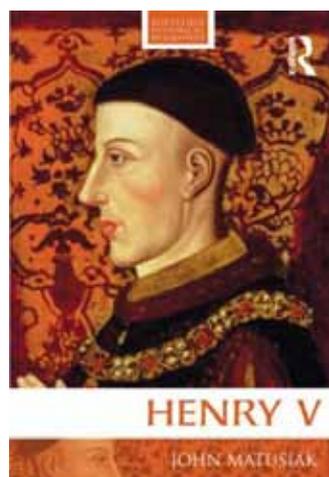
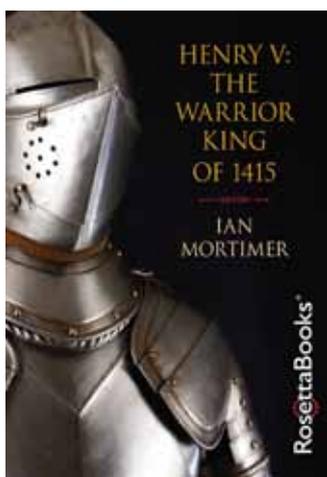
**Le drame d'Azincourt**

By Valérie Toureille

Albin Michel 2015

EAN13 : 9782226318923

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## Chivalry and the Ideals of Knighthood in France during the Hundred Years War

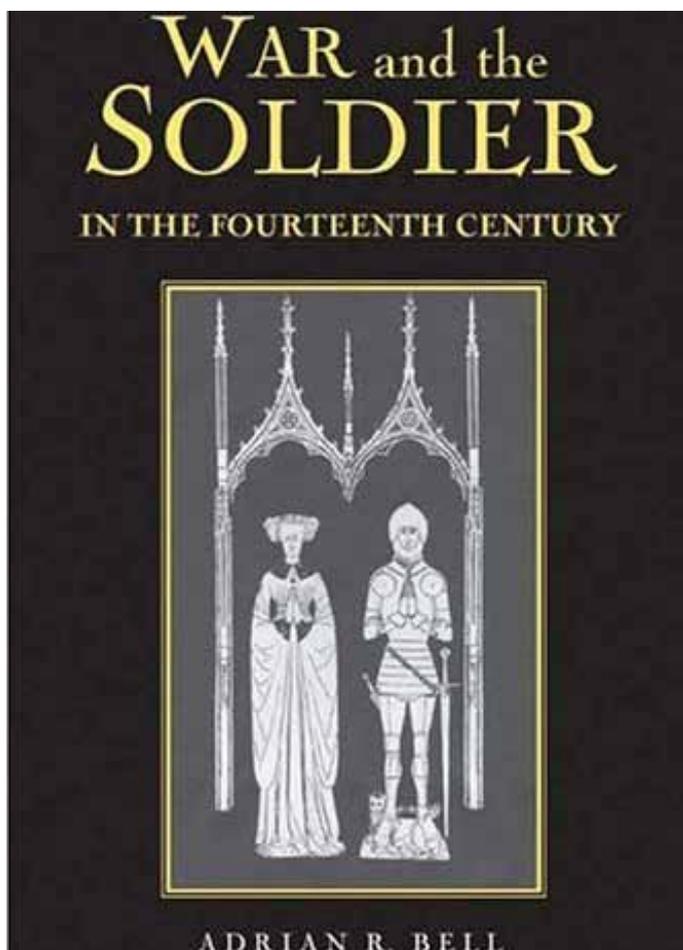
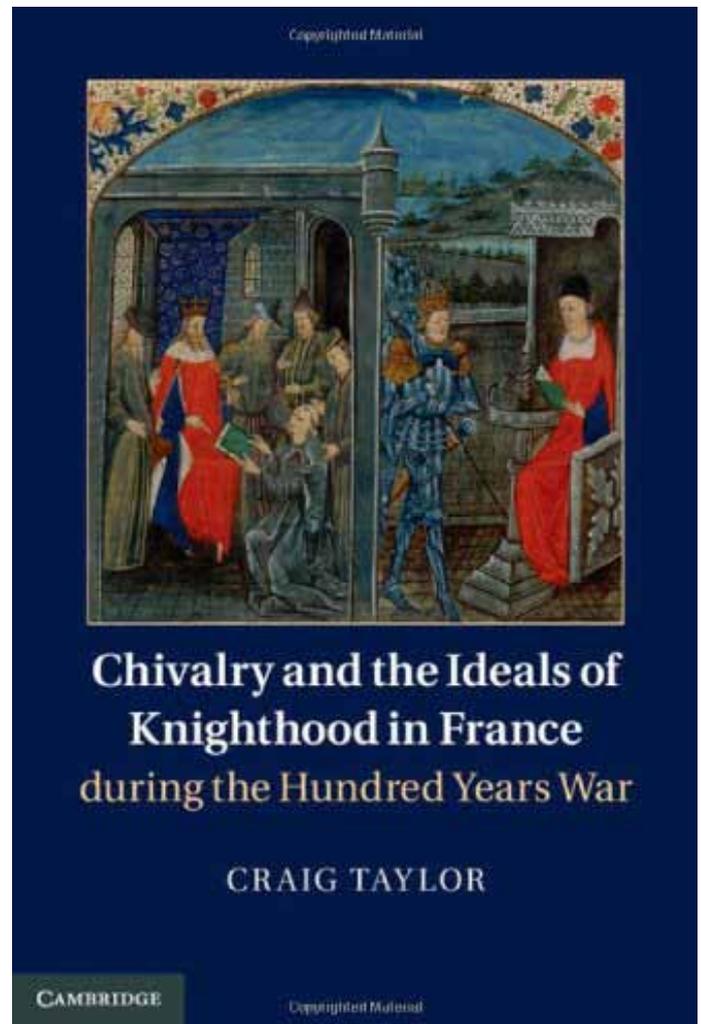
by Craig Taylor

Cambridge University Press 2013

ISBN-10: 1107042216

ISBN-13: 978-1107042216

Craig Taylor's study examines the wide-ranging French debates on the martial ideals of chivalry and knighthood during the period of the Hundred Years War (1337-1453). Faced by stunning military disasters and the collapse of public order, writers and intellectuals carefully scrutinized the martial qualities expected of knights and soldiers. They questioned when knights and men-at-arms could legitimately resort to violence, the true nature of courage, the importance of mercy, and the role of books and scholarly learning in the very practical world of military men.



## War and the Soldier in the Fourteenth Century

By Adrian R. Bell

Boydell Press 2004

ISBN: 9781843831037

Little is known about the soldiers who fought in the Hundred Years War, though much about tactics and weapons. Adrian Bell's book redresses the balance: he explores the 'military community' through focusing on the records of the two royal expeditions led by Richard Fitzalan, earl of Arundel, in 1387 and 1388.

These campaigns are not only interesting for the wealth and concentration of materials surviving on military organisation, but also because of the political background against which the expeditions were undertaken

## The Soldier in Later Medieval England

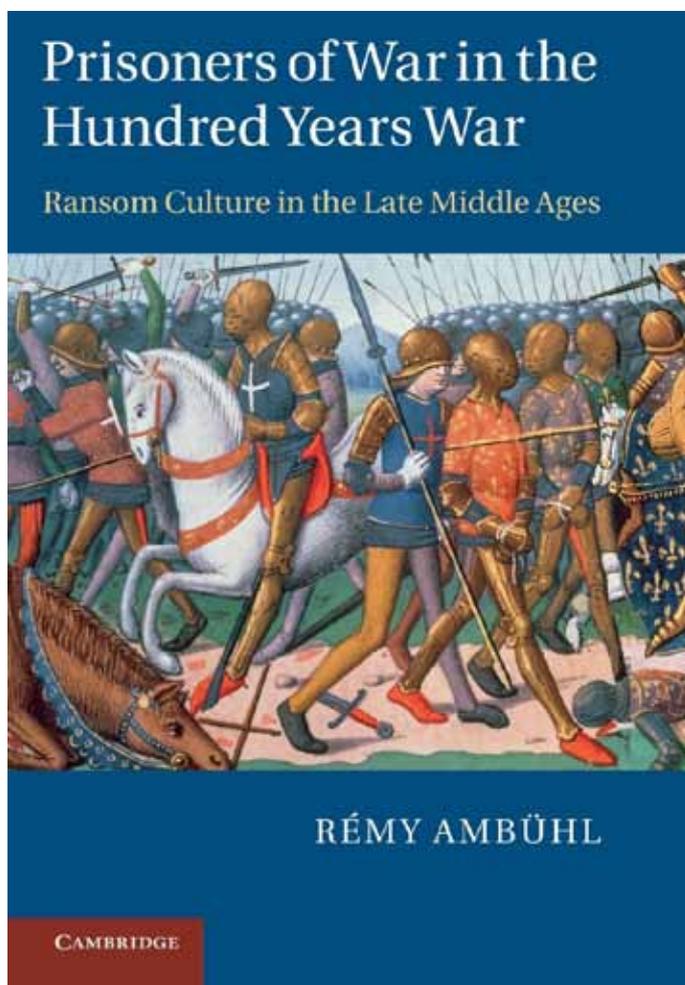
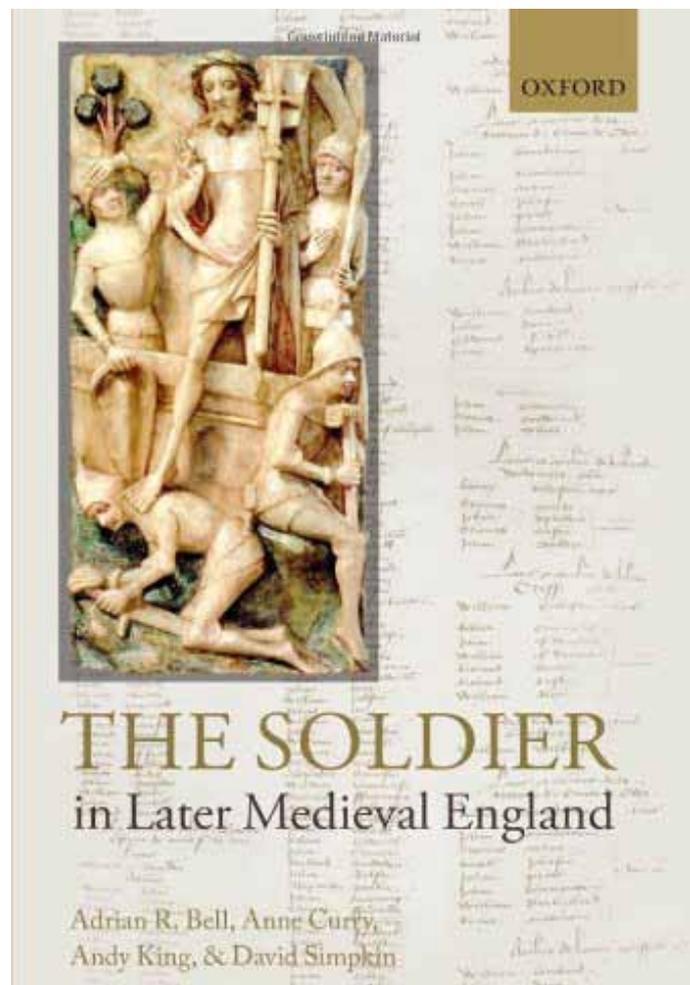
by Adrian R. Bell, Anne Curry, Andy King et al

Oxford University Press 2013

ISBN-10: 0199680825

ISBN-13: 978-0199680825

The Soldier in Later Medieval England is the outcome of a project which collects the names of every soldier known to have served the English Crown from 1369 to the loss of Gascony in 1453, the event which is traditionally accepted as the end-date of the Hundred Years War. The data gathered has allowed the authors of this volume to compare different forms of war, such as the chevauchees of the late fourteenth century and the occupation of French territories in the fifteenth century.



## Prisoners of War in the Hundred Years War: Ransom Culture in the Late Middle Ages

by Rémy Ambühl

Cambridge University Press 2013

The status of prisoners of war was firmly rooted in the practice of ransoming in the Middle Ages. By the opening stages of the Hundred Years War, ransoming had become widespread among the knightly community, and the crown had already begun to exercise tighter control over the practice of war. This led to tensions between public and private interests over ransoms and prisoners of war. Based on extensive archival research, this book tests customs, laws and theory against the individual experiences of captors and prisoners during the Hundred Years War, to evoke their world in all its complexity.



From Jean de Wavrin's 'Chronicles of England', Bruges, c.1461-83. c British Library Board, Royal MS 14 E. IV, f.276r

## The Holigost at Hamble

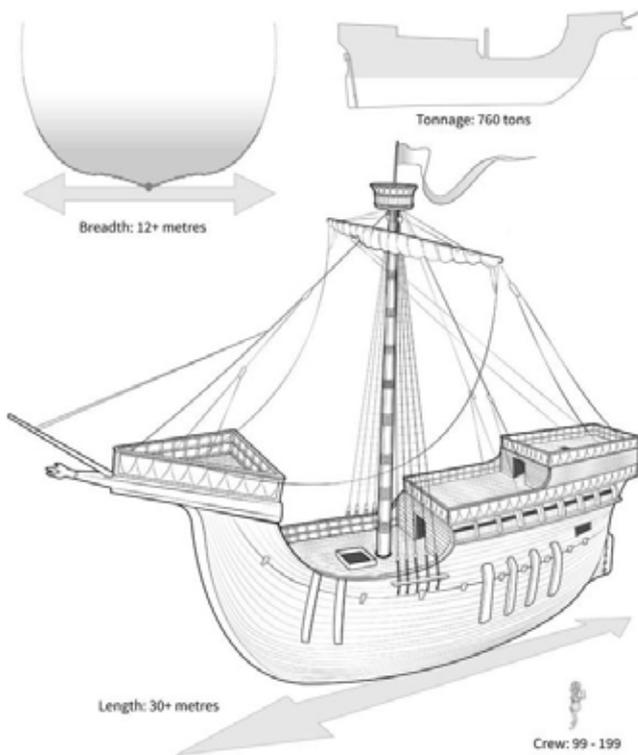
600-year-old warship, which helped Henry V wage war on France is believed to have been found buried in the river Hamble

In 1933 archaeologists identified the flagship of Henry V, the *Grace Dieu*, lying in the shallow river of Hamble near Bursleden. The remains of this ship were partly excavated by Time Team in 2004. Now a historian, Ian Friel, believes he has identified the wreck of yet another of Henry V's four great ships, the *Holigost* (Holy Ghost).

Dr Ian Friel, historian and an expert adviser to Historic England made the find while he worked for the former Archaeological Research Centre. He was re-visiting documentary evidence for his new book, *Henry V's Navy* and brought his findings to Historic England.

Friel said: "I am utterly delighted that Historic England is assessing the site for protection and undertaking further study. In my opinion, further research leading to the rediscovery of the *Holigost* would be even more important than the identification of the *Grace Dieu* in the 1930s. The *Holigost* fought in two of the most significant naval battles of the Hundred Years War, battles that opened the way for the English conquest of northern France."

Duncan Wilson, Chief Executive of Historic England (formerly known as English Heritage), which is now beginning further research and assessing the boat for protec-



*Drawing of Carravac - © Historic England*

tion said: “The Battle of Agincourt is one of those historic events that has acquired huge national significance.

“To investigate a ship from this period close to the six hundredth anniversary is immensely exciting. It holds the possibility of fascinating revelations in the months and years to come. Historic England is committed to realising the full potential of the find.”

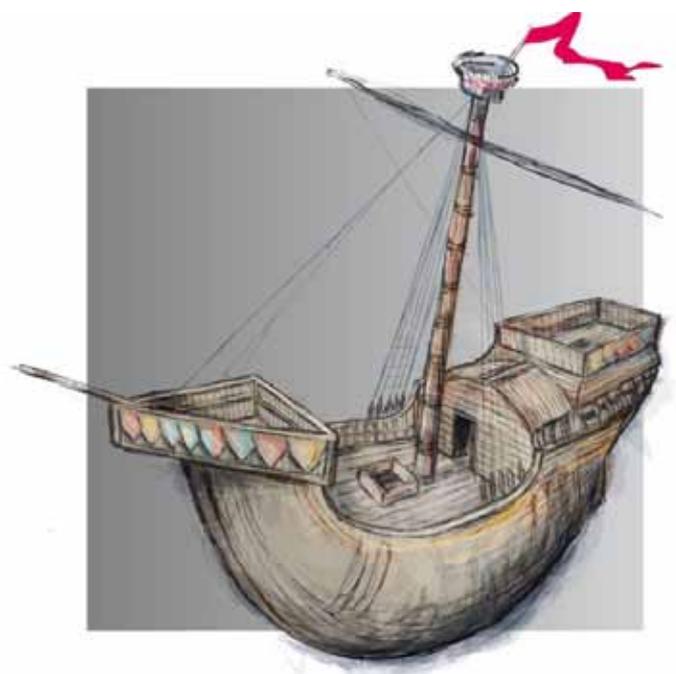
## The Holigost and Life onboard

The Holigost was a major part of Henry V’s war machine, playing a key role in the two battles that broke French naval power and enabled Henry to conquer France in the early 15th century. But the Holigost was not part of the great fleet, which set sail for France on the 11th of August 1415 with probably 650 ships. It has previously been believed that this fleet numbered 1500 ships. New research by the historian, Craig Lambert, have, however, extrapolated the size of the fleet from the accounts.

The Holigost joined the royal fleet on 17 November 1415 and took part in operations between 1416 and 1420, including two of the most significant naval battles of the Hundred Years War. It participated in Earl of Dorset’s expedition to the Seine (1416) and served as the flagship of the Duke of Bedford at the battle of Harfleur in 1416, suffering serious damage. In 1417 it was once more in the thick of the fighting off the Chef de Caux in 1417.

In 1420 the ship sailed in the Earl of Devon’s sea-keeping voyage of 1420. Varying tonnage figures due to the addition of upperworks have been given for specific expeditions.

It was rebuilt from a large Spanish ship called the Santa Clara that was captured in late 1413 or early 1414 and then acquired by the English Crown. The name of the ship was derived from Henry V’s personal devotion to the Holy Trinity. After Agincourt and the victory of Henry V, the navy became superfluous and the four large ships were laid up in the docks near Burselden. The ship was last mentioned in records 1447-52.





*"Coca e Mataro" - a ship model from the 15th century in the collections of The Maritime Museum Rotterdam. © Ian Friel*

The ship had a crew of 200 sailors in 1416, but also carried large numbers of soldiers to war, as many as 240 in one patrol. Conditions aboard must have been crowded and unpleasant, and that was before they got into battle.

The ship carried seven cannons, but also bows and arrows, poleaxes and spears, along with 102 'gads' – fearsome iron spears thrown from the top-castle. These could easily penetrate the body armour of the period.

If verified, the Holigost would be a tangible link with the life and times of Henry V. Like all the great ships, it was built to further Henry's war aims, but its decoration and flags also reflected his personal religious devotion and his political ideas. Unusually, this included a French motto *Une sanz plus*, 'One and no more', which meant that the king alone should be master.

The ship was a clinker-built vessel (using overlapping planks of timber) of around 740-760 tons. Despite huge expenditure on maintenance work, the Holigost began to succumb to leaks and timber decay.

Underwater repair work carried out on Holigost by a 'Dyver' named Davy Owen in

1423 may be the first-recorded instance of a diver used in ship repair in England

## Future research

Historic England is taking steps to protect and investigate a shipwreck in Hampshire that is believed to be the second of four 'great ships' built for Henry V's royal fleet.

Future scientific research on the ship could reveal much about late medieval ship design and construction, both in England and Spain. The wreck might also improve current understanding of life aboard ship, ship-handling and naval warfare in the 15th century.

Given the care with which the ship was laid up, the site itself might also preserve information about contemporary dock-building and docking practices.

## SOURCE:

### Historic Wreck Identified – Believed To Be Henry V's 600-Year-Old Great Ship

### Henry V's Navy: A Multinational Fleet

*KB 72 A 25 Chroniques Folio 62r. 1410 From Paris, France © National Library of the Netherlands*



# Henry V's Navy. The Sea-Road to Agincourt and Conquest 1413-1422

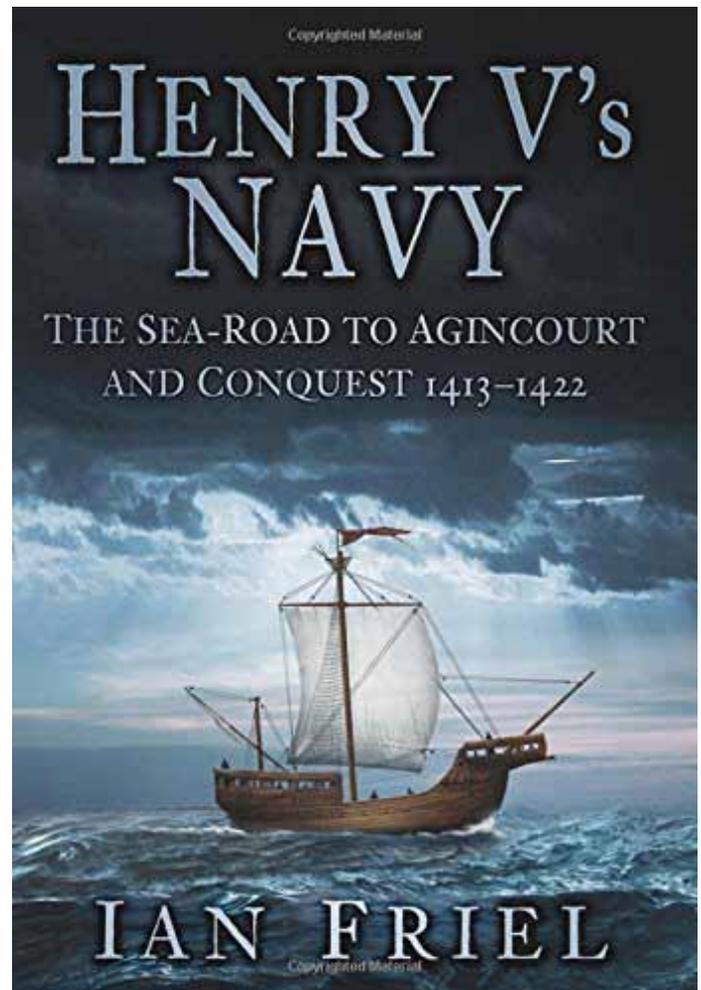
By Ian Friel

The History Press 2015

Without Henry V's Navy, the Battle of Agincourt would never have happened. Henry's fleet played a major – if often unrecognised – part in enabling the king to come within reach of final victory in the Hundred Years War against France.

Henry's navy was multinational, and comprised his own royal fleet, English merchantmen and many foreign vessels from the Netherlands, the Baltic and Venice. It was one of the most successful fleets deployed by England before the time of Elizabeth I.

*Besançon BM MS.1150 Chronique de Burgos  
Folio 243v. Ca 1400. France  
© Bibliothèque municipale de Besançon*



The royal fleet was transformed in Henry's short reign from a few dilapidated craft into a powerful weapon of war, with over thirty fighting vessels, up-to-date technology and four of the biggest ships in Europe.

With new insights derived from extensive research into documentary, pictorial and archaeological sources, Henry V's Navy is about the men, ships and operations of Henry's sea war.

Ian Friel explores everything from ship-board food to how crews and their ships sailed and fought, and takes an in-depth look at the royal ships. He also tells the dramatic and bloody story of the naval conflict, which at times came close to humiliating defeat for the English.