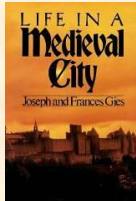


The Provisions

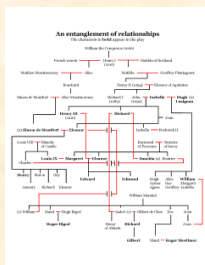
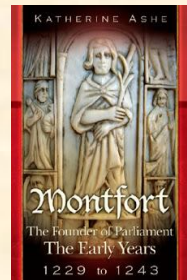
The official newsletter of
Simon de Montfort 2014

April 2013



A nice anecdote from the Middle Ages to start off this month's issue. According to the book at left, a very good read by the way, if you received extreme unction in medieval times but still somehow survived, you were required to go without food, shoes and sex. No shoes? Better off dead, really.

One book stirring up a bit of controversy of late is Katherine Ashe's first installment of her speculative novels about Simon de Montfort. Not exactly a spoiler alert, but the story inside asserts that Henry may not be Edward's father at all. In fact, it just might be... Several historical web sites are not amused, particularly this blemish on Queen Eleanor's reputation. Ashe includes an index of sources at the end to show she's not suggesting anything merely as a whim. Take a look at [Alien Blood](#) for SDM 2014's take on the issue.



New on the web site is a tree that tries to somehow unify all these characters in our story. There's also a workup of notes taken from [David Carpenter's](#) lecture in January on Montfort and the founding of Parliament. The subject here is Henry III, and why he makes as fascinating a figure as Montfort. Well, nearly so, but England does owe its constitutional development to Henry as well, if by default. Finally, the problem of [highwaymen](#), which plagued

Montfort's provisional government, is treated from a later angle by Dunstable historian Paul Heley.

The Mortimer History Society's [Spring Conference](#) is set for 11 May 2013. The theme is *Changing Society in the Times of Richard II*. Juliet Barker will be a guest speaker, whose appearance on [The Greatest Knight](#) shows how inviting it is when women talk about medieval men and their ways.

The Simon de Montfort Society is organizing its [Annual Day](#) school for 5 October 2013 on the theme *At the Margins of Medieval Society*. Lectures will include 'The Jews in Medieval English Society' and 'Late Medieval Peasant Women'.

Go to the [website](#) to subscribe or send an email to provisions@simon2014.com.