



The American Foundation of Savoy Orders
and



St. George's Society of New York

are pleased to invite you to the
Seventh Annual Savoy History Lecture & Dinner

***The House of Savoy:
Thirteenth Century England and the Mediaeval
European Community***

by
Oxford Professor Christopher Tyerman

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

6:00 PM

(Lecture to begin 6 PM sharp)

Abigail Adams Smith Auditorium (Colonial Dames of America)
417 East 61st Street (between First and York Avenue)

Reception and Buffet Dinner to follow

The Savoia at the Court of Henry III of England (1216-1272)

Eleanor of Aquitaine (1122-1204) is one of the most remarkable figures of the High Middle Ages. She was daughter and sole heiress of William, Duke of Aquitaine. Barely fifteen, Eleanor married the future King Louis VII of France and, as Queen of the Franks, she participated in the Second Crusade. Upon returning to France, she managed to have her marriage annulled and promptly married the much younger Duke of the Normans, Henry II. When Henry ascended the English throne in 1154, Eleanor became queen a second time! She bore Henry eight children, two of whom would become kings of England: King Richard “the Lionheart” and his younger brother King John. It was John who, under duress, consented to sign the ‘Magna Carta’ in 1215 granting certain fundamental rights to his subjects. This document, and the precedent it set, has been rightly regarded as the foundation for much of European law.

Henry, John’s son, ascended the throne of England as a boy in 1216 and ruled as King Henry III for fifty-six years. He married Eleanor of Provence, one of the four daughters and heiresses of Raymond, Count of Provence, by his wife, Beatrice of Savoy. Henry did not forget about his wife’s Savoia connections and brought his Eleanor’s uncles – Peter of Savoy and Boniface of Savoy – to England. Peter was invested with the highest English title at that time: the earldom of Richmond. Henry named Peter’s brother Boniface Archbishop of Canterbury. Members of the Savoy family were, therefore, to play significant roles during this, one of English history’s most important periods. Henry also assigned land and buildings in London to Peter of Savoy and they became the Savoy Palace – a legacy that survives to this day in the legendary hotel, theater and mediaeval chapel, all bearing the Savoy name on exactly the same historic site.

Professor Tyerman’s lecture will bring to life the extraordinary people and stirring events that marked this fascinating moment of mediaeval history.

Professor Christopher Tyerman

A recognized authority on mediaeval history, Professor Tyerman is the author of a number of important scholarly works, among them: *God’s War: a New History of the Crusades, England and the Crusades* and the eight-volume *Who’s Who in Early Mediaeval England*.

Professor Tyerman is currently on the faculty of Hertford College and New College, Oxford.

Reception and Buffet Dinner following the Lecture

A Reception will be held, immediately following the Lecture, in the garden adjoining the Auditorium

A Buffet Dinner, catered by *Bistro 61* will be served in the Auditorium, following the Reception

Price: \$120 per person

(Tax-deductible to the extent provided by law)