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THE FUNERAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF HENRY V AT WESTMINSTER ABBEY

The Arms and Armour of Death

Edited by ANNE CURRY and SUSAN JENKINS

Ground-breaking new studies of Henry V's chapel, tomb and funeral service have new revelations and insights into the time.



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Before Henry V set out in 1415 on the campaign which culminated in victory at Agincourt, he made a will laying down precise instructions for a chantry chapel to be constructed in Westminster Abbey after his death, so that he could be buried close to his saintly ancestor Edward the Confessor. Seven years later the king died at Vincennes, and his body was brought back for burial in the Abbey; the elaborate funeral took place on 7 November 1422. His chapel was probably finally completed in the 1440s, and remains a distinctive feature of Westminster Abbey to this day.

This book, stimulated by the 600th anniversary of the death of this iconic king, sheds new light on his funeral service and the design of his ornate chantry chapel and tomb. It also considers each of the "funeral achievements" - saddle, helm, shield and sword - traditionally associated with him. Drawing on up-to-date research by experts

in each field, with exciting input from new technologies, it investigates the construction and form of the arms and weapons, as well as providing fascinating insights into the material culture and commemoration of royalty in the fifteenth century and beyond.

Anne Curry is Emeritus Professor of Medieval History at the University of Southampton. Susan Jenkins is Curator of Westminster Abbey.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of Figures

List of Contributors

Foreword, Very Reverend Dr David Hoyle, Dean of Westminster

Preface

Acknowledgments

List of Abbreviations

1. Introduction: Henry V and Westminster Abbey - Life, Death and Afterlife · Anne Curry
 2. Henry V's Funeral Achievements in the Context of Westminster Abbey: 'Trophies of this Warlike Prince' · Susan Jenkins
 3. The Funeral of Henry V · Chris Given-Wilson
 4. Henry V's Chapel · John Goodall
 5. The Funerary Helm of King Henry V: A Helm for the Joust of Peace, c. 1380-1420 · Tobias Capwell
 6. A Saddle from the Funeral of Henry V · Marina Viallon
 7. The Shield from the Funeral Achievements of Henry V · Lisa Monnas
 8. 'Our bruised arms hung up for monuments'. The Sword of Henry V? · Robert C. Woosnam-Savage
 9. Conservation of the Funeral Achievements · Diana Heath†
 10. Scientific Analysis: Micro-Invasive Techniques · David Edge and Alan Williams
 11. Scientific Analysis: Non-Invasive Techniques · Robert Hill
- Appendix. The Will of Henry V, 1421 · Anne Curry

Index

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