

## **Book Review**

# **The Connection between England and Burgundy during the First Half of the Fifteenth Century**

**Leonard V D Owen**

## **Pallas Armata**

Ever been confused about the rise of Burgundy and the shifting alliances between England, France and Burgundy? I have. It was one of those areas that I always found difficult to get to grips when reading about the latter part of the Hundred Years War and the start of the War of the Roses.

If you have a similar problem or need more information on this area then I can recommend this ninety page essay available from Pallas Armata. I have no details about the author or when the piece was first written but the style is very readable and the essay could easily be read in two or three sittings.

The essay is divided in to four parts and starts with the accession of Henry IV in 1399. The first section ends with the death of Margaret of Burgundy wife of Philip the Bold in 1405, who ruled briefly after Philip's death in 1404. The next part covers the reign of John the Fearless until the death of Henry IV in 1413. The third section covers the interaction between Henry V and John the Fearless ending with the latter's assassination by the French Dauphin John at Montereau in 1419 and the creation of the fifteen year Anglo-Burgundian alliance. The final, and most important, section looks at the events leading up to the treaty of Troyes in 1420, the Compact of Arras in 1435 and ends with the death of Philip the Good in 1467. The last section amounts to well over half the essay.

There is a lot crammed into this short work; the creation of a separate Burgundian nation; the underlying commercial ties forcing England and Burgundy to reach repeated trade accommodations; and the crucial role Burgundy played in making and breaking English claims to rule in France. There is also a surprisingly vivid account of the intrigues and personalities involved. From a strictly military perspective there is little of note. Battles and campaigns are deliberately placed outside the scope of the essay. Nonetheless, I recommend this essay as an essential aid in untangling the shifting alliances of the period.