



## **Exploring History: Medieval to Modern 1400 – 1900**

### *Beauchamp's effigy*

#### **Narrator**

Richard's effigy was cast in gilt bronze, known as Latin, and this is the only known example that survives in England, for anyone who was not a member of the royal family.

Richard's wealth is also reflected in his armour. The original on which it is based was made in Milan. Which was at the cutting edge of armour design in the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

Just as we've seen a religious language of symbols in the saints and the Last Judgment, contemporaries would have been able to read status and family connects in the heraldry. The bear and ragged staff in the windows and on the tomb are the emblems of the Warwick family. The griffin is the emblem of Richard's second wife, Isabelle De Spencer. The swan crest on Richard's tournament helmet is an illusion to Guy of Warwick, a semi legendary ancestor known as 'The Swan Knight'. The Earl's coronet on the helmet also commemorates Richard's status as a peer of the realm.