

OBVIOUS MAYBE, BUT ELUSIVE



These arms, spotted by Leslie Hodgson in the City of London, await a positive identification.

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Dragonlore

The Journal of The College of Dracology

No.175

St Luke's Day 2015



Hierocosphinx crest painted by Henry Gray MVO for
Sir Martin Moore-Bick (7 Sept 1998)



The College of Dracology for the Study of Fabulous Beasts



We deeply regret the death of John Wilkes in his 94th year, 'sad but not unexpected.' Many times I have stayed with him in Toronto, having first met him at the Lakefield School centennial celebration when I was presenting them with their coat of arms in 1979. John's father had drawn the unofficial device previously used, on which the new arms were closely based. John soon made known to me his interest in the School and in Heraldry, and when the Canadian Heraldic Authority was launched, he made sure that the School's College of Arms grant was registered there. On my many visits to Canada he often took me to see the old school, and more often we went to meetings of the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada in Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Hamilton, Edmonton and Victoria. He always treated me as one of the family, and when I tried to persuade him to become armigerous, he was very reluctant, but eventually chose a design of his own which was better than any that I had proposed, and he became quite proud of his achievement. We shall miss a deeply knowledgeable, quietly reserved and most generous friend.

We welcome new member Tom Powys-Lybbe, whose contribution is seen below.

Saint Luke was last treated in 2006, in No 78, when we said just about everything that is known about him. His feast day falls on 18th October.

Robert Noel has revealed a couple of the more unusual beasts that he has seen granted to clients. On the cover is the Hierocosphinx, with a lion's body and a falcon's head, notably

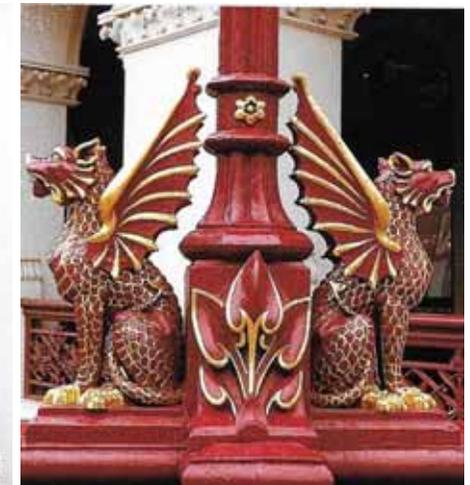
Egyptian in its provenance, and granted as the crest of Sir Martin Moore-Bick on 7th September 1998, and painted by Henry Gray. Here is the Taurosphinx, a lion with a bull's head, granted as the crest of Sir Stanley Burnton on 18th April 2011, painted by Fiona Lukes. They could both be described as varieties of Griffin, but perhaps in ancient times the Egyptians would have regarded Griffins as eagle-headed varieties of Sphinx.



LESLIE'S LONDON LEGACY



Leslie Hodgson sent a portfolio of pictures following his recent visit to London, of which we include a selection. First (*above*) was this rather contorted City of London Dragon at the entrance to Smithfield Market. Next (*below*) came a winged lion statue, followed by a more colourful pair of the same supporting a pillar in the same location. Finally (*overleaf*) two gorgeous Griffins supporting arms with obvious connections to the City of London and Justice, but which we have so far been unable to identify positively. It does not appear to feature in Briggs, so may be a post-1971 grant. If anyone can tell us what I it is, both Leslie and I would be grateful.

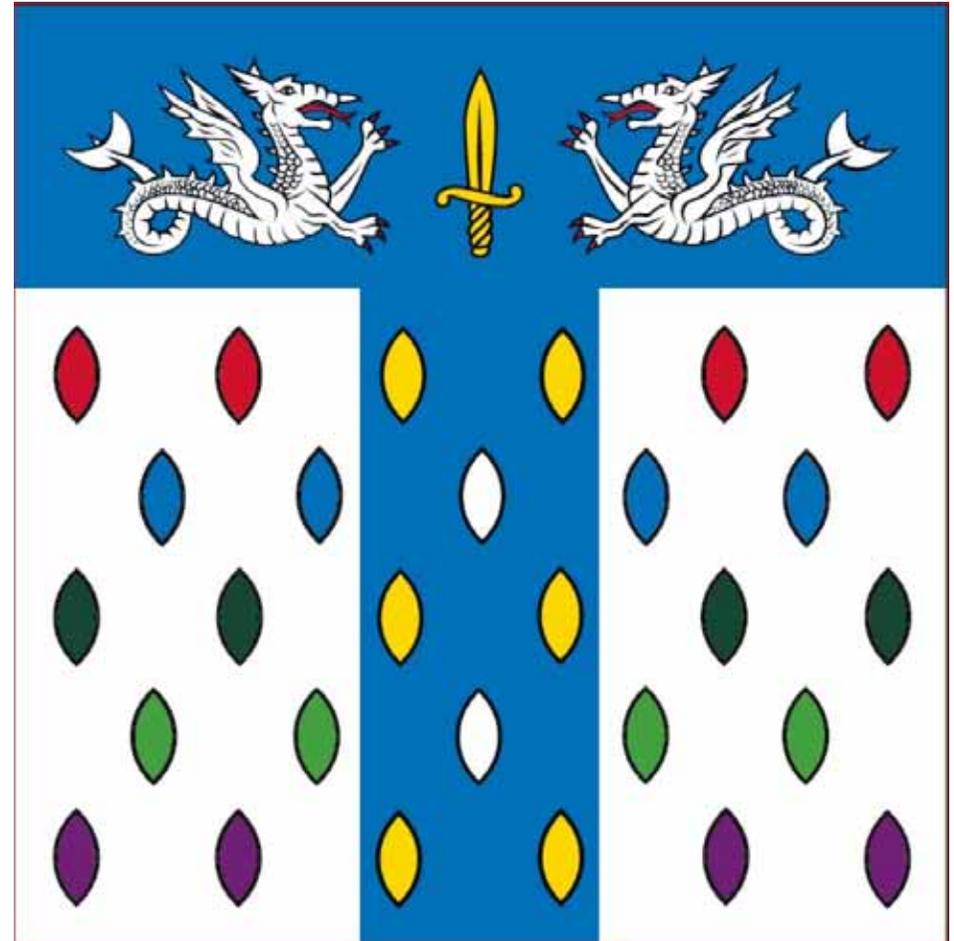


A GROTESQUE GUARDIAN



Tom Powys-Lybbe has sent a picture of a house-guardian he has had constructed in a dragon-like form, which must be a great comfort as well as a good talking-point locally.

THEY WERE SEA-DRAGONS AFTER ALL...



Above is the banner of the Thames Traditional Rowing Association (*see No 163*) as amended by Charles Ashburner, vexillographer, to include the Sea-Dragons' fish-tails, sadly omitted in error from the original painting on the letters patent in spite of the clear description in the blazon. All future issues of the banner will be like this, and the Association is still recruiting members, so there should be plenty more to come. (*Further details in a future issue.*)

A MOUTHWATERING MERMAID



The singer Rita Ora lightly disguised as a Mermaid, appearing as one of a number of artworks decorating a newly-opened seafood brasseries in Mayfair's Berkeley Square. Other pieces include a 13ft crocodile sculpture by Frank Gehry, bronze Mermaids by Damien Hirst and a ceiling mural by the illustrator Michael Roberts. (from *The Daily Telegraph*, 6 October 2015)

PEGASUS PREVAILS

After a fifteen-year gap, the emblem of the British Army Airborne Forces showing Bellerophon riding Pegasus has been revived, replacing an eagle insignia which was used by the Parachute Regiment while they were part of the Joint Helicopter Command. Now they have returned to Army control, they have managed to reclaim their old beloved badge (*right*), which had served them well throughout the Second World War.



The maroon and blue badge of Bellerophon riding Pegasus was originally chosen after a suggestion by Daphne du Maurier