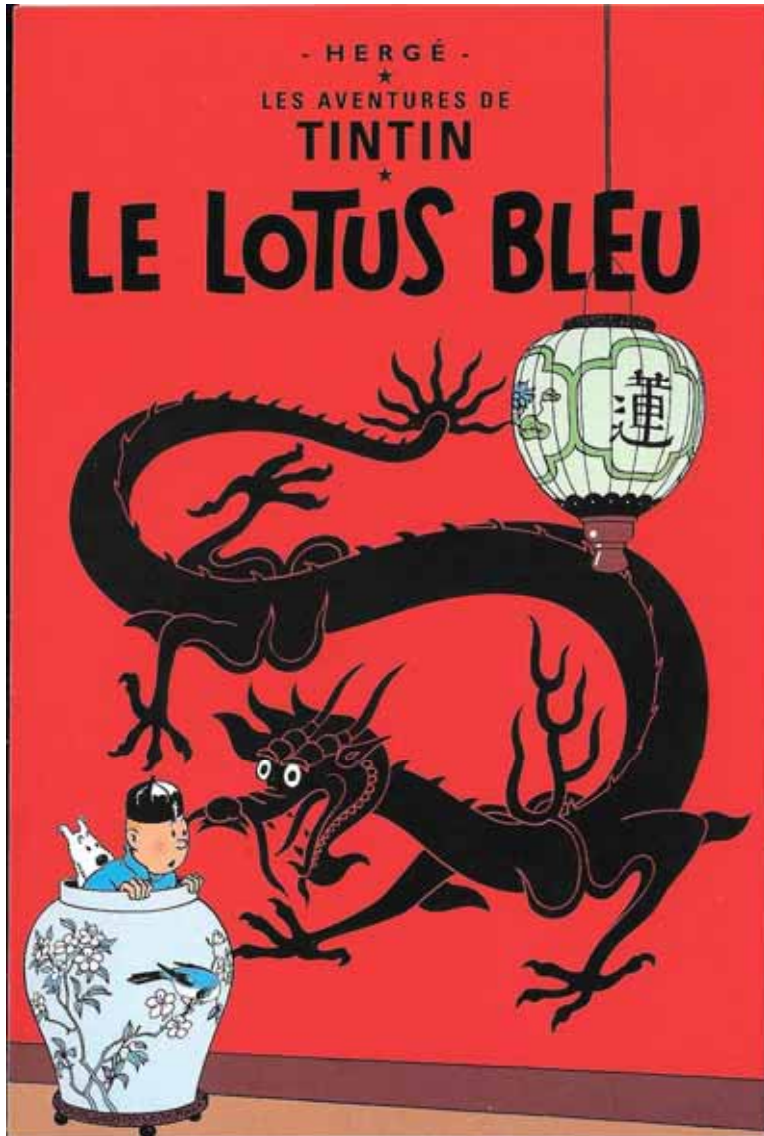


WHATEVER NEXT ?



Leslie Hodgson, when not snapping Dragons, came across this card illustrating the cover of a French edition of one of the Tintin books, and thought it would amuse me. As it did, I will try it on a wider audience and hope it has the same effect.

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St Cecilia's Day 2015



A Very Unusual Armorial Wyvern



The College of Dracology for the Study of Fabulous Beasts



Saint Cecilia, the Patron Saint of Musicians, celebrated on 22nd November each year with a splendid concert, was last treated in No 54 in 2004, when we mentioned Purcell's Ode to her, and other music of his. She was a Roman virgin who converted to Christianity and was martyred, still singing. I am reminded of her by an old classmate, Cecilia Chance, known to all as Tiggy, who was an early supporter of Dracology but gave it up when it conflicted with her work as a poet and novelist. In the end, she found that for her, the study of fabulous beasts was indeed a waste of time. Sadly, she died recently and we share our grief with her widower Jeremy and her children.

The picture on the cover is from the binding of a 1933 edition of "King Arthur and his Knights" by U. Waldo Cutler, and was sent in by **Stephen Tudsbery-Turner**, to whom our thanks are due. Eagles with shields on their breasts are not uncommon, but this is the first time I have seen such a Wyvern.

TOPICAL TOPIARY



Gordon Casely is one of our most stalwart supporters and came across this very lively creature not far from where he lives.



TAK TENT No 69 Autumn 2015 (November) in a review of early Scottish Royal Heraldry, Charles Burnett has twenty illustrations containing thirteen Unicorns, mostly in pairs as supporters. There is also a single Unicorn's head as a crest on the Dalhousie Thistle Plate and three Griffins' heads on a fine ceiling boss in St Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral in Aberdeen (*above*).

The Double Tressure No 38, 2015 in a transcript of the 2014 St Andrew Lecture by Ljubodrag Grujic on Serbian heraldry, has a couple of Griffins and twenty-seven two-headed Eagles, making a thorough coverage of the subject, the most recent being the arms of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, 1993-2006 (*right*).



JOURNAL SCAN

The New Zealand Armorer No 136 Spring 2015 (November) has a fine Dragon supporter and a Dragon's head crest in the arms of David Jones Ltd, a chain of stores based in Sydney, Australia. With arms granted in 1968, they were evidently proud of their Welch origins.

The White Lion Society Newsletter 67, November 2015, has a splendid carved Griffin supporter holding the arms of Lord Crew as the Bishop in Durham (*below*) and a tiny blue Unicorn crest in the Kemys window at Sherborne Abbey.

The Norfolk Standard, September 2015 has a couple of views, left and right sides, of one of the painted Dragons that featured in the Norwich Festival, one that we had not seen before, while with it came a copy of the local newspaper that illustrated every one of them – thanks to Philippa Sims for adding this item.



FEEDBACK



Further to the item on page 6 of No 172, here is Jack, now just turned five, delighting in his completed slot-together Dragon and wanting another puzzle to do. Photo by his mum, Jenny Marsh.



SHERBORNE STONEWARE

One more of the stunning carved roof-bosses from Sherborne Abbey that we saw in Nos 171 and 172. Our thanks to David Vaudrey for letting us see these pictures.

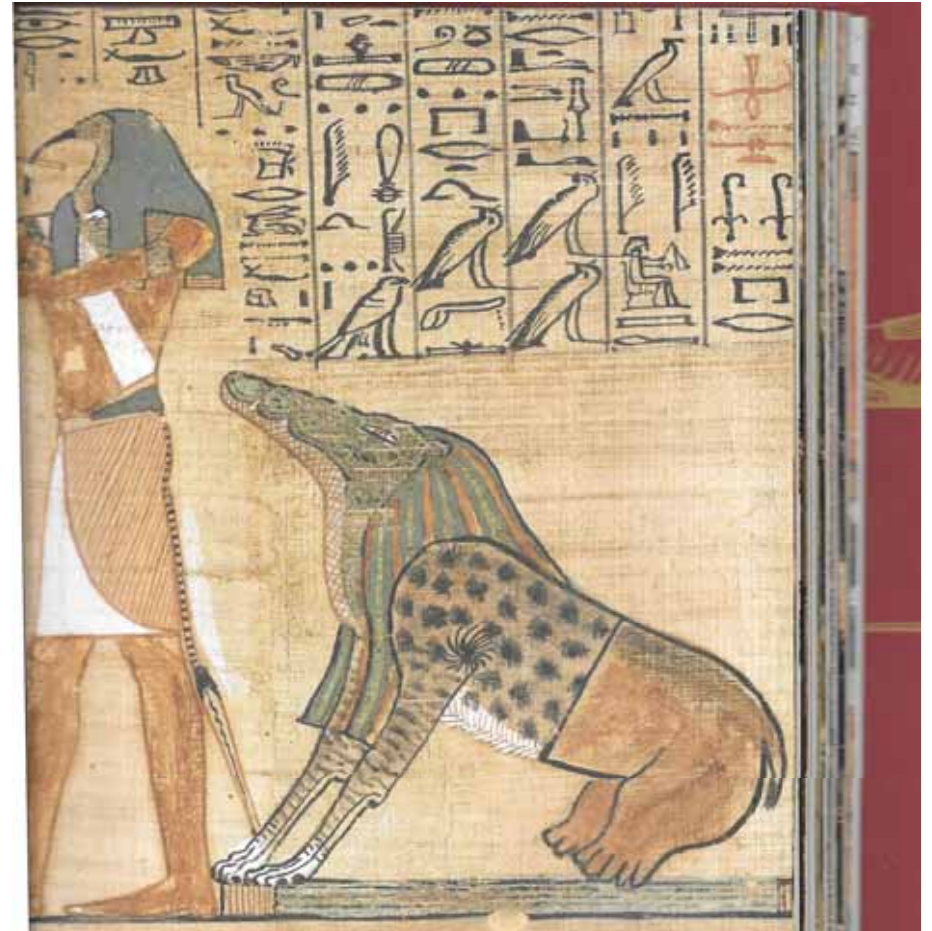


A FABULOUS FIRST ?



Bernard Juby sent this example of what may be an original use for a Dragon. It may well help to scare off pilferers, and is quite cleverly constructed. If anybody has seen a backpack more original than this one, it would be good to hear from them. The best I have seen was a rucksack that was painted with an Arthurian scene showing a monster of some sort, possibly a Dragon, climbing over a mountain and threatening a pair of mounted knights.

BOOK REVIEW



MYTHOLOGY The Complete Guide to our Imagined Worlds by Christopher Dell (London, 2012) is a sumptuous volume with 340 pages of illustrations, mostly in colour. After a lucid introduction by the author, he treats his subject under eight headings – The Supernatural Realm, The Earth, Humankind, Gifts from the Gods, The Animal Kingdom, Symbolic Substances, Heroes, and Quests, Journeys and Epics. Under ‘Animals’ there is a brief section on Mythological Creatures, covering the Dragon, the Griffin, the Unicorn, the Egyptian Ammit (a hybrid with crocodile head, lion breast and hippopotamus rear that devoured the souls of the unworthy dead - *above*), the Sphinx and the Centaur. Other fabulous beasts appear as victims of Heroes and objects of Quests, and I do not feel that there are any glaring omissions, although our favourite topic plays only a small part in this magnificent compilation. Rather touchingly, the final episode deals with the Quest for the Holy Grail, with its hint of redemption in the future.