



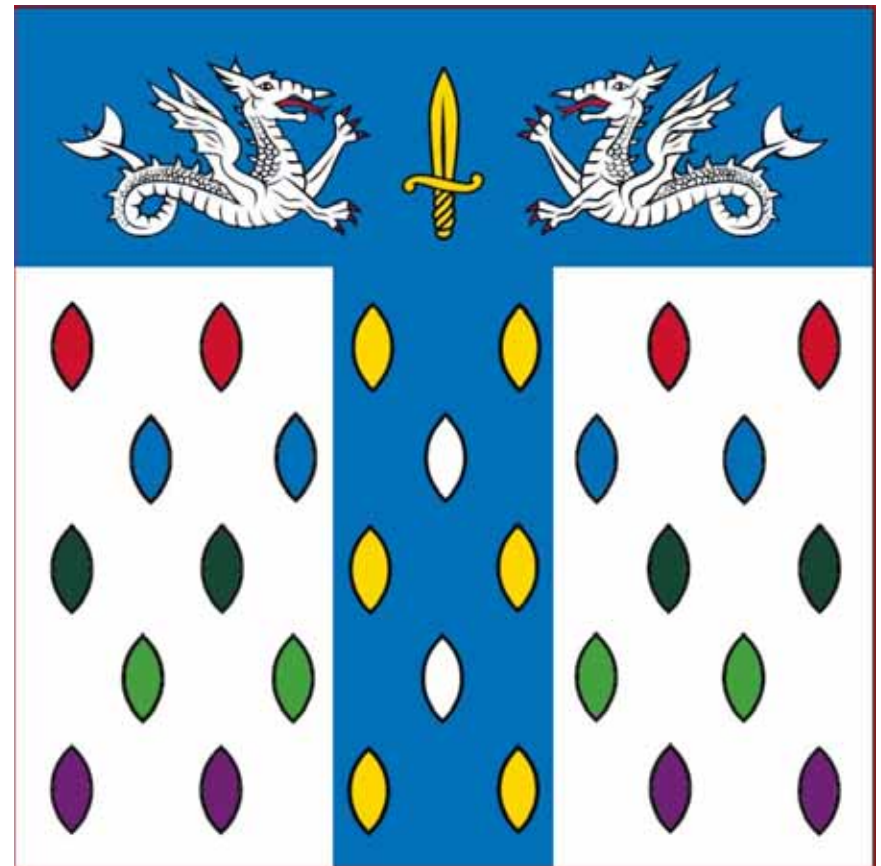
Saint George and an unusual Dragon from a window in a church in Leith,
Scotland (Photograph by Leslie Hodgson)

Issued 21 December 2015 by Ralph Brocklebank, Orland, Church Avenue, Clent, Stourbridge DY9 9QS
Website:- www.dragonlore.co.uk E-mail:- ralph@dragonlore.co.uk

Dragonlore

The Journal of The College of Dracology

No.177 Saint Thomas' Day 2015



Sea-Dragons on the Banner of the Thames Traditional Rowing Association



The College of Dracology for the Study of Fabulous Beasts



We record with deep sadness the death of Jack Campbell-Kease. He was a lively person, a knowledgeable heraldist and a great supporter of Dragonlore who contributed often to our pages and will be sorely missed. We condole with Pat and hope she can regain the peace that they both lost during his last few weeks.

Saint Thomas was one of the Twelve Apostles, seen here in Leonardo's painting of the Last Supper leaning over the shoulder of St James the Greater and holding up his finger in a gesture that may be an indicator of his later role as "The Doubter" when he put his finger into the side-wound of the Risen Christ to confirm his belief in the Resurrection. Although not a lot is said about him in the Gospels, many stories are told about his later adventures in India, preaching the Gospel and converting hundreds until jealous pagans had him martyred. There are Christians in India today who believe that they are the descendants of those whom Saint Thomas converted. One of the nicest stories is that when passing through Parthia on his way to India, he met and baptised the Wise Men who had followed the Star to the place where the infant Christ Child lay, giving him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, and then, being advised by an angel, departing to their land by another route to avoid the wrath of Herod. The date of St Thomas' Feast is 21st December, and we treated him in 2006, in No 80.



The banner on the cover is a revised version of the one used at first, as noted in Number 175. When arms were granted to the Thames Traditional Rowing Association (*see No 163*), the artist neglected to put fish-tails on the Sea-Dragons (although they were clearly shown on my submission sketch), prompting Roger Barnes to write that they were not Sea-Dragons but Wyverns. Although they did look like Wyverns, they were in fact Sea-Dragons, because that is what it said in the blazon. The first batch of banners was produced in a very short time, for which Charles Ashburner of the flag-maker Mr Flag deserves congratulations, and he has now arranged for the second batch to be modified, as here illustrated, by putting little fish-tails where they should have been to start with. Of course, the Letters Patent cannot be changed, but there is no reason why the banners should not be correct. As the Association is still recruiting, the new version should soon be making its appearance on the river.

ERRATUM Roger Barnes has written to say that the painting of the arms of Sicily which we showed on page 8 of No 164 was not one of his. We ought to have known, because he always puts his initials **DRB** on his own work – but the article it illustrated was his!



Dragons in the arms of the Thames Traditional Rowing Association. There are also a few Erpingham Martlets, some others unidentified and, for the keen-eyed, a Liver Bird.

Heraldry in Canada Vol 49 No 3-4 2015 has nine Royal Unicorn supporters and one blue Wyvern supporter in an article on the House of Windsor, as well as a pair of Salisbury Dragons, two Lancaster ones, a couple of Dacre Griffins - all on seals - and a Bedford Yale, a Beaufort Yale, a Welsh Dragon, two Wolsey Griffins and an Arundel Bagwyn all as supporters illustrating an article by D'Arcy Boulton on the development of the term 'coat of arms.' Incidentally, Boulton assumes, along with every other writer on this topic that I have come across, that the term 'coat of arms' refers to a garment covering the suit of armour and decorated with the armorial bearings of its wearer, whereas I believe that the word 'coat' here refers to a covering, as in the terms 'coat of paint' and 'coat of fur' without any reference to a garment. Thus it would have been quite normal to refer to a shield covered with armorial devices as having 'a coat of arms' without meaning a garment. Indeed, in his article Boulton states, "The older name for the military coat, **cote armure**, first appeared as a name for the *emblem* rather than the garment..." which would seem to support my case.



The Heraldic Craftsman No 90, December 2015 has a black two-headed Eagle on a shield and a red demi-Griffin wielding a seaxe as a crest in an article about the development of mantling and a very fine coat of arms (*above*) featuring six blue Griffins (3 on the shield, 2 supporters and 1 as the crest) by Yvonne Holton, in a piece she has written about her life and work, which also features the bookplate she did for Bruce Gorie with the Mester Stoor Worm which we saw in No 129. There is also a very fine pair of Dolphins supporting the arms of Tenby in Pembrokeshire, by David Hopkinson FSHA, on its back cover (*next page*).

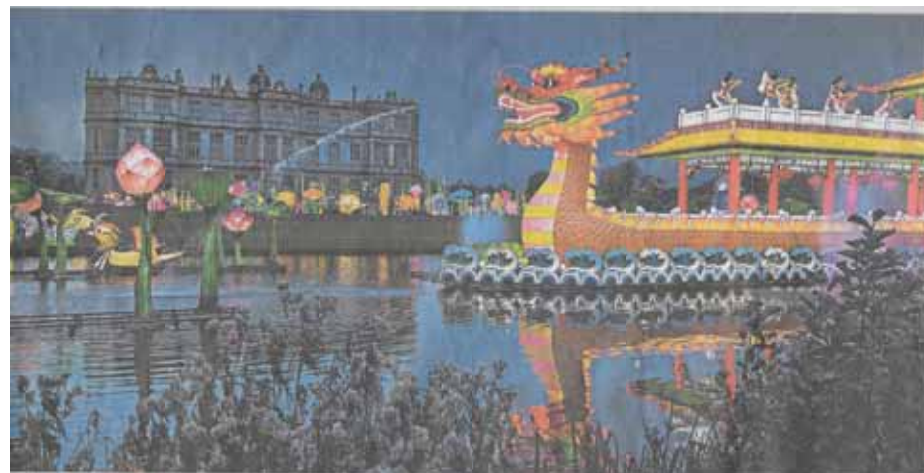
The Heraldry Gazette No 138 December 2015 has the Wyverns in the arms of the Parish Council of Longbridge Deverill that we saw in No 165, page 5, and a complete re-print of the article in No 163 on Worthy Watermen with the Sea-Lions and Sea-

A MASTER'S MONSTER



This is Eric Fraser's masterly rendering of the Dragon Smaug from Tolkien's book *The Hobbit*, said by W.H.Auden to be 'One of the best children's books of the century.'

LONGLEAT LANTERNS



Chinese craftsmen were called in to create the displays at Longleat House in Wiltshire to celebrate the Festival of Light, of which this is the magnificent centre-piece. (*For an earlier example, see also No 166*)

AN ALTERNATIVE ARCHER

This is Lauren Mortimer's take on how a child might represent Sagittarius the Archer as a sign of the Zodiac, from *The Daily Telegraph's* Horoscope feature. Not quite a Centaur, perhaps, but close!



POWERFUL PEW-ENDS

Leslie Hodgson has been out with his camera again, and caught these two carvings from the opposite ends of a choir-pew in a Church behind Waverley Station, Edinburgh. One is either a Griffin or an Opinicus (which is, after all, only a primitive kind of Griffin), while the other looks more like a Winged Wolf. I admire the carving of their wings. He also sent this picture (*see back page*) of a noble Saint George with a rather engaging Dragon under his feet, from a window in a church in Leith, too good to keep until next April.



.JOURNAL SCAN

The Somerset Dragon No 32 December 2015 has lots of Martlets and a two-headed Eagle on shields that were present at the Battle of Agincourt included in one of Roland Symons' heraldic displays, and a reproduction of the well-known picture of Garter Bruges kneeling before Saint George and the Dragon, a slithy creature being subdued with both a lance and a sword (*right*). For the sharp-eyed, there is a tiny Griffin holding a banner with an even smaller two-headed Eagle, all on a shield in a quiz.



Flagmaster 155 Autumn 2015 in an article on "Provincial Flags in the UK" has a picture of the red flag of Wessex with its Golden Wyvern (*below*).

