

LIGHTING THE BIRTHDAY CAKE



This card came tumbling out of the post at Christmas, probably from **Russ Fletcher**. It is in the style of Quentin Blake and if not by him, by a good imitator. He has many such because he is such a popular illustrator.

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Dragon Lantern for Chinese New Year



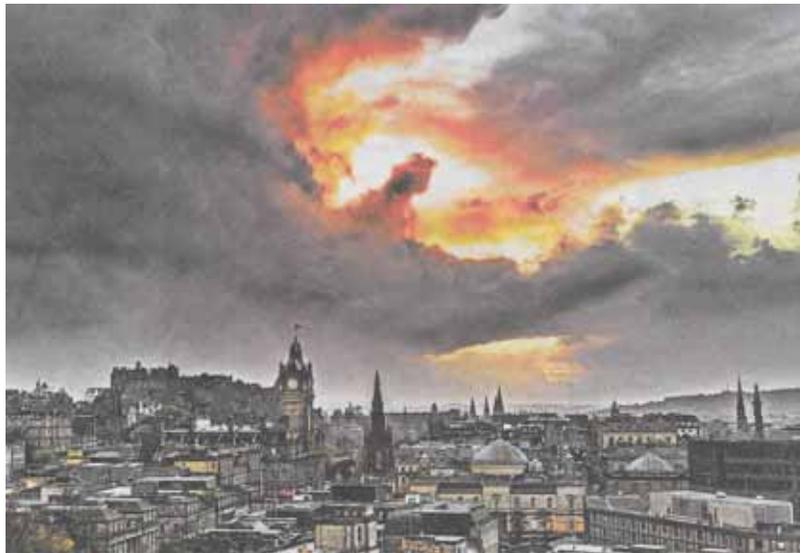
The College of Dracology for the Study of Fabulous Beasts



There was no issue in January because of a dearth of material. In the six weeks following Saint Thomas we had only one item by post and one in the press. Even then, we had to resort to duplication, for which I apologise – perhaps it was just my forgetfulness - (though it is a lovely banner, of which I am very proud). Now things are catching up and we can go ahead with this number.

*Multiple gratitude is due to **Alan Buckingham**, who freely provided copious prepaid envelopes for our use. Also to all those who have sent stamps, albeit in lesser numbers.*

The picture on the cover shows a large paper lantern shaped as a Dragon's head and used to celebrate the Chinese New Year, this time the Year of the Monkey, falling on 8th February. This was installed near the Opera House in Sydney, Australia, and was shown in *The Daily Telegraph* on that day. The occasion was marked around the world and almost always had Dragons of some sort in evidence. The Chinese New Year is a movable feast, like Easter, depending on the date of the New Moon, and can fall anywhere between 21st January and 19th February. In China it is celebrated with a week of festivities, with many spectacular displays and much feasting, and lots of family reunions, some of them involving travelling over hundreds of miles. While on a Chinese theme, there are a few more related topics in this issue, starting with this dramatic picture of a raincloud against the sunset over Edinburgh, taken by Tom Foster, and said to be a flaming Dragon in the skies (*below*).



FEEDBACK

Roland Symons was the first to inform me that the arms shown in No 175, page 8, are those of the London Stock Exchange, and Lord Lingfield was the next, with six more to follow. In fact, they are recorded in Briggs, under “THE STOCK

EXCHANGE” with a fine line drawing (*left*), and noting that they were granted on 10 September 1923. I just did not know where to look. Since then there has appeared in *The Daily Telegraph* a picture taken inside the Stock Exchange building which shows their arms with Griffin supporters several times (*below*).



CHINESE STEM CUP TO BE SOLD



Staffordshire University is planning to sell this five-inch Ming Dynasty stem cup, valued at £2-4 million, at auction in Hong Kong on 31st May. Most likely made for an emperor, this cup is unusual for being in perfect condition in spite of its delicacy. The proposed sale has upset many since it was part of a collection of 270 pieces bequeathed to the University by Eric Thornhill who said in his will that they should all be kept together. Professor Flavia Swann of the University found the collection stored in a cellar, and is planning to build a centre to display them, but needs some cash to pay for it. In this dilemma, let us hope that she has made the right decision.

JOURNAL SCAN

The Norfolk Standard, January 2016, has a series of 24 shields from Norwich School which include a few Martlets, a couple of two-headed Eagles and a pair of Unicorn's heads, as well as a few familiar arms such as those of Nelson, Paston and the founders of Trinity Hall and Gonville and Caius colleges at Cambridge.

BOOK REVIEW

LEGEND OF THE CHINESE DRAGON by Marie Sellier, illustrated by Catherine Louis with calligraphy and chop marks by Wang Fei (New York/London 2007).

Aimed mainly at children but an exemplar for art students, this delightful little book tells how various Chinese tribes living in different parts of the country chose animal totems to suit their settings. Thus those by the sea chose a Fish, those up the mountains chose a Bird, those on the low plains had a Horse and those on the high plains a Serpent while those in the fertile rice fields put their faith in the Ox, each representing the benevolent spirits that looked after them. These tribes fought each other a lot, until the children got fed up with war and persuaded their elders to unite, for which they designed a new animal which was agile like the Fish, free like the Bird, fast like the Horse, cunning like the Serpent and strong like the Ox. Made up of the body of the Serpent with the scales of the Fish, the head of the Horse with the horns of the Ox and the wings of the Bird added, they called this new creature the DRAGON. When the men and women saw this new beast, they thought it so beautiful that they resolved to come together in peace, and though wars have occasionally broken out within a united China, the Dragon remains a symbol of peace and harmony. The drawings are impressive and we have room for some of them below. My only reservation is that Chinese Dragons never had wings until quite recently, and then only on a very few of them.



THE LEGEND IN LONDON

Saturday 27 February 2016 *The Daily Telegraph*

The Daily Telegraph Saturday 27 February 2016



A Chinese Dragon wending its ceremonial way through London on their New Year's Day.