

Elizabeth Roads is to be congratulated on her promotion from Carrick Pursuivant to Snawdown Herald. She sent a picture of her new badge (*right*) with the Unicorn's head by the walls of Stirling Castle.

Jane Connell sent this card with the dragon detail from the Macclesfield Psalter of 1330. We have seen him before, in No 67, at which time Mervyn Jeremiah regretted that we did not print in colour, but now we can, and so here he is in his full polychromatic glory.



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Dragon wind-sock on the spear of a Parthian horse archer,
in a reconstruction by Dario Wielec.



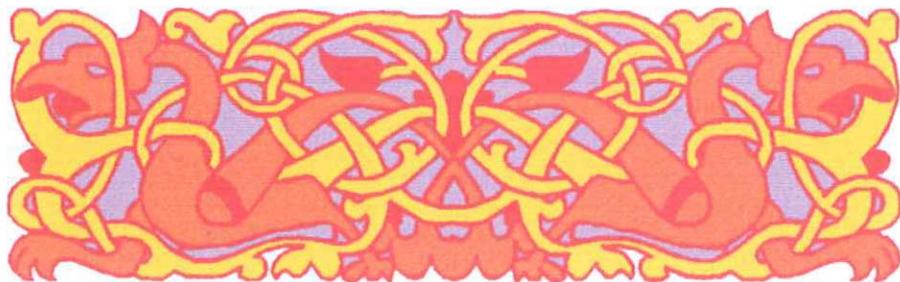
The College of Dracology for the Study of Fabulous Beasts



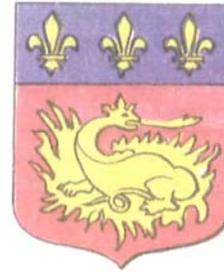
We welcome Harold Storey to membership of the College, following a presentation of *The Origin of Fabulous Beasts* to the Cheshire Heraldry Society in Macclesfield which he organized together with John and Rutha Titterton (already members). They were excellent hosts.

Saint Egwin was a Bishop of Worcester in the 7th century. He may have been of royal blood, and founded an abbey at Evesham. His feast day falls on 30th December, and two churches are dedicated to him. Worcester is one of the oldest bishoprics and was once much larger than it is now, probably extending from the Ironbridge Gorge in the north to Chepstow and the Bristol Avon in the south. It is a geographically distinct area, with the fertile valley of the River Severn edged in by hills on either side, and may have been a natural “kingdom” long before the coming of the Church. The diocese of Gloucester was not hived off as a separate entity until the 16th century, so before then the Bishop of Worcester was a man of considerable importance. Although Herefordshire next door is full of green dragons, Worcestershire seems to be almost devoid of fabulous beasts, the only example which has come to our notice being the strange creature in the church at Martley, which we recorded in No 32.

The picture on the cover is taken from the book “Shadows in the Desert” and was sent in by the ever-vigilant Cathie Constant along with other delights. This type of dragon was carried across Europe and one of its last appearances was with Harold’s Saxon army at the battle of Hastings, as shown in the Bayeux Tapestry, at first held proudly aloft, and then shown trampled on the ground (*see Nos 23 & 43*), with further discussions and some arguments in Nos 75, 79, 81 & 82. Another of the goodies sent by Cathie was this bit of decorative border with Celtic dragons entwined:-



number of Mermaids from the University of Birmingham, a Griffin crest for Mr Edward Rothwell, a “Male Griffin” crest for Mr Russ Wayne Copping and a final selection of French Dragonlore (*below*).



St. OUEN



VILLENEUVE-ST.-GRORGE



ROYAT

CORRESPONDENCE

Mary Brooke-Little writes, “I really love Dragonlore. It is just the right size to read from end to end with nothing wasted or boring.” (It is such comments that give us the heart to keep going.)

Richard d’Apice sent this picture (*right*) which he spotted in a Sotheby’s sales catalogue showing a 12-inch-high 16th century German artefact, probably a hatchment, with the woman paddling a boat as the crest and the strange dragon from the shield having the helmet on his back – a kind of heraldic shorthand.



Bernard Juby and **Nicholas Williams** both came up with solutions to the book plate puzzle on the back page of our last issue, based on the motto “I show I sham not.” In Latin this is OSTENDO NON OSTENTO, a nice play on words, and is the motto of the Isham family of Northamptonshire, but apparently their arms contain neither dragon nor wyvern, so the delightful creature on the book plate must be purely decorative. Unless...

Keith Lovell also came up with a more complete solution, in which the dragon stands for a capital letter C. Sir Charles Edmund Isham Bt (1819-1903) of Lamport Hall, Northamptonshire, may be found in the Isham pedigree in the 106th edition of Burke’s Peerage & Baronetage, 1999, at p 1518. He was the 6th Baronet and an M.P. and his arms (*right*) do not contain a dragon, but only a swan. **June Marriage** sent the programme for the Norwich Dragon Festival which runs from the 12th to the 27th of February 2011. Much of it is aimed at children, but there are also notable events covering folklore, crafts, architecture and heraldry. With it, she included a card with a picture of a dragon artist, drawn by Beryl Antony.



I show, I sham not.

JOURNAL SCAN

Gonfanon (Vol 21, No 3, Fall/Autumn 2010) has a picture of the newly-granted arms of the Canadian Border Services Agency with splendid Griffin supporters (per fess Gules and Or winged Argent), being displayed to Her Majesty during her recent visit. Also in this issue are a couple of red Dragons, one of them as a crest, statant affronty, which is unusual, and a full-page picture of the new west window in the Anglican church in Esquimalt full of ship's badges to commemorate the centenary of the Canadian Navy. In it, the sharp-eyed will pick out several fabulous beasts.

Tak Tent (No 49, October 2010) starts off with pictures from the XXIXth International Congress held in Stuttgart in September, in which a seahorse on the tabard of one of the Heralds is prominent, but it does not say which one. Otherwise there are only a couple of Unicorn supporters from Royal Arms at each end of the Royal Tweed Bridge in Berwick.

The White Lion Society Newsletter (No 47, November 2010) has a Wyvern on the arms of the Merchant Adventurers of the City of Bristol, the Griffin crest of Henry Paston-Bedingfield (newly promoted from York Herald to Norroy and Ulster King of Arms), and a rather fetching Mermaid in the arms newly granted to Dr Catherine Stevenson MD.

The Heraldic Craftsman (No 74, December 2010) features the art of William Metzger and shows his Opinicus, which we saw in our No 36 along with other fabulous beasts of his designing. Also shown are the red Unicorns from Canada that we had in our last number, the badge of the Wyvern Club for former members of the King Alfred School in Plön (*right – we are mentioned in the text describing it, so it had better go in, in spite of its curious anatomy, though there is a much more conventional Wyvern in the first quarter of the arms that were used by the school, presumably to stand for the King of Wessex*) and lastly a pair of Seahorse supporters by John Ferguson.

The Coat of Arms (No 220, Autumn 2010) shows a curious Roman banner said to be an emblematic Minotaur (*right*) in an article by Clive Cheesman on The Crisis of Heraldry, which traces the events in that period when symbolic emblems seemed to take over the role formerly provided by heraldic insignia.

The New Zealand Armorer (No 116, Spring 2010) has a superb full-page colour illustration of a new bookplate by Gordon Macpherson for Robert Douglas Watt, former Chief Herald of Canada and now Rideau Herald Emeritus, with his newly-granted (as a special honour) supporters, a pair of winged sea-cougars, *per fess Gules and Argent*.

The Heraldry Gazette (No 118, December 2010) displays a



CHINA SHOWS ITS CLAWS



Davis Vaudrey kindly sent this picture which was taken from the cover of The Spectator magazine of 30 October 2010 and highlights an article by Gideon Rachman on the coming clash of superpowers. Although it makes its political point by showing a Chinese monster burning up U.S. dollar bills, we know, as dracologists, that Chinese dragons were water spirits and never breathed fire, a habit confined to Western dragons in later years and now totally out of hand in the world of fantasy literature. I suppose that we can excuse a political cartoonist for getting his dragons mixed up, but I thought that the error should be pointed out. Note also the extraordinary length of his lower jaw (*see next page*).

A REAL CHINESE DRAGON



This porcelain jar, painted in underglaze blue, is from the Ming Dynasty, Xuande Period (1426-1435), and belongs to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The picture was sent in by **Tony Denning** who thought I might like the dragon. These creatures in China all have rather short snouts, rather like Pekingese dogs. Early European dragons also had dog-like heads, but with longer noses like a lurcher or a greyhound. I suppose those artists had never seen a real dragon, so drew the heads of animals that they had actually seen.

AN EARLY DRAGON ?

This ancient bronze brooch (*right*) was dug up from one of the largest burial mounds in eastern France, by an archaeological team from the University of Bristol. The site is on top of a wooded plateau overlooking the village of Tincry in central Lorraine. The hill fort combined with a large burial mound suggests that this may be one of the so-called "princely sites" of the Early Iron Age (c 650-400 BC). The form of the brooch may be a transition stage between early serpent figures and dragons as they later became, and we are grateful to Cathie Constant for sending in the clipping from the Bristol Evening Post even though no date was included.



MORE BEASTS FROM BREDA

We saw some misericords from the Great Church at Breda in No 99, sent in by Jan Keuzenkamp, and now Adrian Overhaag has received permission to enter the locked sacristy there to photograph more of the wonderful carvings of fabulous beasts. Here are a few:-

