

**Roger Seabury** has owned up that it was he who bought the Czech stamp (No128, p 7) in Prague, because as a champion archer he has a Sagittary as a crest (*see No 16*). It is now back in his safe keeping.

#### AND YET ANOTHER CLEVER CHINESE DRAGON CARTOON



This one, illustrating an article headlined **“Don’t let the paper dragon frighten you”** by William Rees-Mogg was in *The Mail on Sunday* for 14 August 2011. His comment was:-

“The Chinese might have been better off if they had taken my advice and bought gold, when Gordon Brown was selling ours.” However, politics apart, the imagery is delightful.

---

Issued 29 September 2011 by Ralph Brocklebank, Orland, Church Avenue, Clent, Stourbridge DY9 9QS  
Website:- [www.dragonlore.co.uk](http://www.dragonlore.co.uk) E-mail:- [ralph@dragonlore.co.uk](mailto:ralph@dragonlore.co.uk)

# Dragonlore

The Journal of The College of Dracology

Number 129

Michaelmas 2011



Mester Stoor Worm and Assipattie  
on the bookplate of Bruce Gorie, drawn by Yvonne Holton





# The College of Dracology for the Study of Fabulous Beasts



We welcome Bruce Kinross Gorie to the College and congratulate Yvonne Holton, Herald Painter at the Court of Lord Lyon and one of our members, on her appointment as Dingwall Pursuivant of Arms. Yvonne's drawing on Bruce's bookplate (on the cover) illustrates a legend from Orkney folklore (see page 4). Sadly we record the death of Derek Vaudrey, a fairly recent member, brother of David.

Michaelmas, the Feast of Saint Michael and All Angels, may once have been a movable feast like Easter, but is now fixed at 29 September. The woodcarving of St Michael (see opposite page) showing him slaying the Dragon and at the same time weighing the souls of the dead, is from St George's Church, Dunster, in Somerset, and was kindly sent in by Cathie Constant.

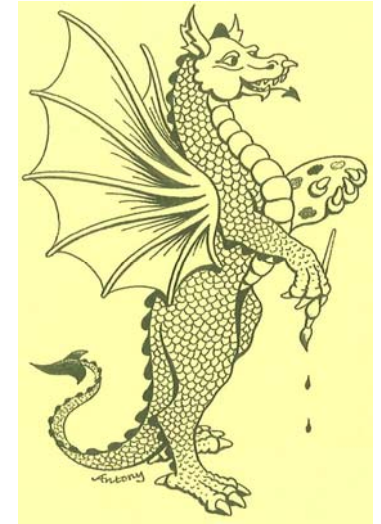
Elizabeth Roads visited Iceland and came back with a lot of pictures of interesting wood carvings of which this Dragon's Head (below) from the back of the 15<sup>th</sup> century Boruum Jonsdottir Chair is an outstanding example.



## CORRESPONDENCE

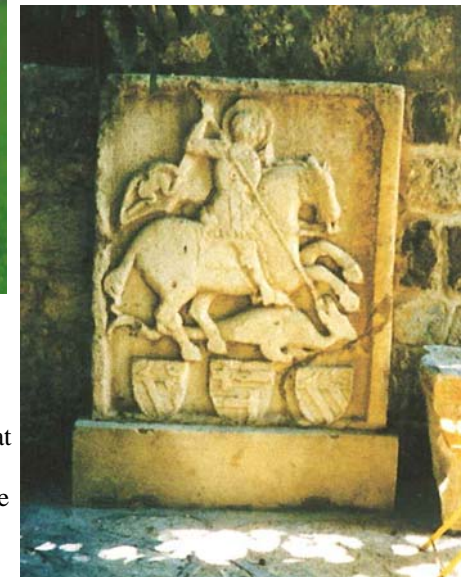
June Marriage sent this drawing by Beryl Antony of a happy Dragon artist (right).

David Vaudrey sent this picture of an unusual weathervane (a four-legged Wyvern?) at Newark Park in Gloucestershire (below), now a National Trust property.



Peter and Gilly Greenhill said that the piece on the Flying Fish in Heraldry (No 127) reminded them of Herr von Bergow of Bohemia, who features as one of their miniature heraldic knights (left).

Cecil Humphery-Smith sent this picture (right) of a 13<sup>th</sup> century plaque that had fallen from the Crusaders' Castle at Bodrum. The central shield is probably that of the 14<sup>th</sup> Master of the Order of St John, Gavin de Montaign, flanked by a pair of the arms of Pope Honorius III, dating from 1217-1220.





## JOURNAL SCAN

**The Double Tressure No 34** (2011) is a meaty issue with some good stuff, but rather disappointing beastie-wise, just the Arran Antelopes, the Ochiltree Wyverns and the Lauder Griffin as incidentals illustrating an article on the Ulster Scots by Jim Floyd.

**Tak Tent No 52** (July 2011), apart from some pictures taken at the AGM of the Heraldry Society of Scotland showing some of our members, Elizabeth Roads, Jim Floyd, Stuart Emerson, Mark Dennis, Alan Watson and Leslie Hodgson (both in repose having been elected a Fellow of the HSS – congratulations! – and in animation explaining some heraldry on one of the visits he is so good at) among others, there is a fabulous sinister supporter of the arms of the City of Medicine Hat, Canada, blazoned thus, “a tiger Or armed and langued Azure semé and heightened of flames Azure garnished Bleu Celeste gorged with a collar of wild rose flowers proper.” (*right*) This is part of an article on Medical Heraldry by Dr Beverly Bergman. Our thanks to **Bruce Patterson** for providing the blazon.



**The Norfolk Standard** (September 2011) has a hard-to-spot Unicorn head crest and Philippa Sims’ embroidered Griffin, now a regular feature of the Society News page.

**The Heraldry Gazette No 121** (September 2011) has a Tyger crest, several Dragon and Griffin supporters and crests, Griffin heads in the arms of Peter Mileham, a royal Unicorn and the Society’s own black ones, along with pictures of our members David Krause and Harold Storey at a celebration of 50 years of Macclesfield/Cheshire heraldry.

**Gonfanon** (Summer 2011) has some dainty Mermaid supporters, a Pelican in her piety, a Dragon’s head and a two-headed Eagle all embroidered on pipe banners, the late Bruce Beatty’s winged wolf crest, Sir Conrad Swan’s badge as Rouge Dragon Pursuivant, and a picture taken at an Ottawa Dinner including two of our members, Darrel Kennedy and Bruce Patterson, both Heralds with the Canadian Heraldic Authority.



**Saint Michael from the Church of St George, Dunster, Somerset.**

## Assipattie and the Stoor Worm - an Orkney Folk Tale.

There once was a farmer who had a son who would neither fight nor work. All he did was sit by the fire raking through the ashes, so they called him Assipattie.

Now a terrible monster appeared in the sea near to the land where Assipattie lived, it was called the Stoorworm, and was so big that when it breathed in and out it caused the sea to ebb and flow. To keep the monster from destroying the land the people had to feed him with young maidens.

Assipattie's father told him that instead of lying by the fire all day he should try to rid the land of this terrible monster. Assipattie took a pot and put a burning peat in it. He carried it to the boat and set sail towards the Stoorworm. He sailed right down its mouth and a long way into the monster. He found the Stoorworm's liver and set it on fire with the burning peat. He then managed to escape out of the Stoorworm's mouth.

The fire in Stoorworm's liver killed the monster. As it died some of its teeth fell out and made the islands of Orkney, Shetland and Faeroes. It curled up into a lump and died, and its body made Iceland. Its liver is still on fire and is now Mount Hekla.

*This version of the Stoorworm story was told to Peter Leith, Langbiggin, Stenness, Orkney, by his mother Mrs Johina Leith. From "The Mermaid Bride and other Orkney folk tales." Thanks to Bruce Gorie for sending it in. Bruce also sent a much longer version of the story taken from "Orkney Folklore and Traditions" by Walter Traill Dennison (1961), with a lot more gory and imaginative details, but alas too large to fit in to our limited space.*

Echoes of Perseus and St George myths apart, it is good to be reminded that once people believed that the features of our landscape were the result of deeds and sufferings of real beings, monsters or giants, and not, as is widely believed today, the effect of impersonal physical forces. There are still some who think that there must be powerful spiritual beings driving the tectonic movements that shape our planet. It was Robert Graves who said that a myth is a truth wrapped in poetry, and he may well have been right.

## PUZZLE CORNER

Five fabulous cryptic crossword clues for you to solve (*solutions in next issue*):-

- 1) Mythic beast's wild canter enthralled Ulysses initially (7 letters)
- 2) Legendary fighter for the crown sees wedding stopped by cold and rain initially (7)
- 3) Monster retired without protection missing university (6)
- 4) At anvil, he forged a monster (9)
- 5) Supporter firing for no apparent reason without alternative (7)

*from The Daily Telegraph*

## BOOK REVIEWS

**Stuart Emerson** visited Tewkesbury and came back with a real treasure. Every summer the town is decorated with innumerable heraldic banners showing the arms of those who fought in the Battle of Tewkesbury in 1471, one of the decisive events in the Wars of the Roses. Each banner is rectangular, about 4ft high and 3ft wide, and some 170 of them, all in colour, are illustrated in the book **The Street Banners of Tewkesbury**, published by The Tewkesbury Battlefield Society (2010), compiled and illustrated by Andrew Lawrence. The book opens with a brief history of the project, and an outline of the origins of heraldry, and then each banner has a page to itself with a biography of the man who bore it.

Apart from its massive heraldic interest, there is one banner that concerns us, that of Sir Edward Brampton of Letton, Norfolk (1440-1508), described as **Azure two dragons respectant necks and tails intertwined Or** (*above right—a modern rendering I think and not the fifteenth century original, but none the worse for that*). Sir Edward was born in Portugal to Jewish parents in 1440. As a merchant adventurer he came to England in about 1468 where he converted to Christianity, and served with distinction in the courts of Kings Edward IV and Richard III, fighting for the Yorkists at Barnet and Tewkesbury in 1471, but after the defeat at Bosworth in 1485 he returned to Portugal for good. This book is a wonderful record of the heraldry of the period and will be welcomed also by historians and wargamers. We are greatly indebted to Stuart for this gift.

**The Devil's Dictionary** by Ambrose Bierce (Neale, New York? 1911) is a classic and worth noticing in its centenary year. Among a wealth of sardonic definitions there are a few that concern us, for **Basilisk**, **Centaur**, **Cerberus**, **Gorgon**, **Hippogriff** ("An animal (now extinct) which was half horse and half griffin. The griffin was itself a compound creature, half lion and half eagle. The hippogriff was actually, therefore, only one-quarter eagle, which is two dollars and fifty cents in gold. The study of zoology is full of surprises."), **Hydra** ("A kind of animal that the ancients catalogued under many heads."), **Leviathan**, **Phoenix**, **Salamander** and **Werewolf**. The other definitions are rather too long to include here, but are well worth looking up. We are grateful to Una Lewers for sending us a copy of The Folio Society's 2003 edition of this mischievous book.

