

complete was from **Leslie Hodgson**, who gave the dates and details of the grant from the College of Arms in London and of the matriculation from Lyon Court in Edinburgh, as well as the way that features of the design related to the ancient arms of the London Livery, the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths.



Our brilliant production team, Keren and Mark, are taking holidays and moving house, so the next issue of Dragonlore will be delayed until Michaelmas.

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Dragonlore

The Journal of The College of Dracology

No.138 St Barnabas' Day 2012



Winged Sea-Goat in the Arms of Malhotice in the Czech Republic



The College of Dracology for the Study of Fabulous Beasts



We welcome Rafe Heydel-Mankoo to our number, first met in Canada but now working in London and a keen Monarchist.

Saint Barnabas is described in the Acts of the Apostles as an early disciple of Christ, though not one of the Twelve Apostles. He apparently introduced Saul, later St Paul, to the circle of Christians and then travelled with him on some of his missionary journeys, but then parted from him and went abroad on his own. His feast day falls on 11 June.

The arms on the cover were sent in by **Marc Van der Cruys**. Malhotice is a village in the District of Paerov in the Region of Olomouc in the Czech Republic. Those who collect postage stamps will know that the Czechs have a fine tradition of civic heraldry, and this unusual hybrid beast is a good example of a bold, clear design.

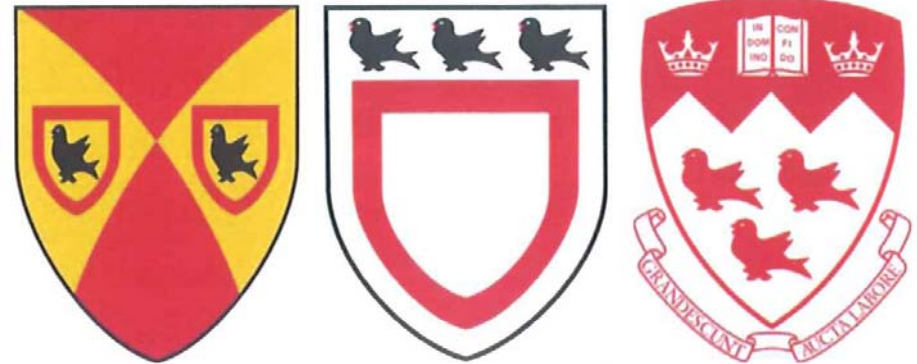
AN ANCIENT GREEK PEGASUS



This coin was recently put up for auction and illustrated in *The Mail on Sunday* for 20th May with the headline “Modern Greece in ruins but ancient coins shine.” However, the lively Pegasus is worth a look. It is not clear whether the ancient Greeks believed that winged horses actually existed, or whether they thought of them as being merely symbolic. In the ancient Middle East the addition of wings to a creature indicated that it was to be taken as a spiritual being, hence our winged angels. Biblical angels from the Old Testament were not seen as winged and were usually taken for humans until they had disappeared, when it was realized that they had been messengers from God. Artists when illustrating biblical stories have been confused ever since.

The upper half of the Griffin is black with a barbed red tongue and looks more like a Condor than an Eagle, as one might expect in that part of the world (but he does have a little ear sticking up). The detached rear end of the Lion below the shield to the sinister side is all gold. This is just one of the pictures illustrating an article by the Editor, Jim Floyd, arising from his visit to South America.

The Gonfanon Volume 23, Number 1, Spring 2012 is rather a slender issue with a new Editor (note the subtle change of title) but contains a few Rutherford Martlets in an article on “Heraldry and the Physicist” by Allan Ailo.



The Heraldry Gazette No 124, June 2012, has this terra-cotta roof-ridge tile (*right*), one of several spotted by Bernard Juby, the Editor, in Retford, Notts

FEEDBACK

There were five responses to our request to identify the arms shown in No 136, p 7, with its Unicorn supporters (and repeated on the next page). One just said ‘Jewellers, yes,’ but the others gave the name of the National Association of Goldsmiths of Great Britain and Ireland with varying amounts of additional information. The most



hideous creature which bounded away shortly after the birth. This myth has lurked around since the 1700s, though panic rose in 1909 when over 100 people reported seeing the beast. The creature later turned out to be a kangaroo, which had been painted green and was wearing a set of wings.

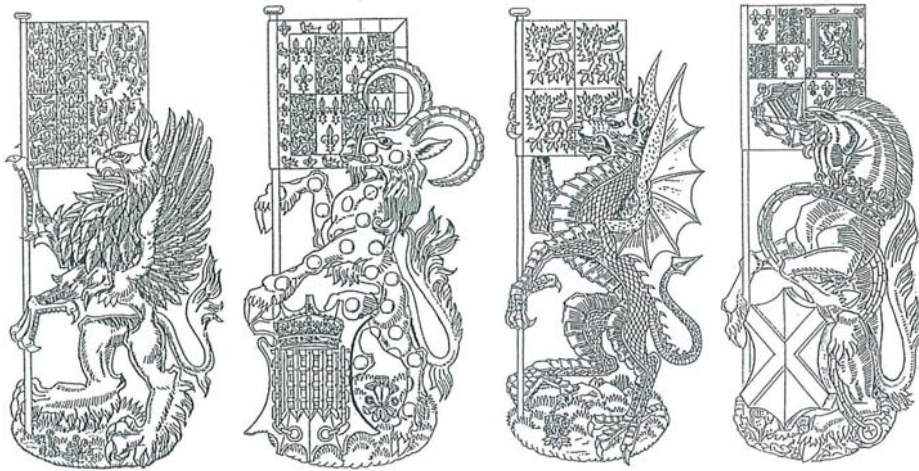
Unicorn

Even the delicate unicorn has a more down to earth explanation. Collectors’ prized unicorn horns may have come from narwhals, whose single tusks can grow to nearly three metres long. The Arabian oryx, a type of antelope, might also be responsible for the stories. They have two pointed horns, but when viewed side on there appears to be just one.

Compiled by Anne Miller & John Mitchinson

DAN ESCOTT’S ROYAL BEASTS

Dan Escott was one of our most talented heraldic artists, and he drew a set of fourteen Royal Beasts, of which four were fabulous, shown here below.



JOURNAL SCAN

Tak Tent No 55, Spring 2012, has the customary Unicorns, these from Dumfries, plus a few Griffins in the arms of the Earl of Aylesford one of which has escaped into the shield of the Metropolitan Borough of Solihull, but most noteworthy is an unusual Griffin (*right*) holding the arms of Trujillo on a carved and painted panel at roof level on a municipal building in the town of Salaverry in Peru. Trujillo is the provincial capital and also the name of the Province.



A SEAL FOR THE WELSH ASSEMBLY



Tony Jones has sent a picture of the new seal , the first for a Welsh Senedd since the Great Seal of Owain Glyndwr, Prince of Wales , 1404, adding “it is a magnificent design, the Welsh dragon being particularly impressive,” with which I must certainly agree. The upper part contains the Royal Great Seal with the inscription (translated) reading:- “Elizabeth II by the Grace of God Queen of Great Britain and our other territories Head of the Commonwealth Defender of the Faith.” The lower part contains the arms of the said Prince of Wales with the Dragon on its grassy mound backing them up.

A WICKED DRAGON



Jack Campbell-Kease sent a picture from *The Getty Apocalypse* which included this seven-headed Dragon, as described in the Revelation of St John the Divine. It occurred to me that since this Dragon is supposed to represent all that is evil in the human heart, the seven heads may be intended to stand for the Seven Deadly Sins. For those who find it difficult to remember the seven, I recommend pairing them off with the seven planetary gods of the Romans, with their almost human weaknesses. Thus Apollo, the Sun, is Pride, Selene the Moon is Envy, Mars is Anger, Jupiter is Gluttony, Mercury is Covetousness, Venus is Lust and Saturn Sloth. As pagan gods, they were not favoured by the early Church, and though they may have had their good sides, the seven Virtues were characterised by good Christians, but I can never remember what they are.

A MYTHICAL MENAGERIE

The Quite Interesting column in the Saturday Weekend section of the *Daily Telegraph* of 12 May 2012 dealt with our subject from a somewhat sceptical point of view, but is nevertheless worth quoting at length. It starts with a Tibetan proverb – *A wise man never plays leapfrog with a unicorn.*

Merman

One of the earliest recorded mermaids was male. The Babylonian deity Oannes was portrayed as part-human, part-fish. He rose from the Persian Sea each morning to teach and disappeared into the waves as the sun set. According to the Babylonian writer Berossus (third century BC), Oannes imparted to humans “knowledge of letters, arts, and sciences; he taught them to build towers and temples; and to establish laws; he instructed them in the principles of geometry; taught them to sow, and to gather the fruits of the earth; in short, whatever could contribute to polish and civilise their manners.”

Mercow

The description of pretty mermaids frolicking in the water is so widespread that it was thought there must be a real creature lurking behind the legends. In 1493, Christopher Columbus spotted three mermaids which he described as being “not as pretty as they are depicted.” It is now thought he was actually looking at manatees.

“Manatee” comes via Spanish from a Carib word meaning “breast,” while the closely related dugong takes its name from the Malay “duyung” meaning “lady of the sea.”

Known as sea cows (*right*), these creatures are actually relatives of the elephant; and like elephants, have two teats under their forelimbs. This breast-like arrangement perhaps contributed to the sailors’ confusion.

Sirens

The scientific name for the sea cow family is “sirenia,” but the sirens Homer portrays in the *Odyssey* weren’t mermaids either. Earlier depictions presented them as part-women, part-bird. Nevertheless they have lent their names to many languages: a mermaid is *une sirene* in French and *una sirena* in Italian and Spanish. In German, it’s the rather more functional *eine Meerjungfrau*.

Greek fossils

Greek mythology is overflowing with mysterious creatures. It has been suggested that the myths were aided by the Mediterranean basin’s abundance of fossils and bones from extinct dinosaurs and mega-mammals. As these clearly didn’t belong to any creature around at the time, it gave fire to the imagination.

The terrifying Cyclops may originally have been an elephant, as the remains of the Pleistocene dwarf elephant would have shown a large nasal cavity in the middle of the skull. Similarly, the monster of Troy – one of the first Greek monsters to be pictured - might have been inspired by the skull of a giant Miocene giraffe.

Composite beasts

Composite animals abound in mythology: the Egyptian Amum (body of a lion, head of a crocodile, rear legs of a hippo); snake-haired gorgons, sphinxes, griffins and centaurs. When first discovered, the platypus’s strange combination of beaver-like body and duck’s bill meant it was examined closely for the stitches of a conniving taxidermist. It took 30 years for it to be accepted as a mammal – the lack of nipples made it difficult to locate the mammary glands under its stomach fur.

But it wasn’t until 1884 that the real bombshell fell. A Scottish embryologist called W H Caldwell finally uncovered a platypus nest and revealed the astonishing news that here was a mammal that laid eggs (the Aborigines had been saying this for years, but no one listened). Along with the echidna, it is the only mammal able to make its own custard.

Bad kangaroo

Kangaroos were also initially dismissed as a prank (try describing the tall, jumping, occasionally two-headed creature to someone who has never seen one). In the United States there is the tale of the Jersey Devil, where a woman supposedly gave birth to a

