



A Thunderbird in West Coast First Nations style
on the badge of the Canadian Forces Military Police Branch

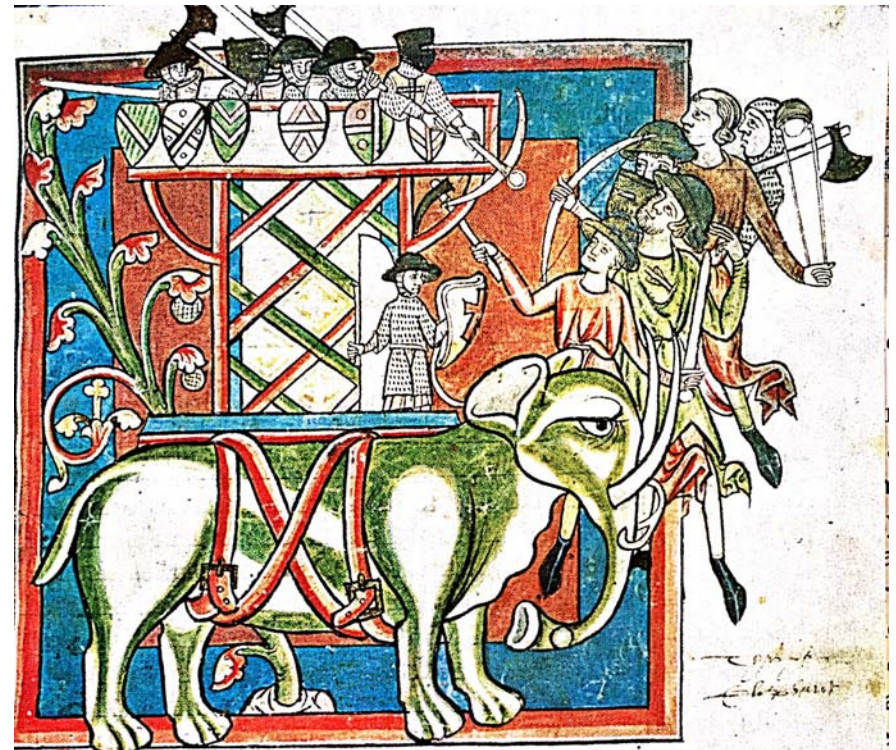
Issued 29 Sept 2014 by Ralph Brocklebank, Orland, Church Avenue, Clent, Stourbridge DY9 9QS
Website:- www.dragonlore.co.uk E-mail:- ralph@dragonlore.co.uk

Dragonlore

The Journal of The College of Dracology

No.162

Michaelmas 2014



Est animal quod dicitur elephans in quo non est con-
cipiscencia cornu. Elephante greci a magnitudine
corporis uocatus putant. quod forma moris pferat. Grece
enim mons elephio dicitur. Apud indos autem a uoce barro uo-

From a Twelfth-century English Bestiary written in Latin



The College of Dracology for the Study of Fabulous Beasts



Sadly we record the death of Mary Barnsley at the age of 94, one of our long-term supporters. Her children were at the same school as ours in Stourbridge.

This issue is entirely filled with items sent in by our members. Please continue doing so, but (threat) if I have not heard from you for some time, I may have to consider dropping you from our mailing list (though there is always a complete set of issues on our website).

The feast of Saint Michael and all Angels on 29 September is one we have seldom missed. The Saint's chief representative on earth is Saint George, and the picture opposite shows a reliquary, perhaps the most sumptuous ever made, holding a relic of the saint, who was the patron of the Wittelsbach dynasty of Bavaria. Made about 1586-97, it is set with diamonds, rubies, emeralds, pearls and other precious stones, and is about twenty inches high. The famous dynastic arms adorn the front of the casket, with two lion supporters. Note the curious supine multi-mammary dragon about to be slain by the mounted Saint George. This masterpiece of the goldsmith's art was given to the Duke of Bavaria, Wilhelm V, by his brother Ernst, the Archbishop of Cologne, and is now kept in the treasure house in Munich.

This picture is taken from *The Princely Courts of Europe*, edited by John Adamson (London, 1999), which was a gift from **Jeremy Jacques** via **Dan Dyoss**; thanks to both.

The picture on the cover is from a British Library card sent as birthday greetings from **Mary Rose Rogers**. The original in the bestiary is about nine inches wide, and if you can read the Latin text, I am sorry that we have cut the last four lines. The case for the Elephant being a fabulous beast was argued by **Cecil Humphery-Smith** in our No 50, which showed this same picture, but much smaller and in black and white. Cecil maintained that it was the beast shown in bestiaries, and not the natural elephant, that was fabulous, a view shared by my daughter who looked at this one and said, "It has the body and tail of an ox, the feet of a lion and quite the wrong ears, so it is obviously not a proper elephant but a fabulous hybrid." So we are right to include it here!

FEEDBACK (1)– The Dragon jigsaw puzzle shown in No 157, page 5, was a birthday present from **Roger Seabury** and was a joy to complete, with a little help from my children. The laser-cut wooden pieces were quite unlike any I had done before, and fitted together with remarkable precision.

The Norfolk Standard September 2014 has this engaging picture (*right*) of a Griffin made from folded linen napkins by Joan Sallas, a Catalan artist. There is also a Lion.

Flagmaster 151 September 2014 has five double-headed Eagles on flags made for the separatist parts of Ukraine, one for Russian Nationalists and one each for Donetsk, Kharkov, Odessa and Lugansk, each with the arms of said cities on the Eagle's breast.

The Heraldry Gazette No 133 September 2014 has six Dragons, four Unicorns, three Sea Lions, two winged Lions, two double-headed Eagles, a pair of Raven-Bears, a Chinese Phoenix and another curious Canadian compound with a Wolf's head, avian back feet and front limbs like flippers. Some of these are very small, but the best of the bunch is this Dragon beset by a Bear in the arms of Yuri Rosich painted by Maxim Chernikov, from Russia (*right*).

Tak Tent No 64 Summer 2014 (came in September) has that rarity, a double lion headed Eagle in the arms of Anthony Lombard, delightfully painted by Yvonne Holton, besides a couple of royal Unicorn supporters and one of a Griffin.

Gonfanon Vol 25 No 3 Fall 2014 (September) has a winged Sea-Lion as crest on the arms of the late Randolph Gherson (granted Ottawa 1997 and London 1998).



JOURNAL SCAN

Heraldry in Canada Vol 48 No 1-2 Year 2014 which incorporates **Gonfanon Vol 25 No 2 Summer 2014** (came in July, and how I wish they would adopt serial numbering!) has a fine Thunderbird from the West Coast First Nations (*see back page*), a Mermaid supporting the arms of Lord Stirling, the weird “Friggin” supporters on the arms of Lord Black of Crossharbour (counter-griffins with lion’s head and forelimbs and eagle’s wings, legs and tail – *see Nos 47 & 97*), and a neat little demi-dragon crest on the arms of David Birtwistle.

The New Zealand ARMORIST No 131 Winter 2014 (July) has some unusual birds – emu, chough and bustard – but nothing strictly fabulous. The serial numbering is good, but it would be better to name the month of issue rather than the ambiguous season.

The Somerset Dragon No 28 August 2014 has their new emblem (*right*), to distinguish them from the County Council, and, for the sharp-eyed, a dragon and a couple of dragon heads on the Sainthill book-plate.

The White Lion Society Newsletter No 62 August 2014 has a couple of tiny Griffins in a display of arms of Bristol Mayors, and in one of Roland Symons’ stunning pages, this time of all the armigerous Bishops of Bristol, three Griffins’ heads for Robert Skinner (1637-1641), three Pelicans in their Piety for the Hon George Pelham (1803-07) and six Martlets for Joseph Allen (1834-36).

The Midland Ancestor Vol 17 No 15 September 2014 has on the cover a photograph by Deryn Hawkes, the Editor, of the elaborately decorated Market Cross at Dudley. A pair of heraldic Dolphins on either side are no longer spouting water into the troughs, while the two Sea Horses on the top seem rather out of place in a Midlands town, but the whole effect is most impressive, more of a monument than a practical fountain.

The Heraldic Craftsman No 86 September 2014 has a blue Griffin and a black Unicorn amid samples of the work of Neil Bromley, the entwined Dragons on a Tewkesbury banner that we saw in No 129, a golden Unicorn crest in work by Susi Galloway-Newell, a winged Triton and an Heraldic Tyger crests, each with their full arms, that were in recent issues of Dragonlore, and the white Dragon supporting the arms of the Milk Marketing Board.



The Reliquary of Saint George

(2) **Nicholas Williams** writes:- “In Dragonlore 160, page 3, you say ‘A hurt is a blue roundel, said to represent a bruise.’ The word ‘hurt’ has, I think, nothing to do with injuries or bruises. ‘Hurt’ is a dialect word, still used in parts of Ireland, and presumably elsewhere, meaning ‘bilberry’; *hortan* ‘bilberries’ is attested in Old English. A variant of *hurt* is *whort*, with which one should compare *whortleberry*, another name for the bilberry. Bilberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*) is a small round dark blue ericaceous berry, and it seems that the heraldic word ‘hurt’ refers to it. A variant of the name *whortleberry* is *huckleberry*, which was taken by the colonists to America and applied to a related plant *Gaylussacia baccata*.” *If the horned wolf had been scrounging in the undergrowth, it might well have come up with whortleberries sticking to its fur.*

(3) **Jan Keuzenkamp** writes to correct an error in No 161, page 2: “Tiefenbach is a former municipality in Hesse; nowadays a part of the town of Braunfels. Hesse has always been a state of Western Germany. The symbol on the mountain is not the communist emblem. That is a hammer with a sickle (and a five-pointed star). The emblem on the coat of arms of Tiefenbach is a so-called miner’s symbol or miner’s badge. It consists of a sledge hammer and a knapping hammer in saltire. You will find this symbol very often in Germany and Austria. In Hesse there was in former days much mining industry (especially coal and salt). Nowadays most mining works are closed.”

Many thanks to Jan for putting right our ignorance. Perhaps the dragon is looking rueful foreseeing the loss of the mining industries

(4) **Baz Manning** points out that, if the painting of the Bennett crest in No 161, page 8, is correct, then the blazon should have the word ‘proper’ after the phrase ‘Triton affronty’ – otherwise he should be gold like his crown. *Dear me, I have not been eagle-eyed. This one I should have spotted; the others were due to ignorance and relying on suspect sources. Actually I had painted the Triton’s body tenné on the approval sketch, that is to say, well tanned, and that does look a bit like gold, but I had indeed missed out the word ‘proper’ from the proposed blazon.*

ORKNEY ODDITIES

Stephen Clackson (see No 53) sent this picture and wrote:-

“This is a photograph of a felt panel hanging at Sanday Community School in Orkney. It depicts characters from Orkney folklore collected on Sanday by local folklorist Walter Traill Dennison in the nineteenth century.

“At the top is the Muckle Mester Stoorworm [see also No 129] flanked by fin-folk. Beneath him is the Catwitch of Collinness, and below her is the Nuckelavee and two of the Catwitch’s cats.



“Masterminded by the late Christina Sargent under the auspices of the St Magnus Festival, this panel was designed and made in the late 1990s by pupils of Sanday School to hang on a yurt frame, along with similar panels from other Orkney schools, cleverly combining the themes of Orkney folklore and Kyrgyzstani culture.”

Our thanks to Stephen, who now lives on Sanday, the most northerly of the Orkney islands and is a keen supporter of dragonlore (and *Dragonlore!*). He also sent a card showing his arms (see next issue) and the suggestion that there should be an updated Directory of Dracologists, listing Members of the College of Dracology. ***Please would any who do not want their names to appear in such a list let me know as soon as they can.***

A SYMBOLIC SEA WOLF ETC

This is the crest of the Maritime Heritage Foundation, which was founded by its current Chairman, Lord Lingfield, who writes:-

“The Foundation was established to recover the wreck of HMS VICTORY (the one before Nelson’s) which was wrecked in 1744, as the flagship of Admiral Sir John Balchin, a kinsman, who went down in her with some 1200 other. The wreck was discovered some 60 miles off Alderney, in the Channel, by Odyssey Marine Exploration Inc in 2008. We hope to start archeological work this year, the chairman of our Advisory Committee is the redoubtable Dr Margaret Rule, chief archeologist of the Mary-Rose.

“Ever kind regards, BOB”

The drawing is by Henrietta Webb, and the Agent was Robert Noel. Our thanks go to Bob, and we wish him every success in this endeavour.



Hugh Antrobus sent this picture (above) of a dragon he found in the old fort at Kris that guards the pass inland from Split on the Dalmatian coast, while in Croatia.