



Jim Winstanley sent his painting (above) of the one-off creature that we saw in No 31. Nobody seems to know the origin or meaning of its strange name, Calygreyhound, but John de Vere, 12th Earl of Oxford, must have been very pleased to have it all to himself

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St Wulstan's Day 2015



A Youthful Wyvern

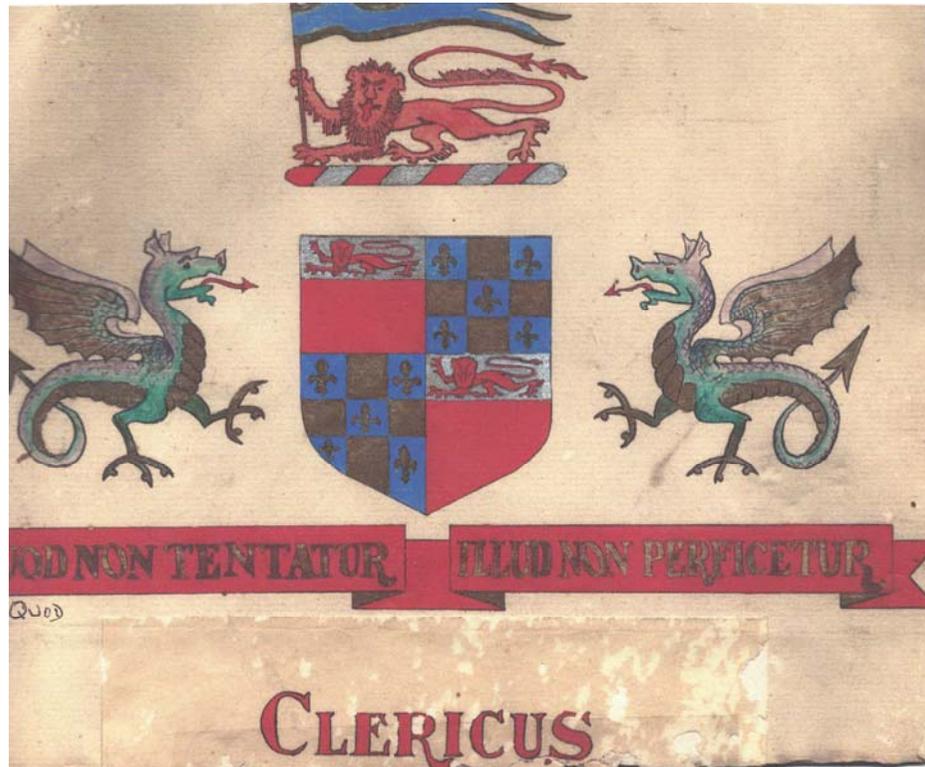


The College of Dracology for the Study of Fabulous Beasts



Saint Wulstan, who is celebrated on 19th January, was first noted in our pages in No 56 in 2005 and again in No 143 in 2013, and there is little more to say about him, except that he is our main local (Worcestershire) saint, and that his feast day this year is also the day of the Annual Meetings of both the White Lion Society (*see No 56*) and also the Thames Traditional Rowing Association (*see No 163*). Alas, I cannot attend either of them.

The Wyvern on the cover was one I drew while I was still at school. Being greatly taken with heraldry, I designed arms for most of my classmates, and last month I heard from one of them, Eric Clarke, that he had opened a suitcase that had not been used for some time and found this document (*below*) which dated from our schooldays. You will see that I had assumed that his father was armigerous and had married an heraldic heiress who was French, and that I was unfamiliar with the



JOURNAL SCAN

Flagmaster 152, December 2014 has a tiny Welsh Dragon in a new two-legged form on the marker for the Welsh team at the XX Commonwealth Games held in Glasgow.

Heraldry in Canada Vol 48 No 3-4, Year 2014 incorporating **Gonfanon Vol 25 No 4, Winter 2014** (serial numbering is so much less fussy) reproduced this cartoon marking the Scottish independence referendum (*right*), saying, "Where's the Irish Elk?"



The Somerset Dragon No 29, December 2014 has a few Rutherford Martlets, the spotted Demi-Unicorn crest for Leadbetter and a rather pretty Dragon-infested bookplate for Thomas Lascelles Kirk (*right*).



The Heraldry Gazette 134 December 2014 (came January 2015), apart from the Society's own black Unicorn supporters, has the ermine-spotted Unicorn supporters of the Earl of Stamford on a pendant jewel.

The Coat of Arms 228, Autumn 2014 (came January 2015) has the arms of St Leger with its Ormogriff (or Keythong) supporter that we saw in No 36, and a fine red two-headed Eagle in the arms of William Speke of Jordans, Ilminster in Somerset (*right*).



The Heraldic Craftsman 87, January 2015 features the arms of Moran with its Sea Stag (*left*) which appears in several guises, and also includes the Imperial Russian coat of arms with its provincial arms displayed showing several fabulous beasts (though very small) and the splendid Finnish Gripenberg bookplate with its Griffins (*right above*).



SOME SCOTTISH STONEWORK

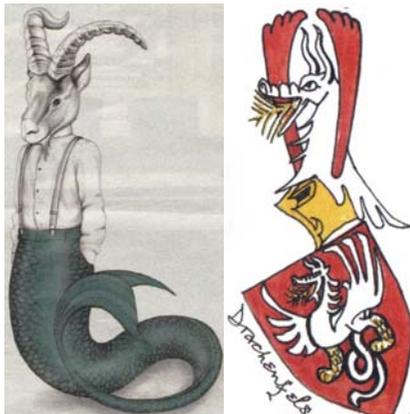
Leslie Hodgson has been on the prowl round Edinburgh, keeping his eyes open for monsters, and has sent in pictures of a few, including a couple from the Scottish National Portrait Gallery (*left below*) and one from a memorial in Dean Cemetery (*right*).



ODDMENTS

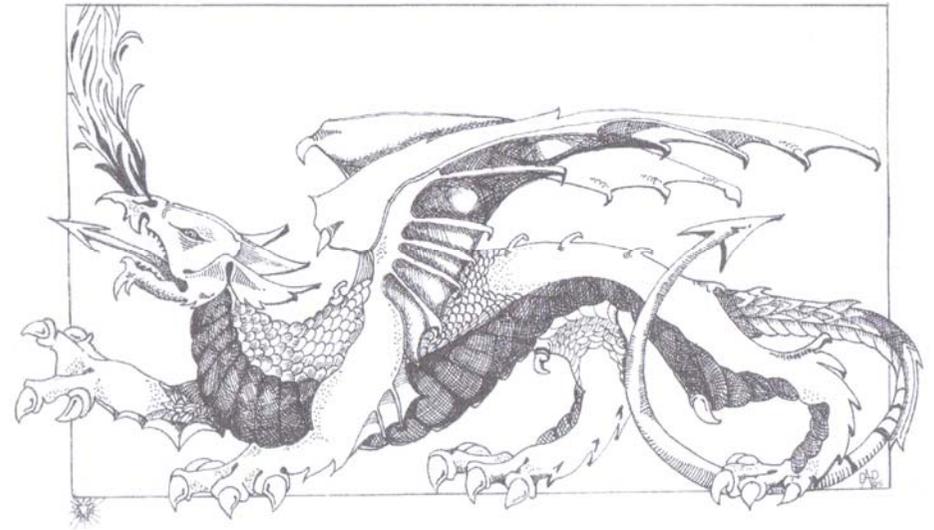
The *Daily Telegraph's* take on Capricorn, Dec 22-Jan 20 (*right*) drawn by Lauren Mortimer.

A detail from **Peter Greenhill's** *'Heraldic Sketchbook'* (*far right*).



convention regarding wreaths; also that supporters are supposed to hold the shield, these as depicted being merely accompanying figures or companions. However, my Latin seems to have been up to scratch, the motto translating as “What is not attempted is not achieved.” So much for a bit of schoolboy fun. Eric, whose mother was indeed French, was fluent in the language and spoke so much he carried me through our Oral exam for matric (as we called it in those days) though I had scarcely uttered more than the odd “Oui” or “Non.” Later he went on to have a successful jewelry business, but is now retired like the rest of us still left from that class – getting fewer year by year. Of the seven who started the College of Dracology, I am the only one still going, along with six others, all non-dracologists.

A DRAGON DRAWING



David Perks SHA drew this elegant monster especially for us – a nice bit of work.

Dave is a professional heraldic artist and signwriter who has often contributed to our pages. He has his distinct style, and there is a story about this. John Ferguson, one of our most distinguished heraldic artists, had drawn arms for a client who then wanted a version of it on a wooden plaque. John does not do wood and asked Dave to undertake this task. Dave asked John, “Does your client want the lion exactly like yours?” John replied, “ Oh! No! Give him a Perks lion.”

LONGLEAT LANTERNS

In the woods bordering the famous safari park where we used to play as children (Longleat is next door to Longbridge Deverill and was once in that parish) there appeared over the holidays innumerable Chinese lanterns in a variety of shapes, some of which were in the form of Dragons, as illustrated here (from the *Daily Mail*, 15 January 2015).

Part of the Longleat estate is now taken up by one of the Center Parcs holiday campsites, so many of the spaces where we wondered free as children are now fenced off for the greater delight of their customers.

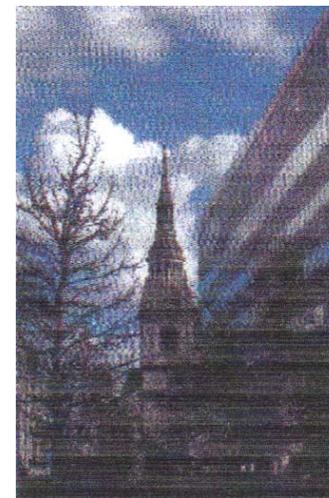
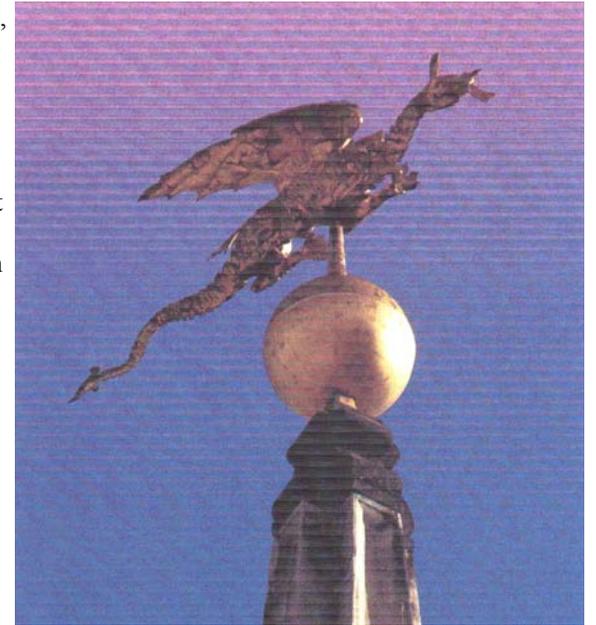


A GOLDEN WEATHERVANE

Iain Boyd found a copy of *Counrty Life*, 2 April 2014, with these photographs by Paul Barker and text by John Goodall, which he promptly sent in to us – thank you, Iain.

“PRESIDING over Cheapside, the principle east-west thoroughfare of the historic City of London, is this astonishing dragon. It’s 9ft long and was made in 1679 during the reconstruction of St Mary-le-Bow by Christopher Wren. Prior to the completion of St Paul’s, the spire it surmounts was the highest landmark in the City, so the dragon, a symbol of London, with the arms of the City – a red cross – beneath its wings made for a fitting weathervane.

According to the building accounts, Edward Pearce, mason, made an outline



dragon to determine the scale of the final sculpture and then a full-scale wooden model of it. This was realised in copper gilt with a ball by the coppersmith Robert Bird for the substantial cost of £60.

London formerly possessed many emblematic signposts. By virtue of its exceptional size, however, the dragon became popularly paired with the commensurate golden grasshopper over the Royal Exchange. The two were even cast as interlocutors in *A Dialogue Between Bow-Steeple Dragon and the Exchange Grasshopper* (1698). In this imaginary debate, the dragon upholds the virtues of the Church of England in the face of the grasshopper’s dissenting sympathies. The dragon wins, but the grasshopper neatly returns his reproaches with: ‘Why so Disturb’d, so Scornful and so High? / You’re but a Weathercock as well as I.’”

The Church of St Mary-le-Bow, London