

MILITARY MONSTERS



Tony Kelly, whose business makes buttons and other insignia, sent this picture of a Welsh Guardsman holding a company standard pennant decorated with Welsh Dragons.

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Dragonlore

The Journal of The College of Dracology

No.167 St Valentine's Day 2015



Griffin painted by Clare McCrory



The College of Dracology for the Study of Fabulous Beasts



If any reader who views *Dragonlore* on the website would like to be reminded when new ones are issued, please send in your e-mail address and this could be arranged.

We have had two earlier issues on St Valentine's Day, without even mentioning the date, presumably because it was thought that every body knew it, nor giving any information about Valentine himself. The date, 14th February, has become a favourite target for florists, confectioners and publishers of romantic and sentimental greeting cards, but what do we know about the saint?

Following is the entry from *Saints* by Tessa Clark, Elizabeth Hallam and Cecilia Walters (London 1994), Chapter One, States of Life – LOVE:-

VALENTINE (third century)

The patron saint of love has been identified with two early Christians: a priest martyred in Rome in c. 269 and buried on the Flaminian way north of the city, and a bishop of Terni, in Umbria, who was also executed in Rome. Although ecclesiastical authorities in the seventeenth century asserted that they were the same person, some modern experts believe the priest-martyr to be the real Valentine.

The reasons for his association with lovers are also disputed. One possibility is that it derives from the centuries-old belief that birds choose their mates on 14 February, the saint's feast day; another, that it is a survival from the Roman festival of *Lucerpalia* held in mid-February to secure fertility and keep evil away.

What is certain is that troubled lovers have invoked him since medieval times, and that the custom of sending a Valentine Day's card to a chosen partner, first commercialized in the United States in the 1840s, has grown into a major industry.

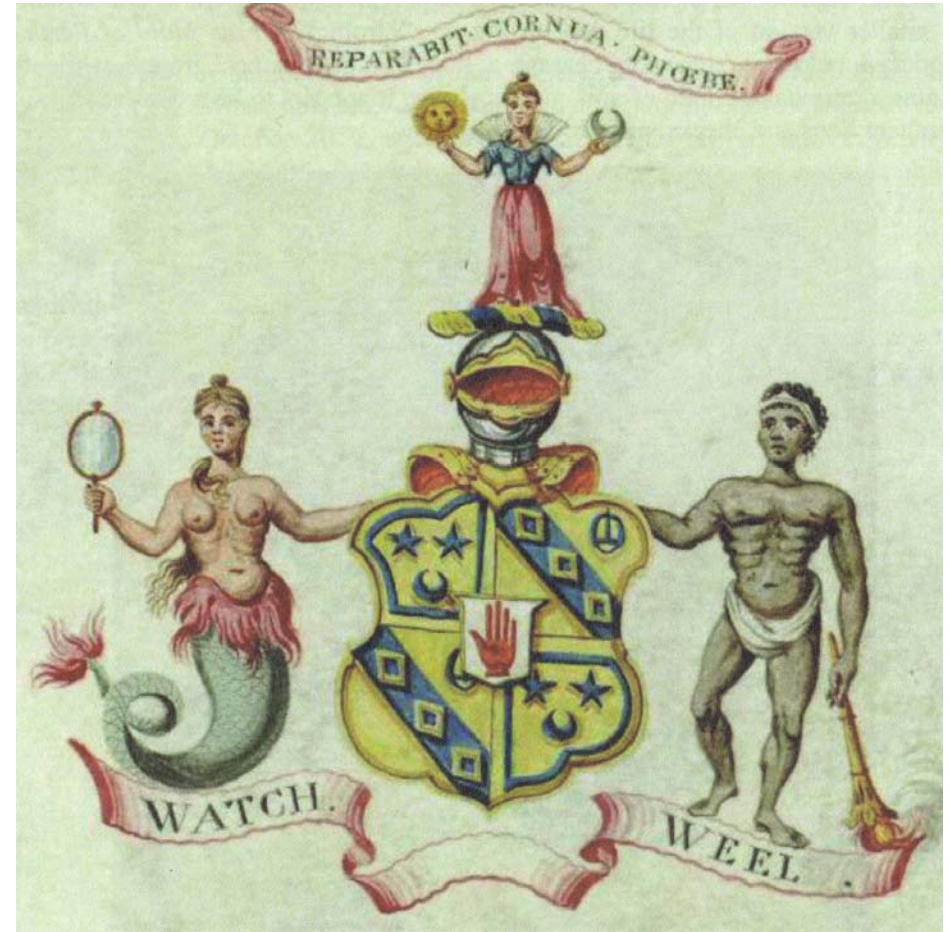
Third century, identity disputed. FEAST DAY: 14 February.

The accompanying illustration is too charming to omit (right), captioned: Valentine is shown with the birds associated with his feast day; the roses are symbols of love.



JOURNAL SCAN

The New Zealand Armorer 133, Summer 2014-2015 (came in January) has a splendid Mermaid supporting the arms of Sir Walter Scott, all in colour (*below*).



The Norfolk Standard Vol 4, part 4, January 2015 (came in February) has a couple of Heraldic Antelopes each supporting the arms of Manchester City Council, but rather distorted as they are seen on an example of a Goss cup and saucer, illustrating an article on Collecting Goss China by Penelope Knee.

The White Lion Society Newsletter 64 February 2015 has Roland Symons' Dolphin crest with his arms and standard from his Letters Patent in full colour on the front page.

the Golden Fleece from the onslaught of Jason (the Greek word for “dragon” also meant “serpent”). The Bakunawa is a Japanese spirit monster that I had not heard of before, but both Rose and Cherry list the Baku as a creature that lives by eating people’s dreams so if they have had a nightmare it does them a good turn. Knowing the Japanese way of building up words, this monster is evidently a special kind of Baku. The Chinese Dragons are well represented in their serpentine form, but seem to have lost their pearls. St George’s Dragon is a lot larger than earlier artists showed, for example, Raphael and Uccello, but the Welsh Dragon seems just about right.

POSING PANTHEON



Bernard Juby sent this picture for the sake of the rare Pantheon in the crest, but the whole coat of arms is so delightful I could not resist showing it all. For full details see <http://bit.ly/1v03H2r> (if you have the necessary facilities).

The picture on the cover is from an original painting in gouache and watercolour by Clare M. McCrory SDAD, Heraldic Artist and Calligrapher, one of a series of ten such cards with Lion, Dolphin, Unicorn, Eagle and Seahorse besides the Griffin (*see samples below*). She also painted the ensigns armorial of Dr Stephen Clackson that we showed in No 163, page 8, with its *Drachentaube*, and the Green Dragon on the cover of No 149.

Her cards are available, singly or in sets; please contact Clare at 1f2 9 Rossie Place, Edinburgh EH7 5SF, or at claremccrory@tiscali.co for the details.



TUDOR TRIUMPHALISM

Alan Fennely sent this card, an early representation of Henry Tudor’s victory over Richard III at Bosworth, retelling the tradition of Richard’s crown being found in a hawthorn bush. The white greyhound represents Henry’s title of Earl of Richmond, while the Cadwallader Dragon represents his Welsh ancestry. The Dragon certainly looks very pleased with himself.



TWO MORE TUDOR MONSTERS



Ypotrill-Badge of Sir John Giptoft
Earl of Worcester.

Jim Winstanley SHA has sent some more of his original artwork. The Caretyne has been pressed into use fairly recently, on account of its name making a useful pun, but the Ypotrill seems to have been altogether too whimsical for anybody else to claim him. These and other Tudor inventions were discussed and illustrated with Peter Spurrier's drawings in No 31, and perhaps it is time we saw a bit more of them.

JERSEY JOLLIES



John Ferguson tipped me off that Jersey had issued a set of stamps with Dragons on, and my great-niece **Isabella Grainger**, who lives in Jersey, kindly acquired a set and brought them to me. The six Dragons are a good choice, spanning time and space, but one has a few reservations about the illustrations. Beowulf's Dragon would have been a huge serpent, as legs, wings and fire-breathing were not given to Dragons until the Middle Ages. The same would apply to the Greek Dragon at Colchis, guarding