

powder-horn indicates the Unit's role in storing war supplies. The motto means "Taking Care."

Tony Wood has taken exception to the drawing on the cover of No 74, saying that it is "badly drawn, crude and monotonous. Hard to identify arms quickly." In contrast, he offers this drawing by Gerald Cobb (*right*), which was used on the cover of *The Coat of Arms* from 1959 to 1969, and says it is "beautifully drawn, sensitive and interesting to look at. Easy to identify arms quickly." Each to his taste, as they say, but without disagreeing with Tony, one might note that one man's crude is another man's bold, while what it sensitive to some is too delicate for others. What



matters is fitness for purpose, and in any case, we were mainly interested in the unicorns rather than the artistic style. Here, for comparison (*on the left*), is the drawing of their arms currently being used by The Heraldry Society, drawn by Robert Parsons, if we have been informed correctly. (Melvyn Jeremiah was our source, and he should know.)

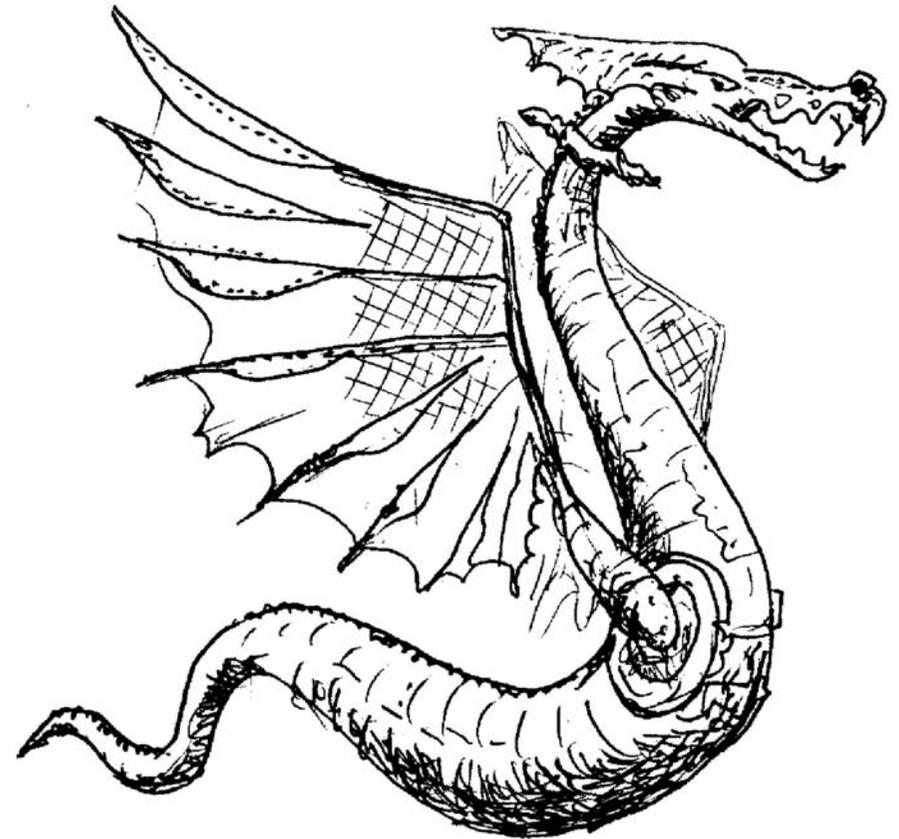
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A Metal Dragon in the Gardens of Hertford Castle



The College of Dracology for the Study of Fabulous Beasts

Sadly we record the death of Marian Miles, but gladly welcome new member Jack Dunn.

Born in 604 AD, the son of Ethelfrid of Bernicia, Oswald became King of Northumbria when his father was killed in battle, but had to flee to Iona to find sanctuary, and was there converted to Christianity. Regaining his throne by defeating the Welsh king Caedwall in 634, he brought missionaries from Iona, with the help of St Aidan, to convert his people, who by then covered most of the north of Britain from the Trent to the Forth. He founded the bishopric at Lindisfarne in 635, but in 642 he was slain in battle by the heathen Penda of Mercia at Oswestry (St Oswald's tree). His feast day is on 9th August (some say the 5th), and he is not to be confused with the later St Oswald who was made Bishop of Worcester in 961, Archbishop of York in 972, and died in 992.

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The picture on the cover is taken from a cutting sent in by David Hopkinson.

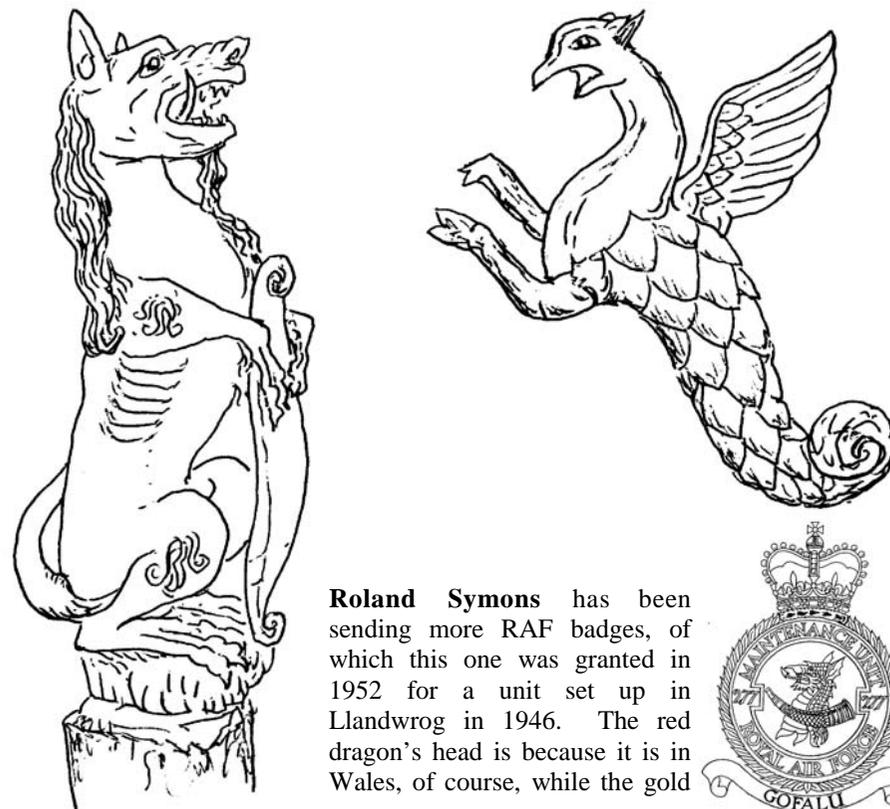
Our new member, Jack Dunn, says that his favourite poem is *The Sphinx*, by Oscar Wilde. This is a long imaginative lament in an unusual metre with a cunning rhyming scheme, introducing numerous fabulous beasts that the poet thought the eponymous Sphinx must have met, including Basilisks, Hippogriffs, Mandragores, the "two-formed bull" in the Labyrinth (that is, the Minotaur), Gryphons, "gilt-scaled dragons," Chimera, Leviathan, Behemoth, Satyrs and most of the animal- and bird-headed deities of Egypt. The one that intrigued Jack was "the ivory-horned Tragelaphos" which he thought might have been a type of Unicorn. Research (in the Oxford Dictionary) reveals that the word is a Greek compound of *tragos* (a he-goat) and *elaphos* (a deer), a name given by the ancient Greeks to the capriform antelope, but also a fabulous beast compounded of a goat and a stag. In modern zoology, the name in its Latinized form of *Tragelaphus*, is given to a whole genus of capriform antelopes including the bushbucks, the nyala and many others. Wilde was evidently well read in the classics and loved to show off his mastery of long and unusual words in an intricate pattern of rhyme. Nineteenth century zoologists were also good classicists and often used names from mythology to give to newly discovered species, but in this case they have used a name that was probably a real animal known to the Greeks.

FROM THE POSTBAG

Leslie Hodgson has sent some pictures of decorations painted on the ceiling of the Chapel of St Mary at Grantully which include some rather enchanting dolphins supporting the arms of France (*left, below*) and a saucy sea-eagle (*right*).

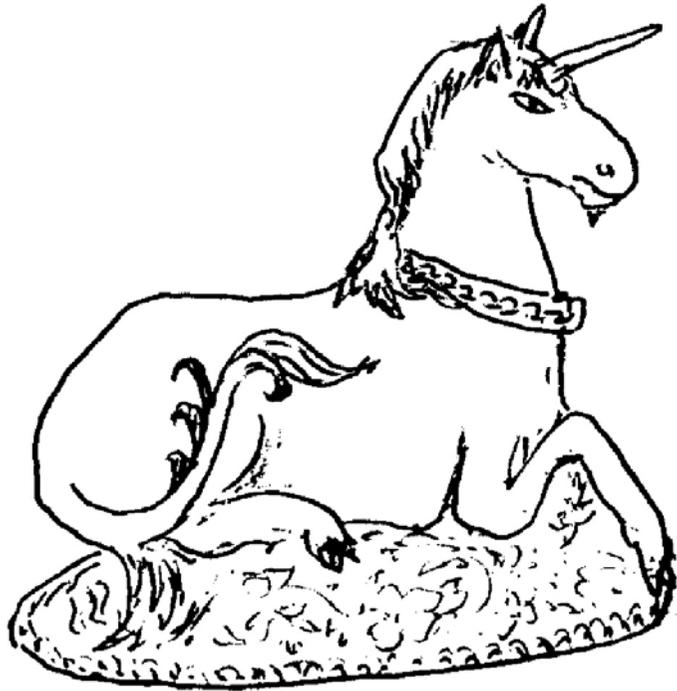


Roger Seabury took some pictures of carved monsters seen at Sand House, which we were visiting with the Somerset Heraldry Society. On the left is an unidentified beast (a Tyger?), and on the right one of a set of sea-eagles or perhaps sea-griffins.



Roland Symons has been sending more RAF badges, of which this one was granted in 1952 for a unit set up in Llandwrog in 1946. The red dragon's head is because it is in Wales, of course, while the gold

ANOTHER PRECIOUS PAPERWEIGHT



Royal Crown Derby have added a Mythical Unicorn to their Pegasus (see No 63). It is 6 ¾" long, costs £295 in a limited edition of 1750, exclusively from Govier's, and was designed by June Branscombe. Its horn is made of hallmarked sterling silver and is then gilt plated, the first time precious metal has been incorporated in one of their paperweights.

THE HOGWARTSIAN DINOSAUR

Here is a picture of the dinosaur named *Dracorex hogwartsia*, as mentioned in the last issue, and what *The Daily Mail* of 24 May had to say about it:-

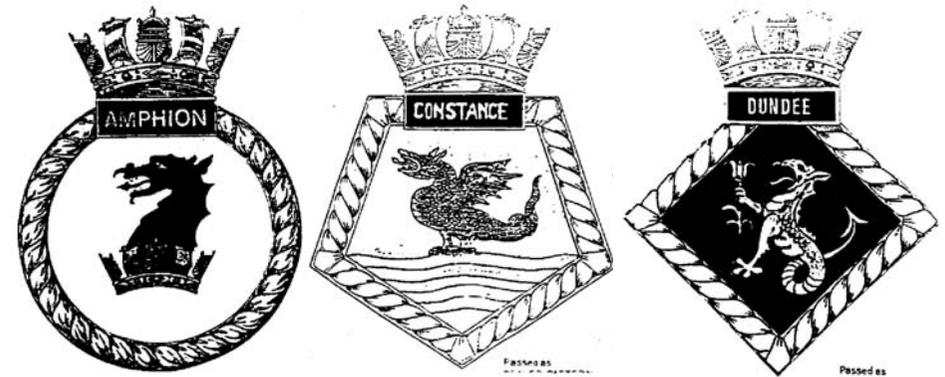
"The new species, which is 66 million years old, was determined when a nearly complete skull was found by three friends during a fossil collecting trip in the U.S. state of South Dakota.

"Dinosaur expert Dr Robert Bakker said *Hogwartsia* was a plant-eater and would have had 'an armoured head of almost magical configuration, covered with knobs and spikes, horns and crests.'"



SOME DRAGONS IN THE ROYAL NAVY

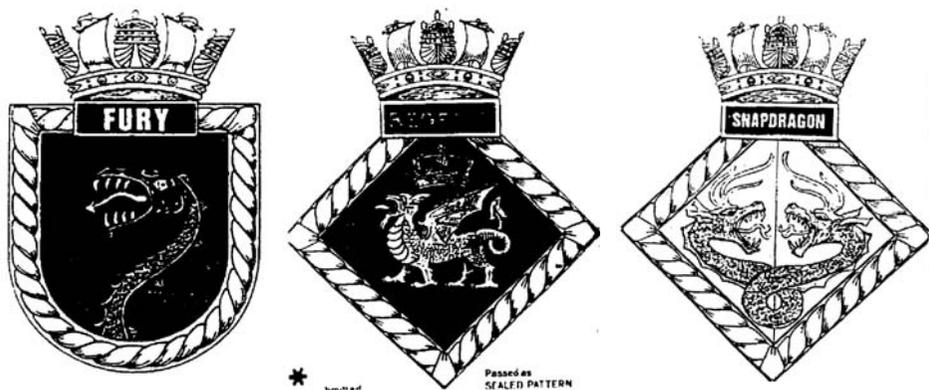
Charles John ffoulkes CB OBE OstJ HonDLittOxon FSA (1868-1947) was the first officially appointed Admiralty Adviser on Heraldry, which position he held from 1918 to 1935, producing around 500 approved designs. He had been a curator in the Tower of London Museum, but was commissioned as a Major in the Royal Marines in order to give him some official standing. We have already seen his design for HMS *Dragon* in No 23 (back page), a straight depiction of the name, which has now been replaced by a new drawing from Robert Parsons (see No 29 cover), but here are a few more of ffoulkes's efforts, taken from Derek Taylor's *Pictorial Index*.



HMS *Amphion*, the sixth of its name, was a Cruiser of 1933, passed to Australia in 1939, renamed HMAS *Perth* and sunk in 1942 in the Sunda Straits action. The seventh of the name was a submarine of 1945 which was eventually broken up in 1971. The green dragon's head with a red tongue and golden crown was taken from the arms of Admiral Sir Thomas Hardy (see No 74), who, as a Captain in 1803 commanded *Amphion* when Nelson took passage in her to Malta.

HMS *Constance*, a light cruiser of 1915, the 6th of the name, had its badge allotted in 1919, and was sold in 1936. The seventh was a destroyer of 1944, which was broken up in 1956. The red dragon over gold wavelets on a blue field was a Clifford family badge, as George Clifford, Earl of Cumberland, had commanded a fleet in 1598 that included a galleon *Constance*. This is another example of an indirect historical association from the name to the badge.

HMS *Dundee* was an escort sloop of 1931 which was sunk in the Atlantic in 1940, the only RN ship ever to have this name. The gold dragon holding a silver lily on a blue field was taken from an early seal held by the City of Dundee, a direct allusion.



HMS *Fury*, a destroyer of 1933, the 11th of its name, was mined in 1944, and being beyond repair, was then broken up. The black dragon's head with silver teeth and golden tongue, all on a red field, has a slightly oriental look, and this may be because in 1849 Commander James Wilcox in *Fury* defeated a fleet of over a hundred Chinese pirate junks near Hong Kong, for which service he was promoted to Post-Captain. This is therefore another indirect historical association.

HMS *Regent*, a submarine of 1929, was the third of its name, sunk in 1943 in the Mediterranean. Its red dragon and golden crown on a green field is a direct allusion to the Royal Badge of King Henry VII, whose 100-gun ship *Grace Dieu* was built in Chatham in 1488 and renamed *Regent* in 1489.

HMS *Snapdragon* was first, a Flower-class sloop of 1915 whose badge was allotted in 1919, and was sold in 1934, and secondly a Flower-class corvette of 1940, sunk in the Mediterranean in 1942. The badge, *per pale Azure and Vert* with gold dragon's heads with red tongues, is a simple play on the name of the flower, a direct allusion.

For an explanation of the logic of name choices, see No 8, page 3.

PRAIRIE CRITTERS PROLIFERATE

The latest *Prairie Tressure*, Vol. 4, No 1-2, Spring/Summer 2006 (Issue 7), has in it no fewer than twenty-seven critters submitted for their contest, besides a mermaid and a wyvern illustrating another article. These entries are for the most part incongruous hybrids with clever names (*muskquito*, *vermylion*, *quillou*) and amusing stories to back them up, giving details of their habits, environment and prospects. Although one would not expect any of them to appear in an official heraldic grant of arms, surprises can happen, and what appears to be a Friggin, from an earlier contest (see No 47), is seen in a pair of supporters with the arms granted to Conrad Black, Baron Black of



Crossharbour (*seen here*) though the wording of the actual blazon is not given. It is suggested that it may be related to the Babylonian monster Tiamat, also known as *anzu* or *imdugud* (see No 25, page 7) though it seems unlikely that this would have been the inspiration for the Black supporters, of which the dexter was Or and the sinister Sable. However that may be, the eventual winner of the contest was declared, after prolonged deliberation, to be the *Elkatrice*, submitted by Darren George himself, and said to be “a successful combination of a classic heraldic monster (the cockatrice) and an animal native to Canada (the elk).” This creature (*seen right*) could well feature in a modern grant of arms, though drawn in a more conventional style, since unlikely hybrids are now all the rage, even against the advice of Major Davies, as witness the Raven-Bear supporting the arms of the Canadian Heraldic Authority. The Critter Contest is being renewed for another year, and the criteria used by the various judges (of whom I was one) include: “heraldic suitability (i.e., whether or not the judge would want one on his coat of arms); creativity (the addition of wings, for example, was not considered to be sufficient to turn a standard heraldic critter into a new one); and charm. Connection to Canada (if not necessarily the prairies) was considered a strongly positive factor, as was having an interesting/amusing description or backstory.” Congratulations to Darren, and good luck to all new contestants.



Darren also sent a delightful picture of a Centaur filly, not an entry in the Critter Contest, but an illustration for the letter C from a child's alphabet colouring book, (*below*), written and illustrated by Jim Sorensen.



The South American Hippocondor and the North American Grizzly Owl, which featured in No 73, also appeared in the Critter Contest, so it is possible that the latest offering from Carl-Alexander von Volborth will also have a double entry. It is the **Swinehorn**, seen here, described as “dragon winged and camel tailed. Two old short-sighted ladies reported to the authorities that they had seen this monster landing on a meadow and disappearing in the woods. (The portrait was made according to their description.)” Our thanks to Alex, and apologies to Darren if we have anticipated him again. When my granddaughter saw this picture, she said, “That beast has a wicked grunt in his eye.”

