

resemblance is merely superficial, and that they and the European Unicorn do not share a common origin, nor do their legendary attainments have anything in common. There is therefore no need to retract the statement, though it might be worth emphasising the phrase, “as we know it.” Roy adds that he hopes his pedantry does not offend...he finds it most amusing. Such varied opinions ought certainly be made known and put before our readers. Further contributions will be welcomed.



Una Lewers sent a little picture, probably 14th century, illustrating the exploits of Sir Gawain, four of them all in the one scene. The foremost has him battling the Green Knight, as one would expect, but the next has him fighting a three-headed Dragon, one of which he has already severed, with combats against a lion and a black knight further into the distance. The Dragon is rather unusual, with four legs and quite long tapered wings, as well as his three necks (*left*). Another illustration of the same scene, this time from the border decoration in an English psalter from the 14th century, shows the Dragon with only two legs but more than three heads – two already cut off (*right*). The knight may be identified as Sir Gawain by his shield.



Jim McCready, who edited *The New Zealand Armorer* for many years, writes that he believes that the Kingsale arms shown in No 78, which were certainly taken from the pages of Burke’s Peerage, would have been the work of the artist Forbes-Nixon or else of Father Anselm Baker, and adds that “their illustrations for Foster’s Peerage of 1800 in a quirky pseudo-medieval style brought life back into heraldic art in England.” Jim also sent a picture of a monstrous multi-hybrid creature, of which more in a later issue.

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Dragonlore

The Journal of The College of Dracology

Number 82 St Ethelbert’s Day 2007



A Pegasus drawn by Andrew Jamieson



The College of Dracology for the Study of Fabulous Beasts

We welcome new members David Hubber and Jim McCready.

The Saxon Ethelbert, King of Kent from 560, whose wife Bertha, a granddaughter of King Chlodwig, was already a Christian, met Augustine of Canterbury on the Isle of Thanet in 597. He was converted to Christianity and encouraged his subjects and neighbours to do the same. He built a cathedral at Rochester and St Paul's in London. We may suspect that St Augustine did not so much convert pagans as persuade other Christians to accept the authority of Rome rather than that of the Celtic Church which preceded him in these islands. St Ethelbert died in 616; his name, originally Aethelbercht, is sometimes shortened to Albright or Albert, and his feast is celebrated on 24th February.

The picture on the cover is taken from Friar's *New Dictionary of Heraldry* (1987) where it accompanies this article by Margaret Young:-

Pegasus The beautiful flying horse of Greek mythology was captured by Bellerophon, the hero of Corinth, when it came down to drink from the spring at Pirene. The gods helped Bellerophon to tame and use the spirited Pegasus and, rising into the air on his winged steed, Bellerophon destroyed the monster, Chimera, with his bow and arrows. Later he incurred the wrath of the gods by attempting to fly to heaven on Pegasus. Zeus sent a gadfly to sting the horse, which cast off his rider and then flew to the stables of Zeus, whose thunder chariot he has drawn ever since.

At one time Mount Helicon began to rise, but Pegasus kicked it to stop it, and from the side of the mountain the waters of the fountain Hippocrene gushed forth.

Pegasus has become the symbol of fame, eloquence and contemplation, and thus is a worthy emblem to be used in heraldry. He was the badge of the Knights Templar, and is to be found in the arms of the Inner Temple. [See No 27] MY

Margaret does not mention that Pegasus sprang from the blood that flowed

picture of it, from a Carolingian manuscript of around 900 AD, which also gives an idea of its size. Is this what the Onchu looked like? Word reaches us from the Canadian Heraldic Authority that the delightfully dozy dragon drawn by Gordon Macpherson and shown in No 76, in spite of being a favourite with the Heralds, was rejected by the client, and so in fact was never granted. So the drawing remains unclaimed, should anybody else want something like it for themselves.

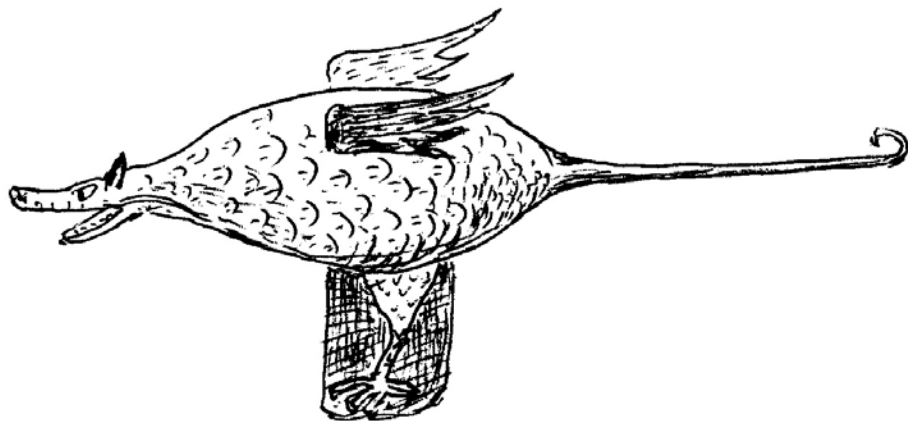
Further to the reports in Nos 80 and 81, more versions of the Opinicus may be seen in No 64, page 3, from a 19th century handbook of heraldry, as Mark Dennis's crest shown in No 46, page 4, and on the cover of No 50, drawn by Michael McCarthy as well as William Metzsig's version in No 36. It is clear that not everybody is agreed as to what they are really like. Perhaps we should have three or four distinct sub-species, namely, one with Eagle's head and wings, one with Dragon's head and wings, one with Eagle's head and Dragon's wings and one with Dragon's head and Eagle's wings, though all with Lion's body and legs. No doubt Kevin Greaves could supply suitable Latin zoonomials for each of them.

FROM THE POSTBAG

Stephen Friar has e-mailed some pictures of an enormous Dragon in the Jardin des Plantes in Paris, made entirely from re-cycled materials. He also sent a message to say that the Panther's head in Claire Boudreau's badge shown in No 78 is properly described as "jessant-de-lis," and though we did not have access to it at the time, this is exactly how it is blazoned in the grant.

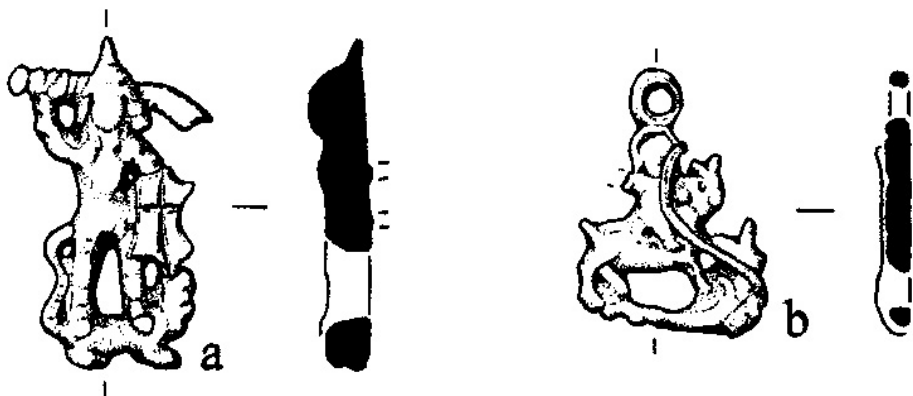
Roy Humphrey has sent some pictures of Chinese k'i-lin statues and a Persian painting of a karkadann (an ox with a single forward-curving horn - *next page*) in an effort to refute the statement in No 80 (page 2) that "the Unicorn, as we know it, is a purely European invention." Although these single-horned beasts are often referred to as "so-called" unicorns (see the piece on the Ch'i-lin, Ky-lin or Qi-lin in No 68), it is clear that the





made his head look very big. In the present picture he appears to have a dark blue body with golden scales and a red streak coming from his mouth and passing all along his body. It is a relic of the days when he was paraded around the City of Norwich on St George's Day along with the saint, and St Margaret too for good measure, until they were banned in 1558, leaving the dragon to show himself on his own. It is said that when the procession reached the Cathedral, everybody went inside except for Snap, who was not allowed in.

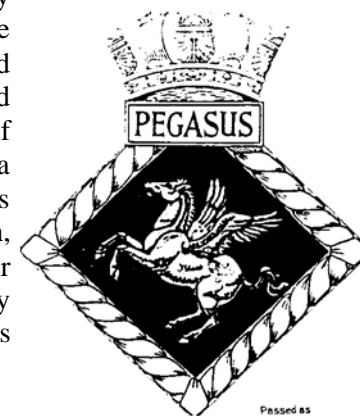
Also in this issue of the *Standard* there are pictures of two tiny silver gilt badges of St George and the Dragon that were dug up recently in a field in Long Stratton, each less than an inch high (*shown here enlarged about twice*).



FEEDBACK

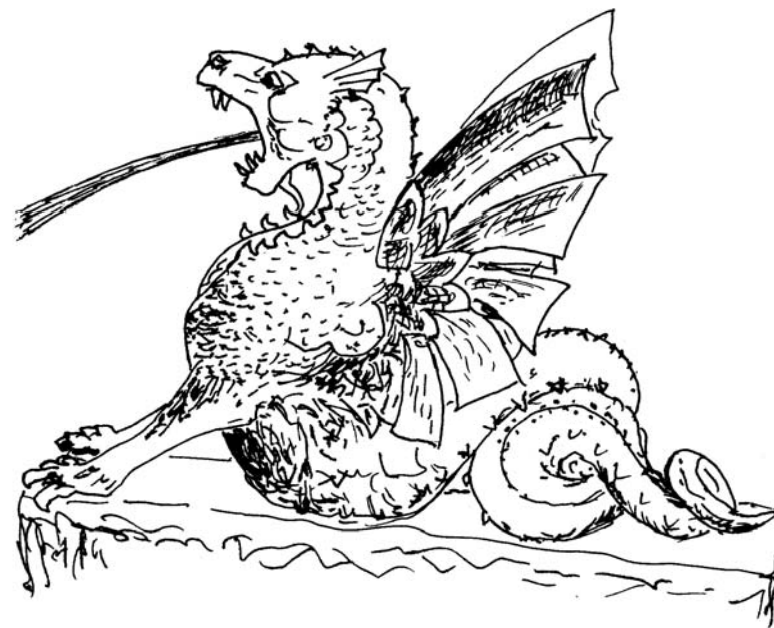
Further to the piece on the dog-headed fish in the last issue, here is another

from Medusa's neck when Perseus killed her. Medusa was pregnant by Poseidon at the time, so Pegasus had Poseidon as its father. "Hippocrene" actually means "horse spring" in Greek. We are indebted to Adrian Room's *Classical Dictionary* (1983) for this additional information. A winged horse has become a favourite symbol on military badges, most notably the shoulder patch of the British Airborne Forces in the Second World War (*see No 50*), which has Pegasus mounted by Bellerophon wielding a spear, and also, of course, the badge of HMS *PEGASUS* (*right*), a seaplane carrier of 1917 that was given its badge in 1920 and was sold in 1931, and then, from 1934 to 1946, the name given to another seaplane carrier, dating from 1914, formerly HMS *ARK ROYAL*, when that name was wanted for a brand-new Aircraft Carrier.



A Dragon in Barcelona

One of the pictures sent in by Leslie Hodgson was of this monumental fountain in the Citadel Park in Barcelona, spurting forth a stream of water from its mouth.

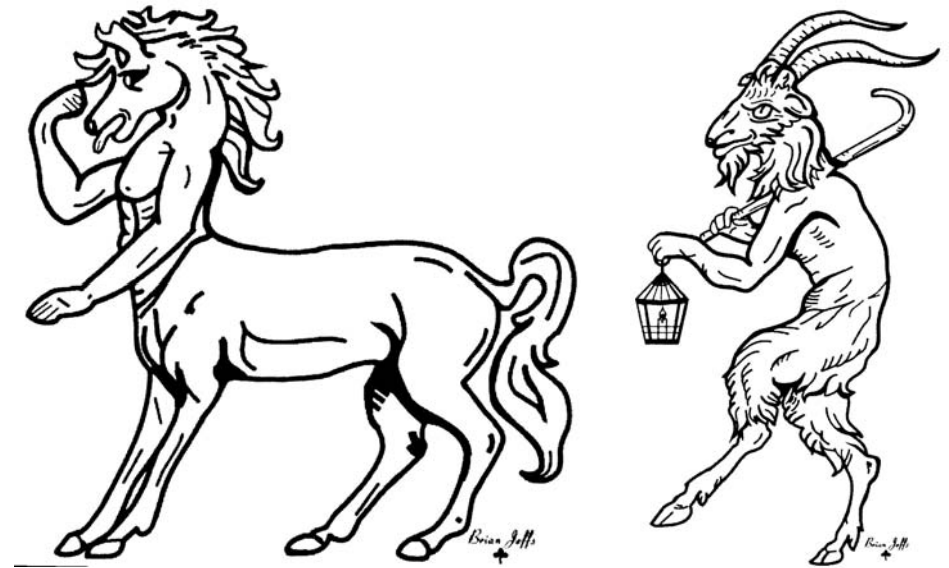


News from Canada

The latest edition of *GONFANON*, the Newsletter of the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada, has a few monsters in it worthy of note. The crest of the United States Army Institute of Heraldry, which designs insignia for their armed forces and some other governmental departments, is a delightfully expressive golden Griffin; Claire Boudreau's new arms with the blue Panther crest, as seen in No 78, is here displayed in full colour, while Bruce Patterson's recently granted arms, *Gyronny Gules and Argent a cross counterchanged* has for a crest: *A demi-panther guardant Gules incensed proper seme of cinquefoils, grasping in the dexter paw a fire-steel Or*. This red Panther, unlike Claire's semi-Austrian version, is of the regular type as known in British heraldry, but the cinquefoils (colour not given, but they look lilac or pink or possibly gold in the picture) are said to be pimpurnels indicating Bruce's ancestry in Northern Ireland, "as they have been used on recent British coinage as a symbol of that province." All very well, but of course the latter are not pimpurnels but flax flowers, which do indeed look like little cinquefoils, and should really be pale blue. Bruce's arms make a bold and colourful display, and he is to be congratulated on the design. He also has a badge featuring a Pelican in her Piety, so he has done well by fabulous beasts.

Another picture in this issue illustrates the flag of the world's newest country, the republic of Montenegro, recently having voted for its independence from the former Yugoslavia, which features the Imperial Double-headed Eagle, rather incongruously, perhaps, for a republic, but at least confirming its ancient history.

The quarterly Journal of the RHSC, *Heraldry in Canada*, has now become an annual, and the latest issue contains a further instalment of Darren George's series on The Mad Menagerie, dealing this time with hybrids of humans with ungulate beasts, such as the centaur, minotaur, satyr and ipotane. Many of the weird creatures shown have appeared in the Critter Contest in *The Prairie Tressure*, such as the manicon (see No 46), but others, apart from some old classics, seem to have been newly created. Darren confesses that few of them would be suitable for heraldic use, but suggests, for instance, that the Gelas, a bull with the face of a man found on some ancient Greek coins (see No 74) might make an appropriate charge or supporter for a coin collector with a Greek background, or since the original was a river god, it might interest one of the Canadian Heralds, who all take their titles from rivers. One of the monsters illustrated is the Orobas, a horse-headed ipotane apparently seen in nightmares, taken from the 16th century book by Johann Weyer, and two others are the Equitaur (a horse-headed centaur) and the



Urisk (a goat-headed satyr) seen here in stylish drawings by Brian Jeffs (above, left and right). It is gratifying to see *Dragonlore* cited in some of the references. This article gives a thorough coverage of its field, with some pertinent observations, but one still wonders whether it is really ethical to promote the invention of ever-more-unlikely hybrids, just for the fun of it, unless, as Rodney Dennys said, there is a good reason for the creature's existence.

Illustrated in the same volume are the Melusine crest of Francois Payeur (a mermaid with two tails), on his newly-granted arms, a Bonacon in Peter Hannen's article on Humour in Heraldry (right, drawn by Colin Coles after a bestiary), a splendid winged demi-lion crest in a tribute to Gordon Macpherson's heraldic art by Robert Watt, and the Sea-Wyvern crest of the retiring Editor, Eric Saumure (drawn by Gordon Macpherson, and see No 57).



Norfolk Up-date

In the latest issue of *The Norfolk Standard* (Newsletter of the Norfolk Heraldry Society, January 2007) there is a coloured photograph of 'Old Snap' on display in the Norwich Castle Museum, giving a very different view from the one we showed in our issue No 30, which was taken from close up and