

## AN ASTOUNDING ACHIEVEMENT



This remarkable piece of Heraldic artwork has been hanging around on my desk for so long that I have forgotten who sent it or who drew it, maybe one and the same person. Would somebody like to own up? My excuse for including it here is the Wyvern Sable crest vulned in the side Gules.

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# Dragonlore

The Journal of The College of Dracology

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A Persian Sagittary from the 13<sup>th</sup> Century



## The College of Dracology for the Study of Fabulous Beasts



*We record with deep regret the death of Christopher Lewers, 'suddenly, at home, aged 80.' He was a man most generous with his time in helping others, usually without being asked, took pride in his coat of arms and regularly sent in items for Dragonlore, as did his wife Una, my sister, to whom and to the rest of his family we extend our loving sympathy.*

Saint Michael, whose feast day along with 'All Angels' is celebrated on 29<sup>th</sup> September, is one of three Archangels named in the Bible. He gets his mention in the Revelation of St John, driving the Dragon and the Beast with Seven Heads and Ten Horns out of Heaven, as we have illustrated from time to time. Next is Saint Gabriel, notably announcing the coming births of John the Baptist and of Jesus, while the third is Saint Raphael who appears in the Book of Tobit in a helpful and healing capacity. There is a delightful picture by Botticini in the

Uffizi Gallery in Florence (*right*) showing these three Archangels marching abreast with Tobias carrying his fish. In Hebrew tradition there are several other Archangels, of whom Samael and Uriel come to mind, and as there sometimes seem to be seven of them it is supposed that they may have been derived from the seven planetary gods of the Ancient



Middle East. In the old wisdom, Archangels form the second rank, just above the Angels, in the ninefold Hierarchy of Heaven, stretching up to Cherubim and Seraphim at the top.

We have seen Sagittaries aiming their bows at serpent's heads at the end of their own tails before, notably from Eastern Europe, but none as floridly magnificent as this Persian example on the cover. This is frequently interpreted as a symbol of human efforts to dominate bad

### JOURNAL SCAN

**The Somerset Dragon No 31, August 2015**, has, apart from a couple of Unicorn crests and a Griffin's head on another, the arms of North, Earl of Guilford with a Dragon's head crest and a pair of Dragons as supporters, which, however, are blazoned as Mastiffs. A bit of a puzzle there!

**The Heraldic Craftsman No 89, September 2015**, has an extensive article on "An Appreciation of Otto Hupp"



by David Phillips SHA with many details from his work, including this expressive Dragon's Head (*left*). Then there is a selection of civic arms by David Hopkinson FSHA with Sea Lions for Kings Lynn, both as supporters and as a badge, and Poole's Dolphin, Mermaid crest and Dragon supporter. More Dolphins appear in carvings by the City

and Guilds of London Art School, and finally a Sea Horse and a Griffin are amongst various items of Macedonian heraldry.

**TAK TENT No 68, Summer 2015** (September) illustrates a fine piece of modern carving above the main entrance of the Royal Bank of Scotland, in the High Street, Banff, with its pair of Opinicus supporters. However, these arms are those of the Commercial Bank of Scotland which built the Bank in 1937. There is also a line drawing of a reconstruction of a broken stone carving in the Castle of St Andrews, Fife, with a pair of mermaid supporters.

**The Heraldry Gazette No 137, September 2015** has the arms of Sir Winston Chuechill on the cover with its demi-Griffin crest, a Dolphin chasing a Mermaid in an advertisement for a photographic competition, the Heraldic Beasts stamps that we saw in No 170, and the Panthers Incensed in the arms of Claire Boudreau, the Chief Herald of Canada (*right*).



## AN EXETER EXTRAVAGANZA



This replica of a roof boss from Exeter Cathedral shows a knight in mail armour mounted on a caparisoned horse, his arms *Or a bordure Azure*, or perhaps *Azure an inescutcheon Or*, battling against three Dragons. The original dates to about 1300, about the finest period of English Decorated Gothic architecture. Note that the Dragons have feathered wings and are entirely devoid of spikes.

## AN ODDITY

This curious creature appeared in the corner of an advertisement for a motor car. Any suggestions as to its name? It may be related to the Jackanapes of North America, but is most probably European.



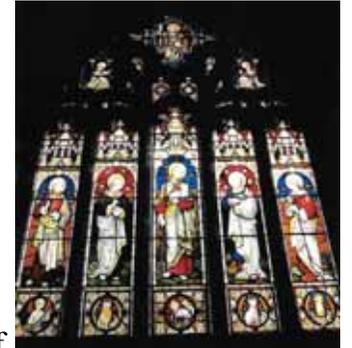
instincts. The picture is taken from “Here Be Dragons – A Fantastic Bestiary” by Ariane and Christian Delacampagne (2003), which we reviewed in No 41. This is probably the most thorough and most lavishly illustrated of all the books on the subject, and is now being offered at a greatly reduced price by PostScript.

## EVANGELISTIC EMBLEMS

David Vaudrey has taken some pictures of the windows in the Church of the Holy Trinity at Doynton, where he lives, showing the emblems of the four Evangelists.

Although only two of these may be counted as fabulous beasts, it seems a pity to break them up, so all four will be shown here. First is the great east window (*right*), with the figures of the Evangelists, two on each side of the figure of Christ, each with their symbol beneath, clearly labelled, seen in detail overleaf. Then in the north window (*right below*), and partly obscured by a metal grille, the emblems alone in a more modern style, unlabelled but again seen larger overleaf.

There have been many attempts to explain the significance of these symbols, first described in a vision by Ezekiel, but I like the one that ascribes them to the faculties of mankind; the eagle stands for thinking, centred in the head, the lion for feeling, centred in the heart and the bull for doing, based on the metabolism centred in the liver, as was thought, while the winged man stands for the human ego which directs the lot. This view was supported by Rudolf Steiner, who made much use of it in his own work. I was once being shown round a church in Italy, when the guide pointed to an unusual lectern in which the pedestal was shaped like a bull, the column like a lion and the book-holder, as usual, by an eagle with spreading wings. The guide said, “There you see the Evangelists!” Somebody asked, “Where is St Matthew’s man?” The guide replied, “He is standing behind the lectern reading from the Gospel.”





St Mathew



St Luke



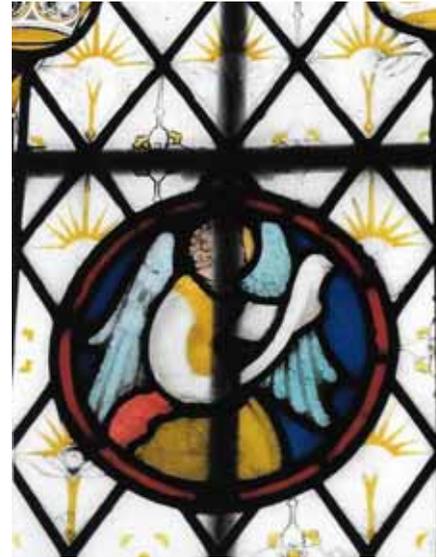
St Mark



St John

**Symbols of the Evangelists from the East Window of Doynton Church**

We would like to thank David for the trouble he has taken to produce clear pictures from these rather inaccessible windows. It is always worth being reminded of these four symbols and what they stand for.



St Mathew



St Luke



St Mark



St John

**Symbols of the Evangelists from the North Window of Doynton Church**