

## NOT THE RED DRAGON



Hereford's finest hotel is named The Green Dragon, and this carving (*above*) decorates the pediment at the front of the building – another of Leslie Hodgson's captures.

## A DRACOLION ?



This unusual hybrid beast was spotted by Leslie Hodgson in Bernard Street, Leith (the port of Edinburgh) if I have not got it muddled up with one of the many other pictures he sends.

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# Dragonlore

The Journal of The College of Dracology

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St George's Day 2017



An Inn-Sign in Snailwell



# The College of Dracology for the Study of Fabulous Beasts



We have marked St George's Day almost every year since we began, so the Saint and his Feast Day on 23<sup>rd</sup> April should be well known, with nothing to add. The picture on the cover is one of a series sent in by **David Vaudrey**, starting with a shot of the George & Dragon pub (*below*) in Snailwell, a village just north of Newmarket, and then proceeding by stages to this close-up, in full sun-shine, and concluding with a view from the other side, in shadow, which might come in handy at a later date.



And to prove that there is indeed a place with this name, here is his picture of the village sign:-



**The Bookplate Journal** Vol 14 No 2 Autumn 2016 has some examples of Lord Byron's delightful Mermaid crest (*right*), and some handsome Griffins supporting the arms of Cardinal de la Tour d'Auvergne (*below*).



**The New Zealand Armorer** No.142, Autumn 2017 (came in April) has two examples of the five-headed Hydra crest on the arms of Gregory John Morgan, one by Yvonne Holton from the letters patent and the other a painting by Andrew Stewart Jamieson (*below*).





**The Heraldic Craftsman** No.95 April 2017 has this new page heading for Society Matters (*above*) together with this explanatory paragraph:-  
 “Given that Garter King of Arms did not see fit to grant the Society supporters, we care not a whit whilst our newly arrived companions steadfastly protect our achievement. Dexter is the lion of St Mark (*statant Gules winged Or armed and langued Azure*) patron saint of writers, limners, authors, calligraphers and scribes. And sinister the bull of St Luke (*statant Sable winged Or horned and hooved Argent*) patron saint of artists in all media; the both on a grassy field Vert. This rendering by David Hopkinson FSHA, which will become our masthead, cunningly employs all the other main heraldic colours not shown on our achievement.” These words evidently written by Bill Beaver, the Editor.

Perhaps one should mention that the achievement mentioned, in the centre of the above display, was recently granted to the Society of Heraldic Arts. It might be fun to compare the professional drawing above with the amateurish sketch I had submitted (*below*). It may be worth mentioning that my daughter much preferred the rough drawing as it had more spirit than the finished work, which she said looked “too ordinary,”



At Easter time, just passed, many Christians were asked if they believed in the reality of the resurrection, and a lot of the replies were equivocal. In the Middle Ages almost all Christians were convinced not only of the resurrection of Our Lord, but of their personal bodily resurrection at the Last Judgment, as is illustrated in this mosaic in the Torcello Cathedral in Venice (*above*). In the top row are bodies arising from their graves, while below are those who had been eaten by wild animals. I did not know that Griffins ate people, but evidently the designer of this mosaic thought that they did, and it gives me an excuse to put it in this issue of Dragonlore.

The question arises, how could a resurrection have happened? Here is one possible way it might have been:- Starting from the Gospels of St Matthew and St Luke, their stories of the Christmas event, the Birth of Christ, are so different, even with varying descents of Joseph from King David, that many now believe that there were two Jesus Children, each with a claim to be the forthcoming Messiah. If two children, why not two Jesus adults? They would have known each other, looked very much alike and would have taken trouble not to be seen together so as to preserve the idea of a single Messiah. Taking it in turn to preach, one was the Good Shepherd, the other was King of the Jews. It was the latter who was taken before Pilate, handed over for crucifixion, dead and buried, while it was the Good Shepherd who met Mary

Magdalen in the garden the following morning, and said, "Do not touch me!" as he wanted Mary to think that he was the Risen Spirit of the crucified Jesus. Later he met Paul on the road to Damascus, who before long, wanting to found the Christian Religion on the idea of a resurrected Spirit, saw that this embarrassingly real Jesus went up to heaven.

I cannot know whether it could have been thus, nor do I expect anyone to believe it, but I do think that the idea of two Jesus men is worth considering, and I am not the first to think so.

#### LOCH NESS MONSTER REPORTED MISSING

This little cartoon appeared in *The Daily Telegraph* on 18 April over a report that no sightings had been recorded of the monster for eight months, longer than any previous gap since records began, although the year 2016 saw a record number of recorded sightings. It was said that such sightings are only recorded if they are unexplained, as so many turn out to be just ripples on the surface of the water or even deliberate hoaxes. On the other hand, here (*below*) is an illustration by Lynn Hatzius of the very first recorded sighting, when Saint Columbia got the better of it.



#### LONDON'S DRAGON GOES PARTYING



**Leslie Hodgon** sent this cartoon from *THE TIMES* of 7 April illustrating an article about the antics that City workers get up to when not hard at work. We are familiar with the statues of Dragons that mark the entrance to the City, and this version is close enough to be recognized as such, with a few embellishments.