

## An Explanation

**Dragonlore** got off to a good start in 1946. I had written all the text and drawn the picture for the front cover of issue Number 1, and taken them down to the local jobbing printer, as one did in those days before photo copiers and desk-top publishing. For the drawing, a block had to be made, and the text set up in type, but the printer who produced our parish magazine saw no difficulties. I had completed the content of Number 2 and was well ahead with planning the next few issues, when fate intervened. A change in my family circumstances saw us moving from Wiltshire to Sussex, and when I did get back to the printer, he was apologetic, but apparently all my papers had been lost in a fire including my address so he had not been able to inform me. Then university, job-finding, marriage and family-rearing overtook my life and **Dragonlore** became a ‘might have been.’

Then, quite recently, while looking for some other papers I came across my pencil notes for **Dragonlore**, and my son-in-law, Mark Brocklebank-Smith with his new scanner, computer and printer, suggested that we might re-construct it. Thus, with my notes and memory and his expertise and enthusiasm, **Dragonlore** re-surfaces. Plans for the next few issues are well advanced, and further progress will depend in part on the scale and nature of its reception.

By a strange coincidence another schoolboy, the same age as myself and also at school in the West Country, started his own society devoted to his favourite subject: The Society of Heraldic Antiquaries. But the difference was that John Brooke-Little persevered with his creation, and soon the Heraldic Antiquaries were replaced by The Heraldry Society, with the support of members of the College of Arms, while his Journal, “The Coat of Arms” got off to a good start. When still in Wiltshire, I saw an advertisement for the Heraldry Society in “The Scout” and, noting that its address was in East Knoyle, just over the hill from Longbridge Deverill where I lived, I jumped on my bicycle and set off over the hill (and what a hill!). Unfortunately there was nobody at home in East Knoyle, so it was back over the hill. And then life changed. It was a few years before I caught up with the Heraldry Society again and have been enjoying it ever since. Now that I am retired, heraldry is my main relaxation. Will Dracology develop into a rival?

Ralph Brocklebank  
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