

Judging Suggestions for a Dragon Award

Shapes

Types of Dragons:

1. Two legs
2. Four Legs
3. Arrow Tails
4. Forked Tails
5. Flower Tails



Identify by name:

1. Griffion – head & wings of an eagle; body, legs & tail of lion
2. Wyvern – two legged having a barbed tail
3. Ouroboros – devouring its own tail

Border design of Dragons

Multi dragons

Pierced/openwork

Back mark (labeled)

DF

OME

Sew-through

Useage (livery/overall)

Verbal

Materials

Rarity



The Diversified Dragon Story
Returns



Presented by Ginny Flis

April 2019

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*Webster Dictionary: dragon/drag-en/n.dracon serpent, dragon
l. archaic: huge serpent 2. A fabulous animal usually
represented as a monstrous winged and scaly serpent with a
crested head and enormous claws*

This is a program about Dragons & “like” Fabulous Creatures. There are so many types of true Dragons and then there are many that are similar but don’t meet the criteria. (Fabulous Creatures) I will try to give you an oversight of the most common ones we see on buttons. In 2005, I gave a program on Dragons and this will be an updated edition.

Dragons all have scales & claws, where as Fabulous Creatures do not.

The Dragon is one of the oldest mythological creatures and is called “the King of Myth.” We find them in history from almost the beginning of time. There are two distinct types of Dragons, those of the Western World and those of the Eastern World.

The Eastern World (Orient,) revered Dragons. These beasts were quite small and they sometimes had two horns for ears, long bodies, no wings and shiny scales. In ancient days he was a most scared animal and was an Imperial Emblem of emperors. Chinese Dragons had 5 toes and were sometimes reserved for the Imperial family. They were symbols of good fortune, abundance, wealth and were kind and wise friends of humans. They never roared or breath fire. The dragon was admired, believed to be educated and intelligent. They were angels of the Orient, loved and worshipped.

Here is a myrtlewood carved Chinese Dragon button.

The Eastern Dragons

Eastern Dragons are associated with sounds of beating gongs and jingling bells. Think of a Chinese New Year’s parade and you can hear those bells and see a group of people dressed in dragon costumes, winding through the streets. This is still done today to chase away the evil spirits for the coming year. Another Chinese belief is that the dragon controls the rains, floods, cyclones, etc. and any weather associated with water.



The Year of the Dragon takes place every twelve years. It is one of the most luck oriented beliefs. Children born during the year of the Dragon are said to have wonderful health, wealth and long life. The last year of the Dragon was 2012 and the next will be 2024.



The colors of the dragon all have special meaning and symbols.

- Black – North Dragon – They battle storms in the air and are vile, evil tempered & obsessed with death (2 Great Horns which are curved forward and down)
- Blue –The Pure Color – East Dragon –pensive, lawful and vain.....large & vibrant (frilled ears & single horn on head)
- Red – West Dragon – brings storms and bad weather.....Greedy & Obsessive (long wings and 2 long horns, long forked tongue & flames from his nostrils)
- Green – Terror Dragon – belligerent & cruel (head is covered with hornlets, long neck & legs, resembles a brontosaurus)
- White – South Dragon - sign of mourning and death small & intelligent (scales resemble fur or feathers, wide feet and sharp claws)

The Western Dragons

You will see over 20 references to dark and evil dragons in the Old Testament of the Bible and not quite as many in the New Testament. In the book of Job, there is a very detailed description of a dragon.

In Christian symbolism, the dragon (seen to be the devil) was defeated by the Archangel Michael. Shown here is a large one piece stamped brass button, the background resembles a gothic rose window. This is a great example of Archangel Michael and also of the dragon at his feet!

Another Christian story is “The Legend of St. George and the Dragon” in which Saint George is slaying a dragon to save the King’s daughter from being fed to the beast.



The most common question asked is: "Were Dragons Real?" I have answered with a smile....that is really what you believe. Most stories are great myths added to over centuries, but there are many related facts. I can personally see how people did believe in dragons. Look at the Komodo Dragon (which is quite real), the sightings of the Lock Ness Monster, right down to our little lizards.

Many books are written by Dragonologists about Dragonology. They have the skeleton system, the dragons eating habits, the life cycle, their biology and physiology, even down to the way they were slain. The most famous Dragonologist is Dr. Ernest Drake. The story told by him and other researchers is their belief, that they have lived and have become extinct. Their research would fill volumes.



So rather than try to agree or disagree with their beliefs, I would just like to give you some of the interesting facts in the research I have done.

- Male adult Dragons were powerful and had enormous strength & were well versed in Magic, sometimes have clubs in their tails
- Female Dragons were treated with reverence, they were very scarce. Their eggs were rare and incubated by the males, females are usually holding fans and sometimes have a pearl, they also had breasts
- Dragons spoke Latin
- Largest known flying Creatures
- Extremely clean creatures
- Their scales can stand on end
- Tea drop scales grew and renewed like human hair & nails

Earth Dragons, Water Dragons & Fire Dragons

The Earth Dragon was the most common and abundant. Ranging from fifty to one hundred feet, with a wing span as large, they were usually greenish- brown.

The Water Dragon was found in both salt and fresh water. Their front legs had claws but the back legs were more like fins. They could remain underwater for hours, but were limited to fly great distances.



The Fire Dragon was the found in mainly active volcanoes and was the rarest of the three. Their scales were an iridescent hard metal type substance which served as a protection to their body.

Last, but certainly not least, The Golden Dragon. It did not belong to the 3 family groups of dragons, but he was the most exquisite of all. He was the most beautiful in a burnished gold color. This dragon was never aggressive or furious in any way. This dragon has been reflected back to the story of the Holy Grail and Sir Gallahad.

The dragon is very unique. No other fabulous creature has appeared in so many different forms, which brings us to *Fabulous Creatures*.



In my research, I have found that well studied and educated dragonologists agree that the Griffin and Wyvern can be called either dragons or fabulous creatures. They also believe that the Cockatrice only fits the fabulous creature category in the Dragon Study Guide.

Dragons & Fabulous Creatures.....

- Griffin: 4 legs, fluffy tassel on the end of its tail (similar to a lion,) wings of an eagle
- Wyvern: 2 legs and head like a dragon, eagle's fore feet and the lower body of a serpent

**** Cockatrice: 2 legs (similar to a cock), comb and boy of a dragon and wings and a head like a rooster

Also, included in Fabulous Creatures is a variety of Gorgons, Gremlins, Goblins Gnomes, Giants, Trolls, Elves, Fairies, Unicorns, the Phoenix, and many other magical creatures.

Doom of Dragons

The belief is that Dragons mostly died of scale corrosion, accidents or from their most fierce enemy Man...

In closing, I think myth or reality, the Dragon is a most interesting and captivating story. We can all certainly agree, it has let us acquire and collect some of the most beautiful buttons. Dragons still have the fascination and interest today as they have had for centuries. The design house of Austin Reed uses a Dragon Logo on their clothing. There are many stories, books, documentaries and movies such as "Game of Thrones," "The Hobbit" " Puff the Magic Dragon", "Dungeons & Dragons" and even the children's movie in 2010 "How to Train Your Dragon" giving us a true connection to our buttons.

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