

Small Categories Series

Dragons!

Now, my daughter happens to have collected Dragons at one time, and she's start off us ,here, by saying that dragons just aren't 'dragons'; they're different, even though we're putting them all in one category. Only the Imperial Chinese dragon had five claws, for example, and Chinese dragons tend not to have wings. Also, in the East the dragon was seen as mainly benevolent, whereas in the West it was seen as embodying evil.

And, because the dragon was the natural enemy of man, his death became the ultimate goal, consequently there are innumerable battles between gods and dragons, saints and dragons, and in the Medieval world, knights and dragons. In Egyptian mythology, there is the conflict between Horus and Typhon; in Babylonia, the Chaldean Tiamat was overcome by Marduk. In Greek legends, the dragon fought on the side of the Titans and attacked Athene, who flung him into the heavens, where he became a constellation around the Pole Star. Hercules encountered and killed the dragon Ladon while fulfilling his eleventh labor. In Scandinavian literature, Beowulf's last encounter was against a dragon.

Dragons on covers make a very appealing collection. Obviously, most of what you're going to find is going to consist of the Chinese variety, simply since Chinese restaurant covers are going to be your main source in finding these gems.

Chester Crill, CA, had 672 Dragon covers in his collection as of April 2005.

