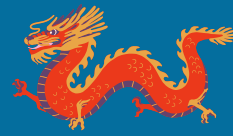
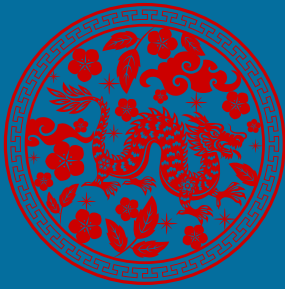


Happy Lunar New Year!



The Lunar New Year is celebrated in many Asian cultures. The “New Year’s Day” celebrated every year on January 1st is based on a solar calendar. A solar calendar measures the year by Earth’s movement around the Sun. The Asian cultures that celebrate the Lunar New Year use a lunisolar calendar that tracks the phases of the moon and the position of the sun! Using this calendar means that the Lunar New Year falls in between the beginning of Winter and the beginning of Spring. In China, the new year is celebrated with a month-long festival known as the “Spring Festival”. Each year is represented by a different animal. There are 12 different animals. 2024 is the Year of the Dragon! At Glencairn Museum, we have a few dragons. Get familiar with the dragons at Glencairn through the information and activities below!



[Click here to find out more about the Chinese Lunar calendar and what animal represents the year you were born!](#)



Ding Cauldron

Glaze on porcelain, wood
Ming dynasty (1368-1644 CE), Wanli period (1573-1620 CE)
China
01.VS.0259

This type of vessel is called a ding cauldron. Ding cauldrons have been a part of Chinese culture for thousands of years. There are ding cauldrons that have been found that date back to the 1600s BCE. A ding cauldron could be used for cooking, burning incense, or for ritual purposes like holding offerings to gods or loved ones that had passed away. This cauldron is decorated with two five-clawed dragons. Throughout Chinese history, the dragon was the traditional symbol of the emperor and continues to be a symbol of the country. In Chinese culture, dragons are said to have power over water and symbolize prosperity and good luck.

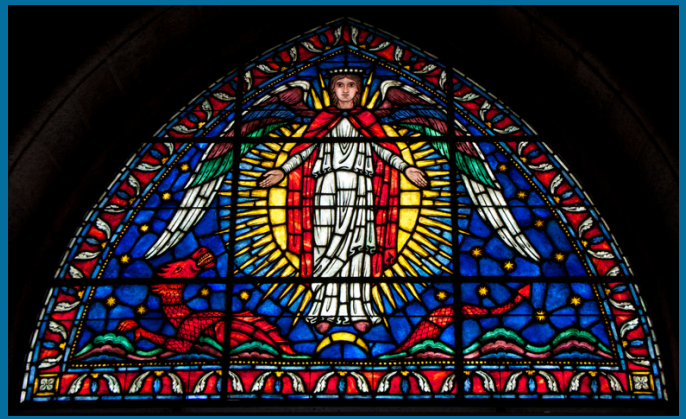


[Prove your knowledge about Chinese dragons with this crossword puzzle!](#)

The Woman and the Dragon

Bryn Athyn Stained-Glass Studio
Pot metal glass
Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania, USA
1930s

This dragon can be found in Glencairn's Upper Hall. This stained-glass window was made by the craftspeople who built Glencairn. Raymond Pitcairn, the man who designed Glencairn as a home for his family, wanted this window to be made because it tells a story from the Book of Revelation, which is part of the Bible. In the story, this red dragon wants to harm the woman, but she is given the wings of an eagle to fly away to safety.



Saint Michael and the Dragon

Bryn Athyn Stained-Glass Studio
Mosaic
Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania, USA
1930s

This is Saint Michael the Archangel. He is considered the chief angel of Heaven. The story of St Michael defeating the dragon is connected to the story of the woman and the dragon in the stained-glass window above. In the Book of Revelation, a great war breaks out in heaven. Saint Michael and God's other angels battle the dragon and its evil angels. St Michael defeats the dragon and forces it out of Heaven. Raymond Pitcairn had this mosaic of Saint Michael made to honor his church known as the New Church.



[Complete a puzzle of this artwork!](#)

Male Figure Fighting a Dragon

Polychrome on wood

Germany

15th century CE

12.SP.16

This statue of a man fighting a dragon could be either Saint Michael or Saint George. The legend of George and the Dragon was very popular in medieval times. The story tells of a dragon that lived near a town. In order to keep the dragon happy, the townspeople had to feed it regularly. When they ran out of food, they thought they would have to feed it people! Just before the king's daughter was about to be fed to the dragon, George arrived. He defeated the dragon and saved the princess and the people of the town.



Praying Female Figure Standing on Dragon

Polychrome on limestone

15th century CE

09.SP.31

It is not clear as to who the woman in this statue is, but it may be Saint Margaret. St Margaret was a young woman who lived in Turkey sometime around 300 CE. She was punished by a Roman emperor for her faith in Christianity. An ancient legend about Margaret tells that during her punishment she was attacked and swallowed by the Devil, who took the form of a dragon. She escaped the dragon because the cross she carried upset the dragon's stomach.



[Click for an activity about the dragons in Glencairn Museum!](#)