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The Origin of Mythical Creatures as Weathervanes

By Ancient Mythology

The Tower of the Winds (Horologion) built in Athens by the astronomer Andronicus around the first

half of the first century BC is apparently the oldest surviving weathervane if not the very first in human history. The weathervane itself was destroyed long ago, a beautiful bronze merman warrior known as a Triton. The compass rose however, the very tower itself has survived, and many artists throughout the later half of the last millennium had the chance to draw the tower in its many stages. As time went on, we have seen not only the evolution of the weathervane, but the many real adventures this temple of the winds has survived.

Stories, Myth, Legends and Weathervanes

The oldest surviving written poem by the Greek poet Homer known as the Iliad and its sequel, the Odyssey, tell the tale of a man called Odysseus or Ulysses. These poems were the foundation of what made the very religious navigating people of a scattered language; The Greek Civilization. Language, Religion and the poetry of Homer, that is what made a person Greek. Not land, state or city, but art and culture, things of the heart and soul. The stories of myth and legend have always been the fuel of human imagination throughout our history, and art represents that. The Queen Ann's Revenge was a pirate ship that brought terror to the seas of the coastal Americas, the legendary Blackbeard was her captain, and since that time has become one of the most inspiring sculpture piece weathervanes. In Babalonian mythology, a great cockatrice rooster/dragon gives birth to the world and the very first artistic representation of a Dragon. Later, in many Norse mythologies and English Royal banners, the dragon went on to become an important figure in weathervanes, and still is today.

The Enchantment of a Wind

The wind is an enchanting aspect of our earth and our lives upon it. The wind enchanted the poets, artists and even scientists such as Andronicus in the days of Antiquity, and continued to enthrall and inspire artists throughout Rome, Europe, Scandinavia and across the Atlantic ocean to the Americas. Sailors' lives have revolved around the behavior of the winds for so long. And it has always been the sailor who has taken reverence of the wind from one country to another. The great Horologion of Athens may have been built to tell the time either at night or day, but as a temple, it was dedicated to

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the gods of the wind. And that enchantment of the wind sailed across the waters of trade routes the world over with the Anglo–Saxon metal workers who saw in the weathervane a metal "fane", a metal flag. This is the English origin of the word weathervane, a "weather flag."

Human Imagination in a Weathervane

Stories, myth, legend, culture, art, religion; human imagination in a weathervane. We as humans give so much importance to works of art, that art itself can influence our imaginations and our beliefs. The joy that comes from a home owner when someone asks, "Why do you have a ship on your roof?" The story that comes with that answer is a powerful thing indeed. The tales of Blackbeard and the Queen Anne's Revenge would make for a wonderful afternoon story, over a pint of milk and some cookies. Or perhaps a mermaid that swims in the wind. What a tale it would make to tell of the sunken city of Atlantis to children at night in front of the fireplace with homemade bread and hot chocolate. Folktales are the fuel of our imagination and in a weathervane a delight for our eyes.

Ancient Mythology lives on through modern day weathervanes and the assistance of writer Dana at Weathervanes R Us. Adorn your home or garden with a lovely weathervane made by skilled artisans using old world techniques at

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All American Modern Art For Home And Garden Weathervanes

By Dana Weather

Learning to appreciate and admire our own culture is sometimes a tad bit overlooked by most, as is the essence of a weather vane. Life among the garden plants, vases, flowers, trees and birds at home sometimes also goes overlooked by those who are too busy to remember how far we have come as a civilization. Weathervanes are like instant memories. With some weathervane the sound of changing wind will be an immediate reminder of our culture and heritage, with others the mere sight will invoke past experiences and pleasant memories. Art can change society if it wants to or even bring inspiration and insight. The most traditional of American modern arts in the home and garden, is the weather vane. From the oldest documented colonial weathervane of Deacon Shem Drowne in the 18th century with his most famous Grasshopper weathervane that sits upon Faneuil Hall in Boston to the present day, weathervane sculptures have shaped American modern art.

Weathervane and American Modern Art

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When we think of American modern art, most people tend to think of paintings and sculptures that sit in galleries and art museums. Weathervane are some of the most traditional works of American sculpture art because they have told the direction of the wind on the tops of houses, fences and barns for hundreds of years and represented important elements in our history. They are made by hand and no two can be exactly the same. Each weather vane is in and of itself a work of human expression, crafted by the hands of an artisan who takes their work seriously and with great passion. Old North Church (1740, Boston), First Church in Cambridge (1721), Province House (1716, Boston), Goddess of Liberty, the Federal Eagle and many famous race horses have all been immortalized by the sculpture of weathervane and banners upon the highest tops.

Weathervane Give The Direction of The Wind and Feed Imagination.

The compass rose is held firmly on a weather vane and will always show the direction of north. The weather vane itself will always point in the direction from which the wind originates. The movement of wind and air is physically the dispersing of energy that has picked up speed and travels through the sky abiding the laws of the cosmos. Indicating in a subtle way, what the skies are about to do. Wind may normally tend to stand idle without a weather vane, but it is always doing something, even if it is absent. Metalworkers and historians alike have been enchanted by the fascinating beauty of weathervane and those delicate "cathartic" moments they captivate in our hearts. Curving and spinning like a dancer, the weather vane fuels our human imagination with its beauty and becomes our link to the sky.

Art In Home and Garden Inspires Peace and Contemplation

This deep and intricate realm of American modern art can be most appreciated in the delicate things. Home and Garden is a place where that kind of traditional hand made art restores the splendor of the subtle and peaceful. "Home is where the heart is." And through the art of weathervane our expressions of self and family become most attuned to the sky, wind and land that we call home. The weather vane inspires peace and contemplation wherever it stands. Mythical creatures, farm animals, creatures of the sea, sailboats, airplanes, national prides; creative works of an artistic imagination that follow the moving patterns of the wind, a wind that only sleeps at the calm of the storm. And in those moments

the weather vane asks a question, where is the wind?

This article was written by Dana of

<http://www.weathervanesrus.com/>

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