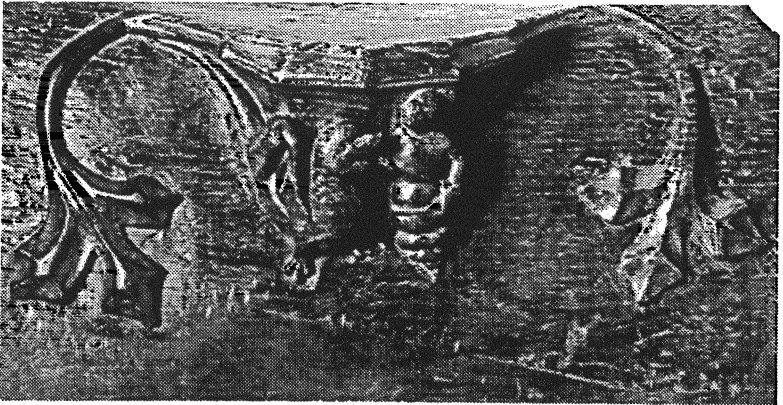

Good and Evil in the British Museum

John Cherry

There is only one misericord in the British Museum. This has no known provenance. It was given by Mr. H. C. Lowe of London in 1961 (Registration Number 1961, 5-3, 1). The two supporters are leaves and the center shows a dragon with a long tail and two foreclaws. He turns his head to a human figure beside him whose left hand is grasping the end of a spiral which makes it appear that the figure is emerging from a snail shell. What is going on here?



Battle Between Good and Evil

British Museum

May it be a debased version of the scene shown on the stall in Lincoln Cathedral illustrated in Christa Grössinger *The World Upside Down: English Misericords* (London, 1997), plate 118, where a naked child rises out of a shell to fight a dragon? She comments that the scene also occurs in Manchester Cathedral and Beverley Minster, and that the meaning is probably the Battle between Good and Evil, which starts from birth. Any other suggestions would be welcome.

British Museum
London UK

