Exemplum Corner

DO YOU HAVE AN ILLUSTRATION THAT APPEARS IN EXEMPLA?

As I have read various articles in the journal The Profane Arts, it is of interest that many of the illustrations that are described or appear in accompanying photographs have literary parallels in exempla that were widely used, particularly by preachers, in the middle ages. Readers of this journal should be aware of the availability of such works as Tubach's Index exemplorum: a handbook of medieval religious tales (1969) which allows for tracing exempla of many types. C. Charles' recent article on "Representations of the Devil..." led me to Tubach which has well over 550 entries for devil(s). Dragon, for example, has the following: and serpent in pit; driven away by abstinence; from hell converts clerk; from mouth of unworthy priest; kills elephant; on bridge; pit of; prince slays with lion's aid; swallows man, monk, soul; vision of; waiting at deathbed; woman riding on. Reference to the exemplum follows. If this is of interest, perhaps we can initiate an EXEMPLUM CORNER for queries, notes, illustrations and reports on current research.

Phyllis Roberts



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