

# Unicorns: legendary animals of purity and strength

*Winter term library display depicts the majestic unicorn in all its splendor*

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"The unicorn, a symbol for purity and strength" is the theme for this term's art display in the library in the Dye Learning Center. Shannon Stiles, a reference librarian who has been collecting unicorns for over 15 years, is sharing part of her collection.

"I started collecting unicorns in high school. I really liked them and I thought the stories and legends behind them are really interesting," Stiles said.

"My main interest in them was actually due to the fact that the unicorn figures are all over, they show up in art, literature and even astronomy," continued Stiles. "There is actually a constellation named after the unicorn."

This is the first display of the new millennium and it took about four hours to set it up. The books, statements and poems being displayed show some of the legends and depictions of the unicorns in western civilization.

"There is a story that a virgin is the only one who can capture a uni-

corn," Stiles explained. "A maiden sits down some place and the unicorn comes and rests its head in her lap. At that point hunters can then catch the unicorn and finally kill it."

The unicorn is not only a very powerful, mystical and magical figure, but it is also very romantic.

"It is a very strong and powerful beast but also sensitive," Stiles stated. "It's a symbol that gets used everywhere. One thing we were trying to show here is basically: 'Hey, look where the unicorn keeps popping

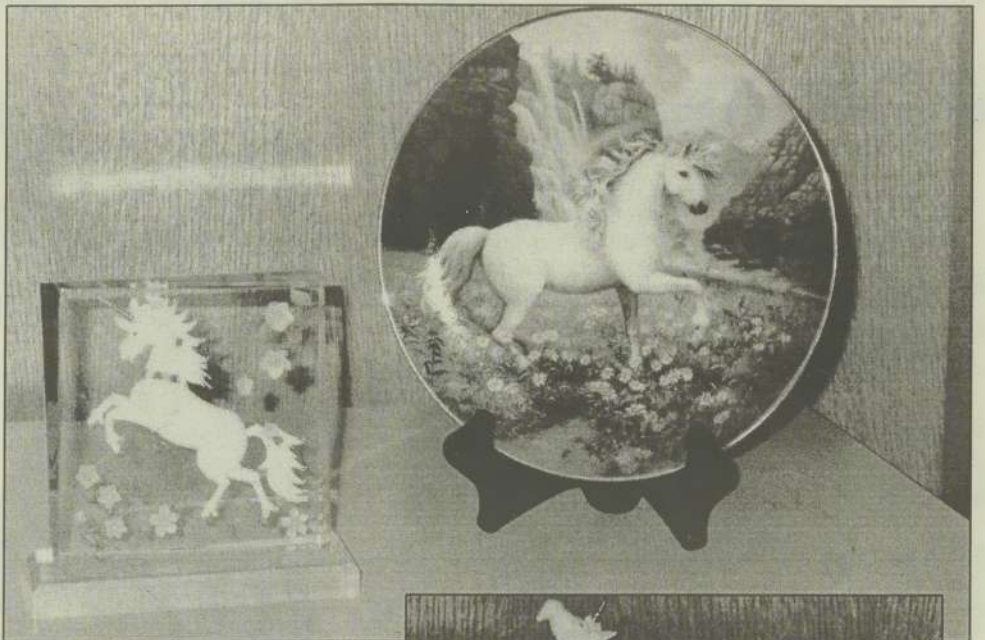
up, it shows up all over the place.'"

Those interested in some of the legends and stories, or who want to feel some of the magic and power surrounding the unicorns, should not miss this opportunity to stop by the library.

The unicorns will be displayed until the end of winter term.

*The unicorn is not only a very powerful, mystical and magical figure, but it is also very romantic.*

Shannon Stiles  
Reference Librarian



Unicorns are often depicted in fantastical scenes. It's a mystical and romantic creature seen throughout many cultures.



Not all of the unicorn art is serious; a number of the pieces are quite comical.



PHOTOS BY JASON LINGEL

The unicorn is associated with pureness. In many stories only a virgin maiden can approach a unicorn.

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