

2013 Parade Notes  
January 6, 2013

## The 2013 Rex Procession: “All Creatures Great and Small”

Tuesday, February 12, 2013  
New Orleans, Louisiana

- 1. Rex, King of Carnival, Monarch of Merriment** Rex’s iconic float carries the King of Carnival and his pages through the streets of New Orleans each Mardi Gras.
- 2. His Majesty’s Bandwagon** From this traditional permanent float one of the Royal Bands provides lively music for Rex and for those who greet him on the parade route.
- 3. The King’s Jesters** Even the Monarch of Merriment needs jesters in his court. Rex’s jesters dress in Mardi Gras colors—purple, green, and gold.
- 4. The Boeuf Gras** This is one of the oldest traditions and images of Mardi Gras, symbolizing the great feast on the day before Lent begins.
- 5. The Butterfly King** Since the earliest days of Carnival butterflies have been popular design elements, their brief and colorful life a metaphor for the ephemeral magic of Mardi Gras itself. The 1882 Rex Ball invitation combined the butterfly image with that of the King of Carnival, creating the enduring image of “The Butterfly King.” The Butterfly King float, introduced in 2012, is the first new permanent float to join the Rex Procession in many decades.
- 6. Title Float: “All Creatures Great and Small”** “All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,” the first lines of a beloved Anglican hymn, provide the theme for the 2013 Rex Procession. Creatures—real and imaginary, massive and tiny—make up the colorful Rex Carnival menagerie. The hymn was first published in C.F. Alexander’s “Hymns for Little Children” in 1848. James Herriot chose “All Creatures Great and Small” as the title of his popular book about a Yorkshire veterinarian.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All\\_Things\\_Bright\\_and\\_Beautiful](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All_Things_Bright_and_Beautiful)  
<http://www.cyberhymnal.org/htm/a/l/allthing.htm>

- 7. Frog** Found on every continent except Antarctica, and ranging in size from less than half an inch to more than a foot, frogs are one of the most common and diverse amphibians—over 4000 species have been identified. Compared by size they are the strongest and longest jumpers of all the vertebrates.

<http://didyouknow.org/animals/frogs/>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frog>

**8. Lion** The Lion, “King of the Beasts,” has been a symbol of strength, courage and nobility since the dawn of history—representations of lions have been found in carvings and art created over 32,000 years ago. The lion finds a prominent place in the mythology and legends of cultures around the world, and continues that popularity in modern culture, from the cowardly lion in the *Wizard of Oz* to the popular musical and movie, *The Lion King*.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lion>

<http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/african-lion/>

**9. Polar Bear** The world’s largest bear and the largest land carnivore, polar bears are found only within the Arctic Circle. There are no polar bears in Antarctica. According to one Eskimo legend polar bears are really humans, but put on bearskin when they go out to hunt. Polar bears are also strong swimmers—sea journeys of several hundred miles have been documented.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polar\\_bear](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polar_bear)

<http://www.polarbearsinternational.org/>

**10. The Streetcar Named Desire** This permanent float honors the most famous of all of New Orleans’ streetcar lines.

**11. Snake** While snakes often inspire fear, in many cultures they are worshipped as gods—the cobra appears on the Pharaoh’s crown. The snake was a symbol of healing in ancient Greece and still appears on the caduceus, still in use as a physician’s symbol. The serpent’s role in the Garden of Eden assured snakes would forever be identified with evil in Christian art and thought.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Snake>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Serpent\\_\(symbolism\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Serpent_(symbolism))

**12. Kraken** Legendary tentacled sea monsters of colossal proportion, krakens were believed to live off the coasts of Norway and Greenland, terrorizing sailors over the centuries. Sightings of the giant squid may explain the origins of this legend, which even inspired a Tennyson sonnet, *The Kraken*.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kraken>

<http://www.unmuseum.org/kraken.htm>

**13. Sphinx** While most commonly associated with Egyptian mythology, creatures with the body of a lion and the head of a man were also known to other

ancient cultures. The Great Sphinx of Giza, built on the banks of the Nile River in about 2500 B.C., is the best-known example of this mythological creature.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sphinx>

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history-archaeology/Uncovering-Secrets-of-the-Sphinx.html>

**14. Sea Slug** Also known as the sea cucumber, the sea slug is one of the nudibranchs, saltwater snails that lack a shell. These colorful creatures thrive in the deepest waters, making up a significant part of the fauna of the ocean floor.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sea\\_slug](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sea_slug)

<http://a-z-animals.com/animals/sea-slug/>

**15. Dragon** A popular image in mythology in many cultures, this legendary creature appears in Western mythology as an evil and threatening creature confronting a noble hero. Eastern cultures portray dragons much more positively, as symbols of strength and good fortune.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese\\_dragon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_dragon)

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dragon>

**16. Sirens** Figures of Greek mythology, the beautiful and seductive Sirens inhabited the island of Anthemusa. Using their beauty and seductive song these sea nymphs lured unwary seamen to their fates. To pass safely by the Sirens Odysseus made his sailors plug their ears with wax and tie him to their ship's mast.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siren>

<http://www.theoi.com/Pontios/Seirenes.html>

**17. Honeybee** Familiar to all as they busily build their hives and produce honey, bees also have been important figures in mythology. Ancient Greeks believed the bee bridged the natural world and the underworld, and the Mayans and several other cultures worshipped bee gods.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Honey\\_bee](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Honey_bee)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bee\\_\(mythology\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bee_(mythology))

**18. Tiger** Throughout its primarily Asiatic domains the tiger, not the lion, is the "King of the Beasts." The largest cat species, the tiger's strength and hunting skill make it a popular symbol, one claimed by nations, kings and not a few athletic teams. The tiger rivals the dragon for primacy in Chinese mythology.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiger>

<http://worldwildlife.org/species/tiger>

**19. Panda** The giant panda's range has been reduced to only a few mountainous areas in central China, but it is still one of the world's most identifiable and beloved creatures. While most bears are carnivores, the panda eats mostly bamboo. Many efforts are underway to help increase the numbers of this rare and beautiful creature—at present only about 2,000 survive.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giant\\_panda](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giant_panda)  
<http://www.defenders.org/panda/basic-facts>

**20. Monkeys** Favorite features in every zoo, monkeys attract our attention partly because they seem to mimic human expressions and actions. With well-evolved use of hands, feet and tail, our primate cousins nimbly traverse their tree canopy world.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monkey>  
<http://animals.sandiegozoo.org/animals/monkey>

**21. Unicorn** Though described by the Greeks, this imaginary creature became one of the most important legends and images of the Middle Ages and Renaissance. A symbol of purity and grace, the unicorn was also believed to have magical and healing powers.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unicorn>  
<http://www.mythencyclopedia.com/Tr-Wa/Unicorn.html#b>

**22. Cyclops** The Cyclops belongs to an ancient race of one-eyed giants. One legend suggests Zeus freed the captive Cyclopes, and they repaid him by forging for him thunderbolts to use as weapons. In Homer's *Odyssey*, Odysseus manages a harrowing escape after he encounters the Cyclops Polyphemus.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cyclops>  
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polyphemus>

**23. Dinosaur** Dinosaurs, in rich variety, roamed the earth for hundreds of millions of years until their extinction about 65 million years ago. These creatures, great and small, continue to fascinate (and frighten) mankind. "Dinosaur" means "terrible lizard," though dinosaurs were not lizards at all, many of them having an upright posture.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dinosaur>  
<http://www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/diapsids/dinosaur.html>

**24. Praying Mantis** Named for the “prayer-like” posture of their strong forearms, these insect creatures “prey” on other insects. They take full advantage of their color and structure for camouflage, making them very effective predators. The mantis is considered a god in some indigenous South African tradition.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mantis>  
<http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/bugs/praying-mantis/>

**25. Jabberwocky** *Jabberwocky* is a nonsense poem Lewis Carroll placed in *Through the Looking Glass*, his second “Alice” book. The lines “Beware the Jabberwock, my son! / The jaws that bite, the claws that catch!” introduce this invented creature, which was given form by the book’s illustrator, John Tenniel.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jabberwocky>  
<http://www.jabberwocky.com/carroll/jabber/jabberwocky.html>

**26. Mosquito** The smallest creature in the 2013 Rex Procession is no stranger to New Orleans, thriving as it does in moist environments. Mosquito-borne diseases, especially Yellow Fever, nearly wiped out the city in its earliest years. The species has survived for tens of millions of years, and continues to cause significant health problems worldwide.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mosquito>  
<http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/bugs/mosquito/>

**27. Pi Yao** This mythical hybrid Chinese creature has a fierce, dragon-like horned head atop the body of a winged lion. He is a symbol of wealth and good fortune. His open mouth is ready to gobble up fortune, especially gold and silver, and with his fierce fangs he attacks demons and evil spirits.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pixiu>

**28. The Royal Barge** Complete with Royal Gryphon, the Royal Barge is one of Rex’s permanent floats. This float is the last remnant of the Royal Navy, once a feature of each Rex Parade.