

Harry Potter Places

Hogwarts Tapestries Supplementum

Updated August, 2014

* There used to be a shop called **The Tapestry Gallery** in **Lavenham** (aka **Godric's Hollow, Site #19**) that sold gorgeous, high quality reproductions of the **Hogwarts Tapestries** seen in the Harry Potter movies—which is why we originally wrote this Supplementum. Alas and alack, in 2014 we discovered that the gallery had closed.

Because we still find them particularly Potterlicious, we've updated and reposted the Hogwarts Tapestries Supplementum. You'll find links to places where they can be purchased on the last page of this file.

The Hogwarts Tapestries

Every time the **Gryffindor Common Room** is seen in a Harry Potter movie, each of its walls are covered with amazingly authentic reproductions of the six Medieval tapestries known as **The Lady and The Unicorn** collection.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lady_and_the_Unicorn

The Lady and The Unicorn tapestries are considered the finest examples of textile art surviving from the Middle Ages. They are believed to have been woven sometime between 1484 and 1500 for **Jean Le Viste**, a French Nobleman, because the Le Viste family coat of arms is clearly seen in each tapestry.

When discovered by the novelist **Georges Sand** in 1844, The Lady and The Unicorn tapestries were in a badly damaged state. Thankfully, after acquiring them in 1882, the **Cluny Museum** in Paris ensured that all six tapestries were painstakingly repaired and restored.

<http://www.musee-moyenage.fr/>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mus%C3%A9e_national_du_Moyen_%C3%82ge

"The **Musée national du Moyen Âge**, formerly **Musée de Cluny**, officially known as the **Musée national du Moyen Âge - Thermes et hôtel de Cluny** ("National Museum of the Middle Ages - Cluny thermal baths and mansion"), is a museum in Paris, France."

More modern cleaning and restoration work was accomplished in 2013.

"It has inspired novels and songs, featured in Harry Potter movies and puzzled historians for the best part of 500 years. The Lady and the Unicorn [tapestries], regarded as the Mona Lisa of woven artworks, is one of the greatest surviving artifacts of its kind from the Middle Ages. ...

Some historians argue that in five of the six panels, the mysterious lady with the unicorn is Mary Tudor, third wife of Louis XII and sister of Henry VIII, who was Queen of France from August 1514 to 1 January 1515."

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/dec/28/lady-and-unicorn-tapestry-restored>

At last, the collection was returned to public display in January of 2014.

http://artsbeat.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/01/09/lady-and-the-unicorn-tapestries-return-to-view-in-france/?_php=true&_type=blogs&_r=0

Five of The Lady and The Unicorn tapestries are interpreted as depicting the five human senses: **Taste, Touch, Sight, Hearing, and Smell**. The sixth tapestry in the series is the largest, and is called “**My Sole Desire**.”

In *Half-Blood Prince*, when acting as **The Place Where Everything is Hidden**, the **Room of Requirement** became a gigantic storage place for cast-offs or things that needed to be hidden. Here is where Draco Malfoy worked to repair the Vanishing Cabinet so that Death Eaters could infiltrate Hogwarts. This also was where Harry hid the Half-Blood Prince’s copy of *Advanced Potion-Making*. In *Deathly Hallows Part Two*, the Lost Diadem of Ravenclaw was found here.

When seen on screen, The Place Where Everything is Hidden contained another famous Medieval tapestry reproduction, *The Captive Unicorn*, aka *The Unicorn in Captivity*.

Although *The Captive Unicorn* may have been created as an independent work, it is traditionally considered part of a seven-tapestry collection known as **The Hunt of The Unicorn**, or **The Unicorn Tapestries**.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Hunt_of_the_Unicorn

The Hunt of The Unicorn tapestries are thought to have been designed in Paris and woven in Brussels, then part of the Netherlands, sometime between 1495 and 1505. **John D. Rockefeller, Jr.** purchased them in 1922, and donated them to New York City’s **Metropolitan Museum of Art** in 1937.

<http://www.metmuseum.org/Collections/search-the-collections/70007568>

The Gryffindor Common Room Tapestries

The Lady and The Unicorn Series

The most easily recognized Gryffindor Common Room tapestry is *My Sole Desire*, the largest in **The Lady and The Unicorn** series of Medieval tapestries. It is seen just to the left of the arch that leads to the Gryffindor dormitories stairway.



[A *Sorcerer's Stone* screenshot segment (enhanced).] [The central section of *My Sole Desire*.]

From WIKIPEDIA:

"This tapestry is wider than the others, and has a somewhat different style. The Lady stands in front of a tent, across the top of which is written 'À Mon Seul Désir', an obscure motto, ... [interpreted] as 'my one/sole desire.'"

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lady_and_the_Unicorn

Moving left-to-right around the Gryffindor Common Room from *My Sole Desire*, the next tapestry is **The Sight Tapestry**. Unfortunately, it is rudely interrupted by the arch that leads to the Gryffindor dormitories stairway. Thus, only a small portion of this wonderful tapestry can be seen on screen.



[An *Order of the Phoenix* promotional image segment.] [The *Sight* tapestry central section.]

In the *Sight* tapestry, the Lady is seated with her left arm embracing the unicorn—the clue that identifies this Gryffindor tapestry. The unicorn is kneeling with his front legs in the Lady’s lap, and is gazing at his reflection in the mirror held in the Lady’s right hand. If he weren’t cut out by the dormitory stairway arch, the lion would be seen crouching on the Lady’s right side, holding up a pennant.

Continuing to the right, next comes **The Taste Tapestry**—with the Lady obscured by a gigantic Gryffindor painting.



[A *Goblet of Fire* screenshot segment (enhanced).] [The *Taste* tapestry central section.]

In this tapestry, the Lady is taking sweets from a dish held by a maidservant. The lion and the unicorn are both standing on their hind legs, holding pennants bearing the Le Viste family coat of arms, and wearing Le Viste family capes that billow behind them. A monkey is at the Lady’s feet, eating one of the sweetmeats.

Next comes **The Touch Tapestry**—which has a Gryffindor bulletin board mounted in its middle. Once again, the unicorn provides the vital clue to this tapestry’s identification.



[The *Touch* tapestry central section.] [A *Sorcerer’s Stone* screenshot segment (enhanced).]

In the *Touch* tapestry, the Lady stands with one hand touching the unicorn's horn, and the other holding up a staff. The lion sits to the side and looks on. The Le Viste family coat of arms is clearly shown on the shields in this tapestry.



[An *Order of the Phoenix* screenshot segment (enhanced).]

In *Order of the Phoenix*, the *Touch* tapestry's lion can be seen on the other side of the Gryffindor bulletin board, just before the window alcove.

Around the corner from the *Touch* tapestry is a window alcove where merely a snippet of the lion from **The Hearing Tapestry** can be spied.



[An *Order of the Phoenix* screenshot segment (enhanced).] [The *Hearing* tapestry central section.]



In the *Hearing* tapestry, the Lady plays a pump organ that is perched on a table covered with a Turkish rug. Her maidservant stands on the opposite side, operating the organ's bellows.

This is the only Lady and The Unicorn tapestry that features the bodies of the lion and unicorn facing *away* from the Lady.

Alas, we've been unable to capture a screenshot that accurately identifies the Gryffindor Common Room location of **The Smell Tapestry**. We suspect that it is mounted on the rarely-seen wall across the room from the dormitories staircase—the wall containing the Gryffindor Common Room fireplace.



[The *Smell* tapestry central section.]

In the *Smell* tapestry, the Lady is making a wreath of fragrant flowers. Her maidservant stands beside her, holding a basket of flowers within easy reach. The monkey has stolen a flower, and can be seen sniffing it while sitting on a stool behind the Lady.

The Place Where Everything is Hidden Tapestry

The Captive Unicorn, aka *The Unicorn in Captivity*



[*Half-Blood Prince* screenshot segments (enhanced).]

From the Metropolitan Museum of Art's website:

"[In] *The Unicorn in Captivity* ... the unicorn probably represents the beloved tamed. He is tethered to a tree and constrained by a fence, but the chain is not secure and the fence is low enough to leap over. The unicorn could escape if he wished. Clearly, however, his confinement is a happy one, to which the ripe, seed-laden pomegranates in the tree—a medieval symbol of fertility and marriage—testify. The red stains on his [shoulder and] flank do not appear to be blood, as there are no visible wounds like those in the hunting series; rather, they represent juice dripping from bursting pomegranates above."

<http://www.metmuseum.org/Collections/search-the-collections/70007568>



Above left is a photo taken by CD Miller in 2010, when visiting **Hogwarts Castle** at *The Wizarding World of Harry Potter* in Orlando, Florida, USA. Above right is the central section of the Captive Unicorn wall hanging.

Where to Buy Hogwarts Tapestries

These tapestries are so universally popular, products sporting their images can be found almost *anywhere*—ranging from inexpensive souvenir mugs, totes, and pillows, to high quality, woven wall hangings.



[©2014 Kohls]

For example, in August of 2014 **Kohls** department store offered a tapestry wall hanging of the Lady & the Unicorn Sight Tapestry.

http://www.kohls.com/product/prd-1268832/PCI-Lady-and-the-Unicorn-Sight-Tapestry-Wall-Decor.jsp?ci_mcc=ci&srccode=cii_17588969&cpncode=32-387518757-2&CID=shopping15

A variety of Lady & The Unicorn products also are regularly available on **ebay**.

If you'd like your purchase to benefit one of the museums dedicated to the preservation of these tapestries, however, go to:

New York City's Metropolitan Museum of Art's Online Store

<http://store.metmuseum.org>

The French Museums' Online Shop

<http://www.boutiquesdemusees.fr/en/>