This write-up is an acknowledged variant of the Dragon Stole pattern by MmarioKnits. You can find the original pattern here:

http://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/dragon-stole

My chart shows the dragons of Mario’s pattern in black. This section of the pattern duplicates exactly stitch for stitch two hippocampi (mythical sea horse dragons) first published in Johann Siebmacher’s 1603 edition of *Klein Neues Modelbuch* – one of several editions of his graphed pattern books for embroidery, knitting and other artisanal crafts.

Siebmacher’s original does have a couple of differences from the Victorian-era pattern source that inspired Mmario. It includes this central mermaid (siren or double tailed undine) – which is what implies the iconography of the dragons being sea-related.

The additional material from 1603 is shown in red. The red material (except for the two borders, which can be ignored) is an exact drop-in that can be introduced into the Mmario pattern, to knit up a piece like mine, shown above.
Hippocampi & Undine

On the next page is an alternative treatment for the tail, as per Siebmacher. I did not choose to knit this in my sample this because I’d already gotten pretty far on my Dragon Stole before my long time needlework pal Kathryn Goodwyn turned up the Renaissance era original. It too is shown with Mmario pattern quotes in black, and the older material in red.

Special thanks to Mmario for allowing quotations of his pattern to be shown.