

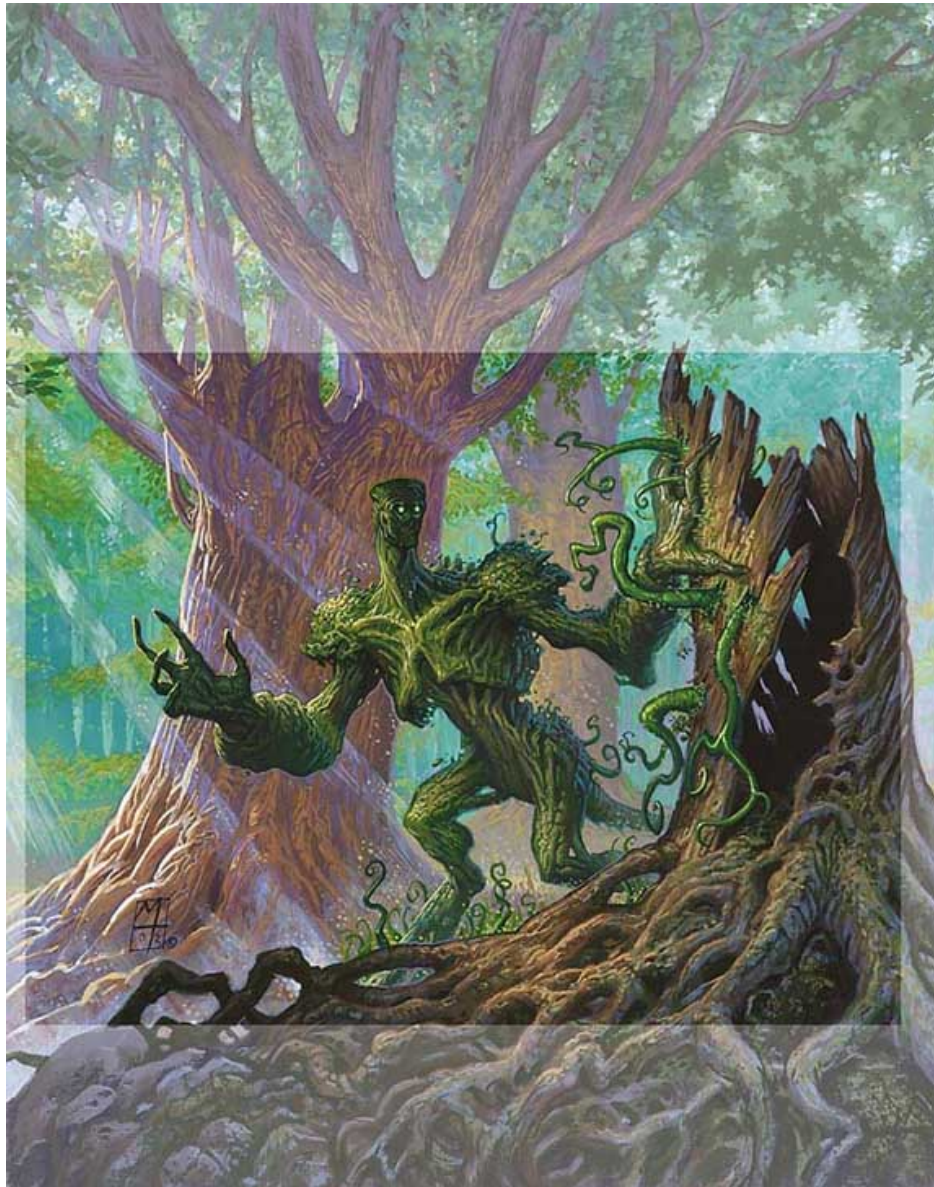
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# Gone but not Forgotten Ancient

Magic Arcana  
 Tuesday, July 25, 2006

Magicthegathering.com's very first [You Make the Card](#) feature produced **Forgotten Ancient**, a powerful and fun green elemental creature of increasingly unwieldy size. During its creation, its art concept was selected ("A humanoid elemental of moss supports itself with a hand against a dead tree. From where the elemental touches, it spreads wild regrowth") and Mark Tedin was selected as the artist for the job. Mark then produced this art of "Mr. Babycakes":



Three years later, Mark Tedin found himself facing this art description for a *Dissension* card:

3WW  
 Creature - Elemental  
 Flying  
 Whenever you play an enchantment spell, put a +1/+1 counter on each creature you control.  
 3/3

*Location:* Ravnica "skyline" at night  
*Action:* Show a strange winged creature of your design, maybe 12' tall, that looks like it's "made of night." Show it perched on the top of a spire, wings spread. It's darker than the night (or dusk) sky

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behind it, and its body contains many stars of varying brightness.  
Focus: the winged "starry night" elemental

An elemental creature with an ability that grants +1/+1 counters? That sounds familiar! Mark took the opportunity to hearken back to his original *Forgotten Ancient* art when he submitted the sketch for this new critter. Check out the facial similarities.



Mark Tedin 8-26-05

#94386 - ILLUSION OF THE NIGHT. AN ELEMENTAL-BIRD LIKE CREATURE PERCHES ATOP A SPIRE ABOVE A RAUNICA SKYLINE, BRIGHTLY LIT BY COOL MOONLIGHT. WHEREVER THE CREATURE'S PLUMAGE CROSSES THE SCENERY, THE MOONLIGHT IS DAMPENED. THE SKY IS DARKER, AND MORE STARRY. THE SKYLINE IS BLACKENED AND THE BUILDINGS ARE ONLY LIT FROM WITHIN BY LAMPLIGHTS. (THE FACE IS SLIGHTLY REMINISCENT OF THE GREEN FOREST ELEMENTAL ["BABYCAKES"] TO SUGGEST A FAMILIAL CONNECTION WITH ABSTRACT ELEMENTAL CREATIONS.)

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The creative team liked the connection, and even named the card to be reminiscent of the player-created *Scourge* elemental.

*Forgotten Ancient* [has a chance](#) to be in *Tenth Edition*—but even if it loses out, at least you'll have *Celestial Ancient* around to keep the faith.



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