

# Spell to Catch a Dragon

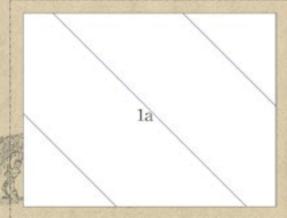
Take a merror and sprinkle it with dragondust.

Then place a sapphire or other treasure outside the dragon's late. Alken the dragon emerges to investigate the genetone, speckly bring out the merror so that the dragon sees its own reflection, and cry, "Ecce Narcieso Draconna Altractivae!" This spell will have the dragon — but watch out when it wears off!

(for a small sample of dragondust, see appendix 2)



The farthest west I found the Dornock 22 year the runs of Ellean Donan, Scotland, 1903.



This edition produced in 2005 by Templar Publishing, an imprint of Kings Road Publishing, part of the Bonnier Publishing Group The Plans, 535 King's Road, London, SW10 0SZ.

www.romplanes.co.uk/singr www.bocoloryndishing.com Thurseion copyright © 2003 Waree Anderson, Douglas Carrel and Holes Ward Test and design copyright © 2003 The Templar Company ple All organ reserved.

> ISBN 978-1-84011-505-1 29-25-27-29-30-28-36-24

0618 003 Manufactural in Chies.

Publisher's note: This book purports to be the factionale of an original published on a print run of 100 organ in 1876, of which a sunge was countly found in a bookshop man the Seven Duds in Landon. Unformationly, the publisher has been maddle to accertain whether a not Dx. Ernest Duds ever lived in St. Leonard's Forest or wrote a book called Desposalogy and us, with tagert, is smalle to make any claim as to the totals of file and must present this volume movely as an intersecting contents.

A Martin's dragon decoy dummy: Remember flame-relardant paints. •



must send copies to following contributors!

Melen Ward, Scienlific Artist Douglas Carrel, Chief Draughtsman Wayne Anderson, Pictorial Artist Chris Forsey, Cover Linework Nghiem Ta, Artistic Direction

> Also- A. J. Alood. Benefactor & Friend

PERSONAL PROP IN HER PAS BOX.

To Friendly Dragons:

THM BMFRMR BP

THM BBBK IN B

PRIMEN TB

MREXBEE HMITH

THMN IP BBB

LEE M MREKM



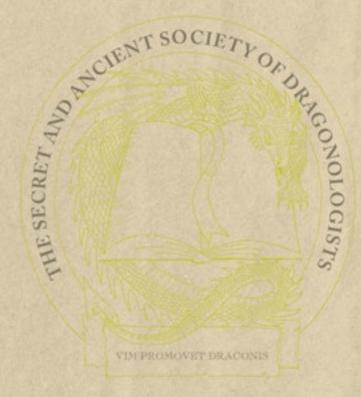
DR. ERNEST DRAKE'S

# DRAGONOLOGY.

THE COMPLETE BOOK OF DRAGONS.

EDITED BY

DUGALD A. STEER, B.A. (BRIST), S.A.S.D.



# ILLUSTRATED.

THE TEMPLAR COMPANY:

PUBLISHERS OF RARE & UNUSUAL BOOKS

[ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.]

# FOREWORD. AN INTRODUCTION TO DRAGONOLOGY.

If all the natural sciences, dragonology is perhaps the most rewarding, being at the same time one of the oldest and the least researched. Dragons have been studied since mankind's earliest days and yet, paradoxically, they are one of the least known of the Earth's creatures. So, while many scientists believe that the vast majority of the world's flora and fauna are now understood, in the little-known field of dragonology the way lies open for exciting new discoveries.



# CONTENTS

Introduction
Dragota of the World ii
Women Dragons
Eastern Dragonsiv
Other Dragons v
Dragon Biology & Physiology vi
Life Cycle of Drugons
Dragon Behaviour
Finding & Tracking
Taming & Flying
Appendix li A Dragonological Laboratory . xi
Appendix II: Spells & Charms
Appendix III: Biographies
Afterword: The Work

# REFUTING THE SCEPTICS.

As dragonologists, we must be prepared to refute those who claim that dragons are unreal. Consider how many creatures there may be that are still unknown to accepted science. When our scientists first heard of the duck-billed platypus in 1797 they laughed. How could an egg-laying mammal with a duck's beak and webbed feet exist? Even when shown physical evidence they cried 'fraud'! Yet by 1884 even the most sceptical had changed their opinion. Recently, Henry Stanley learned of another apparently mythical animal, the okapi, while searching for Dr. Livingston. With a giraffe's hoens and a zebra's legs it has so intrigued scientists they are determined to find one. Yet there is not one who is willing to mount an expedition to bring dragons the scientific attention they deserve!



[see Chapter III].

The remarkable okapi-a mythical beaut or new scientific wander of the African Congo?



A duck-billed platypus-some believed that the original specimen was a stisched-together fake.

# DRAGONS IN SCIENCE.

All scientific dragonologists must draw the conclusion, having read the work of Charles Durwin in his Origin of Species of 1859, that dragons, like all creatures, have evolved so as to they live. Noble in form and majestic in flight, one wonders if mankind, through effort or science, may one day be able to imitate some of the dragon's natural abilities.



best exploit the habitats in which SOME argue that dragons cannot have four legs and diagram, the evolution of a four-legged dragon's two wings because no known vertebrate has more wings provides clear proof of Darwin's hypothesis of than four appendages. As can be seen in the above animal evolution through fortuitous genetic mutation.





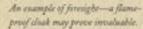


ONE hypothesis suggests that dragons breathe fire as In fact, as the dragon's head evolved, so also did the a result of generating methane gas in their stomachs, fangs and venom-producing organs that are actually a gas which also enables them to 'float' like balloons. responsible for this remarkable phenomenon.



## DRAGONS IN LEGEND.

Among all the kindes of Serpentes, there is none comparable to the Dragon, or that affordeth and yieldeth so much plentifull matter in historie for the ample discovery of the nature thereof.-The student will do very well to heed these words of natural philosopher and dragonologist Edward Topsell, in his 1607 book, The History of Four-feeted Bearts. For while there is little in dragon legend that is perfectly true, there is also little that is entirely false, and the student should seek information from any other available source, with an entirely open mind.





SOUNDED DE LA SERVINICA DE LA

# THE FIVE TWATDRAGONOLOGY.

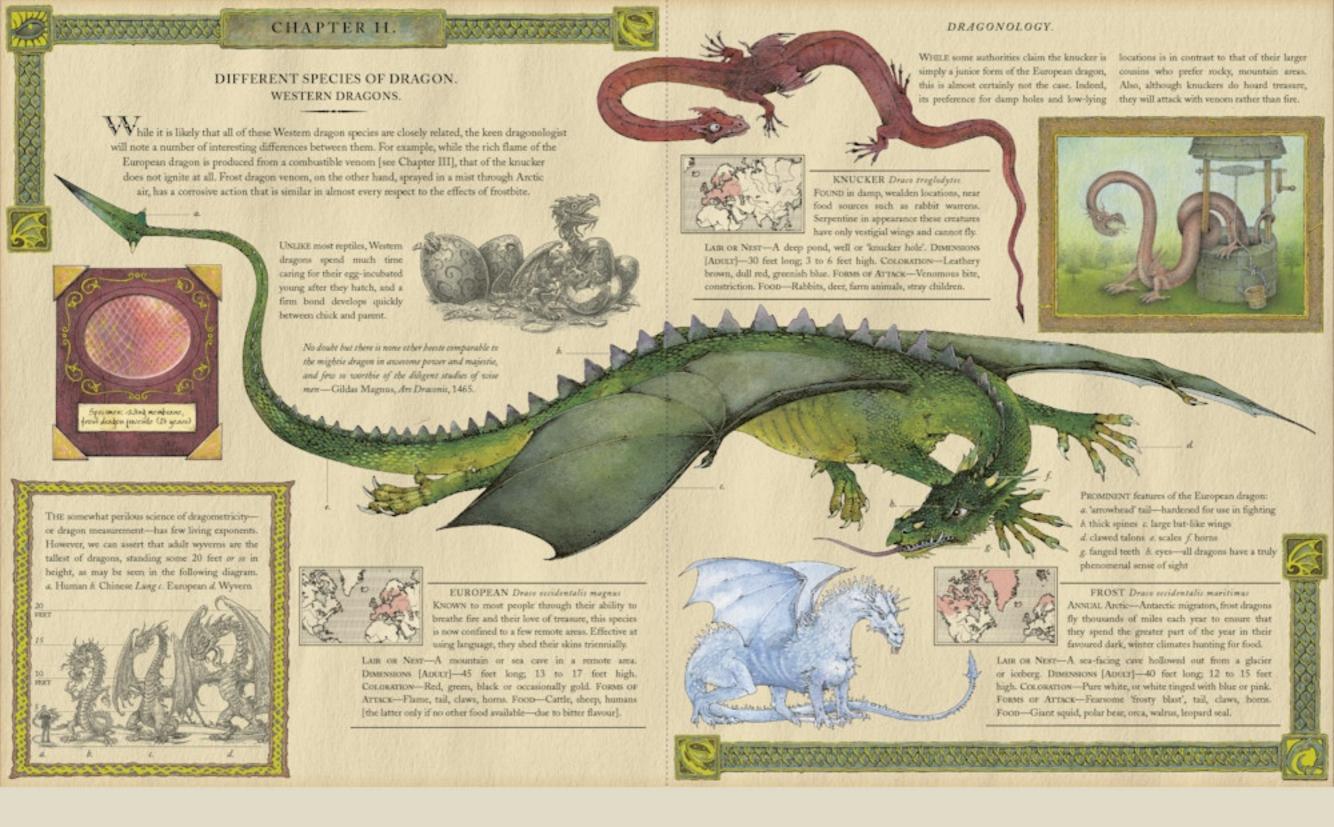
FIELDWORK-it is best by far to study dragons in their own environments. FORESIGHT-proper learning and preparation are absolutely essential. FORWARDNESS-the student must be both daring and truly courageous. FRANKNESS-one must simply report honestly what one sees at all times. FATALITIES-unless these are avoided. the student will make little progress.

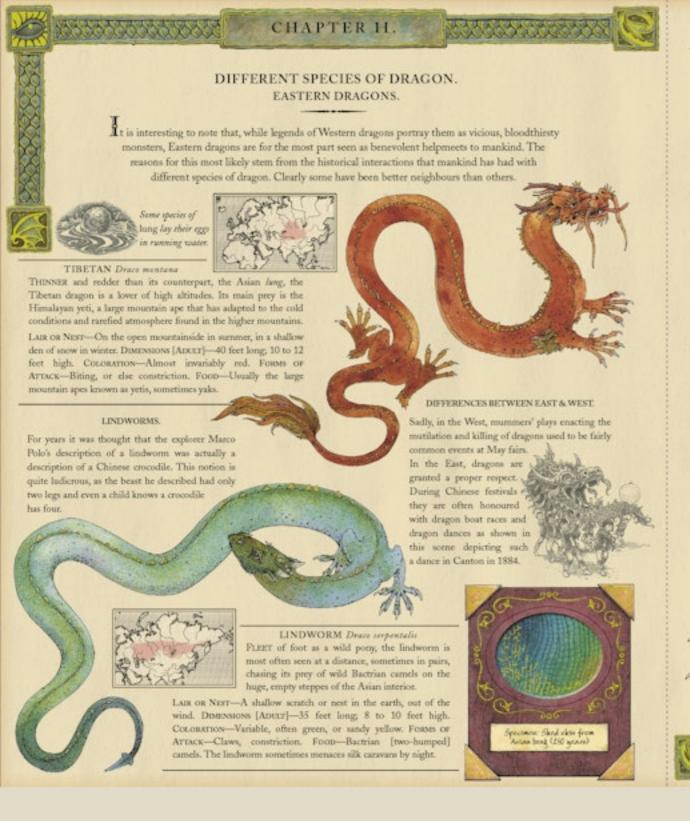
















Primary

Spark pouch

LIKE most reptiles, a dragon's

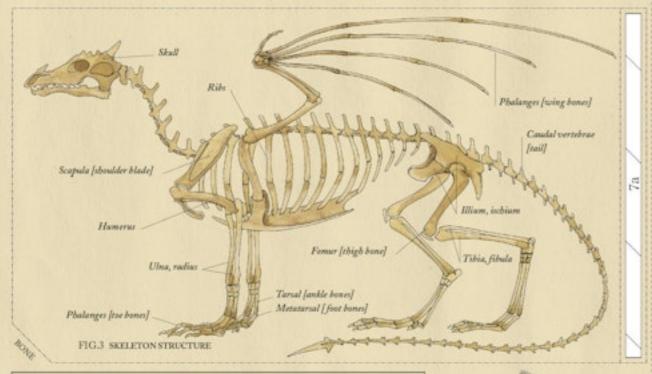
teeth are constantly replaced by

new ones as the old teeth wear

away through age and use.

# THE NATURAL HISTORY OF DRAGONS. DRAGON BIOLOGY & PHYSIOLOGY.

Most species of dragons are reptilian and share many features of this animal type such as egg laying, although they also care for their young. They are unusual in that they are the only creatures who can speak with meaning apart from humans. However, not all dragons have managed this feat, and it seems likely that it is only the older, more experienced dragons who have developed this skill.





THE laws of flight say that dragons, like bees, bend its wings and sotate them quickly in their can't fly, when in actual fact they can. Their sockets and also by the fact that dragon bones aerial skill is assisted by the dragon's ability to are lightweight and hollow like those of birds.



In this picture one can see how the surprisingly bat-like wings of the European dragon are affixed to the small 'fingers' that can be used to aid the dragon in climbing sheer cliffs [and by extension, tall buildings].





# DIFFERENCES BETWEEN EASTERN & WESTERN

FIG.5 FLAME PRODUCING ORGANS

By comparing this Chinese dragon skull with the European dragon skall below, differences in the essential shape of eastern and western species can be seen.

Dragon bones are not often found because of their very fast rate of decomposition.

SCALES.

The hard scales of the dragon are capable of

resisting most projectiles, and can be worked

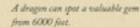
into bullet-proof armour using steel rivets.



Venom reservoir

## SIGHT.

Dragons have the best sight of any animal and were sometimes slain so their eyes could be used in telescopic lenses. It may be that Galileo used a dragon lens in his very first telescope, before realising that fairly good lenses could be made by grinding glass.





A dragon's eye has six optic nerves, used to see light in different parts of the spectrum.





# FEEDING & DIGESTION.

Digestion is fairly straightforward in dragons. In general, a dragon will eat its prey whole where this is practicable. If not, it may rip it into tasty chunks that are small enough to eat. A dragon feeds once every few weeks. Sometimes when a tough specimen is eaten, or one with a hard, armoured exterior, the dragon will regurgitate its prey at leisure in order to 'shell' it and flame-grill it to a more succulent tendemess.





# CLAWS.

Made of keratin, like our own hair and nails, dragons must be careful to avoid breathing fire on their claws or they stink hornibly.







HOW TO ESTIMATE AGE

# THE NATURAL HISTORY OF DRAGONS. THE LIFE CYCLE OF DRAGONS.

DRAGON EGGS:



European Egg



Egg



Frant Egg



Wyvern Egg



Amphishere Egg

1 9 rapons have a life cycle that resembles that of lizards, although they actively learn some aspects of their resulting adult behaviours when young, unlike most lizards whose behaviours are innate. Their gestation process may best be studied by rearing dragon chicks, but these creatures must be released into the wild at maturity, not into the New York sewerage system as occurred in one case in 1862.

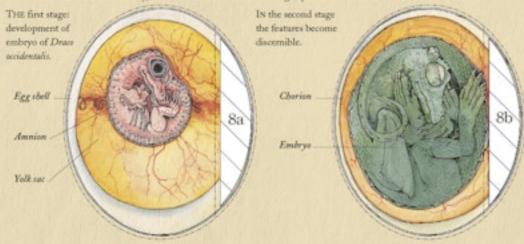


FIG.1 THREE MONTHS.



# A DRAGON'S NEST.

A dragon's nest need not be soft, for dragon eggs are highly resilient, but it must be warm. However, the eggs retain heat very well. Generally, a nesting mother breathes a jet of flame over her eggs every three or four hours. Lindworm and wyvern pairs share nesting duty, whereas only female European dragons care for their nests.

# THE DRAGONOLOGIST'S HATCHERY.

FIG.2 TWELVE MONTHS.

If you can obtain the eggs, you might like to hatch your own dragon chicks. To keep the eggs warm you need to make a 'nest' of live coals, which must be kept burning over the gestation period of three years. A small sledgehammer may help them hatch and, if you are present, the chicks may believe you are their parent dragon, usefully increasing your chances of surviving that all-important first encounter.







# In the third stage an 'egg horn' develops to aid the chick in chipping open the hard shell.



FEMALE Discarded age born

FIG.3 TWENTY-FOUR MONTHS.

FIG.4 THIRTY-SIX MONTHS.



# REARING INFANTS.

Keep an adequate food supply. A 40- to 50-acre farm with a head of 300 cows should be enough for one chick. Small treats such as turkeys, dogs, cats, males or geese may be used as rewards for all-important house training, as a chick learns that setting fire to your home is not acceptable behaviour.

# SIGNS OF GROWING MATURITY.

There are a number of behaviours that show a chick is nearing maturity, and will soon seek to leave the nest.

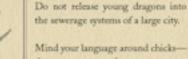
in a parrot-like fashion.

Hoarding The chick collects precious objects from

around the house, reluctant to return them. Fire play The chick seeks out iron and flint objects and plays by making huge showers of sparks.

Language Chicks repeat any words and phrases they hear repeatedly,

Hoarding behaviour, often misdirected towards inappropriate objects, such as this pennyfarthing bicycle, is seen in chicks from an early age



they may repeat what you say over and over in front of visitors.

POINTS TO REMEMBER:

Keep iron and flint objects away from

chicks, or live in a fire-proof house.

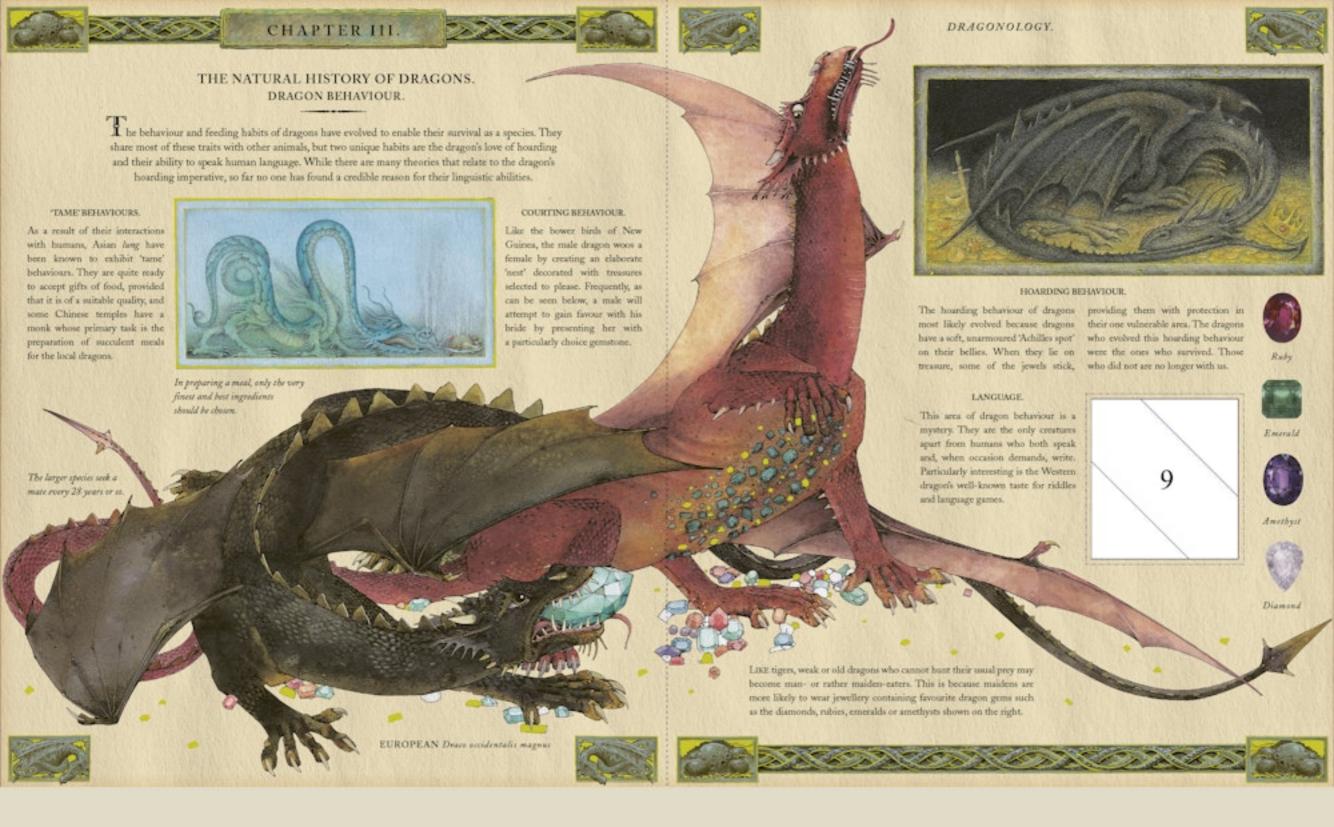
It is not recommended to leave children and hungry dragons alone.

Hide all shiny or valuable objects.









# WORKING WITH DRAGONS. FINDING & TRACKING DRAGONS.

There is no more satisfying activity for the dragonologist than that of studying dragons in the wild; it is the best way of enhancing our knowledge of these creatures. While armchair science has its own rewards, the achievement of tracking and locating a dragon and, hopefully, reaching a position of acceptance and trust will allow the student to

put into perspective all that has been so diligently learned.

Encourage a dragon to the cave mouth with an offering of a suitable gift. Remember that dragons cannot easily be fooled!

# WHERE TO LOOK FOR DRAGONS.

Referencing the map and table [after Chapter I] one may be in a position to determine what sort of terrain each type of dragon is most likely found in. Above is the perfect sort of mountain location with a large cave where a Tibetan dragon may be located.

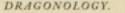


until a sense of trust has been built up. Sadly, fatalities have resulted from very young, inexperienced dragonologists being too keen to introduce themselves too soon.

# TELL-TALE SIGNS OF DRAGON ACTIVITY.

To the experienced eye, it is easy to tell at once when a dragon's range has been entered, and exactly what dragon is being encountered.

- · Footprints & tail runbing marks.
- · Burned & scorched trees and undergrowth.
- Small, depleted-looking flocks of sheep.
- · Frightened villagers, with excitable children.
- · A tendency for the locals to eschew jewellery.
- Local legends about dragon activity, often dismissed as 'smuggler's tales' to keep people away.
- A local basel or hosseby with a reputation for eccentric visitors [likely to be visual dragonologists or newspaper 'backs' but on the trail of a 'scop'].







Chinese

# ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT.

Over time, each dragonologist will build up his own list of essential equipment. Here is a basic list:

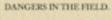
- A notebook, to preserve all important records.
   Ideally this should have a heat-proof cover.
- · A hear-proof pen and ink. 2B sketching pencil.
- · A reasonably powerful magnifying glass.
- · Special, hear-protective clothing.
- A relief map of the area, that shows both flora-types and geological formations.
- A camera, although all attempts to photograph drugens so far bave been failures.



Wyeern

# FIELD PROCEDURE.

Upon discovering signs of dragon activity such as footprints [see left], the scientific dragonologist will record peccise details of the event: the location, time, date and weather conditions. This should be repeated over a number of days. Feeding and behaviour should definitely be noted, although not at such a range as to make it an unpleasantly personal experience. Attempts at interaction should be included, whether they involve speech or spells. One should take care to take nothing from a dragon as this will not only cause grave danger to the dragonologist but may also provoke a fiery retribution to any other people who live in the surrounding area.



While the dangers of suffering from bites, burns, slashes from claws, death-by-constriction, tail lashings, venom attacks and so forth should never be underestimated, the lesser danger of hypnosis is often ignored. The mechanism for this is little understood, but it seems to occur in a similar way to that seen when a snake hypnotises a frog. Dragons can hypnotise large groups of individuals at one time, and the effects may last for some months, with the hypnotised person often found apparently carrying on their everyday life. The signs are easy to read: an obsession with dragons, wizards, fairies or tales of other worlds. A mad delight in fantastic illustrations and ideas. A dislike of human rules or authorities. Luckily, there is a tried and trusted method that may be used as a sure remedy:

- A person tobo has been hypnotised by a dragon should be made to do a large number of complicated mathematical sums.
- All books on dragons, wizzerds or suchlike should be confiscated, and books on stimulating topics—politics, economic theory, the history of benzene in the manufacturing industries etc.—should be substituted.
- Exhortations in the person to "snap out of it" or in "stop living in cloud-cuchoo land" are rarely successful.

DRAGON: Knuclesc

DETAILS Male, brown, 2044, 40 years old.

DATE: Any 29th, 1860

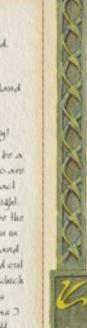
LOCATION: Pippbrook Will, Borking, England

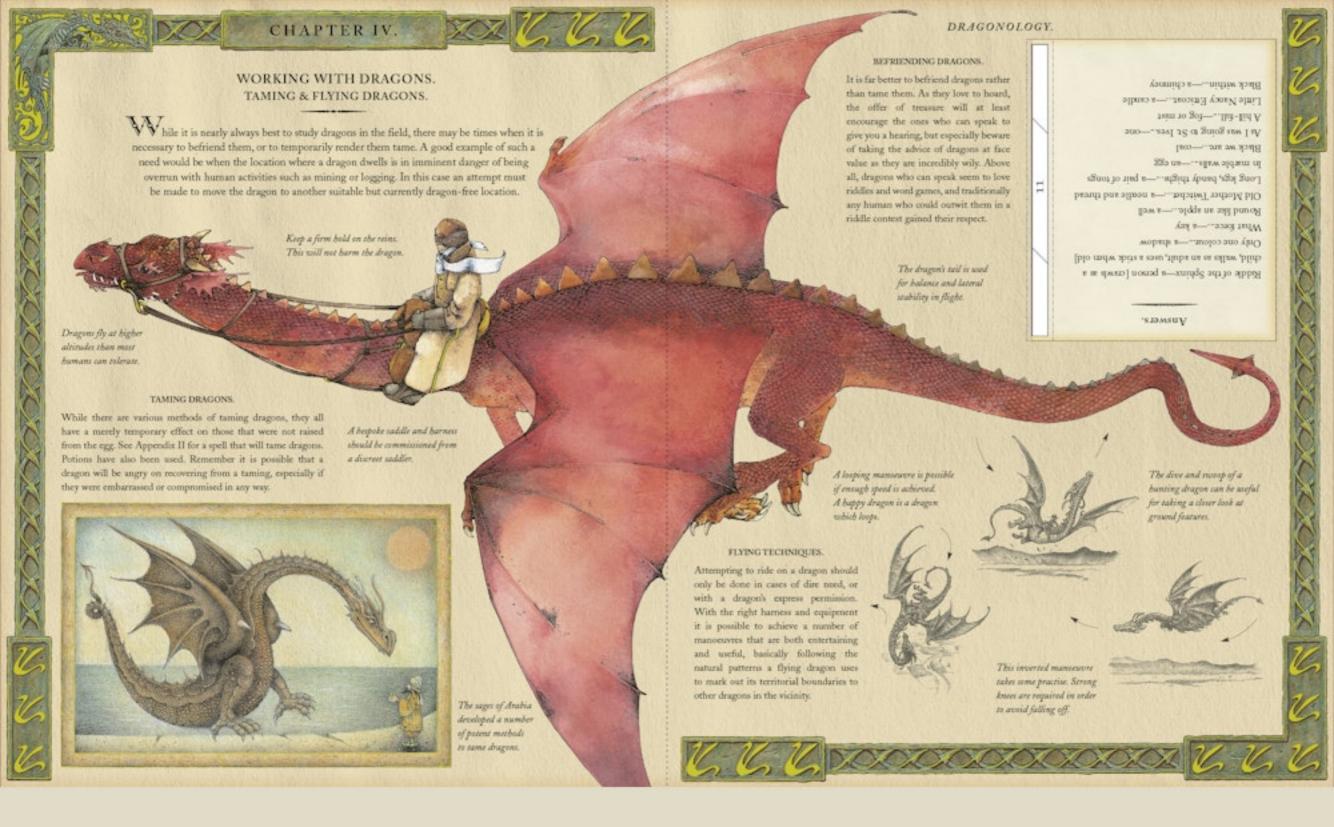
TIME I o'clock in lks morning.

WEATHER CONDITIONS: Damp and dreary!

OBSERVATIONS: I have been called on to be a private investigator! The mill owners, who are friends of mine, were perplexed by the fact that the mill wheel is being jammed overnight. Close observation reveals the cause to be the very same knincker I have so often seen in 51. Leonard's Forest—it is a poventle, and seems to enjoy playfully wrighting in and out of the spokes of the mill wheel at night, which explains why the basement of the mill has flooded several times recently. As soon as I use a lautern to peer down, he stitliers off. I must find a way to discoverage lim!







# APPENDIX I.

# A DRAGONOLOGICAL LABORATORY.

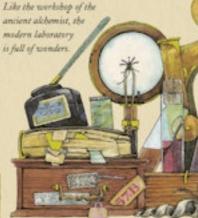
I he material that is presented in these appendices, help conserve the dragons that remain, not destroy them. particularly that in respect of parts of dead dragons, is This author hopes that a parallel will not be drawn with given for information only. More research is needed into the numbers of rhinos and tigers killed each year and this area, but the purpose of the present volume is to used in 'medicines' of doubtful value, or for trophies.



A remedy for scaring away savage beasts, Dissolved in sulphuric acid, and then fertiliser it has the property of allowing plants to grow in record time. One drawback full moon. is that dung from a female dragon on heat sometimes acts as a strong attractor to males.

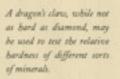
## DRAGON TEXTIL

Contrary to the legends of Heracles or Jason, bardness of different sorts dragon teeth cannot be 'sown' to produce a ef minerals. race of fierce warriors. But this myth may have arisen because the teeth themselves make some of the very sharpest of possible edges to weapons, only recently matched by new steel-smelting technologies.

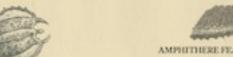




dung is invaluable in trips to wild regions. dissolved again in 100 parts water, dragon Rubbed daily into the face it is a cure for scales have been used for centuries as many skin conditions. As an all-purpose an invisible ink that glows only under the magnetic conditions pertaining at a



To avoid picking up the wrong ingredient, remember to label all your specimens very clearly!



# AMPRITTHERE FEATURERS

The most ticklish of all feathers, these can be made into dusters, or special quills, Additionally, they can be woven together into protective coverings of varying sorts.

# DRAGON'S BLOOD.

Dragon's blood, while corrosive, can in small doses promote health and regeneration, and can be used to effectively heal most wounds. In larger doses it is dangerous, but can have a potent effect on the brain, particularly on the areas that control language acquisition.

Dragon's blood





PREPARING DRAGON HIDE.

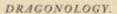
Cured on an iron-frame, sloughed-off dragon hide loses mone of its hardness and can be made into protective shields, hides or costumes. The different sections must be riveted together.



One use that has not been tested is using light, strong dragon hide on a framework of bone to mimic the 'gliders' that are all the rage in America and France. One almost fantasises that, with an engine, the contraption might fly!



Being incredibly strong yet light, dragon bones can be used to make shelters, in much the same way as some eskimos build shelters of whalebone. Alternatively flame-resistant coracles can be constructed to assist in the scientific exploration of volcano craters.





Perhaps there is no music so deep and sweet as that which is played on a properly hollowed-out dragon horn. In addition, powdered horn mixed with salamander grease acts on the eyes, nose and ears producing temporary 'supersenses'



DRAGONDUST

This substance may be collected from the cave walls around the nests of breeding mothers and condenses from their breath. It has a highly soporific effect if mixed with enough dragon blood. Used in quantity, this mixture may even help to pacify fully-grown dragons but under no circumstances should dragondust be ingested by humans.



THE DRAGON'S EYE.

Like the alchemists of old whose highest aim was to seek out the philosopher's stone, capable of transforming base metals into gold, the mystical dragon's eye was sought by dragonologists for centuries. It is the only sure means to determine those dragonologists who, by reason of their innate wisdom and affinities with dragons, may become true dragonmasters. For some reason most likely associated with the dragon's ability to see light across various parts of the spectrum [due to its six optic nerves], a true dragonmaster is reflected with perfect clarity in this precious gem. Fortunately, my own tutor finally succeeded in locating it. It was secreted in a cavern near More Hall in England by Elizabethan dragonologist and natural philosopher, Dr. John Dee, and is often referred to by him as his crystal ball, or shew stone'.

> Scientific dragonology makes little use of the alembics, athenors or other



work, and there may be elements in them that are in fact 'magic' is simply 'science' that no one understands yet.

## THE HONG WELLINVISIBILITY SPELL.

Take four freshwater pearls, ground into a powder with dragon horn and jade. Mix this powder in the grease of a freshly killed, seven-day-old koi and massage liberally all over the clothes and body, repeating over and over as a mantra:

> She zheng wang dong · li pa! 蛇正往洞里爬

This spell is found towards the end of the first section of the remarkable Dragon Sutra of Hong Wei. It lasts four hours.



Take three troy ounces of dragondust from a silver dish that has been thrice washed in water that has reflected a new moon. Cast it over the dragon, crying:

> Ivabii yaduin! Enimér taym impela! Boyar agéner gedit!

This spell is hard to get right, because it is very difficult to pronounce the words correctly. It seems likely that they are actually in the secret dragonish tongue. The spell will last for a full three hours.

Right, the remarkable and swift efficacity of Hong Wei'r long-lasting invisibility spell.



START. Recite the spell.





BEST METHOD OF APPLYING DUST.

Perfect the casting of dragondust using rice or confetti. The best area to practise is at a church with a wedding in progress.

# EDMUND GRYPHON'S COOLING SPELL.

Take the tongue of a blind salamander that has lived thirty-one days and a night, ground in a mortar with black alabaster and the clipped mane of a unicorn. Heat all till smoke rises and smear over clothing by moonlight, all the while repeating these powerful words:

> ABRA-SALAMANDRA! ALABASTRUM FRIGIDUM! UNICORNUCOPIA!

The heat-resistant effect lasts for three days, then wears off gradually.

# DR. DEE'S DRAGON-SUMMONATION.

Hollow out the horn of a dragon, take it to the high point of a hill that has a barrow, burial mound or old castle upon it, tum once about and blow three times on the hom before repeating this verse:

Dragon kin that come and go Come and aid me here below. Serpents one and serpents all Come and heed my dragon call! FLAMMIFAX! ARFAX! ORFAX! MINIFAX! MAGNIFAX! THORFAX!

. . . . . For one week dragons will protect you.



AFTER 5 SECONDS.



AFTER 10 SECONDS. One third of body is invisible. One third of body remaining.



AFTER 15 SECONDS. Whole body is invisible.

# DRAGONOLOGY.

# THE TALISMAN OF MASTER MERLIN.

As an aside on matters magical, we should refer to the talisman of Master Merlin. The image here is copied from Ars Draconis, penned by the monk Gildas Magnus in 1465. According to Magnus, Merlin used it to release the dragons beneath Dinas

Emrys [see Appendix III]. The talisman is kept by a dragon who will lend it in exchange for answering a lost riddle. In the rune booklet [Chapter III] you can see a fragment of this lost riddle from Dinas Emrys, What follows are theprobably garbied -words of the talisman spell.

While some dragons can

read, they do not have the

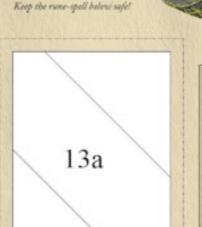
ability to open secret envelopes.

Nine times nine lives bath lived the car And ninety nights are nine by ten, Nine ounces from nine pounds of fat Nine times bath pecked the Dorking ben, So nine times nine I'll call to thee, Ninth of those nine, come thou to me!

Repeat this verse eight times, holding the talisman aloft, and at the ninth a dragon will appear. Bow low as she approaches, offering forth the talisman. When it is accepted you may ask her to perform any one action that lies in her power, and it will be done. She will now become the keeper of the talisman.

> The talisman of Master Merlin must be sought with care, and used only once, for good or ill.

It is ill-advised to try and keep the talisman, as it properly belongs to dragons tobo will certainly search for it if it is not used.



# WARNING-THE DANGERS.

As with all of these appendices, known to backfire on those who I make no recommendations that innocently tried to use them, and they be tried, as the results are sure to should a dragon overcome you while be uncertain and the ingredients you were trying to use a taming spell, hard to obtain. Magic is an attractive for example, there is no knowing study, to be sure, but to a truly what sort of fun he might then modern dragonologist only as decide to have. It is better to know attractive as its true [rather than much, see much, learn much but do imagined] causes and effects may be little other than the things which studied under the aegis of science. may help to conserve and protect the Remember that spells have been few dragons that remain on Earth.

# DRAGONOLOGISTS & DRAGONSLAYERS OF HISTORY.

In any study it is useful to understand a little about Indeed, even the best known dragonologists from history those who have gone before. This is partly because, given preferred to be known first as magicians, explorers or haughty modern scepticism about dragons, many living natural philosophers. Dragonslayers, on the other hand, dragonologists are very keen to conceal their identities. have always seemed to court rather than avoid publicity.



# MERLIN AMBROSIUS: Vth Century A.D.

Merlin is considered the founding father of western dragonology. dragons—a red Welsh dragon and a white Saxon one—had been Nennius, the 9th century historian, recounts the story that King imprisoned in a cavern beneath the fortress years before by King Vortigers, retreating into North Wales, tried to build a fortress at Llud. Merlin released the dragons who fought until the red Dinas Emrys. However, no sooner were walls set up than they dragon defeated the white one. Vortigern took this to be an collapsed again. Merlin was able to explain the reason: Two rival omen that he too would defeat the Saxons, as he in fact did.

# EDWARD TOPSELL: XVIIth Century A.D.

Topsell, an early English naturalist, included a detailed section on dragons in his scholarly History of Four-footed Beasts of 1607. In one note he mentions that dragons are fond of lettuce, but find apples give them stomachaches. The present author has not tested these hypotheses, but can recommend his readers carry a small head of ers or inslyry in case an opportunity arises.

In Topsell's time, modern science was born when trust in ancient authorities gave way to the current method of testing hypothesis through repeated observations.



# MARCO POLO: XIIIth Century A.D.

Marco Polo, an Italian traveller, studied dragons en route to China. He writes about elephant-hunting wyverns, twolegged lindworms, and the methods used to launder asbestos [or dragon-proof] clothes in the desert lands of Karakhoja.



# 

## GEORGE OF CAPPADOCIA: IIIst Century A.D.

George of Cappadocia was a dragonslayer who became confused with a Christian saint. This is partly because they shared the same name and partly because, while George of Cappadocia slew an actual dragon, St. George slew the symbolic dragon of paganism. The dragon George of Cappadocia slew was not evil, just hungry. The people of Libya, where the dragon lived, had become rich and their large flocks grazed on land that was once the habitat of the dragon's natural pery. So it was not surprising that, having eaten all their sheep, the hungry dragon resorted to feeding on townsfolk. Interestingly, Sylene, the town where this took place seems to have been destroyed as it cannot be found on the map at all, which leads us to wonder if George was quite as successful at ridding the area of dragons as history has since painted him.

# BEOWULF: VIth Century A.D.

Beowulf, the famous Danish king, was forced to become a dragonslayer when a local dragon was aroused to fury by the theft of a cup from its hoard. Unable to pacify the dragon, Beowulf decided to face it alone in order to save his subjects. Badly bitten and burned he would have failed, had not his faithful servant Wiglaf stabbed the dragon, enabling Beowulf to finally despatch it, although mortally wounded himself.



# FU HSI: MMCMLXII ILC.

Fu Hsi is the first recorded dragonologist. A dragon met him in 2962 B.C. on the banks of China's Yellow River, and gave him the vital secret of writing. Fu Hsi used writing to teach people how to become civilised: to use a compass and set-square to take accurate measurements, to make music, to fish and to domesticate animals. It is not known whether modern dragons regret so generously belping mankind in this way.

