



ICONFILMS

Romulus Whitaker and the Dragon Chronicles FACT SHEET

The Mappa Mundi:

- Is a thirteenth Century map of the world, found at Hereford Cathedral
- It is drawn on a single sheet of vellum (calf skin) 1.58 x 1.33 metres
- It is described by leading scholars as the most important and most celebrated medieval map in any form
- Jerusalem is shown as the centre of the world and drawn onto the continents are images of cities, towns, biblical events, mythology, plants, animals, people and of course, dragons

The Chronicle of the Man-eating Dragon:

- The Nile Crocodile's Latin name is *Crocodylus niloticus*
- Historically it is very likely that it lived and thrived in North Africa, where the St George and the Dragon myth is based
- They can grow to 6 metres in length, weigh up to a ton and can run and swim at speeds of up to 16km/h
- They can bite with a force of 2 Tons and eat up to half their own weight
- It is generally accepted that Nile Crocodiles kill more people than any other crocodile species. It is thought to eat hundreds of people each year

The Chronicle of the Dragon's Lair:

- The olm's Latin name is *Proteus anguinus*
- It is only found in caves in a small part of Europe
- It is a salamander, with no eyes and no pigment
- It has bright red gills behind its head that resemble wings
- The olm can live for up to 10 years without food and anecdotal evidence suggests it can live for more than 100 years

The Chronicle of the Dragon's Hoard:

- The King Cobra's Latin name is *Ophiophagus hannah*
- The Cobra was the Warden of the King's Treasure in Kipling's second Jungle Book, it was tasked with teaching death to those who came to steal
- This rare and venomous snake can grow to 5 and a half metres long
- It can produce 7 millilitres of venom - enough to kill an elephant or up to 20 people

- Rom has an allergy to anti-venom, meaning that a bite from a King Cobra would almost certainly be deadly

The Chronicle Of The Fire Breathing Dragon:

- The Indonesian Spitting Cobra's Latin name is *Elapidae naja naja*
- It can spray its fiery venom directly into the eyes of its foe, due to the very liquid nature of its venom
- The cobra sprays the venom through its fangs by using a muscular contraction that forces air out and propels the venom
- The reticulated python - Python Reticulates- is the longest snake on earth
- It could be the Indian dragon referred to in Pliny's Natural History- capable of enveloping an elephant in its coils
- The Reticulated python grows up to 6 metres long and has been known to swallow humans
- It is thought that our fear of snakes may have been inherited from our primate ancestry

The Chronicle of the Wise Dragon:

- Eastern Dragons are often revered for their wisdom and the water monitor Varanus Salvator is well known for its intelligence
- Water monitors are known to work together to lure crocodiles away from their eggs
- Feeding studies have shown that one species can distinguish numbers up to 6, in effect it can count
- They use their powerful whip-like tails as defence

The Chronicle of the Flying Dragon:

- The Draco Lizard or *Draco dussumieri* can fly
- Using its amazing membrane wings it glides from tree to tree, 18m up in the canopy of the forests of Asia.
- They are only a few centimetres in length, and feed on ants
- They have a bright yellow flap of skin on their throat that they extend when threatened
- Herodotus wrote of throngs of winged serpents guarding trees and the Draco could be the explanation

The Chronicle of the Real Dragon:

- The Komodo Dragon or *Varanus komodoensis* is the largest living lizard
- They can eat up to 80% of their body weight in a single meal
- In 2007 an 8 year old boy was attacked and killed by a Komodo Dragon
- They have up to 60 sharp teeth and long eagle-like claws
- A 3 metre Komodo can tip the scales at over 160kg
- Female Komodo Dragons have the extraordinary ability to produce offspring without a male- genuine virgin birth!