

MYTH-LAND

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649087372

Myth-land by F. Edward Hulme

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F. EDWARD HULME

MYTH-LAND

M Y T H - L A N D.

BY

F. EDWARD HULME, F.L.S., F.S.A.

AUTHOR OF

"FAMILIAR WILD FLOWERS," ETC. ETC.

"Far away in the twilight time
Of every people, in every clime,
Dragons and griffins and monsters dire,
Born of water, or air, or fire,
Or nursed, like the Python, in the mud
And ooze of the old Deucalion flood,
Crawl, and wriggle, and foam with rage,
Through dark tradition and ballad age."

WHITTIER.

LONDON

SAMPSON LOW, MARSTON, SEARLE, & RIVINGTON,
CROWN BUILDINGS, 183 FLEET STREET.

1886.

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PREFACE.



THE nucleus of the following pages was originally written in the form of two short papers to be read at the meetings of a Public School Natural History Society. Since then, finding materials rapidly growing on our hands, we have been gradually amplifying our notes on the subject until they have grown to the present dimensions; for, to quote the quaint words of Thomas Fuller, "when there is no recreation or business for thee abroad, thou may'st then have a company of honest old fellows in leathern jackets in thy study, which may find thee excellent divertisement at home." Our researches in pursuit of the marvellous, through the works of divers and sundry old writers, have been so far entertaining and interesting to us that we would fain hope that they may not be altogether received without favour by others.

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Our subject naturally divides itself into two very obvious sections—the one dealing with wholly untrue and impossible creatures of the fancy, the other with the strange beliefs and fancies that have clustered round the real creatures we see around us. It will readily be discovered that we have confined ourselves in the present volume almost entirely to the first of these sections. Should our present labours prove acceptable they may readily be followed by a companion volume, at least as entertaining, dealing with the second section of our subject.





CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

Introduction—"A Description of 300 Animals"—Unicorn—The Bible Unicorn—The Heraldic Unicorn—The Horn as a Poison Test—The Unicorn of Mediæval Legend—Wolf Causing Dumbness—The Rompo or Man-Eater—The Manticora—The Lamia—Stag Antipathies—Dragons—Dragon-Slaying—Legends of the Saints—The "Legenda Aurea"—St. George—Mediæval Recipes—The "Historia Monstrorum" of Aldrovandus—The Dragon in Heraldry—The Dragon of Wantley—Dragons' Teeth—The Dragonades—The Dragons of Shakespeare—Guardians of Treasure—The Feud between the Dragon and the Elephant—The "Bestiare Divin" of Guillaume—The Cockatrice—The Basilisk—The Phœnix: Its Literary Existence from Herodotus to Shakespeare—The Dun-Cow of Warwick—Sir Guy, and Percie's "Reliques of Antient Poetry"—Old Ribs and other Bones in Churches—The Salamander—Breydenbach's Travels—The "Bestiary" of De Thaun—The Ylio—The Griffin—The Arimaspians—Burton's "Miracles of Art and Nature"—The Lomie—The Tartarian Vegetable Lamb—The Sea-Elephant—Pegasus—The Vampyre—The Chameleon 1-80

CHAPTER II.

The Sphinx—The Chimæra—The Centaurs—The Origin of the Myth—The Onocentaur—Sagittarius—Satyrs and Fauns—The Harpys, described by Homer, Virgil, Shakespeare, Milton, and

others—The Echidna—The Gorgon—The Hydra—The Sirens —The Lurlei—Mermaids—The Manatee—Dog-Headed Men of Brazil—The One-Eyed Cyclops and Briaræus of the Hundred Arms—The Headless Men or Anthropophagi—Sir Walter Raleigh's El Dorado—Claw-Footed Men—The Marvels of Hackluyt and Mandevile—The Long-Eared Fanesii—The Fairies—The "Discoverie of Witchcraft"—The Little Good People—Fairy-Rings—Elf-Music—Changelings—Elf-Posses- sion—Spirits of the Mine, or Knockers—Robin Goodfellow— Queen Mab—The Phœca or Storm-Spirit—The Keipie—Jack- o'-Lantern—The Pigmies—Giants—Early Sculptures—Gigantic Men of Antiquity	81-132
---	--------

CHAPTER III.

Comparatively Small Number of Mythical Bird-Forms—The Mart- let—The Bird of Paradise—The Humma—The Huppe—The Ibis—The Roc—The Hameh Bird—Reptiles, Fish, &c.—The Sea-Serpent—The Adissechen of Hindu Mythology—The Iormungandur of Scandinavian Mythology—The Egg Talis- man—Fire-Drake—Aspis—Amphisbena—Kraken—Cetus— Leviathan—Behemoth—Nautilus—Dolphin—The Acipenser— The Remora—The Fish Nun—The Chilon—The Dies—Sea- Bishops and Sea-Monks—Davy Jones and his Locker— Ojibiway Legend of the Great Serpent—Fabledom in the Vegetable Kingdom—The Barnacle Tree—The Kalpa-Tarou —The Lote Tree—The Tree of Life—Lotus-Eating—Amaranth —Lotus Wreaths at Kew from the Egyptian Tombs—Asphodel —Mediæval Herbs—Ambrosia—The Upas Tree—The Umdhlebi Tree of Zululand—The Kerzereh Flower—The Mandrake—"Miracles of Art and Nature"—Travellers' Tales —The Dead Sea Apple—Ailuros—The Meto—The Herb Viva —Cockeram on Herb-Lore—The Pseudodoxia of Dr. Browne —Herb Basil—The "Eikon Basilike"—Fitzherbert's "Boke of Husbandry"	133-205
APPENDIX	207
INDEX	235



LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

	PAGE
THE UNICORN (from a "Description of 300 Animals," A.D. 1786)	5
THE MANTICORA " " " " " "	13
THE LAMIA " " " " " "	13
DRAGONS " " " " " "	17
THE SEA-ELEPHANT	72
DRAGON, from a piece of Italian decoration	79
THE SEA-LION	160
THE HARPY (from the "Historia Monstrorum" of Aldrovandus, A.D. 1642)	161
THE BARNACLE TREE, from Gerard's "Herbal," A.D. 1633	169
THE BARNACLE TREE (from the "Theatrum Botanicum" of Parkinson, A.D. 1640)	173
THE BARNACLE TREE (from "Munster's Cosmography," A.D. 1550)	174
THE PALM (from the "Eikon Basilike," A.D. 1648)	203



