

Table of Contents

1 Introduction	1
1.1 Here Be Dragons	1
1.2 To Hold the Mirror up to Nature: Literature and the Arts in a Historico-Cultural Context	3
1.3 The Monsters and the Critics: A Survey of Relevant Critical Literature	7
1.3.1 General Literature	7
1.3.2 The Forerunners: From the Middle Ages to Richard Johnson	7
1.3.3 Folk Literature	8
1.3.4 The Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries	10
1.3.5 Fantasy	15
1.3.6 Popular Romance	17
2 The Forerunners of the Modern Dragonslayer	21
2.1 The Dragonslayer in the Middle Ages and in the Renaissance	21
2.2 From High Literature to Popular Fiction: Richard Johnson's <i>The Seven Champions of Christendom</i> (1596/7)	31
2.2.1 The Johnson Editions: 1596/7-1616	31
2.2.2 Beyond Johnson: The Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries	44
3 Traditional Versions of the Dragonslayer Story	55
3.1 The Dragonslayer in Folk Literature	55
3.1.1 Definition	55
3.1.2 "The Two Brothers" (AaTh 303)	59
3.1.3 St George in British Folk Literature	64
3.2 The Dragonslayer in the Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries	80
3.2.1 Historico-Cultural Background	80
3.2.1.1 The Reinvention of the Middle Ages	80
3.2.1.2 The Eglinton Tournament	92
3.2.2 Richard Johnson's <i>The Seven Champions of Christendom</i> in the Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries	100
3.2.3 St George for Children	109
3.2.4 Valiant Knights and Hapless Maidens	123
3.2.5 "St George for England!"	129
3.3 The Dragonslayer in Traditional High Fantasy	136
3.3.1 Definition	136
3.3.2 Heroes and Dragons	140

4 Revisionist Versions of the Dragonslayer Story	149
4.1 Victorian Attacks and Parodies	149
4.1.1 Historico-Cultural Background	149
4.1.2 A Short Theory of Parody and Related Forms	160
4.1.3 Parodying the Myth of Chivalry	161
4.1.3.1 Richard Doyle's Knights and Dragons	161
4.1.3.2 Lewis Carroll's <i>Through the Looking Glass</i> (1872)	187
4.1.3.3 Brysson Cunningham's "Modern Knight Errantry" (1895)	206
4.1.3.4 F.M. Allen's <i>Brayhard: The Strange Adventures of One Ass and Seven Champions</i> (1890)	210
4.2 The Dragonslayer in Revisionist Fantasy	224
4.2.1 Definition	224
4.2.2 The Deconstruction of the Hero	230
4.2.2.1 Modern Man and the Chivalric Ideal	230
4.2.2.2 No More Battles with the Dragon	237
4.2.2.3 Environmentalism and Criticism of Capitalism	251
4.2.2.4 Postmodernism and the Dragonslayer	256
4.2.3 The Emancipation of the Virgin Maiden	262
4.2.3.1 Fantasy and Feminism	262
4.2.3.2 Dragons and Maidens in <i>Sword and Sorceress</i>	266
4.2.4 The Narrative Show-Down: Terry Pratchett's <i>Guards! Guards!</i> (1989)	276
4.2.4.1 White Knowledge and Narrative Causality	276
4.2.4.2 The First Dragonslayer Story: "There had been a crime"	280
4.2.4.3 The Second Dragonslyaeer Story: "[...] it's a bloody flying alligator setting fire to my city!"	287
4.3 The Dragonslayer in Modern Historical Romance	295
4.3.1 A Patriarchal Conspiracy?	295
4.3.2 Definition	297
4.3.3 The Parameters of Modern Historical Romance	307
4.3.3.1 Historico-Cultural Background	307
4.3.3.2 Gender Roles in Historical Romance	309
4.3.4 Dragonslayer and Animal Bridegroom	315
4.3.4.1 The Constellation of Characters	315
4.3.4.2 Teresa Medeiros's <i>The Bride and the Beast</i> (2000)	319
4.3.4.3 Gaelen Foley's <i>Lord of Fire</i> (2002)	319
5 Conclusion	335
Bibliography	339