

Praise for *Dragons of Fantasy*...

Anne C. Petty's *Dragons of Fantasy* is quite unlike most other books on dragons I know. Her very readable study goes beyond the usual collection of sources and myths, though Petty does not neglect to give an overview of dragons from their mythical beginnings to the 21<sup>st</sup> century (in chapters fittingly entitled 'Dragonology 101 and 102').

The main focus of this study, however, is primarily on the use of dragons in 'fantastic' literature. Individual chapters analyse and discuss dragons in the works of J.R.R. Tolkien, Anne McCaffrey, Terry Pratchett, Ursula K. Le Guin, Jane Yolen, Terry Goodkind, and J.K. Rowling. Petty's concise analysis and accessible presentation of the literary and narrative techniques used by the individual authors provide the reader with the necessary literary toolbox to gain a deeper insight into how these mythical beasts come to life at the touch of a gifted author (and, by analogy, the reader may be able to understand why some other 'literary' dragons remain stiff and wooden props).

A very useful chapter on sources old and new forms the conclusion of this thoroughly delightful and inspiring study, which is strongly recommended reading for all who share a fascination in the *draco literatus fantasticus*.

—Thomas Honegger

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