

Book Review

By Jon Dykstra

Dire Dragons

by Vance Nelson, 2012

139 pages, Hardcover

Dragons: Legends & Lore of Dinosaurs

edited by Bodie Hodge and Laura Welch: Master Books, 2011

24 pages, Hardcover

These are awesome books, both making an argument that responds to the evolutionary claim that dragons (ie. dinosaurs) died off millions of years ago, long before any humans roamed the earth. Or, as *National Geographic* put it, "No human being has ever seen a live dinosaur."

Vance Nelson says that ain't so, because the artifacts show so. In *Dire Dragons* he shares artifacts from country after country. There are sculptures, drawings, etchings, reliefs, paintings, pendants and more, all of which were crafted hundreds of years ago, and yet clearly depict dinosaurs, sometimes with stunning accuracy. If no human has ever seen a dinosaur, then how did these artists get it so right?

The editors of *Dragons: Legends & Lore of Dinosaurs* also say it ain't so, but in their case, it's because the legends show so. They share the many ancient stories from around the world that tell of brave warriors fighting fearsome dragons... and the descriptions of these dragons bear a striking resemblance to dinosaurs. This is a short book, just 24 pages long, but these are no ordinary pages: one has a half dozen envelopes to open with messages within, others have flaps to unfold, and on a couple there are even mini books to read. So there is a *lot* to explore!

The one downside is that target audience for this book – boys 12-year-olds and up – is also a group that would very likely lose or rip bits of it. So if parents make a gift of it, they either need to give it to very careful kids, or be fine with it getting tattered over time.

While *Legends and Lore* is a kid's book, Nelson's *Dire Dragons* is for an older audience – adults – and maybe as young as 15 or 16. It is slick with the best ultra-realistic dinosaur reconstruction pictures I've seen – my three year old and five year old didn't have the patience for the text, but thought the dinosaurs pictures were "pretty cool."

Some of the many artifacts that Nelson uncovers include:

- a petroglyph in Utah dated at more than 800 years old shows a Sauropod
- A pre-Columbus pot from Peru which seems to show a Protoceratops

- A brass etching in Britain from 500 years ago which shows two Sauropods intertwined.
- A turquoise dragon carving from China, dated to 4000 years ago which looks nearly identical to an adolescent Protoceratops

Nelson shares dozens and dozens more, some more impressive than others, but all of them contributing to a wealth of evidence showing man did indeed live at the same time as dinosaurs.

I've read articles, and seen a documentary or two on similar subject matter before (and, of course, just finished *Dragons: Legends & Lore*) so I was pleasantly surprised to learn that, as the author notes, "Most of the evidence presented in this book is 'new'" and hasn't been previously published elsewhere.

Another thing I really appreciated was how Nelson was willing to share what the critics said about the evidence he's marshaled. For example, in the first example I listed above - the Utah Sauropod - at least one evolutionist says it's just depicting a squirrel. Hmmmm.... I don't think so. But I do appreciate hearing the other side.

So these are two great books on the same topic, but coming at it from different directions and intended for slightly different age groups. But there's a lot to love in both. If I was only going to get one it would definitely be *Dire Dragons* but the two books are often sold together, and there's a good reason for that: they are two sides of the same story.

The best place to find either would be Creation.com, AnswersinGenesis.org or Christianbooks.com.

This review first appeared in the January 2015 issue of [Reformed Perspective](#).