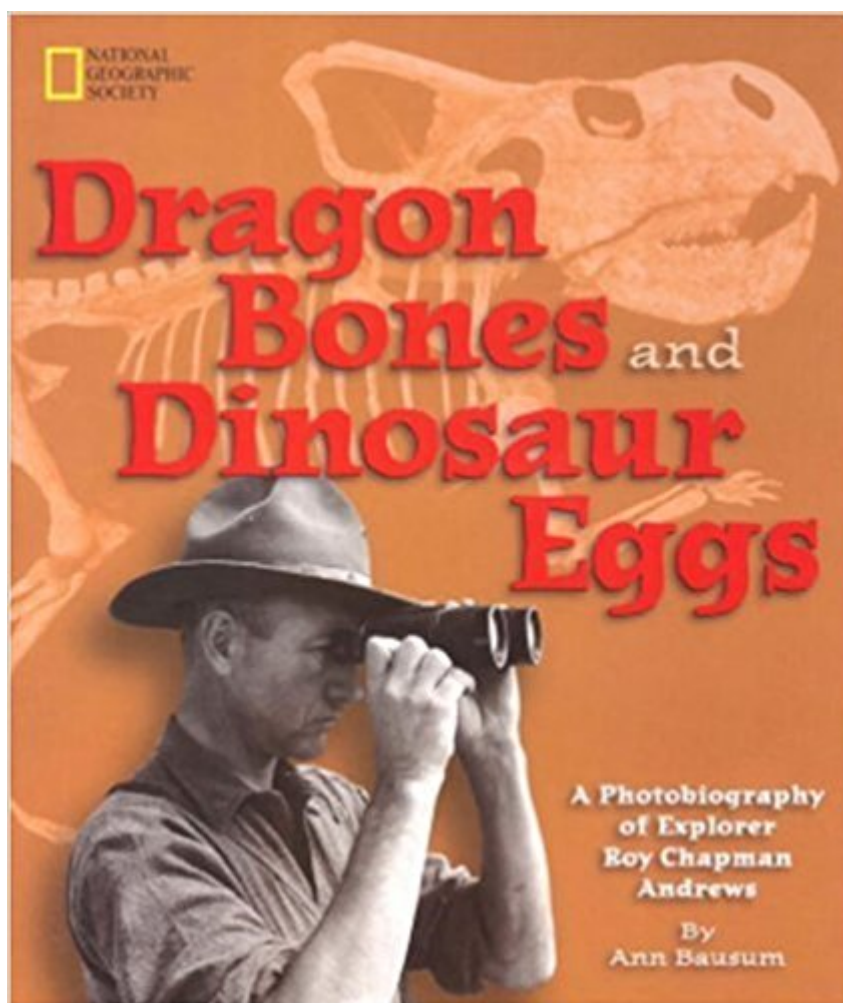


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Dragon Bones And Dinosaur Eggs: A Photobiography Of Explorer Roy Chapman Andrews



Synopsis

Renowned for his discoveries of dinosaur bones, whole fossilized dinosaur eggs, and previously unknown dinosaur species in the vast Mongolian desert, the daredevil explorer Roy Chapman Andrews is said to be the model for the movie character Indiana Jones.

Book Information

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Grade 5-9-Whether or not the charismatic Andrews was "the real-life model" for Indiana Jones, he was certainly a flamboyant, headline-grabbing paleontologist in the days of his Mongolian expeditions. This slim, well-researched book is a record of his life and accomplishments. Larded with quotes from his own writings and personal letters, and with fine sepia-toned photographs taken in the field and in more civilized surroundings, the absorbing text invites readers into a world distant in both space and time. Andrews's adventurous spirit and organizational skills opened a new age in scientific exploration, using then-modern technology and a diverse team of experts in various fields. Recent explorations to Central Asia have brought to light startling new fossil finds that have been chronicled in such excellent titles as Mark Norell and Lowell Dingus's *A Nest of Dinosaurs* (Doubleday, 1999) and *Searching for Velociraptor* (HarperCollins, 1996), and Margery Facklam's *Tracking Dinosaurs in the Gobi* (21st Century, 1997). Inevitably, readers of these books will

encounter Andrews, and what better way for a fresh generation of dinophiles and budding scientists to further this acquaintance than this exemplary work on an extraordinary individual. Patricia Manning, formerly at Eastchester Public Library, NY Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Before he was named director of New York City's American Museum of Natural History, the young naturalist Andrews earned his stripes in the field. He began on the sands of Long Island, removing the bones from a beached whale, and then went on to more whale research on both sides of the Pacific. Where Andrews really made his mark, though, was China. Over a 12-year period, he conducted several intensive expeditions into Mongolia and central Asia, uncovering the first dinosaur eggs and the first fossils of Protoceratops, Oviraptor, and Velociraptor. The details of mounting these car-and-camel treks are fascinating, as are the many sepia photos, but Bausum's recounting of the discoveries is surprisingly tame. There is no sense of jubilation at Andrews having "written a new chapter in the history of life upon the earth." We also see little of his personal side once his career is off and running. This is an interesting, but curiously cold biography that will appeal more to dinosaur lovers than armchair adventurers. A chronology and a resource guide are appended. Randy Meyer

First, potential buyers should know that this book is aimed at younger readers. The text is a bit short and slanted and skips some details that an adult would wish to know. For instance, Andrews planned five expeditions from 1922-1926. Instead he ran expeditions in 1922, 1923, 1925, 1928 and 1929 if I recall correctly. There were three different years when the Chinese authorities decided to interfere with his plans, at least once in part due to Andrews' action of auctioning off a dinosaur egg to the highest bidder in New York City as a fund raising / publicity stunt, an action that made the Chinese public question if he was interested in these fossils for science or for profit. This aspect of the story is almost untouched upon in this book. Another reviewer criticized the treatment of Granger in this book. Make no doubt about it, this book most certainly portrays Roy Chapman Andrews as a hero. And there's probably nothing wrong with that, but please understand you are not buying a definitive biography of Chapman for adults when you purchase this book. So why four stars? Why praise the book? The photographs. This book is chock full of incredible, large, nice reproductions of fascinating photos of the expedition from the time. All in black and white but all incredible. "Motocars" carrying paleontologist through the desert with the American flag out front, large camel caravans with visible spare tires for the cars, camps, nomads, creatures, bones, the

Great Wall of China as the expedition passes. Uncoubtedly some were posed, but the images and the "feel" of the evocative photos is incredible. I'd recommend that any adult interested in these expeditions buy this book just for the pictures.

Looked forward to reading and photographs having read of the Chapman expeditions. The writing was informative and the book had interesting photos, wish there were more of them. It is a good introduction to the expeditions for young people, but I'm sure they too would enjoy more of the photography of that time. All in all a reasonable book.

This is awesome book for children. Lots of pages with photographs and easy to read. Most of all is the fact its interesting

Book came to my Ipad via the clouds and downloaded rapidly. Am now reading.

Real-life is usually so much more interesting than the movies, and Ann Bausum's wonderful photobiography of Roy Chapman Andrews - *Dragon Bones and Dinosaur Eggs* - will be ample evidence of this to any young Indiana Jones fan. Roy Chapman Andrews [1884-1960] was an explorer and is best known for the Central Asiatic Expeditions, which he led on behalf of the American Museum of Natural History and during which the first dinosaur eggs and nests were found. He is also a probable model for the character of Indiana Jones. *Dragon Bones and Dinosaur Eggs* puts its main focus on Andrew's life from his employment with the AMNH through to the expeditions to the Gobi Desert in Mongolia. The book is a well-done combination of photographs, text, and block quotes. The text is well-written and exciting [even for an older person like me], and the pictures help the reader to put themselves into the story. Did Roy Chapman Andrews wear a cool looking hat? [YES!] Did Roy Chapman Andrews dislike snakes and did he have a run-in with them on one of the expeditions? [YES!] I recommend this book to any young person of late elementary age who is interested in exploration and paleontology.

To answer some of Ann Bausum's questions:-- Who discovered Velociraptor? Answer: Walter Granger.-- Who discovered that dinosaurs lay eggs? Answer: Walter Granger found a dinosaur eggshell fragment at Flaming Cliffs on September 2, 1922. George Olsen found the first whole eggs there a year later on July 10, 1923. However, paleontologists had theorized for years that dinosaurs laid eggs. All that was needed was proof. Granger and Olsen supplied that. Andrews did not attend

Olsen's discovery. Granger did.-- Who helped prove that mammals lived in the age of dinosaurs?
Answer: Walter Granger, and his western, Chinese and Mongolian assistants in the field. These are the correct answers, but you won't find them in this book. This Andrews hagiography is widely off base. The scientific fieldwork of the Central Asiatic Expeditions was coordinated by Walter Granger who was the Expedition's chief paleontologist and second-in-command. Andrews, by his own admission in his own publications, was not a paleontologist or a competent fossil collector.

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