Lore of valour

Are you brave enough to look for your 'protective' dragon?

Prince Arthur vouched for Werner's blood. But Carischand was unyielding.

Duke Mahyrd Carischand: one of the most influential Knights in the Valley.
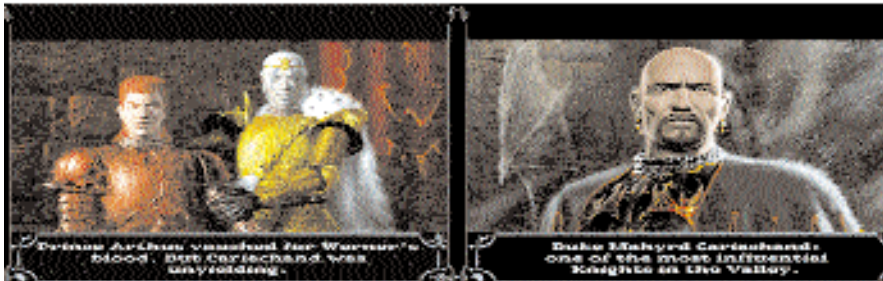
T he game reminds you of the movie *Dragonheart* (starring Sean Connery) where the dragons were revered and considered sacred guardians to the Kingdom. The introduction to the *Dragon Lore II-The Heart of the Dragon Man* takes you back to an ancient castle. The player is Werner, son of Axel Von Wallenrod, Dragon Knight veteran of the Long Retreat.

Werner Von Wallenrod is orphaned after his father Axel is killed by one of his peers, a traitor by the name of Haagen Von Diakonov. Werner's mother dies of grief and he is brought up by his father's servants. Though Werner claims his inheritance and Diakonov is banished from the kingdom, the status of Werner as a knight is disputed. Since Maraach, the fire dragon who is the mightiest of all the dragons has yet not appeared since the death of Axel and without his backing you cannot be a True Knight. The quest is to find the pact of alliance. Hence Werner shall fight unto death in the sacred duel where the Guardians of the Valley battle each other to claim the title of Dragon Prince.

Dragon Lore II is a well designed game where you can navigate with the help of a crosshair icon that tells you where to go. The downside to this type of navigation is that it makes the game very slow and it is difficult to move about. You will meet various people from time to time who may help you through your quest. However, the hostile ones have

to be taken care of cautiously since the battle mode in the game is quite slow unlike *Doom* or *Duke Nukem*.

You can navigate through caves, arm yourself with spears, shields, swords and also supplies to take you through your quest. You can cast spells on the people as you move through the game, which contains 20 combat and 10 jousting sequences in real-time animation. Out of the 60 characters, 36 also have Dialogue Options with full voice support by professional actors.

The element of realism is added— Werner has to eat and rest regularly which was unheard of in other games. The music is reminiscent of old times and changes with every move.

The total presentation of the three CD set is very impressive. The manual contains more than a fair sprinkling of the Gothic typeface. The game is interesting and well designed. More freedom of navigation within the 3D realm and more versatile battle sequences would definitely improve its performance.

System requirements: 486-PC, DX266, 8MB RAM, 45MB, 2x CD-ROM drive, Video Card, SVGA compatible soundcard.

VAIBHAV KODIKAL

Rating: HHHH

Dragon Lore II
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Manx TT

The Isle of Man Tourist Trophy races need no introduction. Dark and wet streets, non-existent safety measures, and terrifying speeds characterise the IoM TT. The Isle, a British colony, has seen the likes of Geoff Duke, Jim Redman, Mike Hailwood, Joey Dunlop and, in more recent times, Steve Hislop, conquer the scary 36-and-a-quarter mile circuit, and now, if you're brave enough, its may be your turn.

Manx TT Superbike from Sega brings all the excitement of no-holds-barred superbike racing right into your living room. Named after the famous Norton Manx motorcycle which Geoff Duke rode to glory in the 1950s, the game comprises realistic biking action that speed freaks will love.

A 120 BHP Honda RVF 750 (better known in racing circles as the RC45, Honda Racing Corporation's fearsome V4 race tool) is your vehicle. The RC45 is modelled well enough, right down to its famous single-side swingarm rear suspension, and makes just the right sounds. Newbies can choose to ride the easier Laxey Coast, while the hard-core racers can have a go at the TT Course. Whichever circuit you choose, the racing is fast and fun, though the competitors are pretty easy to beat once you've got some practice. The bikes do not duplicate real-world physics as convincingly as some of the more recent games like EA Sports' *SuperBike*. The graphics are quite good, though again, not up to the breathtaking standards set by Moto Racer 2.

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