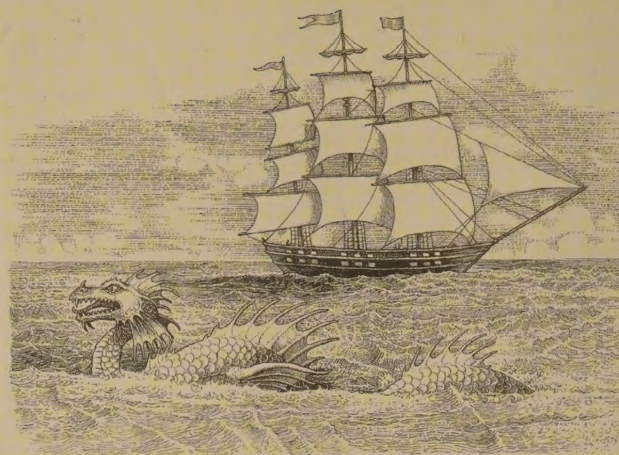




Right: My ship, Hydra, visited the same spot in the Atlantic where sailors from HMS Daedalus recorded seeing a sea serpent in 1858.



How to Help a Hippogriff

Hippogriffs can have trouble finding enough food during bitter winters. Although they store nuts, seeds and especially oats, marauding fauns sometimes steal these supplies. To help the hippogriffs, hang wooden barrels of their favourite treats in the tops of trees, where fauns cannot get at them.

Dragons [see left] have not been discussed in this volume, as I have dealt with them extensively in other works.

To a few intrepid souls—



Must send copies to the following contributors!

Wayne Anderson, Pictorial Artist
Jan Andrew, Draughtsman
Douglas Carrel, Chief Draughtsman
Tomislav Tomić, Engraver
Helen Ward, Scientific Artist
J. P. Lambert, Photographer
Nghiem Ta, Artistic Direction

Also—A. J. Wood,
Benefactor & Friend

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Manufactured in China.

Publisher's note: Although enigmatic Victorian scientist Dr. Ernest Drake is usually associated with dragons, this newly discovered volume suggests that his interests could also extend to other supposedly mythical creatures. The original edition was purportedly published in 1904 on a print run of only 100 copies. However, the publisher has not been able to confirm the authenticity of this claim and would like to suggest that anyone interested in verifying the existence of the fantastical beasts found within its pages undertake his or her own research.
www.ologyworld.com

So-called Feejee Mermaids bear little resemblance to their genuine counterparts, being stitched-together fakes.



Deep yeti tracks in the snow near our Himalayan camp suggested that the beast had recently eaten a large meal and was walking it off.


templar publishing

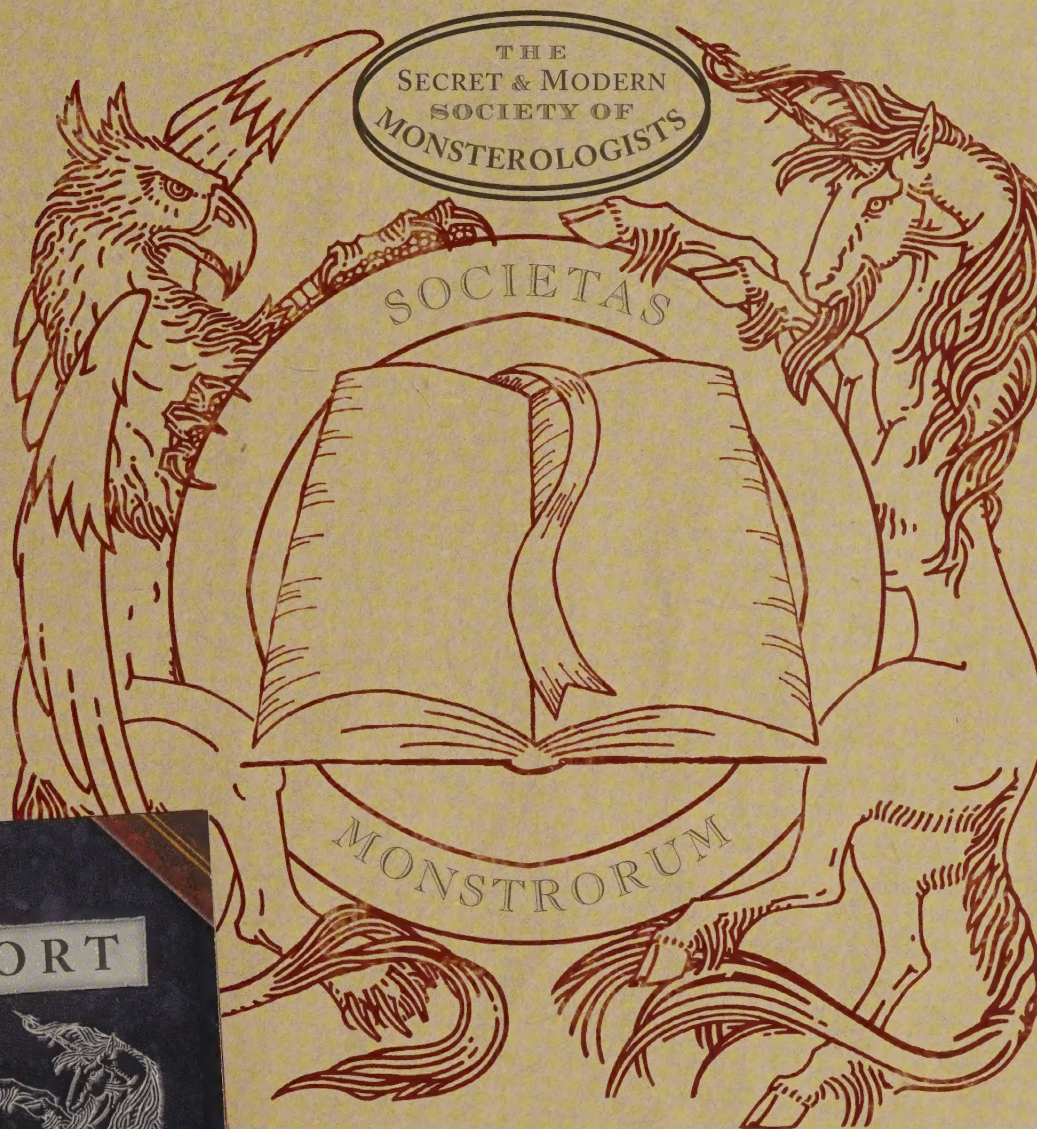


DR. ERNEST DRAKE'S
MONSTEROLOGY.

THE COMPLETE BOOK OF FABULOUS BEASTS.

EDITED BY

DUGALD A. STEER, B.A. (BRIST), S.A.S.D. & S.M.S.M.



ILLUSTRATED.

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PASSPORT



1-A-2-B-3-C-4-D-5-E-6-F-7-G-8-H-9-I-10-J-11-K-12-L-13-M-14-N-15-O-16-P-17-Q-18-R-19-S-20-T-21-U-22-V-23-W-24-X-25-Y-26-Z

CHAPTER I.

FOREWORD. THE SEARCH FOR FABULOUS BEASTS.

In 1898, I set sail in my yacht, *Hydra*, on a year-long voyage of discovery. The purpose of my journey was to seek out those beasts that had so far escaped the scientific attentions of humankind. As these creatures had hitherto been dismissed as 'monsters', I was amazed to find a huge variety of them in almost every corner of the globe. I therefore compiled this present volume in order to present my findings and to introduce the world to the thrilling new science of monsterology.

Like many so-called monsters, the griffin is a timid beast. The best way to record sightings of such a creature is to make field notes and sketches, though speed will be of the essence.

The griffin is a deep sleeper and can be rather grumpy when it first awakens.



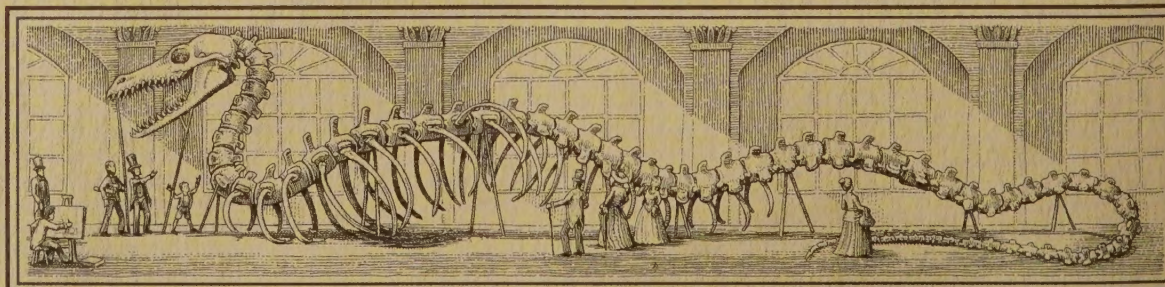
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CHALLENGING THE CHARLATANS.

As a scientific monsterologist, I was keenly aware of the monstrous frauds that have, on occasion, been visited on the public. A case in point is the fossil of a remarkable creature named *Hydrargos*, or 'Ruler of the Seas', which was put on display in the Apollo Saloon, New York City, in 1845. Billed as the 'greatest wonder of the antediluvian world',

this 114-foot 'sea serpent' skeleton had, in fact, been built by a self-taught palaeontologist and showman named Albert Koch. He made it from the bones of numerous zeuglodon, a type of extinct whale. Although the enthralled public were taken in to the grand sum of fifty cents each, monsterologists were quick to point out its obvious inauthenticity.



MONSTEROLOGY.

ANCIENT AUTHORS.

Tales of monsters such as griffins and unicorns by ancient authors including Pliny are usually assumed to be based on cases of mistaken identity with ordinary beasts [see right]. However, this is not always the case, as I intend to demonstrate.



Mythical: Mongolian Death Worm



Actual: Lindworm



Supposedly mythical: Unicorn



Actual: Rhinoceros

GRIFFIN

Gryps vulgaris

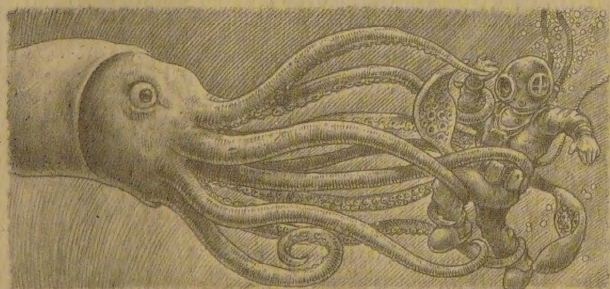
SOME beasts really *are* fictitious. The purple, man-eating, burrowing giant worm known as the Mongolian death worm is a case in point. A traveller sighting a far-off lindworm [a dragon found in Asia] and not spying its legs was likely to blame for the confusion. The unicorn, however,

is entirely real. Admittedly, some reported unicorn sightings are the result of confusion with the common rhinoceros. However, while certain unicorn subspecies do look similar to this more pedestrian denizen of the African plains, it is actually a completely distinct creature.

*You may sit safely near
a griffin's tail—
as long as you are not
tempted to pull it!*

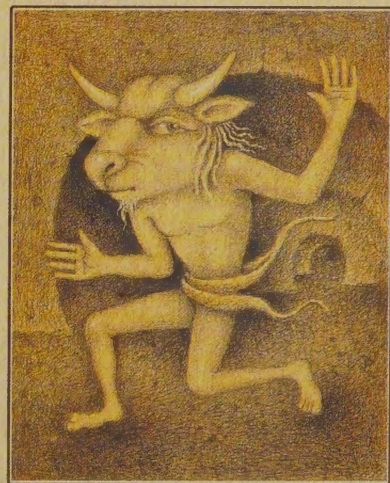
MODERN EQUIPMENT.

Thanks to the forward march of science, we now have the equipment needed to discover more 'mythical' beasts than ever before. Modern diving equipment, for instance, makes it possible to inspect the delightful denizens of the deep.



UNEARTHING EVIDENCE.

On my voyage around the world, I sought out evidence for the existence of many fabulous beasts and found it in plentiful supply. But I could not verify that every creature currently disowned by science is, or once was, real. I had to conclude, for example, that the terrible Cretan Minotaur, described in legend as half man, half bull, was almost certainly rather more bull than had previously been imagined.



CHAPTER I.

FABULOUS BEASTS OF THE WORLD. LOCATIONS & DIRECTIONS.

Fabulous beasts are to be found all over the world. However, most species favour certain locations and habitats, and the student is advised to begin his or her studies with those that live closest to home.



A NOTE ON DRAGONS.

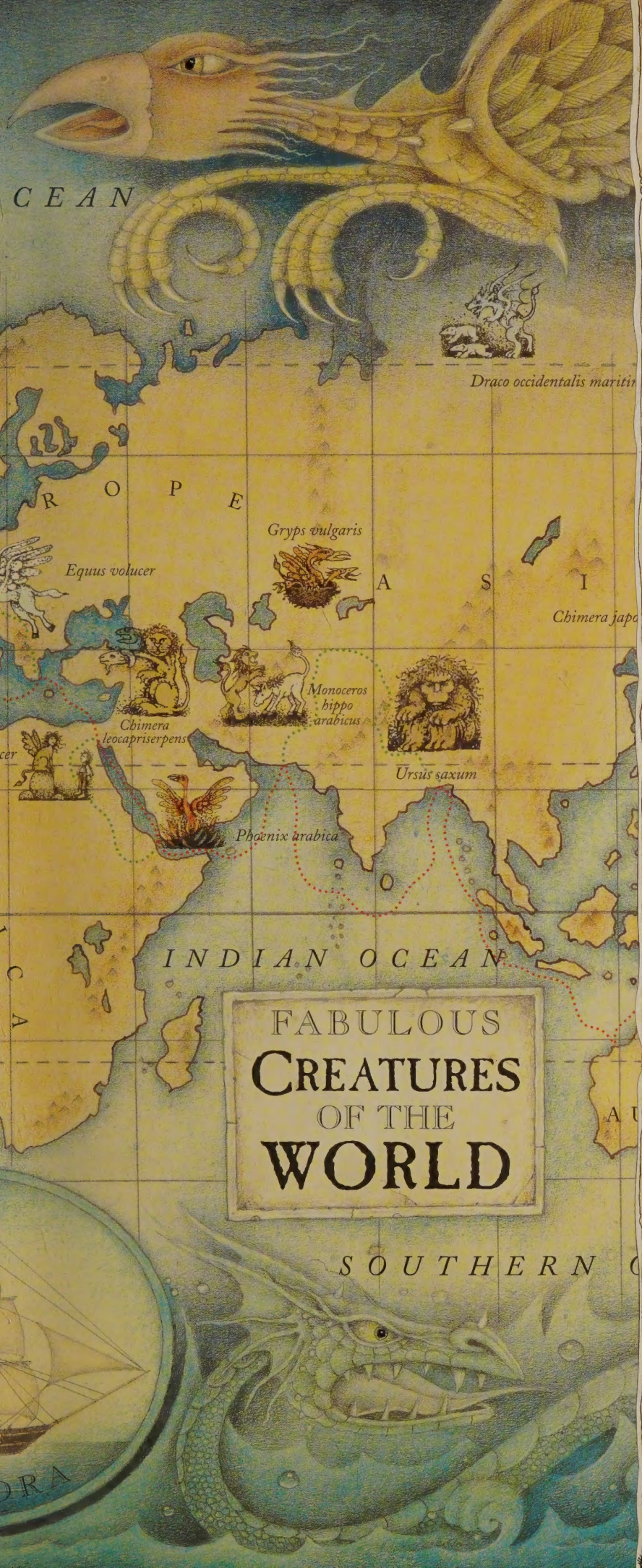
Dragons, such as the many-headed *Draco hydra* illustrated in the picture above, are so numerous that an account of them has not been included in this present volume. This need not present the student with a problem. Many books have been written about them, although it must be pointed out that a very large number of them border on the whimsically imaginative and fantastical rather than the merely factual. Students fortunate enough to be members of the Secret and Ancient Society of Dragonologists will no doubt be familiar with my own modest works on these beasts, of which the principal tomes are *Dragonology*, *Working with Dragons* and *Field Guide to Dragons*.



REFER TO
DR. ERNEST DRAKE'S
FIELD GUIDE
TO
DRAGONS

Dragons deftly depicted
Dragon doubts diminished
Dragon differences demonstrated
Dragonological disputes decided





FABULOUS CREATURES OF THE WORLD

MONSTEROLOGY.

THE EVOLUTION OF FABULOUS BEASTS.

According to Charles Darwin, evolution occurs when heritable traits that assist a creature's survival become naturally more common over successive generations. It is in this way that creatures such as the griffin have evolved. The griffin appears to be a cross between an eagle and a lion, as it shares some favourable traits of both these creatures. Below is a diagram illustrating the likely evolution of unicorns.



As can be seen in the above diagram, unicorns have a common ancestry with horses. *Eohippus*, the first horselike animal, lived around fifty million years ago. It was only two feet in length. Around thirty million years ago came *miobippus*, which was slightly larger. Then, seven million years ago, the horse family branched into *pliohippus*, the ancestor of modern horses, and *plinoceros*, which had a primitive horn and was the ancestor of all modern unicorns.



DR. DRAKE'S
FABULOUS
ANIMAL
SANCTUARY

A friend indeed!
No sick creature, real or imaginary,
will be turned away.*

At St. Leonard's Forest, Horsham

* Except behemoths [outpatient treatment only]

BEASTS OF THE EARTH.

It is with a sense of wonder that the monsterologist discovers the natural world to be full of contradictions. For who could suppose that the graceful unicorn that leaps so nimbly from crag to crag could emit such a hideous bray, or that the three heads of the chimera—enemies in nature—could act together with such deadly harmony in pursuit of their reluctant prey?

ARABIAN UNICORN

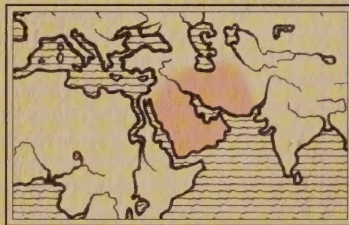
Monoceros hippo arabicus



PROMINENT features of the unicorn:

- a. spiral horn in forehead b. billy-goat-like beard c. thick mane d. long neck
- e. lean, shaggy legs f. cloven hooves
- g. leonine [lion-like] tail

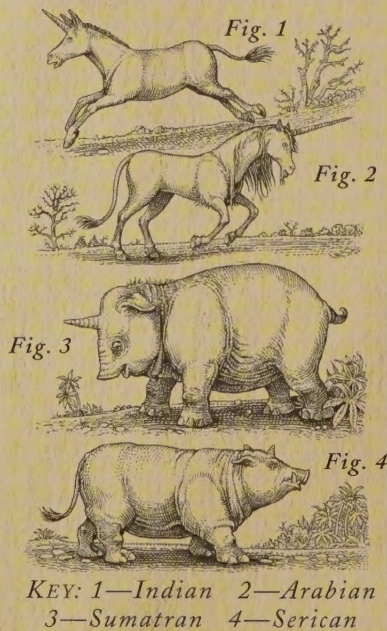
I have found no evidence to support the belief that unicorns have magical properties, although their powdered horn can be beneficial if ingested.



ARABIAN UNICORN *Monoceros hippo arabicus*
DOCILE in the presence of girls but distressed by boys, the Arabian unicorn inhabits mountain or desert regions. Three other subspecies of unicorn have been recorded across the globe.

LAIR OR NEST—None. DIMENSIONS [ADULT]—4 to 6 feet long; 3 to 4 feet high. APPEARANCE—Spiral horn; equine [horselike]; usually light in colour; smaller than often imagined; sometimes mistaken for a foal. FORMS OF ATTACK—Horn, teeth, hooves. FOOD—Grasses, pomegranates.

SUBSPECIES OF UNICORNS.



It is interesting to note that all of these unicorn subspecies are closely related, despite appearances to the contrary, and seem to have evolved from a single common ancestor that originated in Africa millions of years ago.



ONE may sometimes see a lion fighting a unicorn, as they are natural enemies. A lion usually attacks a unicorn near a tree. It typically dodges the lunges from the unicorn's horn until the unicorn finds its horn stuck in the tree and so becomes easy prey.

MONSTEROLOGY.

NUE *Chimera japonicus*

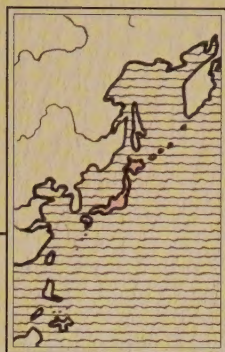
ONLY found in remote areas of Japan, the *nue* is regarded as a bringer of bad luck, thanks to the black venomous cloud it emits from behind when disturbed.

LAIR OR NEST—High, remote places. DIMENSIONS [ADULT]—4 to 5 feet long; 2 to 4 feet high.

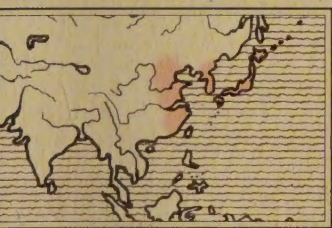
APPEARANCE—Monkey-headed, with a raccoon dog body, it is usually smelt long before it is seen.

FORMS OF ATTACK—Defends itself with a venomous cloud.

FOOD—Most small game.



PROMINENT features of the *nue*:
a. monkey-like head b. body like that of a *tanuki* [raccoon dog]
c. tiger-like legs d. snaky tail



BAKU *Baku somnicibus*

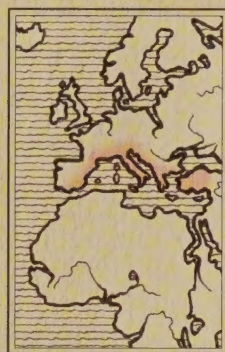
ACCORDING to legend, the shy *baku* can devour nightmares. In reality, it has a soothing effect on people, not dissimilar to that achieved by stroking a pet cat.

LAIR OR NEST—Close to human habitation. DIMENSIONS [ADULT]—3 feet long; 1 to 2 feet high. APPEARANCE—Like that of a tapir with an elephant's trunk, an ox's tail, and tiger's paws. FORMS OF ATTACK—None. FOOD—Omnivorous. May eat nightmares.



Sadly, many thousands of chimera chicks fail to reach adulthood each year, as their three heads take some time to learn to get along with each other.

PROMINENT features of the chimera:
a. leonine head b. serpentine head
c. caprine [goatlike] head
d. arrowhead tail



CHIMERA *Chimera leocapriserpens*

THE three-headed chimera is a lover of volcanic regions. It breathes flame in the manner of a dragon from its goatlike head and attacks with venom from its snakelike one. Its lion-like head has a vicious bite.

LAIR OR NEST—Often volcanic vents. DIMENSIONS [ADULT]—15 feet long; 8 to 12 feet high. APPEARANCE—The snake and goat heads may grow from the middle of its back. FORMS OF ATTACK—Flame, venom, teeth, claws. FOOD—Loves bitter food; humans are a favourite.

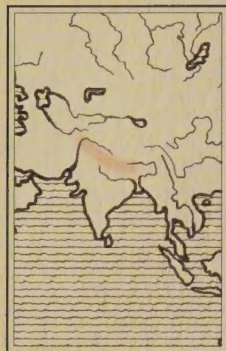


CHAPTER II.

BEASTS OF THE EARTH.

Continued.

The science of monsterology is no easy pursuit, as I discovered on my journey. Most monsters prefer to live in remote, inaccessible places, so the determined monsterologist must brave the Himalayas looking for yetis, traipse over thousands of miles of barren tundra in order to spy a behemoth and lurk with glowing coals at the mouths of volcanoes to tempt out salamanders.



YETI *Ursus saxum*

It is disputed whether these denizens of the Himalayas are descended from bears or apes. Yetis are solitary creatures, well adapted to extreme cold. They avoid humans where possible.

LAIR OR NEST—A rock or snow cave. DIMENSIONS [ADULT]—8 to 10 feet high. APPEARANCE—A hairy, bipedal hominoid. Hair colour changes from brown in summer to pure white in winter. FORMS OF ATTACK—Teeth, claws, crushing with arms. FOOD—Omnivorous; often hungry because of a lack of prey at higher altitudes.

TRACKING YETIS.

Major L. A. Waddell wrote in his recently published book *Among the Himalayas* of seeing footprints in the snow. Local guides told him that these had almost certainly come from a yeti. He, however, mistook them for the tracks of bears which do not inhabit such high altitudes, and so missed a remarkable opportunity to track them. I, for one, found yetis particularly difficult to follow. They have an acute sense of smell, and my hat, still having the whiff of dragons about it, may have put them off. I did, however, finally find footprints leading me to a specimen that communicated—in a series of howls—that it would rather be left alone. From the growth of its fur I estimated its age at about 180 years.



BIGFOOT *Ursus sasquatchus*

Compared to yetis, bigfoots are easy to locate. One of our expedition members made a sasquatch suit that was a little too effective at attracting them. As he fled the scene, Mr. Douglas Carrel—chuckling all the while—could not resist drawing this picture of his evident discomfort.



RELATIVES OF THE YETI.

Close relatives of the yeti are found in many parts of the world. They include the American bigfoot, or sasquatch; the Chinese *yeren*; the Mongolian *almas*, and the marsupial *yowie* of Australia, among others.

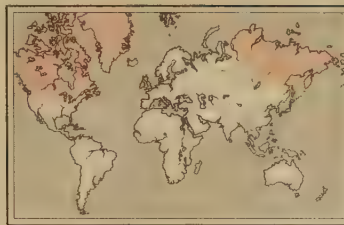


PROMINENT features of the yeti:

- a. pronounced brow ridge and short neck
- b. shaggy, long body fur
- c. long, muscly arms
- d. very big feet

Female yetis can only be distinguished from the males by their habit of twisting their whiskers into elaborate curls.

Behemoths are so huge that, when they wish to hide, they must conceal themselves behind mountains instead of tall trees.



BEHEMOTH *Gigantus pilosus*

THE mighty behemoth is found only in the remotest northern parts of Siberia, Canada and Greenland. It looks like an oversized mammoth.

LAIR OR NEST—None. DIMENSIONS [ADULT]—90 feet long; 80 to 100 feet high. APPEARANCE—Like that of a huge, furry elephant. FORMS OF ATTACK—Blasting with its terrible sneeze; trampling; gouging with horns. FOOD—Forests; sucks up marshland like soup.

SIX-LEGGED SALAMANDER *Salamandra ignis*

EXCLUSIVELY found in active volcanic regions, the six-legged salamander exudes a venomous milk that can extinguish flames. Its third pair of legs may have originally evolved from wings.

LAIR OR NEST—A volcanic vent. DIMENSIONS [ADULT]—2 feet long; 8 inches high. APPEARANCE—A six-legged salamander. Limbs break off easily but can regrow within a few hours. FORMS OF ATTACK—Venomous milk, which may be used to poison bait for its prey. FOOD—Glow-worms, fireflies and any other small insects; also sulphur-loving plants.



Apart from its number of legs, there is little visual difference between the six-legged salamander and the common variety.

An ordinary salamander will not enjoy being hurled into a volcanic vent at all.

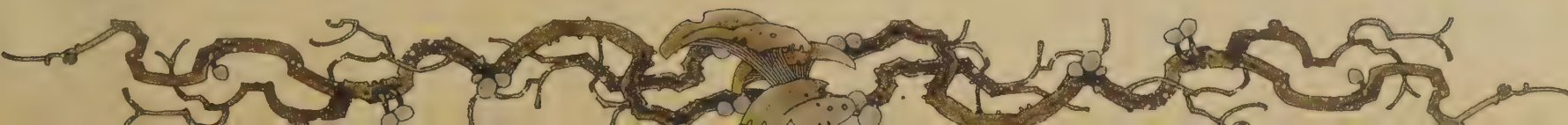
SALAMANDER LIFE CYCLE.

Six-legged salamanders have an unusual life cycle. Soft eggs are laid near volcanic vents. When newly hatched salamanders emerge, they burrow into the hot ashes, emerging at night to feed on fireflies. Both young and adults are well protected from predators by the hot magma.



PROMINENT features of the six-legged salamander:
a. lizard-like head b. flame-resistant tongue c. three pairs of legs d. flame-resistant skin e. long tail

SIX-LEGGED SALAMANDER *Salamandra ignis*



CHAPTER III.

BEASTS OF WATER.

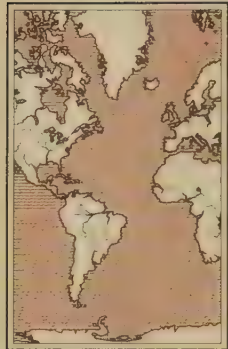
Although the coastal regions of the seas are known to throng with fabulous life, the ocean depths remain places of dark mystery, even with the most modern equipment readily at hand. Yet occasionally, beasts that thrill us to the quick rise up from these profundities and make us wish keenly that we had more than a few short hours in which to record our impressions of them.

KRAKEN *Calamarius immensum draki*

A mortal danger to sailors, the kraken, or super-giant squid, rarely rises from the sea bed. When it does, it generates whirlpools as it dives back down, which can drag even the mightiest warships to the bottom.

LAIR OR NEST—The darkest depths of the ocean. DIMENSIONS [ADULT]—60 feet long; 10 to 15 feet wide. APPEARANCE—Like that of a super-enormous squid. FORMS OF ATTACK—Flailing tentacles and a sharp, stabbing beak. FOOD—Whales and sea serpents.

It may take the ravenous kraken up to three months to digest a single sea serpent.



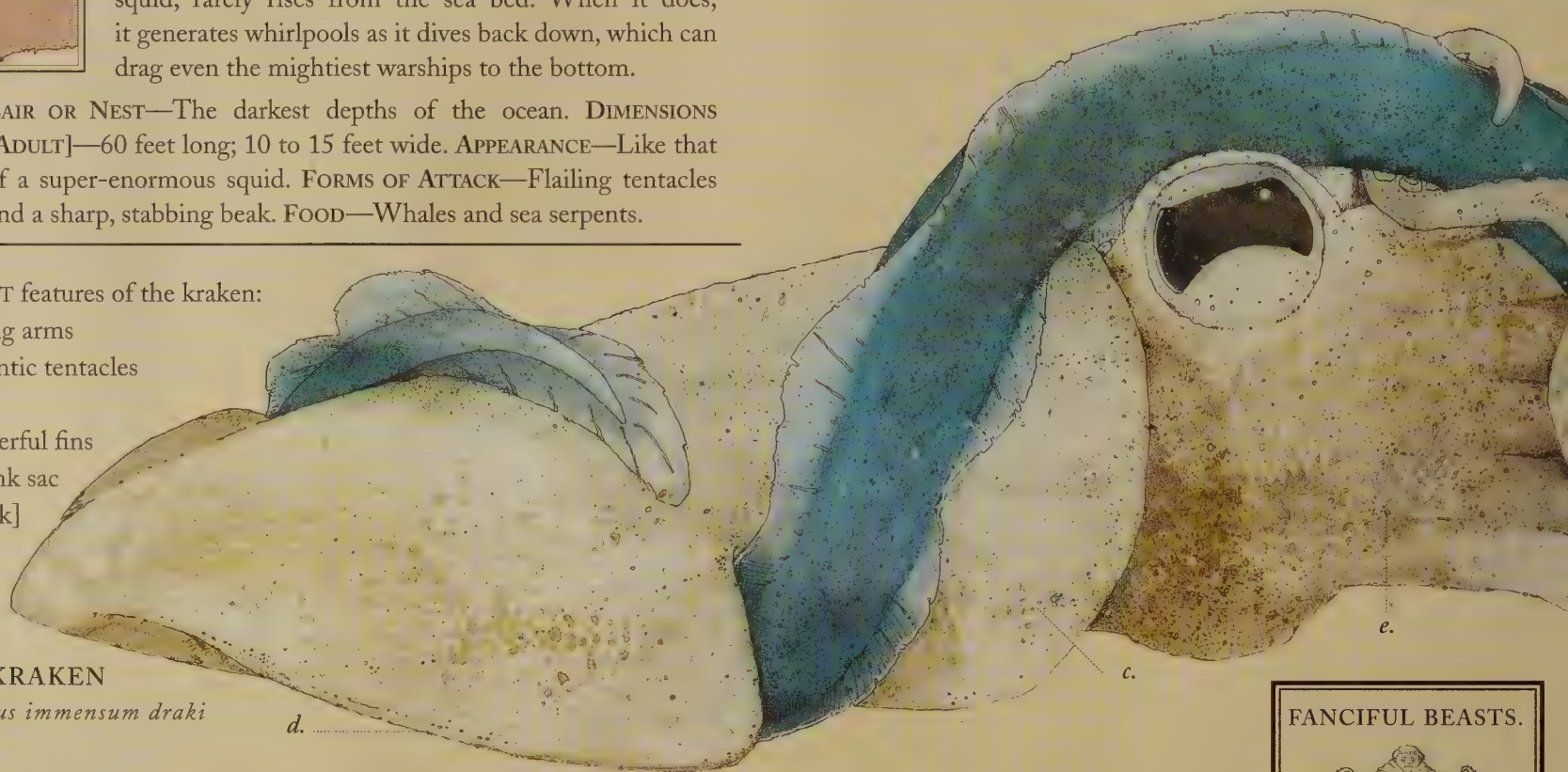
PROMINENT features of the kraken:

- a. eight long arms
- b. two gigantic tentacles
- c. mantle
- d. two powerful fins
- e. hidden ink sac [ink is black]

KRAKEN

Calamarius immensum draki

d.



HISTORIAE ANIMALIUM.

Descriptions can be misleading. In 1558 Conrad Gesner gave a description of monsters known as 'sea monks' and 'sea bishops' in his work *Historiae Animalium*. The idea that sea beasts could look like monks or bishops caused confusion until 1855, when Japetus Steenstrup produced an illustration showing that Gesner's creatures were, in all probability, giant squid described fancifully.



HIPPOCAMP *Hippo campus*

ABLE to survive in salt and fresh water, the hippocamp can be tamed and is often seen in the company of merfolk. Males are maned and whiskered.

LAIR OR NEST—None. DIMENSIONS [ADULT]—8 to 12 feet long; 4 to 6 feet high. APPEARANCE—Similar to that of a sea horse with front limbs. FORMS OF ATTACK—Butting with head; biting; thwacking with tail. FOOD—Seaweed and other forms of marine vegetation.

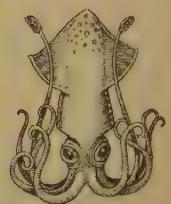
FANCIFUL BEASTS.



Sea monk



Sea bishop



Giant squid

MONSTEROLOGY.

PREHISTORIC BEASTS.

While the existence of the sea beasts shown here has been confirmed, some claim that prehistoric species, such as the fish called the coelacanth, also survive. Such a view is, of course, entirely contrary to the laws of natural selection.

Specimen: Skin from tail of a sea serpent (age unknown)



LAIR OR NEST—An underwater tunnel or coral cavern. **DIMENSIONS [ADULT]**—30 feet long; 3 to 6 feet high. **APPEARANCE**—Like that of a sea snake, but bigger. **FORMS OF ATTACK**—Nasty bite; constriction. **FOOD**—Any large sea creatures; blue whales are a favourite.

SEA SERPENT *Serpens monstruos*

It is not known whether sea serpents, which likely have many subspecies, breathe using gills, as do fish, or lungs, as do their smaller sea snake cousins.

PROMINENT features of the sea serpent:

x. draconine [dragon-like] head y. variable types of fin on head z. long, serpentine body

Unlike whales, sea serpents spew jets of water and air from their mouths, not from blowholes.

SEA SERPENT *Serpens monstruos*

Krakens and large sea serpents will both commonly attack ships.

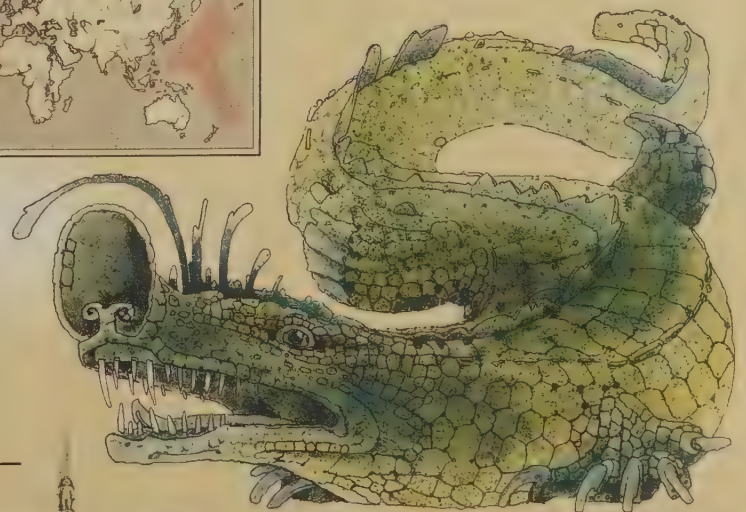
SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE.

Although in 1861 the ship *Alecton* recovered parts of the tentacle of a giant squid, the French Academy of Sciences still denounced this evidence as being 'against the laws of Nature'. However, by 1873 small specimens were becoming such common sightings that the Reverend Moses Harvey even displayed one in his bathtub.

LEVIATHAN *Piscis giganticus*

THE mighty leviathan is the Earth's largest creature, dwelling far down in the deepest seas, where it uses a bioluminescent globe on its forehead to light its way.

LAIR OR NEST—Likely at the bottom of deep-sea trenches. **DIMENSIONS [ADULT]**—200 feet long; 30 to 40 feet wide. **APPEARANCE**—Like a cross between a crocodile and monstrous angler fish. **FORMS OF ATTACK**—Breathes fire; sucks in prey in a gulp. **FOOD**—Krakens, sea serpents, whales.



CHAPTER III.

BEASTS OF WATER.

Continued.

If the seas and oceans are regions of wonder, no less so are the Earth's lakes and inland waterways. Because they are so much more accessible, one would expect their fauna to be better known. Yet it remains a sad fact that the scientific establishment will not even consider the possibility that lake serpents exist. The true debate should be not whether they exist, but how many of them there are.

BUNYIP *Monstrum marsupialis*

THE presence of bunyips in the swamps, creeks and billabongs of Australia may be confirmed by the unearthly, bloodcurdling howls, moans and shrieks heard there, which have no other obvious source.

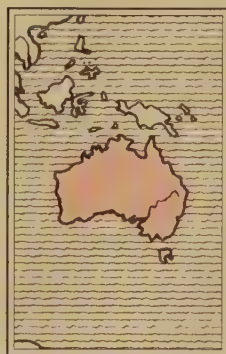
LAIR OR NEST—A hollowed-out termite mound near water.

DIMENSIONS [ADULT]—8 feet long; 2 to 3 feet wide.

APPEARANCE—A marsupial with a horselike tail, flippers and, in the male, walrus-like tusks. FORMS OF ATTACK—

Goring with tusks; drowning prey.

FOOD—The young of marsupials and other tasty mammals.

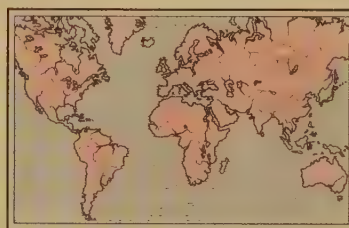


Male bunyips can be identified by their long tusks.

New sightings of lake serpents always make something of a splash in the local press, but never in scientific journals.

LAKE SERPENT

Serpens aquadulcis

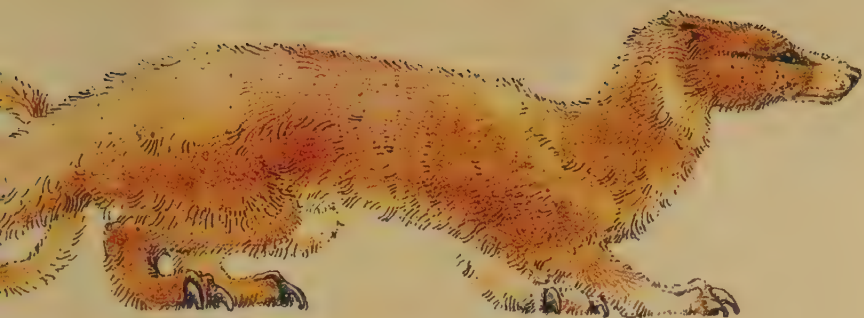


LAKE SERPENT *Serpens aquadulcis*

THERE is usually only one serpent found in any lake. How these creatures breed is unknown. One imagines that they are longer-lived even than Chinese *lung* dragons.

LAIR OR NEST—None known. DIMENSIONS [ADULT]—60 feet long; 15 to 20 feet high. APPEARANCE—Similar to the plesiosaur fossils discovered by Mary Anning in 1821. FORMS OF ATTACK—Bite, constriction. FOOD—Fish; lakeside creatures coming to drink.

A lake serpent breathes air and so can easily be spotted by keen-eyed monsterologists when it surfaces.



The hydrus is so rare and unknown that it has been described as a bird, a snake and even a dragon.

HYDRUS *Interfactor nilus*

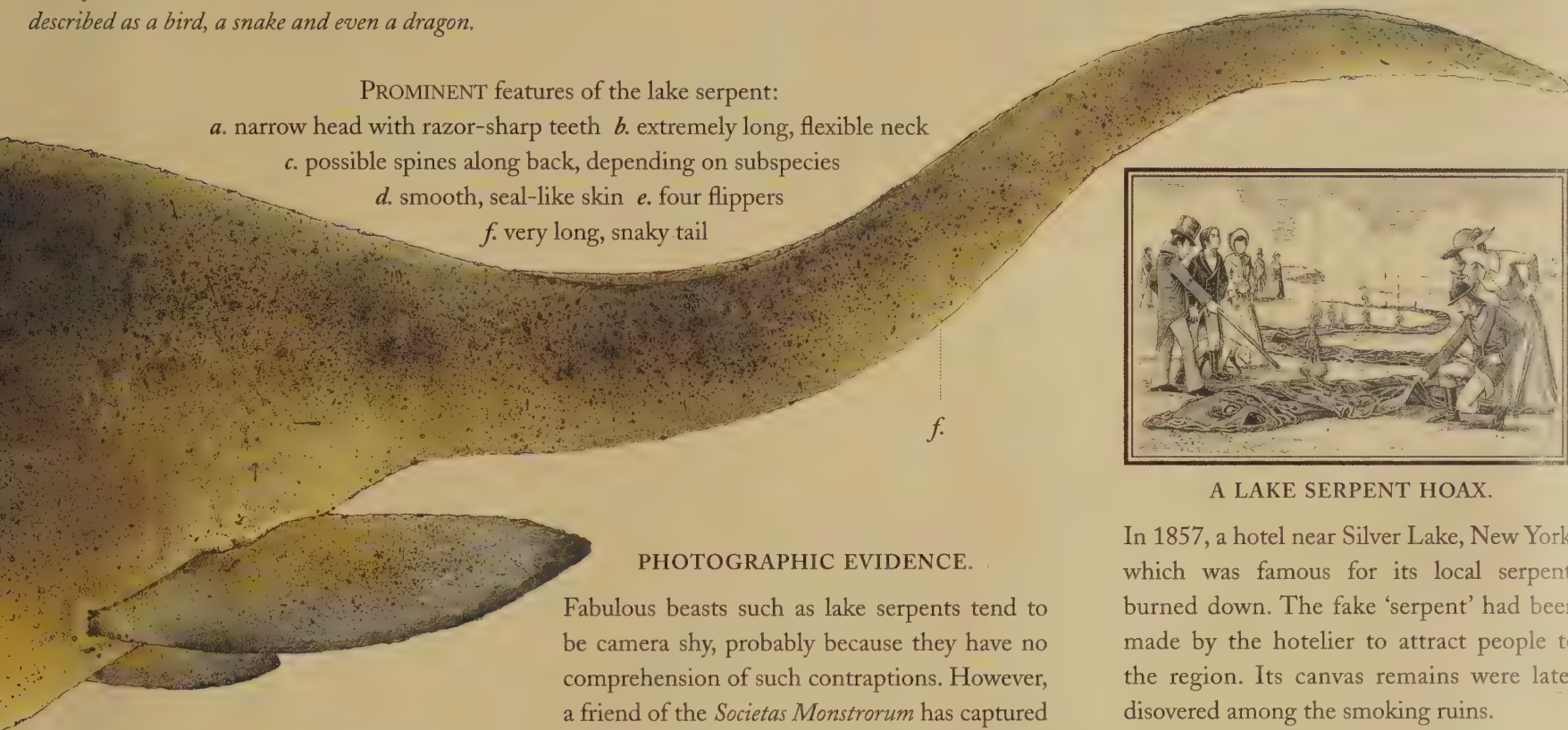
ALTHOUGH furry when dry, the hydrus rolls itself in a protective coat of mud and crawls into the mouth of a crocodile, its main food, eating it from the inside out.

LAIR OR NEST—A muddy hole along the Nile. DIMENSIONS [ADULT]—1 foot long; 3 to 6 inches high. APPEARANCE—Similar to that of a slippery mongoose. FORMS OF ATTACK—Eats its prey from the inside out. FOOD—Mostly crocodiles; very occasionally hippos.



PROMINENT features of the lake serpent:

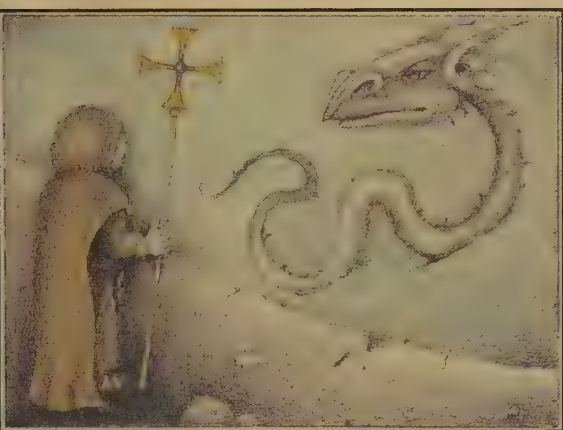
- a. narrow head with razor-sharp teeth
- b. extremely long, flexible neck
- c. possible spines along back, depending on subspecies
- d. smooth, seal-like skin
- e. four flippers
- f. very long, snaky tail



A LAKE SERPENT HOAX.

PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE.

Fabulous beasts such as lake serpents tend to be camera shy, probably because they have no comprehension of such contraptions. However, a friend of the *Societas Monstrorum* has captured several shots that he swears are truly authentic.



THE LOCH NESS MONSTER.

One of the most well-known lake serpents can be found in Loch Ness in Scotland. Monsterologists have had dealings with this serpent since at least A.D. 565, when Saint Columba unkindly attempted to banish it.



THE KELPIE.

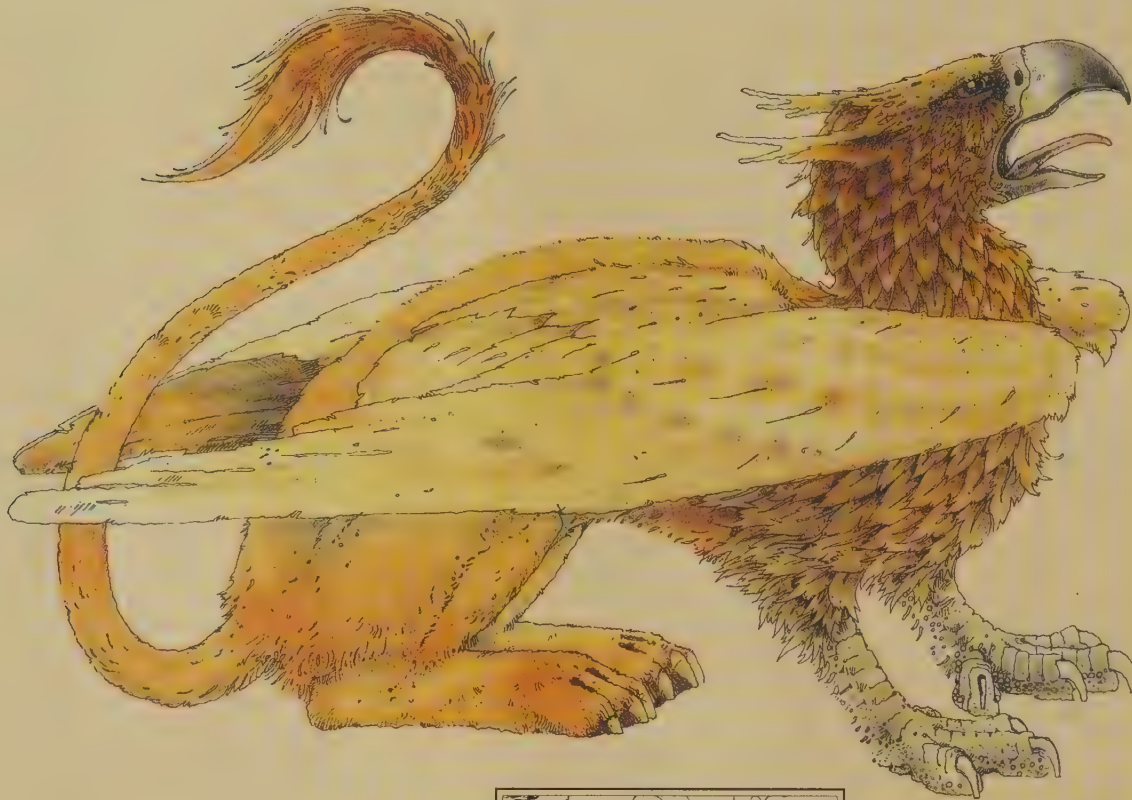
So far, I have had only a fleeting glimpse of a kelpie, a beast that, in the guise of a lost pony, tempts human prey. As soon as a rider mounts the animal, the kelpie heads for a river, where it plunges in and drowns its hapless victim before eating it. It carries a 'bridle' as a kind of bait, which is said to have special magical properties.



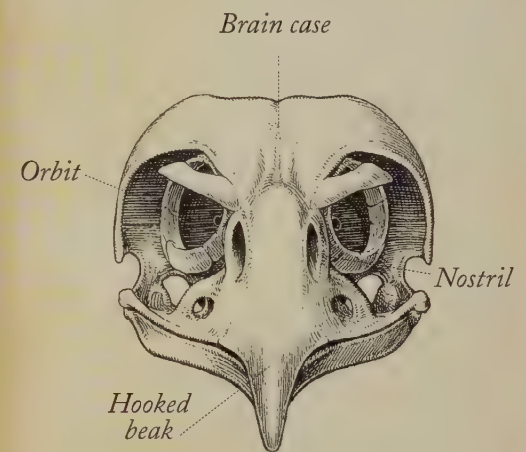
CHAPTER IV.

BEASTS OF THE AIR.

The evolution of winged creatures has always been a mystery. It is conceivable that there was once a horse that could leap a little higher than others thanks to tiny wing-like buds on its back. Over the millennia, it is possible that these buds developed into proper wings. Although hard to imagine, something like this must have happened, as we have the existence of the winged horse to prove it.



A GRIFFIN SKULL.



GRIFFIN *Gryps vulgaris*

ONCE common in much of Asia and Europe, griffins are now confined to the Tian Shan mountain region and have a habit of hoarding gold and precious stones.



LAIR OR NEST—A shallow nest on the open steppe. DIMENSIONS [ADULT]—15 feet long; 8 to 10 feet high. APPEARANCE—Leonine body with aquiline front legs, head and wings. FORMS OF ATTACK—Talons, beak. FOOD—Any large herbivores, especially wild horses.



Above: Bellerophon on the winged horse Pegasus, slaying a chimera. Using one fabulous beast to help kill another is hardly conducive to conservation.



Winged horses, if you can locate them, are perfectly content to be ridden and are a much more comfortable option for long flights than dragons, due to the softness of their coats.



WINGED HORSE *Equus volucer*

FOUND among the remoter Greek islands, winged horses, although rare, are remarkably friendly creatures, once initial contact has been made.

LAIR OR NEST—None. Unlike the ordinary horse, it has no herding instinct. DIMENSIONS [ADULT]—6 to 9 feet long; 5 to 8 feet high. APPEARANCE—A winged pony with highly developed shoulder muscles. FORMS OF ATTACK—Biting, kicking. FOOD—Grasses.



HIPPOGRIFF *Hippo gryps*

ALTHOUGH it looks like the offspring of a griffin and its chief prey, the horse, the hippogriff is a distinct species. It dwells in forests rather than on open plains.

LAIR OR NEST—A large bower made from branches, twigs and flowers. DIMENSIONS [ADULT]—6 to 8 feet long; 3 to 5 feet high.

APPEARANCE—Like that of a horse with the front parts of an eagle.

FORMS OF ATTACK—Claws, hooves, beak. FOOD—Nuts, hay, seeds, oats.

PROMINENT features of the hippogriff:

- a. aquiline [eagle-like] head
- b. extremely powerful front legs and talons
- c. equine rear parts
- d. powerful, feathered wings

HIPPOGRIFF

Hippo gryps



Hippogriff chicks can fly before they can walk.

HATCHING HIPPOGRIFFS.

Given that the eggs of griffins and hippogriffs are nearly identical, it is wise to have a supply of both oats and horse meat on hand if you are trying to hatch one. Keep the food out of sight, for if the egg turns out to be a hippogriff, the chick will find the sight of the horse meat distressing.



Hippogriffs moult during the summer. It is hard to collect their feathers, which become immediately invisible. However, they can still be spotted, as they leave telltale shadows.

The hippogriff attracts a mate in a similar manner to that of a European dragon, decorating a nest and then putting on a highly elaborate courtship display.

GRIFFIN MISCHIEF.

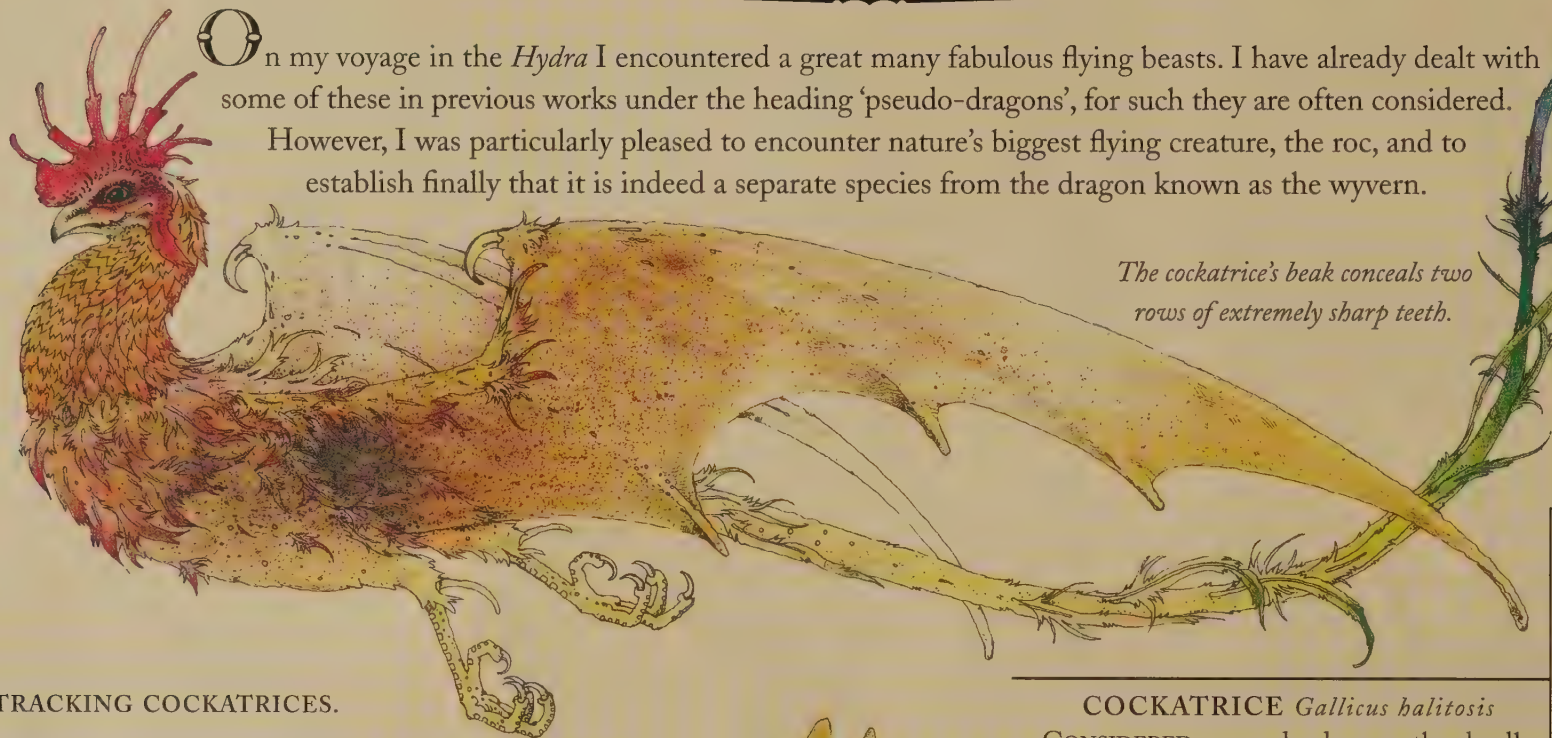
It is not possible to 'tame' any of these creatures, but if you are friendly enough, they may offer you a ride. Beware, however, of the mischievous griffin, which may pretend to be asleep until you are on its back, when it will suddenly fly off and begin a series of unscheduled loop-the-loops.



CHAPTER IV.

BEASTS OF THE AIR.

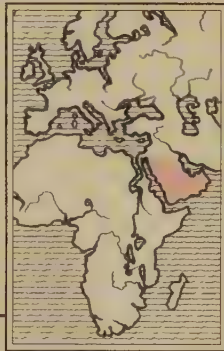
Continued.



The cockatrice's beak conceals two rows of extremely sharp teeth.

TRACKING COCKATRICES.

For some unknown reason, it seems that the weasel is the only animal able to resist the poisonous breath of the cockatrice. While it may be possible to train a weasel to sniff out a cockatrice, I have not yet attempted this.



ROC *Avis sinbadi*

THOUGH for long years the roc was confused with the dragon known as the wyvern, accurate sightings now enable us to identify the creature as a separate species hitherto referred to in *The Thousand and One Nights* and by Marco Polo.

LAIR OR NEST—Can fill a small valley. DIMENSIONS [ADULT]—50 feet long; 18 to 20 feet high. APPEARANCE—Like that of a huge eagle. FORMS OF ATTACK—Fearsome beak and claws; dropping from great heights. FOOD—Elephants, hippos, rhinos or other large herbivores.

I was lucky to observe the flight pattern of a roc hunting an extremely large herd of elephants.



A roc circles high in the sky...

identifies its meal...

and swoops in on its prey.

PHOENIX

Phoenix arabica

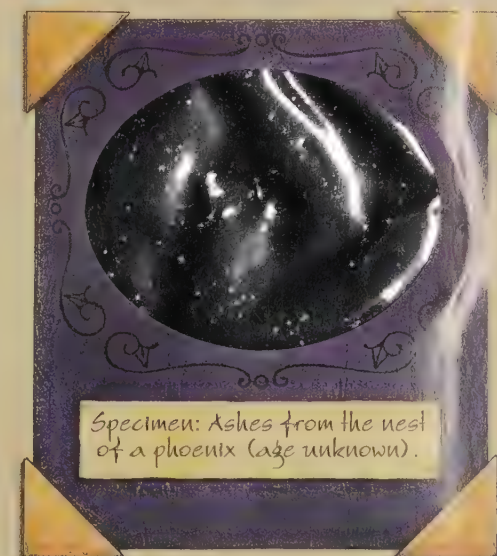


The phoenix ignites its nest by rubbing its two foreclaws together in a sawing motion.

While a phoenix bears some resemblance to an eagle, the latter bird will not usually be found engulfed in flames.

THE FENGHUANG.

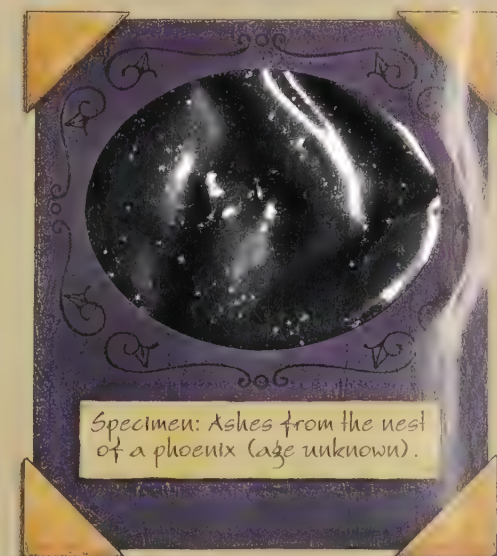
A lucky bird, the *fenghuang*, or 'Chinese phoenix', is not, in fact, a relative of the common phoenix at all. Historically, it was known as the 'king of birds' and was usually associated with peace. The *fenghuang* often dwells near the rivers where Chinese *lung* dragons live, so its presence is a good indication that dragons are near. Although it likes dragons, it does not like snakes, possibly because they pose a danger to its young.



Specimen: Ashes from the nest of a phoenix (age unknown).

THE BENU BIRD.

The ancient Egyptians believed that the *benu* bird, which is thought to be related to the phoenix, worshipped the sun. Each morning the birds could be seen [and still can] near the ancient city of Heliopolis—also called On—spreading their wings to warm them in the morning sun.



PHOENIX *Phoenix arabica*

EXTRAORDINARILY clean in its habits, the phoenix is perhaps the rarest of all fabulous beasts. It regularly relieves itself of irritating parasites using a 'fire bath'.

LAIR OR NEST—Exclusively nests in the tops of cinnamon trees. DIMENSIONS [ADULT]—4 feet long; 2 feet high. APPEARANCE—Like that of a toothed eagle with long feathers. FORMS OF ATTACK—Never attacks. FOOD—Eats most fruit, particularly dates.

ASHES like those above from a phoenix's nest are said to give long life. They should never be ingested, as this could prove disastrous. Instead, the ashes are so potent that simply keeping this book on a nearby shelf will have a noticeably beneficial effect in fifty years or so.



SEMI-HUMAN BEASTS.

The existence of beasts with semi-human features has hitherto defied explanation, and this lack of understanding has lessened their plausibility in some circles. One theory that has been proposed is that these beasts, often having humans as their natural prey, have evolved alongside them and have developed features that would make interactions with them all the more probable.



Avoid picnicking near harpies unless you are not feeling particularly hungry.

HARPY *Daemon volucer*

UNCLEAN in their habits, harpies are scavengers that sweep down on picnicking travellers, stealing their food and dropping foul scat upon what they cannot carry away. An umbrella is a must when searching out these beasts.

LAIR OR NEST—Crag, preferably exposed to the wind. DIMENSIONS [ADULT]—5 feet long; 8-foot wingspan. APPEARANCE—Scraggy birds with haglike faces. FORMS OF ATTACK—Claws; poisonous dung dropped to render food inedible. FOOD—Anything dead or dying.

During his voyage on which he discovered America in 1492, Christopher Columbus wrote that he encountered mermaids. He noted that he had expected them to be more attractive. Perhaps he actually saw manatees instead.

MERFOLK.

Little is currently known about genuine merfolk. Few who have seen them have lived to tell the tale, for the simple reason that humans are hypnotically attracted to the merfolk's song and follow them into the sea quite unawares. Merfolk mean no harm—they simply do not understand that humans cannot breathe underwater. And just as humans who are not wearing the latest diving equipment cannot survive in the merfolk's environment, neither can the merfolk survive very long out of the water. It would be an interesting experiment to devise an 'overwater suit' that enabled them to breathe on land.





SUBSPECIES OF SPHINX.



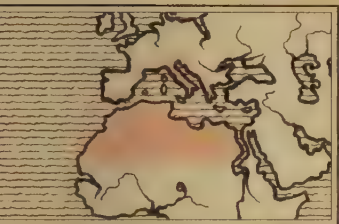
Androsphinx—Human-headed



Criosphinx—Ram-headed



Hierosphinx—Falcon-headed



SPHINX *Androsphinx volucer*

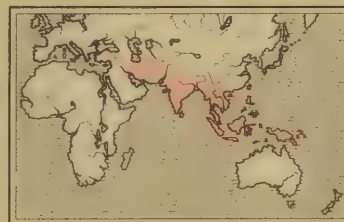
OF the three species of sphinx, the androsphinx is the only one with the ability to talk and a well-developed love of riddles. Each subspecies has a winged variant.

LAIR OR NEST—The shade of a rock; sometimes ancient ruins. DIMENSIONS [ADULT]—6 feet long; 3 to 5 feet high. APPEARANCE—A leonine body with a humanoid head. FORMS OF ATTACK—Claws, teeth. FOOD—Loves human meat but will forgo it for a challenge.

THAT some sphinxes are able to speak human language is no longer open to debate. Experience teaches us all new things and I, for one, was delighted to confirm that there is another splendid creature upon this Earth that enjoys riddles almost as much as a dragon does.

THE THEORY OF PARALLEL EVOLUTION.

An illustration may serve to show how creatures with partly human features, such as the sphinx, gradually evolved alongside humans. At each stage of their development, gullible humans would have been encouraged to interact with them, not realising their intentions until it was too late.

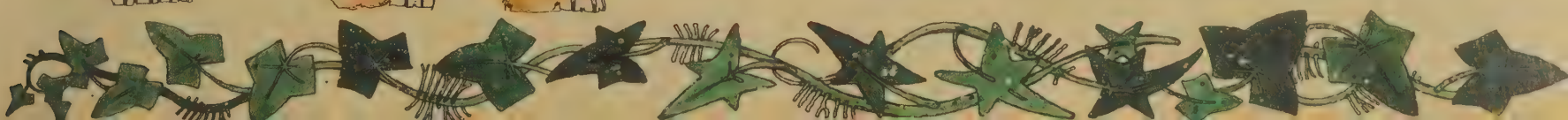


MANTICORE *Mantichora horribilis*

SHOOTING poison barbs from its tail at the least provocation, the manticore is equally deadly at the other end, where it proudly possesses three rows of teeth.

LAIR OR NEST—A cave. DIMENSIONS [ADULT]—10 feet long; 6 to 7 feet high. APPEARANCE—Like a red lion with a scorpion-like tail, human head and savage teeth. FORMS OF ATTACK—Claws, poison barbs, teeth. FOOD—Monkeys, deer and especially humans.

The poisonous barbs from a manticore become invisible as soon as they are shot. They are tough enough to be used in sewing dragon hide.



CHAPTER V.

SEMI-HUMAN BEASTS.

Continued.

The experienced monsterologist will have learned which fabulous beasts are relatively harmless to humans and which are deadly—otherwise, he is unlikely to have developed into an experienced monsterologist at all. Great care must be taken with those species that have a close resemblance to humans, for they can be every bit as dangerous as other beasts.



CYCLOPS *Gigas monoculus*

COMMON in ancient times in the Greek islands, cyclopes are now seemingly much diminished due to the increased numbers of humans in these places.

LAIR OR NEST—Rudimentary structures made of large boulders. DIMENSIONS [ADULT]—12 feet high; 3 feet wide. APPEARANCE—Like that of a giant with a single eye. FORMS OF ATTACK—Tools such as clubs and boulders are favoured. FOOD—Any fresh meat.

Please avoid being eaten by a cyclops—human meat makes these creatures quite ill and does not help to conserve them.

Although I have been lucky enough to hear the music of fauns, I have caught the most fleeting glimpse of only one.

CYCLOPS *Gigas monoculus*

FAUN *Faunus silvanus*

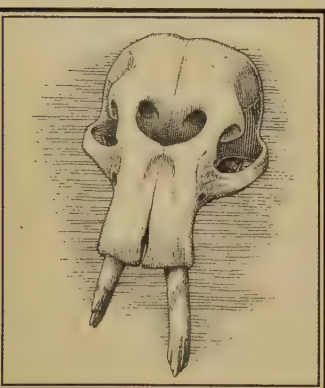
DWARF ELEPHANTS.

Some who have never seen a cyclops argue that the legend of these beasts came about when people discovered the fossilised skulls of extinct dwarf elephants, which appeared to have a single 'eye' socket. However, dwarf elephant skulls also have very clear sockets for tusks—and everyone knows that cyclopes have no tusks.

Left: A dwarf elephant fossil found on the island of Crete.

TALKING WITH FAUNS.

Fauns do not speak a human language but use a system of flute sounds that has yet to undergo investigation. I recommend that the keen student obtain a set of panpipes. Sounds can be produced on them and the resultant reactions—of delight, rage and so forth—provoked in nearby fauns can be recorded on a chart for later analysis.



MONSTEROLOGY.

GORGON *Femina fremitas*

THESE predators incapacitate their victims by first hypnotising them, then firing a paralysing venom at them from the 'mouths' in their snakelike hair.

LAIR OR NEST—A cave or abandoned hut. DIMENSIONS [ADULT]—6 feet tall; 12-foot wingspan. APPEARANCE—Like that of a snake-haired, winged hag. FORMS OF ATTACK—Paralysing venom, teeth, claws. FOOD—Anything that runs from them, or anything that stands and fights.

BEFRIENDING SEMI-HUMAN BEASTS.

The important thing to remember with semi-human beasts is to always treat them with caution. Some may appear friendly, others may not, but few will have your wellbeing at heart. Approach them as you would any ferocious wild animal and you will greatly enhance your chances of survival.

CENTAUR

Centaurus indomitus

Centaur on occasion use a rudimentary form of bow.

Gorgons should most definitely be observed from a very safe distance.

An angry centaur can attack from both its front and rear ends—using its legs to give a swift kick.

GORGON

Femina fremitas

HUMANOID MONSTERS.

As this is a book on fabulous beasts, it does not deal with humanoid monsters nor with 'diseases' [such as lycanthropy or vampirism] which may turn ordinary humans into monstrous ones. I have made a few notes on these below, however.

HUNTING GORGONS.

When seeking gorgons, it is advisable to carry a small mirror with you at all times. Looking at the gorgon in the mirror renders its hypnotic power useless. Until its prey is hypnotised, the gorgon will not unleash its venom.

CENTAUR *Centaurus indomitus*

ALTHOUGH legends cite cases of a few quiet centaurs, in general they are so noisy that it is a cause for endless surprise that they manage to ever remain concealed.

LAIR OR NEST—The herd roams widely. DIMENSIONS [ADULT]—12 feet long; 8 to 10 feet high. APPEARANCE—Horselike, with a man's upper body. FORMS OF ATTACK—Rocks, tree branches, primitive weapons. FOOD—Fermented fruits and berries; oats; game.

SEMI-HUMAN
CREATURES

APPENDIX I.

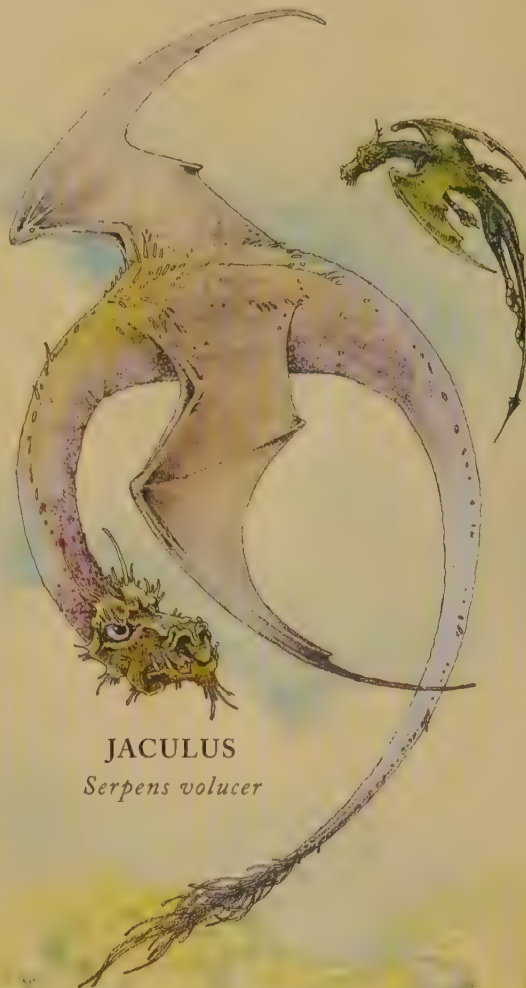
FINDING FABULOUS BEASTS.

The one thing that impresses all monsterologists is the sheer variety of fabulous beasts in the world. Some experts estimate that there may be more than sixty thousand different species. Any book on these creatures is

therefore bound to contain a few omissions, so in this volume I have concentrated on creatures I have studied in some depth. However, in these appendices I will make mention of a few more that I have merely glimpsed.

THE PRINCIPLES OF TRACKING.

Each of the wondrous beasts within these pages leaves certain signs of itself behind in the form of tracks, remains of prey, stories told about it and so forth. For each beast that you wish to track, a list should be drawn up of signs you would expect to find. For example, in the case of the jaculus—a flying creature that bears some resemblance to a featherless amphithere dragon—we should expect to find prey that has been impaled, as well as pools of pink dung. In the case of the hydrus, it will be no surprise to come across the hollowed-out carcasses of unfortunate crocodiles, as well as tracks in the mud.



JACULUS
Serpens volucer

VITAL EQUIPMENT.

It is not hard to build up a collection of equipment that will allow the study of most creatures in the field. The most important items in such a collection are shown below. However, when using this equipment, note that many beasts [that are not savage meat-eaters] generally try to avoid humans where possible. It is wise, therefore, to approach beasts from downwind in order to maximise the chances of a close encounter.



Tags

Sample envelopes



A record book



A sketching pencil



A spade



Various types of net

PHOTOGRAPHY.

One exciting possibility offered by modern science is that provided by the camera. While all fabulous beasts are difficult to capture on film and often look like fakes when they are, in fact, most real, the student is advised to take photos where possible. But beware of getting too close to really vicious subjects.

A simple hide can be built from appropriate materials in order to study many beasts. Here, a jaculus chases a dwarf dragon from its territory.



The difficulty with observation of monsters always lies in not becoming involved in the life-and-death battles of our subjects.

MONSTEROLOGY.

BEAST TRAPS.

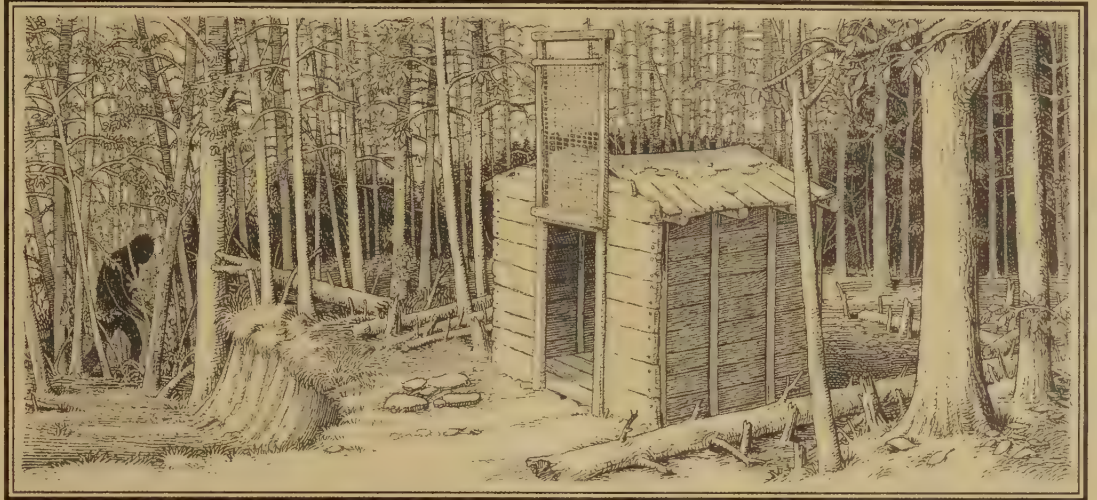
Numerous attempts have been made to build beast traps. When made by bona fide monsterologists, there is nothing wrong with such traps as long as the beast concerned is released unharmed after a brief period of study.

However, most monsterologists are content merely to watch fabulous beasts in their natural environments. If you find such a trap, it is in all likelihood an attempt by corrupt merchants to capture beasts for sale.



A NEWFANGLED APPROACH.

Hitherto the only people with any access to the undersea world were pearl divers. Now, with the introduction of the diving suit, new vistas have opened up. These suits must be used with care, however, as the lead boots that weigh them down do not allow for a fast exit should one's subject become over-hungry.



So far, bigfoot traps like this one have met with scant success. Indeed, the only creature to have been trapped in one was its creator, who waited for three days before a passing huntsman let him out.

MISTREATMENT OF BEASTS.

It goes without saying that all beasts should be treated with respect. The fact that a six-legged salamander can resist the hottest flame does not mean that it should be poked into a fire in order to confirm the point.



CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION.

However and whatever monsterologists do, if they are to be worthy of the name, then they, like dragonologists or natural historians, have a duty to care for the creatures they study. As the rarity of all these creatures is almost as great as their beauty [or, in the case of gorgons, their terrible ugliness], sixty thousand species may rapidly become a mere fifty-nine thousand unless a great deal of care is taken. So always be sure to leave them safe and the balance of fabulous nature intact.

Drake's Illustrated RECORD BOOK

1898 Voyage



APPENDIX II.

USEFUL SPELLS & CHARMS.

It has always been my belief that science will one day be able to explain all of the so-called magical effects certain objects are said to have. Until such time, I present a short digest of the supposedly magical uses to which

various parts of the creatures we have studied in this book can be put. However, I strongly advise against trying any of them and I am quite sure that readers will share my point of view.

CERRIDWEN'S UNICORN ATTRACTOR.

This spell must be performed at night in a wood or on a hill by a girl or a young woman wearing a long, white dress and carrying three ripe pomegranates, while softly singing,

Oooo-ni-ni.

Oooo-ni-ni.

* * * * *

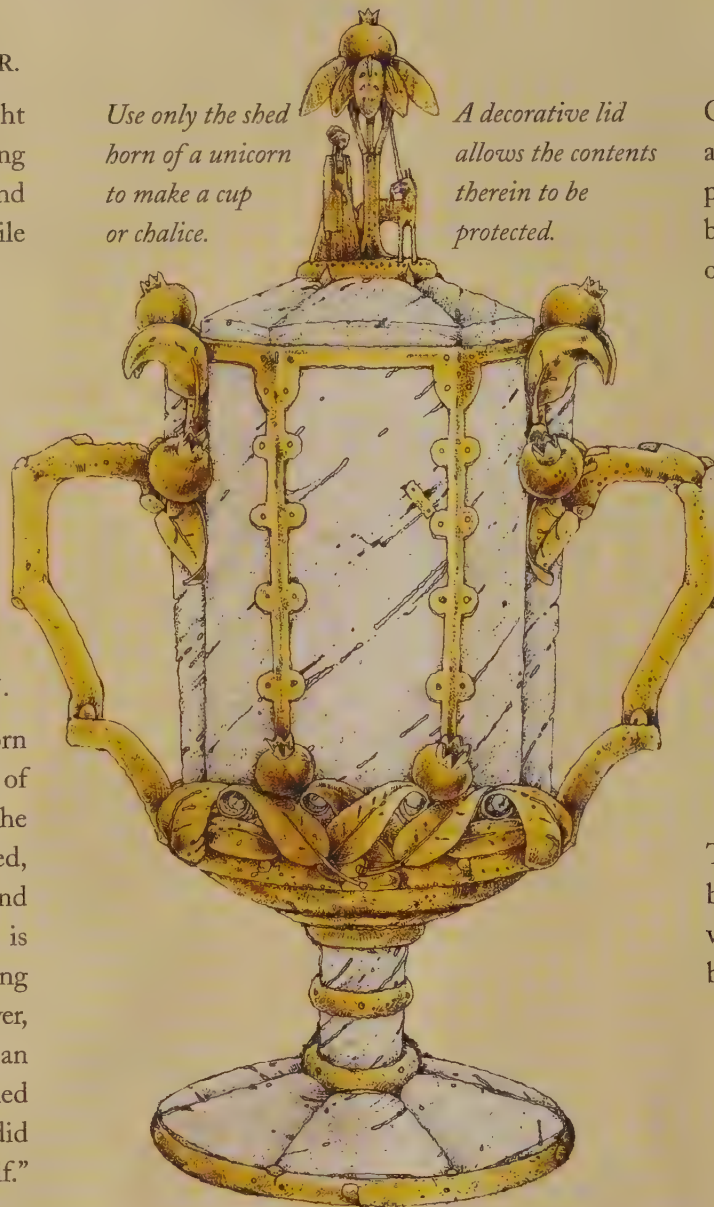
Nearby unicorns will immediately make themselves known, eat the pomegranates and allow themselves to be petted.

PROPERTIES OF UNICORN HORN.

Take a cup made out of unicorn horn and place in it any drink suspected of being poisoned. Stir three times and the contents, instead of being envenomed, will now become a strengthening and beneficial tonic. Unicorn horn that is crumbled over food suspected of having been poisoned will prevent illness. However, remember the words of natural historian Edward Topsell when he used crumbled unicorn horn as a cure for illness: "I did not neglect *other* ways to heal myself." If you are ill, seek the advice of a doctor.

Use only the shed horn of a unicorn to make a cup or chalice.

A decorative lid allows the contents therein to be protected.



THE CHALICE OF ALEONOR.

There are numerous historical examples of unicorn horn cups, such as this chalice, said to have belonged to the Queen of Aquitaine.

A NOTE ON BONNACON DUNG.

The ox-like bonnacon shoots envenomed dung as a defensive manoeuvre. This dung is highly volatile and begins to burn as soon as it is thrown. It can be used to make one's camp secure since it will repel attacking beasts, but should never be touched. It is strong enough to melt an iron spade.

THE SIREN SONG.

On a moonlit night near a beach, take a comb, a piece of yellow spell-casting parchment and a magic mirror that has been dipped into the ocean, and hold them out, facing the sea, crying:

*Mermaid, with your shining hair,
Beneath the moonlight's subtle glare,
Find lost things beneath the sea,
And bring them, bring them here to me!*
TRITON RITON RI!

* * * * *

Mermaids will then bring whatever items you write on the piece of yellow parchment in return for the magic mirror and comb.

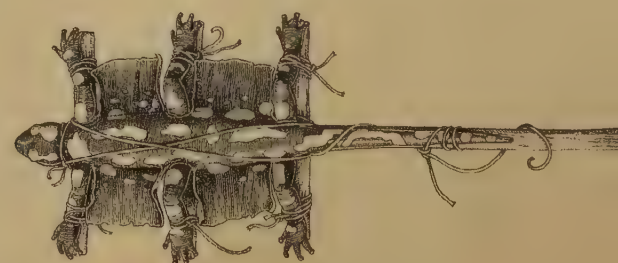
PRESTER JOHN'S PRESERVER.

Take three hairs from the wool that grows between a six-legged salamander's toes and wind it around a pine branch. Wave the branch around three times, calling:

*Wool of cold, wool of old,
Flame may bite; fire is bright.
By this spell, I flames repel!*
SINFOC SALAMANDRELLO!

* * * * *

You will now be protected from flames and volcanic magma for as long as you keep a firm hold on the branch.



A piece of six-legged salamander skin may be used if wool is not available, but the effect is not as strong.

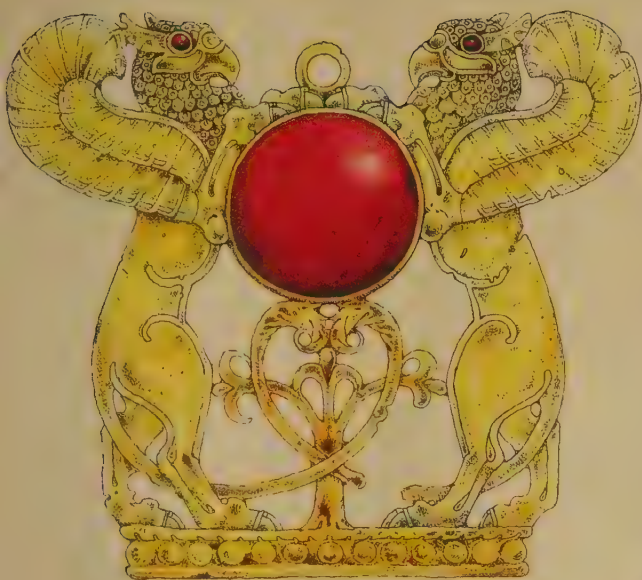


Strong forearms are needed to lift and fling bonnacon dung.

MONSTEROLOGY.

OGHAM WRITING.

Magical ogham writing was once used in ancient Ireland in order to commune with intelligent fabulous creatures. It has a long history and is said to have been invented by a fairy or more likely a faun named Ogma. Carved on wooden staves, it was used by the druids for divination with each letter of the alphabet having a different meaning. I found a simplified gloss for ogham, which has been included at the back of this book, as well as an ogham spell to summon fauns, below.



THE LOST TALISMAN OF ASJAFATHUR.

If you wish to obtain the services of a griffin, it will be most useful to seek out the lost talisman of Asjafathur. Made of pure gold and rubies, the talisman must be held aloft as you step boldly forward to greet any griffin that is encountered. Then, in return for the bones and meat of three winged horses, the griffin will do you whatsoever services it can over a period of three nights. At the end of this time, an exact replica of the talisman should be left in the griffin's nest. It goes without saying that if you cannot afford to make an *exact* replica, then becoming rich enough to do so should be your first priority, or the exercise will almost certainly end in your demise.



SEUMAS MACGREGOR'S BRIDLE.

Taken by one Seumas MacGregor from a kelpie at Loch Slochd in Scotland, this bridle allows one to command any kelpie. This would enable the monsterologist to have a means of transport far quicker even than a large dragon, but controlling a wild creature against its will is, alas, contrary to our beliefs.



THE BEAST BOP.

One excellent way to summon carnivorous beasts is to perform the Beast Bop. The steps are shown below. First, proceed to a place the beasts are known to frequent. Then, raise your arms up and down in the air, crying,

DUMB BEAST! COME, BEAST!

as you dance the steps. It is very likely that beasts will come, especially if they are hungry.



THE BATTLEFUL BARB.

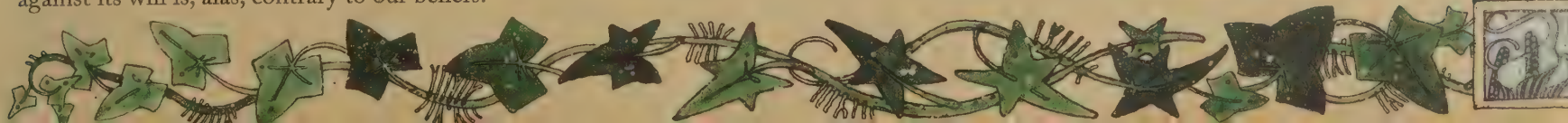
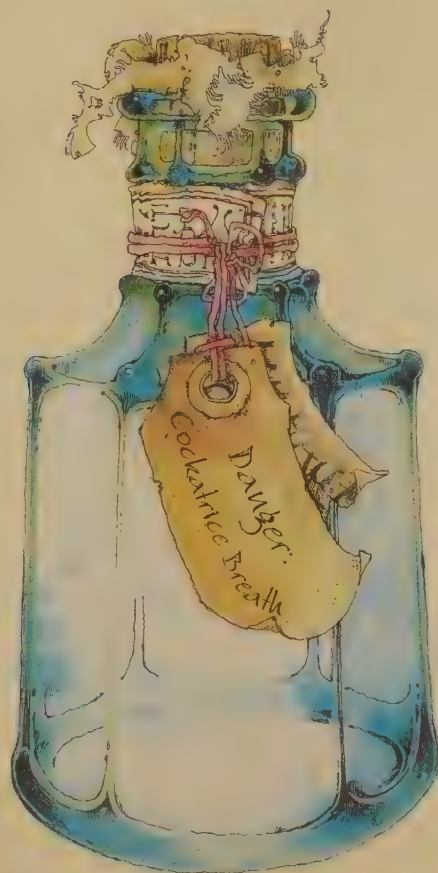
A hook of copper dipped in the blood or ink of a kraken may be used to snare a leviathan, provided that the proper words are used and the silken line is long [at least 500 yards]. Cast the hook as you cry:

*Ye hoary monster of the deep,
Awaken from thy slumberous sleep!
ARISE! ARISE! ARISE!*

The leviathan will then rise to the surface of the sea, curious to see just who is trying to snare him with such a tiny hook.

COCKATRICE BREATH.

The foul breath of the cockatrice may be bottled [preferably with the assistance of a trained weasel] and allowed to bubble through springwater. It can then be thrown at ravenous monsters in a last-ditch attempt to frighten them off without doing them harm.



APPENDIX III.

HISTORIC MONSTEROLOGISTS.

Many great people throughout history have attempted to increase our knowledge of nature by bringing extraordinary creatures to the attention of the world. Whether they are figures from the distant past or those

from more recent times, their stories of monsters and other little-known creatures have always been fascinating and may well inspire us to spring from our armchairs and take eagerly to the field.



PLINY THE ELDER: 1st Century A.D.

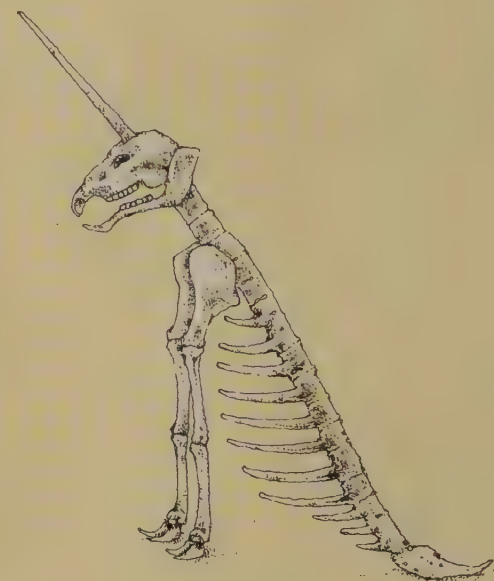
One of the greatest writers of ancient Rome, Pliny the Elder wrote a guide to the creatures and sciences of the world, entitled *Historia Naturalis* [or *Natural History*] in thirty-seven books. Such was his devotion to science that, when the volcano Mount Vesuvius erupted near Pompeii in A.D. 79, he sailed into the bay not only to try to rescue some friends but also to witness the eruption first-hand. Sadly, he was overcome by fumes and died. We can only wonder whether he saw any salamanders during his last hours.



Pliny the Elder wrote that 'a salamander is so cold it puts out fire on contact'.

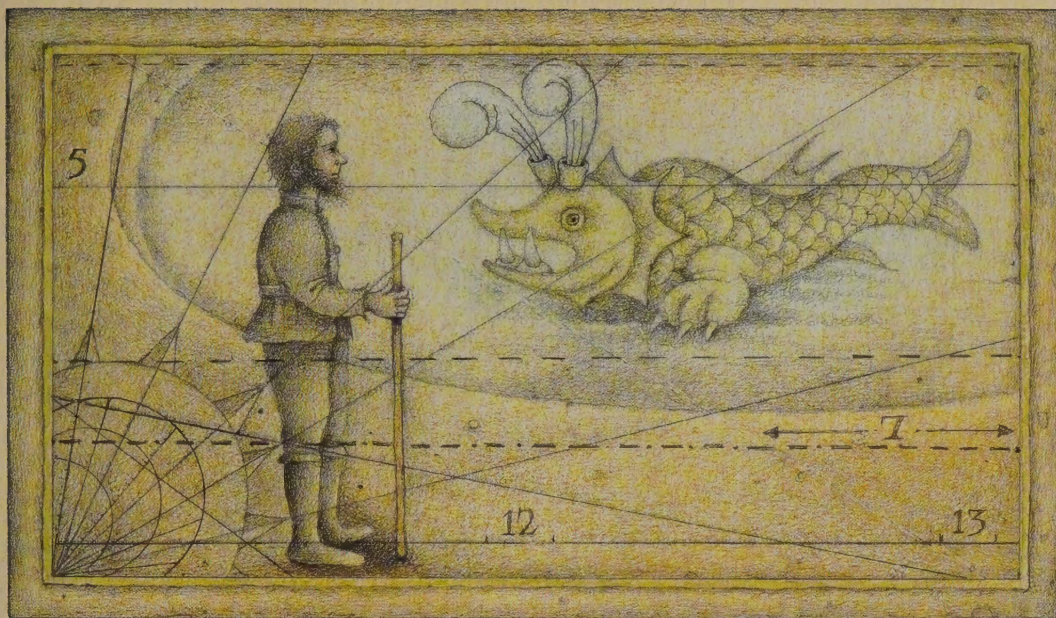
ISIDORE OF SEVILLE: VIIIth Century A.D.

In the seventh century A.D. Roman civilisation was falling apart and a great deal of the knowledge of ancient Greece and Rome was being lost. Isidore, Bishop of Seville and a keen natural historian, tried to guard against this. He wrote an encyclopedia entitled *Etymologiae* [or *Etymologies*], in which he gave us the first of the great medieval bestiaries. In addition to writing about ordinary beasts, he wrote with gusto about such creatures as griffins, dragons and six-legged salamanders, as well as about the ways to tame a unicorn.



FALSE MONSTEROLOGISTS.

There are many people who claim to be monsterologists but who are merely pranksters. For example, we have already mentioned the Feejee Mermaid. Above is a unicorn reconstruction made from fossil bones by the Mayor of Magdeburg, Germany, in 1663. Clearly, it cannot have been a real unicorn, as such creatures indubitably have four legs.



OLAUS MAGNUS: XVIth Century A.D.

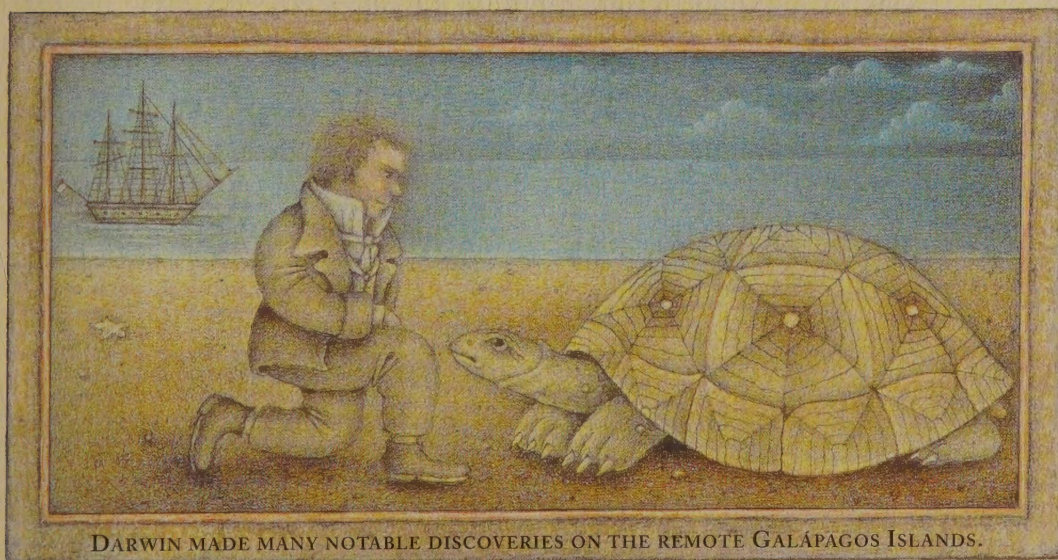
The author of the *History of the Northern Peoples*, Olaus Magnus was an expert on the sea creatures that swam near his Swedish home. He also published the famous *Carta Marina*, a map of the Scandinavian lands that provides detailed drawings of the various sea beasts found in those places, as well as facts about sea currents, ports and other necessary things. No doubt he travelled far and wide to learn this information, and his work remains highly useful as a guide to modern monsterologists who wish to hunt for new and interesting specimens as yet unknown to—or disregarded by—modern science.

GIDEON MANTELL: 1790—1852

Although for some years I regarded dinosaurs as rather improbable creatures, I have of late accepted the findings of Sussex palaeontologist Gideon Mantell. He discovered an *iguanodon*-tooth fossil that first proved that large lizard-like land creatures [dinosaurs] had once existed. He was involved in feuds with Sir Richard Owen, the famous palaeontologist who founded the Natural History Museum in London. Owen disagreed with Mantell that the *iguanodon* had short front legs and commissioned a vast, but inaccurate, model of one for the Crystal Palace exhibition of 1854. The model can be seen to this day.



A BANQUET WAS HELD BY PALAEONTOLOGISTS IN 1853 IN A LARGE BUT INCORRECT *IGUANODON* MODEL.



DARWIN MADE MANY NOTABLE DISCOVERIES ON THE REMOTE GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS.

CHARLES DARWIN: 1809—1882

A modern natural historian and perhaps my own chief inspiration, Charles Darwin outlined his theory of natural selection—showing how all creatures evolve over millennia—after a long, circumnavigatory voyage in the ship *Beagle*. If there are still those who dispute the central idea of his theory, it is only a reminder that until we monsterologists can plainly show evidence of the world's fabulous beasts, we will not be believed. Until that time comes, our work will not be complete.

AFTERWORD.

THE WORK OF A MONSTEROLOGIST.

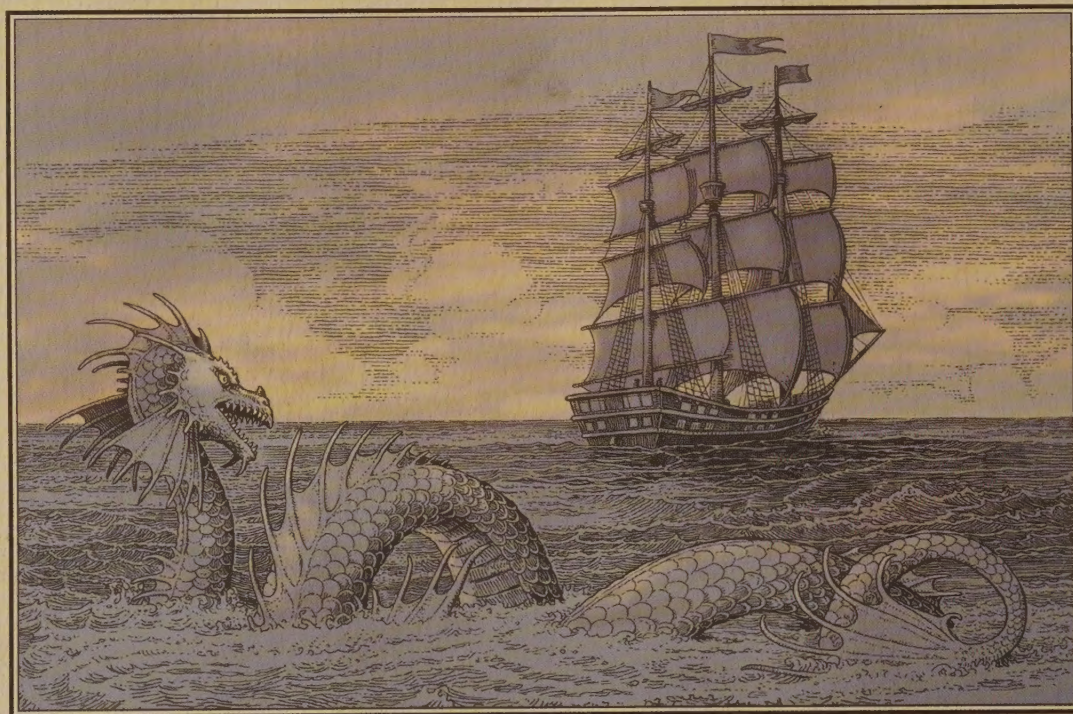
On our voyage around the world, my companions and I learned much about the fabulous beasts that, along with dragons, inhabit our planet. We found many creatures that were previously thought to be mythological, but we could not find every one. Sixty thousand species is rather a lot, after all. The way lies clear, as ever, for new students of monsterology to make exciting discoveries on an almost daily basis.

CONSERVATION.

The first thing to remember when seeking fabulous beasts such as these is that they are exceedingly rare, in many cases much rarer even than wild dragons. Also, remember that these beasts, which have been vilified with the name 'monster', are simply creatures like any other. Be aware that they are in danger of vanishing from the Earth altogether. Do your best to keep them from possible harm and only speak of them to those who will help them.

COLLECTION.

It is important to build up a collection of objects—a cabinet of wonders, if you like—that can form the beginnings of your own museum of monsterology. Both within the body of this book and in the case opposite, I have included a few of the most interesting pieces I have come across. However, remember that one must never attempt to take samples of skin or horn from still-living creatures, as they are sure to need them.



AND LAST...

If I have communicated anything in this book, I hope above all that it has been something of the wonder not only of these fabulous beasts but of all the beasts, birds and fishes that inhabit the Earth. The world is full of amazing beasts and monsters far beyond our ken. They flash through the air and slither through the seas, crawl upon the earth and lurk in the woods. But I don't expect you to believe me. Open your eyes and see for yourself. All anyone ever has to do is go out and *look!*

Ernest Drake



Sample of yeti fur [white winter coat]
presented by the monks of Dragon Mountain



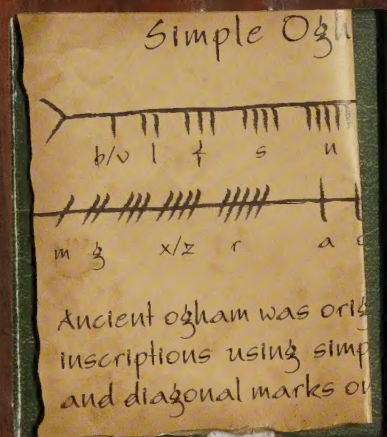
Scrap of spell-casting parchment
for attracting mermaids



Hippogriff feathers—invisible
and insubstantially light



A prehistoric phoenix parasite
trapped in amber



A handy ogham translator



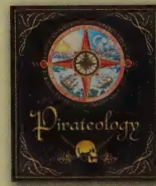
A piece of shed jaculus skin



PUBLISHER'S NOTE:
The final section of the cabinet was left empty in the original volume.
Readers may wish to insert an interesting item of their own discovery.



*The ardent student
of nature soon learns that
those creatures we name
foul and terrible monsters
are in truth the most
fabulous beestes awaiting
amaz'd discoverie.*

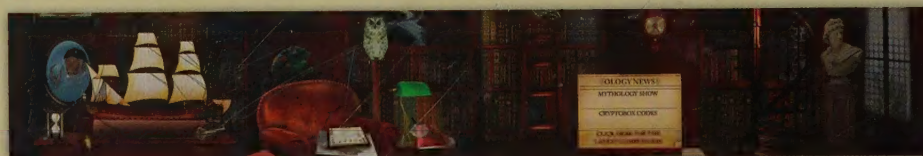


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