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Opening extract from

Monsterology

Contributions by

Dugald A. Steer

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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 farms sometimes steal their food. To help the hippogriffs, hang wooden barrels of their favourite treats in the tops of trees, where farms cannot get at them.

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



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ISBN 9 [illegible] 840 7
2 4 6 8 10 9 7 5 3 1
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 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.



Must send copies to the [illegible]

No. 1476

By His Britannic Majesty's Principal Secretary of State to the Kings, Princes, Potentates, and Presidents of the World &c. &c. &c.

These are to request and require, in the Name of His Majesty, of all those whom it may concern to allow

Dr. Ernest Drake, Natural Historian and 'Ological Scientist of the Societas Monstrorum, travelling principally aboard his yacht, HYDRA, but also overland where occasion requires,

to pass freely without let or hindrance and to afford him every assistance and protection of which he may stand in need.

Given at London the 2nd day of January 1898

Signature of the bearer
Ernest Drake

DR. ERNEST DRAKE'S
MONSTEROLOGY
THE COMPLETE BOOK OF MONSTROUS BEASTS

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

THE SECRET & MODERN SOCIETY OF MONSTEROLOGISTS
SOCIETAS MONSTRORUM

ILLUSTRATED

CANDLEWICK PRESS
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CHAPTER I

FABULOUS BEASTS OF THE WORLD
LOCATIONS & DIRECTIONS

Fabulous beasts are to be found all across the world. However, most species favour certain locations and habitats, and the student is advised to begin his or her study 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*, *The Dragonology Handbook*, and *Field Guide to Dragons*.

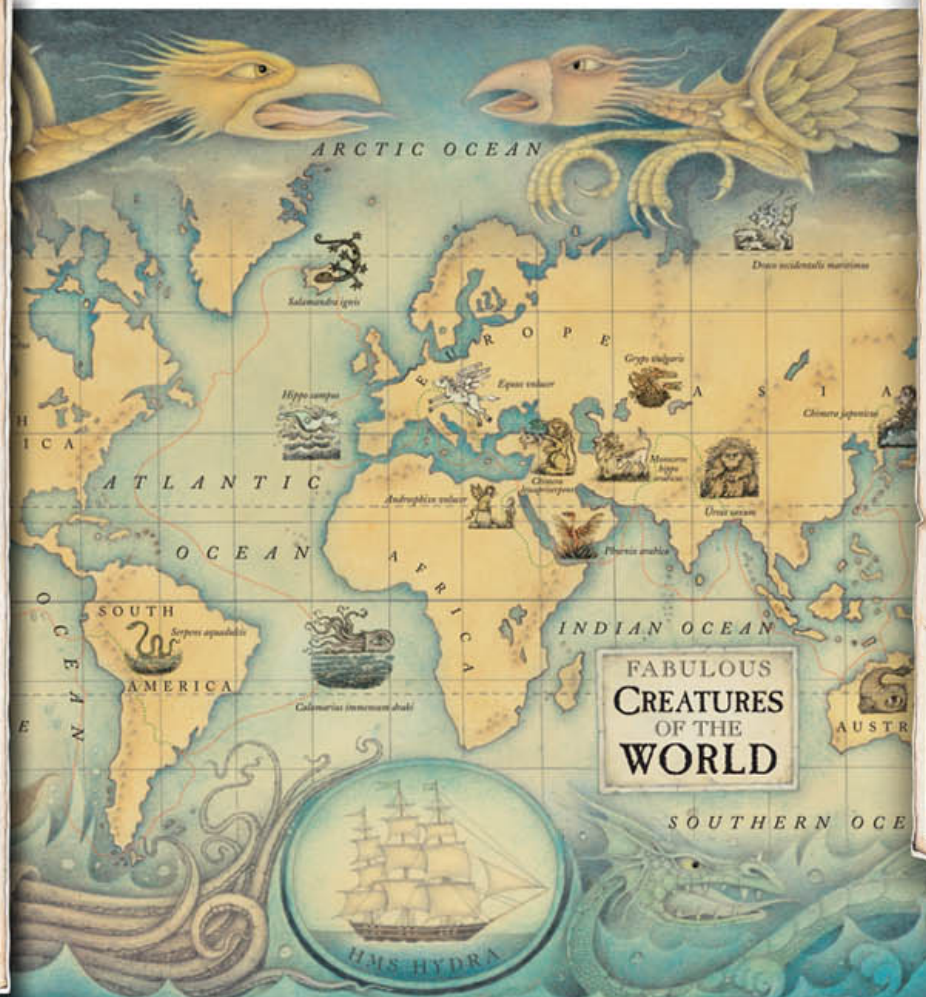


REFER TO

DR. ERNEST DRAKE'S

FIELD GUIDE TO DRAGONS

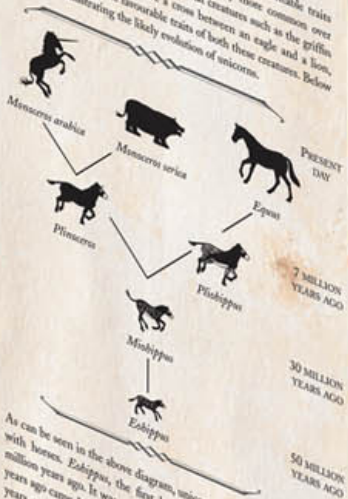
Dragons deftly depicted
Dragon doubts diminished
Dragon differences demonstrated
Dragonological disputes decided



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. They appear to be a cross between an eagle and a lion, because they share 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 horse-like animal, lived around fifty million years ago. It was only two feet in length. Around thirty million years ago came *Miohippus*, which was slightly larger. Then, seven million years ago, the horse family branched into *Pliohippus*, the ancestor of modern horses, and *Pliniceros*, 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, turned away.
At St. Leonard's Forest, Horsham