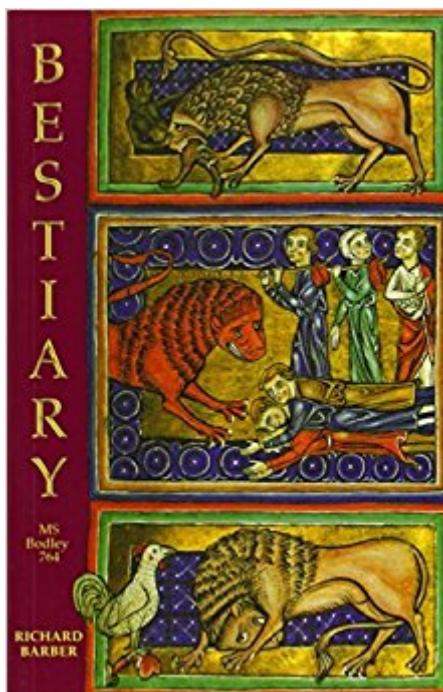


The book was found

# Bestiary: Being An English Version Of The Bodleian Library, Oxford, MS Bodley 764



## Synopsis

Bestiaries are a particularly characteristic product of medieval England, and give a unique insight into the medieval mind. Richly illuminated and lavishly produced, they were luxury objects for noble families. Their three-fold purpose was to provide a natural history of birds, beasts and fishes, to draw moral examples from animal behaviour (the industrious bee, the stubborn ass), and to reveal a mystical meaning - the phoenix, for instance, as a symbol of Christ's resurrection. This Bestiary, MS. Bodley 764, was produced around the middle of the thirteenth century and is of singular beauty and interest. The lively illustrations have the freedom and naturalistic quality of the later Gothic style, and make dazzling use of colour. This book reproduces the 136 illuminations to the same size and in the same place as the original manuscript, fitting the text around them. Richard Barber's translation from the original Latin is a delight to read, capturing both the serious intent of the manuscript and its charm.

## Book Information

Paperback: 208 pages

Publisher: Boydell Press (January 1, 1992)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 085115753X

ISBN-13: 978-0851157535

Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 0.6 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 15 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #65,252 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #33 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Mythology & Folk Tales > Mythology #51 in Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > History #71 in Books > History > Europe > Great Britain > England

## Customer Reviews

The translation is pellucid, and the colourful late-gothic illustrations really delightful. Epic begets epic: stupendous and thought-provoking. --*Fortean Times* An invaluable resource for readers and writers who aspire to understand how mediaeval men and women viewed the natural world, both actual and fantastical. --*Historical Novels Review* Excellent translation from the Latin original makes for fascinating reading about beasts, real and imaginary, of the medieval world. The most delightful picture-book about animals you'll ever see. --*Evening Standard*

Bestiaries are a particularly characteristic product of medieval England, and give a unique insight into the medieval mind. Richly illuminated and lavishly produced, they were luxury objects for noble families. Their three-fold purpose was to provide a natural history of birds, beasts and fishes, to draw moral examples from animal behaviour (the industrious bee, the stubborn ass), and to reveal a mystical meaning -- the phoenix, for instance, as a symbol of Christ's resurrection. This Bestiary, MS. Bodley 764, was produced around the middle of the thirteenth century and is of singular beauty and interest. The lively illustrations have the freedom and naturalistic quality of the later Gothic style, and make dazzling use of colour. The 136 illuminations are reproduced to the same size and in the same place as in the original manuscript, and the text fitted around them. Richard Barber's translation from the original Latin is a delight to read, capturing both the serious intent of the manuscript and its charm.

Look, I am just a mom. I am not some specialist in Medieval art or a religious commentator. I am just a mom. I have a six year old son who thinks the sun rises and set on this book. And with a little parental editing I read (most of) it aloud to him. The pictures are fantastic and detailed. It was just what I was looking for when my son requested a book on mythical beast. These animals appear in fairy tails and fantasy games and he wanted more detail on what they were exactly. A lot of discussion about what is real, what was misunderstood and what was just plain made up. A great spring board for critical thinking for a kid. It has been absconded by older brother who is 27 years old. My sons and I have enjoyed this book thoroughly.

If you are not familiar with the concept of a "bestiary," the best way to describe it is the attempt of the medieval mind to categorize and describe the animal kingdom. Bestiaries were the work of the educated class, because it was they alone who had the skills to write, and also to illustrate, a written tome. Bestiaries can be hugely enjoyable, for they allow us to see both the insights and the shortcomings of the medieval conception of "animal." And, in the case of this text, they could be lavishly illustrated. This bestiary, which is a translated facsimile of the 13th century MS. Bodley 764, is simply a delight. At a slightly larger form factor than a standard trade paperback, the text is printed on the highest quality heavyweight, high gloss paper and is reproduced in full color (every illustration). The attempt is to reproduce the manuscript as it appears in the MS. Bodley 764, but with the Latin translated into English. The result is a gorgeous (and physically manageable) text which really does a good job of transmitting the original intention of the text. Although an index is provided at the front so you can jump to an animal of choice, the text is really best read from

beginning to end. It is as I say a "delightful romp," and you'll find yourself entranced at the simultaneously simplistic and deep content the words convey. By the way, you might think this will have animals such as "ox," "lion," "seal," and so on. You're right. But it also has a wealth of animals, real and imaginary, that you wouldn't necessarily expect, unless you are an avid medievalist. Try "Parander," "Bonnacon," "Monoceros," "Hoope," and "Wether," and then you'll realize there's a whole lot to explore here. There are about 120 animals in all. A real treat for both bedtime reading and for more serious study, this book can also make a wonderful gift for the person for whom you can't think of anything to give.

Gorgeous. Simply gorgeous.

I bought it because I have always been intrigued by the illustrations, but it is interesting to see how animals were viewed in medieval times.

This is an interesting book. I only wish the illustrations were bigger. Overall, I would recommend this book to others.

Good printed, great illustrations

A gorgeous book, splendidly conceived, executed, and masterfully bound by The Folio Society.

THANKS

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Bestiary: Being an English Version of the Bodleian Library, Oxford, MS Bodley 764 Weddings: Vintage People on Photo Postcards (The Bodleian Library - Photo Postcards from the Tom Phillips Archive) The explorations of Pierre Esprit Radisson: From the original manuscript in the Bodleian Library and the British Museum George Frederick Bodley and the Later Gothic Revival in Britain and America (Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art) Oxford Bookworms Library: The Death of Karen Silkwood: Level 2: 700-Word Vocabulary (Oxford Bookworms Library: Stage 2) The Oxford Picture Dictionary English/Japanese: English-Japanese Edition (The Oxford Picture Dictionary Program) The Oxford Picture Dictionary: English-Spanish Edition (The Oxford Picture Dictionary Program) (English and Spanish Edition) Oxford Picture Dictionary English-Chinese: Bilingual Dictionary for Chinese speaking teenage and adult students of English (Oxford Picture Dictionary

2E) LEARN ENGLISH; HOW TO SPEAK ENGLISH FOR ESL LEARNERS: ENGLISH SPEAKING SKILLS FOR ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE LEARNERS (LEARN ENGLISH FOR LIFE Book 14) Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology (Oxford Handbooks) published by Oxford University Press, USA (2003) The Book of Barely Imagined Beings: A 21st Century Bestiary Supernatural: The Men of Letters Bestiary: Winchester Family Edition A Bestiary of Tolkien Coloring The Grand Medieval Bestiary: Animals in Illuminated Manuscripts Squirrel Seeks Chipmunk: A Modest Bestiary Handel's Bestiary: In Search of Animals in Handel's Operas The Blind Loon - A Bestiary Biomedical Bestiary: An Epidemiologic Guide to Flaws and Fallacies in the Medical Literature Pathfinder Roleplaying Game: Bestiary 1 GURPS Fantasy Bestiary reprint (GURPS: Generic Universal Role Playing System)

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)