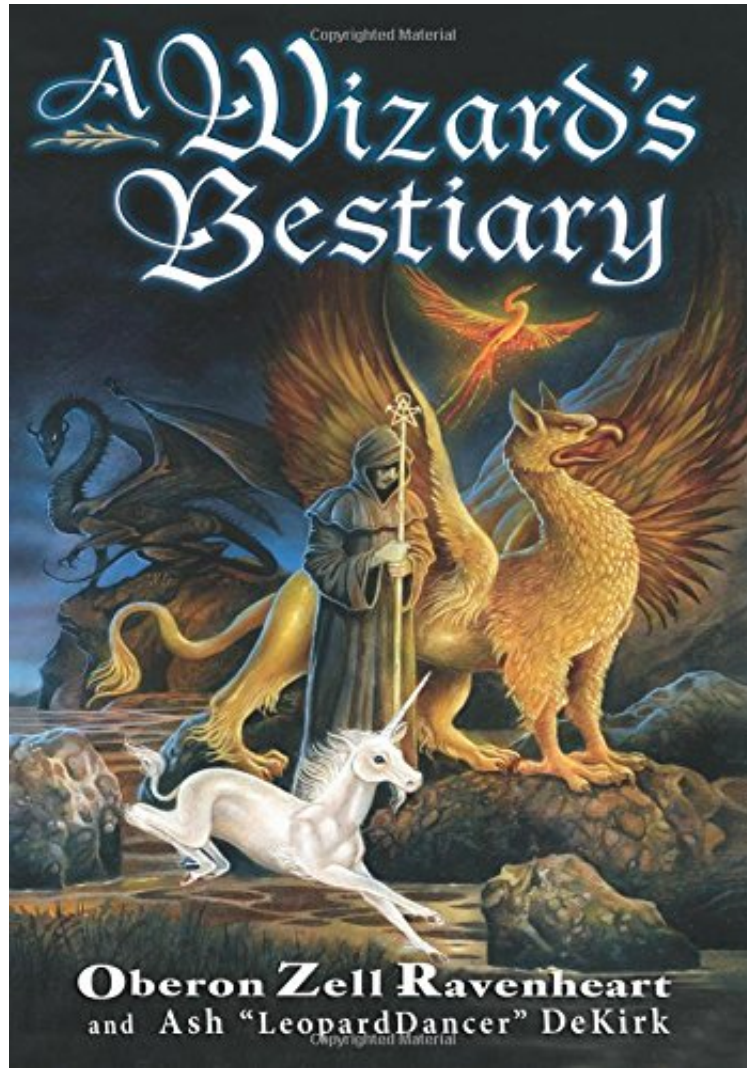


A Wizard's Bestiary

Oberon Zell-Ravenheart, Ash DeKirk

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Oberon Zell-Ravenheart, Ash DeKirk : A Wizard's Bestiary before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Wizard's Bestiary:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A serious study in beasts, excellent reference materialBy Colleen Michelle JohnsonBeautiful book. I am using it as a reference guide to create my own creatures in one of my books.13 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Informative book, needs better editingBy Dana LawrenceFirst let me say, A Wizard's Bestiary is probably one of the most informative books relating to cryptids, myths, and other supernatural beasts out there. It doesn't just focus on Greek or Egyptian mythology as most do, nor on north American cryptids. Instead, it delves into various countries and belief systems, shining a spotlight on well known and

obscure creatures. However, the information comes at a price. The editor must have been asleep at the wheel, because every couple dozen pages or so there's a misspelled word, a word omitted, a word that runs into the drawings on the pages, or what have you. Almost every error is in the first section, the Glossary titled "A Magickal Menagerie" and some of these problems are due to the positioning of the artwork. In the actual encyclopedic section, the creatures are split amongst groups and spoken about in an interesting and in-depth manner, some more than others of course (sea monsters alone have a VAST wealth on them). While a few sections have wording that might seem a bit ego-leaning, those are few and far between (the author for example, seems dead-set on lake monsters being slugs, and goes so far as to say something akin to "I refuse to accept them as anything else," as if it's their place and only theirs to deem what is acceptable or not. Perhaps this is just how it comes across to myself, I'll leave it up to the other readers to decide. Lastly, I think it's a bit unusual that many of the art pieces go uncredited. While some are from clipart or other sources and some DO have their artist given their due, the author states themselves that they "raided google" for many, and therefore quite a few go without credit (this could have been remedied either by asking around on the sites they were found, or by hiring a few artists to create new pieces for the creatures). On a positive note, another area where the book stands out is at the end of each encyclopedic section, where it says how one can find media that star some of the creatures therein; particularly via film but also in book or even video game forms. The haiku at the start of each letter for the menagerie are a neat touch as well. All in all the book is pretty good, but the editing mistakes, some of the near-hubris level of a few sections (luckily only a scant few), the lack of credit for many pieces, and the art getting in the way of the wording take away from what would be an otherwise GREAT book. Perhaps in a future publication these editing issues will be fixed, as this reviewer hopes. One suggestion could be perhaps to do the menagerie section in a column-form: one side of the page for the creatures descriptions, the other for the artwork. Although this would make the book slightly longer than usual, it's one of many possible ways to improve that section. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Great illustrations and information By Jeannie Schwieger I got this book because I had seen the living unicorn and was interested in learning more about mythological creatures. It did not disappoint.

Strange beasts of all kinds have crawled, run, swam, and flown through humanity's imagination and travelers' tales since the dawn of time. From Gryphons and Unicorns, to Dragons, Mermaids, and even more bizarre and fantastical animals, A Wizard's Bestiary takes you on a magical journey through the ages and around the world, to discover elusive creatures of myth and legend. Beware--here be Monsters! The first section lists over 1,000 fantastic creatures from every land in an encyclopedic, alphabetical glossary format, from Aatxe to Zythoeus. Each entry includes a small illustration, as well as cross-references to other related beasts. Next, the authors present more in-depth features on some of more interesting of these legendary beasts, such as the Sea Serpent and the Man-Eating Tree of Madagascar. History, myths, and legends of each creature are presented, with particular emphasis on identifying real-life origins of mythical creatures in actual living animals, such as the link between the Kraken and the giant squid. This section is divided into these categories: * Creepers * Walkers * Swimmers * Flyers * Demi-Humans * Animate Plants Expanded cryptozoological entries include the Loch Ness Monster, Bigfoot, Mokele-Mbembe, El Chupacabra, Mothman, and other mystery monsters reported by eyewitnesses but not yet confirmed by science. They are grouped into the following categories: * Primates and Hominids * Bipedal Monsters * Carnivorous Mammals * Herbivorous Mammals * Sea Serpents and Lake Monsters * Birds * Reptiles * Amphibians * Living Dinosaurs * Mystery Monsters A Wizard's Bestiary is profusely illustrated with old woodcuts, engravings, and other images from historical sources, as well as interpretations by modern artists, including the authors. No other bestiary has been so well-illustrated! Hand-drawn medieval-style maps by Oberon Zell-Ravenheart show purported locales of different beasts on all continents and seas.

From the Back Cover "Oberon Zell! Who better to write such a book than this living legend from the magickal world. Here is the man who recreated living unicorns, who traveled to the remote South Seas in search of genuine mermaids."--Amber K, author of True Magick "This valuable resource shares overlooked insights and incredible clues for the casual reader or the dedicated student of cryptozoology. Highly recommended."--Loren Coleman, coauthor of Creatures of the Outer Edge and Cryptozoology A to Z About the Author Renowned Wizard Oberon Zell-Ravenheart is the author of the best-selling Grimoire for the Apprentice Wizard and Companion for the Apprentice Wizard. He and his wife Morning Glory rediscovered the long-lost secret of the Unicorn in 1976, and in 1980, created the first of several living Unicorns, which became a worldwide sensation. In 1985, Oberon organized a diving expedition to New Guinea and the Coral Sea which solved the age-old mystery of the Mermaid, presenting his findings to the International Society of Cryptozoology. He lives in Sonoma County, California. Ash "LeopardDancer" DeKirk is the author of Dragonlore and Dean of the Departments of Alchemy and Divination, a Professor of Beast Mastery, and Instructor in Ceremonial Magick, Divination, Lifeways, Lore, and Magickal Practice at the Grey School of Wizardry.