



## The Book of Beasts: Being a Translation from a Latin Bestiary of the Twelfth Century

By Terence Hanbury White

Dover Publications. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 320 pages. Dimensions: 8.0in. x 5.6in. x 0.7in. If a serpent swallows the spittle of a fasting man, it dies. Trees felled in the wrong season breed termites. If eels are drowned in wine, those who drink it get a loathing for liquor. These and similar flights of fancy were articles of faith in the twelfth century the era of the fascinating Latin prose bestiary translated in this volume. The translator is T. H. White, author of *The Once and Future King* and outstanding medievalist. Of *The Book of Beasts*, White writes: No Latin prose bestiary has ever before been printed, even in Latin. This is the first and only English translation in print. The bestiary was a bestseller in the Middle Ages, a kind of natural history cum-zoological survey that presumed to describe the animals of the world and to point out the human traits they exemplified. Combining the surprisingly accurate with the endearingly phantasmagorical, the bestiarists came up with a bewildering array of real and exotic creatures. The behavior or attributes of the animals often functioned as a metaphor for teaching religious, moral, and political precepts. In addition to a multitude of...



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