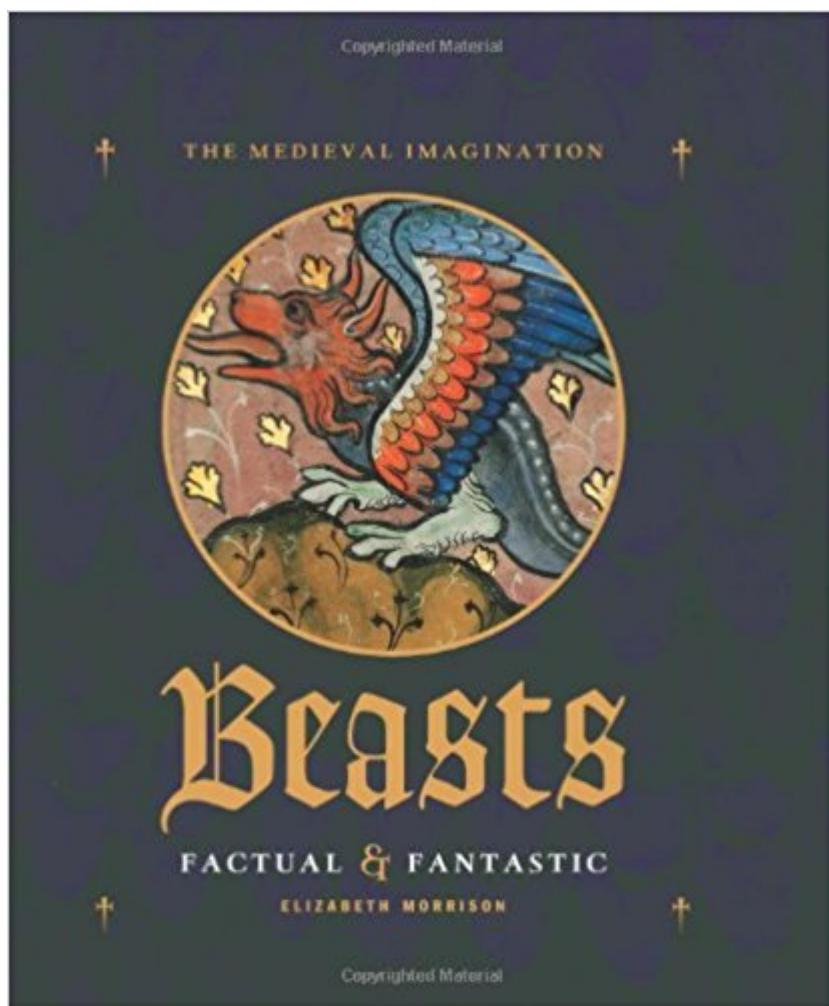


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Beasts Factual And Fantastic (Medieval Imagination)



Synopsis

easts Factual and Fantastic features vivid and charming details from the wealth of manuscripts in the collections of the J. Paul Getty Museum and the British Library, along with a lively text; together both word and image provide an accessible and delightful introduction to the imagination of the medieval world.

Book Information

Series: Medieval Imagination

Hardcover: 112 pages

Publisher: J. Paul Getty Museum; 1 edition (June 25, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0892368888

ISBN-13: 978-0892368884

Product Dimensions: 7 x 0.5 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,015,118 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #30 in Books > Arts & Photography > Other Media > Illuminations #593 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Library & Information Science #700 in Books > Arts & Photography > History & Criticism > Themes > Plants & Animals

Customer Reviews

Elizabeth Morrison is Associate Curator of Manuscripts at the J. Paul Getty Museum.

For anyone into Medieval illuminations, this book offers page after page of delicious reproductions from Medieval illuminated manuscripts and books. The text and reproductions detail animals - both mythical, fantastical and real in a most enjoyable book. I look forward to purchasing others in the series.

The cover features one of my favorite Getty manuscripts. Inside are photos of beasts from a variety of Getty mss, not just bestiaries. This is another way of getting familiar with their collection. The captions are good, but the photos of the ms. pages are the strength of this book.

Nicely laid out, with a lot more pictures than text. I honestly haven't read much of the writing, though

it seems well-written; mostly wanted the book for the pictures and was happy with what I got.

fun read - must have if you like medieval beasts.

The quality of book makes me hard. Thick paper, fine dpi, lots of great medieval beasts! The only thing I dislike, some pictures are on double pages, and part of picture is hidden.

This is a small book about an obscure topic. but one that's worth reading about. It contains examples (from the Getty collection) of beasts from Medieval illuminated manuscripts. The illustrations were generally small, and often in the margins of the text. Books produced and illustrated by hand must have been tedious sometimes, but these graphics show lively and fertile imaginations. As in the title, some were fantasies and some factual, insofar as factual had an image. It's not clear which are original in the Getty materials, or whether they might have been copied or re-imagined, but they are delightful. Seems to me that they offer a kind of communication with the manuscript illuminators; people with imaginations so vivid would be worth meeting.

As a big fan of medieval bestiaries, I can say that this book knocked me out. The Getty Museum has a world-class collection, and both the illustrations and text -- written and compiled by an expert curator -- are illuminating, to say the least. Of course, I'd also recommend a visit to the Getty, to see some of the originals on display there. Even a book as beautiful as this can't do them all justice.

Elizabeth Morrison's BEASTS reproduces illuminations from medieval manuscripts in the Getty Collection depicting various real and imagined animals. The demon trying to tempt Thomas Aquinas and the scene of the animals paying homage to the Christ Child struck me as especially noteworthy.

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