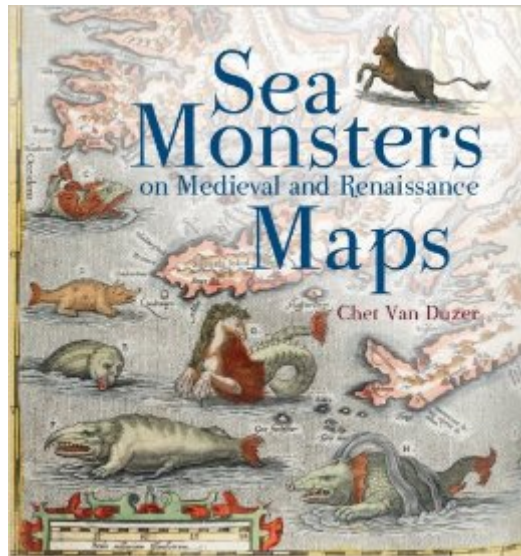


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# Sea Monsters On Medieval And Renaissance Maps



## Synopsis

The sea monsters on medieval and Renaissance maps, whether swimming vigorously, gamboling amid the waves, attacking ships, or simply displaying themselves for our appreciation, are one of the most visually engaging elements on these maps, and yet they have never been carefully studied. The subject is important not only in the history of cartography, art, and zoological illustration, but also in the history of the geography of the "marvelous" and of western conceptions of the ocean. Moreover, the sea monsters depicted on maps can supply important insights into the sources, influences, and methods of the cartographers who drew or painted them. In this highly-illustrated book the author analyzes the most important examples of sea monsters on medieval and Renaissance maps produced in Europe, beginning with the earliest mappaemundi on which they appear in the 10th century and continuing to the end of the 16th century.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Sea Monsters on Medieval and Renaissance Maps," by Chet Van Duzer, is magnificent. I have spent a lifetime looking at old map books with a magnifying glass hoping in vain to make out what that wondrous monster is in the corner. Well, strain your eyes no longer: enlarged in sharp detail and in brilliant living color are literally hundreds of marvelous and monstrous beasts for you to look at and admire. This book will satisfy even the most rigorous of scholars as it is extremely well written and copiously footnoted. This book will be a delight to fans of cartography, bestiaries and cryptozoology. At last, a serious book dedicated exclusively to sea monsters on maps. They are no longer an amusing afterthought; here they finally get the attention and study they

deserve. Vincent Cherico Providence RI USA

I would recommend this book to anyone interested in the evolution of the arts and human culture. The text is insightful, and the maps are a fine compilation. Keep your eyes open for the origins of the Starbucks logo mermaid.

I was glad to see the topic of sea monsters expanded upon. I love old maps and their cartographic designs.

This wasn't quite what I was expecting, but I'm not at all disappointed. I was expecting something akin to a bestiary or a catalog of all the sea monsters, maybe with a bit of history or a description of the monster. Instead, the Author goes into depth as to why the monsters were put on the maps at all, sometimes for religious reasons, sometimes for decoration, and sometimes the monsters were just cases of mistaken identity. While it didn't list every single monster ever drawn, it did have a few sections like I had described above. All in all it's an excellent book, and became one of my favourites pretty quickly.

This is a fun book that explores sea monsters on medieval and renaissance maps. It has great illustrations and explains a lot about what went into making these maps. For me, however, it's the illustrations that I enjoy the most! The sea monsters are simply super cool!

The illustrations on the front and back dust jacket are among the most colorful and interesting parts of the entire book. Do not expect the text or inside illustrations to improve on the dust jacket.

I was looking for a coffee table book for my house at the beach and this fit the bill as I am very interested in antique maps. I would not give the inside of the book high marks for illustrations, though, unlike most books of this type. The cover is deceiving.

Chet Van Duzer always delivers excellent research and this book is no exception. This is a topic that fascinates many readers both inside the cartographic community and the generalist. Very well illustrated.

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