

EYE of NEWT
BOOKS
FALL/WINTER 2021



Welsh Monsters & Mythical Beasts



*Welcome one, welcome all to Eye of Newt, publisher of curiosities beautiful and fantastical.
Our books are beguiling, mysterious, and sometimes bleak.
They have no bounds, and no bounds do they seek.*



Eye of Newt (EON) aims to publish imaginative books filled with new ideas and beautiful illustration. We do not shy away from quirky and strange stories. Our books will represent a wide range of voices and stories. EON's books provide a platform for readers to explore artistic expression and experience story in weird and wondrous ways.

We publish rhyming or whimsical picturebooks, artist-driven projects, authentic mythology, and the occasional art book. We join in that infinite space where bold and inventive ideas can be explored. Above all we seek highly imaginative storytelling and visually stunning creations that will catch readers' minds and eyes.

Publishers

Neil Christopher is an educator, author, publisher, and filmmaker. Originally from Ottawa, Ontario, Neil has spent most of his adult life in the Eastern Arctic of Canada. His interest in mythology and traditional stories has taken him across the circumpolar North to work with community members to research and gather cultural stories before they are lost. Neil is one of the co-founders of Inhabit Media (trade publisher) and Inhabit Education (educational publisher), both started with his brother, Danny, and his colleague, Louise Flaherty. Now, Neil has embarked on a new adventure with Eye of Newt Books. Neil currently lives in Toronto, Ontario, with his wife, two children, and a few axolotls.

Danny Christopher is an illustrator, and author. His earliest memories are of catching garter snakes in Belleville, Ontario, while still in diapers. Much of his primary school education was spent day dreaming about riding on the back of a giant eagle. He is the illustrator of *The Legend of the Fog*, *A Children's Guide to Arctic Birds*, *A Children's Guide to Arctic Butterflies*, and *Animals Illustrated: Polar Bear*, and author of the *Putuguq* and *Kublu* series of books. His work on *The Legend of the Fog* was nominated for the Amelia Frances Howard-Gibbon Illustration Award, and *Putuguq* and *Kublu* was selected as a USBBY Outstanding International Book. Danny has a diverse background in Editorial illustration for everything from newspapers to skateboards to creating large painted ungulates. He lives in Toronto with his wife, four children, and two unruly bulldogs.



Project List & Details



Ordering Information

US & INTERNATIONAL

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PGC Books:
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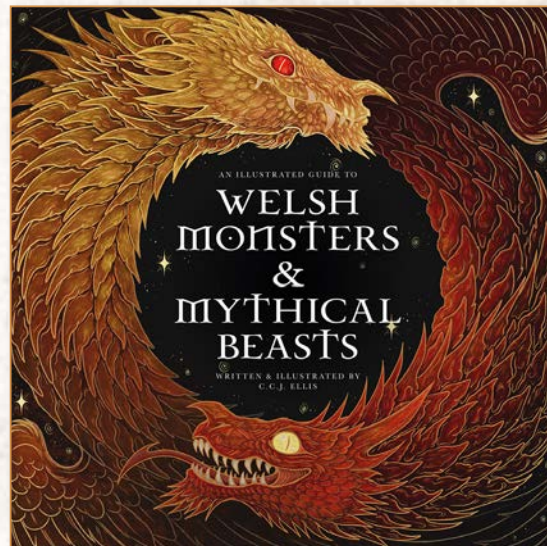
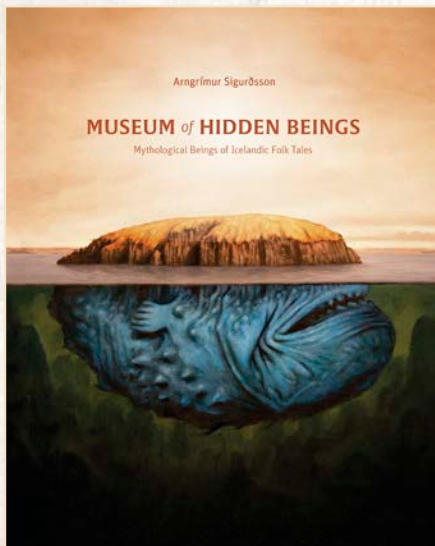
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Production Details: Eye of Newt Front List FALL/WINTER 2021

TITLE	AUTHOR	GENRE	RIGHTS HELD	PAGE COUNT	TRIM SIZE	PUB DATE	PRICE
<i>Bestiarium Greenlandica</i> ISBN 9781777081706 SERIES: WOOL OF BAT	Maria Bach Kreutzmann	Greenland/ Mythology/ History	North America/ Inuktitut	160	9x11"	Sept-21	US \$32.95 CAN \$36.95 UK £23.99
<i>Welsh Monsters & Mythical Beasts</i> ISBN 9781777081775 SERIES: WOOL OF BAT	C.C.J. Ellis	Welsh/ Mythology/ History	World	88	9x9"	Oct-21	US \$29.95 CAN \$34.95 UK £20.95
<i>Museum of Hidden Beings</i> ISBN 9781777081713 SERIES: WOOL OF BAT	Arngrímur Sigurðsson	Fantasy/ Mythology/ History	North America/ Inuktitut	80	10x8"	Nov-21	US \$24.95 CAN \$29.95 UK £17.99

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WOOL OF BAT

Wool of Bat Books (WOB) is a specialty series of EON Books. This series aims to help preserve and promote lesser known folklore and oral history from around the world. Our publishing team works with recognized storytellers, authors, and artists to present authentic voices and unique cultural perspectives. All the books in our Wool of Bat series are developed to enrich the book collections and research materials of readers searching for myths, legends, and the supernatural.



Bestiarium Greenlandica
A compendium of the mythical creatures,
landspirits, and strange beings of Greenland

SERIES: WOOL OF BAT

ISBN 9781777081706

edited by Maria Bach Kreutzmann
introductions by Neil Christopher
and Ujammiugaq Engell

CONTENT WARNING



The world of Greenlandic mythology is inhabited by a motley crew of dangerous, cheeky, and fantastical beings that have played a vital role in Inuit beliefs and stories throughout the ages. The *Bestiarium Greenlandica* is a collection of what is generally known about these diverse beings, spirits, and animals and a description of their appearance and features paired with illustrations by various contributors. A brief history of Greenland and the shaman tradition launched the reader into the ancient traditions of Greenland.

This new, edited edition of the book features a re-translated and edited chapter on "*Shamans, witches, and witchcraft*" by Robin Fenrir Mansa Hillestrøm. Illustrations by contemporary Greenlandic and Nordic artists transport the mythological beings into the 21st Century. Part of the Wool of Bat series focused on the preservation and promotion of folklore and oral history from around the world.

MARIA BACH KREUTZMANN was born and bred in Nuuk, and has been fascinated by monsters ever since she was a little girl. She has used Greenlandic mythology and all its colourful creatures in many of her personal projects and has long dreamt of sharing greenlandic stories in a new and unique way. She graduated from the Animation Workshop in Viborg, Denmark, in 2012 with a bachelor's degree in Computer Graphics Art. Since then she has worked in the gaming and advertising industry in Denmark and the UK. In January 2017 she moved back to Nuuk, and has since then worked on the Greenlandic film, culture, and literature scene as an illustrator and project manager with her company, Glaciem House.

ANINGAAQ

[e ni ʔŋɑ:q#] The man on the moon

ANINGAAQ is one of the best-known mythical figures in Greenland and appears in a wealth of stories playing different parts. He is often described as either being dressed in *kliaq* or several layers of bear skin. Seals with white spots may be hunted only by him and he has been known to kill anyone ignoring this rule. He happens to be scared of catfish.

Just like *SASSUMA ARNAAQ* he guards the animals and fish that people hunt and makes sure that people respect his taboos. If someone breaks a taboo, he has been known to send his huge dog after that person or a whole settlement as a form of collective punishment. If he sets out to inflict punishments himself, he carries a big, black wooden stick, which he uses to tear down house walls. To defend yourself against him, you must try and wrench the stick from him. If you know that he is on his way, you must extinguish all lamps immediately so he can't see where you are. He also helps with infertility and has been known to impregnate women who struggle to have children or unmarried women. His house is on the moon and you can reach it either on a spirit journey or by getting your directions directly from ANINGAAQ. But you must be very careful not to get lost going up there as you risk being eaten by the dreaded *ERLAVEERSINIOOQ*.

ANINGAAQ was turned into the man on the moon because he had an incestuous relationship with his sister *MALINA*, who became the sun.

A YOUNG WOMAN was ordered onto ANINGAAQ's sledge and abducted to his house on the moon. When they arrived, he put her on a big reindeer fur and lay on top of her so she passed out. When she came round, he showed her a hatch in the floor through which she could see all life on earth. He told her that he would send her back to earth where she would give birth to a baby boy. When the boy was old enough, ANINGAAQ would come for the boy and take him back to the moon, so the boy could look after him in his old age.



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EQUNGASOQ

[ə ʔqu ŋɑ soq#] The one with the crooked mouth

EQUNGASOQ is a very clever helper spirit that can tell the *angakkoq* of things to come and lead the *angakkoq* to the Land of the Dead. It has a big, crooked mouth placed vertically across its face, but it gets very upset if you ask any questions about it.

It lives on the furthest rocks which it will leave only when the waves are very high. It is a useful spirit to summon, should you get into difficulties during a storm. When you call it, it turns up in a shower of sparks.

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Traditional *TUPLAK* made from a dead seal and a child skull



Traditional *TUPLAK* made from animal parts

Welsh Monsters & Mythical Beasts

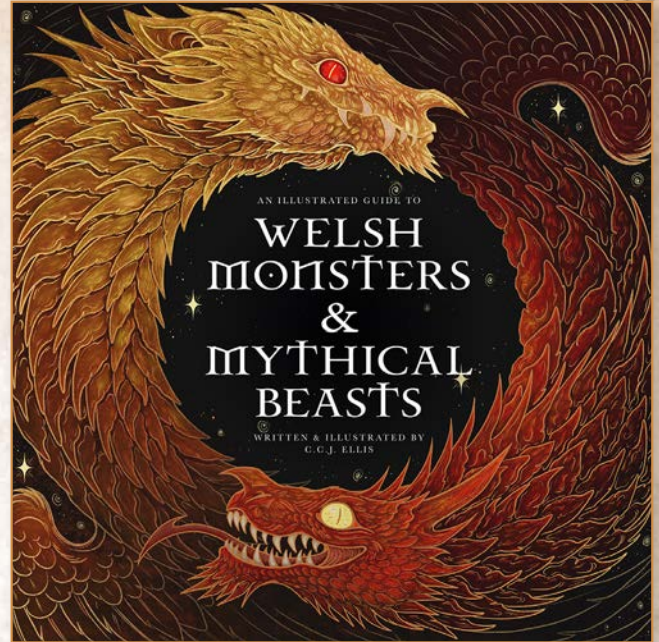
SERIES: WOOL OF BAT

ISBN 9781777081775

by CCJ Ellis

introductions by Stephanie Law & Sian Powell

Upon the dramatic landscape of the Isle of Wales there have been born many creatures and beings of legend. This lushly illustrated guide delves into the dragons, beasts, fair folk, and spirits of Wales. Tales become blended and one with history, and this history meets illustration with CCJ Ellis' rich renderings of these creatures. Detail and colour lift these beings off the page and bring this compendium to life. Now available worldwide, this new edition includes a Welsh language guide so that each of the creatures might be known by their original Welsh names. You may have heard of the Red Dragon (Ddraig Goch) featured on the national flag of Wales, but have you heard of the Water Leaper (Llamhigyn Y Dŵr) or of the Mary White (Mari Lwyd)?



An introduction by Stephanie Law contextualizes Ellis' artistic journey, and an introduction by Sian Powell roots the creatures in myth and lore. With this book, Ellis aims to re-introduce the beasts of Welsh myth and legend to the world and bring a touch of Wales to your shelves. Part of the Wool of Bat series focused on the preservation and promotion of folklore and oral history from around the world.

COLLETTE ELLIS is a full-time illustrator, author, and researcher of mythozoology from North Wales, U.K, and her fantastic work is inspired by fantasy, legend, and Welsh culture. Her artwork has been exhibited across the U.K at numerous Comic Cons, solo exhibitions, and three successful Kickstarter campaigns, including *Welsh Monsters and Mythical Beasts*, the precursor to this book.

*“My first thought upon seeing *Welsh Monsters* was “Goodness, what a useful book!”
A must-have guide to those creatures you hope never to encounter except in story and imagination.”*

— John Howe

*“Packed with lore, history, and beautiful illustrations, *Welsh Monsters & Mythical Beasts* is an indispensable registry of everything that lurks in the shadows, glides just beneath the surface, or goes bump in the night. I love it!”*

— Todd Lockwood

THE DRAGONS OF DINAS EMRYS

Dinas Emrys (Dae-nah Emn-ree) (the fortress of Ambrosia) is a rocky outcrop near Beddgelert (Bath-ghel-see) in North Wales. According to legend, King Vortigern (Vort-ger-n) fled to Wales to escape Anglo-Saxon invaders. He started to build a fort on the rocks, however, every morning they would return to find the masonry collapsed in a heap. This continued for some time until Vortigern sought the help of a young boy named Myddin (Muth-ee-n) (also known as Merlin).

At first Vortigern planned on sacrificing the boy to appease the restless mountain, Myddin on the other hand proposed that instead they should investigate in case something under the mountain was causing the tremors. On investigating they discovered a pair of fighting dragons, one red and one white, who had been causing the masonry to collapse. The dragons having been disturbed, rushed from the mountain continuing their battle in the sky. The white dragon seemed to have the upper hand as it drove its opponent to the ground. The red dragon kept fighting ferociously eventually causing the white dragon to retreat and fly away.



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CEFFYL DŴR Water Horse

Believed to be a cousin of the Scottish Kelpie, the Ceffyl Dŵr (Keffyl Doo-eh) is a type of water spirit. They often cause disruption to travellers by luring them off the safety of the path, causing them to get lost.

The legend of the Ceffyl Dŵr varies depending on the region of Wales you are in. In North Wales it is said that the creature entices people to ride it, before proceeding to fly up into the sky dropping its rider from a great height and killing them. While in South Wales, the Ceffyl Dŵr are seen in a more positive light, being described as luminous in appearance with beautiful wings.

Unlike the swamp dwelling Kelpie, Ceffyl Dŵr are said to inhabit fresh water lakes, mountain pools and waterfalls. They also have large feathery wings that appear as and when they choose. These creatures can also evaporate into a fine mist when startled and are highly territorial; they have been known to trample travellers who wander too close to their young.

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LLAMHIGŶN Y DŴR The Water Leaper

Llamhigyn Y Dŵr (Ll-ahm-heeg-in or Dooob-eh) the Welsh Water Leaper is a creature that can be described as a large frog or toad with bat-like wings and horns. It is normally dark brown or green in colour its back covered in rows of sharp spines. The adolescents have long lizard-like tails, which like their frog cousins will drop off once they reach adulthood.

Don't be fooled by their cute appearance; they are innovative little critters and have learned to snap fishing lines so they can make off with someone's catch, they have also learned to steal food from humans so don't be surprised if they steal a sandwich or two from your lunch box. Llamhigyn Y Dŵr are also very fond of collecting shiny objects like crystals, sea shells and pebbles, and some have been observed attaching these items to their backs to act as camouflage or to impress a potential mate.

They can be found in fresh or salt water swamps, lakes, pools and caves, often seen gliding across the water catching insects and fish. Their regular food source isn't limited to that found in water and what they can scrounge from humans, they will also prey on smaller livestock like chickens, ducks, geese and stray pets, including small dogs and cats.



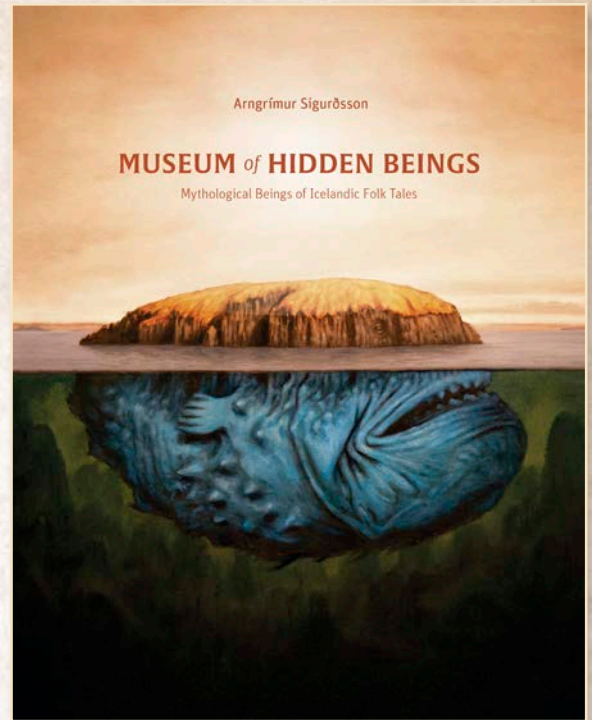
Museum of Hidden Beings
A Guide to Icelandic Creatures of Myth and Legend

SERIES: WOOL OF BAT

ISBN 9781777081713

by Arngrímur Sigurðsson

Iceland, a country of striking and sometimes surreal beauty, is matched by its rich and extensive folklore. Since time immemorial, Icelanders have told tales of strange encounters and experiences they have had while on their travels. From the extraordinary Finngálkn, a halfbreed of man and beast to the Kráki, a giant octopus that preys on trawlers and oil rigs, Icelandic folklore is riddled with fantastic tales that expound natural phenomenon and circumstance with peculiar supernatural creatures from myth and legend. Take these tales, passed down from generation to generation throughout the centuries, make with them what you will and share them again.



First published in Iceland as *Duldýrasafnið*, *Museum of Hidden Beings* is now available in English, in North America, so that the creatures of Icelandic legend might knock on new doors. Part of the Wool of Bat series focused on the preservation and promotion of folklore and oral history from around the world.

ARNGRIMUR SIGURDSSON trained as a painter at the Iceland Academy of the Arts and at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna. He published *Duldýrasafnið*, the Icelandic version of the *Museum of Hidden Beings* in late 2014, and has since been involved with a number of commissions, collaborative projects, and exhibitions in Iceland and abroad.

Flæðarmús
Tide Mouse

The tide mouse mostly dwells on the ocean floor, preferably at great depths. It is shaped like the field mouse, only larger. The tide mouse needs silver (some say gold) in order to survive, and it only comes ashore if great tidings are afoot. Good fortune awaits those who succeed in capturing a tide mouse. They must immediately place it in a waterproof container, pour seawater over it and put a silver (or gold) coin in the container. A day later, another coin of equal value will have appeared alongside it. The coin that was placed in the container is then removed, and this procedure is repeated once every day. One must remember to change the creature's seawater daily.



12 Þorsteinn M. Jónsson, *Grima hin nýja* III, p. 220.

Útburður
Spirit of an Abandoned Newborn

When mothers expose their newborn children, leaving them where they will not be found, they turn into a ghost known as an *útburður*. When they are seen, their appearance resembles that of a bird, such as a raven. They raise themselves up on one knee and one hand and flutter about. Their colour depends on the colour of the rag in which they were wrapped. Those who see an *útburður* should not hesitate to follow it, as it will eventually flee to its mother. They howl intensely during bad weather but rarely speak. An exception to this is the tale of an *útburður* visiting its mother in a sheepfold and reciting the following verse to her:

*My mother in the fold of sheep,
Do not worry, do not weep,
I shall lend you my blood-red rag
For you to wear, for you to wear.*



14 Jón Árnason, *Íslenskar þjóðsögur og ævintýri* III, p. 290.



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