



# Mythic Creatures: And the Impossibly Real Animals Who Inspired Them

*Dr. Mark A. Norell, Laurel Kendall, Richard Ellis*

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**Based on the American Museum of Natural History exhibition *Mythic Creatures: Dragons, Unicorns & Mermaids*, curated by Dr. Mark A. Norrell, this stunning volume explores an array of mythological creatures—and the real animals that inspired them.**

For thousands of years, humans everywhere—sometimes inspired by living animals or even fossils—have brought imaginary creatures to life in stories, songs, and pictures. Based on the popular AMNH traveling exhibition *Mythic Creatures: Dragons, Unicorns & Mermaids*, this volume explores everything from the powerful dragon to the soaring phoenix, tracing them through legend and natural history. Glowing photos showcase rare objects from around the world as well as models of creatures like dragons, unicorns, and krakens, along with fossils of actual extinct animals such as the six-foot-tall primate called *Gigantopithecus* and *Aepyornis*, a bird that stood over nine feet tall. Also included are maps, drawings, and ephemera from the Middle Ages to modern times. Today, these legendary beings continue to thrill, terrify, and enchant us.



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