

Humanities Core: Animal/Culture
Professor Rebecca Davis

Guide to Viewing The Aberdeen Bestiary

<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/bestiary/>

To begin, click on the Manuscript Index in the menu at the top right.

For Professor Davis's first lecture, you'll need to be familiar with the pages marked Folio 1r (The Creation) through Folio 5v (Adam Names All Living Things).

To view each page, first, click on its thumbnail. Then, use the scroll bar on the right and the navigation tools at the top of the page to explore the image. Be sure to zoom in close by using the "+" button.

Next, scroll all the way down the page until you can see the Commentary section beneath the image. This section describes features of the manuscript page above, providing historical, literary, and codicological information. Codicology is the study of manuscript books, or *codices* (from the singular *codex*). Codicologists are specially trained medievalists who examine the way the physical book is made and assembled. Don't worry if some of the terms these sections introduce are unfamiliar to you; many of these pages include links that define these specialized terms (e.g. pricking, ruling, pouncing), and you can access the full codicological glossary [here](#).

After you have read the Commentary for each page, click on Transcription and Translation. This page reproduces the exact text that appears on the manuscript page above. On the left, you'll find the Latin original; on the right, a modern English translation. Please read the English text for each of the pages assigned.

When you've finished reading the translation, you can go back to the Commentary section, look at the manuscript image again, or, if you're ready to proceed, use the navigation arrow at right (>) to advance to the next page. You can also navigate back to earlier pages by using the arrow at left (<).

Any time you want to get a view of the manuscript as a whole or locate a particular page, you can click on the Manuscript Index at the top of the page.

After you've read through the assigned pages, you may wish to examine particular animals' pages up close. The Manuscript Index makes this easy to do. Just find the name of the animal you want to study and click on the thumbnail to enlarge the page.

If you are interested in learning more about the Aberdeen Bestiary, you can read the page on its history [here](#). If you want to learn more about bestiaries in general, you can read an overview [here](#), or check out some of the additional resources listed in the [bibliography](#).