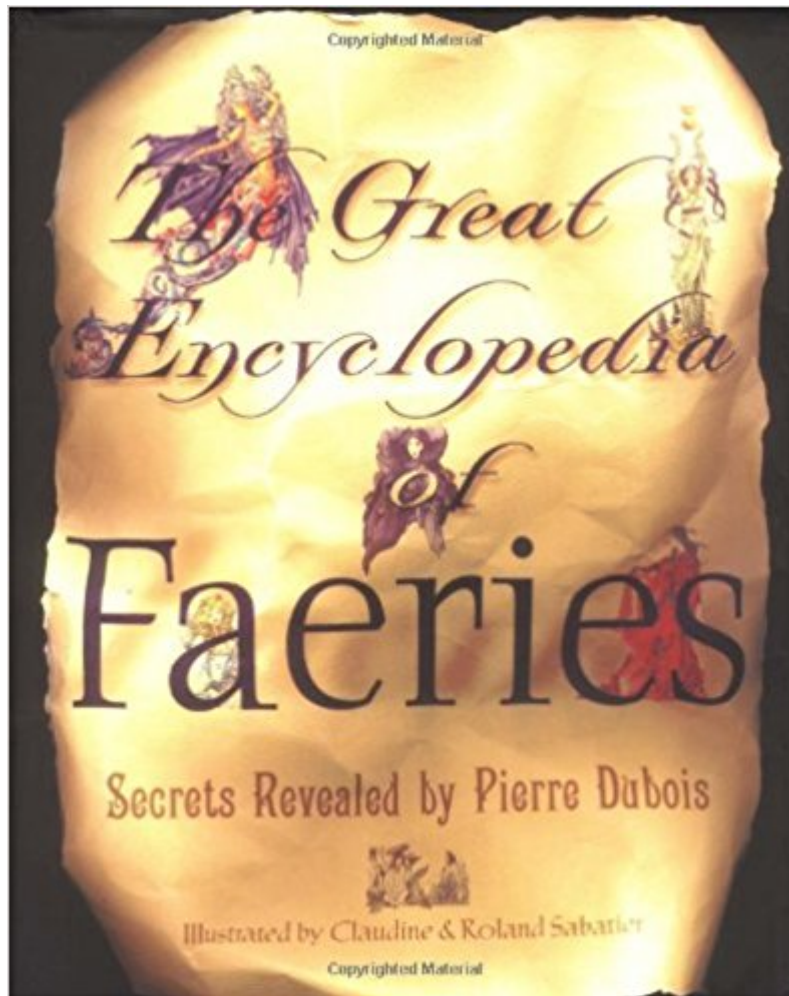




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The Great Encyclopedia Of Faeries



Synopsis

They are known as the Little People, the Beautiful Maidens, the Godmothers, the Blessed, the Ageless Ones...for it is dangerous to say the name "faeries" without good reason. Ruling over earth, air, fire, and water, they protect forests, animals, and children, and in their hands lie the dreamy souls of all creatures. The faeries rose from the mist long, long ago, in the time of the Golden Age -- well before the creation of gods and men. In their magical fancy they created the singing grasses and the reflection of springs, the music of legends and the far side of the mirror. From the Valkyries of Valhalla to the Babouchka of Russia, Banshees, Dryads, Bogey Beasts, Sirens, and their ilk populate the imaginations and the forests of every culture. In this comprehensive celebration of the world of faery, renowned French elficologist Pierre Dubois describes the extraordinary richness of the faery kingdom, presenting dozens and dozens of lushly illustrated entries on the most powerful and enchanting denizens of this magical world. Dubois provides readers with authoritative information detailing the customs, habitat, and activities of these Little People. Faery Godmothers, we discover, were originally tall, distinguished, and rather severe; only recently have they taken up the magic wands and cheerful smiles we know them for today. We learn that the favorite foods of the Arthurian faery Viviane are the blackberries that surround Merlin's tomb. And among the customs and activities of the Bogey Beast, the prime goal is indeed to scare little children...if only for their protection. Dubois's entrancing descriptions are accompanied by Roland and Claudine Sabatier's marvelous illustrations, which depict the appearance of the faeries, the places where they are found, and their familiar objects. Without revealing any faery confidences (which must never be betrayed), Dubois and the Sabatiers have created a comprehensive and utterly enchanting survey of a magical world as old as time.

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Customer Reviews

Text: English (translation) Original Language: French --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Pierre Dubois was born in the Ardennes region of France in 1945. In addition to creating a number of major encyclopedic works, he writes film and cartoon scripts and hosts a daily literary feature on French television.

This book is certainly not about fairies in the sense of pop culture today, depicted as benevolent flower beings. This is certainly about faeries from real folklore and myth. However, it was not exactly what I was hoping it was. This would be good for someone who otherwise knows nothing, or very little, about real faery myths: a good introduction to the world of the fae as it is/was outside of pop culture. However, for someone who already knows quite a lot and is hoping for an in-depth encyclopedia that provides a list about such things as household kobolds, clobynau, or domovoi, this is probably not for you. I was also disappointed to find that it only covers faeries who were always female, and in some that could be both focuses on the females. This leaves out many faeries who were only male and misleads a reader into thinking there were few or no males among the ones that it focuses on the females. It also mixes up myth sometimes, such as when it called Baon Sidhe "vampires". However, I think this would be a good book to introduce someone to the concept of faeries being more complicated and even malevolent than what is normally known of in modern society. I might give this to someone who wants to learn more about real faeries but right now knows nothing. Bottom line: not good for people very versed in faery lore, but good for people who are just being introduced to it.

I was looking for a good reference book on faeries for some research I am conducting on a book. I was not interested in the sugary, victorian faerie-types you commonly find in children's books and Walt Disney films. I was more interested in how faeries have evolved historically from ancient myth as elemental and fate spirits. This book truly captures the essence of faerie lore, adopting a global, world spanning view of faeries, not merely a western European one (herein you'll find faeries from

China, India, Japan, South and Central America as well as Europe). If you are a fan of Brian Froud then you may not like this book. These are the true faeries and faerie tale legends of old, the ones the brothers Grimm wrote about. Some are benevolent (but strange), some are vengeful and destructive. I was reticent to buy this book because other reviewers were critical of the art used to illustrate this book. Let me say that I am not disappointed. If you are looking for something similar (again) to Brian Froud then you not going to be satisfied. The style of illustrations is colorful and done in a line art/ink style. It is not caricaturish or cartoonish, as some have written, however. Overall I think this book is now my favorite reference book on the subject of faeries and faerie tales and I am extremely happy I purchased this.

The book has a very colorful, unique illustration with very interesting entries and very enjoyable stories within each entry. However, some of these stories written by Pierre Dubois in the book are very inconsistent with the other sources, or rather the story lumps different creatures that are related or of similar origin and sources together as one. For example, in the entry of the Banshee, the story of the Baobhan Sidhe is told, which the two are kind of related, but not exactly the same, the closer version of the Banshee, the Washer Woman, is in another entry. In the entry of the Vila, the story of the Rusalka is told, which is also related, but the Rusalka is a very specific case of the Vila so to describe them generally as Vila is not very good. Overall, this book contains okay information, but one must beware that Pierre Dubois, being the researcher that he is, described each entry in his view, which while not inaccurate, would prove very confusing and messed up for new readers.

Great for use in conjunction with other books of its kind. This book lists the creatures of the faerie realm and describes them and their abilities. More for research than a fun faerie tale read.

My granddaughter & I read installments @ bedtime. We're building a 'faerie village' in the yard. I have made her 3 faerie costumes & plan to make one of the dresses in the book for myself. Stimulates the imagination! The spine was broken, not mentioned in the seller's description, but this does not detract from the contents of this wonderful volume. (+ I fixed the spine).

Not a faeries book for kids - but very interesting. There is a fundamental notion here, not really addressed in the book, that fairy-tales are some form of "code" carrying very old folk tales and mythology through the dark ages and into the modern age. Could go with a lot more exegesis and

color, but if you are interested in folk tales, this is useful.

Such books were not available when I was in Folk Studies Graduate School. Wonderful that they now are, Bravo, Bravo.

Great book, great Christmas gift for a Fairy lover.

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