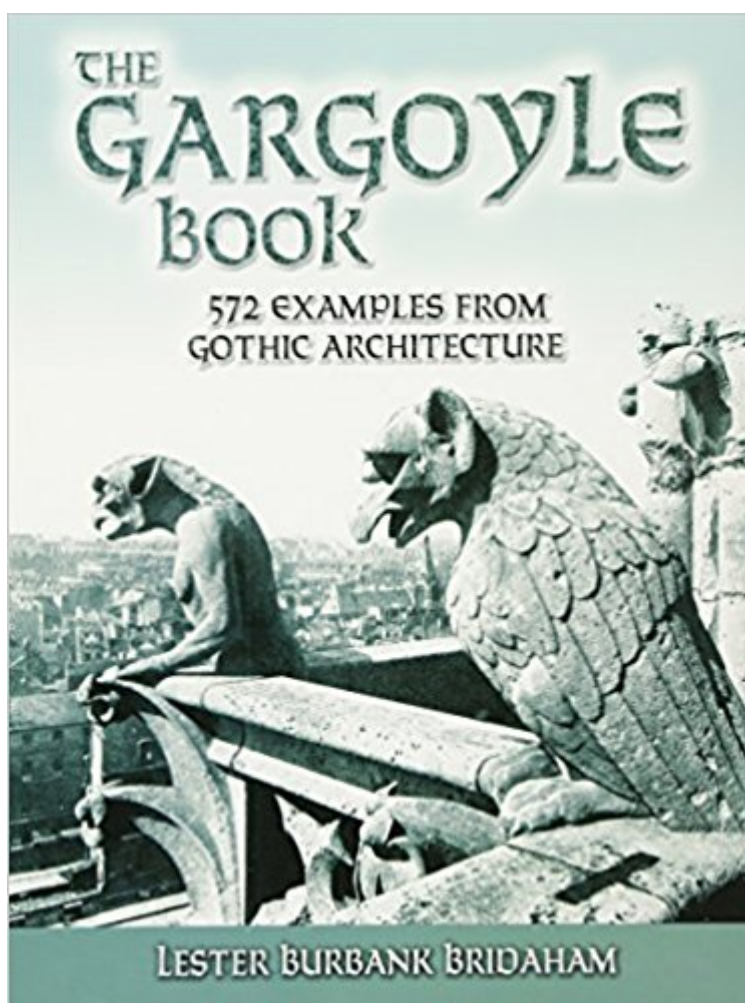


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The Gargoyle Book: 572 Examples From Gothic Architecture (Dover Architecture)



Synopsis

Amid the soaring grandeur of arches and spires lurks a more down-to-earth architectural flourish: the grinning head of a gargoyle. Singly and clustered, these intriguing creatures form as distinctive an element of Gothic architecture as the flying buttress. Nowhere are they more prominent than along the walls of French cathedrals, and this magnificently illustrated volume prowls the ramparts of those medieval buildings to discover hundreds of authentic gargoyle carvings. According to tradition, the gargoyles were posted as sentries, to ward off malevolent spirits and to remind parishioners of the evil beyond the church doors. Author Lester Burbank Bridaham takes a more optimistic view. Noting the stone guardians' whimsical nature, he discusses the artisanal ingenuity involved in their creation. He also points out how they represented a rare sense of freedom in the Middle Ages, in terms of public satire and unbridled artistic enthusiasm. As this book reveals, the timeless appeal of the gargoyle — whether symbolic, spiritual, decorative, or fanciful — continues to captivate the imagination.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

572 Photos of Gargoyles with minimal commentary. Most of the photos are old and not reproduced well or enhanced, so detail is rarely visible. But the book is useful as an overview of Gothic inspired Gargoyles.

The pictures are all black and white/gray and white, and not very good quality.

Magnificent info on gargoyles around the world. A must have to understand the unforeseen forces that the church deals with.

great book design new gargoyles in future with this book and a couple other books.

Gave this as a gift to a gargoyle enthusiast, and he said it's an excellent book with really nice photographs.

BOOHOO... 'The Gargoyle Book: 572 Examples from Gothic Architecture' A very misleading title!!! When I pre-ordered this book I was hoping for a brand new publication with 200+ pages on gargoyles and 572 illustrations of gargoyles in architecture. BOOHOO... This book isn't new, it isn't all about gargoyles and it isn't all about architecture. So what is it about? Well... it's about nothing really. It's just a collection of old black and white photographs of French gothic sculptures - in stone and wood. QUOTE: This 2006 edition by Dover Publications is an unabridged republication of the work originally published in 1930 by the Architectural Book Publishing Co under the title 'Gargoyles, Chimères and the Grotesque in French Gothic Sculpture'. END OF QUOTE. Now that's a better title. The book starts with eight and a half pages of introduction. Next are 204 pages with old black and white photographs, accompanied by VERY short descriptions which give us the name of the building, the name of the city and occasionally what it depicts or when the sculpture was made. At the end of the book there's a four and a half page bibliography. The photographs are divided into eight chapters: I: Symbolic Details (12 pages/38 photographs with descriptions such as: Bourges-(Cher) Sainte Marthe) II: Non-Symbolic Details (2 pages/8 photographs, example: Animals Drink Out of a Jar, Poitiers (Vienne) Oriental Motif) III: Tympanum Sculpture (8 pages/14 photographs, example: Reims (Marne) Devils - XIIIth Century) IV: Gargoyles (57 pages/153 photographs, unfortunately about a third of these are not gargoyles, but grotesques) V: Chimères (36 pages/98 photographs, some of these show the same statues from a different angle) VI: Heads (25 pages/73 Photographs) VII: Capitals and Miscellaneous Compositions (18 pages/62 photographs) VIII: Woodwork (46 pages/125 photographs, the majority of these are misericordes) ---: On some of the pages the photographs are printed sideways, so you're constantly tilting your head or turning the book. There are up to four photographs on each page with fairly wide margins, so most photographs are rather small. The cameras and photographic materials available

in 1930 didn't produce the quality of images that we are used to in modern times.+++Loads of photographs (I've never seen so many misericordes in any other book).Who should NOT buy this book:.You like glossy colorful photographs that would look fab in a frame..You want lots of info about how or why these sculptures are made..You're looking for a coffee table book..You want to know exactly where on/in the building the sculptures can be found.If this describes you: KEEP LOOKING. There are better books out there for you.Who might enjoy this book:.You don't mind old black and white photographs..You're REALLY into misericordes, gargoyles, chimeres and anything else that the ancient French dreamed about..You're not put off by the lack of information.If that is you: It's a cheap book with loads of pics, so why not GO FOR IT.Why three stars:I wanted to give only one star because the title is so misleading and the book is not really suitable for the average gargoyle fan.The second star is because the paperback quality is okay.I gave a third star because the book inspires me in my work as an animator.I nearly took the third star away because there are other books with better photographs.But I left the third star on because none of the other books have so many photographs.So why the big BOOHOO at the start of my review?Well... I already had the 1930 original edition.Am I going to throw this new paperback away?Hell no... It's good value for money.I can now look at the pics in this cheap reprint, fold corners over, splash ink and paint around while I'm working and still keep my original 1930 book in excellent condition.Now then... where's my paintbrush?

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