

# Boar Whales and Sea Pigs

Background Research for Sea Monster Toys

by Dorothea de Beckham  
Barony of Red Spears, Midrealm

The felt craft sea monster toy template is based off creatures in the Carta Marina (1539) by Olaus Magnus (1490–1557) and woodcut prints in Ulisse Aldrovandi's (Bologna, 1522-1605) *Monstrorum Historia* "History of Monsters" (1642). Images from scanned versions are included here for reference and potential variation since these creatures may not be as readily identifiable as whales, walrus, porpoises or with some creative license, beavers.



- 1) The earliest known depiction of a Boar Whale is the "Aper Marinus Cetaceus" shown here in an excerpt from the [Carta marina](#), a [wall map](#) of Scandinavia created in Rome during 1527–39 by Olaus Magnus (1490–1557) (Public Domain, accessed Jan. 2024)
- 2) Ulisse Aldrovandi included a similar depiction of the Boar Whale "Aper Marinus Cetaceus" on page 63 of the Appendix of Parallel Notes History of all Animals (Paralipomena Historiae Omnium Animalium) in History of Monsters which was published posthumously in 1642: [Ulyssis Aldrovandi patricii Bononiensis Monstrorum historia: Cum paralipomenis historiae omnium animalium](#). Bononiae (Bologna): Typis Nicolai Tebaldini.
- 3) Smaller creatures called Monstrous Sea Pigs "Monstrosus Sus Marinus" are depicted later in the Parallel Notes on pages 109 and 353 where the sea pig is described as being covered in eyes and having webbed feet.

