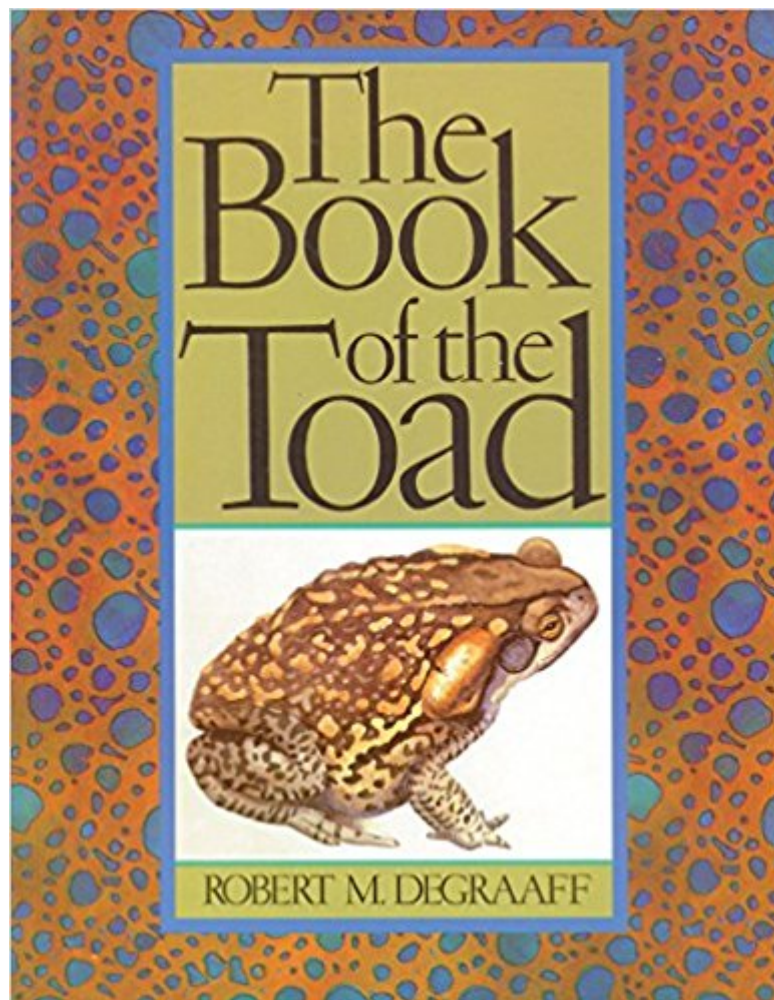




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# The Book Of The Toad: A Natural And Magical History Of Toad-Human Relations



## Synopsis

This comprehensive and entertaining compendium of toad lore surveys the history of toads as biological entity, literary and artistic subject, mythological subject, and threatened species. Here is a uniquely insightful and engaging look at how humans through the ages have responded to and been influenced by their amphibian neighbors.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

By integrating his commentary with the world of poetry, literature, art, and science, the author presents examples of the impact the toad has had upon the thoughts and actions of humankind. Degraaff considers this amphibian from every angle--from its biological aspects, which include its heritage as the evolutionary progenitor of land animals, to its role in mysticism and its value as an ingredient in witch's brew. He also incorporates the writings of Lewis Carroll, Beatrice Potter, William Shakespeare, and many others. Degraaff's whimsical approach to this offbeat subject and the many high-quality art reproductions combine to produce an attractive, entertaining package for general readers.- Frank Reiser, Nassau Community Coll., Garden City, N.Y. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.

"The choice of tales, poetry, and art flawlessly illustrates the text. This volume is a rare treasure." (The Animals' Agenda)"By integrating his commentary with the world of poetry, literature, art, and science, the author presents examples of the impact the toad has had upon the thoughts and

actions of humankind. Degraaff considers this amphibian from every angle--from its biological aspects, which include its heritage as the evolutionary progenitor of land animals, to its role in mysticism and its value as an ingredient in witch's brew. He also incorporates the writings of Lewis Carroll, Beatrice Potter, William Shakespeare, and many others. Degraaff's whimsical approach to this offbeat subject and the many high-quality art reproductions combine to produce an attractive, entertaining package for general readers." (Library Journal (Wednesday, January 01, 1992) Frank Reiser, Nassau Community Coll., Garden City, N.Y)"An entertaining, imaginative treatise that will appeal to readers who appreciate the unusual in prose, poetry, and art." (E.D. Keiser, University of Mississippi, Choice Magazine)

This book about toads is so special and fun to read, that I want to recommend it to everybody. We learn about the toad and the awesome history of this magnificent little animal. The illustrations are awesome and many and all in all it is a beautiful book.

I have no direct contact with this book, since it was mailed to inmate's facility. However, he said the book arrived in a timely manner and in excellent condition. Very pleased with the contents, interesting and fascinating.

The perfect gift for the renaissance man/woman! TBOTT provides a look at the complex relationship between humans and the toad in the arts and lore. I had the good fortune to receive a preview copy of this book just after its publication. It remains one of my favorites. In fact I have had one of the bumperstickers in the promotional packet on my cars over the decades, and am putting another one on my new truck ("I Brake For Toads"). We all know the natural history of *Bufo* sp., so another left-brain biology book on toads is not needed. TBOTT gives us a glimpse into the right-brain experience with toads through the creative arts and folklore. My favorite part is the sketch by Toulouse Lautrec and the accompanying poem "To Paris in a Hatbox". Lautrec was commissioned to do drawings for the left-brain "L'Histoires Naturelles". The poem outlines the story of Lautrec bringing a toad from the country to his studio in Paris to serve as a model. At some point the toad escapes into the streets and a frantic Lautrec scours the cobbled streets with a lamp to find his temperamental model. The image of Lautrec, himself a bit toad-like himself, in a long coat bent over the cobbles while looking for his twin is wonderful. I can only hope that a TBOTT II will be forthcoming.

This is truly a distinctive and fascinating book. It is an eclectic collection of prose, poetry and artwork, all in celebration of the frog. This is not intended for the reader looking for practical information about frogs, but it is still educational none-the-less. It is fanciful work aimed towards entertaining the frog-appreciating individual. Charming poems, interesting artwork that includes frogs with a historical perspective (including frogs in medieval art), and a collection prose related to frogs grace the pages of this book. Remarkably entertaining, this book is very well researched and nicely organized. Numerous books celebrate more widely popular animals like cats and dogs, but this book is truly unique. While its appeal may be limited, some individuals will find this to be one of their favorite books. I love it!

Be forewarned: This book, while perhaps intellectually interesting for the right (horror-loving) audience, is extremely macabre. It would better be called, "Toads are from Hell." It is not a book for the unsuspecting reader who is a nature- or amphibian-lover or a person interested in the depiction of animals in art and literature. Most of the artwork and writings presented here focus on the association of toads with disease and moral corruption --- think grotesque images from Bosch. If you are drawn to that which others find bizarre perhaps you will enjoy this admittedly unusual volume.

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