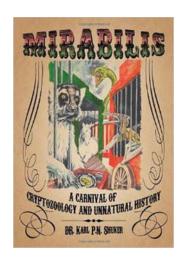
FURTHER BOOK OF NOTE

Mirabilis—A Carnival of Cryptozoology and Unnatural History by Karl P. N. Shuker. San Antonio, Texas, and Charlottesville, Virginia: Anomalist Books, 2013. 185 pp. \$15.95 (paperback), \$9.95 (Kindle). ISBN 978-1938398056.

Karl Shuker is a highly reliable guide to all things cryptozoological, as well as a highly prolific author (of more than 20 books!) and blogger about all manner of anomalies (The Eclectarium of Doctor Shuker, http://www.eclectariumshuker.blogspot.com/), cryptozoology in particular

(ShukerNature, http://karlshuker.blogspot.com). *Mirabilis* illustrates Shuker's talent for readable discussion and the analysis of recondite material unlikely to be familiar even to dedicated anomalists and cryptozoologists.

I learned quite a bit from this volume: that the size of insects is limited physiologically by their need for oxygen (in the absence of a cardiovascular system), that things that look like spiders (solifugids) may not be spiders, and much else. Chapter headings include such tantalizing things as Megalopedus, Sukotyro, and Tygomelia. Several pieces illustrate all-too-common newspaper hoaxes, prevalent particularly



in the 19th century. A timely warning about the digital age is given in connection with alleged sightings of huge spiders. The perpetual enigma of entombed life is tackled in Chapter 9, "Toads in rocks . . ."

This is a perfect book to have lying around to dip into whenever you feel the need to learn of something different, intriguing, informative, or instructive.

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