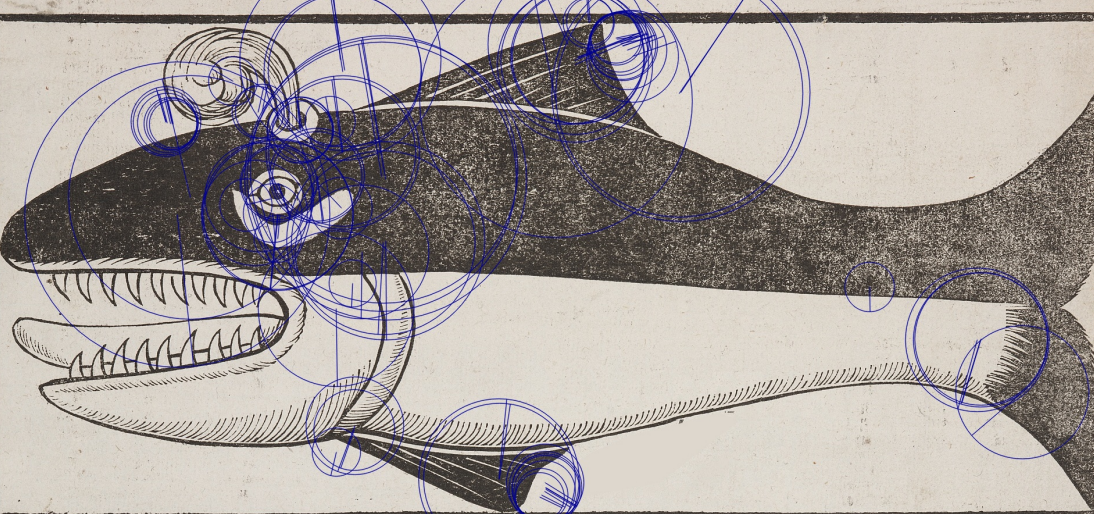


A Shorte tyme and marvellous strange wonder, the lyke hath
 seldom ben seene, of .xviij. monstrous fishes taken in Suffolke, at Downham brydge, within a myle
 of Ipswiche, the .x. daye of October, In the yere of our Lorde God. M.D.LX.III.



Wise you shall vnderstande, that the begynners first Wentenres
 to take these fishes, was Nicholas Gibbins, and John Carnaby,
 with theyr men: after came John Baker, and Robert Haulley w
 theyr men, being all Saylor & Shipmen dwelling in Ipswiche,
 with other, besydes manye of the countrey ther about, whiche when they
 harde of it, came thither to helpe, and see the taking of them.

Also, of these .xviij. fishes, there was a male, and a female, that was
 more howge and monstrous then the other. For the least of these .ii.
 fishes, were .xxvii. foote longe: and as bigge in the middle eche of them,
 as .iii. Buttes of Palmeste, and of a marvellous great strength, as it is
 well known to dyuers in Ipswiche & other places, beside those men aboue
 named. For they tyed one of these fishes to a boat, to bynge hit to Ips-
 wiche wharfe, and being so tied to the boat, swam awayne wryth the boat &
 all the men that were in it, toward the sea a marvellous swyft pace, for
 all that they could do: this was when the tyme came in, for they had made
 provision before, wyle the water was low, to tie great ropes about theyr
 tayles and finnes with small boates, and by such meanes as they could.
 (And as I sayd before) the tyme commyng in & the fythe hawinge water,
 swam awayne with the boat so fast toward the sea, that if they had not byn
 rescue of other boates and such beffels as they had there, that boat and
 all they in it, had ben lost and vterlye cast aaway. But as God wold haue
 it, by the helpe of other boates & beffels, tying the fythe alye. Brought
 him by force to a convenient place, and tied him fast to a tree with strong
 Cable ropes, and so bynge them one by one, founde meanes to bynge
 them to Ipswiche wharfe. Where they were layd with great labour and
 trouble, before breaking of theyr wyndlace & a great Cable roape, wryth

Also a great long tuing, a marvellous byg head, & is a yerd betwene the
 eyes. Upon theyr heads were holes, as big that a man might put in both his
 ffinges at once, out of the which they did spoute a great quantite of water
 whyle they were a takinge, that they had almoste draund .ii. boates men
 and all, with spoutinge of water: for the water wold ascende vppwarde
 from the ffishes, as he as any boue, and so fall down & wet all them that
 were within theyr reache moste cruellie. Also they were white beneath
 the eyes a hand broad, theyr eyes blacke, and no bigger then the eyes of a
 Calfe. Theyr backs as blacke as ynke, so smoth & byggt & one myght
 haue seene his face on it, as in a dim Glasse. Theyr bellies as whyte as
 mylke. And vpon their backs they had eche of them one great blacke fin
 growing, and sum of them were a yerd and a halfe long, verie thynke, &
 strong, and .ii. great blacke ones vnderneath the fore part of his bellye.
 Also the male, one of the .ii. biggest had a yerde, that when it was out, was
 more then .iii. quarters of a yerde long, and as byg toward his bodde as
 a mans arme steepe & all, by the elbowe. His tayle was .iii. pearces long,
 and .ii. pearces broad verie thynke & blacke, & wonderfull strange: for .x.
 tall men stood vpon his tayle, & he lifting his tayle vp, ouer thine theym
 all. Also when he had lifted by his tayle it was of such monstrous waight
 strength, and bygnes, that when it fell the berpe grand wold rpyng, and
 shake therewith. This fythe was cut out in peces, and geuen awayne to
 dyuers in the towne that did eate of it, and was verie good meate, epyther
 rosted or bakt, (so much of it as was kept vnto) and the meate of them
 bakt talke lyke red were. And as they cut it out it was wayed by pec-
 ces, so that the berpe bodde of this one fythe, wayed .Lxx. poundes the
 bare carcas, besyde many lytle peces that was geuen awayne vnto dyuers

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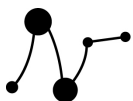


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