Mythological

Mythological monsters go back at least as far as myths, themselves, and myths go back into prehistory. A good definition of myths is that they are stories that involve the supernatural and explain why things in nature are that way (although one often sees shortened versions wherein the latter explanations have been cut out). Myths are a cultural universal; that is, they are found in every culture, past and present. And, in those myths, whether from Australian Aborigines, or Amerindians, the Chinese, or the Celts......Monsters abound!

From the story teller's perspective, monsters heighten suspense and add adventure, but their main purpose is to serve as fodder for heroes. What would a mythological hero be without a monster or two to slay? In doing so, myths reveal one of their primary functions--to teach, illustrate, and support the values of the society. Not surprisingly, many of those values are universals, themselves: courage, sacrifice, honor, and the like. Bellerophon and the Chimera, Perseus and Medusa, **Theseus** and the Minotaur, for example.

The possibilities for building a collection of mythological monsters are intriguing, to say the least. Being a Western culture, our chances of finding such beasties from other Western cultures are greater, and, correspondingly, our chances of finding such from far off, exotic cultures are less. Still, since we are such a 'melting pot' of cultures, it's not necessarily impossible. After all, anyone who sorted through covers knows "You never know what you're going to find!"

Here's just as sampling of creatures you may happen upon during your quest:



Beasties!

And who knows how many countless unnamed monsters there are! By the way, a quick check seems to reveal that Chinese dragons and griffons are the most common beasties to be seen.

