

**ARTHUR  
WAUGH**

THE SQUARE  
BOOK OF  
ANIMALS

**Arthur Waugh**  
**The Square Book of Animals**

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*The Square Book of Animals:*

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## AN EXPLANATION

Friend, seek not here (to feed the mind)  
Zoology's recondite feasts:  
Here you will find but common, kind,  
And unsophisticated beasts!

Yet fresh the life of farm and grange  
As that which o'er the ocean roams:  
Take for a change a narrower range—  
An English book for English homes!

# THE BRITISH BULL-DOG

You swing the gate; and there he stands to greet you,  
With growl or grin, as you are strange or known:  
According to your merits will he treat you—  
An Englishman who loves and guards his own.

# THE UN-COMMON CAT

Nine lives they give the common cat?  
There's a rare one livelier yet than that!  
A cat that swings nine separate tails!  
And, when it's let out of the bag, it rails  
With so knotty a tongue that the culprit quails!

# THE FRIENDLY HEN

Some birds lay eggs in towering trees,  
And some in fens conceal them;  
The hen seeks friendlier haunts than these,  
Where every child can steal them.

# THE LEARNED PIG

The farm's philosophy, our eyes assure us,  
Is simpler than in Aristotle's day:  
The youngest pigling follows Epicurus,  
And Bacon's Essays take the primrose way.



# THE BEAUTIFUL SWAN

All day she rules the pond from edge to edge,  
Exerting Beauty's easy privilege;  
Her world a mirror spread in each direction,  
Where she reflects upon her own reflection.

# THE VERY TAME LAMB

All men, said the poet, are struck at a mint,  
And some coins ring flat that the coiners embellish:  
But the lamb is so tame he will pardon the hint—  
He'd be best with a little mint-*sauce* for a relish!

# THE TOILSOME GOAT

"You're a lively kid!" is the schoolboy jest:  
But the kid is driven to work one day,  
And the hours of harness know little rest  
For the stiff goat-carriage round the bay.

# THE LUCKY DUCK

There was a Drake, my Duck, at Plymouth Hoe  
Played bowls, with Spain's Armada clear of Dover!  
A gamesome spirit! But to him we owe  
The peace your farm and all our homesteads know:  
For, ere the Spaniard reached our wickets, lo!  
Drake bowled him over!

# COCK O' THE NORTH

Cock o' the North! The dawn is young,  
Grey-glimmering the pane;  
Yet you, with your discordant tongue,  
Have woken me again!  
Good beasts are silent in their pens.  
Hush! Leave the boasting to the hens!

# THE SIMPLE SHEEP

The sheep's like the man in the street.  
She will follow, and blunder, and bleat,  
In pursuit of her fate  
At the slaughter-house gate,  
And she learns it too late to retreat.

# THE SERVILE COW

When the cow's in the farmyard, her sense  
Of servility's simply immense;  
But you meet her again  
In the highway or lane,  
And she tosses you over the fence.

# THE GROWING COLT

Rough, shaggy colt: the world is all before you:  
Blithe be your life, secure of oats and hay;  
A little crowd of people to adore you,  
And some green resting-place at shut of day!

The sun is low behind the grey-green trees.  
And all the farm grows quiet by degrees.  
Among their many lessons this is best:  
The animals know when and how to rest!

A. W.