The Boas

London, Printed by E. Cotes, 1658.
Of the Sepson.

be no more harmfull then the Conger or Lamprey; yet for similitude with other Serpents, I could not chuse but express the same in this place,

There be also in the Swebian Ocean or Balibich sea, Serpents of thirty or forty foot in length, whose picture is thus described, as it was taken by Olam Magnus, and he further writeth, that these do never harm any man untill they be provoked.

The same Author also expresseth likewise the figure of another Serpent, of a hundred and twenty foot long, appearing now and then upon the coasts of Norway, very dangerous and hurtful to the Sea-men in calms and still weather, for they lift up themselves above the hatches, and suddenly catch a man in their mouths, and do draw him into the sea out of the ship: and many times they overthrow in the waters a laden Vessel of great quantity, with all the wares therein contained. And sometimes also they set up such a spire above the water, that a boat or little Bark without sails may passe through the same. And thus much for the Sea-Serpents.

Of the Sepson or Sepedon.

Although I am not ignorant that there be some which make two kindes of these Serpents, because of the two names rehearsed in the title, yet when they have laboured to describe them severally, they can bring nothing so very little wherein their story doth not agree, so as to make twain of them, or to handle them amunder, were but to take occasion to tautologize, or to speak one thing twice. Wherefore Griser wisely pondering both parts, and after him Carvoni, deliver their opinions, that both these names do shew but one Serpent, yet according to their manner, they express them as if they were two. For all their writings do but minister occasion to the Readers to collect the truth out of their labours, wherefore I will follow their opinion, and not their example. Sepedon and Sepson cometh of Sepem, because it roseth the body that it biteth: in colour it nearly resemblieth the Hemorrrhe, yet it usally goeth by spires and half-hoops, for which cause as it goeth, the quantity cannot be well discerned, the pace of it being much swifter then the Hemorrrhe. The wound that it giveth is smarting, eating deep, and bringing putrefaction, for by an inexplicable celerity, the poysion passeth over all the body; the hair roseth and falleth from all parts, darknese and dimnese is in the eyes, and sots upon the body, like as if a man had been burned in the Sun. And thus Serpent is thus described unto us by Nicomachius;
Ind. Stork's Head

Phoenicopterus's Head

Ind. Hen's Head