

THE COMING OF THE FAIRIES

BY

ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE

ILLUSTRATED FROM PHOTOGRAPHS.

Hodder & Stoughton

New York, Toronto and London

[1922]

Comments:

Arthur Conan Doyle, the creator of Sherlock Holmes, in his later years became attracted to spiritualism and occult topics. This was after the death of his son Raymond during World War I. While researching the topic of fairies, some photographs from a working-class family in rural Yorkshire were brought to Doyle's attention by a Theosophist friend. These photographs appeared to show diminutive fairies cavorting in the presence of humans, specifically two teenage girls, Elsie and Frances. They had taken the photographs by themselves, and there were no overt signs that the negatives had been tampered with.

This book contains reproductions of the famous Cottingley photographs, and gives the whole of the evidence in connection with them. The diligent reader is in almost as good a position as I am to form a judgment upon the authenticity of the pictures.

ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE.
CROWBOROUGH,
March 1922.

The series of incidents set forth in this little volume represent either the most elaborate and ingenious hoax every played upon the public, or else they constitute an event in human history which may in the future appear to have been epoch-making in its character.

It is hard for the mind to grasp what the ultimate results may be if we have actually proved the existence upon the surface of this planet of a population which may be as numerous as the human race, which pursues its own strange life in its own strange way, and which is only separated from ourselves by some difference of vibrations (light).

ELSIE AND FRANCES

About 1917, ages 16 and 10



The First Set of Photographs

Elsie and Frances went into the woods near a water-fall. Frances 'ticed' them, as they call it, and Elsie stood ready with the camera.

Soon the three fairies appeared, and one pixie dancing in Frances' aura. Elsie snapped and hoped for the best.

It was a long time before the father would develop the photo, but at last he did, and to his utter amazement the four sweet little figures came out beautifully!”



FRANCES AND THE FAIRIES

Photograph taken by Elsie. Bright sunny day in July, 1917. The "Midg" camera. Distance, 4 ft. Time, 1/50th sec.

The original negative is asserted by expert photographers to bear not the slightest trace of combination work, retouching, or, anything whatever to mark it as other than a perfectly straight single-exposure photograph, taken in the open air under natural conditions.

B. ELSIE AND THE GNOME

Photograph taken by Frances. Fairly bright day in September, 1917. The "Midg" camera. Distance, 8 ft. Time, 1/50th sec.



Mr. Snelling's report on the two negatives is positive and most decisive. He says he is perfectly certain of two things connected with these photos, namely:

1. One exposure only;
2. All the figures of the fairies moved during exposure, which was "instantaneous."

All sorts of pressing questions were put to him, relating to paper or cardboard figures, and backgrounds and paintings, and all the artifices of the modern studio, he proceeded to demonstrate by showing other negatives and prints that certainly supported his view.

The Second Set of Photographs



Letter from Arthur Conan Doyle to Elsie

WINDLESHAM
CROSBOROUGH
THE ATHENEUM, June 30
FALL HALL, S.W.I.

Dear Miss Elsie Wright
I have seen the wonderful pictures of the fairies which you and your cousin Frances have taken, and I have not been so interested for a long time. I will send you tomorrow one of my little books for I am sure you are not too old to enjoy adventures. I am going to Australia soon, but I only wish before I go that I could get to Bradford and have half an hour's chat with you, for I should like to hear all about it. With best wishes

Yours sincerely
Arthur Conan Doyle
Mr Gardner told me about it.

“I am hopeful of getting more photographs, but the immediate difficulty is to arrange for the two girls to be together. They are 16 or 17 years old and beginning to work and are separated by a few miles.”

When Mr. Gardner was in Yorkshire in July, he left a good camera with Elsie, for he learned that her cousin Frances was about to visit her again and that there would be a chance of more photographs.

One of our difficulties has been that the associated aura of the two girls is needful. This joining of auras to produce a stronger effect than either can get singly is common enough in psychic matters. We wished to make full use of the combined power of the girls in August.

C. FRANCES AND THE LEAPING FAIRY

Photograph taken by Elsie in August, 1920. "Cameo" camera. Distance, 3 ft. Time, 1/50th sec. This negative has been as strictly examined as the earlier ones, and similarly disclose no trace of being other than perfectly genuine photographs. Also they proved to have been taken from the packet given them, each plate having been privately marked unknown to the girls.





D. FAIRY OFFERING POSY OF HARE-BELLS TO ELSIE

To the objections of photographers that the fairy figures show quite different shadows to those of the human our answer is that ectoplasm, as the etheric protoplasm has been named, has a faint luminosity of its own, which would largely modify shadows.



“With regard to the 'cradle' Elsie tells me they both saw the fairy on the right and the demure-looking sprite on the left, but not the bower. Or rather, she says there was only a wreath of faint mist in between and she could make nothing of it. We have now succeeded in bringing this print out splendidly, and as I can get certificates from experts giving the opinion that this negative could not possibly be 'faked' we seem to be on perfectly safe ground.”





Cameras on display at Cottingley Town Hall Heritage Day

These photographs, which caused a sensation at the time, are easily recognizable as blatant fakes by modern eyes, sensitized to seeing much more photorealistic computer-generated elves and fairies.

The fairies are statically posed, and are neatly coiffed and dressed in period clothing, hardly what one would expect from wild nature-elementals.

They are just too flat-looking and high contrast to be anything other than cardboard cutouts positioned in the scene, and could be constructed by adolescent girls with artistic leanings.



Some sixty years later, the aging Elsie and Frances confessed to what had begun as a prank but soon got out of hand as the story was publicized.

What is Pseudoscience?

- **Pseudoscience** is defined as a body of knowledge, methodology, belief, or practice that is claimed to be scientific or made to appear scientific, but does not adhere to the scientific method, lacks supporting evidence or plausibility, or otherwise lacks scientific status.

How to Recognize Pseudoscience

Pseudo science can be recognized by what it claims and how it is advanced. It commonly utilizes 7 characteristics to attract attention and followers.

Common Characteristics of Pseudoscience

- 1. Pseudoscience is generally written for the general public and not for the scientific community.**

The hollow earth theory

The Search for Bridey Murphy

Copper bracelets and Magnets for arthritis

Spiritualism

astrology



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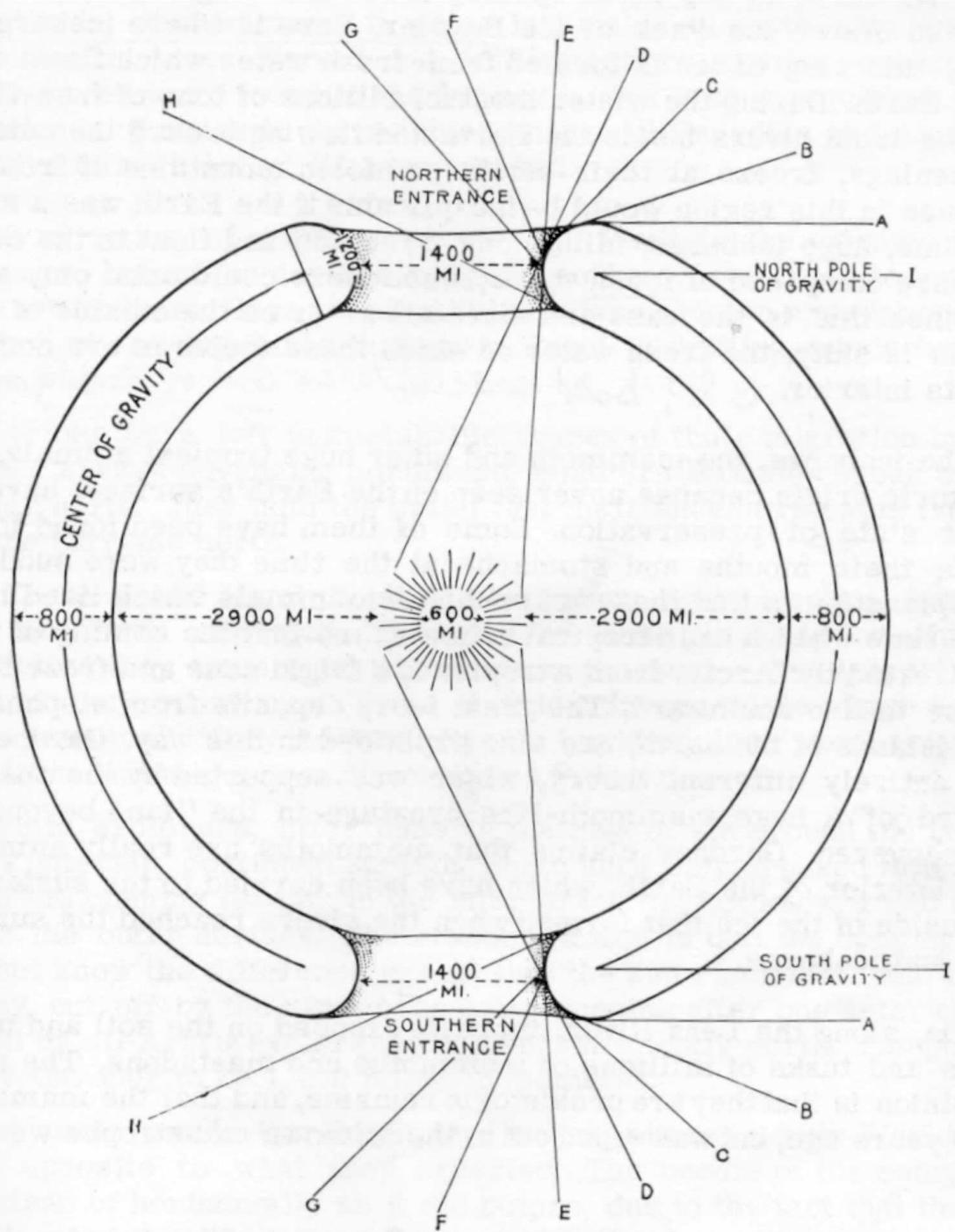
Uses: **Arthritis**, Sore joints, Injuries, Anti-inflammatory etc.. Gold and silver plated ribbed style featuring a 1200 Gauss magnet inside either end.

Common Characteristics of Pseudoscience

- 2. Pseudoscience often begins with a hypothesis and then looks only for items which appear to support it. Pseudoscience displays an indifference to facts which may refute it.**

The hollow earth theory

Creationism and Intelligent Design



Common Characteristics of Pseudoscience

- 3. Pseudoscience avoids putting its claims to a meaningful test or it claims have no way to be tested or are meaningless.**

Ivory soap (99 44/100 percent pure. It Floats!)

astrology

crystal cures

Many crystals have healing properties that you can discover. Crystals vibrate to at different frequencies to enhance healing. Quartz crystals have excellent healing properties. Quartz also has the ability to transform an imbalanced energy field. When you feel stressed the crystal can balance your energies and revitalize you. Others minerals besides quartz crystals - display healing properties. Small quartz crystals left in water will ionize the water and is a good drink for healing.



Common Characteristics of Pseudoscience

- 4. Pseudoscience tends to be presented as a whole and complete theory and does not progress or change with time.**

astrology

Perpetual motion (zero-point energy)

Phrenology

Common Characteristics of Pseudoscience

- 5. Pseudoscience makes appeals to emotion or “magical thinking” rather than to logic.**

Crystal healing

Perpetual motion

Quack cures

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Have you ever wondered about the power of crystals? Did you know that crystals have the metaphysical power of healing? Using certain crystal methods, crystal healing can help a number of physical problems. This metaphysical healing relies on the innate powers of healing crystals. For example, rose quartz is great for emotional healing, amethyst crystals for headaches, malachite for the stomach, lapis for anxiety, and jade for the heart...just to name a few. In this class you will learn about crystal healing. You will also learn how to use Crystal Feng Shui. Find out how crystals work with your Astrology Sign and learn how to properly choose and use Talismans. Enroll today! This is a self-paced, online course. You have 6 months to finish. An instructor will monitor your progress and assess your body of work at course completion. UniversalClass™ offers many wonderful learning tools to help you get the most out of your online course, including an online portfolio service that manages all your course completions. If you would like to receive more information regarding this course, scroll down and fill out the "Request More Information" form and we'll try to answer any of your questions within the day.

Common Characteristics of Pseudoscience

- 6. Pseudoscience often makes “conspiracy” claims to explain why others are against it.**

The hollow earth theory

Quack cures

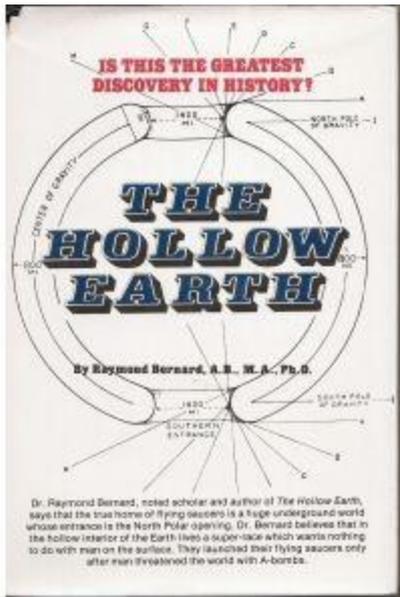
Apollo moon landing hoax accusations

If Byrd actually did discover a new land inside the earth why was there not more immediate interest and exploration?

“The explanation is evident. If Admiral Byrd made such a momentous discovery, undoubtedly the greatest one in history, of a new land.....it would be in the interest of the U. S. Government to keep this discovery secret, so that other nations do not learn about it and claim this territory for themselves.”

Common Characteristics of **Pseudoscience**

- 7. Pseudoscience claims often have other motives rather than what appears on the surface.**



Later edition
cover above. ^

First edition
cover to right. >



However, even a skeptic will have to admit that just because these photos are fake, it does not logically imply there are no such beings.

Just because some UFO photos are fake, doesn't mean that there are no UFOs!

Both of the above statements of course are true but what they are trying to say is bad logic for they are trying to make you accept is that fairies or UFO's do actually exist.

	<u>belief</u>	<u>not sure</u>	
psychic/spiritual healing	54	19	27
ESP	50	20	30
haunted houses	42	16	42
demonic possession	41	16	43
ghosts/spirits of the dead	38	17	45
telepathy	36	26	38
extraterrestrials visited Earth in the past	33	27	40
clairvoyance and prophecy	32	23	45
communication with the dead	28	26	46
<u>astrology</u>	28	18	54
<u>witches</u>	26	15	59
<u>reincarnation</u>	25	20	55
<u>channeling</u>	15	21	64

How many of your beliefs
can we classify as
pseudoscience?