

56. コティングリー妖精事件(2)：構造理解

In fact, the two girls, Elsie and Frances, used a very easy trick to create these fake photographs: they cut out fairy pictures from a book and put them in front of a camera.

This simple technique was effective, and many adults were entranced by the girls' trick.

Perhaps they, too, had secretly wanted to believe in the existence of fairies ever since they were children.

Why was Arthur Conan Doyle so easily tricked? Most people in this era had limited knowledge of photography, and some of them believed everything that appeared in photographs was real.

However, photograph modification has existed since the beginning of photography.

In "A Scandal in Bohemia," a popular short story by Conan Doyle, Sherlock Holmes implies that photographs are reliable pieces of evidence. Some fans of Sherlock Holmes might think that our favourite detective's unusually poor judgment about photography is caused by the author's misunderstanding of it.
