

57. コティングリー妖精事件(3)：構造理解

Yet, it is important to note that fantastical things have always fascinated human beings.

It was relatively common for well-educated people in the late 19th and early 20th centuries to take an interest in supernatural phenomena. For example, they enjoyed spiritual gatherings in which they would attempt to contact ghosts. World War I (1914-1918) was one key factor that contributed to this trend, for an enormous number of people were killed in the war and people who lost family members and close friends relied on various types of spiritual counselling to ease their sadness. Conan Doyle was one of them. We tend to judge people in the past according to our own point of view and regard them as ignorant, but people who experienced World War I needed that kind of help, or some kind of escape from reality. Perhaps we, too, will be considered ignorant by people in the future, even though we just follow trends and try to cope with our problems as best we can.

The truth behind the fake fairy photographs was later revealed, and this incident became known as the “Cottingley Fairy” incident. If you loved fairies, ghosts, or yōkai as a child and keep fond memories of them in your heart, you could be easily tricked by fake fairy photographs, too. After all, even the creator of the great Sherlock Holmes was deceived.
