

Exhumations: the **Good**, the **Bad**, and the **Ugly**

Professor James Starrs

Professor Starrs will discuss three forensic exhumations of historical importance, one actual (the good) and two proposed (the bad and the ugly). He conducted the first of the three and the results have appeared in the scientific literature. He opposed conducting the other two, based on his study of the historical and physical evidence related to the deaths. Which was which? We don't want to spoil it for you, so come and hear Dr. Starrs describe these cases in detail.

Professor Starrs is a member of the George Washington University Law Faculty, holds a joint appointment with the Forensic Sciences Department, and is co-author of a leading textbook on scientific evidence.

He has been involved in investigations into a number of historically significant criminal cases: the Lindbergh kidnapping, the Sacco and Vanzetti robbery-murders, the Alferd Packer cannibalism case, the Huey Long assassination, the "Lizzie Borden" hatchet murders, the CIA-LSD related death of Frank Olson, the identification of Jesse James, the

death of Meriwether Lewis, the location of the remains of Samuel Washington, and the Boston Strangler case.

He has written numerous articles on issues in forensic science and has written and edited the Scientific Sleuthing Review for 26 years, and is a distinguished fellow of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences.

Saturday January 24, 2-4pm
B-CC Services Center
4805 Edgemoor Lane
Bethesda, Maryland

The **Bethesda-Chevy Chase Services Center** is located at 4805 Edgemoor Lane in downtown Bethesda, across the street from the Bethesda Metro station. The Center is located in the two-story County office building on the plaza level of the Metropolitan complex, above a County parking garage. Free parking is available in the garage on weekends.



National Capital Area Skeptics Public Lecture Series

FREE admission - Everyone welcome - members and non-members

For more information call the 24-hour NCAS Skeptic Line recording at

(301) 587-3827

e-mail: ncas@ncas.org

www.ncas.org



Shadow of a Doubt

THE MONTHLY CALENDAR OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA SKEPTICS

JANUARY 2004

NCAS 2004 Weekend Workshop: "Art Becomes Reality" in Leesburg, Virginia

"Art Becomes Reality"

National Capital Area Skeptics (NCAS)
2004 Weekend Workshop

Saturday March 27, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. *and*
Sunday, March 28, 9:00 a.m. to noon

At historic Carradoc Hall, the Holiday Inn just outside
Leesburg, Virginia, 1500 East Market Street (Route 7)
URL: <http://www.leesburgva.holiday-inn.com/>
Registration details to come.

Speakers Wanted for Skeptic Workshop, "Art Becomes Reality"

The National Capital Area Skeptics (NCAS) is soliciting volunteers for presentations at the NCAS March 27/28, 2004, weekend workshop: "Art Becomes Reality," in Leesburg, Virginia.

Sometimes fictional characters, ideas, events, or concepts become reality to many people. We're not talking about frauds, hoaxes, pseudoscience, or weird beliefs, but rather straightforward fiction that somehow became real to certain people. The NCAS March 2003 workshop will present several cases where this evolution took place.

Some examples of art becoming reality include "The Blair Witch Project," which evolved from a purely fictional movie to a tourist site where the Blair witch "lived;" and "Atlantis" created by Plato in his dialogues.

The potential speaker should be prepared to present the facts around the original fiction and good solid examples of that fiction becoming a reality for

some. If you have an appropriate subject for an approximately 1-hour presentation, please send a short description of the subject as well as your personal information for consideration to: ncas@ncas.org

Deadline for application to present at the workshop is January 23, 2004.

Those interested may come with their material to the January 24 NCAS meeting in Bethesda, Maryland, *or* they may submit their information online to: ncas@ncas.org This should prove to be a fascinating and unique skeptical workshop!

Friday the 13th Social

On Friday, February 13 at 7:00 p.m., NCAS invites you to a *Superstitious Skeptics Social* at Mayorga Coffee House. Everyone has his or her own irrational biases. Do you still follow rituals taught you by your parents? Bring a superstition or two that you (secretly) believe in and see if you can identify other irrational beliefs of other skeptics. Share yours in a friendly atmosphere. Join other skeptics for an entertaining evening. (Food and drinks will be available for individual purchase.)

Mayorga Coffee, 8040 Georgia Avenue,
Silver Spring, Maryland, At the intersection of Blair Mill Road, just north of East-West Highway; 1/2 mile from Silver Spring Metro. Limited free parking in lot on Blair Mill. Metered street parking also available.

Time to Renew!

Check your mailing label. If the renewal date has passed, please send to the NCAS address below \$30 (for 1 person) or \$40 (for 2-member households) for a 1-year renewal, or you will be dropped as a member.



National Capital Area Skeptics
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