

Chapter 1 : Top 10 literary hoaxes | Books | The Guardian

Hoaxes is right up there with Unexplained and Urban Legends as one of the best Big Books out there. The stories are well written without being overly wordy (ahem, Conspiracies!), the artwork from dozens of contemporary comic artists is imaginative and engaging, and above all, it definitely invites re-reading. Highly recommended.

It can be very threatening to one who believes that they have "the truth" to be told that there is more to know; that even the truth that they have nurtured for so long may also be open to question and scrutiny. One of The Charges made against the book is that it is a hoax; in fact, in the fall of , Google returns , results for "Urantia hoax. A humorous or malicious deception hoax: Something that has been established or accepted by fraudulent means hoax: To trick into believing or accepting as genuine something false and often preposterous hoax: Something intended to deceive or defraud Why Perpetrate a Hoax? Some practical considerations regarding hoaxes might include the following: What is the purpose of perpetrating a hoax? And why choose to impose such an elaborate hoax as The Urantia Book if it were in fact a hoax? This is a page book, written with obvious great care and precision. What kind of mind would spend the countless hours necessary to prepare such a hoax, and then fail to either take credit for it or realize a profit from it? Blatant promotion or mass-marketing has never been part of the spread of The Urantia Book. The intent was to find out what it is about The Urantia Book that causes critics to declare that The Urantia Book is a hoax. What we found, we found to be interesting. The search "Urantia hoax" resulted in about , hits. We reviewed the first 75 most active pages of this list and found that: There were twice as many hits promoting The Urantia Book as those negatively criticizing it 42 to 20 , 7 hits were neither pro or con, 3 were unrelated to the relevance of The Urantia Book, and 2 were promoting it as an alien bible or science fiction. So, someone actually trying to learn whether or not The Urantia Book is a hoax will most likely see more positive than negative results in their search. We wanted to use those hits that promoted The Urantia Book as a hoax or a fraud and to develop a list of their specific complaints. The 75 hits We did review offered up the following specific complaints: Block has since claimed to have discovered over source books and articles, written by over 90 authors, which were incorporated into the Urantia papers. In , radio astronomers discovered that Mercury actually rotates fast enough for all sides to see exposure to the sun. The eclipse actually was predicted in late April and occurred on June 16, But in reality, it is in direct conflict with the Bible on many important doctrines, including the most important one which is the issue of salvation from eternal damnation in Hell through faith in Jesus Christ. The identity of the sleeping subject the individual through whom the revelation was delivered has never been revealed. It is commonly accepted that the subject was a man, but his name has never been disclosed, and never will be. All of those who were privy to this information have died, and so, speculation, while perhaps a part of human curiosity, serves no one. A thorough reading of The Urantia Book will assure the reader that its content is far beyond the abilities of a single human being. The revelation about God, about cosmology, about astronomy, geology and evolution are sweeping, detailed, and ordered. Again, the issue of human authorship has no validity, as no one has ever claimed authorship, nor profited from it. The authors of The Urantia Book state clearly: We may resort to pure revelation only when the concept of presentation has had no adequate previous expression by the human mind. Accordingly, in making these presentations about God and his universe associates, we have selected as the basis of these papers more than one thousand human concepts representing the highest and most advanced planetary knowledge of spiritual values and universe meanings. Wherein these human concepts, assembled from the God-knowing mortals of the past and the present, are inadequate to portray the truth as we are directed to reveal it, we will unhesitatingly supplement them, for this purpose drawing upon our own superior knowledge of the reality and divinity of the Paradise Deities and their transcendent residential universe. Is Urantia Book Science Inaccurate? One of the praises of scientific inquiry, as opposed to religious inquiry, explained in The Urantia Book is that good science offers a hypothesis which is analyzed in an attempt to either prove or disprove it and in so doing new concepts and understandings are developed which can lead to a better hypothesis. The explanation of the formation of the solar system given in The Urantia Book may be consistent with the Chamberlin-Moulton hypothesis, but it is a

unique presentation not to be found in its entirety in any scientific work and it deserves serious scientific consideration. A comment like this one is not a valid criticism of the science contained in The Urantia Book since the author offers no credentials upon which to base his claim nor has he given specifics about which Urantia Book scientific claims are being disputed. This criticism comes from an inability to read the text of The Urantia Book literally and to understand the words in their proper context. This critic assumes that The Urantia Book is a work, or a hoax, perpetrated by humans with an agenda, and so reads superficially looking for errors. What The Urantia Book actually says is not in error although it could appear to be to the superficial reader. The eclipse actually was predicted in late April and occurred on June Analysis of the transcribed text of The Urantia Book by the Standardization Committee concluded that this error was a keystroke transcription error. It is only in the minds of critics that Urantia Book readers are part of the "new age" or that readers constitute a "UFO cult. The New Age movement is a largely unfocused free-for-all Further, the UFO connection is one that is frequently cited by those who criticize. Because The Urantia Book explains that we are not alone in the universe, that the universe is teeming with life, and that there are countless beings who inhabit the universe with us. We are told of other inhabited planets but never are we told that we are visited by UFOs. With the current interest in extraterrestrials it is probably understandable that such an error might be entertained. It is however, not grounded in fact. Rather than being "new age" The Urantia Book will help new age believers find a new, rational, and consistent reality. Even a cursory reading of The Urantia Book will disclose a deeply spiritual element to the reader. From the first page to the last, God is included, and is essential to any understanding of the content of the book. This is a typical form of criticism This is a valid criticism, and one that any Christian should know; however the statement that Christians should not be wary of its content is false. We know of no Urantia readers making such statements. In the face of the revelation of the loving Father-God of all who was embodied in the incarnation of Jesus Christ, the atonement doctrine becomes less and less real, as the overpowering love of God takes hold in the mind of the seeker. This criticism is in the eye of the beholder, I suppose. We are told many, many facts regarding the history of this planet: When taken as a whole, these facts and disclosures lend an air of completion and reason to our planetary history. All the gaps in our knowledge are filled in: Why we find ourselves so alone, why God seems so hard to find, who Adam and Eve really were, why Jesus really came here, where he was before that, and where he is now. Absent any existing human histories of the events of ancient times, the planetary history that is presented in The Urantia Book is credible, logical and meaningful. Scientists believe that humans have inhabited this world for about a million years Yet our documented history as a race only extends several thousand years into the past. What of the other , years of unrecorded human history? Where do the superstitions, myths, folklore, fairy tales, sagas, legends, and mythical gods come from? Much of the historical record given by The Urantia Book is given as a gift to us by the angels who recorded human history What Else is in Error? To simply aver that Lucifer is a fiction is as unsubstantiated a position as simply saying that Lucifer is a real person. Context is needed for both positions. The Urantia Book offers compelling context for the existence of Lucifer. Far from a fictional character, Lucifer and his rebellion are key components in understanding the present condition of our planet. Understanding Lucifer helps one understand why we grope in the dark here; we grope for truth, we grope for goodness, and we grope for peace and brotherhood. But understanding Lucifer also helps us to understand how to by-pass the influence of this evil personality and live in the Kingdom of God, which still stands with the invitation to all who want to enter to do so. Even though evil still holds sway on our planet, we are not its unwitting pawns when we understand where we stand in light of our history with Lucifer. Two More Positive Rebuttals But again, on the internet, one can find both positive and negative. In this article we read: If The Urantia Book is a hoax, no one has ever figured out why it was perpetrated. No one achieved fame or fortune from it. This one was written by William Sadler, who was actually connected with the origins and delivery of the book to the world back in the first third of the 20th century. For one who just wants to be a naysayer, this article will not hold, but for the sincere seeker, this rebuttal will be of great value. Notable in this document is the following, written by William Sadler, M. D, who was instrumental as one of the human contacts with the celestial authors of The Urantia Book as it was taking shape in the early years of the 20th century Criticism: In my opinion The Urantia Book is a fraud " a

hoax. Those who perpetrated this book are criminals. Anyone who would call the Urantia Papers a fraud does not know much about the people who were concerned with the factualization of this unique book. My wife and I had considerable experience with the exposure of mediumistic frauds and psychic humbugs during our earlier years, and some forty years ago I wrote a book depicting our experiences in dealing with these practitioners of the occult. There was nothing questionable, much less fraudulent, connected with the origin of The Urantia Book. At the first glimpse of such, my associates and I would have forsaken the whole affair. We never detected anything fraudulent in the phenomena spread out over twenty-five years. True, we encountered much we could not explain, cannot explain even today. But there was no deception or other questionable practices. Neither did the Forum " more than one hundred and fifty persons who supplied the questions which brought forth the Urantia Papers " ever detect any evidences of fraud. No one has ever found a contradiction in The Urantia Book, a book of more than one million words. To pass such a test you have to be telling the truth. It is now more than three years since the book was published; several thousand copies have been distributed which have been read by more thousands of people, and yet no one has discovered a contradiction; not even the severest critic has brought forth such an accusation. When my son came home on furlough from the Marine Corps to read the Urantia Papers, the first question he asked me was: Except for professional proof reading, no one was paid one cent during all the years of the production and publication of The Urantia Book.

Chapter 2 : Read Download Hoaxes And Scams PDF “ PDF Download

Read all about the most amusing and outrageous hoaxes of all time in The Museum of Hoaxes, available now at bookstores throughout North America, Canada, Australia, India, the United Kingdom, Holland, Poland, and Japan.

Transubstantiation is certainly a useful idea for considering the hoax, a deception that emphasises the blurred boundaries between metaphor, fact and fiction, accident and intent, author, narrator and subject, and, on occasion, words and things. Literary hoaxes run the gamut of grey areas from misread satires, outright frauds, misappropriated material and works yet more mysterious: Contested identity is more often than not at the heart of the literary hoax. This hoaxer, dubbed Wearside Jack but now known to have been John Humble, was consciously working in a literary tradition, parodying phrases from letters sent to the police who investigated the Whitechapel murders of the late s. Hoaxes, like curses, and to some extent the myths towards which they reach, are recursive and unstable: Despite repeated denials, Partridge was reportedly plagued by those who insisted he had died. This story, claiming to detail the first trans-Atlantic balloon-crossing accomplished by the explorer Monck Mason based on the actual balloonist Thomas Monck Mason , may have been conceived in reaction to the Great Moon Hoax published in the same paper nine years earlier, claiming that the astronomer John Herschel had observed winged humanoids on the moon with a radically new and powerful telescope. A Book of Poetic Experiments Writing under the pseudonyms Emanuel Morgan and Anne Knish, Bynner and Ficke, already established poets in the classical idiom, founded the fictitious Spectrist group as a parody of the avant garde movements proliferating in the s “ Symbolism, Futurism and Vorticism the chief among them “ and the free verse forms they championed. Predictably, many readers preferred the work of Morgan and Knish to that of Bynner and Ficke. Theodore Sturgeon “ I, Libertine In the s US bestseller lists were compiled by newspaper subeditors who would phone around bookstores to ask what was selling. The late night talk radio host Jean Shepherd, in collusion with his listeners, concocted a fake book, I Libertine, a raunchy historical romance by the similarly fictitious author Frederick R. Ewing, a retired Royal Naval officer resident in Rhodesia and expert in eighteenth century erotica. Shepherd urged his listeners to request the title from as many bookshops as possible. The text was stripped of identifying titles and distributed as a pamphlet purporting to issue from a maverick think-tank and bearing the party crest at the Republican Convention. Irving had form in these grey areas, having written a biography of the Hungarian art forger Elmyr de Hory entitled Fake! Irving served 17 months for fraud. Benjamin Wilkomirski “ Fragments: Granzfried discovered that the author had in fact been only four at the close of the war and living in comfort with adoptive parents in Zurich. In the late nineties Home explored his fascination with pranks and hoaxes in a number of texts “ Confusion and the edited collection Mind Invaders the best “ documenting the myriad schisms and letter-writing campaigns of neo-Situationist and anarchist groups most likely of his own creation. Albert hired her sister-in-law to stand in for LeRoy in media and festival appearances and eventually the cracks in the back story became apparent.

A hoax with a pernicious and enduring legacy: the Protocols, detailing a plot by a secret cabal of Jewish financiers to take over the world, were probably fabricated in

This article is over 17 years old 1. It was probably written in the s. A scholar denounced in it , but the argument continued until the 18th century. Thomas Chatterton The teenage Chatterton had been writing faux-medieval poems since he was In , desperate to have his work published, he cashed in on the vogue for literary antiquity by touting his verse as the work of a 15th-century monk. The hoax was discovered, and he killed himself before his 18th birthday; but he achieved his longed-for literary immortality as the much-beloved "marvellous boy" of the Romantic movement. The bard Ossian Another poet cashing in on the primitivism craze, James Macpherson wowed the literary world in the s with fragments of a third-century epic by the bard Ossian, which he had "translated" from the Scottish Gaelic. Goethe and Napoleon were fans, but Samuel Johnson was sceptical from the start. It took until the end of the 19th century for the verse to be definitively declared an invention. Vortigern and Rowena The wonderful, if over-ambitious, 18th-century hoaxer William Ireland had an anonymous friend who owned a chest stuffed with Shakespearian treasures: All were judged to be authentic. However, Ireland overdid himself when he went on to forge a lost play, Vortigern and Rowena, in Amid a scholarly furore and much public interest, an increasingly doubtful Sheridan mounted a production. Protocols of the Elders of Zion A hoax with a pernicious and enduring legacy: Published in , it won many prizes and was hailed as a classic of Holocaust literature. Four years later, after doubts over its authenticity, it was withdrawn by its publishers. The Day After Roswell Retired colonel Philip Corso had, he claimed in these colourful memoirs, worked on alien technology recovered from the crash, and managed to obtain a glowing blurb for the book from a US senator. Irving, who had never met Hughes, was eventually exposed when no book materialised, and he was sent to prison. It later emerged that the man behind the fraud had a long career of impersonating the Fuhrer, forging watercolours and manuscripts of Mein Kampf.

Chapter 4 : Hoax - Wikipedia

The Book of Hoaxes has 9 ratings and 0 reviews. Human trickery and credulity have always gone hand-in-hand. This text presents an A-Z of the most famous.

Artificially Dirty Eggs In , the Dutch egg industry noted a drop in sales. After studying the situation, its analysts decided that the problem was that grocery-store shoppers were put off by the antiseptic appearance of the factory-cleaned eggs on the shelves. To consumers, the sparkling clean eggs seemed to represent the "plastic and concrete style of modern living. Mellema, head of the Egg Board, noted that a bit of carefully placed dirt would make the eggs "look real and give back that old farmhouse touch. Sun Jun 19, Comments 4

Early in his career, Muhammad Ali convinced Life magazine that he regularly trained underwater. In reality, he trained underwater only once " during the photoshoot for Life. Wed Jun 08, But for over one hundred years a story has circulated claiming that, as a young man in Baltimore, he pulled off a seventh, lesser-known hoax, involving a flight from the foot tall Phoenix Shot Tower. Wed Jun 01, Comments 2 Is it true that in an Italian man was charged with selling fake Parmesan cheese made out of grated umbrella handles? Thu May 26, Comments 1 Does having a hairy chest prevent cirrhosis of the liver? Is there any truth to this claim? Or is it just a medical urban legend? Mon May 23, Because Vernal is the only town that issues official Dinosaur Hunting Licenses. Wed May 18, Comments 1 The Canine Collection Hoax Lyst, a fashion shopping site, announced that it had begun selling dogs " as fashion accessories. It encouraged shoppers to "find the right dog to match your wardrobe. And sure enough, a day later the company revealed it was all a hoax, designed to promote the message that "a dog is for life, not just for Instagram. Mon May 16, Comments 0 A news story about women pranked by a dissolving bathing suit turned out to be a hoax " but it had a long subsequent career. Wed Mar 16, Comments 0 Was poodle clipping included as an official competition in the Summer Olympics? Sun Jan 10, Tue Jan 05, Comments 0 Painted Ponies In , a Copenhagen newspaper ran an April Fool hoax claiming that the Danish parliament was going to require all black dogs to be painted white, in order to increase road safety by making the dogs more visible at night. Fast forward to The Dartmoor Livestock Protection Society has launched a scheme to paint ponies with reflective blue stripes in order to allow motorists to see them more easily at night. Goes to show that, given enough time, all April Fool hoaxes eventually come true. Fri Oct 02, He posts examples of his creations on his blog Obvious Plant. The very first fake sign he put up was in a park, listing the Park Rules, which included that "Dogs must be clothed. So homeowners are free to keep the concrete deer on their lawns. No matter how tacky they might be. Wed Sep 30, Comments 1 In , did a California restaurant worker really find a will sealed inside a bottle that bequeathed millions of dollars to him, as the finder of the bottle? Wed Sep 16, Comments 1 Boyfriend was really a girlfriend Almost too weird to believe: Gayle Newland says that for two years she thought she was meeting and having sex with her boyfriend, Kye Fortune Kye insisted on this, saying he was ashamed of scars from a car accident and "anxious about the way he looked. Thu Sep 10,

Chapter 5 : The Book of Hoaxes by Stuart Gordon

In reading The Big Book of Hoaxes, I found it fascinating how much it was a thematic continuation of The Big Book of Little Criminals, and no wonder: The former book's primary writer, veteran crime journalist Carl Sifakis, was one of the primary writers on the latter as well.

Share Shares 2K Throughout the years many people have perpetrated hoaxes – often for publicity, and sometimes just for the hell of it. Of all the hoaxes through history, the ten in this list are the most famous. In at least two cases the Book of Mormon, and the Priory of Sion millions of people have been fooled – and continue to be fooled! In no particular order, here they are: Joseph Smith, founder of the Mormon religion, claimed that he was directed by an Angel to a hill near his home in which he found golden tablets containing the full text of the book. With the books he found two objects called the Urim and Thummim which he described as a pair of crystals joined in the form of a large pair of spectacles. Unfortunately, after Smith finished his translation, he had to return the tablets to the Angel, so there is no physical evidence that they ever existed. The book refers to a group of Jews that moved to and settled in America where Jesus visited them. Some segments of the Book of Mormon contain sections copied directly from the King James version of the Bible – the Bible that was most popular at the time and used by Joseph Smith. One example is Mark In addition, the book mimics the literary and linguistic style of the King James Bible. Linguistic experts have stated that the entire book is written by one man, and is not written by a combination of authors the prophets as claimed by Smith. Additionally, the book refers to animals and crops that did not exist in America until Columbus arrived: The most compelling proof that Joseph Smith was perpetuating a fraud is the Book of Abraham. In Smith was able to use his Urim and Thummim to translate some Egyptian scrolls that he was given access to at that time no one could read hieroglyphics. Upon inspection, Smith declared that they contained the Book of Abraham. He promptly translated the lot and it was accepted as scripture by the church. The scrolls vanished and everyone thought the story would end there. The scrolls turned out to be a standard Egyptian text that was often buried with the dead. To this day the Book of Abraham is a source of discomfort for the Mormon religion. Read it for yourself! Buy The Book of Mormon at Amazon. The Cottingley Fairies The Cottingley Fairies are a series of five photographs taken by Elsie Wright and Frances Griffiths, two young cousins living in Cottingley, near Bradford, England, depicting the two in various activities with supposed fairies. Elsie was the daughter of Arthur Wright, one of the earliest qualified electrical engineers. Wright, upon developing the plates, saw fairies in the pictures, he considered them fake. After the taking of the second picture, he banned Elsie from using the camera again. Her mother, Polly, however was convinced of their authenticity. In the summer of , the matter became public and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle author of Sherlock Holmes wrote an article for a leading magazine claiming that they were authentic. Not everyone was taken in by the fraud, as this statement from a leading Doctor at the time attests: Speaking of the first photograph in particular, Frances has said: I could see the backs of them and the hatpins when the photo was being taken. Santilli first presented his film to an invited audience of media representatives, UFOlogists and other dignitaries at the Museum of London on 5 May The show features interviews with experts on the authenticity of the film. According to Santilli, a set was constructed in the living room of an empty flat in Rochester Square, Camden Town, London. John Humphreys, an artist and sculptor, was employed to construct two dummy alien bodies over a period of three weeks, using casts containing sheep brains set in jelly, chicken entrails and knuckle joints. The fragments were thought by many experts of the day to be the fossilised remains of a hitherto unknown form of early human. The Piltdown hoax is perhaps the most famous archaeological hoax in history. It has been prominent for two reasons: It was exposed in as a forgery, consisting of the lower jawbone of an orangutan combined with the skull of a fully developed, modern man. The identity of the Piltdown forger remains unknown, but suspects have included Dawson, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin and Arthur Conan Doyle as well as numerous others. From the outset, there were scientists who expressed skepticism about the Piltdown find. Feejee Mermaid The Feejee Mermaid was presented as a mummified body of something, supposedly a creature that was half mammal and half fish like a grotesque

version of normal mermaid stories. The original exhibit was popularized by circus great P. Barnum, but has since been copied many times in other attractions, including the collection of famed showman Robert Ripley.

The Priory of Sion The Priory of Sion has been characterized as anything from the most influential secret society in Western history to a modern Rosicrucian-esque group, but, ultimately, has been shown to be a hoax created in by Pierre Plantard, a pretender to the French throne. The evidence presented in support of its historical existence is not considered authentic or persuasive by established historians, academics, and universities, and the evidence was later discovered to have been forged and then planted in various locations around France by Plantard and his associates. Between and Plantard contrived a mythical pedigree of the Priory of Sion claiming that it was the offshoot of the monastic order housed in the Abbey of Sion, which had been founded in the Kingdom of Jerusalem during the First Crusade and later absorbed by the Jesuits in The priory recently gained interest again despite easily obtainable proof that it is a fake through the publication of the book *The Davinci Code* which the author, Dan Brown, claims to be fact proving that he lied outright about his alleged years of research for the book.

The Turk The Turk was a fake chess-playing machine of the late 18th century, promoted as an automaton but later proved to be a hoax. Its owner, Kempelen addressed the court, presenting what he had built, and began the demonstration of the machine and its parts. With every showing of the Turk, Kempelen began by opening the doors and drawers of the cabinet, allowing members of the audience to inspect the machine. Following this display, Kempelen would announce that the machine was ready for a challenger. Kempelen would inform the player that the Turk would use the white pieces and have the first move. Between moves the Turk kept its left arm on the cushion. Observers of the Turk would state that the machine played aggressively, and typically beat its opponents within thirty minutes. The Turk was in fact a mechanical illusion that allowed a human chess master to hide inside and operate the machine. With a skilled operator, the Turk won most of the games played. The apparatus was demonstrated around Europe and the Americas for over 80 years until its destruction by fire in , playing and defeating many challengers including statesmen such as Napoleon Bonaparte and Benjamin Franklin. The image was revealed as a hoax in the s. The photographer, a gynecologist named Robert Kenneth Wilson, never claimed it to be a picture of the monster. The photo is often cropped to make the monster seem huge, while the original uncropped shot shows the other end of the loch and the monster in the center. Additionally, analysis of the full photograph revealed the object to be quite small, only about two to three feet long. Read about more famous photo hoaxes in Listverse. It is one of the most well known and discussed examples of literary forgery. Numerous independent investigations have concluded it to be either a plagiarism or a hoax. Continued usage of the Protocols as an antisemitic propaganda tool substantially diminished with the defeat of the Nazis in World War II. It is still frequently quoted and reprinted by some anti-Semitic circles, and is sometimes used as evidence of an alleged Jewish cabal, especially in the Middle East. Elements of the text in the Protocols appears to be plagiarized from an pamphlet, *Dialogue in Hell Between Machiavelli and Montesquieu*, written by the French satirist Maurice Joly. Interestingly, many of the protocols aims have been achieved. Universal suffrage, wide acceptance of pornography, the spread of Darwinism, Socialism, and Materialism. Both it and an unauthorized copy made by P. Barnum are still on display. Hull, an atheist, decided to create the giant after an argument with a fundamentalist minister named Mr. Turk about a passage in Genesis that stated that there were giants who once lived on earth. Hull hired men to carve out a feet-long, 4. He shipped the block to Chicago, where he hired a German stonecutter to carve it into the likeness of a man and swore him to secrecy. When the giant had been buried for a year, Newell hired two men, Gideon Emmons and Henry Nichols, ostensibly to dig a well. The giant drew such crowds that showman P. He put his giant on display in New York, claiming that his was the real giant and the Cardiff Giant was a fake. On February 2, both giants were revealed as fakes in court. The judge ruled that Barnum could not be sued for calling a fake giant a fake.

Chapter 6 : The Museum of Hoaxes: The Book

The Book of Hoaxes Hardcover - July 13, by Stuart Gordon (Author) € Visit Amazon's Stuart Gordon Page. Find all the books, read about the author, and more.

You can help by adding to it. January Although practical jokes have likely existed for thousands of years, one of the earliest recorded hoaxes in history was the drummer of Tedworth in As the technology of communication has advanced, the speed at which hoaxes spread has also advanced: However, hoaxes could also be spread via chain letters , which became easier as the cost of mailing a letter dropped. The invention of the printing press in the 15th century brought down the cost of a mass-produced books and pamphlets, and the rotary printing press of the 19th century reduced the price even further see yellow journalism. During the 20th century, the hoax found a mass market in the form of supermarket tabloids , and by the 21st century there were fake news websites which spread hoaxes via social networking websites in addition to the use of email for a modern type of chain letter. Etymology[edit] The English philologist Robert Nares €” says that the word hoax was coined in the late 18th century as a contraction of the verb hocus , which means "to cheat," "to impose upon" [4] or according to Merriam-Webster "to befuddle often with drugged liquor. Barnum , whose Fiji mermaid contributed to his wealth€”often acquire monetary gain or fame through their fabrications, so the distinction between hoax and fraud is not necessarily clear. Political hoaxes are sometimes motivated by the desire to ridicule or besmirch opposing politicians or political institutions , often before elections. A hoax differs from a magic trick or from fiction books, movies , theatre , radio , television , etc. It can also emerge from a marketing or advertising purpose. For example, to market a romantic comedy movie, a director staged a phony "incident" during a supposed wedding , which showed a bride and preacher getting knocked into a pool by a clumsy fall from a best man. These often come under the heading of black propaganda. There is often a mixture of outright hoax and suppression and management of information to give the desired impression. In wartime and times of international tension rumors abound, some of which may be deliberate hoaxes. Examples of politics-related hoaxes: Belgium is a country with a Flemish -speaking region and a French -speaking region. In French-speaking television channel RTBF interrupted programming with a spoof report claiming that the country had split in two and the royal family had fled. On Saturday 13 March the Imedi television station in Georgia broadcast a false announcement that Russia had invaded Georgia. Identify a particular dream which will make your hoax appeal to your constituency. Create an appealing but "under-specified" hoax, with ambiguities Have your creation discovered. Find at least one champion who will actively support your hoax. Make people care, either positively or negatively €” the ambiguities encourage interest and debate Graphic showing differences between misinformation , disinformation , and hoax, presented for Wikimedia Research Hoaxes vary widely in their processes of creation, propagation, and entrenchment over time. Criminal hoaxing diverts time and money of police investigations with communications purporting to come from the actual criminal. Once caught, hoaxers are charged under criminal codes such as Perverting the course of justice. A typical hoax is an email message warning recipients of a non-existent threat, usually forging quotes supposedly from authorities such as Microsoft and IBM. Thus the e-mail "warning" is itself the "virus. In reality the file is one required by the operating system for correct functioning of the computer. Internet hoaxes became more common after the start of social media. Some websites have been used to hoax millions of people on the Web. It usually encourages people to act foolishly or credulously by falling for patent nonsense that the hoaxer deliberately presents as reality. A related activity is culture jamming. The "Bruno Hat" art hoax, arranged in London in July , involved staging a convincing public exhibition of paintings by an imaginary reclusive artist, Bruno Hat. All the perpetrators were well-educated and did not intend a fraud, as the newspapers were informed the next day.

Chapter 7 : NPR Choice page

Proven hoaxes. These are some claims that have been revealed, or proven definitively, to be deliberate public hoaxes.

This list does not include hoax articles published on or around April 1, a long list of which can be found in the "List of April Fools' Day jokes" or "April Fool's Day" articles.

Chapter 8 : The Museum of Hoaxes

A hoax is a falsehood deliberately fabricated to masquerade as the truth. It is distinguishable from errors in observation or judgment, rumors, urban legends, pseudosciences, and April Fools' Day events that are passed along in good faith by believers or as jokes.

Chapter 9 : Top 10 Famous Hoaxes - Listverse

The definitive Internet reference source for urban legends, folklore, myths, rumors, and misinformation.