

The Case of the Tichborne Heir

A Victorian Sensation

Dr. Walter Rowe

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Roger Charles Tichborne, heir to an English baronetcy and one of England's largest private fortunes, disappeared enroute to Kingston, Jamaica, possibly in the Bermuda Triangle. After nearly a decade Thomas Castro of Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, claimed to be the long-lost Roger Tichborne—and tried to take control of the family fortune and the title of nobility.

Claims, counter-claims, confessions and retractions—and one of the longest running trials in British history...It was a 19th Century cause celebre.

Today, it stands as a case study of the projection of a set of false beliefs through mass meetings and through the print media, as well as the persistence of a false belief system in the face of overwhelming contrary evidence.

**Saturday October 18, 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

OCTOBER 2003

NEW NCAS BOARD

As a result of the spring election, the NCAS board consists of:

Jonathan Boswell	Eugene Ossa
Chip Denman	Walter Rowe
Grace Denman	Tim Scanlon
Sharlene Deskins	Scott Snell
Jim Giglio	Gary Stone
Stephen J. Goodson	Jamy Ian Swiss
Neil Inglis	Chris Wanjek
Paul Jaffe	Marv Zerkowitz

Officers will be chosen at the next board meeting.

!!! TIME TO RENEW !!!

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

CSICOP CONFERENCE ON MYTHS

Time is running out on CSICOP's conference on Hoaxes, Myths and Manias in Albuquerque – October 23-26, 2003. Three days of excellent talks are planned, including Ray Hyman, Joe Nickell, Eugenie Scott, others. An optional trip to Roswell is available. Call CSICOP at 1-800-634-1610 or visit <http://www.csicop.org/events/conference-2003/registration.html>.

Welcome Back!

Saturday, October 18 is NCAS's first meeting for the 2003-4 season. We are planning an engaging series of talks and hope that you will make an effort to attend one or more of our public lectures. Lectures are free and entertaining. We hope to see you there.

NCAS started in 1987. We are now beginning our 17th year of public lectures.

SKEPTICAL NEWS

- An ancient icon depicting Christ has been removed from display at the Hermitage museum in St Petersburg after claims that its "energy field" is killing staff.

The icon has led to the deaths of several supervisors, an official at Russia's foremost art museum, on the banks of the River Neva, said. (From CSICOP)

MYTHBUSTERS

Mythbusters a new show on the Discovery channel investigates urban legends. Episodes are at 9pm and repeated several times. Each episode includes several segments. Some future episodes include:

- Wallets erasing magnetic credit card information (10/10)
- Can a penny dropped from the Empire State kill? (10/17)
- Can you survive being buried alive? (10/24)

www.TheBorderlandsNetwork.com

The ALL Paranormal network is now in full swing as an IPO and soon subscribers of Dish, Direct TV and other Cable providers can have the choice of ordering the network that will have ALL you ever wanted to see from UFOs to Loch Ness Monsters and Ghosts airing 24/7 on their very own channel. (The website has no content yet, but stay tuned ...)

(35th) Annual Fortfest03

On November 15-16, 2003 the International Fortean Organization will hold its annual conference on anomalous phenomena at the Carlyle Hotel in Roland Park, Baltimore, MD. \$65. The organization is partly skeptical, partly credulous – they reserve judgment on such phenomena. For information go to: <http://www.frogstone.net/Weird/FortFest.html>.



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