

**“What’s in an image” BA (Hons) Graphic Design L4 Research and Reference**



Loch Ness Monster [1934] Photographer: Ian Wetherell Source: wikipedia.org

The story behind this photograph started of in 1993, when an accumulation of 22 reported sightings of the Loch Ness Monster come about. The Daily Mail became interested in the phenomenon, probably due to potential of profit from any outcome; that The Loch Ness Monster did or didn't exist. With this, they employed notable game hunter Marmaduke Wetherell, no monster was found, although in December 1993 some odd footprint. After some examination by the natural history museum the footprints were determined to be fraudulent, there were supposedly made with a hippopotamus's foot. This went badly for Wetherell as at his estate, he had in his possession a hippo foot umbrella stand, he was soon discredited and he retired from the view of the public.

In 1934 the notorious Surgeon Photograph bared it head, the photograph was taken by Robert Kenneth Wilson the villages doctor. Although Wilson didn't want to be identified by the photograph, so the photo was given the title 'The Surgeons Photograph. In 1984 a small article in the well recognized British journal of photography written by Stewart Campbell, claimed that the photograph was a hoax. His evidence for this was, when compared to the waves surrounding waves the scale of the object would have been a maximum of 3 feet. He presented the idea that the object was most likely either a form of water mammal or bird.

In 1994 before his death Christian Spurling the stepson of Wetherell; calmed the photograph was faked by him Wetherell and Wilson. Wilson was only included in the hoax to serve as a

person with credibility, The Monster seen in the photograph was supposedly made out of a module submarine and a constructed head. The motive of this Hoax is said to only be an act of revenge, committed by Wetherell over his humiliation all those years ago. Spurling later quote Wetherell "We'll give them their monster,"

Even though this photograph known, for being a famous hoax. Some people still believe the photograph to be genuine. An example of this would be Tim Dinsdale, in his published book Loch Ness Monster; in the book, he denounces the idea of the photo being a hoax. As he has studied the photograph intensely and claims that, there are features within the photograph that proves it real.

One of the researchers that uncovered the hoax Alastair Boyd, states that the photograph is most defiantly a hoax. Although the monster itself is real and just because one photo is faked doesn't disprove the existence of the creature.

It seems to me as if the photograph is more about the existence of a mythological beast, rather than whether or not the photograph is a hoax. This is probably why the subject is so heavily debated, as it ties in with people's beliefs; something that has often been proven to be worth fighting for.

Lets hope that the myth of Loch Ness Monster will forever remain an enigma.

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