

## Fakes and Forgeries / Durham Castle (UK) 8/9 July 2002

ID=128880

Location: United Kingdom

Call for Papers Deadline: 2002-01-01

Contributions are invited to an interdisciplinary conference on "Fakes and Forgeries, Conmen and Counterfeits," to be held at Durham Castle (UK) on 8th and 9th July 2002.

This conference seeks to bring together scholars from a variety of disciplines -- cultural theory, literary studies, film studies, history, art history, cultural anthropology, economics -- in order to explore the historical, social and cultural significance of fakes, forgeries, hoaxes and counterfeits.

Recent cultural theory has called into question traditional notions of authenticity and originality. Despite critical pronouncements of the death of the author and the substitution of the simulacrum for the original, however, making a distinction between the genuine and the fake continues to play a major role in our everyday understanding and evaluation of culture, law and politics. Consider, for example, the fiasco surrounding the "forged" Hitler diaries, law suits against auction houses for failing to detect forgeries in the art market, or the problem of plagiarism at universities. It still seems to matter that we can spot the difference. But what are we to make of conspiracy theories that the moon landings were faked in a Hollywood studio; the Sokal hoax article in Social Text; or Fragments, Benjamin Wilkomirski's "fake" Holocaust memoir. Has the distinction between the counterfeit and the real been undermined by the technological ability to make copies that are indistinguishable -- and sometimes better -- than the original. Has the notion of authenticity changed in recent times. Do different cultures set the boundaries in alternative ways.

Possible topics could include:-

fake memoirs

film "mockumentaries"  
counterfeit currency  
branding, logos and ripoff goods  
frauds, scams, swindles and cons  
confidence tricksters  
P. T. Barnum and Boggs  
disguise and deception  
blackface and passing  
masquerades and ventriloquism  
forgery in the art world  
faked archaeological and scientific discoveries  
internet hoaxes and urban legends  
conspiracy theories about forged evidence and misinformation  
digital imaging and virtual reality  
detection and authentication  
plagiarism and copyright  
retro repro

Further details of the conference will be available later at:  
[www.art.man.ac.uk/english/fakes.html](http://www.art.man.ac.uk/english/fakes.html)

Publication of selected papers is planned for 2003/4.

Please email a 250-word abstract by 1st January 2002 to both organizers:

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Visit the Call for Papers website at  
<http://www.art.man.ac.uk/ENGLISH/fakes.html>

Reference:

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