

Bumps in the Night!!!!

May 2015 – Issue No. 57

Paranormal “U”

Cryptids

By Jenni Garcia, TnT Paranormal Investigators LLC

Cryptozoology and cryptobotany, involve the search for animals and plants whose existence has not been proven due to the lack of evidence. They exist in legends, myths and reported sightings or encounters. Cryptids is the term used to describe such creatures and plant life. The Yeti, El Chupacabra, Sasquatch, the Loch Ness monster and the Werewolf are some of the better-known cryptids today.

Some animals, which are widely recognized today, were once ones of legend.

Kangaroo Early explorers to Australia describe a creature that has a head like a deer, stands upright, hops like a frog and sometimes has two heads one on the shoulders and one on the stomach.

In the 1770's a dead kangaroo was exhibited for public curiosity in England.

Platypus This animal was described as a venomous, egg-laying mammal with a duckbill and a beaver tail. Esteemed British scientists, even after being presented with a pelt and corpse, believed this to be a hoax.

Mountain Gorilla Tales of the East African “ape-man” intrigued explorers and natives for centuries as the first known account dates to 500 B.C.E. 16th century explorer Andrew Battel, spoke of man-like apes that would venture into his camp at night and explorer Du Chaillu wrote of bloodthirsty forest monsters in 1860. Not until 1902, when Captain Robert Von Beringe a German officer shot one in a region of Rwanda and returned with it to Europe, was it introduced as a new species of ape.

Giant Squid The legend of the Norse Kraken, “a monstrous tentacled beast as large as an island that devoured ships whole,” as well as those of the Lusca, Scylla and the Sea Monk, describe bizarre, dangerous sea creatures. So fantastical were the claims, these creatures were put with mermaids and sea serpents until the 1870's when tentacles and carcasses were found beached in Labrador and Newfoundland. The Giant Squid is still a rare and elusive sea creature.

The Yeti has often been compared to Sasquatch, as both are large, hold a structural similarity to large apes, are covered in hair, have a sagittal crest atop their heads and possess an extremely potent smell. However, unlike Sasquatch, there have been few visual sightings of the Yeti at close range reported since the 20th century. Because of this, there are many discrepancies as to what exactly the Yeti looks like. Some have suggested that it is light colored, so as to blend in with the snow, and always walks upright, while others have stated that it is smaller, of darker color, walks on four legs like a bear but stands on all two feet when scared or threatened, as gorillas are known to do. For centuries, the people who have lived in the Himalayan region of Nepal, India, and Tibet have believed that the mountains were sacred and mysterious places, possibly due to the fact that it is one of the most remote and inaccessible locations on the planet. Such a reverence for nature has often been accompanied by a strong projection of supernatural elements and beliefs in similar regions. Different cultures in the region have held different opinions of the Yeti over the years. The Sherpas, for example have an almost ambivalent feeling towards the creature, often using it as bedtime story to help keep children disciplined. The Tibetans, on the other hand, have often viewed the Yeti as a creature to be dreaded, and it is seen as ferocious in mural artwork. In Nepal, there are stories of Yetis coming down from the mountain to feed off of livestock, occasionally terrorizing the local population directly.

Bumps in the Night!!!!

May 2015 – Issue No. 57

Paranormal “U”

Cryptids

The word chupacabra is from *chupar* “to suck” and *cabra* “goat”. It is a legendary cryptid rumored to inhabit parts of the Americas. The name comes from the animal’s reported habit of attacking and drinking the blood of livestock, especially goats. Physical descriptions of the creature vary. Eyewitness sightings have been claimed as early as 1990 in Puerto Rico, and have since been reported as far north as Maine, and as far south as Chile. The most common description of chupacabras is a reptile-like being, appearing to have leathery or scaly greenish-gray skin and sharp spines or quills running down its back. This form stands approximately 3 to 4 feet (1 to 1.2 m) high, and stands and hops in a similar fashion to a kangaroo. In at least one sighting, the creature was reported to hop 20 feet (6 m). This variety is said to have a dog or panther-like nose and face, a forked tongue, and large fangs. It is said to hiss and screech when alarmed, as well as leave behind a sulfuric stench. When it screeches, some reports assert that the chupacabras’ eyes glow an unusual red, which gives the witnesses nausea.

The Loch Ness Monster is a cryptid that is reputed to inhabit Loch Ness in the Scottish Highlands. The most frequent speculation is that the creature represents a line of long-surviving plesiosaurs. It is similar to other supposed lake monsters in Scotland and elsewhere, though its description varies from one account to the next.

Popular interest and belief in the animal has fluctuated since it was brought to the world’s attention in 1933. Evidence of its existence is anecdotal, with minimal and much-disputed photographic material and sonar readings. The scientific community regards the Loch Ness Monster as a modern-day myth, and explains sightings as wishful thinking. The legendary monster has been affectionately referred to by the nickname Nessie since the 1950s

Sasquatch or more commonly called Bigfoot is described as an ape-like creature that inhabits forests, mainly in the Pacific Northwest region of North America. Sasquatch is usually described as a large, hairy, bipedal humanoid. Nevertheless, Sasquatch is one of the more famous examples of a cryptid within cryptozoology and an enduring legend. A small minority of accredited scientists professes the view that evidence collected of alleged Sasquatch encounters warrants further evaluation and testing. Sasquatch is described in reports as a large hairy ape-like creature, ranging between 6–10 feet (2–3 m) tall, weighing in excess of 500 pounds (230 kg), and covered in dark brown or dark reddish hair. Witnesses have described large eyes, a pronounced brow ridge, and a large, low-set forehead; the top of the head has been described as rounded and crested, similar to the sagittal crest of the male gorilla. Sasquatch is commonly reported to have a strong, unpleasant smell by those who claim to have encountered it. The enormous footprints for which it is named have been as large as 24 inches (60 cm) long and 8 inches (20 cm) wide. While most casts have five toes—like all known apes—some casts of alleged Sasquatch tracks have had numbers ranging from two to six. Some have also contained claw marks, making it likely that a portion came from known animals such as bears, which have five toes and claws. Proponents have also claimed that Sasquatch is omnivorous and mainly nocturnal.

A werewolf also known as a lycanthrope, is a cryptid or folkloric human with the ability to shape shift into a wolf or an anthropomorphic wolf-like creature, either purposely, by being bitten or scratched by another werewolf, or after being placed under a curse. This transformation is often associated with the appearance of the full moon. Werewolves are often attributed super-human strength and senses, far beyond those of both wolves and men. The werewolf is generally held as a European character, although its lore spread through the world in later times. Shape-shifters, similar to werewolves, are common in tales from all over the world, most notably amongst the Native Americans, though most of them involve animal forms other than wolves.