

Stamp Stuff & Ames Takes Aim

Shown here is an image of the drawing upon which Canada's sasquatch postage stamp is based, along with the actual stamp. The drawing was created by Allan Cormack, and painted by Deborah Drew-Brooks. There are a few minor differences between the two as can be seen. (Note: The stamp was issued in 1990 as part of Canada's Legendary Creatures series, which included the Sasquatch, Ogoopogo, Loup-Garou (Quebec's Werewolf) and the Kraken (giant squid).

The Patterson/Gimlin film was instrumental in the inclusion of the sasquatch stamp. It is outlined in the Canada Post write-up, (a large 11 inch by 17 inch glossy, "Newsletter for Teachers"), along with a photograph from frame 352 of the film.

Furthermore there is a printed interview with Dr. Michael Ames, who edited, along with Marjorie Halpin, the book *Manlike Monsters on Trial*, which was occasioned by the conference, Sasquatch and Similar Phenomena, at the University of British Columbia, held in May 1978.

The following are two questions asked of Dr. Ames and his reply:

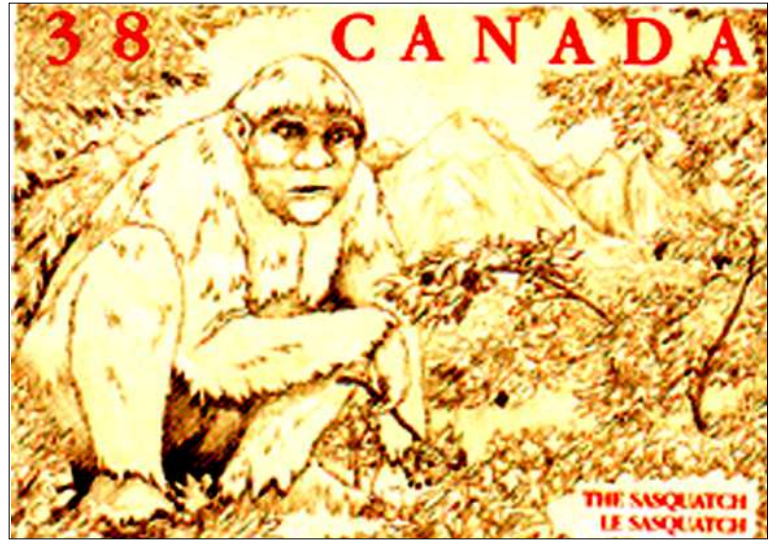
How does the scientific community look upon the Sasquatch or the Ogoopogo, and how do they react to people who claim to have sighted them?

Well, some just think it's all nonsense, but the basic issue is not so much their existence, but the methodology that's been used to prove it. The proper scientific attitude is open-mindedness. You don't say no to something you know nothing about, but you need careful evidence.

Unfortunately a lot of the existing evidence has not been rigorously collected, so scientific skepticism is justifiable. You see, the scientific approach is to begin with the known, then push out into the unknown, whereas what some of the amateurs are doing is to jump out into the unknown and try to bring it back in. While I think this is very useful, it certainly is not normal to science.

The nature of a scientific approach is to be cautious and conservative, to follow strict rules and verifications. Science deals with probability, not possibility, and the evidence presented so far by eyewitnesses and unverified film footage makes the existence of these creatures possible, but not probable. You can't prove the absence of something, so if they come up with the Ogoopogo, then it exists!

Do you see any relationship between sightings of monsters and sightings of "Unidentified Flying Objects?"



Yes I do. I see it as two ends of the process of cutting ourselves off from our past and our future, defining our boundaries again. Monsters like the Sasquatch mark the transition from our wilderness past to our domesticated present, whereas aliens from space contrast the present culture with an unknown, technically dominated future.

There is also a similar conflict between academics and amateurs in both of these lores. People interested in studying UFOs or legendary monsters share a critical attitude towards the scientific establishment. In fact, science is one of the biggest monsters in our lives, so there is great motivation in proving the scientific experts wrong. What's interesting is that these lay people become amateur scientists in their approach. Like scientists, they build huge, complex, logical theories, except that the premises on which these theories rest are soft. If you are able to cross the premises, then everything logically fits. I guess the ultimate link will be a movie where a Sasquatch comes out of a UFO.