

Facts Fallacies

The Old Hoax Home

(NAPSA)—Hoax (*n*)—1. An act intended to trick or dupe: a piece of trickery. 2. Something accepted or believed in through trickery: something established by fraud or fabrication.

Over the years, just about everybody has fallen for one sort of hoax or another, whether it's the



Internet photos of an 87-pound housecat or the reviews of non-existent film critic David Manning. The success of these shams is a testament to humanity's creativity—and

gullibility. Now there's a hilarious compendium of history's great whoppers.

The Museum of Hoaxes: A History of Outrageous Pranks and Deceptions (Plume, \$12), by Alex Boese, documents centuries of practical jokes and novelty legends. Through the history of April Fool's Day hoaxes to the present-day phenomenon of Snowball, the 87-pound cat, this eclectic compilation of scams, pranks and hoaxes leaves no curiosity out.

What started as research for a doctoral dissertation has been spun into "required reading," according to the *New York Post* and, as Kirkus Reviews writes, "an amusing compilation of deception."

The Museum of Hoaxes is available at bookstores, or online at www.penguin.com. To learn more, visit www.museumofhoaxes.com.