

JACK MARKWARDT

In the first of a new feature in the newsletter, we take a closer look at some of the many people whose names you have no doubt heard in reference to the Shroud. It is always nice to be able to put a face to a name, even if it is at a distance. Jack Markwardt gave an excellent presentation at the Dallas conference last October, and so it seemed like a good opportunity to present him here. This article was written by our recently appointed US correspondent, Joseph Wayne Durham, after an in-depth conversation with Mr Markwardt.

Jack Markwardt was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and was raised in New Jersey. Majoring in history he attended Rutgers University, and graduated with honours from Albany Law School. He currently lives in Florida, and is a litigation specialist.

Mr Markwardt first heard about the Shroud while attending mass, on January 1, 1985. He was given a calendar produced by the Holy Shroud Guild, with a different picture of the Shroud for each month. From that point on he developed a serious interest in the Shroud. He called the Guild to see what other types of reading materials were available and was led to Ian Wilson's *The Shroud of Turin: The Burial Cloth of Jesus Christ?*(1979), and that inspired him to study more about the history of the Shroud.

Still on the journey to find information he came across Mrs. Dorothy Crispino. He said, "She was my mentor . . . she so generously inspired and encouraged me to write and speak about the Shroud." He got a subscription to Shroud Spectrum, and even ordered the back issues.

Over the past five years Mr Markwardt has written five Shroud-related papers, and a person whom he thanks tremendously is Dan Scavone. Dan has helped him over the past four years providing him with information for four of the papers. They are as follows:

In 1997, "Was the Shroud in Languedoc During the Missing Years?" presented in Nice, France.

In 1998, "The Fire and the Portrait" presented in Turin, Italy.

In 1999, "Antioch and the Shroud" presented in Richmond, Virginia.

In 2000, "The Cathar Crucifix" presented in Orvieto.

In 2001, “The Conspiracy Against the Shroud” recently presented at the Dallas International Conference.

He believes that there are three categories of people in dealing with the Shroud; believers, non-believers, and sceptics. “It is my opinion that true believers and true non-believers are those now fixed in their respective points of view and who will remain forever closed-minded at the opposing ends of the authenticity debate. On the other hand, true sceptics are those who lean one way or the other in this debate, depending upon the shifting weight of cognitive evidence, and who will remain open-minded with regard to the ultimate conclusion. A sceptic, who employs faith to resolve the conflicts presented by the cognitive evidence, thereby becomes a true believer.”

Mr Markwardt will forever be involved with the Shroud. I don't think we can expect him to disappear anytime soon. If you haven't read his papers, do your best to get a copy of them; they are well worth the time and effort. (Note: Several of his papers can be found on www.shroud.com).