

WHO'S WHO IN THE SHROUD WORLD

DR DANIEL SCAVONE

Coinciding with the publication of an article by Dr Dan Scavone in this edition of the newsletter, we can now find out a little more about the author. Dr Scavone's academic record is truly impressive, a real bonus to credibility in the sometimes polemical world of Shroud studies. He obtained his Ph. D in history at the University of Southern Indiana in 1970 and was Professor of History at the same centre until his retirement. His main areas of teaching were World Civilization Surveys and Ancient and Early Europe.

Among the many honours granted to Dr Scavone are an Honorary Membership in the Academy of Sciences of Mexico in 1993 and selection by peers as Distinguished Professor at the University of Southern Indiana in 1994. His books include not only studies on the Shroud (*The Shroud of Turin: Opposing Viewpoints*, 1989), but also such varied subjects as vampires and Christopher Columbus. Dan has also had numerous articles published, and has given over 500 slide lectures on the Shroud of Turin, many for colleges and professional historians' meetings.

Apart from the Shroud, his other research topics include "Communalism In Plato and Aristophanes", "The Idea of Utopia in 4th c. B.C. Athens", "Augustus, Cicero, and the Roman Revolution", "Nicolaus of Damascus as Agent of Augustus" and "Zosimus: Historian of the Fall of Rome" to name but a few.

Nobody can place Dr Scavone's academic record in any doubt, but there is something else I would like to add to this impressive list. Dan is one of the very few people (if not the only person) who, thanks to endless patience and immense understanding, manages to respect and be respected on both a professional and personal level by everybody else in the Shroud world. This might seem like a trivial comment, but in the volatile and all too human world of Shroud groups and politics, it is no mean achievement. Those who have had the opportunity to meet and talk with him will know exactly what I mean.

IAN WILSON

Ian Wilson is surely the best known name in the whole Shroud realm. He is no doubt the first person on anybody's list for an opinion or help with just about all aspects of the cloth. He edited the BSTS newsletter for over twenty years – in fact, without Ian, the BSTS would never have existed. So why a feature now to explain who he is? Well, quite simply because Ian always refused to use the newsletter to further his own work and books. This sense of modesty led to the somewhat incongruous situation of no review appearing in the newsletter of what was surely the most complete Shroud book ever published, *The Blood and the Shroud* (1998).

Not all BSTS members are therefore aware of the immense corpus of literature published by our previous editor. Apart from the books on the Shroud itself, there are books on topics arising from his interest on the Shroud, such as *Holy Faces*, *Secret Places* or *The Bleeding Mind*. Ian has written an excellent overview of the Bible (*The Bible is History*), and other books on such diverse subjects as Shakespeare, life after death and most recently, Nostradamus. When I was writing my own biography of the British general Sir John Moore, he even managed to supply me with articles about the

transition from the musket to the rifle at the beginning of the nineteenth century. It would be impossible to even try and list the talks and articles penned by Ian over the years.

And so, from the pages Ian himself edited for so long, let this serve as an immense THANK YOU from all BSTS members, past, present and future.