

David Rolfe, Editor, BSTS Newsletter.

I can give a personal perspective on the Shroud from 1976 when I commenced production on *The Silent Witness* to the present day. I had the pleasure of meeting and getting to know most of the luminaries in the field of Shroud research and had many adventures along the way. (Two of which involved me being at the wrong end of a loaded gun.)



The critical success of *The Silent Witness* with its BAFTA and many other international prizes paved the way for me to be selected to produce and direct other major investigative programmes into religious subjects, most notably, perhaps, Channel 4's iconoclastic three-part series *Jesus – The Evidence*, and later, many of ITV's religious strand *Credo*. Other insights were gained in the production of more secular projects which included the role of the Church in the collapse of communism in Poland and, by extension, elsewhere. A Panorama investigation into charges of Satanic abuse in the Orkneys also proved to be instructive.

The combination of all these projects with all the politics they entailed plus the concatenations of life in general have given me a very strong attachment to the Shroud. For a filmmaker it has everything. First, a genuine mystery. Whatever it may be, no one can explain its image. Secondly, it remains a victim of a catastrophic injustice. Whatever could have gone wrong with the C14 test did go wrong. Some by misadventure and some by human frailty. The Shroud and the man depicted on it now finds itself in limbo or, more accurately, the no-man's land that exists between the secular and the religious world view. The area is full of mines and unexploded bombs and few are prepared to traverse it for the sake of their own reputations.

We are within a dozen or so years of the 2000th anniversary of the event that I believe created the Shroud, its unique image and its message for all of us. In the time left to me I hope to play whatever part I can in restoring justice to it.

To contact me regarding talks please email me in the first instance at:
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I am based near London but I travel far and wide for this subject. My films on the Shroud are available to be viewed, personally, free of charge at www.shroudenigma.com . 25% of any donations or fees for talks will go to the British Society for the Turin Shroud.