

The Evidence and the True Face of the Shroud **A documentary by Simon Brown of Real Discoveries**

Review of recent documentary by Mark Guscini

With so many sceptical documentaries being produced, it is quite original to produce one that sets out to use the Shroud to prove the Bible stories of the resurrection – the presenter even leads viewers in a prayer at the end. The documentary also includes twenty minutes footage from the film *The Gospel of John*.

The line taken is, of course, absolutely pro-authenticity. The film is in general very well presented and Barrie Schwartz does a really excellent job as main guest, clearly explaining many of the Shroud's intricacies. The carbon 14 dating is explained using the Marino/Benford reweave theory, backed up by the late Ray Rogers, and a most convincing case is made for the idea.

If I had to come up with something against the film, I would say that the strong Cockney accent of the presenter is not the best way to present a documentary – there is no logical reason why this should be so and I realise it sounds very intolerant of me to mention this, and I accept any criticism made of what I have just said, but after a while it just got on my nerves. And another detail that is probably at least partly my own fault – Simon repeatedly asked me to take part in the film and I just could not find a way to fit it in with my schedule. The part about the Sudarium of Oviedo would have been much better had I, or anyone else from the Spanish centre team, been able to take part in the film. The name of the city is pronounced as “Oh Video”, and when the presenter is talking about the VP 8 image analyser and the Shroud, photographs are shown of Dr. Villalaín, Guillermo Heras and John Jackson observing the Sudarium.

Such an obviously pro-authenticity film will no doubt find its market, and despite its being a very well made and recommendable film, I have to admit that personally I would prefer a more scientific and historical approach, exploring some of the immense difficulties and problems involved in Shroud research.