

**OBITUARY****Lennox Manton****by Ian Wilson**

One of the BSTS's most likeable and certainly most long-lived members was Lennox Manton, who died peacefully in his sleep on Tuesday 14th February of this year.

Born to a military family in Khartoum, Sudan, in 1917, Lennox was educated at West Buckland School in Devon, followed by studying dentistry at Bristol University. Shortly prior to the outbreak of World War II he visited his father, then stationed in Jerusalem, whereupon when the War began he

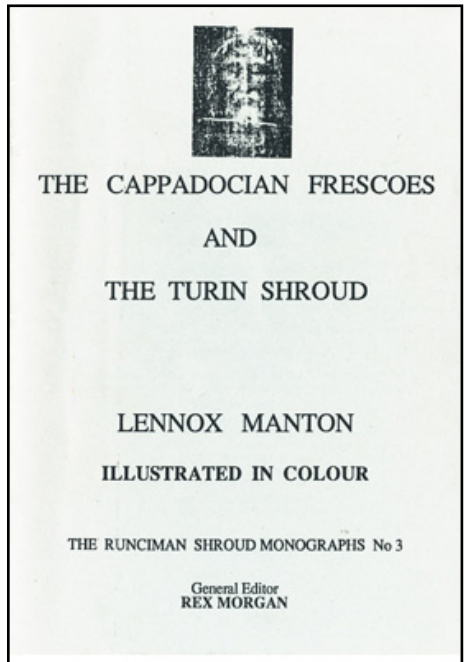
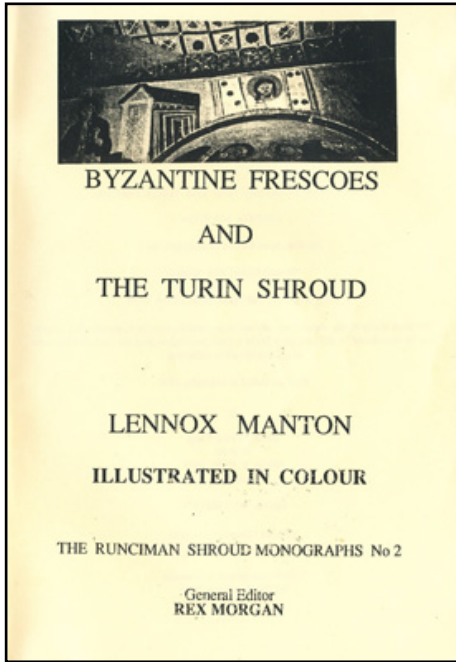


quickly became commissioned as the first person to serve in the Royal Dental Corps for the Middle East. Put in charge of the troops' entertainment he got to know many of the 'celebrities' of the time, including the notorious singer, dancer, French Resistance worker Josephine Baker, and as a dentist for the Middle East Command he counted amongst his patients Generals John Harding and Bernard Montgomery. His medical expertise also brought under his care casualties of the Eighth Army subsequent to the battle of El Alamein.

After the end of the War Lennox returned to the UK where he met as a patient his future wife Ruth, whom he married in 1946. After further qualifying in oral surgery, he continued army service, including working for a while in the Far East, before buying a dental practice at Guildford, Surrey, where he and Ruth raised their children and remained for thirty-two years before retiring to the Bridge of Allan, near Stirling, Scotland, in 1994.

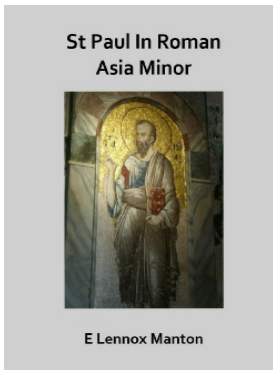
Lennox enjoyed a great diversity of interests, including painting - he was a prize-winning exhibitor at the Paris Salon - antiques, fine glass, porcelain and tapestry. Such interests, together with his fascination for the history of early Christianity in Turkey almost inevitably led him to him being drawn to the controversy surrounding the Turin Shroud. Lennox joined the British Society for the Turin Shroud not long after its foundation in the late 1970s, at a time when media interest in the topic was particularly intense. Thereafter he was a regular attendee whenever the Society hosted lectures in London, even in later years making special train journeys from Stirling for this purpose. With the support of the Turkish Tourist Board he pioneered exploration of the rock-cut churches of Cappadocia, very ably photographing Shroud-inspired depictions of the Christ Pantocrator, and also little-known depictions of the Image of Edessa, enthusiastically supporting the hypothesis that this lost cloth of the Eastern Orthodox Church was one and the same as the present-day 'Turin' Shroud.

When carbon dating tests carried out on the Shroud in 1988 were widely broadcast as 'proving' the cloth to be a medieval fake Lennox, unlike so many others, most admirably held steadfast to his own longstanding 'authentic' opinion, for me personally a most valued source of support and reassurance at a very difficult time. In April 1994 Lennox gave a very memorable illustrated lecture presenting his findings to a well-attended meeting of the British Society for the Turin Shroud held at the New Cavendish Club in London. Later the same year his monograph of the same was published from Australia by Australian promoter of Shroud studies Rex Morgan, MBE. Although my wife Judith and I emigrated to Australia the following year (quite independently of the Rex Morgan connection!), Lennox regularly kept in touch with us during the subsequent years. Only in the most recent of these did what had formerly been emails from him lapse back to conventional postal communications, at which point Lennox graphically described his and Ruth's herculean efforts trying to stay as independent as possible despite their nonagenarian vintage!



Throughout the decades that I knew Lennox I felt privileged by his friendship. He invariably presented as a paragon of integrity, wide knowledge, quiet faith, gentle humour and sound sense. He richly deserved the long and full life that he enjoyed. Even though I mourn the death of yet another old friend, I can only feel grateful to have known him, and to have learned that he died with dignity and at peace.

**Ian Wilson**



P.S. A superbly illustrated and highly recommended self-published book by Lennox Manton, *St Paul in Roman Asia Minor*, is available on Amazon.co.uk, or via ShieldCrest, Aylesbury, Bucks, [www.shieldcrest.co.uk](http://www.shieldcrest.co.uk).

