

# **Joseph M. Gambescia, M.D. And The Position Of The Feet On The Shroud Of Turin. The History Of An Investigation**

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6:15-7:15 pm

## **Authors**

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## **Abstract:**

This paper is about one specific medical study of the position of the feet: that of the late Joseph M. Gambescia, M.D. Two other previously published views about the stance of the feet on the Turin Shroud will be briefly reviewed. But this paper will be generally confined to what we may call a "third view".

The French physician, Dr. Pierre Barbet's study of body weight on the hands, demonstrated that it was necessary for a nail to penetrate the carpal bones at the wrist to secure a corpse on a cross (1950, p. 102-120). Building on Barbet's studies, and from ancient Roman crucifixion, and from his own studies of the Turin Shroud, Dr. Gambescia has argued that the anchoring nail in the right foot went through the front of the ankle and exited the heel while the left foot was nailed with a single nail atop the center of the right foot.

This investigation presents my own personal quest, in two parts, to seek an answer to the question: Which of the three views of the stance of the feet are most likely to be represented by the data on the Shroud of Turin? In the course of discussing the views of Dr. Gambescia, I will present at least four factual observations about the Shroud blood image which I have been unable to find previously published anywhere else. Moreover, Dr. Gambescia's views have never before been published in any technical presentation. This will be the first.

Part Two will discuss the pattern found on the left foot, will briefly address the issue of our "expectations" of the shape of wounds before discussing the reconstruction and broader implications of Dr. Gambescia's proposal, and will close with some other observations by Dr. Gambescia that deserve research attention. My goal, in this two-part paper, is to make Dr. Gambescia's views publically available, along with the supporting evidence, as a further contribution to the on-going debate of this critical issue.

In addition to the late Joseph M. Gambescia, M.D., others, who have also contributed to this study—the Reverend D. Craig Landis (minister), Malcom Cowen, M.D (forensic pathologist), Kevin E. Moran (optical engineer), Anthony Mercadel (wet/dry chemist, Eastman Kodak), and the late Alan D. Adler (blood chemist)—will also be featured in the study/discussion.

In any scientific endeavor investigators want to know what further contribution probings like this can make. Thus, an important test of Dr. Gambescia's proposal will be: Does it suggest answers to questions about intimate details in the blood markings of the Shroud that remained heretofore unexplained? This paper will briefly explore that.