

The Shelby Award

Purpose:

*To award a scholarship to high school students, preparing for college, for their courage and steadfastness to truth in research concerning the Shroud of Turin.

*To encourage continuing research and to support new research participants who will be qualified and dedicated to truthful, fruitful discovery concerning the Shroud of Turin.

*To form a self-sustaining legacy to endure for the preservation, conservation, and increased understanding of the Shroud of Turin, together with an ever-increasing body of research knowledge, evidence, and documents related to the Shroud of Turin.

Background:

Throughout history the Shroud has been a source of controversy as those who demand proof of faith argue with those who demand proof of "no faith". Neither is possible. Thus, those who have tried in earnest to perform research concerning the Shroud of Turin, while practicing their skills in all truth and open sincerity have been criticized for bias and their work held without merit. This is extremely offensive to those who find themselves in this predicament, whether because they are a person of faith in Christ or not. Either position is susceptible to such unjust judgment.

Here in the year 2016, opinion on political issues and faith foster vitriolic reactions and stay reasonable discussion. The emotions surrounding "political correctness" interferes with open discussion concerning faith and morals, and further treats with disdain those who might openly demonstrate and acknowledge their Christian faith.

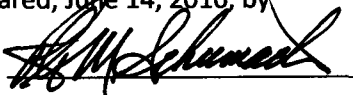
So, it was not surprising, even though it was quite disheartening, to hear a high school student express her concerns on this situation of society as she performed ardent, truthful research for a history project about the Shroud of Turin and its connection to New Mexico history. The historic New Mexico involvement has had a major impact on international history, concerning not only the Shroud of Turin, but also concerning carbon dating and other scientific methods of research. It endures as the body of evidence most critical to further understanding of the Shroud of Turin.

Thus we present the "Shelby Award". Shelby's experience in the course of her project development has triggered in many the need for a response to those who criticize or cast aside research done in truth which might disagree with popular opinion or prejudice. The award is for courage to remain steadfast in performing truthful research. And so, we give this first award to this courageous youth who did her best to present the truth in what was to be considered an open forum of competition. May her work be a lamp to guide future researchers to hold to the truth.

So declared, June 14, 2016, by

Shroud Exhibit and Museum, Inc.

Signed:



Peter M. Schumacher, President of the Board of Directors