

Josiah Thompson

Josiah Thompson is a renowned Private Investigator who once taught Philosophy at Haverford College in Philadelphia, and who published a highly respected, scientific treatment of the ballistics and medical evidence in the Kennedy assassination in 1967. His published works include:

- The Lonely Labyrinth: Kierkegaard's Pseudonymous Works*
- Six Seconds in Dallas (1967)*
- Gumshoe: Reflections in a Private Eye (1988)*

After teaching philosophy at Haverford College for twelve years, in 1976 Mr. Thompson changed careers (in the midst of a sabbatical) from Philosophy Professor to that of self-employed Private Investigator. He continues in that field today.

Involvement with Zapruder Film: In September, 1966, Mr. Thompson showed his future publisher for *Six Seconds in Dallas*, Bernard Geis, a preliminary draft for his proposed book, and was signed to a book contract. One month later, following Loudon Wainwright's call in the October 7, 1966 issue of *Life* magazine for a re-examination of the evidence in the case, and a reopening of the investigation, Bernard Geis Associates recommended to *Life* that they employ Mr. Thompson as a special consultant on their own investigative project at the same time he was researching his book. *Life* agreed, and for a short time Josiah Thompson worked alongside Edward Kern and Dick Billings at *Life*; in the process, he gained access to *Life's* first generation copy of the Zapruder film, and their 4" X 5" color slides of each frame of the movie, becoming the pre-eminent expert during the late 1960s and early 1970s on the contents of the film. *Life's* own reinvestigation of the Kennedy assassination resulted in an in-depth piece in only one issue (in late November, 1966), an attack on the Warren Commission's single-bullet theory called "A Matter of Reasonable Doubt," and was then terminated.

In 1967, when Bernard Geis Associates asked *Time-Life* for rights to publish still frames from the Zapruder film, *Time-Life* refused. When Bernard Geis countered by offering *Time-Life* all profits from the sale of the book in exchange for print rights for selected still frames, the offer was refused. When Bernard Geis proceeded to publish the book using tracings (charcoal drawings) of the film frames instead of photographic reproductions of the frames, *Time-Life* sued to stop publication of Thompson's book. Bernard Geis prevailed, and the book was published in autumn 1967. In a 1988 radio interview, Josiah Thompson said he never made one cent off of the book.

Mr. Thompson is a recognized expert on subjective interpretation of the film's contents, namely, the timing problems implied by the reactions of the Presidential Limousine's occupants as observed on the film, and the ballistics and trajectories of the woundings in Dealey Plaza on November 22, 1963.