



R. E. Gaensslen, Ph.D., Editor

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Journal of Forensic Sciences

APR 15 1996

Randolph H. Robertson, M.D.
Southern Hills Medical Center
Department of Radiology
391 Wallace Road
Nashville TN 37211

Dear Dr. Robertson:

Review of the manuscript "A Re-evaluation of the head wounds etc." (Mss # 96-031) has been completed. I regret to inform you that it has not been accepted for publication in this journal.

Some words of explanation to you are in order with respect to this submission. First, there appears to be nothing materially wrong with this work from a technical standpoint. However, the central issue for us, for some time, has been whether to reopen this controversial matter in this publication. This problem surfaces periodically, when we receive a submission such as this one. I have again discussed the matter again, at length, with knowledgeable people on our board, and we have concluded that the whole subject is best left alone. I am persuaded at this time that no re-examination of the evidence and data in the case, no matter how carefully done, will put the controversial issues to rest, nor convince the various different opinion holders of the errors of their ways. In addition, publication of any medical or technical item on the case would, in our view, open the doors to a flood of items, even the sum total of which will not in the end settle anything or lay the matter to rest.

We appreciate your interest in the journal, and the opportunity to have considered this manuscript. I apologize to you for the time lag in again revisiting the basic policy question I have described. A knowledgeable radiological reviewer points out that the x-rays will be extremely difficult for a non-radiologist to appreciate without extensive marking. Further, the Zapruder frames will not reproduce well in black and white.

Sincerely,

R.E. Gaensslen, Ph.D.

Randolph H. Robertson, M.D.
Southern Hills Medical Center
Department of Radiology
391 Wallace Road
Nashville, Tennessee 37211

April 21, 1996

R. E. Gaensslen, Ph.D., Editor
Journal of Forensic Sciences
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Dear Dr. Gaensslen:

It was with great disappointment that I received your letter saying that my manuscript (Mss#96-031), "A Re-evaluation of the Head Wounds in the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy: Evidence of A Second Gunshot Wound" was denied publication in your journal. I had hoped that the paper's technical merits, which you acknowledged, would have allowed it to have been published so that members of the medical community as a whole could evaluate it and openly discuss it's validity. The publication of new ideas or interpretations of evidence in scientific journals and the free and open academic debate which ensues has been the time honored method by which physician's have revised, expanded and refined their communal knowledge.

No matter how well thought out, every paper can be improved by evaluation by disinterested third parties. With respect to this, I want to point out what I believe is an oversight. When papers are returned after peer review, it is customary that the comments of the peer reviewers be included. In the package of materials that you returned, these were lacking. I would greatly appreciate it if you could take this opportunity to extend this courtesy and forward the comments of the reviewers so that these could be incorporated when I submit this paper to another journal. Additionally, if possible, the return of the illustrations from the other two copies of the article sent to you would be of great help.

I would hope you would reconsider your decision not to publish my article in your journal but based upon our phone conversation, I believe any efforts in this regard would be futile. Despite your decision, I want to thank you for having presented my article for peer review and I look forward to receiving their comments which might aide me in any future attempts at publication.

Sincerely,



Randolph H. Robertson, M.D.



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Journal of Forensic Sciences

MAY 06 1996

Randolph H. Robertson, M.D.
Southern Hills Medical Center
Department of Radiology
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Dear Dr. Robertson:

Thank you for your letter of 21 April 1996. There were no substantive comments from reviewers that I did not include in my letter to you.

I also thought that I had returned all the art in the file. I have a recollection that one reviewer may have misplaced a copy of the material in the course of a big move, and was thus unable to return it to us. I will look further for other copies, and if I find any, I'll return them to you asap.

Sincerely,

R.E. Gaensslen