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**First prepared in October 2006 by the Survival Research Institute of Canada (Debra Barr and Walter Meyer zu Erpen).** Capitalization of any name or subject in the text below indicates that you will find an entry on that topic in the forthcoming third edition of Rosemary Ellen Guiley's *Encyclopedia of Ghosts and Spirits* (October 2007).

### **Fisher, Joe (1947-2001)**

Author, journalist and instructor Joe Fisher was born Andrew Joseph Hilton Fisher in Bristol, England, on 18 June 1947. He immigrated in 1971 to Toronto, Canada, where he became well-known for his publications investigating the authenticity of particular CHANNELING and REINCARNATION cases. During his journalism career, he was an investigative reporter for the Toronto *Star* and the *Toronto Sun*.

Turning his focus to the paranormal in the mid-1970s, Fisher produced *Predictions* (1980), *The Case for Reincarnation* (1984), *Life Between Life: Scientific Explorations into the Void Separating One Incarnation from the Next* (with Dr. Joel Whitton, 1986), and *Hungry Ghosts: An Investigation into Channelling and the Spirit World* (1990). Combined, Fisher's books, in twenty-two languages, including a novel, travel book, and several other titles, have sold more than one million copies.

Some of his books on the paranormal created controversy, as Fisher appeared to believe in SURVIVAL AFTER DEATH yet the conclusions that he offered following research into specific cases were negative. According to his detractors, he did not offer any strong evidence supporting his views.

In *Hungry Ghosts*, Fisher documented his efforts to prove the existence of several spirit guides, including travels in Europe and the Near East in search of historical evidence that they really existed. Disillusioned by his inability to substantiate their historical existence through extensive investigation of the claims of one CONTROL and her fellow discarnates, Fisher concluded that the guides were earthbound spirits unable to admit that they were dead, but not highly evolved spiritual guides.

### **Further Reading:**

Fisher, Joe. *The Case for Reincarnation*. Toronto, Ontario: Collins Publishers, 1984.

Fisher, Joe. *Hungry Ghosts: An Investigation into Channelling and the Spirit World*. Toronto: Doubleday Canada Limited, 1990.

University of Manitoba finding aid to the Joe Fisher fonds (MSS 148).