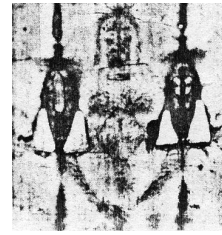


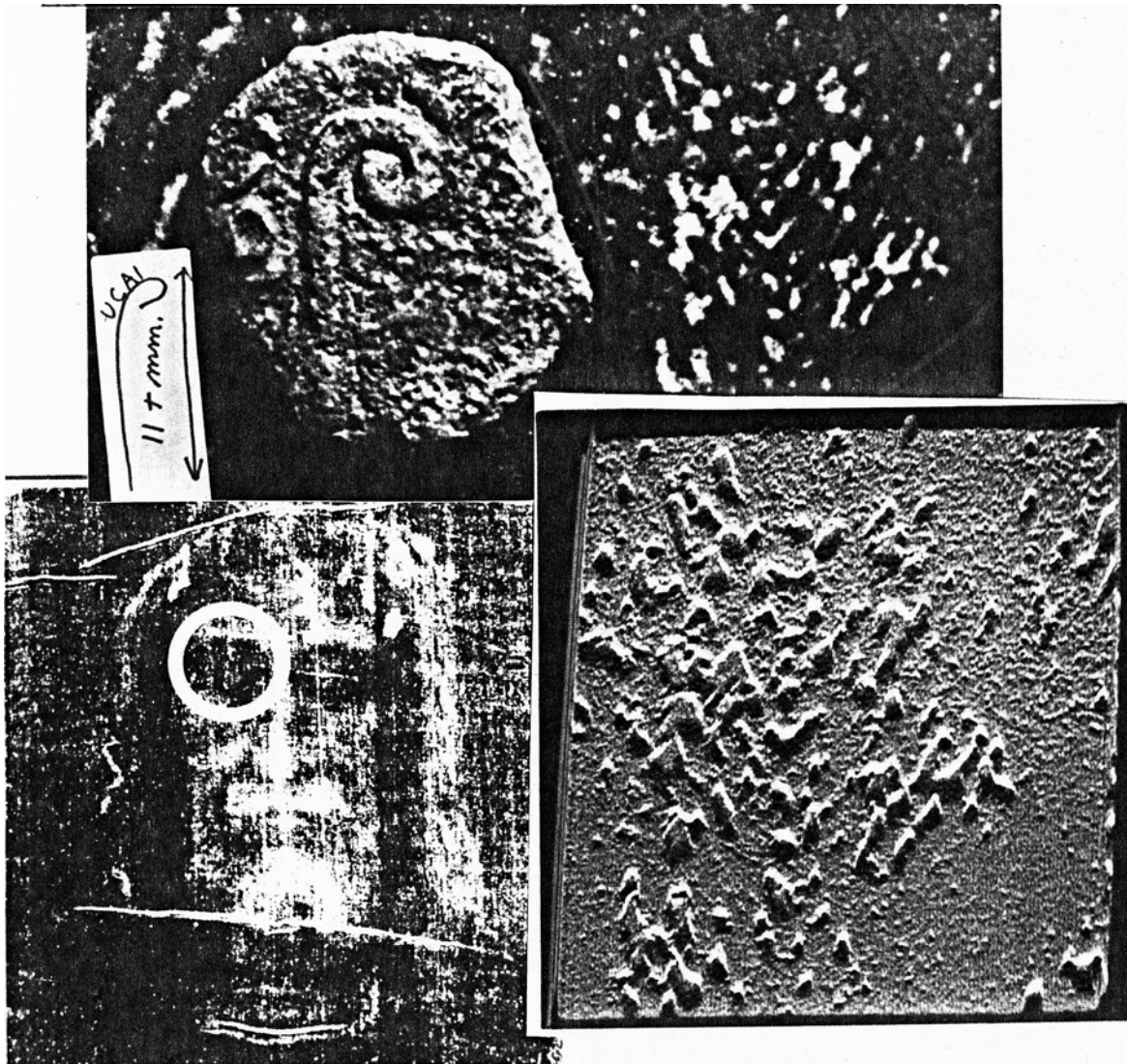
SHROUD NEWS

A NEWSLETTER ABOUT THE HOLY SHROUD OF TURIN
By REX MORGAN - Author of PERPETUAL MIRACLE



Issue No. 8

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EDITORIAL

Since the publication of SHROUD NEWS number 7 we have read of Father Francis Filas's new announcements about the coin image over the right eye. An article based on this new work appears in this issue. We are also publishing an article I wrote several months ago concerning the blood and DNA possibilities.

There have been several other interesting references to come into our hands recently. Some readers will have seen an article in the 30th July edition of AUSTRALASIAN POST. This article was written by Peter Skinner to whom I referred in issue 7. Skinner is the public relations director for the Brooks Institute of Photography in Santa Barbara, California. An expatriate Australian, Skinner in his article makes kindly reference to my official visit to the Brooks Institute and to my book and other Shroud activities. It is a good article for popular reading and reaches, as claimed by the publishers, a million readers in Australia and New Zealand.

I have also been told recently that the exhibition in Santa Barbara is so popular that it has been extended to September. There is still time for Australians to see it if they happen to be going that way although, as Skinner reveals, I had begun to discuss with Ernest Brooks, President of the Institute the possibility of bringing the entire exhibition to Australia at some time in the near future.

I also have recent articles from Italy on the results of research carried out independently of the American STURP team and I hope to write about these shortly. (They are being accurately translated from the Italian for me at the moment).

In the meantime I have a great deal more material to write about for SHROUD NEWS and although the pressure of my immediate agenda is considerable I think that your continued subscription to SHROUD NEWS will be rewarding.

REX MORGAN

FILAS IN THE NEWS AGAIN

Professor Francis Filas of Chicago has been in the news again with his coin identification theory. Readers of SHROUD NEWS will recall the full treatment we gave of the Filas theory in issue number 2. Father Filas had studied enlarged pictures of the eye areas of the face of the man in the Shroud and had come to the conclusion that they reveal at least on the right eye a clearly identifiable coin of the time of Pontius Pilate.

When I met Filas in Chicago in April of this year he told me that he was about to visit a computer exhibition in that city and arrange for one of his enlargements to be put into a VP8 Image Analyzer. SHROUD NEWS readers will be familiar with the VP8 Image Analyzer system which allows a three dimensional image to be thrown up on a television screen from two dimensional photographs of the surface of distant planets. This is what it is used for in the United States NASA space laboratory when Jumper and Jackson made the remarkable discovery in 1976 that photographs of the Holy Shroud also create a perfect three dimensional image which no other normal photo will do.

One of the fascinating side issues to the Filas research is that some of these very small details can better be seen on photographs which eliminate or reduce the marks of the weave of the cloth. Image enhancement photographs such as many of those shown at the Santa Barbara Exhibition this year also aim to eliminate the weave for better scrutiny of the image itself. In a discussion with Filas in Chicago he explained to me that the worse the reproduction of the photograph often the easier it is to see the coin markings. He cited, in addition to the references given in his original thesis, the photograph contained in Toynbee: Crucible of Christianity published in 1969. In that book there is a full-size reproduction of the face of the man in the Shroud. Filas's own printer had said that it had been printed in West Germany from a very washed-out plate. It was so washed out that practically all the weave is lost and you can see only grey or black where the weave should be. If you look at the eyes and nose area of the face you can clearly distinguish the coins, the lettering and the lituus as well as Paleohebrew alphabets which are the subject of Filas's further research and we look forward to its results.

Since Filas's announcement in July 1980 that he had identified the coin imprints he has released (11th June 1981) the results of the computerised image analysis confirming the identification. Our Australian newspapers carried brief reports and in some cases photographs of the analyser image from world cables at the time but, needless to say, Filas has sent the whole information and photographs to SHROUD NEWS.

On 28th May 1981 personnel of the Log E/Interpretations System at Overland Park, Kansas, successfully demonstrated the three-dimensional quality of the imprints of the coins thus pointing to a 3D coin source for the markings.

Filas had discovered and reported a previously unnoticed tiny astrologer's staff and four Greek letters UCAI of the name Tiberius Caesar in an area over the right eye of the man in the Shroud image. As reported earlier at least 24 coincidences of dimensions, locations, selection, order and angles fitted only a coin issue by Pontius Pilate between 29 and 32 A.D. The supposition was that such a coin had been placed on the eyes to keep them closed in death and this is a well-known Jewish burial custom of that time.

Father Filas, in his 1980 paper, has indicated that the mathematical probabilities practically eliminated any chance that the coin marking might have occurred on the cloth of the Shroud by accident. The Filas claim generated international discussion because the existence of such a linkage to Pontius Pilate would date the Shroud of Turin to Palestine and to the time of the death of Jesus Christ.

The suspected existence of the coins on the eyes of the Man in the Shroud was first deduced in the mid 1970s when John Jackson, Eric Jumper and Bill Mottern found that computerised image analysis revealed button-like projections over the right and left eyes.

On his own, Father Filas independently worked on the theory that highly enlarged and high-contrast photographs (he uses those originally taken in 1931 by Enrie) might reveal further detail because the high contrast would have washed out the interfering weave pattern without destroying the markings encoded on the cloth.

The results of the Log E/Interpretations Systems study confirmed

this theory. Their Standard Earthview equipment digitalized the photographs to an extent never before performed in any such analysis of the Shroud.

Image analysis of this kind works on the same principle that holds for photographs from the planets and outer space. Relative intensity of lights and shadows indicates distance from a camera. If ordinary photographs or paintings were subjected to this type of image analysis, the equipment would reveal gross distortions in the visual display. (These facts have been demonstrated by Jackson and Jumper and the editor of SHROUD NEWS has seen Jackson at work with the Image analyser).

Because of some unknown process, this relationship of light intensity to distance holds true for the Shroud of Turin. The highest projections of the coin touched the Shroud cloth and some of the projections left their marks on the weave of the cloth.

Father Filas said recently: "This new image analysis not only confirmed the existence of a Pontius Pilate coin on the right eye, but it added further information concerning a coin on the left eye. The outlines of such a coin on the left eye can now be determined quite accurately. Additional significant details, however, are so sparse that they do not permit conclusive identification."

"The most likely possibility", he went on, "seems to be another Pontius Pilate coin issued in 29 A.D. in honour of Julia, the mother of Tiberius Caesar. On one of its sides, three ears of corn are bound together. On the photographs of the Shroud, two curving lines of sheaves of corn appear to be present, but I emphasize that this identification cannot be made with the certainty that holds true for the right eye".

The four photos reproduced on our front cover illustrate the Filas story:

- A. A typical Pontius Pilate coin, extant today, showing astrologers staff and lettering.
- B. Negative picture of the right-eye area of the Shroud image. Astrologer's staff is upright left of centre. Greek letters UCAI in upper left area from 10 to 11 o'clock.

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THE SHROUD AND THE SECOND COMING by REX MORGAN

I flew a kite about the Holy Shroud in an article published in September 1978 in an Australian provincial newspaper (whilst the 1978 Exposition at Turin was still in progress) and the same kite was flown in Chapter IX of my book PERPETUAL MIRACLE.

The kite did not attract much support from my many religious friends but I still think it is an interesting one and I still refer to it in my lectures. In essence I argued that the Holy Shroud, whether it is genuine or not, clearly contains all kinds of scientific data which has been simply waiting for modern man to develop the technology to interpret. It took two thousand years for us to realise that the image on the cloth is a photographic negative which, once reversed, reveals the incredible detail of anatomical and medical data which modern forensic and medical techniques can interpret. There have been several attempts to explain away the negativity of the image but none of these is convincing.

The second most significant scientific property of the image was discovered by Jackson and Jumper in 1976 when they realised that the image was three-dimensional. No other photograph in existence performs in the same way when placed in a VP 8 Image Analyser. Photographs of the Holy Shroud throw up a perfect three-dimensional picture. A photograph of anything else gives a distorted picture only.

I speculated (and I speculate now) that there could still be further scientific data for which we have yet to invent the technology to interpret. I suggested in my book the apparently ridiculous possibility of sound information being somehow recorded in the image. Another matter I suggested was that if in the future techniques were developed to transmit matter through energy -- one of the many things that happen in science-fiction then it might be possible one day to transmit data from the Shroud which will recreate the actual Christ on a laboratory table. Heady stuff, I know, but no more remarkable than the transmission of sound, coloured pictures through energy waves which is commonplace today would have seemed to our predecessors of only a hundred years ago or less.

I was fascinated by a further comment I later discovered by a British scientist involved in the study of reconstituted DNA in the blood and the cloning techniques being developed at the moment. At the time

there was no certainty, only suspicion, that there might be real blood on the Shroud. We now know that there is (see report in SHROUD NEWS No 5).

On the basis that there might be I talked with the British scientist last year and the following report is based on the interview. The scientist has asked me not to identify him for a number of reasons.

I asked the simple question "Could you clone the person whose blood it is on the cloth from the DNA residing in the minute portions of blood still on it?"

The answer was that one would firstly have to determine whether DNA is likely to have lasted under the kind of chemical or temperature regime the porphyrin derivative on the cloth had been subjected to for the past two thousand years. It is possible that the DNA could have been destroyed by these extremes of temperature and it could also have been destroyed by moulds and fungi on the cloth. Even if you identified DNA you would have to be certain that you were not extracting DNA derived from the fingerprints of the various people who have handled the cloth over the years. You would have to develop ways of assessing that it was essentially DNA from the blood but it could certainly be done, provided the DNA was in good nick.

You expect something like 10 to the power of 5 copies of complete genes per millilitre of blood (that is about ten drops of blood). If you have 10 to the power of 5 copies of complete genes you should be able to clone a number of genes from these complete copies but with present technology it wouldn't be possible to clone all of the genes in those copies. So at the moment if the DNA were in good order we could clone bits of this individual's genes but there is certainly no way we can clone the complete individual or anything like the complete individual but one would hope that in time, in quite a few years this kind of thing would become technically feasible.

My next question was "If you were able to do this would you see the result as helping to confirm some of the characteristics of the man whose blood it was?"

He replied "I'm not actually clear why you'd want to do it. You can confirm the characteristics of the individual more easily by looking at his physical attributes on the image in the Shroud. I don't really

understand enough about the Roman Catholic theology to know whether a clone bank of Christ's genes would be considered desirable. In history they have collected actual relics of saints and they have thought these are desirable things and presumably they would think that copies of Christ's genes would be particularly holy. I personally think that it would only be interesting if you could simply completely reconstruct the individual concerned and that is not possible at the moment".

I then spoke of my published "kite" about the second coming and the scientist said that he had proposed precisely the same theory to a well-known churchman who seemed disappointed that he could not do this for perhaps thirty years.

Our discussion then turned to the nature of the image on the cloth. The scientist said that the cause of the image would have to be determined before any real discussion of the origin of the cloth could be held. "I think", he said, "if we can find a purely natural way in which this image was created then a number of us will be convinced it is the genuine burial shroud. If we have to invoke holy beams of light pulsing out from the body at the moment when Jesus was resurrected, the thing will lose all its credibility in the scientific world. I don't think we believe in a kind of holy energy. I made a suggestion that the image might have been formed by the ironing of the cloth. It turns out that there are a whole number of small iron particles scattered over the cloth and the debate is whether or not these were used to touch up the image or whether they were actually used as an integral part of the image formation and I wondered whether in fact a hot iron running over the cloth might release or certainly should release small quantities of very small rust particles into the cloth. I have the theory that the image was formed by, at some stage, ironing over the cloth. There are whole numbers of other theories. One approach is simply to say that this is Jesus Christ so you don't need a purely rational mechanism for the formation of the image, or there is the approach, which I would prefer, that if it is Christ's image, his disciples did in some way enhance a latent image on the cloth by some mechanical means".

My questions were now in an area about which the scientist could say no more about the image as he was privy to scientific information not at that time released. I took another tack to provide some

interesting comment: "What do you think the significance of the Shroud would be if it is proved genuine?"

"I think it would be of enormous religious significance. I don't know whether it will have any greater significance than that. I don't think one could assume, even if one could physically reconstruct the individual concerned, that he would necessarily run true to form and reform the world and be a second coming. I don't think you can work on that assumption but I think the most important feature of the Shroud if it did turn out to be authenticated would be that people might then stop to question some of the other 'truths' the church has been maintaining for some time. For a long time there has been a denigration of relics and occasional disproof that one relic was not what it was claimed to be. But if it turned out that the church had actually got hold of the real burial shroud of Christ and it was scientifically proved, this would do the Church's ego a great deal of good. I imagine that they might well get a number of converts".

He went on to reflect on the church and biological research. "In scientific research something appears to be a mystery because you don't actually ask the right questions. Once you do ask the right questions there is often a very simple solution. An example is the discovery of the mode of action of DNA itself. Immediately when people realised what the structure of the DNA molecule was it became obvious as to why life was able to replicate itself, why a father can pass on this information to his sons and you could now see this at the molecular level. Before that it was a mystery and often solutions to mysteries are quite trivial. I think in the case of the Shroud you conceive it to be a mystery because you are not starting from the assumption that there has to be a simple, rational explanation for it. While there is a simple rational explanation lacking, people are tending to assume that there is only a supernatural explanation which can give rise to it. I am absolutely convinced that that is not true; there has to be some very mundane explanation as to how the image was made latent and how it was developed and I think you'll find over the next few years that of the several different hypotheses advanced one will emerge triumphant and be fairly widely accepted. Some people are hoping that the only kind of explanation is that some kind of laser light was emitted by the body at the moment of resurrection. Even if that were true I expect we could probably think of a much more mundane explanation.

I pressed the scientist on the aspect that most scientists are now having to admit rational explanations for numerous phenomena upon which they have remained silent for hundreds of years. I cited telekinesis, and the work done in Russia and America on this and Kirlian auras.

"I suppose," he said, "that there are some rare occurrences which are not explained too readily by existing scientific methods or theories but that is because the world is a terribly complicated place and ones theories are only proved to be an approximation to what is going on. An example is the weather pattern. One does not have to invoke the gods to explain the weather pattern across the British Isles. One works on the general assumption that knowing wind speeds, pressures in different parts of the world you can come up with a calculation. The fact that most of the weather experts in this country get those calculations wrong, and weather forecasting is hopeless shouldn't be taken as indicating some kind of breakdown in the overall laws of mathematics: it is just a failure by us to apply them.

I think in the case of the Shroud the image formation will not turn out to be supernatural. I think we will find that there is a straightforward explanation, not so straightforward that we can see it at the moment, but when we get more information to drop into place. So I wouldn't think too much more about the nature of the image because I don't think it is going to be some kind of biological mystery which is going to open a door."

I suggested that his (and my) cloning theory was outrageous.

He agreed but took the opportunity to accuse the Church of making equally outrageous statements about DNA techniques. He was referring to the general condemnation by a number of churches of the cloning theory generally. "I think it is a great pity that the church is not giving a lead in the DNA area because if it doesn't, the whole of morality will be taken over by the pragmatists. It could at least try to see whether there are circumstances in which it could be an advantage to do recon-DNA work on human beings because there are a lot of disease which we could identify as genetic and yet the church continues to play a destructive role to the extent that it says it is good that children are born deformed because it brings out the goodness in other people looking after them. If they continue to make statements

like that they are going to lose the overall sympathy of the modern world. So I think the church is equally as outrageous as I am. Work with DNA can do a great deal of good. If the church were to make some constructive statement about it they might even be given some entree to making moral statements in the future based on scientific fact. In some ways we scientists would like to have a moral lead."

This may have moved, for SHROUD NEWS readers, away from the Shroud, but the whole question of the relationship between the religious and the scientists of the world is at the basis of the study of the Holy Shroud.

In this century there has been the most remarkable coincidence of science and religion through the Holy Shroud. I believe it is quite an interesting aspect of sindonology to have statements such as the ones on this article for us to consider.

The question still remains: what is the nature of the basic image on the Shroud? Is it possible that residual DNA will be found on the blood on the Shroud? Is it then possible that some of this blood will be cloned to provide further information about the historical Christ?

Continued from page 5

C. Circle identifies area of shroud image face under review.

D. Photo of 3D Image Analyzer showing same details of photo B. This analysis brings into clear relief the tiny markings on the cloth.

SHROUD NEWS NO. 9

In the next issue there will be more information gathered by Rex Morgan during his eventful discussions with members of the STURP Team in California this year.

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CONTRIBUTIONS

Please feel free to write to SHROUD NEWS with any comment about the newsletter itself or about the subject of the Holy Shroud. The newsletter now goes beyond our circle in Australia to several other countries.

FUTURE ISSUES

We have in hand several more scientific reports as well as much information gained since the Santa Barbara congress. This will be published in the next few issues as well as latest information as it becomes available.

PUBLICATION

All information and opinion published in this newsletter is given in good faith to pass on to interested persons, matters concerning the Holy Shroud of Turin. It is edited (and mainly written) by REX MORGAN and is published by:

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