

READING THE SHROUD, CALLED THE FIFTH GOSPEL,  
WITH THE AID OF THE COMPUTER

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The three-dimensional images of the Shroud' obtained with the computer revealed many details which were undetectable or doubtful in the original two dimensional images.

As these discoveries are compatible with the Gospel, the authenticity of the Shroud has been greatly strengthened.

In fact, almost the whole Passion of the Man of the Shroud according to the Gospel could be read in the data supplied by the computer. Obviously, this is only a probable "reading", because, after 2000 years, very clear details can be interpreted in terms of hypotheses or, at most, probabilities.

Nevertheless, it would be interesting to list the new data obtained with the computer, making a distinction between data previously undiscovered or doubtful on the 2-dimensional images. Undiscovered data include (numbers refer to the details on the illustrations of the face and body images):

- the blood on the whole face. This is the logical consequence of a third dimension, corresponding to a single transformation law of all points of the face, even if without streams and clots of blood;
- streams and clots of blood, most of which were previously undiscovered, flowing down or towards the fore part of the face and the hair;
- the clot of blood cut on the left cheek near the left nostril (1);
- the mark which begins on the right side of the hair is slightly cut on the right cheek and on the nose and stops on the above mentioned clots (2);
- the swelling of the right zygoma (3);
- the cuts on the left zygoma (4);
- the wrinkled clot on the left eyelid (5);
- the two streams of blood flowing down from the nose (6);
- the drop of blood under the upper lip (7);
- the clearly stereoscopic drop of blood on the right side of the upper lip (8);
- a sharp-pointed drop of blood on the right nostril (9);

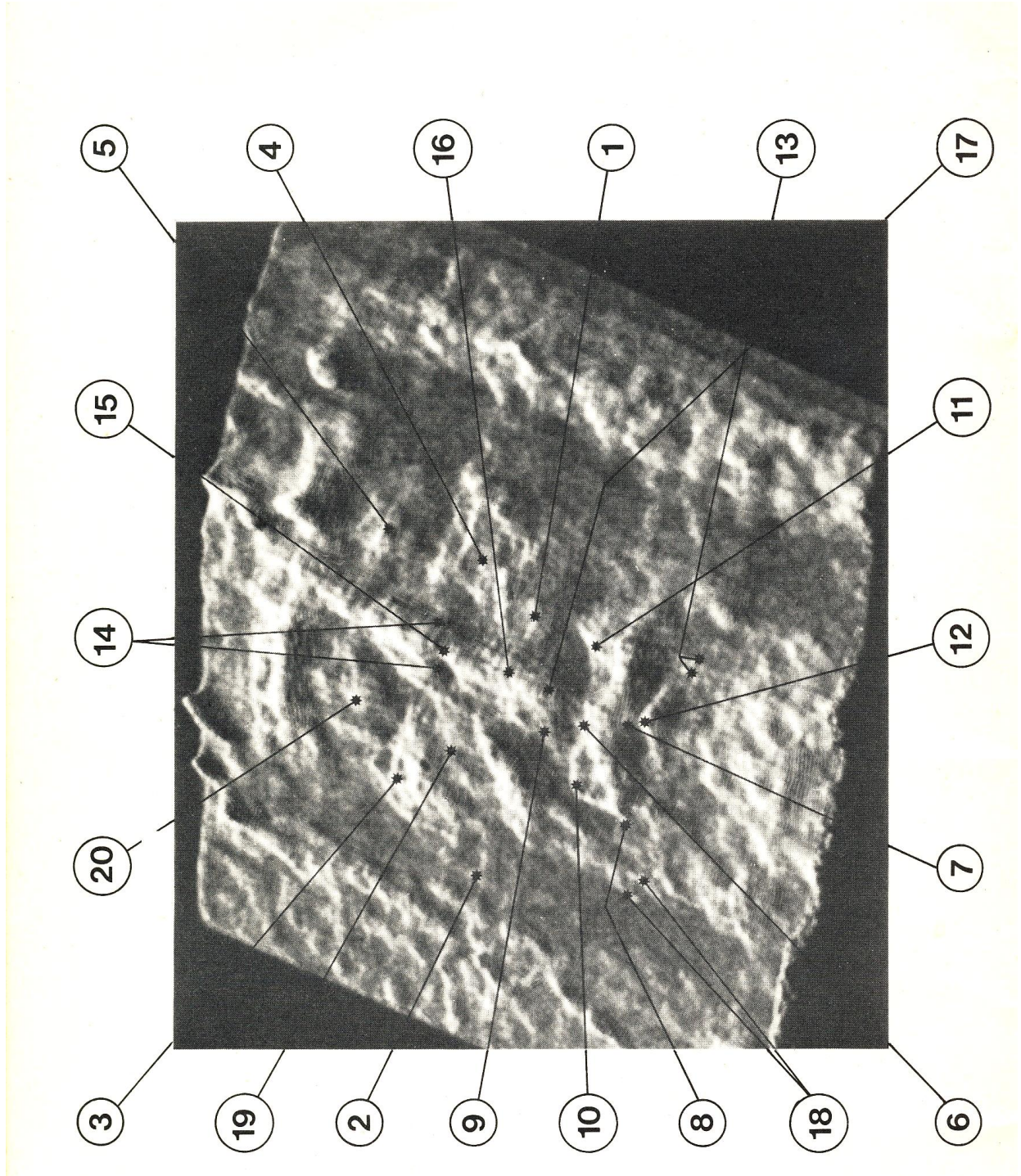


Fig. 1

- the clot of blood on the right side of the upper lip (10);
- the clot of blood on the left side of the upper lip (11);
- the clot of blood on the lower lip under the drop of blood flowing from the central part of the upper lip (12);
- the flowing aspect of the two streams of blood on the left side of the lower lip (13);
- the two holes at the sides of the nose (14);
- the cut on the nose near the two holes (15);
- the excoriation of the tip of the nose (16);
- the slight deviation of the tip of the nose (17);
- the drops of blood on the right side of the beard (18);
- the possible relief of the left-hand thumb on the 3-D image of the body (21).

Of the second data we can list:

- the cut on the right cheek deriving from a cudgel blow (19);
- the circular mark on the right eyelid probably left by a coin (20).

Assuming that the following considerations are hypothetical and probabilities, the Shroud can be read as follows with the aid of the computer:

- The Man of the Shroud sweated blood, as supported by the presence of blood in all the points of the face.

Therefore, he received heavy blows such as the numerous scourgings to be seen on the body image, the cudgel blow to be seen on the right cheek (19) and on the nose (15), the blow or blows on the clearly swollen right zygoma (13). As a consequence, he suffered the breakage of the nasal septum which is seen to be deviated and pierced by two lateral holes (14); the nose lost blood (6) which dropped from the upper lip (7), forming a clot on the lower lip (12) and Fig. 2.

- The Man of the Shroud began the way to Golgotha with the cross on the right shoulder, as shown by the imprint on the linen wrap. At a certain moment, the forehead began to bleed with a stream flowing on the left side of the face (Fig. 3).

This stream formed a clot on the left eyelid (5), a clot near the left nostril (1) and the clot on the left side of the upper lip (11). This last clot (11) enlarged and took on a sharp-pointed appearance and acted as a watershed; in fact it divided the stream of blood into two rivulets which flowed on the left side of the lower lip (13). As this stream did not soak the beard vertically and as the clot near the left nostril was clearly cut while the victim was on the cross (as explained later) and hence was not fully clotted, the stream did not appear long before



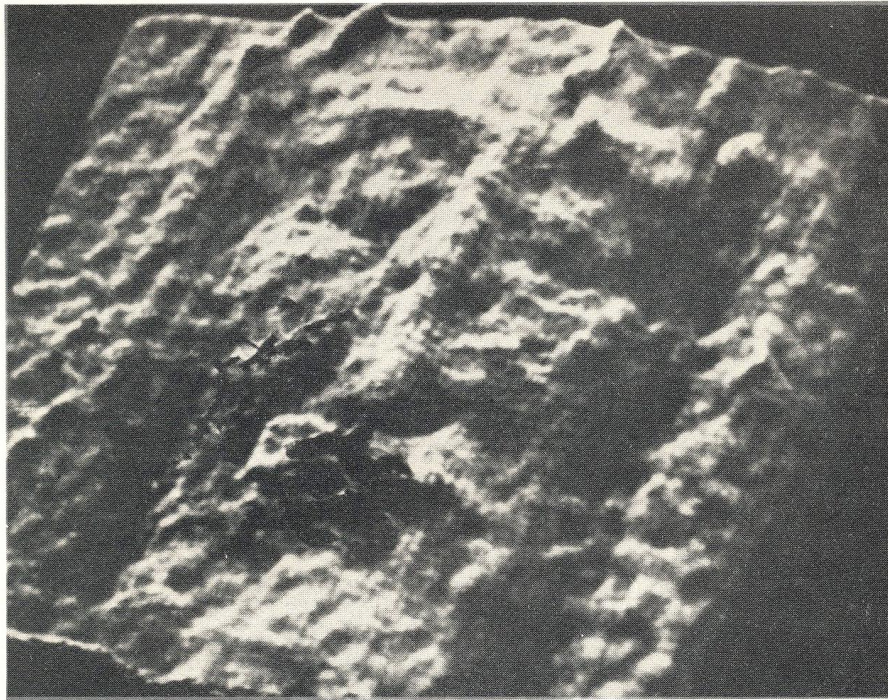


Fig. 2



Fig. 3

crucifixion. The Man of the Shroud fell, striking the left cheek on the ground, where the cheek was cut by the gravel (4); furthermore, the crown of thorns cut the skin, giving rise at that moment, i.e., not long before crucifixion, to the stream of blood mentioned above and to other streams which soaked the hair.

As shown by the nail marks on both wrists and feet, the Man of the Shroud was crucified. After a certain time he bent his head towards the right side. This brought about the deviation of the stream on the right side of the face (Fig. 4) causing it to flow along the right side of the nose to the right nostril (9) from whence blood dripped on the right side of the lip (10) and then onto the beard (8).

The clot of blood on the left eyelid was wrinkled (5) by the movement of the eyelid. When the Man of the Shroud bent his head the stream of blood was diverged and thus did not cover the wrinkles; this clot was quite large and stuck the eyelid of the left eye together.

The position of the drop on the right side of the lip (8) shows the inclination of the face before death. The other streams of blood also flowed towards the right side, as clearly shown in Fig. 1.

A person with a sponge soaked in vinegar and put on the tip of a branch of hyssop refreshed the Man of the Shroud: in fact, we can note that the clot on the left side of the cheek (1) is cut.

The upper part of the cut is straight and may correspond to the flat part of the tip of the hyssop branch, due to the cut with a sickle, while the lower part is round and may correspond to the cylindrical part of the tip.

Furthermore, the mark beginning from the right side of the hair (2), is slightly cut on the right cheek and on the nose and stops on the clot, showing that at the beginning the tip of the hyssop branch was placed on the right side of the hair and then dragged across so that the sponge reached the mouth of the Man of the Shroud and caused the cut seen on the clot of blood.

The last drop dripped from the nostril and is greatly diverged towards the right side (9). In fact, when He died the muscles of the neck were fully distended and the head bent down more.

The drop has a pointed form, because the gradual decrease in blood flow caused a decrease in its section, and its weight was not sufficient to make it fall.<sup>1</sup> If the clots and streams of blood, which can be clearly seen in Fig. 1, are colored red, the result is the impressive and deeply moving mask of blood shown in Fig. 5.

To ensure that the Man of the Shroud was dead, a soldier stabbed him in the right chest with a lance, as shown in Fig. 6 and (22), and water and blood flowed out.

The death on the cross is also confirmed by the fact that all streams of blood are in the fore part of the face and none are directed towards the back, where they would have arrived had the Man of the Shroud

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1. This is a proof that the blood ceased flowing while he was on the cross and hence that the Man died on the cross.





Fig. 4

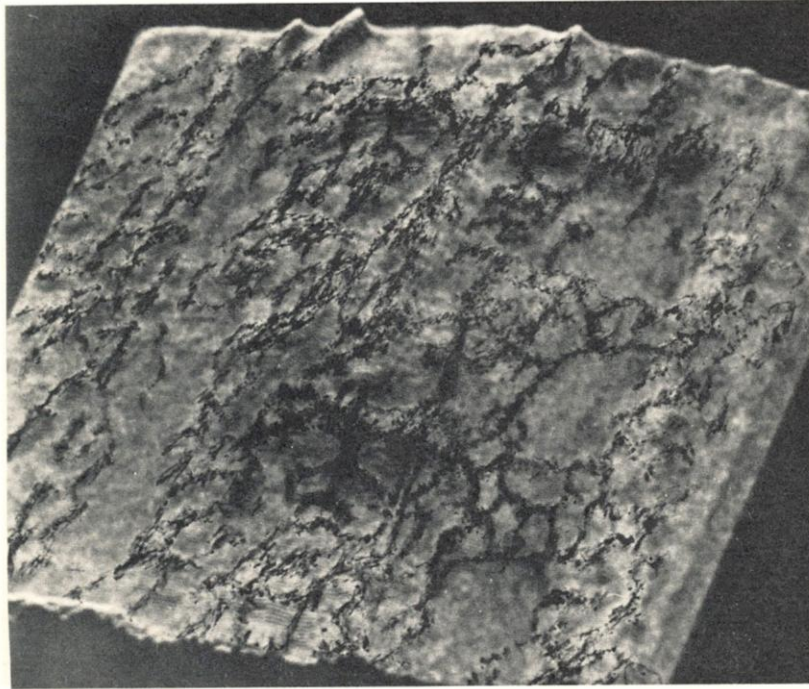


Fig. 5



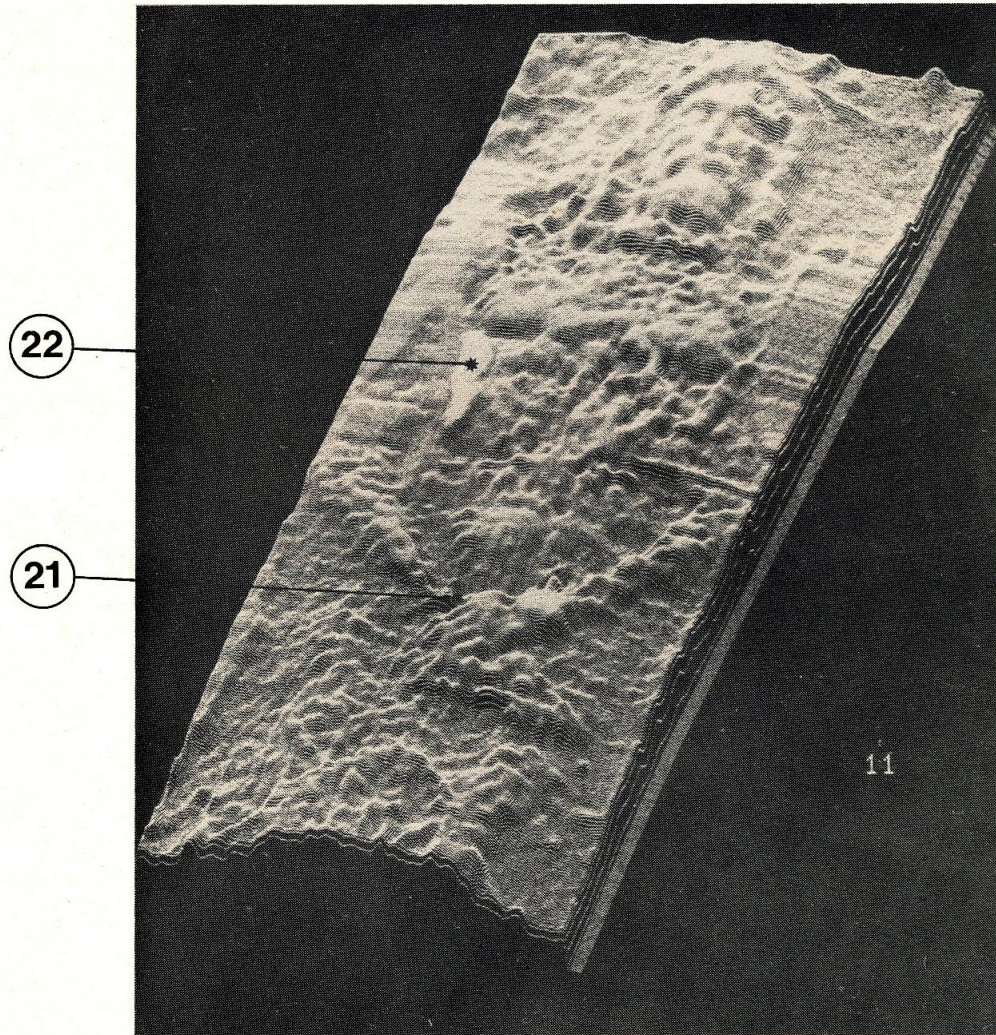


Fig. 6



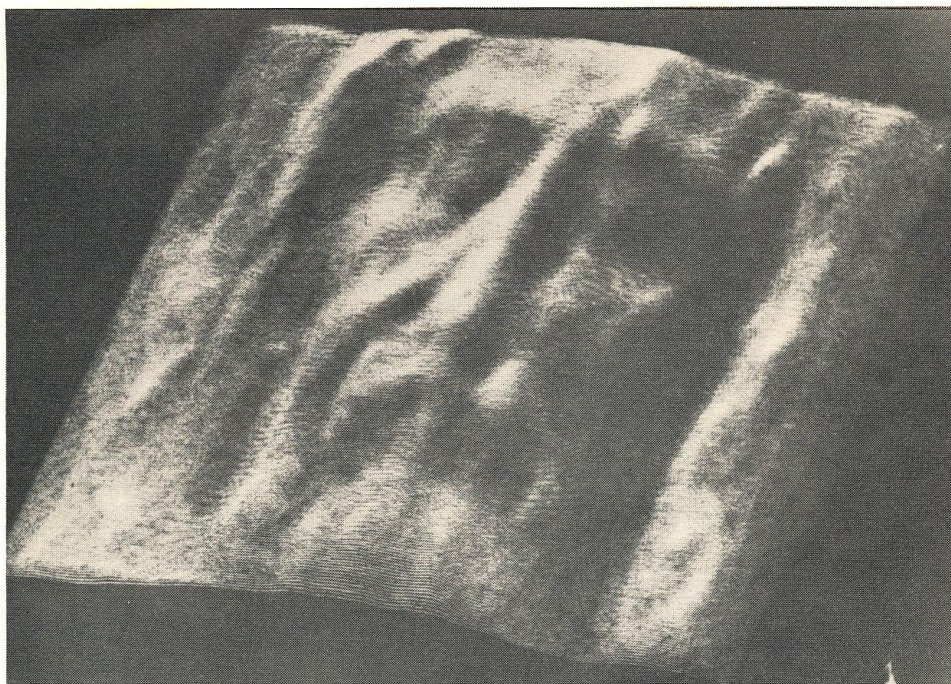


Fig. 7



Fig. 8



continued to lose blood after the deposition from the cross. To keep the right eyelid shut, a coin was placed on it, as is clearly shown by the circular flat area in Fig. 1 (21). The coin must then have been removed as the mark is impressed in the linen wrap.

The striking similarities of these facts with Gospel are a clear contribution in favour of the Shroud's authenticity.

Hence, the probability that the Man of the Shroud was Jesus Christ is greatly increased by the results obtained with the aid of the computer.

The computer showed us also what the face of Jesus Christ probably looked like before the Passion or after Resurrection, through an electronic cleaning of the blood and wounds which provides the almost natural images of the face (Figs. 7 and 8).

If the beard and hair, as shown in Fig. 1, are suitably darkened, the resulting face is that of a young man who could be 33 years old. This is a further confirmation that the Man of the Shroud and Jesus Christ could be the same person, as shown by the beautiful face of Fig. 9.

I thank Don Piero Coero Borga for his advice and encouragement.

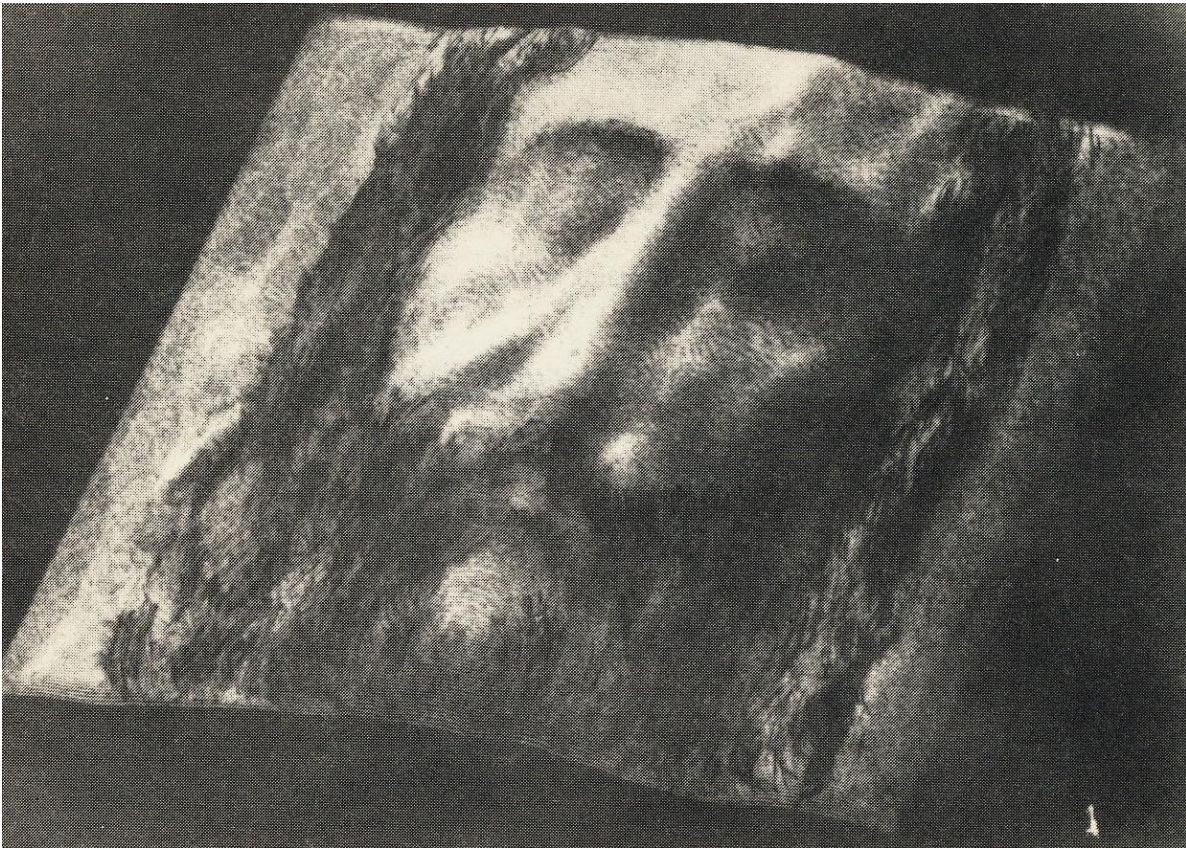


Fig. 9



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