

Name: John C. Iannone, Author and Lecturer, U.S.A.

Questions:

1. **When** and **how** did you first hear about the Shroud?
I first started following the work of STURP in 1978.

2. What interested you about the Shroud?
At the time, I neither believed nor disbelieved in the authenticity of the cloth but became intrigued by the findings of STURP and pursued more information from their scientific articles, conversations and conferences. I was especially grateful to Barrie Schwartz who took time to answer questions and send me photos, etc.

3. Do you believe the Shroud is likely the burial cloth of Jesus Christ, a fake relic, or are you uncertain what to believe?
Over the years, I became fully convinced of the authenticity of the Shroud.

4. What, if any, actions did you take after you first encountered the Shroud (e.g., conduct research, contact people involved with it, etc.)?
I very much dedicated myself to both the personal study and communication to others. I have done research, written books, lectured extensively and developed a website.

5. Have you ever seen the Shroud at any of the exhibitions? If yes, which years?
In 1998 I was honored to have an extensive viewing with colleagues during the Conference in Turin with Cardinal Saldarini.

I viewed it again this year in April 2010.

6. What did you experience when you were in the presence of the Shroud?
My 1998 opportunity can only be described as a "life altering" event. After learning all that I did over the previous 20 years,

I decided to begin a lecture series. With the help of Barrie Schwortz and others, I put together a powerpoint presentation and haven't stopped talking since.

7. Have you ever been involved in any scientific study of the Shroud? If yes, please describe **what motivated** your work and **why**.

Not directly, but through study of the work of STURP and other I carefully studied and evaluated the science and history of the Shroud.

8. Have you ever written anything about the Shroud, either factual or fictitious? If yes, please describe **what motivated** your work and **why**.

Yes, I have written extensively because I became convinced that the Shroud was, to me, the "Visual Gospel" that told in compelling images what the Gospels told in dramatic words.

9. Do you favor or believe any of the current theories on how the image got onto the cloth? If so please name the theory.

Personally, I believe that there was a form of autoradiation as discussed by Dr. Whanger and others and that this was associated with the Resurrection. I became more convinced when studying the passages on the Transfiguration and references to Jesus as Light in the New Testament.

10. Do you feel that you have a calling or vocation to be involved somehow with the Shroud? If yes, please describe **what motivated** you to make a commitment to the Shroud and **why**.

Yes, it is definitely my avocation and is becoming more and more my ministry because it tells such a compelling story. One of the things that motivated me was that I spoke at many Catholic Churches and was then invited to Lutheran, Episcopal, Methodist, Presbyterian, Anglican and Baptist Churches. I have done 200 lectures and saw the truly "ecumenical" nature of the subject around the world.

Please describe below any other *personal* reflections, experiences, insights, or thoughts about the Shroud of Turin that you would like to share.

As outlined above, my personal reflections and discussions with many hundreds of people and youth at my lectures convinces me that the Cloth really represents a "Visual Gospel." I have noticed this especially with young people. I had the opportunity to give one of my presentations to 1,000 high school students (13 to 17) in Vancouver and I and the teachers were amazed at how these young people related to the images, especially of the face. They seemed to understand the Passion visually and wrote many beautiful notes about how it moved them.

Writings/Websites/Blogs:

Website: www.shroudinfo.com

Books: "The Mystery of the Shroud of Turin: New Scientific Evidence" (1998).

"The Image and the Rose: Behind Vatican Walls" (2005). (A novel outlining the efforts to discredit (Carbon-14 fiasco 1988) and destroy the Shroud in the 1997 fire).

The Three Cloths of Christ: The Emerging Treasures of Christianity (2009) relating to the Holy Shroud, the Sudarium Christi and the Veil of Veronica.