

Name: Ray Schneider, Physicist and Professor, U.S.A.

Questions:

1. **When** and **how** did you first hear about the Shroud?

I was on a Jesuit religious retreat in the early 1960's and at the retreat house a visiting priest gave a presentation on the shroud using large glass lantern slides of remarkably great resolution and he explained each of the feature.

2. What interested you about the Shroud?

Two things in particular struck me: 1) the fact that the shroud behaved like a negative convinced me that it was not a product of human ingenuity because of both lack of motivation and lack of any expectation that the result would be appreciated. It struck me as totally implausible that anyone would anticipate photography by some 400 years.

The other aspect is the immense detail. I think the authenticity and the sheer detail are beyond any craft of the time. This tends to strongly favor some kind of authenticity.

3. Do you believe the Shroud is likely the burial cloth of Jesus Christ, a fake relic, or are you uncertain what to believe?

I think the jury is out on whether the shroud is the burial cloth of Jesus Christ or not. The C14 date is a data point against authenticity and almost all the other data strongly suggests authenticity. This on balance seems to point to the likelihood that the C14 date is some kind of mistake, especially in light of the vanillin data of Ray Rogers.

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 wrote about the shroud and talked to people for a long time about it and carried a picture of it in my wallet. When John Jackson published his results about the 3D characteristics my interest was deepened and I realized how much more could be done. I contacted Fr. Otterbein in 1977 and he sent me a copy of the Albuquerque proceedings, later I went to Elizabethtown (I was too late to get involved in the STURP effort and in any case had rather little to offer at the time).

5. Have you ever seen the Shroud at any of the exhibitions? If yes, which years?

Only photographs, some very high resolution ones such as the transparency image from the STURP photographs that is at Esopus.

6. What did you experience when you were in the presence of the Shroud?

N/A

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

Yes. My interest in the imaging mechanism and the application of image processing technology to the study of the shroud seems like one scientific study that can be pursued without access to the shroud since a number of high resolution photographs of the shroud exist.

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 wrote some short articles for a Marriage Encounter magazine that my wife and I edited. I gave talks on the shroud and still do. Finally I've both written articles about a limited amount of image processing work that I've done, and I've reviewed and commented on the work of others.

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.

Not really. I think the big problem with the imaging theories is that none of them is particularly compelling.

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**.

The shroud is a great mystery. As a scientist that makes it also a great challenge. It is quite fascinating so I'd say the sheer mystery of it is its own challenge and motivation.

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

Writings/Websites/Blogs:

<http://people.bridgewater.edu/~rschneid/FocusProjects/SOT.htm>