

Date: Wed, 18 May 2005 19:24:43 -0700

Subject: Re: [shroudScience] ANTONACCI's paper about Rogers

Dear Marcel and Researchers,

First, I must thank you Marcel for your honest and frank evaluation of the Antonacci article and the kind, beautiful words you wrote about our dear friend Ray. I received quite a number of personal e-mails from other researchers who felt exactly the same as you did.

I received the Antonacci article directly from Mark on April 21, 2005, with his suggestion that I publish it on my website. However, after reading it, I reached the same conclusions that Marcel (and many others) did and felt it was quite insulting to Ray's memory, particularly in the timing of its arrival 5 weeks after Ray's passing, when Ray was no longer able to defend himself or his work.

To be fair, I would be happy to publish any credible criticism of Ray's work (and Ray would be the first to encourage this), but with the following stipulations: Since Ray's paper was written from well within his own professional expertise and appeared in a highly respected peer reviewed scientific journal (that took 7 months to review the work), I will only report or publish criticism from a qualified scientist, and preferably only once that criticism is also peer reviewed. Anecdotal attacks from individuals stepping outside their own fields of expertise do not have the credibility to challenge peer reviewed science. They tend to cloud the true issues and force us all to spend an extraordinary amount of time in discussing and disputing them. They do little to extend our knowledge of the Shroud and they certainly do not meet the high standards Ray set that serve as an example to us all.

Of course, Mark is certainly entitled to his own opinions and has already published them on his own website. With all due respect however, I found his article rather distasteful and his conclusions unqualified (he is a lawyer, not a chemist and these are scientific issues, not legal ones). Consequently, I will not include them on my website nor personally spend any time debating Ray's work with him. To be honest, I am not qualified either.

Warm regards,

Barrie Schwartz