

Bibliography of Major Sources Pertaining to the Events of the 1988 C-14 Dating of the Shroud of Turin

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Introduction

In 1978, the Shroud of Turin, the reputed burial cloth of Jesus of Nazareth, was studied for 5 days around the clock by a mostly American team known as the “Shroud of Turin Research Project” (STURP). The team’s main task was to solve the question of how the image got on the cloth. They were unable to do so. However, all of the data they amassed and analyzed strongly suggested that the Shroud was an authentic ancient burial cloth, which corresponds closely to the treatment the New Testament says happened to Jesus. Most people are aware of the fact that the linen underwent a radiocarbon (C-14) dating in 1988. Most people also know that the 3 labs involved, Oxford, Zurich and Arizona, announced that the results of the testing indicated that the cloth dated to AD 1260-1390, more than 1,200 years after Jesus’ time. Although STURP had the most experience with the Shroud and had submitted a proposal for the C-14 test, various political maneuvers were successful in getting them eliminated from the testing. What many people do not know is that even from the period that preceded the actual test, there were significant concerns about the protocol, the original one having been discarded. After the testing, researchers were startled to find out facts such as:

- *Although all of the proceedings were to have been videotaped, the actual depositing of the samples into the containers was not.
- *Although the 3 labs had agreed to not let any outsiders view the testing, an author, who was allowed inside one of the labs during their testing, had his book, The Shroud Unmasked, printed 2 weeks before the official announcement of the dating results.
- *There were at least 3 different versions of the sizes and weights of the samples given by those directly involved in the cutting of the sample.
- *After the dating, Oxford, one of the 3 labs involved in the testing, was given an anonymous 1 million £ donation for ostensibly having proven the Shroud was a fake. Shortly thereafter, the head of the lab, Prof. E.T. Hall resigned, and the person who replaced him was Dr. Michael Tite of the British Museum, who had been the overseer of the Shroud C-14 dating project.

There have been many books and articles written about the events surrounding the dating. Some of the entries listed here are for material that has been written by those who interviewed the participants and/or have done significant research into the various facts. Some of the entries are for material authored by the testing participants. Those who were directly involved are highlighted in the entries; they are either the author themselves (2 asterisks next to their names) or were interviewees (1 asterisk next to names of interviewers). I have included at the end a brief biographical description for those who were directly involved in the testing. I have only included material that pertains to the methodology of the preparation, the actual operation, or the aftermath of the project and

concomitant questionable data resulting from this methodology. I have not included any entries for materials pertaining to various hypotheses that have been put forth to explain why the dating was not first century, e.g., being skewed due to radiation from the Resurrection, contaminations, or repairs. (Of course, these hypotheses may be peripherally mentioned in some of the sources.)

I have divided the sources into 2 main sections, one containing books, Shroud conference presentations, journal articles, internet articles, newspaper articles and releases from various groups; the other contains letters-to-the-editor. Although by their very nature, there is not a significant amount of material in the letters, they are important due to the fact that many of them were written by those directly involved in the testing, and thus they contain important information. For the Italian and French sources cited, I have relied heavily on Emanuela Marinelli's paper "The setting for the radiocarbon dating of the Shroud," presented at a Shroud conference in Valencia, Spain in April 2012. (See <http://tinyurl.com/cammkgx>.)

One last note regarding a non-literary source: an Italian documentary called "The Night of the Shroud," whose subject is the background and politics of the 1988 C-14 dating, was shown on Italian TV in 2011 and premiered in the United States in 2012. It actually won several honors at the Los Angeles film awards. It is expected to be available in DVD format in the fall of 2012.

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AUTHORS WHO WERE PARTICIPANTS IN THE 1988 C-14 TESTING

[ARCHDIOCESE OF TURIN.] The authorities of the Turin archdiocese, led at the time of the dating by the late Cardinal Anastasio Ballestrero, were custodians of the Shroud, which actually belongs to the living Pope.

DAMON, Paul E. The late Prof. Damon was head of the Arizona lab at the time of the testing.

EVIN, Jacques. The late Prof Evin was a French C-14 expert involved in the sample-taking.

GHIBERTI, Giuseppe. Monsignor Ghiberti was president of the Turin archdiocese's Commission on the Shroud. Although he didn't actually have an active role in the 1988 dating, I have listed him here because of his close connection to the Turin officials who were.

GONELLA, Luigi. The late Prof. Gonella was the late Cardinal Ballestrero's scientific advisor for both the 1978 STURP testing and the 1988 C-14 testing.

GOVE, Harry E. The late Dr. Gove was the inventor of the specific AMS dating procedure used on the Shroud. He also participated in the 1986 planning meeting in Turin.

HALL, Edward T. The late Prof. Hall was head of the Oxford lab at the time of the testing.

HEDGES, Robert E.M. - R.A. HOUSLEY - C.R. BRONK (a.k.a. Christopher Ramsey) - G.J. VAN KLINKEN. The authors are from the Oxford C-14 laboratory, which was one of the 3 labs that dated the Shroud in 1988.

JACKSON, John. P. Dr. Jackson was co-founder of the Shroud of Turin Research Project.

JULL, A.J. Timothy. Prof. Jull is one of the Arizona scientists who participated in the 1988 dating and is currently head of the lab.

MEACHAM, William. Prof. Meacham, an archaeologist familiar with the problems of C-14 dating, participated in the 1986 planning meeting in Turin in preparation for the 1988 dating.

OTLET, R.L. Prof. Otlet was from the Harwell C-14 lab in England that was considered as one of the labs that would date the Shroud in 1988.

RAMSEY, Christopher (a.k.a. C.R. BRONK). Professor Ramsey from Oxford was involved in the 1988 dating and is currently head of the laboratory.

RIGGI DI NUMANA, Giovanni. The late Prof. Riggi Di Numana was the Italian scientist who cut the sample for the testing.

SAVARINO, Piero. Prof. Savarino was the scientific advisor to Cardinal Polletto at the time of the 1998 exhibition of the Shroud in Turin.

SHROUD OF TURIN RESEARCH PROJECT. This is the group that studied the Shroud in Turin in 1978. They had proposed a C-14 test in conjunction with 25 other tests, but the authorities chose only to do the C-14 test, as well as not to utilize in the dating process STURP's expertise.

SOX, David. Reverend Sox, an Episcopal priest, was allowed to be an observer at the Zurich lab while they conducted their testing of the sample for the dating.

TESTORE, Franco. Prof. Testore was an Italian textile expert involved in the sample taking in 1988.

TITE, Michael. Dr. Tite, at the time of the dating was from the British Museum and overseer of the 1988 testing.

VIAL, Gabriel. The late Prof. Vial was a French textile expert involved in the sample taking in 1988.

WÖLFLI, Willi. Prof. Wolfli was head of the Zurich lab at the time of the testing.