

## **A CHRONOLOGY OF THE SHROUD 1452-1509**

- 1452 13 September. Margaret de Charny shows the Shroud at Germolles (near Macon) in a public exposition at the Castle
- 1453 22 March. Margaret de Charny, at Geneva, receives from Duke Louis I of Savoy the castle of Varambon and revenues of the estate of Miribel near Lyon for 'valuable services'. Those services are reliably thought to have been the bequest of the Shroud. An exceptionally pious couple, Duke Louis and his wife Anne of Cyprus surrounded themselves by Franciscans, and when in July of this year an envoy of King Charles VII of France visits Louis in Geneva, he is lodged with the Cordeliers. Later Louis will assume the habit of a Franciscan as mourning upon the death of his wife Anne of Cyprus.
- 1457 Margaret de Charny is excommunicated for not returning the Shroud to the Lirey canons.
- 1459 Margaret de Charny's half-brother Charles de Noyers negotiates compensation to the Lirey canons for their loss of the Shroud, which they specifically recognize they will not now recover. The excommunication is lifted.
- 1460 7 October. Margaret de Charny dies, leaving her Lirey lands to her cousin and godson Antoine-Guerry des Essars.
- 1464 6 February. By an accord drawn up in Paris, Duke Louis I of Savoy agrees to pay the Lirey canons an annual rent, to be drawn from the revenues of the castle of Gaillard, near Geneva, as compensation for their loss of the Shroud. The accord specifically notes that the Shroud had been given to the church of Lirey by Geoffrey de Charny, lord of Savoisy and Lirey, and that it had then been transferred to Duke Louis by Margaret de Charny. In this same year Francesco della Rovere, thought to have been one of Louis's Franciscan retinue (and who later, as Pope Sixtus IV will write about the Shroud), becomes Minorite General, the head of the Franciscan order.
- 1465 Duke Louis I dies at Lyon. Just over two decades later a chronicle of Savoy will record his acquisition of the Shroud as his greatest achievement. He is succeeded by his son Duke Amadeus IX, a lazy but devout prince who shares with his wife Duchess Yolande of France a particular devotion to the Shroud, but neglects to honour the terms of Duke Louis's agreement with the Lirey canons. Amadeus delegate to Yolande, founder of Chambéry's Poor Clares convent (whose sisters, in a few decades time, will repair the Shroud after the chapel fire of 15 -12), the government of his territories.
- 1471 Beginning of second phase of construction of the chapel at of Chambéry' that later, as the Sainte Chapelle, will become a permanent home for the Shroud. In this same year Francesco della Rovere is elected Pope Sixtus IV
- 1472 Death of Duke Amadeus IX.

- 1472 Duke Philibert I ('The Hunter') of Savoy succeeds his father at the age of six. Although his mother, dowager duchess Yolande assumes the role of regent during his minority, this is contested by Louis XI and the Duke of Burgundy (her brother). A silver coin in Leningrad, wrongly assigned to Philibert II, records this regency. Savoy four testones, featuring Duke Philibert I on the obverse and his mother the dowager Duchess Yolande on the reverse [from *Treasures of the Hermitage*, New York & Leningrad, Portland House, 1987]
- 1473 14 May. Two delegates from the canons of Lirey press regent Yolande for eight years arrears in the promised rent, or, in place of this, the return of the Shroud to them. In this same year Pope Sixtus IV, the former Francesco della Rovere, publishes his *De sanguine Christi*, referring to the Shroud as follows: '... the Shroud in which the body of Christ was wrapped when he was taken down from the cross. This is now preserved with great devotion by the Dukes of Savoy, and is coloured with the blood of Christ.'
- 1482 Warrant on behalf of the Lirey canons that Duchess Yolande should observe agreement made by her late husband. Death in a hunting accident in this same year of Duke Philibert I, now about 16 years old. He is succeeded by his 14 year old brother Charles, who has been brought up in King Louis XI's court, and who becomes Duke Charles I. Through his maternal aunt Charlotte de Lusignan Charles inherits the empty title of King of Cyprus and Jerusalem, which passes through the Savoy family up to and including the 20th century.
- 1483 On 6 June of this year Jean Renguis, the Savoy family's clerk to their mobile chapel, together with the ducal chaplain and sacristan, draws up an inventory of the Savoy family's chapel at Chambéry in which the Shroud is described as kept in a case covered with crimson velours, decorated with silver-gilt nails, and locked with a golden key.
- 1484 Death of Pope Sixtus IV and succession of Pope Innocent VIII.
- 1485 Duke Charles I of Savoy marries Blanche de Montferrat, daughter and only heir of the Marquis of Saluces, i.e. Saluzzo to the south of Turin. Now to become known as Bianca of Savoy, through Duchess Bianca her father's domains will become added to Savoy. A miniature by Jean Colombe added to John Duke of Berry's *Les Très Riches Heures* (fol. 75), and featuring the arms and portraits of Duke Charles and Duchess Bianca, shows wounds strikingly similar to those on the Turin Shroud.
- 1488 The Shroud is at this time regularly carried around with the Savoy family as their Court journeys from castle to castle. e.g. 2 June of this year Jean Renguis, who seems to have had special charge of the Shroud, is paid 2 écus `in recompense for two journeys with he made from Turin to Savigliano carrying the Shroud'.
- 1490 Death of Duke Charles I of Savoy at the age of 23, leaving daughter and 7 month old son, Duke Charles II, who will die in seven years.
- 1494 Good Friday. Duchess Bianca exhibits the Shroud in the presence of Rupis, secretary to the Duke of Mantua. Charles VIII of France, intent on asserting his claim to the kingdom

of Naples, invades Italy this year, accompanied by Philip II, Count of Bresse, who will shortly inherit the dukedom of Savoy.

- 1496 Death of Duke Charles II of Savoy, while still only a boy of seven. He is succeeded by his 58 year old grand-uncle Philip II, Count of Bresse. Married to Claude de Bresse do Bretagne, Duke Philip is described as 'obliging and kind' during his short time in charge of the Savoy territories.
- 1497 Death of Duke Philip II, and succession by his 17 year old son Philibert II ('the Handsome'), who had accompanied his father during Charles VIII's invasion of Italy. Margaret of Austria, daughter of the Emperor Maximilian, marries Don Juan of Aragon, who dies six months later. Her baby by him is still-born.
- 1498 An inventory detailing the Shroud when at Turin in this same year describes its case as 'a coffer covered with crimson velours, with silver gilt roses, and the sides silver and the Holy Shroud inside.'
- 1501 Duke Philibert II of Savoy, now 21; marries the widowed Margaret of Austria, in a ceremony blessed by Louis de Gorrevod, bishop of Maurienne.' Duchess Margaret loves Philibert passionately and they will share a few short years of happiness together before, his tragic death.
- 1502 June 11. At the behest of Duchess Margaret the Shroud is no longer moved around with the Savoys during their travels, but given a permanent home in the royal chapel at Chambéry. Duke Philibert, Duchess Margaret, Francois of Luxembourg, viscount of Martigues, husband of Louise of Savoy (grand-daughter of Duke Louis), together with nearly all the local clergy, attend the ceremony of translation during which Laurent Alamand, bishop of Grenoble, solemnly carries the Shroud in its silver-gilt case from Chambéry's Franciscan church to the chapel shortly to become the Sainte-Chapelle. The Shroud is displayed on the Chapel's high altar, then entrusted to the care of archdeacon Jacques Veyron and the canons of the Chapel, who replace it in its case and deposit it behind the high altar, in a special cavity hollowed out of the wall. This cavity is secured by an iron grille with four locks, each opened by separate keys, two of which are held by the Duke.
- 1503 Good Friday, April 14. Exposition of the Shroud at Bourg-en-Bresse for Archduke Philip the Handsome, grand-master of Flanders, on his return from a journey to Spain. Specially brought from Chambéry, with great ceremony, by Duke Philibert of Savoy and Duchess Margaret, the Shroud is exposed on an altar in one of the great halls of the Duke's palace. Savoy courtier Antoine de Lalaing, Lord of Montigny, and later a close adviser of Margaret's in the Netherlands, records of the events of that day: 'The day of the great and holy Friday, the Passion was preached in Monsignor's chapel by his confessor, the duke and duchess attending. Then they went with great devotion to the market halls of the town, where a great number of people heard the Passion preached by a Cordelier. After that three bishops showed to the public the Holy Shroud of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and after the service: it was shown in Monsignor's chapel.' Lalaing also remarks that the

Shroud's authenticity has been confirmed by its having been tried by fire (with hot pokers?), boiled in oil, laundered many times 'but it was not possible to efface or remove the imprint and image.'

- 1504 10 September. Death of Duke Philibert II of Savoy, at age of 24, by drinking too much iced wine after hunting. He is succeeded by his 'learned, just and virtuous 18 year old brother Charles III. The now twice-widowed Margaret of Austria is still only 22.
- 1505 5 May. By a special treaty Duchess Margaret relinquishes custody of the Shroud to her mother-in-law, the pious dowager duchess Claude de Bresse de Bretagne, widow of Duke Philip II of Savoy, and mother of the new Duke Charles III. Dowager duchess Claude de Bresse has a special devotion for the Shroud and temporarily keeps it with her, it is thought, in her castle of Bylliat en Michaille, near Nantua, Ain (between Bourg-en-Bresse and Geneva).
- 1505 March 29. Despite a serious outbreak of the plague, Margaret installs herself at Bourg-en-Bresse, and begins work on a special cult of remembrance of her dead husband at Brou. Meanwhile Duke Charles III and his mother have petitioned Pope Julius II to approve the text of an office and Mass in honour of the Shroud compiled by Dominican father Antonio Pennet the Duke's confessor. In October Claude; writes to Margaret inviting her 'to come to see the blessed Holy Shroud that you commended [to us] that it may protect you and all your house from the epidemic.' Later it will be said of Claude that she prayed every day before the Shroud.
- 1506 9 May. Papal Bull is issued formally approving Mass of the Shroud. The Shroud is returned to the Chapel in Chambéry, which becomes the Sainte-Chapelle.
- 1507 Dowager Duchess Margaret of Austria becomes regent in the Netherlands. But she is likely to have kept a copy of the Shroud with her, since in an inventory of her goods, made when she moves from Mechelen (Malines) to Brussels in 1523, there is included 'La portraiture du Sainct Suaire de nostre Sg. faite sur toile.'
- 1508 20 February. Margaret of Austria draws up her will, giving to the church of Brou, among other relics, a snippet of the Shroud.
- 1509 New casket/reliquary for the Shroud is created in silver by Flemish artist Lievin van Latham, having been commissioned by Margaret of Austria at a cost of more than 12,000 gold écus. This is brought from Flanders to Chambéry by Laurent de Gorrevod, governor of Bourg-en-Bresse and one of Marguerite's closest advisers. The Shroud is installed on in this new casket on 10 August, before the Sainte-Chapelle's grand altar, in the presence of dean Jean de la Forest and his canons, the presidents of the Council of Savoy and other dignitaries. In return for the gift of the casket, the Sainte Chapelle chapter are required to say a daily Mass for Margaret and her dead husband Philibert. Twenty-three years later this undoubtedly superb casket will be ruined beyond repair in the Sainte-Chapelle fire of 1532, its molten silver permanently scarring parts of the Shroud itself.

Note: There may be slight confusions by a year or so on some dates, due to the New Year not necessarily being begun on January I at this time.

**Select Bibliography:**

Kathleen Cohen *Metamorphosis of a Death Symbol: The Transi Tomb in the Late Middle Ages and the Renaissance*, Berkeley, University of California Press 1973.

Jean Longnon & Raymond Cazelles (intro, and legends), *Les Très Riches Heures du Duc de Berry*, Musée Condé, Chantilly, London, Thames & Hudson.

M. Perret "Essai sur l'histoire du S. Suaire du XIVE an XVIe siècle", *Mémoires de l'Academie des Sciences, Belles Lettres et Arts de Savoie*, IV, (1960).

Miscellaneous articles by Dorothy Crispino and others in *Shroud Spectrum*.