

OBITUARY: Sue Benford

Sue Benford had an enormous impact on Sindonology from the time she first learned about the Shroud in 1997 until her untimely death on 6 April 2009. She was formerly a registered nurse at Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio in Oncology Pediatrics, the very place where she had survived a childhood cancer, was a World Champion Power Lifter in the 97 pound weight class and a prolific researcher on various scientific and medical topics. She was a co-author with American astronaut Dr. Edgar Mitchell on a paper presented at the Fifth International Conference on Computing Anticipatory Systems (CASYS'01), Liège, Belgium, August 13-18, 2001.

Benford's autobiography Strong Woman: Unshrouding the Secrets of the Soul (Nashville, Source Books, 2002), recounts how she got involved with the Shroud and eventually joined forces with another sindonologist, former monk Joseph Marino. Together, they wrote several papers theorizing that the 1988 C-14 dating was skewed by an invisible reweave. STURP chemist, the late Ray Rogers, thought that this was nonsense and, having the necessary Shroud samples to work on, would prove them wrong in 5 minutes. Ultimately, he believed they were correct and went on to write, shortly before his death in March 2005, a significant peer-reviewed article in the prestigious journal *Thermochimica Acta* that asserted that the 1988 C-14 results were invalid because the samples that were dated were not representative of the whole cloth. Other researchers, including a group of 9 scientists at Los Alamos National Laboratories in United States, corroborated Rogers' findings.

Benford and Marino went on to have 2 articles of theirs published in the peer reviewed literature: "Role of calcium carbonate in fibre discoloration on the Shroud of Turin. *Chemistry Today*. March/April 2008, 26(2):57-62" and "Discrepancies in the radiocarbon dating area of the Turin shroud. *Chemistry Today*. July/August 2008, 26(4):44-50." The latter is accessible online at: <http://chemistrytoday.teknoscienze.com/pdf/benford%20CO4-08.pdf> .

Many other details about Benford and access to many of her writings can be found at: www.homestead.com/newvistas . She will be sorely missed by all who knew her.