

AROUND THE INTERNET

Active discussion of all aspects of the Shroud continues at Dan Porter's excellent shroudstory.com. He posts one or two blogs a day, mostly derived from information he has been notified of on the web, or inquiries from interested people. These act as springboards for discussion, sometimes heated, usually erudite and occasionally protracted, which Dan moderates with sensitivity. Since the December Newsletter, the topics have generated the most comments; they are enumerated so that they can easily be Googled by the interested.

January: "You cannot fold and unfold a painting (and more)." An intensive cross-examination of Charles Freeman and his hypothesis that the Shroud is a painting from which all the pigment has flaked off.

"Were Some Bloodstains Added Later or Maybe Retouched?" A re-examination of the bloodstains, and why they still appear pink after all this time.

March: "Mark Goodacre Answers Carbon Dating Questions on CNN Website." Another long and detailed review of the objections to the validity of the medieval radiocarbon date of the Shroud.

April: "Easter Ink" An examination of the alleged archaeological remains of the family of Jesus, and the frequency of the name Jesus in 1st century Palestine.

"New Garlaschelli and Borrini Study." A review of the Italian scientists' experiments dripping blood-substitute from various possible wound sites in various possible positions.

"Carbon Date the Shroud Again?" A fairly wide ranging exploration of the various samples of the Shroud that might be still available, an alleged

secret radiocarbon dating before the 1988 one, and some 'Vatican' responses to the radiocarbon reliability.

"Colin Berry: Yes, it's vitally important to match every tiny detail." This quickly boiled down to an extremely detailed controversy about the precise meaning of one single Latin word in the d'Arcis memorandum, and whether the artist who had reputedly created the Shroud had created it from his imagination and biblical references, or had copied it from another cloth.

May: "Colin Berry: The Scourge Marks are Frankly Not Credible." Another wide-ranging review of the wounds, the blood, and whether the body was washed before being wrapped in the Shroud.

Elsewhere, shroud.com is continuously updated with information, and theshroudofturin.blogspot.co.uk is working on four massive projects simultaneously: 'The Turin Shroud Encyclopaedia', 'The Turin Shroud Dictionary', 'The Evidence Is Overwhelming that the Turin Shroud is Authentic!' and 'My Theory that the Radiocarbon Dating Laboratories were Duped by a Computer Hacker.' Stephen Jones is also scanning the 118 issues of Shroud News produced by Rex Morgan between 1980 and 2001 for uploading to shroud.com, and is producing his own monthly version, called 'The Shroud of Turin News.'

