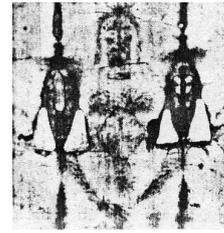


# SHROUD NEWS

A NEWSLETTER ABOUT THE HOLY SHROUD OF TURIN  
By REX MORGAN - Author of PERPETUAL MIRACLE

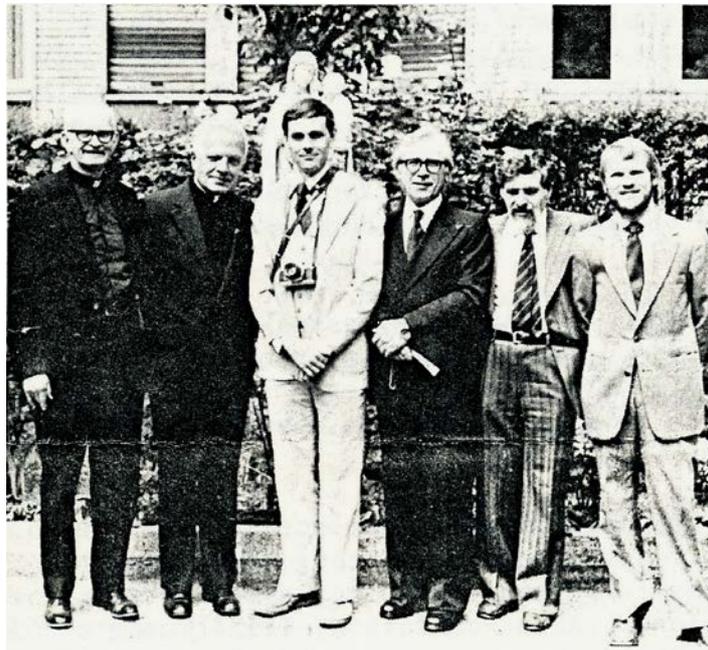


Issue No. 11

8th February 1982

---

## SHROUD RESEARCH TEAM IN ITALY



Rev. A.J. Otterbein, C.S.S.R., Rev. P.M. Rinaldi, S.D.B., Dr. John Jackson, Prof. Giovanni Riggi, Prof. Luigi Gonella, Dr. Larry Schwalbe.

THIS ISSUE CONTAINS A COMPREHENSIVE RESUME OF THE SYMPOSIUM HELD  
IN OCTOBER 1981 AT NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT, USA.

[PHOTO CREDIT: Holy Shroud Guild, New York, U.S.A.]

EDITORIAL

I hope my subscribers are as pleased as I am that I have managed to produce this issue for February. I have high hopes that your next one will be in your hands in March.

This issue is almost entirely devoted to a resume of the Symposium held last October in New London, Connecticut and provides some interesting reading.

Since our last issue SHROUD NEWS has received the latest information from the remarkable Professor Father Francis Filas of Chicago. Whilst I shall prepare an article on his latest findings readers will be interested to know that he has gone even further with his coin identification work. There are two advancements: first he has located two actual examples of a Pontius Pilate coin with the inscription UCAI rather than UKAI which has always been a point of contention amongst his critics. This discovery is very important as it removes the factor of possibility from Filas's claim that coins of these ancient mintings frequently bore errors such as the C instead of the K. [see SHROUD NEWS Nos 3 and 8 for full reports on Filas's work].

The second advance, for which Filas makes only tentative claims at this stage, is his identification of the coin on the left eye. This is far more difficult to discern than the right eye but it seems likely to be a coin of Julia minted at about the same time as the Pontius Pilate one.

Father Filas has also prepared an excellent new tape and series of comprehensive filmstrips illustrating his research. SHROUD NEWS readers wishing to obtain these should write to:

Cogan Productions, Acta Foundation, 11134 Youngtown Avenue,

Youngtown, AZ 85363, U.S.A. [Cost US \$30]. I highly recommend the items for the serious student of the Shroud. [Air post + \$5]

News from other quarters has been quiet over the holiday period. This is not surprising when one considers the weather in the three main Shroud countries, Italy, England and U.S.A., not to mention our Australian postal strikes and interruptions.

REX MORGAN

---

### SHROUD SYMPOSIUM, NEW LONDON, USA

The Shroud of Turin Research Project (STURP) held a two-day symposium on its latest research findings at the Palmer Auditorium of Connecticut College, New London, Connecticut, USA on 10th and 11th October 1981. The symposium stretched over four major sessions in which a variety of papers was scheduled for presentation by members of the investigation team and others.

In the first session Thomas D'Muhala of the Nuclear Energy Corporation gave the introduction and was followed by an overview of the results given by Professor Luigi Gonella from Italy, Dr John Jackson and Dr Eric Jumper.

These were followed by five reports on the Image Analysis covering X-Ray Radiography by Robert Mottern of Sandia Laboratories, the 3D Characteristics of the Shroud Image by Jackson and Jumper, Computer Enhancement by Donald Lynn of NASA, Donald Devan of Oceanographic Services and Joan Janney of Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory. Two further papers by Jackson covered Image Resolution Characteristics and Body to Image Mapping Direction.

In the second session Image Analysis work continued with a paper on the Examination of the Image for Geometric Distortions Induced by Cloth Drape given by Downs and Ercoline and then a paper by Dr Robert Bucklin, Los Angeles pathologist and Dr Joseph Gambescia on pathological and Forensic aspects of the study.

Moving into the photographic area five papers were given. Joseph Accetta spoke of Infra-Red Reflectance Spectroscopy and Thermography; Roger Gilbert of Oriel Corporation and Dr Sam Pellicori of Santa Barbara Research gave a further paper on Reflectance Spectrography; Vernon Miller of Brooks Institute of Photography presented a paper on Visible Ultra-Violet Photos; Pellicori and Mark Evans of Brooks gave the results of Photomicrography; Miller and Pellicori combined for a paper on Ultra-Violet Fluorescence Photography.

The chemistry section of the conference began with Roger Morris of Los Alamos Scientific Lab and Larry Schwalbe on X-Ray Fluorescence; Dr John Heller of New England Institute presented the results of his blood tests on the cloth; Alan D. Adler reported on Chemical Investigation of the Shroud; Professor Giovanni

Shroud Symposium, New London (contd)

Riggi of Italy spoke on his Particle Studies and Pellicori gave another paper on Chemical Considerations.

Following a paper on historical aspects of the Shroud by Ian Wilson of England, Schwalbe and Ray Rogers gave a summary of Hypothesis Testing and Eric Jumper on Data Summary.

The final session consisted of considerations for the Future of the Investigation in which D'Muhala considered Redirection, Robert Dinigar of Los Alamos spoke on C14 dating, Druzik on aspects of Shroud Preservation and Gatlin on Shroud Image in Light of Information Theory.

SHROUD NEWS is awaiting detailed accounts of the papers presented but we do have several articles from American press and through world wire sources which showed that the lead-up to the symposium was not without excitement.

#### CONTROVERSY FROM ITALY

It was reported in late September that an Italian professor of anatomy, Vittorio Pesce Delfino, had written a book claiming that the Shroud of Turin had been forged by placing a cloth over a bas-relief sculpture and scorching it so that an imprint was made on the cloth purporting to be an image of Christ. [This theory has been put forward before, of course.] The professor, who has been sceptical about the Shroud for a long time, claimed that he made about 100 copies of the Shroud to show that it could have been a fake. He was critical of the American team of scientists who have produced so much evidence to suggest that the image was formed by a burst of energy or by cellulose degradation.

Delfino's book "And Man Created the Shroud" was due to be published in late 1981 and claims that the Shroud was made in the thirteenth century. The best fakes he had himself produced were obtained by scorching the cloth for 30 seconds at temperatures of 210° to 220° Celsius.

Needless to say the AAP-AP report from Italy caused the press to take up the forgery claim with gusto and this led to another interesting reaction from America.

Shroud Symposium, New London (contd)

## LEGAL ACTION IN USA

Two members of the STURP team itself who reacted against the Italian Delfino thesis stirred up a minor crisis when they proposed to publish, during the currency of the New London symposium, a book they have written entitled "Verdict on the Shroud". Ken Stevenson and Gary R. Habermas have used the scientific conclusions of the STURP team to show conclusively in their view, evidence for the resurrection. It was suggested that the book appeared to be an official view of the STURP team, which it was not. Indeed, some other members of the team took out a court injunction to restrain them from publishing the book at the time of the conference. Just as the symposium got under way a Federal Judge in Detroit lifted the restraining order which had been won in a lower court by the scientists who had filed the challenge.

It appears that the book took on even more credence as an official document since the foreword was written by Larry Schwalbe and the postscript by Dr Robert Bucklin. Schwalbe is reported as having said in his introduction:

"Stevenson and Habermas have rightly remained cautious in their interpretation. They say they approached the evidence in a sceptical posture, noting that scientific conclusions about complex phenomena usually are judgements of probability: a theory that offers the most likely explanation of the observed facts."

Bucklin is reported as having written that the authors examine all possible positions of the evidence about the resurrection and says:

"While the majority of scientists have been reluctant to take a stand on this matter, a few of us have openly expressed our opinions that there is support for the Resurrection in the things we see in the Turin Shroud."

## EVIDENCE FOR RESURRECTION

Whilst SHROUD NEWS has yet to see the book we can quote some reported excerpts from it:

"The converging evidence is not proof, but it does show that the

Shroud Symposium, New London (contd)

literal, physical resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth is by far the best explanation for the physical, chemical, medical and historical facts. These probabilities strongly favour the authenticity of the Shroud as evidence of Jesus's death and Resurrection."

"There is no practical probability that someone other than Jesus was buried in the Shroud of Turin."

Stevenson and Habermas also say that the Shroud's evidence for the Resurrection is so strong that if it is not Jesus's actual burial garment, then Christians might have to consider the possibility that someone else rose from the dead. They cite four main features from the Shroud as evidence of the Resurrection:

1. Scientific tests found no evidence of decomposition of the body that was wrapped in the Shroud, although pathologists are sure the man it contained was dead.
2. The facts indicate that the body was not removed from the cloth by human means because the bloodstains are intact, anatomically precise from head, wrists, side and feet, but would have been smeared or broken if the cloth was removed by normal means.
3. Although the cause of the image on the Shroud remains scientifically uncertain, the most probable cause found was from a heat or light scorch from some extraordinary occurrence not explained by natural means.
4. There is an amazingly close correspondence between the Shroud's evidence and the Gospel details about the Resurrection and the associated historical data, including the impact on the followers.

They conclude:

"The historical arguments and the scientific arguments are very probable empirical indicators that Jesus did rise from the dead. While the evidence indicates the cause of the oddly three-dimensional Shroud image was some type of scorch, scientists cannot explain how a corpse scorched a linen burial shroud. This is why some scientists are reluctant to arrive at a final conclusion."

Shroud Symposium, New London (contd)

## SCIENTISTS COMMENT

At the time of the New London symposium Joan Janney, a spokesman for STURP, said in a statement to the Philadelphia Enquirer:

"We can conclude for now that the Shroud image is that of a real human form of a scourged, crucified man. It is not the product of an artist. The bloodstains are composed of haemoglobin. The origin of the image is an ongoing mystery and until further chemical studies are made, perhaps by this group of scientists, or perhaps by some scientists in the future, the problem remains unsolved.

"The basic problem from a scientific point of view is that some explanations which might be tenable from a chemical point of view are precluded by physics. There are no chemical or physical methods known which can account for the totality of the image, nor can any combination of physical, chemical, biological or medical circumstances explain the image completely. At present a solution does not appear obtainable by the best efforts of the members of the Shroud team. We can prove much more easily what it was not than what it was. I don't think science can ever answer who it was on the Shroud."

Another member of the team to comment publicly at New London was Dr Robert Bucklin who said:

"There is nothing in some of the work that would preclude the Resurrection nor is there any way the work done by this team proves the Resurrection."

Dr Joseph Gambescia, Director of Medicine at St Agnes Medical Center, went to Turin as a sceptic and is now a believer. He said:

"Now I feel it's the authentic cloth. From a circumstantial viewpoint, the odds are that this is the cloth that the historical Jesus was entombed on."

Dr John Jackson:

"We're simply scientists trying to come together to investigate something we find very interesting. The team members are human and we can have religious points of view. But we are not trying

Shroud Symposium, New London (contd)

to promote a religious point of view. The scientists run the gamut of religious beliefs from Fundamental Christian to Protestants, Catholics, Jews and agnostics. We have them all. The scientists will not give up until we come up with the test that might unravel the enigma of the Holy Shroud."

A journalist's opinion expressed a few days before the conference was that of Barbara Culliton, news editor of Science Magazine, who has written about the Shroud research. She said:

"The majority of perfectly legitimate researchers in their respective fields who came to be, in one way or another, interested in the project. I would not be surprised if some of the scientists went a little off the deep end in their conclusions. Except for the Jesus Christ element this is essentially analogous to dating King Tut's tomb and looking at the Dead Sea Scrolls and various other archaeological artifacts. But this has just such a hugely melodramatic element in it."

OFFICIAL STATEMENT

The official statement issued by the STURP team in October 1981 coincident with the symposium and the Visual Data Exhibition read as follows:

Preliminary Results of the 1978 Shroud of Turin Investigation

*Burial Cloth or Painting*

There were several painted shrouds during the 14th century - one or two of which have survived. Doubt was cast on the present Shroud of Turin by a Bishop, Pierre D'Arcis, who had been so vocal that he had been silenced by the Pope. He alleged, in a long and frantic letter to the Pope, that one of his predecessors, 34 years before, had alleged that he had met, or found, the alleged forger, who allegedly claimed that he had painted the Shroud.

*1978 Scientific Investigation*

No pigments, paints, dyes, or stains have been found on the fibrils. X-ray fluorescence and microchemistry on the fibrils preclude the possibility of paint being used as a method for creating the image.

---

Shroud Symposium New London (contd)

Ultraviolet and infrared evaluations confirm these studies. Computer image enhancement and analysis by a device called a VP-8 Image Analyzer show that the image has unique three-dimensional information encoded in it.

*How was the Image Formed?*

Microchemical evaluation has indicated no evidence of any spices, oils, or any biochemicals known to be produced by the body in life or in death. It is clear that there has been a direct contact of the Shroud with the body, which explains certain features such as the scourge marks as well as the blood. However, whilst this type of contact might explain some of the features of the torso, it is totally incapable of explaining the image of the face with the high resolution which has been amply demonstrated by photography. The basic problem from a scientific point of view is that some explanations which might be tenable from a chemical point of view, are precluded by physics. Contrariwise, certain physical explanations which may be attractive are completely precluded by the chemistry. For an adequate explanation for the image of the Shroud, one must have an explanation which is scientifically sound, from a physical, chemical, biological and medical viewpoint. At the present, this type of solution does not appear to be obtainable by the best efforts of the members of the Shroud Team. Furthermore, experiments in physics and chemistry with old linen have failed to reproduce adequately the phenomenon presented by the Shroud of Turin. The scientific consensus is that the image was produced by something which resulted in oxidation, dehydration, and conjugation of the polysaccharide structure of the microfibrils of the linen itself. Such changes can be duplicated in the laboratory by certain chemical and physical processes. A similar type of change in linen can be obtained by sulfuric acid or heat. However, there are no chemical or physical methods known which can account for the totality of the image, nor can any combination of physical, chemical, biological or medical circumstances explain the image adequately.

No Carbon 14 measurements have been done. Unless and until permission is given to use part of one thread of the Shroud, such an assay must wait.

Shroud Symposium, New London (contd)

Thus, the answer to the question of how the image was produced or what produced the image remains, now, as it has in the past, a mystery.

*Summary*

We can conclude for now that the Shroud image is that of a real human form of a scourged, crucified man. It is not the product of an artist. The bloodstains are composed of haemoglobin and also give a positive test for serum albumin. The image is an ongoing mystery and until further chemical studies are made, perhaps by this group of scientists, or perhaps by some scientists in the future, the problem remains unsolved.

October 11, 1981

\*\*\*\*\*

## VISUAL DATA EXHIBITION

Coincident with the New London symposium, the President of the Holy Shroud Guild of America, Father Adam Otterbein, a name familiar to readers of SHROUD NEWS, organised the exhibition of Visual Data from the Brooks Institute of Photography which has been well reported in this publication. Fortunately this exhibit is now touring the United States with the indefatigable Father Otterbein accompanying it. He has been involved since the inception of STURP, and long before that, in the quest for the truth about the Shroud.

Otterbein is fully conversant with every aspect and detail of the scientific research but because he is not himself a scientist he is free to make his own interpretations of the data produced. In a recent interview with *The Day*, a London, Connecticut newspaper, he said:

"I don't mind that scientists can't explain how the faint image of a brutally crucified man somehow became imprinted on the ancient Shroud of Turin, nor do I mind that the Catholic Church won't take a position on the relic. You can't duplicate the Resurrection in a laboratory."

Shroud Symposium, New London (contd)

## OTTERBEIN - SPEARHEAD

It was Otterbein who arranged with Father Peter Rinaldi of Turin for the team of American scientists to perform the extensive tests on the Shroud itself in 1978. He personally sought and gained permission for the tests from ex-King Umberto II of Italy, now living in Portugal and who actually owns the Shroud and from Cardinal Archbishop Anastasio Ballestrero, who is its custodian in Turin.

Over the years the demands by the sceptical and the believer alike for the conclusive Carbon 14 dating tests to be done have also been co-ordinated by Otterbein. In May last year he led a group to Turin to seek permission for these tests.

On the very day they were to have a private audience with the Pope the great man of peace was shot and the audience never took place. The officials at Turin have, however, agreed that carbon tests may be done. All that is required is that several laboratories should concur on a foolproof method of tackling the tests so that there can be no room for doubt, mistake or falsification of the results. (This last is a matter in this writer's opinion for which there is evidence of such possibility depending on who is allowed to do the tests).

Otterbein, who is in great demand in America for television, radio and personal presentations about the Shroud, says:

"The importance of the Shroud is what it can show us, make us feel, about Christ's sufferings. The cloth itself is just a cloth. You might say it's like clothes that belonged to George Washington: their value is what they tell us about the man. The only thing science could do was to prove it a fake. They weren't able to do this and now we know it couldn't have been forged by any method with which we are familiar. Also it in no way contradicts what we would expect of Christ's image, given the account of the scriptures. We have done much of what we hoped to do with space-age technical examination of the Shroud. It isn't the cause of our faith but it is nice to see science supporting us. I'm here to draw religious implications that science cannot."

### SUBSCRIPTIONS'

Our list of subscribers is increasing and we welcome new readers to, the circle. Subscriptions run at \$3 for batches of four issues.

### MORE SUBSCRIBERS

Please encourage those of your acquaintance to join our subscription list. In this way we can only improve the newsletter in the future. Our four-issue subscription does not over commit either the subscriber or the publisher. We do not anticipate the demise of the newsletter at the moment!

### CONTRIBUTIONS

Please feel free to write to SHROUD NEWS with any comment about the newsletter itself or about the subject of the Holy Shroud. The newsletter now goes beyond our circle in Australia to several other countries.

### FUTURE ISSUES

We have in hand several more scientific reports as well as much information gained since the Santa Barbara congress. This will be published in the next few issues as well as latest information as it becomes available.

### PUBLICATION

All information and opinion published in this newsletter is given in good faith to pass on to interested persons, matters concerning the Holy Shroud of Turin. It is edited (and mainly written) by. REX MORGAN and is published by:

THE RUNCIMAN PRESS, Box 86, P.O., MANLY, 2095, N.S.W. Australia.