

SHROUD NEWS

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



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Fr. Rinaldi and Don P. Coero Borgia

FATHER PETER RINALDI HAS BEEN A LEADER IN SHROUD RESEARCH FOR ALMOST FIFTY YEARS SINCE HE FIRST SAW THE SHROUD IN 1933 AS AN ALTAR BOY IN TURIN. HE HAS WRITTEN SEVERAL BOOKS ON THE HOLY SHROUD AND WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR COORDINATING THE MASSIVE STUDIES UNDERTAKEN BY SCIENTISTS IN TURIN IN 1978. DON PIERO COERA BORGHA, WHO ALSO LIVES AND WORKS IN TURIN, IS THE SECRETARY OF THE CENTRO INTERNAZIONALE DI SINDONOLOGIA, THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR SINDONOLOGY, WHICH IS THE WORLD'S MAJOR REPOSITORY OF ALL ITEMS CONCERNING THE STUDY OF THE HOLY SHROUD.

(Photo Credit: The Holy Shroud Guild, New York)

EDITORIAL

This edition of SHROUD NEWS contains an article about the visit by American experts to Turin in May last year and a report on the work of Italian scientist Professor P. L. Baima-Bollone.

Since the February issue we have received further information from Professor Filas of Chicago and another article on his work is in preparation for this newsletter.

Passing attention was paid in the Australian press recently to an announcement by Professor Alan Whanger of Duke University in North Carolina. Dr Whanger has produced a study based on the superimposition of the Shroud face on polarized filters of a Byzantine icon dated 590 A.D. and a gold Byzantine coin issued between 692 and 695. He has demonstrated 60 points of congruence with the coin and 45 with the icon. Clearly so many similarities show that the Shroud itself must have been available to copy at that time. Since we have no certain proof of the Shroud's existence and whereabouts until Lirey in 1357 Whanger's thesis supports the well documented historical theory which formed the basis of Ian Wilson's study showing continuous historical and artistic references since the time of Christ. SHROUD NEWS hopes to have Professor Whanger's papers for review shortly.

In the even more controversial areas of study are two new books: THE CROSS AND THE SHROUD by Frederick T. Zugibe and THE HOLY BLOOD AND THE HOLY GRAIL by Baigent, Leigh and Lincoln. The first is written by an American pathologist who has produced new theories about the cause of death of Christ. This is an area of considerable argument both with and without the evidence on the Shroud image.

The book is not yet available in Australia. The second book has already reached the top seller lists all over Australia and concerns a theory of Christ having had descendants who survive to this day. I have only just obtained a copy and will review it for SHROUD NEWS in terms of its relevance to the Holy Shroud in due course.

There is just more and more evidence being produced by the scientists for the authenticity of the Holy Shroud. It is sad that so often people one meets can only remember the press stories claiming its fraudulence. One hopes that Shroud News helps to redress the balance in an objective way.

REX MORGAN

THE VISIT TO TURIN IN MAY 1981

As reported in SHROUD NEWS earlier a group of Americans, led by Father Adam Otterbein, went to Turin in May 1981 to report progress to the authorities. The following report was written by Father Peter Rinaldi for the Newsletter of the Holy Shroud Guild:

TURIN. MAY 1981

It was my privilege on May 6th to welcome to Turin Father Adam J. Otterbein, CSSR, *President of the Holy Shroud Guild*. As you may know, *our Guild had a direct part in the events that led to the 1978 public exposition of the Shroud and the subsequent scientific examination of it*. Accompanying Father Otterbein were *Dr John P Jackson and Dr Larry Schwalbe, members of the Shroud of Turin Research Project, Inc*. They were joined by *Turin Professor Luigi Gonella who, as scientific consultant for the Archbishop of Turin, had co-ordinated the tests in 1978, and by Professor Giovanni Riggi, also of Turin, who had a major part in the tests*.

WITH THE CARDINAL ARCHBISHOP OF TURIN

On Saturday, May 9, we were received by His Eminence Anastasio Cardinal Ballestrero, Archbishop of Turin, at his stately residence in the heart of Turin's business center. I had informed him about the purpose of this visit several weeks before. The United States researchers were anxious to present him with a summary report of their work and of the results achieved during the two and a half years of tests and analyses of the data extracted from the Shroud in October 1978. For nearly two hours the four scientists illustrated the work done and the resulting conclusions they had reached. They left him with an eighty page report and reprints of some fifteen articles published thus far by scientific journals on specific aspects of their research.

The Cardinal, who during the presentation had frequently asked questions, appeared very pleased with the report. He congratulated the scientists on their "painstaking and dedicated work", and readily and graciously consented to pose with us for photographs.

The Visit to Turin in May 1981 (contd)

WITH KING UMBERTO OF SAVOY

While the primary responsibility for the Shroud rests with the Archbishop of Turin, its official custodian, former King of Italy, Umberto II of Savoy, whose family has owned the Shroud for nearly six hundred years, is the one person who ultimately decides what may be done with it. It was King Umberto who gave permission to proceed with the scientific examination of the Shroud. A report to him was more than just a matter of courtesy.

On May 15th the King received us most graciously at his beautiful "Villa Italia" on the outskirts of enchanting Cascais in Portugal. He, too, was full of questions during the presentation made by the scientists in our group. The king appeared remarkably well informed on details of the research. He had previously read several of the articles published in the scientific journals. We all agreed he could not have been more gracious and cordial.

MAY 13. 5. p. m. ST PETER'S SQUARE

Our meeting with Pope John Paul II had been scheduled for Wednesday May 13th. About a week before, through his Maestro di Camera, he had asked for a brief summary of the report. He was to meet with us personally following the public audience in St Peter's Square, and so our group was placed closest to his speaking platform. We were tensely awaiting his arrival at the platform and were watching the progress of his white jeep through the crowd when suddenly those horrible gunshots ... There is no point in describing how we felt as we sadly left St Peter's Square.

Knowing how keenly interested the Holy Father is in the Holy Shroud, we know he will want eventually to acquaint himself with the details of the research and the conclusions reached by the experts. I cannot but recall at this point the words John Paul II said when, as Cardinal Wojtyla, he came to Turin to venerate the Shroud during the 1978 Exposition: "Ever since I was a young seminarian, the Shroud has always held a special place in my heart."

MILESTONES FOR THE HOLY SHROUD GUILD

By way of closing, I might point out that the visits we paid to the

The Visit to Turin in May 1981 (contd)

Archbishop of Turin and King Umberto were important milestones on the long journey which the Holy Shroud Guild began three decades ago in promoting the cause of the Holy Shroud. The Holy Relic has now gained worldwide recognition. The spotlight of science has been focused on it. The result? A greater awareness of the Lord Jesus, of His sufferings, death and resurrection. For this we can all be grateful.

May 25, 1981
Torino

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NAMED AFTER THE HOLY SHROUD

A friend of Rex Morgan's who is a professor of Physics at Cambridge University in England and has no special interest in the Shroud sent a letter recently which contained the following:

"The latest addition to my family arrived in March. My wife had taken a liking to the name Sidony and when the new arrival turned out to be a girl she more or less decided that SIDONY she was to be. We checked the Oxford Dictionary of Christian Names and to our surprise we found the following entry:

Sidony: this name was formerly used by Roman Catholics for girls born about the date of the Feast of the Winding Sheet (i.e. of Christ), more formally alluded to as 'the Sacred *Sendon*'. *Sendon* or *Sindon* (from Latin *sindon*, Greek σινδων 'fine cloth', 'linen') was used in Middle English for a fine cloth, especially one used as a shroud. The Sacred *Sendon* is supposed to be preserved at Turin. That Sidony or *Sidonia* = *Sindonia* is shown by an example from Shropshire, 1793, '*Sidonia* or *Sindonia* Wilden'. *Sidonie* is not uncommon in France, and the Irish *Sidney* (q.v.) is probably really *Sidony*. No early example of the name has been found, but it seems likely that the surname *Siddons* has this origin.

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SOME ITALIAN SCIENTIFIC RESULTS

When the American STURP team conducted its extensive programme of testing on the Holy Shroud in October 1978 a group of Italian scientists joined them for independent tests. Professor P. L. Baima-Bollone released the results of his work a week prior to the visit to Turin in May 1981 by Father Adam Otterbein and representatives of the STURP team to report to the Archbishop. There were several reports in Italian newspapers of Baima-Bollone's work.

SHROUD NEWS is grateful to the International Centre for Sindonology at Turin for sending the Italian press cuttings. We are especially grateful to Clarissa Pagan of Sydney for translating these articles into English. The following report is based on the translation of two articles, one from L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO (6 May 1981) and the other from AVENIRE (8 May 1981).

The official presentation by the International Centre for Sindonology, of the first results of the new session of investigation and scientific studies, begun in October 1978 when a group of Italian, European and American researchers, well supplied with information, were able to conduct their analyses directly on the Shroud, has revealed a very pleasant surprise. This surprise is also, at the same time, a true and proper scientific confirmation of a hypothesis aired for a very long time. The discovery, translated into simple terms is this: through long studies, Pier Luigi Baima-Bollone has succeeded in discovering on the Shroud traces of blood, aloes and myrrh.

The importance of the discovery lies in the fact that the researcher has succeeded in documenting scientifically such a presence. Traces of blood on the Shroud have always been talked about. Now the studies, cross checked with various researchers, provide a scientific document on it.

Baima-Bollone is a doctor of forensic medicine. He is a teacher at the University of Turin and has achieved worldwide fame among sindonologists. For the past few months he has been the new director of the International Centre and in this appointment has succeeded the grand master Professor Giovanni Judica-Cordiglia, founder and first director of the Centre, who died on 20 May 1980.

Some Italian Scientific Results (contd)

The Centre has invited researchers to set forth publicly the conclusions of their research. Professors Baima-Bollone, Aurelio Ghio, Alberto Brandone and Giovanni Tamburelli have illustrated the first substantial report on the investigations. The statement which interested public and scholars in a major way, gathered in the prestigious Medical Academy of Turin, is that of Baima-Bollone. He explains, with the most interesting scientific slides, that he has applied the methods of the forensic laboratory to the micro traces of the Shroud.

Baima-Bollone himself writes:

"The Shroud of Turin poses a whole series of delicate problems in terms of authenticity and interpretation. Nevertheless more than three million people converged to see it in the forty two viewing days in 1978 - the longest in mankind's memory testifying thereby that faith has overcome every uncertainty.

For its own part, what has science succeeded in demonstrating? From 9th to 15th October 1978, the Cardinal Archbishop of Turin, Anastasio Ballestrero, who carries the responsibility of Custodian, consented to a programme of direct observation and sampling by Italian researchers and those of other nationalities. From that time conflicting news and editorials have come from foreign countries, which sometimes propose in discussion or directly deny the genuineness of the exhibit, completely frustrating the expectations of believers.

The obligation and seriousness of the research carried out cannot allow such a confusion of information.

I am one of the researchers from the "Week of Examinations" of Autumn 1978. I am also the only one who was authorised to remove a small number of samples of the woof and warp from predetermined parts of the cloth, namely from the threads which are free from pigmentation, from threads which show the effects of action by heat from the fire of 1532, from areas marked with the cadaverous image of the Man in the Shroud and from the marks believed to be blood.

Some Italian Scientific Results (contd)

Having finished the first cycle of the investigations my second obligation was to communicate the results to the authority that had authorised them. Since it has kindly allowed me to make them public I will summarise the course of my research in this article.

The first microscopic observations carried out directly on samples confirmed to me that the threads are of linen with some trace of cotton, that they are made of seventy fibres each and that there are differences, at least of the angle of torsion, among the woof and the warp. It is immediately clear that there are sharp structural diversities between the fibre without pigmentation, those which exhibit signs of the action of heat and those which are marked. On those extracted threads, in relation to the anatomical parts, one notices indications of coloured material, above all evident in relation to the marks of 'blood'.

At this point I needed terms of comparison. I decided to prepare on linen fibres, stains of aloe, myrrh, soap and blood in varying comparative quantities and then aged them artificially. I also obtained some ancient pre-Dynastic Egyptian linen, probably containing traces of blood.

The haematological research had positive results on all the experimental materials, almost as if the blood were preserved for a long time due to the presence of spices. On the other hand the results of the verification on the archaeological material are negative.

The experimental investigation allowed me, moreover, to demonstrate that the structure of the material on the threads stained with aloes and myrrh is similar to that of the threads taken from the image area of the cloth while those threads stained with aloes, myrrh, soap and blood correspond to what one observes on the blood areas of the cloth.

But there is more. A special microsound X-ray coupled to an electron scanning microscope made it possible to specify the nature of the material under observation. This type of microanalysis allowed me to establish that the coloured marks on the Shroud not only have the same morphological bond but also the same mineral content as those experimental samples with aloes and myrrh,

Some Italian Scientific Results (contd)

while those of 'blood' disclosed the same structure and the same elementary composition as those obtained with aloes, myrrh, soap and blood.

Further researches in forensic haematology allowed me to obtain crystalline products wholly analogous to those of a particular derivative of haemoglobin, hydrochloride of haematin (the crystals of haemati or Teichmann) and the spectra of absorption and emission of the material confirmed my suspicion.

Up to now one could conclude that that the imprints of a body on the Shroud have a structure very different from the burnt parts which is irreconcilable with the hypothesis that the image was produced by a burst of radiant energy, which would please the evangelicals, indeed the anatomical imprints are produced from aloes and myrrh and the 'bloodstains' do effectively contain blood, aloes, myrrh and, perhaps, soap.

Are these credible results? The reply will come from further investigations that I have initiated with specialists of different disciplines and from numerous researchers to whom I have turned for checking. Professor Max Frei, for example, confirms having found on the adhesive tape he applied to the surface of the Shroud, the presence of aloes. Moreover, he has retrieved a considerable quantity of pollen which confirms that the cloth remained, perhaps for centuries, near the banks of the western Mediterranean basin.

Frei has identified on the cloth traces of the presence of about fifty different species of pollen probably coming from those geographic areas traversed by the relic in almost two thousand years: pollens from Palestine, Anatolia, Asia Minor, the Bosphorus region, France and Piedmont.

The investigations having begun rich in suggestive results continue without rest. They furnish convergent results, both with the acute sensibility of the faithful who have always wanted to see the Shroud as the burial cloth of Jesus and with the tradition of the Church which has formalised the memory of it in the liturgical festival of 4th May."

Some Italian Scientific Results (contd)

In the previous few weeks, the results have been shown to the Archbishop of Turin. At the end of this week the American researchers from NASA should be in Turin: we shall hear results which are common.

Obviously, as has happened in the past and as its usual practice, the Church has not formulated official opinions of the results obtained from science. It would be presumptuous to await an announcement from the ecclesiastical authorities on the authenticity or otherwise of the Shroud. The Church follows a line of great caution and understandable reserve. But it is undeniable that the conclusions of the researchers are of enormous scientific interest. They confirm that the Shroud is not a fake, that it is extremely old and that it is not a pictorial representation.

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MEN OF THE SHROUD

Friends skiing in the Wyoming Rockies last year were perceptive enough to spot an article in the current edition of the Frontier Airline house journal and sent it to Rex Morgan.

It is good to think that as one sits in an aircraft thumbing through the glossy airline magazines many people will come into contact with the Shroud through the article we mention. It is called THE MEN OF THE SHROUD and is written by a Denver freelance journalist Lucy Beckstead. It talks of Jackson and Jumper and of other members of the STURP team who made scientific studies in Turin in 1978. There are some excellent photographs of the study in progress as well as from the studies themselves.

Beckstead has given a concise and accurate account of the history of the Shroud as we know it and a summary of the many current scientific findings. The article has eleven colour pictures and extends over eight pages of the magazine.

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WHAT THE PEOPLE SAY

SHROUD NEWS's correspondent in Newcastle, New South Wales, has sent some recent letters to the editor of the Newcastle Herald. Relevant extracts from the letters show interesting opinions from the public:

"Even if the Shroud were authentic it is only a piece of material so it could not have any mystical powers. No one knows what Jesus looked like. Three hundred years after His death, artists began to paint their impressions of what He looked like. All the artists depict Him as a weak and sickly man. But he would have been strong and vigorous; after all, He was the perfect man."

Harry Bell, Kahibah

"Although many people were crucified about the time of Christ, and presumably were wrapped in bandages, the natural decomposition of their bodies would have obliterated any reproduction of the bodily configuration. The Shroud of Turin is important because its existence is explained by the fact that the person enshrouded was not subject to the decomposition of the grave, but left the tomb on the third day. This sequence is the keystone of the Christian religion and is also the centre-piece of the explanation of the Shroud of Turin."

David Walker, Waratah

"Those who believe in Jesus Christ do not depend on any relic to prove to them that He lived, died and rose from the dead. The most wonderful thing about the Shroud is that many unbelieving, hard-core cynics have attempted to prove it a fraud and have become humbled and believing. I pray that the people who visit the Shroud with their ultra-modern equipment continue to do so and become more confounded. If they go to mock and come back with faith then maybe the Shroud is a little mystical. God does his work in strange ways. Maybe the perfect man did lie in that shroud."

Patricia Busted, Islington

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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 from international sources. This will be published in the next few issues as well as latest information as it becomes available.

PUBLICATION

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