

NOTES ABOUT THE AUTHORS

LARRY A. SCHWALBE received a Ph.D. in Physics from the University of Illinois in 1973. After holding a two-year postdoctoral appointment at the Technische Universität München, he returned to the United States where for the last 15 years he has been working as a research scientist at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, in Los Alamos, New Mexico.

Dr. Schwalbe's professional experience has been in the fields of low-temperature physics, non-destructive testing, and computational physics. He is currently a section leader in the Hydrodynamics Applications Group of the Applied Theoretical Physics Division at Los Alamos. He has been an active member of the Shroud of Turin Research Project since March 1979 and has co-authored roughly half a dozen technical papers on the Shroud.

BENJAMIN A. WIECH is an attorney in North Tonawanda, New York. He received his Law degree from New York State University.

Mr. Wiech had been an atheist for over a decade when, in 1985, he read Dr. John Heller's book, *Report on the Shroud of Turin*. He converted immediately to Christianity. In his enthusiasm for the Shroud, he made many calls to appear on radio talk-shows, and this led to an on-air debate with Joe Nickell. Television interviews followed, then in May 1988 there was a fateful appearance with Dr. Harry Gove, who already knew the results of the C14 dating. "When Dr. Gove, who was friendly with me, reassured me that the Shroud image would continue to have value as an icon, I knew stormy seas were ahead."

But Benjamin Wiech can ride stormy waves with confidence, since his discovery of the Shroud set his life on another course. His observations on the origin of the forelocks shown on Byzantine icons are the subject of his first published article on the Shroud.

DONALD M. SMITH was just 21 years old when he first learned about the Shroud. It was in 1953; he was stationed in Germany in the U.S. Air Force when he chanced to read a newspaper article about it. He put the article in his footlocker, making a pledge that someday he would study the Shroud and try to understand it.

After attending the University of Southern California, Smith worked in the oil business, retiring in 1974. Married, father of two sons, he and his wife live in a suburb of Los Angeles.

Over the years, he never forgot about the Holy Shroud. Readers will recall how he fulfilled his pledge by producing his book *The Letter* (1983). That accomplishment did not mark an end to his quest for knowledge and understanding, for the day that he stashed that article in his footlocker, he locked the Shroud for the rest of his life deep in his innermost self.