

About The Second Image Of Face Detected On The Turin Shroud

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Abstract:

A second faint image of the face of the Turin Shroud has been discovered in 2004 (Ref. 1) and many scientists in the world, also of Shroud Science Group, confirmed the discovery (Refs. 2, 3, 4, 5), but a recent paper (Ref. 6) has questioned in a debatable way its presence. With a perhaps too high degree of certainty, it explains those patterns with pareidolia and Gestalt effects of the human perception, supporting its conclusion on the basis of illusory images perhaps built on purposes and on numerical results also derived from spatial cross-correlation used in a not proper way.

The human visual perception is a complex phenomenon involving many disciplines and it is quite illusory to pretend to judge analog problems like visual perception only in digital terms such are those derived by computer vision. Worse seems to pretend to dismiss a result, as it has been made in Ref. 6, by comparisons with built-in images that tend to trick the human perception.

Pareidolia and Gestalt effect can in some case trick the human vision and there is not a well defined separation line between real patterns and those built in by the human perception. The human perception is a very complex analog method, able to assign a preconceived model stored in our memory to a pattern contained in an image. Various digital methods have been proposed in the literature for the recognition of these patterns, among them there is the template matching that uses the spatial cross-correlation and that, if properly used, gives acceptable information.

Additional checks for face recognition can derive from the mutual comparison among the results obtained by other methods, but a not questionable answer will be probably obtained in the future when we will have software able to recognize, measure and compare with no doubts important details of face like mouth, nose, moustaches, beard, hair, eyes.

Before to reach the debatable conclusion of Ref. 6, it will be necessary to have a sure and objective demonstration that the second fainter face detected in Ref. 1 is really a trick of the

human perception. Meanwhile, in agreement with various experts of the Turin Shroud (Refs. 2, 3, 4, 5), we consider credible the presence of a second image of face on the back side of the TS. The analysis of the UV photo of face made by Turin Archdiocese in 2002 and not yet made available to the scientific community will help to confirm this fact.

This paper both discusses the results of Ref. 6 showing why the image processing used in that paper seems not proper to sustain its thesis and it presents additional image processing for pattern recognition.