

June 23, 2011

Dear David,

I have had a closer look at your article and wanted to comment on something you wrote. You said regarding the STURP team that, "This behavior is not candid and sincere and indicates the STURP members were confused about the question of authenticity."

We were very sincere and we were NOT confused. We did not go to Turin to determine if the Shroud was authentic, or even if it depicted Jesus. Our ONLY goal was to try and determine the image formation mechanism. That should be clear from STURP's original Test Plan titled, "Operations Test Plan for Investigating the Shroud of Turin by Electromagnetic Radiation at Various Wavelengths." There was nothing in the test plan about Jesus or authenticity. As Alan Adler once said, "there is no (scientific) test for Christness."

All the tests performed by STURP were designed to determine if there were any artist's pigments or other art mediums applied to the cloth. We used the most sophisticated technology available in 1978 for such purposes and some of those tests were sensitive enough to find 1 part per BILLION of any of the elements we were looking for (pyrolysis mass spectrometry).

Before we went to Turin, Raymond Rogers of Los Alamos National Laboratories, head of the Chemistry Group for STURP, had acquired the spectral characteristics of every pigment known to man from medieval to modern times. We had a complete database for comparison of spectral characteristics and the Shroud showed absolutely NO pigments of any kind. There were only a few random particles of pigment found anywhere on the Shroud (no more so in the image than the non-image areas) and there are 57 documented cases in the historic record where artists were permitted to make artistic copies of the Shroud and then laid their finished artwork onto the actual Shroud to "sanctify" them. Any paint particles found were attributed to a direct transfer of pigments during those events but they were definitely not what formed the image.

You will be the first skeptic who has joined our Speakers Directory and as such, I think we should make it clear that your position is against authenticity so that viewers looking to book a speaker will know that from the outset. As I do whenever I update that page, I will write a short introductory paragraph on the Late Breaking Website News page to inform our viewers that a new speaker has been added and will include that information in my introduction. I will also make a link to your essay from the listing itself.

I will look over your materials in more detail when I start the actual work on that page and will get back to you if I have any other specific suggestions or questions. Still, I am pleased to include you on the site to give our viewers an opportunity to hear a different point of view.

Warmest regards,

Barrie