

The Origin Of Rogers' Raes And C14 Samples

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Authors

[Thibault Heimburger, M.D.](#) - Presenter

Abstract:

In 2005, Rogers wrote his famous paper in *Thermochimica Acta* (Vol.425, 20 January 2005): “Studies on the radiocarbon sample from the Shroud of Turin”.

In this paper he demonstrated that: “Pyrolysis-mass-spectrometry results from the sample area coupled with microscopic and microchemical observations prove that the radiocarbon sample was not part of the original cloth of the Shroud of Turin. The radiocarbon date was thus not valid for determining the true age of the shroud”.

Since 2005 several critical comments were made by different researchers. In the first part, we will briefly try to answer to them.

However, there is another crucial question regarding the Rogers' samples themselves. Rogers himself was very vague about the origin of the samples. He only wrote: “ I received 14 yarn segments from the Raes sample from Prof. Luigi Gonella (...) on October 1979” and :” On December 2003, I received samples of both warp and weft threads that Prof. Luigi Gonella had taken from the radiocarbon sample before it was distributed for dating. Gonella reported that he excised the threads from the center of the radiocarbon sample”.

How is it possible? Particularly, how can we understand the words “...from the *center* of the radiocarbon sample”? In the last years, I was able to obtain several documents from Prof. Gonella's archives, as well as documents and photographs from Rogers' archives and finally another confidential document demonstrating the “chain of custody” for the Rogers' C14 threads.

With all these unpublished documents, I will show that the Raes and radiocarbon samples Rogers used were beyond any reasonable doubt genuine Shroud samples. In the conclusion, taking into account all the data (including the opposite comments of the textile experts), I'll try to show why and how a new radiocarbon dating of the Shroud should be performed.