

### 31.1 THE CHURCH MARCHES ON

The next pages include letters from Father Otterbein, President of the U.S. Holy Shroud Guild, Thomas D'Muhala, President of the Shroud of Turin Research Project (STURP), Dr. John Jackson, Director, Turin Shroud Center of Colorado, Ian Wilson, Journalist and Author, Paul Maloney, Director of Association of Scientists and Scholars International for the Shroud of Turin, Rev. Albert Dreisbach, Jr., Director of the Atlanta International Center for the Continuing Study of the Turin Shroud as well as a statement by a noted portrait artist and a proposal for continued research from the Holy Shroud Guild.

Letter of the President of the Holy Shroud Guide to the Most Reverend Giovanni Saldarini, Archbishop of Turin.

May 15, 1989

Your Excellency:

Greetings and Salutations in the Lord! I write to congratulate you in the name of the members of the Holy Shroud Guild on your appointment to the Archbishopric of Turin. We wish you God's grace and blessing in your leadership of the great archdiocese.

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To the millions of Shroud advocates throughout the world you will be known as the Official Custodian. We wish to assure you of our continued interest and desire to help. We were disappointed by the date that resulted from the Carbon 14 test but we have been encouraged by the observations of experts, who have pointed out possible sources of error in the test. We need an expert scientific evaluation of the entire test procedure, and then a series of laboratory studies. No final verdict will be possible without at least another examination of the Shroud by various experts.

I hope that it will be possible to continue the research and to accept the generous offer of experts, who have offered their time and talents. The American scientists of the Shroud of Turin Research Project are willing and anxious to cooperate in further studies because they realize the need and urgency for a response to the Carbon 14 dating and the importance of studies to determine the best method of conservation for the Shroud.

We realize that you have many responsibilities, but we hope that you will find time to consider the proposals for further study of the Shroud.

Devotedly yours in Christ,

Peter M. Rinaldi, S.D.B.  
Vice-President

Adam J. Otterbein, C.S.S.R.  
President

**THE HOLY SHROUD GUILD AND THE SHROUD OF TURIN  
RESEARCH PROJECT, INC.**

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The Holy Shroud Guild was established in the United States in 1951 to promote knowledge of and research on the Shroud. Affiliated to the Centro Internazionale Di Sindonologia of Turin, the Guild was canonically erected in the Archdiocese of New York.

Early in the 1970's, with the approval and the encouragement of the then owner of the Shroud, Umberto II of Savoy, and of Michele Cardinal Pellegrino, archbishop of Turin, the Guild welcomed and financially assisted the initiative of several United States scientists who banded together for an in-depth study of the Shroud. The group is known as the Shroud of Turin Research Project, Inc. (STURP). Their program of scientific tests, approved and accepted by Anastasio Cardinal Ballestrero, archbishop of Turin, was implemented in the fall of 1978.

The findings of the 1978 investigation, published in several prestigious scientific journals, astounded the world. They are briefly summarised in the brochure herewith enclosed. The research work done by the members of STURP was hailed by the international scientific community as a major contribution to the study of the Shroud.

Professor Luigi Gonella, of the Turin Politechnic Institute, scientific consultant to the Cardinal-archbishop of Turin, was supervisor of the STURP 1978 investigation. Assisting was also Professor Giovanni Riggi di Numana, of Turin, presently one of STURP's vice-presidents.

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The following is a letter to Archbishop Saldarini proposing new tests by STURP.

**A NEW PHASE OF STUDY AND RESEARCH  
FOR THE SHROUD  
AS PROGRAMMED BY THE SHROUD OF TURIN  
RESEARCH PROGRAM, INC. (STURP)**

May 10, 1989

Your Excellency:

The Shroud of Turin Research Project, Inc., [STURP] sends its warmest greetings to Your Excellency.

The recent radiocarbon date of the Shroud announced last Fall represents a serious scientific objection to the authenticity of the Shroud. It is now widely accepted in the scientific community that the Shroud cannot be the burial cloth of Jesus, although its image formation mechanism is still unclear. There remain, however, significant facts pertaining to the Shroud which, when taken collectively, still suggest that the Shroud may be authentic. Because of the potential significance of the Shroud it is important that science be allowed to bring the unsolved questions about the Shroud to a final conclusion.

A body of eminent scientists, who for eleven years have spent considerable time studying the Shroud, exists within STURP. This resource is available to address the primary questions of conservation, image formation, and authenticity. STURP has been active in studying the Shroud for the past eleven years, ever since it examined the cloth in 1978. It has published more than 35 technical papers in peer-reviewed scientific journals, and has been dedicated towards trying to understand the Shroud.

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STURP believes that there are valid scientific issues which can be raised concerning the compatibility of various scientific data on the Shroud, particularly the radiocarbon date. STURP has always been keenly interested in the Shroud's chemistry as related to conservation and image formation and in identifying the process of image formation. Therefore STURP requests, once again, that the Shroud be made available, at the earliest possible opportunity, for direct scientific examination.

We request that this be conducted in two parts. First, we request that a team of six key STURP scientists be allowed to examine the Shroud for six hours. No special equipment other than hand-held instruments, still and video cameras, hand-held magnifiers, etc. will be used for this examination. Since it has been eleven years since STURP has examined the Shroud, it is necessary to perform a preliminary examination of the cloth in order to plan properly for a more serious and fruitful scientific program later. There are many reasons for this, e.g., several key (new) members of STURP have never seen the Shroud, the sampling area for radiocarbon dating needs scrutiny for evidence of possible contamination or reweaving, new creases in the facial region must be examined to determine a recommended approach (for tests or actual remedial action), if any, to remove these recent insults to the cloth/image, etc. In this initial program, special attention will be given to the radiocarbon dating sample selection site for an independent evaluation.

Second, we request that the Shroud be made available in approximately one year from the above preliminary inspection for a major (more serious) scientific examination. STURP will take the responsibility for obtaining its

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own funding and will technically manage the expedition. We suggest the initial inspection of the Shroud occur during the Summer of 1989 in order that new results might be available for the September, 1989 international symposium on the Shroud in Paris. If this is not possible, then a second alternative would be to allow inspection in the days immediately following the international symposium, since most of the STURP scientists who would participate in this study will be present in Europe at that time.

Respectfully submitted,  
Thomas F. D'Muhala  
President  
Shroud of Turin Research  
Project, Inc.

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### THE CARBON-14 TEST HAS NOT SOLVED THE MYSTERY OF THE SHROUD NEW TESTS REQUESTED

Dr. John P. Jackson, Ph.D.

I am uncomfortable accepting any date for the Shroud; in particular, the current radiocarbon date, until I can see or be shown how the image could have been produced in that time period. If we are dealing with a natural process which must therefore be repeatable, then it should be possible to replicate empirically all the characteristics of the Shroud image using technology available in the fourteenth century.

That this is nontrivial is underscored by the fact that

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in this case no one, including the present author, has been able to reproduce satisfactorily a Shroud image that, in fact, replicates the Shroud image with its high resolution, 3-dimensionality, positivity-negativity, superficial alteration of threads, vertical mapping and cellulose-dehydration chemistry.

From my point of view, if I accept the carbon-14 date outright, then I tacitly must accept the existence of a process that produced the image in the fourteenth century, and I do not like to accept something that I do not understand.

More directly, I do not feel that this is scientifically proper, given the legitimate uncertainties which still exist concerning the Shroud image. Accordingly, I believe another examination of the Shroud is in order, specifically the one proposed by STURP (Shroud Of Turin Research Project, Inc.) in 1984. Perhaps this will fill in needed pieces of the puzzle.

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### WHAT THE RESULTS OF THE CARBON-14 TEST CALL FOR: A NEW IN-DEPTH STUDY OF THE SHROUD IMAGE

Ian Wilson

In the case of the Shroud, the carbon-14 test proved little if anything. If we do not yet know how the Shroud image was formed, we cannot totally rule out the possibility of errors in the reading of the test due to any number of reasons.

The scientists of the three laboratories responsible for the test have been at pains to dismiss the "flimsiness" of these

arguments, but the facts prove that not everything in the procedure they used was watertight. I am not questioning the laboratories' competence, nor that they genuinely arrived at a 14th century date, but like all carbon-14 test's serious experts, I feel strongly that the radiocarbon analysis should not be the only, and certainly not the final arbiter to determine the date of origin of any given archeological artifact.

In the specific case of the Shroud, too many factors induce me to question the laboratories' verdict. What up until now, respected individuals in responsible academic posts have discovered of the Shroud image in no way justifies anyone to accept as irrevocably final the date arrived at by the three laboratories.

It is too early and too easy to speak of the Shroud's demise solely on the basis of a test mired in uncertainties. If the results of the test suggest anything, it is a new multidisciplinary study in-depth of the Shroud image. For until someone clearly and unequivocally shows exactly how some 14th century artist produced the Shroud's image, the continued possibility of the Shroud's authenticity should at least be allowed for.

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**TOO MANY QUESTIONS ON THE SHROUD  
HAVE YET TO BE ANSWERED**

Paul C. Maloney

Where do we stand at this point with regard to the Shroud? How much does science know about this unique cloth? Was the Shroud repaired? If so, is the date established

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by the carbon-14 test more appropriate for that repair than for the original Shroud? How does the area from which the samples for the test were taken compare with the main body of the Shroud? And what kinds of contaminants are there on the Shroud? Could some of them have skewed the date, given the "pressure cooker conditions" to which the Shroud was subjected? Will further testing turn up evidence for unusual levels of calcium-41 and chlorine-36?

While we do not yet have answers to all these questions, research continues, and new tests are being proposed to elucidate the mysteries surrounding the Shroud of Turin.

Science will never be able to prove that the Turin Shroud is the burial cloth of Christ. But it can build a case for that belief, or it can poke holes in it. Eventually, after science has had a chance to grapple with a number of these issues (proving, for instance, that no artist in the XIV century or at any other time could have produced the Shroud image), a new carbon-14 test will have to be conducted to determine the truth of the matter.

Until we have pursued all paths science can offer, we cannot say that the current carbon-14 test date provides "conclusive evidence that the linen of the Shroud of Turin is medieval."

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### WHY NEW TESTS ON THE SHROUD ARE A PRIME NECESSITY

The Rev. Albert R. Dreisbach, Jr.

With an overwhelming preponderance of evidence arguing against the the Shroud being "medieval," is it any

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wonder that serious students of this linen call into question the "medieval" date determined by the carbon-14 laboratories? So out of synch with all the other data is their conclusion "that the linen of the Shroud of Turin is medieval," that some glaring flaw in the protocol of their testing places the burden of proof of their claims lies with the laboratories themselves.

"When one body of scientific data conflicts with another, it is the responsibility of the larger scientific community to investigate the dispute and resolve same via exhaustive analysis and peer review."

The Atlanta International Center for the Continuing Study of the Turin Shroud would heartily concur with the above statement originally made by the Assist Investigating Groups.

We remain confident that, if such an exhaustive study and peer review is undertaken, it will be the Shroud that will test the current carbon-14 results and not vice versa.

The controversy will continue to rage due in no small part to the mass media's propensity for superficial sensationalism at the expense of an in-depth study which presents all the available facts.

While the debate continues, it is the hope of our Center that those who approach the subject with openness and objectivity will avoid a "rush to judgment" a judgment that may not only be premature, but one which time and future will prove to be inaccurate.

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### THE HOLY SHROUD GUILD RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS WHAT FOLLOWS

The Holy Shroud Guild not only supports and encourages further study and research on the Shroud, but strongly advocates the following points.

1. It is of the utmost importance that this new phase of Shroud research develop a multi-disciplinary approach to the study of the Shroud, an approach that will allow a comparative study of all the data obtained from research and experiments in the different fields of science.
2. In order that this new project of Shroud research may be both efficient and credible, it should be open to representatives of all groups which have researched the Shroud in the past decade. To choose some and exclude others - as was done in recent years—would be counter-productive to the entire project.
3. The competent authorities should consider the opportunity and the feasibility of placing the project under the supervision of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences. This will insure the credibility and the impartiality of the research.
4. The problem of the Shroud's conservation urgently demands attention. It should constitute an integral part of the new research program.