

SHROUD OF TURIN BLOG

Latest news and views on the Turin Shroud

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Awaiting Live Stream from RAI Uno

March 30, 2013 Dan

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Click [HERE](#) or on the image below to be taken to RAI Uno's streaming page. let's hope and assume that the message, "We apologize. The content is not available due to copyright restrictions," will not appear during the exhibition.

- Saturday, March 30 – 11:10 a.m. Italian time (10:10 a.m. GMT / **6:10 a.m. EDT**) – RAI Uno – "A sua immagine", Shroud Special: *L'attesa dell'Ostensione (Waiting for the Exhibition)*
- Saturday, March 30 – 5:15 p.m. Italian time (4:15 p.m. GMT / **12:15 p.m. EDT**) – RAI Uno – "A sua immagine" – *Sindone: i segni della Passione (Shroud: The Signs of the Passion)*



Shroud of Turin

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Now Available Shroud of Turin Blog

March 29, 2013 Dan

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This is [the video from ABC News Good Morning America](#) (or click on the picture). It runs about two and a half minutes:

Blog at WordPress.com.

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- **ROGERS' MAILLARD REACTION HYPOTHESIS EXPLAINED IN DETAIL BY ROGERS HIMSELF** by Thibault Heimburger
- **THE TURIN SHROUD BODY IMAGE: THE SCORCH HYPOTHESIS REVISITED** by Thibault Heimburger

[Contribute to shroud.com](#) An important message from Barrie Schwartz

Stats for This Blog

1,387,637 views

Is the Shroud real? Probably.

The Shroud of Turin may be the real burial cloth of Jesus. The carbon dating, once seemingly proving it was a medieval fake, is now widely thought of as suspect and meaningless. Even the famous Atheist Richard Dawkins admits it is controversial. Christopher Ramsey, the director of the Oxford Radiocarbon Laboratory, thinks more testing is needed. So do many other scientists and archeologists. This is because there are significant scientific and non-religious reasons to doubt the validity of the tests. Chemical analysis, all nicely peer-reviewed in scientific journals and subsequently confirmed by numerous chemists, shows that samples tested are chemically unlike the whole cloth. It was probably a mixture of older threads and newer threads woven into the cloth as part of a medieval repair. Recent robust statistical studies add weight to this theory. Philip Ball, the former physical science editor for *Nature* when the carbon dating results were published, recently wrote: "It's fair to say that, despite the seemingly definitive tests in 1988, the status of the Shroud of Turin is murkier than ever." If we wish to be scientific we must admit we do not know how old the cloth is. But if the newer thread is about half of what was tested – and some evidence suggests that – it is possible that the cloth is from the time of Christ.



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Earlier today I wrote . . .

Not that any serious student of the Shroud of Turin is going find anything new or particularly meaningful in the *ABC Good Morning America* coverage, but our good friend and frequent contributor on this blog, Russ Breault, was great.

But what is the news story, here?

- 1. Is the story the upcoming exhibition tomorrow with billions set to watch it live? Yes ABC said 'billions' along the bottom of the screen.
- 2. Or is the story that investigators at the University of Padua have shown that the shroud might be real despite carbon dating in the past? Did ABC actually say that skeptics call it the Fraud of Turin?
- 3. Or is the story the iPhone app, Shroud 2.0? It was barely mentioned.

I don't think the planners of the exhibition in Turin were counting on the Fanti's book getting all this attention. Has it overshadowed Turin's plans for Saturday or provided needed publicity?

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Press Coverage

Quote for Today: Lombatti's head exploding all over the place.

March 29, 2013 Dan [Leave a comment](#)

Jim West*, blogger of *Zwinglius Redivivus* and outspoken Baptist pastor on Giulio Fanti's new findings:



“ I would hate to be at Antonio Lombatti's house today. His head must be exploding all over the place.

And wouldn't we be disappointed if we didn't hear from Antonio, super Shroud of Turin skeptic. He writes:

“ Typical Easter madness. Every year, around March or April, there's always a new and amazing "discovery" to date back this medieval relic to the time of Jesus. However, this time I don't even have to waste my time to reply to shroudologists: the Turin cardinal himself has declared that these latests tests are absolutely meaningless.

Typical Lombatti with just half the story.

*Dr. Jim West, pictured, is Adjunct Professor of Biblical Studies at the Quartz Hill School of Theology and Pastor of Petros Baptist Church, Petros, Tennessee. He has written a number of books and articles and serves as Language Editor for the Scandinavian Journal of the Old Testament and Language Revision Editor for the Copenhagen International Seminar.

Shroud, believe the facts the real similarly unanswered questions is essential.

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My name is Dan Porter. Please email me at DanielRobertPorter@gmail.com

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- Akiane's Jesus, Heaven is for Real and the Man in the Turin Shroud

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- Stephen McCluskey (@SteveMcCluskey) on Giulio Fanti: The Image of a Man Who Lived Between 280 BC and 220 AD
- Giorgio on Of provenance, chain of custody, proper care and suitability of samples
- Yannick Clément on Barrie Schwartz:



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Of provenance, chain of custody, proper care and suitability of samples

 March 29, 2013  [Dan](#)

 14 comments

To trust or distrust, that is the question.

A reader writes:

“ You can not question the provenance, chain of custody, proper care and suitability of the samples used by Fanti without also, again, asking the same questions about the C14 samples.

And Stephen E. Jones wrote in a comment to another posting:

“ In reply to [a comment by Colin Berry who wrote, “]It was understanding that “tufts” were taken from the cope, not a neat 8.1cm x 1.6cm rectangle.[”]

I said nothing about a “rectangle” let alone “a neat 8.1cm x 1.6cm” one. That is Colin’s own straw man. They were just “threads” from “tufts” taken from the cope of St. Louis d’Anjou:

“The Cluny Museum was contacted but refused to be involved. ‘...They got scared ...’ as Evin remarked later. So he and one Gabriel Vial went along to the Basilica of Saint-Maximin at Var and pulled some tufts out of the cope known to have been worn by St. Louis d’Anjou (d. 1297). A postal strike intervened so Vial had to hurry to Turin himself and hand his “control sample” to Tite himself on the very day of the cutting of the sample from the Shroud: 21 April 1988. ... Confronted with the importunities of an excited Vial, the imperturbable Tite divided his offering into three parts which he placed not in cylinders but in [envelopes](#) for the three laboratories as an apparently unexpected but later very useful “Sample 4” – threads from the cope of St. Louis d’Anjou (d. 1297).” (D. J. McDonnell, “[The Great Holy Shroud Dating Fraud of 1988](#),” 4 November 2003).

But it had to be enough linen in those threads for the three C-14 laboratories to carry out a valid C-14 [dating](#), otherwise they would not have been valid controls.

And each of the three C-14 laboratories subdivided their postage size sample of the Shroud several times (one was 9 times from memory), and each subdivided sample had to have enough linen to do a valid C-14 dating. From memory the Shroud samples were reduced to threads anyway, so that they could be pre-treated more thoroughly. A self-styled ‘Sciencebod’ if he thought about it (even if he had not bothered to READ about it) should have realised that the C-14 labs did not do their tests on the ‘rectangle’ of Shroud linen that they were each given.

So if the Shroud is authentic (as all the evidence, apart from the 1988 radiocarbon dating, points to), then an explanation is needed for how three C-14 laboratories ‘just happened’ to agree on a C-14 date range, 1260-1390, the mid-point of which, 1325, ‘just happened’ to be about 25 years before the Shroud appeared at Lirey in the 1350s.

A not unreasonable explanation is that, faced with a public relations disaster, of three C-14 labs all using the then new AMS method, and with literally a million pounds then riding on Oxford’s AMS test being successful, and with the labs being unable to come up with a consistent, publishable, C-14 date, with some of the C-14 sub-samples yielding a C-14 date of 1st century, and other sub-samples yielding a C-14 date of 16th century (due to an invisible repair with cotton-which Oxford lab actually discovered after Arizona had done its test), the three labs all agreed to use a 13-14th century date range, the midpoint of which was just before the Shroud first appeared in the European historical record. And one way to do that was use some of the dates that the 13th century cope of St. Louis d’Anjou had yielded.

It used to be a trump card argument in favour of the 1325 +/- 65 years C-14 date, that if the Shroud was 1st century, then how did it ‘just happen’ to yield a a mid-point date that was a mere 25 years before the Shroud appeared in the undisputed historical record? But that argument cuts both ways: if the Shroud IS 1st century (as the



Biggest issue so far seems to be the validity of Fanti’s samples

- Stephen E. Jones on Barrie Schwartz: Biggest issue so far seems to be the validity of Fanti’s samples
- John Klotz on Of provenance, chain of custody, proper care and suitability of samples
- Louis on Barrie Schwartz: Biggest issue so far seems to be the validity of Fanti’s samples
- Yannick Clément on Barrie Schwartz: Biggest issue so far seems to be the validity of Fanti’s samples

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overwhelming preponderance of the evidence points to), then how did it `just happen` to yield a mid-point date that was a mere 25 years before the Shroud appeared in the undisputed historical record?!

Therefore, I stand by my point (without necessarily saying or believing that that is what happened): "...no one can absolutely prove that the Shroud samples tested by the three C-14 laboratories in 1988 were not switched, for the sample from the 13th century cope of St. Louis d'Anjou ..."

[Colin Berry had written] "It should be easy enough therefore to shoot down this latest unhelpful attempt to muddy the waters of science by going back to the cope to see if there's a missing rectangle.["]

See above on the "rectangle" being Colin's own straw man. I repeat that I said nothing about a "rectangle" being taken from the cope of St. Louis d'Anjou, and nor does my argument require it: "tufts" and "threads" from that 13th century linen cloth sufficient for three C-14 labs to each perform a valid C-14 test, will do just fine.

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Carbon 14 Dating, Science

Good Friday 2013

March 29, 2013

Dan

1 comment

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Second illustration in the Hungarian Pray Manuscript (or Pray Codex) as seen in the National Széchenyi Library of Budapest. Named after György Pray who studied it in the late 1700s.

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Topic for Today

What’s the Story: Fanti’s Book or the Holy Saturday TV Exhibition?

March 29, 2013 Dan

2 comments

Not that any serious student of the Shroud of Turin is going find anything new or particularly meaningful in



the *ABC Good Morning America* coverage, but our good friend and frequent contributor on this blog, Russ Breault, was great.

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Shroud of Turin



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Books, Event, Press Coverage

Barrie Schwartz: Biggest issue so far seems to be the validity of Fanti's samples

March 29, 2013 Dan

20 comments

Barrie Schwartz has an [excellent article on the new book by Giulio Fanti](#) (pictured right). Picking up part ways in (it's the first story for Late Breaking News for March 28):



“ So why all the controversy? The book apparently documents the recent Shroud testing done by Fanti and his research team at the University of Padua and reports the results of some chemical and mechanical tests they performed which they claim "confirms that the Shroud dates back to the 1st century." A pretty powerful statement for sure, but that is not the major problem. You can find a more detailed report about their research on the [Vatican Insider](#) website (in English). Here is an excerpt from their article:

“ "The research includes three new tests, two chemical ones and one mechanical one. The first two were carried out with an FT-IR system, one using infra-red light and the other using [Raman spectroscopy](#). The third was a multi-parametric mechanical test based on five different mechanical parameters linked to the voltage of the wire. The machine used to examine the Shroud's fibres and test traction, allowed researchers to examine tiny fibres alongside about twenty samples of cloth dated between 3000 BC and 2000 AD.

"Final results show that the Shroud fibres examined produced the following dates, all of which are 95% certain and centuries away from the medieval dating obtained with Carbon-14 testing in 1988: the dates given to the Shroud after FT-IR testing, is 300 BC \pm 400, 200 BC \pm 500 after Raman testing and 400 AD \pm 400 after multi-parametric mechanical testing. The average of all three dates is 33 BC \pm 250 years.

"The tests were carried out using tiny fibres of material extracted from the Shroud by micro-analyst Giovanni Riggi di Numana who passed away in 2008 but had participated in the 1988 research project and gave the material to Fanti through the cultural institute Fondazione 3M."

That last paragraph goes to the core of the controversy. In a separate [Vatican Insider](#) article (in Italian – use Google or Bing to translate the page) was the following statement from **Mgr. Cesare Nosiglia**, the Archbishop of Turin (via auto translation with some additional corrections):

“ "Yesterday, a note from the Turin International Centre for Sindonology and the Archbishop of Turin, Mgr. Cesare Nosiglia, put stakes in the work of Fanti. No

serious 'value' of the results can be attributed to any of the research on the Shroud reported in the book, said the Papal Custodian of the Shroud of Turin, Archbishop Cesare Nosiglia. "Since there is no degree of safety on the authenticity of the materials on which these experiments were carried out to the Shroud cloth – reads a note of Monsignor Nosiglia – the owners and custodians cannot recognize any serious value to the results of these alleged experiments."

The article goes on to include Fanti's reply to the allegations that the samples he used were invalid. In part, he states (with some additional corrections):

“In short, there were samples taken of Shroud material in both 1978 and in 1988. In both cases, they were approved by the Custodian of the Shroud, Archbishop (later Cardinal) Anastasio Ballestrero, with the consent of the owner, Umberto II of Savoy in 1978, and Pope John Paul II in 1988. Involved with the Shroud for a long time, prof. Fanti received some fibers taken from the Shroud in 1978 by prof. Ray Rogers, one of the American scientists of the STURP team. "But in 1988, Giovanni Riggi di Numana, the expert who cut the Shroud samples for examination by C14, and with the agreement of Cardinal Ballestrero, kept some of the fibers of the Shroud and collected fragments of aspirated blood and dust samples in between the linen and the Holland cloth. The conditional is a must, as no record was drawn up of the levy for the C14, let alone a semi-official collection like that. But it is very likely that after the death of Riggi, in 2008, a part of the material held by a dedicated foundation has come to Fanti. After the death of Ballestrero, card. Saldarini issued a statement, asking that any Shroud materials be returned. But it seems that no one has complied with the request.

"All of this to conclude: prof. Fanti's research was carried out on the Shroud and of course the material was authentic, even if it was outside the control of the International Centre of Sindonology. And besides, 25 years after the C14 examination, whose own credibility Fanti's work further crumbles, perhaps one might begin to assume that a continuation should be considered of the research program created by STURP, the Shroud of Turin Research Project, an international group of scientists who produced a wealth of incredible scientific results after testing the Shroud in 1978.

So the biggest issue so far seems to be the validity of Fanti's samples

But will that remain the biggest issue?

**Shroud of
Turin**



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