

## The International Center of Sindonology

With almost **sixty years of activity**, the **International Center of Sindonology in Turin** is committed to **spread the message** and the **lesson of the Shroud in the world**. The International Center of Sindonology was **established on December 23, 1959 by the SS Sudario Brotherhood**. It has the task of continuing and **developing the legacy of Cultores Sanctae Sindonis, founded in 1937** by the Brotherhood and closed down in 1959.

Now the **International Center of Sindonology** is responsible for the studies on the Shroud, in order to disseminate its knowledge. It is also in charge of the gathering and preservation of everything related to the Shroud.

It has **not the mission to defend the authenticity of the Shroud**. It promotes instead the studies of this icon using a multidisciplinary approach. In fact, the word **Sindonology** points at the **collection of specific and specialized studies with reference to the Shroud**. Therefore there are not "sindonologists", but **scholars, researchers and experts of specific branches of knowledge who apply their specific methods and knowledge to investigate on the Shroud**, not with the aim to confirm its so-called authenticity, but to go deep in its **typical characteristics** and, as far as possible, **origin**. So **ICS consists of chemists, physicists and historians who inspect the Shroud**. For this reason, their requirements are essentially the **proven competence in the different domains of research and the complete freedom from prejudices**, whether the Shroud belongs to the funeral kit of Christ or not.

**Since 1992, some members of the International Center for Sindonology have been included in the Committee of Experts** appointed by **Card. Giovanni Saldarini** to continue studies on the preservation of the Shroud. Thanks to these very studies, **in July 2002 the patches sewn by the Chambery Clare Sisters in 1534 were removed**.

On the occasion of the **most recent exhibitions of the Holy Shroud**, the **International Center of Sindonology** has been **invited to join the Diocesan Commission of the Shroud** and to give its relevant contribution.

**ICS is the only center in the world officially recognized by the Papal custodian of the Shroud**, to which it grants its advices. Moreover **ICS works to develop scientific contacts with researchers and research institutes** all around the world. Alongside its purely scientific commitment, **ICS organizes and takes part in conventions** in order to disseminate its **knowledge about the Shroud**.