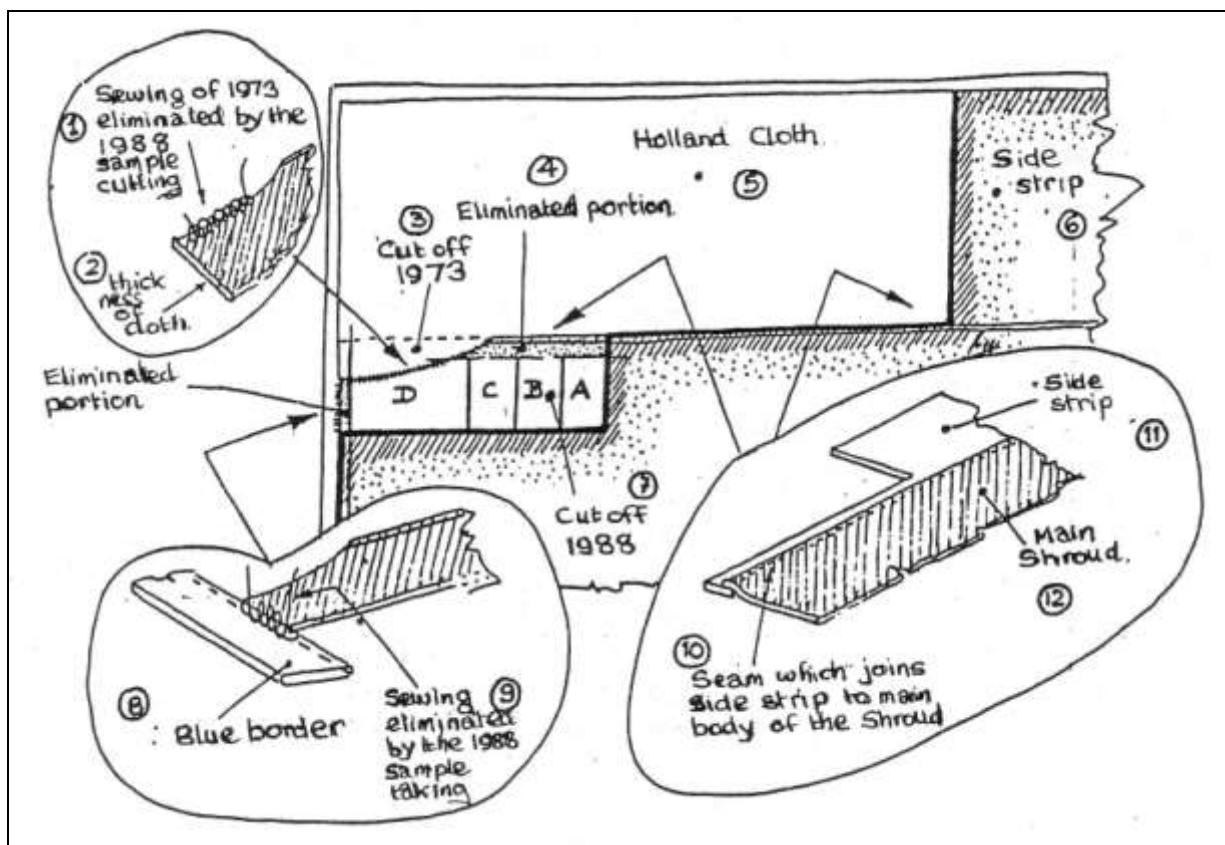


THE SAMPLES USED FOR CARBON DATING: BONNET-EYMARD'S CONTINUED WILD CLAIMS. YET SOME CONTINUING MYSTERIES...

Despite the firmest refutation from responsible individuals of all shades of opinion on the Shroud, Brother Bonnet-Eymard and his French-based "Catholic Counter-Reformation" group continue with their wild allegations that the samples used for the carbon dating were surreptitiously introduced substitutes, and not from the Shroud. Their latest "proof" consists of a close-up photograph of Arizona's Shroud sample side by side with a close-up photograph of the weave of what is claimed as the true Shroud. While at first sight the photographs look different, close inspection of the second reveals that it seems simply been taken from an awkward, glancing angle. When the Arizona photograph is compared with any ordinary, straight-on photograph of the Shroud weave, its identity as the Shroud is obvious. Sadly, the Bonnet-Eymard group are no service to the cause of truth on the Shroud.

But the fact that they manage to perpetuate their claims, however false, highlights some genuine continuing mysteries concerning the samples taken in April 1988. Professor Giovanni Riggi, the Turin microanalyst chosen by Professor Luigi Gonella to superintend, execute and videorecord the taking of the Shroud samples, gave a paper to the Paris Symposium in which he included a detailed sketch-plan of the area of the Shroud from which the samples were taken, together with the respective locations

PLAN OF THE TOP LEFT HAND CORNER OF THE SHROUD (WHEN THE SIDESTRIP IS UPPERMOST), SHOWING SITES OF REMOVAL OF SAMPLES BY PROF. G. RAES (1973), AND PROF. G. RIGGI (1988)



of each sample. The sketch-plan, translated from Riggi's Italian, is shown above. Samples A, B and C were those provided for Arizona, Oxford and Zurich (not necessarily in that order), leaving sample D, nearly as large as the rest of the three put together, still unused. Also unused were the so-called 'eliminated portions' at the cloth's edges. These latter would be of very considerable interest with

regard to study of the Shroud's original manufacture, yet their whereabouts is quite unknown. Furthermore, there are rumours of the unused sample D having crossed the Atlantic at least once.

Accordingly, whatever the validity or otherwise of the recent carbon dating results, it can only be deplored that Shroud research seems plunged back into the bad old days of secrecy. It is equally regrettable that already removed from the Shroud are materials that could help fresh studies, yet their usage or lack of it remains veiled in mystery.