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## **Shroud of Turin 2025 International Conference & Symposium Concludes with Landmark Scholarship and Record Attendance**

**St. Louis, MO – August 4, 2025** – The Shroud of Turin 2025 International Conference & Symposium concluded on Sunday, marking a transformative week for scholars and believers from around the globe. Hosted over five days at the Augustine Institute in Florissant, Missouri (just outside of St. Louis), the event brought together more than 425 registrants, including theologians, scientists, historians, medical experts, and lay enthusiasts of the Shroud.

“This conference exceeded all expectations,” said **Cindy Sheltmire**, President of SEEC, the Shroud Educational Endeavors Corporation. “We heard cutting-edge research from world-renowned experts from over 10 countries, and the fellowship among attendees was just as powerful.”

The conference featured over **60 academic presentations, 25 public lectures** from 49 speakers and a special exhibit of the **Othonia International Shroud Exhibit**, artifacts from the Museum of the Holy Shroud (housed at the Cathedral of St. John Berchmans) Richard Orareo Collection and exhibit of providing a deeply immersive educational experience for all. Presentations tackled the Shroud’s origins, physical and image properties, medical correlations, theological implications, and new technological methodologies—many challenging long-held skepticism about its authenticity.

Other highlights of the conference include the attendance of Matt and Laurie Crouch of the Trinity Broadcasting Network, who filmed an episode of their “Praise” television show featuring Shroud experts. TBN also interviewed conference speakers for an upcoming 5-part docuseries on the Shroud. Jeremiah Johnston was a popular featured speaker who recently traveled to Turin, Italy to research the Shroud with radio personality Glenn Beck.

Other members of the Board included Bobbie Tracy, Guy Powell, Janis Winchester, Joe Marino, Mark Antonacci and Steve Sheltmire. Conference videos will be available on several sites, including Shroud.com.

In a presentation that drew wide attention, **Mark Antonacci** outlined substantial flaws in the 1988 radiocarbon dating process that assigned the Shroud a medieval origin. “The scientific process was bypassed at nearly every turn,” Antonacci said. “New testing under modern conditions must be conducted. The data from this conference shows we’re long overdue.”

“We weren’t here to debate belief—we were here to investigate truth,” said **Joe Marino**, SEEC Board member and **President of STERA (Shroud of Turin Education and Research Association)**. “And what we found was that the more we investigate the Shroud, the more its mystery deepens in favor of authenticity.”

Attendees were Shroud-authenticists—dedicated researchers and scholars who came not to cast doubt, but to build understanding.

The conference culminated in a powerful panel discussion featuring **Russ Breault, Joe Marino, Mark Antonacci, and Father Andrew Dalton**, reflecting on the personal, academic, and spiritual impact of the Shroud on their lives.

“You can’t stand in front of the Shroud and not be changed,” said Father Dalton, Board Member of Othonia and other Shroud-related organizations. “It challenges every assumption—scientific and spiritual.”

A **conference proceedings volume** will be published in the coming months, documenting the full breadth of research presented. In addition, **video recordings of all presentations** will be made available on [www.shroud2025conference.com](http://www.shroud2025conference.com).

As Guy Powell, SEEC Board Member, reflected, “This was more than a conference. It was a revival of truth, research, and reverence for the most mysterious artifact in all of human history.”

“The linen used in the burial of Jesus wasn’t incidental—it was intentional, priestly, and prophetic,” said **Janis Winchester**, author and speaker. “From the tabernacle to the tomb, linen was always reserved for what was holy. The Shroud reminds us that Jesus was both our High Priest and our perfect sacrifice.”

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## **APPENDIX**

## Key Highlights from the Conference:

Not all speakers are included, but everyone of them all had very valuable content for the conference.

- **Alessandro Malantruccio** argued for death by cardiac rupture, aligning gospel accounts with the Shroud's medical data. He also spoke of the expression of sadness found on the man in the Shroud's face.
- **Bob Rucker** introduced the VCRB hypothesis explaining image formation through surface-level thread discoloration—no liquids or pigments required. In addition, he offered evidence from five different dating techniques that contradict the 1988 carbon dating, pointing instead to a first-century origin.
- **César Barta** presented compelling matches between the Sudarium of Oviedo and the Shroud, bolstering their shared history.
- **David Keys** warned against conclusions drawn from biased scientific methodologies, urging for transparent, logical reasoning.
- **Frank Baltz** analyzed John's Gospel chapter 20 to interpret how the Beloved Disciple saw the Shroud and immediately believed in the resurrection.
- **Gilbert Lavoie, MD**, walked through a forensic medical evaluation of the image, concluding it aligned with an unwashed crucified body.
- **Giulio Fanti** presented a model linking neutron radiation to the formation of the Shroud's image, suggesting a supernatural "Holy Fire" connected to the Resurrection.
- **Guy Powell** showed how medieval Christian art was clearly influenced by the facial image on the Shroud, distinguishing it from depictions of the Mandylion.
- **Jack Markwardt** offered new historical records supporting the Shroud's existence well before the 13th century.
- **Janis Winchester** explored the evidence and encouraged each participant to look at a photo of the Shroud of Turin and decide if it is the authentic historical burial cloth, while looking at the face of Jesus Christ to uncover peace and love for others.
- **John Jackson** reviewed scientific testing of a possible Shroud relic thread—grading it a high probability that was a thread from the Shroud of Turin.
- **Keith Propp** presented a new theory on the Sudarium and how it was used at the end of the crucifixion.
- **Larry Stalley** presented biblical typology linking the Shroud to the Holy of Holies, the temple curtain, and the Sign of Jonah.
- **Mark Antonacci** systematically debunked the radiocarbon dating with legal, scientific, and procedural critiques.
- **Pam Moon** used folding patterns and blood flow analysis to reconstruct the historical treatment and storage of the Shroud.
- **Russ Breault** summarized "Seven Secrets of the Sacred Shroud," connecting theology and historical accounts with new resonance.
- **Teddi Pappas** illustrated how Jesus's words and miracles aligned with the divine identity, supported by the Shroud.
- **Tom McAvoy** used artificial intelligence to analyze ultraviolet fluorescence, raising new questions about image formation.

- **Tristan Casablanca** presented legal records showing contamination and sampling errors in the 1988 dating.