25 April 2016

Your Royal Highnesses, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I sincerely regret that I was unable to attend this important event in person, but I wanted to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to the Royal Houses and the Committee for recognizing me with such a prestigious honor. It is with the deepest humility and the sincerest gratitude that I accept this most esteemed award, which will provide me with renewed incentive to continue the work I started as a member of the STURP team in 1978 with complete and total dedication. My special thanks to Archaeologist Thomas Blaber, grandson of my dear friend, the late Dr. Frederick Zugibe, for accepting the award on my behalf.

I also wish to congratulate my fellow recipients of this prestigious honor and thank them for their own very important contributions to Shroud research. As founder and editor of the Shroud of Turin Website, the oldest and largest Shroud resource on the internet and President of the Shroud of Turin Education and Research Association, Inc. (STERA, Inc.), dedicated to educating the world about the Shroud and preserving the scientific research for future scholars, we are truly honored to be included as part of the new international Federation of Shroud Research Organizations proudly under the Patronage of the Royal Houses of Italy and Portugal and we look forward to assessing and recommending future recipients of the prestigious King Umberto II Award for Shroud Research.

Thank you again for your kind consideration, recognition and support. I will dedicate the rest of my life to furthering the work that I began so many years ago in educating people about the Shroud of Turin, an object which is so important to so many people in the world today.

With my sincerest appreciation and gratitude and my warmest regards and God’s blessings,

Barrie Schwortz
President, STERA, Inc.
Founder and Editor
Shroud of Turin Website