

The Shroud between history, science and faith

The Ambrosianeum Foundation and the International Center for Studies on the Shroud organized an online conference-debate that hosted some of the leading experts on the subject. The conference was streamed live on Facebook and YouTube.

The history of the Shroud as an object of devotion dates back to many centuries ago, and if the exact date of the beginning of the phenomenon is still the subject of debate, the history of scientific investigations on the cloth instead has a precise beginning: May 28, 1898. Secondo Pia in fact, photographed the Shroud for the first time, and during the development of the plates he discovered with emotion and amazement that the body image that emerges from it is a sort of photographic negative, an inexplicable fact at the time.

Since then, 123 years of investigations, measurements, dating, attempts to reproduce have passed. Despite technological efforts, to date the overall results of the studies offer more questions than answers. On the one hand, we have not yet found a credible mechanism for forming the image of the Shroud, capable of justifying its characteristics; on the other hand, the only radiocarbon dating carried out to date has provided results whose reliability is currently questioned by several independent researches. From the scientific point of view, the Shroud is an elusive object, the bearer of hypotheses rather than certainties. But at the same time it is much more than a simple archaeological object, and requires an absolutely multidisciplinary approach to its mystery.

The Ambrosianeum Foundation and the International Center for Studies on the Shroud organized an online conference-debate that hosted some of the leading experts on the subject of the Shroud, with the aim of offering an updated overview of the studies on the subject in the historical, theological, scientific disciplines, and as a field of analysis of the relationship between science and faith. "The Shroud between history, science and faith" was held on Saturday 27 March, from 10 to 12 on the social channels (Facebook and YouTube) of the Ambrosianeum Foundation.

Here is the program.

At the beginning of the link: Video reading - description of the Shroud.

Greetings: Giorgio Lambertenghi Delilieri, Ambrosianeum Cultural Foundation.

Introduces and coordinates Alfredo Anzani, Corresponding Member of the Pontifical Academy for Life: "Medical aspects linked to the Shroud".

Speakers:

Gian Maria Zaccone, Director of the International Center for Studies on the Shroud of Turin: "The Shroud, a story within history".

Bruno Barberis, Associate Professor of Mathematical Physics University of Turin: "Scientific research on the Shroud at the beginning of the third millennium".

Giuseppe Ghiberti, President Emeritus Commission on the Shroud of the Diocese of Turin: “Image, event, meaning”.

Between one speech and another it will be possible to ask questions.

The event partly constitutes the realization of the meeting originally scheduled for April 4, 2020 and forcibly suspended due to the first *lockdown*. The hope is that we will soon be able to organize a major event on the subject in person, where the originally planned exhibition can be held alongside the conference part, which among other things would have presented a 1:1 scale reproduction of the Shroud.