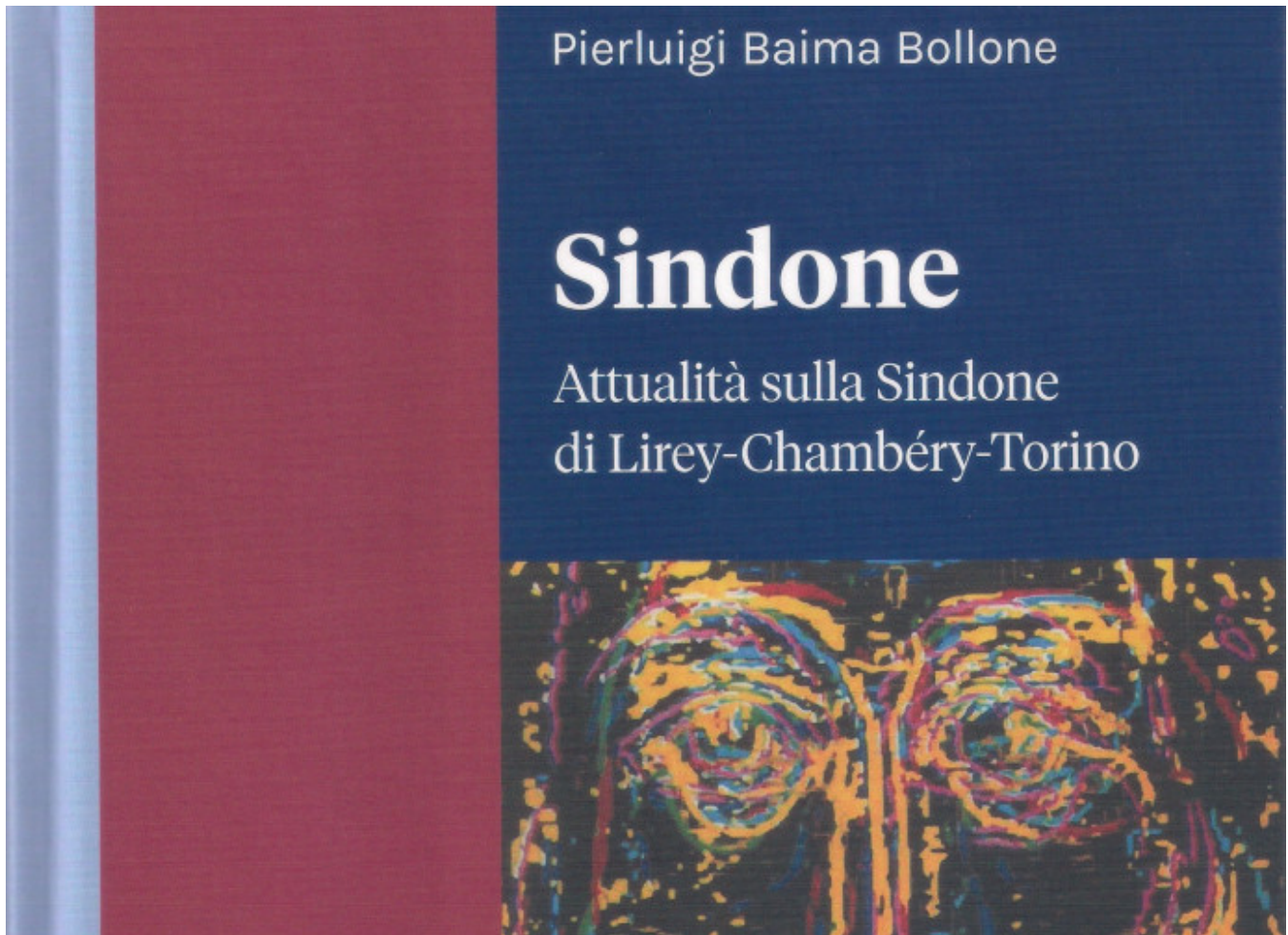


Seeing Christ through the Shroud

by Emanuela Marinelli

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An indispensable volume for anyone interested in learning more about the most famous and venerated relic of the Passion. Written by the leading expert of Sindonology, making use of a multidisciplinary gaze, the text offers the most recent results of scientific research concluding that it is really the sheet that wrapped Jesus.



A few days ago the new book on the Shroud by Prof. Pierluigi Baima Bollone, for many years professor of Forensic Medicine at the University of Turin and director of the International Center of Sindonology, known for having been the first researcher to demonstrate the presence of human blood on the Shroud.

The volume, [Shroud – News on the Shroud of Lirey-Chambéry-Turin](#) (G. Giappichelli Editore, Turin 2022) is briefly presented on the back cover by a description that makes it clear the great importance of the content: The book starts from the reality of the historical

figure of Christ and early Christianity on the basis of secular literature, rectory of the New Testament and of the apocryphal writings, from the theories on the dates of the birth of Jesus, of his preaching and of his death on the cross. It describes the Shroud of Lirey-Chambéry-Turin, the city where it has been kept continuously since 1578, except for two brief interruptions. It exhibits the conjectural history, for the most ancient period, and the certain one on European soil from 1353 to the present day. Finally, the archaeological, product and scientific data on the ancient fabrics in relation to those of the Shroud are exhibited.

The author is one of the leading experts of Sindonology worldwide. In this text, written in fourteen chapters with flowing and compelling prose, he not only presents a compendium of everything that is already known about the venerated relic, based on hundreds of studies carried out by him and other scholars around the world, but it also offers an update on the various Sindonological issues relating to the most recent historical and scientific publications. "The purpose of this book - writes Baima Bollone in the introduction - is to illustrate the current knowledge on the subject, the most recent results of scientific research on the Shroud and to verify how they adapt to the new historical and exegetical background that has come to materialize about Jesus and his time". As a result of this precise analysis, he affirms that the Shroud is indeed the burial sheet of Jesus.

The meticulous reconstruction of the various aspects relating to the mystery of the Shroud is preceded by three notable chapters on the life of Jesus, documented through historical and archaeological sources, which in the first chapter mainly include non-Christian sources, while in the second chapter the Christian sources, in particular four canonical Gospels and the most significant apocryphal texts. Interesting news concerning the archaeological excavations in Jerusalem and the revaluation of the *Testimonium flavianum* of Flavius Josephus. The third chapter is of particular importance for those who want to know the dates on which the events described in the Gospels took place.

The fourth chapter moves on to another fascinating subject, that of the archaeology of fabrics, and thus introduces the theme that will occupy the rest of the volume: the Shroud. This path starts, with the fifth chapter, from the detailed description of the precious linen, its photographs and three-dimensional elaborations, with the exclusion - scientifically documented - of any possibility of artistic realization of the existing image on the fabric. We move on to history, divided into two chapters: the traces of the first millennium in the sixth chapter and the documented existence in Europe in the seventh.

The eighth chapter deals with a scientific argument then comparing it to a historical one : the mystery of the origin of the Shroud image and the ancient copies that reproduced the original in a devotional way. The following two chapters deal with specific topics of maximum competence of the author: medicine and the causes of death of the Man of the

Shroud. It is a vast and complete examination of the various lesions present on the corpse and of the numerous hypotheses formulated on the final cause that led the crucifix to death. The eleventh chapter is dedicated to the controversial question of the possible presence of Roman coins on the eyelids of the deceased wrapped in the sheet.

The problem of radiation dating of the Shroud is discussed in the twelfth chapter, where the numerous scientific reasons for which today that result is no longer considered valid are reported, in particular after the publication in 2019 of an article in the highly authoritative scientific journal *Archaeometry*. The last two chapters are dedicated to laboratory investigations, largely conducted by the author himself, with analysis hypotheses in the near future. Among the topics covered, the presence of pollen and traces of DNA. Ample space is dedicated to blood tests, which are confirmed as human. The author's authority and his scientific rigor make this book an indispensable volume for anyone interested in the historical figure of Christ and his most famous and venerated relic.