

## CORONA DISCHARGE, NECROTIC RADIATION AND THE IMAGE ON THE TURIN SHROUD

by John Tyrer

It has been suggested that the image on the Turin Shroud was produced like a photograph by some kind of radiation emitted by the body.<sup>1</sup> It may be that this is less speculative than the view that it is some kind of artefact made by an unusually gifted and informed mediaeval artist. Human beings may be more electromagnetic than is generally thought.

Zoological studies of living things have shown that the protoplasm of living things, including our own bodies, can both be affected by, and affect, electromagnetic fields. The observation of the developing embryos of salamanders<sup>2</sup> has indicated that an electromagnetic field is detectable along the line of the future spine and central nervous system before the creature itself can be seen to form. It also seems more than likely that electromagnetic effects accompany fertilization and mitosis.

It is known that some sea creatures, dolphins, whales and migratory birds and insects are sensitive to the earth's magnetic field and use it for guidance and navigation. Others can detect the fields of their intended prey and can emit electromagnetic charges that are strong enough to stun and even to kill.<sup>3</sup>

In human beings these capacities are less well developed, but some people have had disastrous effects on electrical equipment that they use, or that they are in the immediate vicinity of. Quite aside from sensationalist media reports of such happenings,<sup>4</sup> a recent book<sup>5</sup> soberly reports a number of case histories, some of which have been observed and tested under laboratory conditions.

Even more interesting, it has been found that when living things die, an electrical charge can be registered that is now technically called necrotic radiation.<sup>6</sup> It has been estimated that in the case of a human being this 'death flash' can momentarily exceed 100 volts.

This phenomenon may explain, at least in part, the imprint of a dead patient found on a mattress cover at a Merseyside hospice, as reported with photographs in the *Observer* colour magazine,<sup>7</sup> and in Newsletter no. 19. Attempts to attribute this image solely to body fluids have been less than fully satisfactory.

Furthermore the German sindonologist Dr. Oswald Scheuermann has shown that images of coins, charged so as to emit a suitable electrical discharge, can produce an image on linen,<sup>8</sup> giving a little more credence to the still controversial claim that images of coins can be seen over the eyes of the man of the Shroud.

So if there is some scientific acceptability to the idea of necrotic radiation and the emission of electrical charges from living people, perhaps Christian claims of a 'Resurrection flash' can be viewed in a new light? Obviously no experiment could be carried out to ascertain how any such 'flash' would affect linen, but the question might be approached by studying the effects of corona discharge on textile fibres in the laboratory.

The study of 'electromagnetic man'<sup>9</sup> is only in its infancy, and traces of effects of this phenomenon may have passed unnoticed previously, but other examples are certain to emerge in the future.

Some twenty years ago there was an interest to assess the effects of corona discharge on textile fibres, and to exploit and develop any useful findings commercially. It was hoped that a controllable nonchemical process could be found whereby shrinkage resistance could be imparted to wool and mohair<sup>10</sup>. Changes in these fibres were reported, but the effects were not followed up in large scale production. It was also found that corona discharge produced cracks along the spiral ridges of cotton fibres (photo: opposite page)<sup>11</sup> and allowed increased permeability to the fibre interior. This could affect the dyeing properties of the fibre, and perhaps allow increased absorption of contaminants which would make the effects more visible.

Whilst it does not appear that flax fibres were involved in this particular research, investigation of the image of the Turin Shroud along these lines would seem to be worthwhile. An examination of flax fibres that have been subjected to corona discharge and their comparison with fibres from image and non-image areas of the Shroud would be interesting. Examples of fibres from these places in the Shroud may still be available from the 1978 and 1988 samplings, which may give some indications whether something akin to corona discharge played a part in producing the image.

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