

**Announcing the 2008 International Conference**  
**The Shroud of Turin:**  
**Perspectives on a Multifaceted Enigma**  
**Joseph W. Durham**

From the writing of the book of John the Shroud of Turin has been suggested to be the burial cloth of Jesus Christ. John 20:5 paints the portrait of Peter and John running into the tomb which housed the once dead body of Christ; as they stoop down they see the linen cloths which wrapped His body. The passage continues in the same fashion stating that after they had seen the clothes which had been used, they believed. What was the source for their belief? No one knows. It could have been that the body of Christ had vanished, or that there was a mysterious image on the cloths.

In 1978 this cloth, the Shroud of Turin went under serious study by a team of American scientists and photographers known as STURP (Shroud of Turin Research Project). This team conducted tests on the bloodstains, dust particles, pollen samples, light analysis, et cetera. Every one partaking were certain that they were going to be able to walk to the Shroud and see the remnants of paint particles, and solve the mystery; nothing could be further from the truth. To this day the Shroud is still an object of mystery and debate.

Disregarding the results of the carbon dating of 1988 for the Turin Shroud, it is still a major subject of study for people around the world. Articles have been written, documentaries have been filmed, tests have been run, books have been authored, and groups continue to discuss the enigma which is housed in Turin, Italy. Pilgrims have traveled around the world for the opportunity to catch just one glimpse of this holy relic.

The last major conference was held in Dallas in September, 2005. Since that time researchers have awaited the announcement of another conference. That day has finally arrived. In August 14<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> we will once again gather to discuss the mystery of the Shroud of Turin in Columbus, Ohio, U.S.A. The conference is being organized by the Shroud Science Group and has a schedule of speakers which shows that this conference will be one to remember.

In attendance will be at least five of STURP members; here will be more members in attendance at a conference since 1986 when only three were present. There are more than twenty-five speakers lined up at this present time as well. For those that will be in attendance will be honored to see a presentation by Barrie Schwartz paying tribute to the STURP team for their efforts in the 1978 scientific study. The opening address will be given by Rex Morgan. Many of you may remember the astounding key note speech given by Mr. Morgan in 2001 at the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Shroud Conference in Dallas, Texas, U.S.A. He enraptured everyone's attention as he showed everyone where we had been in the past, and the demand for where we need to go to prepare the way for the "third wave of Sindonologists."

This author was given the wonderful opportunity to attend this conference and to befriend many Sindonologists from around the world. The conference was a gathering of doctors, lawyers, photographers, botanists, chemists, priests, ministers, and from many other fields of study with one thing in common, their passion for the study of the Shroud of Turin.

This upcoming conference has proven, already to be exciting, with new data which will be presented supporting the results of Ray Rogers and his theories for the incorrect results of the 1988 carbon dating. Sue Benford and Joe Marino will be presenting a paper which regarding the "Role of Calcium Carbonate in Fiber Discoloration on the Shroud of Turin." Thirdly, there will be a previously unpublished paper by Ray Rogers presented by Joanna Emery. There will be numerous authors in attendance presenting their work. This will be a gathering of people that

have spent their spare time pouring over the mountains of information which has been kept and stored over the years.

You owe it to yourself to attend this conference, as you will not walk away disappointed. The speakers will be presenting back-to-back and there will be time for your questions to be answered. If you have never attended a conference on the Shroud of Turin, make the Columbus conference your first.

If you have any questions please contact Joe Marino at [JMARINO240@aol.com](mailto:JMARINO240@aol.com) or log onto <http://ohioshroudconference.com/>.