

COULD THE SHROUD OF TURIN BE AN EFFECT OF POST-MORTEM CHANGES?

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Review by Hugh Farey

A 76-year old man was found lying on his carpet after being dead for several weeks. When his decomposing body was removed, putrefaction stains had left an image of his body on the carpet. Although there is no suggestion that the Shroud received its image in this way, this paper adds to the very small number of cases in which the image of a dead person has been left naturally on the surface it was lying on. Another noted case is that of the 44-year old man who left an image on his plastic mattress-cover (The Jospice Mattress case, see Louis de Figueiredo's paper at <http://thegroundoffaith.net/issues/2009-08/Iospice.pdf>). Both cases are of peripheral interest rather than direct relevance, but provide some interesting comparisons and points for discussion.

AROUND THE INTERNET

Even as I go to press a number of exciting developments have cropped up, and it is good to see Shroud studies finding new ideas to bite into rather than chewing over the old ones. Firstly, Barrie Schwartz has updated his monumental shroud.com, with new pages about the 2015 exposition, seven more editions of Shroud Spectrum International, a now extinct but very valuable journal in its day, and a number of other important references and comments.

Over at theshroudofturin.blogspot.co.uk, Stephen E. Jones, to whom we are all grateful for his indefatigable efforts at scanning the pages of Shroud Spectrum International for online publication, is nevertheless working on a theory that the radiocarbon dates are wrong because one of the University of Arizona team, Timothy Linick, was a

Soviet spy who hacked into the AMS dating machine in order to discredit the Shroud, before being murdered by the KGB.

Jones discourages comments, so his hypothesis has been an ongoing topic of discussion at Dan Porter's shroudstory.com. His arguments are rooted in two fundamental beliefs - that the Shroud is incontrovertibly authentic, and that the chances of it radiocarbon dating to the 14th century in the absence of fraud are astronomically small. At least one of these is disputed by almost every contributor.

There has also been a vigorous debate about the existence and significance of the 'Vignon' markings. The publication of the large scale photomontage by Giancarlo Durante at <http://www.sindonology.org/shroudScope/shroudScope.shtml> and Haltadefinizione's iPad app Shroud 2.0 have called into question many of the observations Paul Vignon made from Giuseppe Enrie's 1938 photos, and the discovery of numerous secular images also bearing these marks supposedly peculiar to pictures of Christ have weakened the force of his argument.

