

# Enough!

## Barrie Schwartz

For the last forty-five years I have quietly put up with the attacks and false claims repeatedly made about STURP and its team members by Shroud skeptics. They have referred to STURP's published science as "the rantings of believers" and the team members as "pseudo-scientific nutters" or "mid-level scientists." It is one thing to be critical of a researcher's methods and conclusions. That is integral to the scientific method and why peer review is so important. But it is a completely different case when one directs ad hominem personal attacks at the researchers themselves, particularly on those that have died and cannot defend themselves. I guess the skeptics decided that they aren't qualified to challenge the published science, so they attack the scientists instead.



*Barrie Schwartz*      © Barrie Schwartz

In fact, one of my underlying motives in building the Shroud of Turin Website ([www.shroud.com](http://www.shroud.com)) in 1996, was to make the STURP data more readily available to everyone and ensure that STURP's significant contributions to Shroud science were not forgotten. Their published works, based on direct physical examination of the cloth itself, are still the best primary sources available and form the foundation of peer reviewed science on the Shroud. Unfortunately, back then our papers were published in highly respected journals that were only available through university research libraries, which the general public had little or no access to. In those days, the public got their Shroud information heavily filtered and edited by tabloids, questionable television documentaries and the popular press. I was appalled on many occasions to read false narratives about our work and who we were. It was very upsetting then and it still goes on today. But as of today, I have had enough!

Let's start with the most frequent claim, that our work was somehow influenced by our religious beliefs. I have been criticized on several occasions for not publishing the individual team members' religious affiliations on the page of our site that lists the team members and the organizations they worked for. But religion was never a criteria for membership on the STURP team, so I can't publish what I don't know.

I do know there were three Jewish members on the team, imaging scientist Don Devan, blood chemist Dr. Alan Adler and me. All of us were very skeptical, as were most team

members when STURP was formed. Some skeptics have even accused me of being a “closet Christian,” but, much to the chagrin of my dear Christian friends, I assure you I am not. I am not a Messianic Jew and I have not “converted.” You don’t have to be a Christian to accept the published science or acknowledge the existence of an artifact of the historical Jesus of Nazareth. Ironically, some of the most vocal skeptics today are Christians themselves. There was also a Mormon, an Evangelical Christian, several Catholics, and some Protestants on the team. Although I can’t say for certain who they were, there were probably some agnostics or even atheists as well. Frankly, had religious affiliation been a criteria for membership, most of those team members would never have participated in the first place.

In fact, it was my initial concern about being involved in a “religious” project that led to my saying “no” when I was first invited to join the STURP team. Ironically, it was Don Devan, also Jewish, who made that invitation! He and I had recently worked together and had just completed a seven month classified imaging project for Los Alamos National Lab about atomic bombs. Since he had been involved from the earliest stages in the scientific study of the Shroud image with John Jackson and Eric Jumper, co-founders of STURP, he assured me this was only about science and more specifically, about the image. I eventually took his word for it and joined the team and he was right. I never recall even one moment where religion came up during the seventeen months we spent planning our scientific tests. Frankly, as one of the few Jewish members on the team, I was very sensitive to any religious or supernatural references and would have quickly resigned if any uncomfortable references of that nature were made. We were only there for the science.

More importantly, I also need to point out that if I aim a scientific instrument at a piece of cloth and pull the trigger to take a reading, that instrument doesn’t care if I am a Christian, a Jew or a pagan. It simply records the data. That data is then collected, analyzed and published in appropriate journals and the raw data is made available so other researchers might attempt to repeat or expand on the work. It’s called science!

I must also remind you that every team member was a volunteer, and no one was paid for their time or their efforts. Some skeptics claim we did it for fame and fortune. How many of the thirty-three STURP team members can you name? Many of the members that worked for larger organizations used their vacation time and sick pay to cover their time working on the team. I was one of the few self-employed team members with several employees that had to be paid and my own family to support. I could have as many paid vacations as I wanted, as long as I was the one that paid for them! Although STURP covered our airline and hotel expenses, we still covered our own meals and other expenses. In my case, I also spent \$2500.00 (in 1978 dollars, nearly \$12,000.00 in today’s dollars) on film and processing which was not reimbursed. While I was in Turin, my studio lost two photographic projects to our competitors because I was away. I am not complaining, just pointing out that everyone on that team paid some price for being

there. Not one researcher got rich because of his involvement with the Shroud and that is true to this day.

STURP has also been criticized for their association with the Holy Shroud Guild, a group of four Catholic priests who promoted the Shroud here in the U.S. What the skeptics don't realize is that Fr. Peter Rinaldi, a Salesian priest from Turin and member of the Guild, was also a close friend of King Umberto II, the legal owner of the Shroud at that time. It was Father Peter, acting as our liaison with King Umberto and the Turin custodians, which ultimately led to STURP receiving the King's approval for the testing we performed. It would never have happened without the assistance of the Holy Shroud Guild. However, both the King and the Guild members gave STURP the complete freedom to work without any interference or any efforts to influence our methods or our results. I believe John Heller covered that issue quite well in his book, so I will leave it there for now.<sup>1</sup>

So let's set aside the notion that anyone's religious beliefs somehow biased the data the STURP team collected, analyzed and published in the peer reviewed literature. If anyone would have noticed such a bias, it would be me. That is simply the easiest excuse skeptics can use to deny the science without having to address it directly. Sadly, it is a familiar and predictable ploy that is still used by many of the most prominent Shroud skeptics to this day.

Instead, let's discuss exactly who some of these researchers were that comprised the STURP team. I must start by stating that I am grateful to God that Los Alamos National Laboratory, Sandia Laboratory and the Air Force Weapons Laboratory (all weapons and explosives facilities), did NOT hire a bunch of "pseudo-scientific nutters" to work on their projects. If they had, we all might be dead by now! The same is true for the two NASA imaging experts on our team. As you will see, there was nothing "pseudo-scientific" about them. In fact, the members of STURP were the most empirical researchers I ever worked with in my 50+ year imaging career. For the record, you can find a complete list of all STURP team members, the organizations they worked for and the specific experiments they were responsible for on Shroud.com at this link: <https://www.shroud.com/78team.htm>.

Once I accepted the invitation to join the STURP team and started having meetings with Don Devan, it was immediately apparent that one photographer was not going to be enough to accomplish the extensive list of photographic experiments being planned, even if he worked 24 hours around the clock. In the same manner that Devan called me to join the team because he and I had worked together and he knew my qualifications, I called Vern Miller, the head of the Scientific and Industrial Department at Brooks Institute of Photography in Santa Barbara, California. This was critically important because

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<sup>1</sup> HELLER, Dr. John H. - *Report on the Shroud of Turin* - Houghton Mifflin Co., New York, 1983 (English)

photography would play such an extensive role in the research. Years earlier Vern had been one of my professors at Brooks, but by 1976 I was already a member of the faculty at the institute myself. Vern and I had become close friends and I taught at Brooks while still operating my photographic studio in town. Vern's background was as an industrial photographer for many years in the aerospace industry before retiring to head the department at Brooks. He had much more experience in some of the scientific photography areas than I did, and experience was essential for the STURP project.

Shortly after Vern agreed to join the team, Ernie Brooks, the owner of the institute and son of its founder, offered the resources of the institute to the project and joined the team as well. Brooks was one of the preeminent photography schools in America at the time, with its graduates working as photographers in the top echelons of science and industry. Vern then selected one of his top graduate students, Mark Evans, who was a master of the microscope, to join the team to perform the photomicroscopy and microphotography experiments. Mark has since had a long and successful career in medical photography and microscopy. That is a perfect example of how the team was formed and grew. Someone recommended a specific experiment and another member said he knew a colleague who was an expert in that area, so they called him and the team grew.



1. Susan D'Muhala 2. Thomas D'Muhala\* 3. Raymond Rogers\* 4. Ernest Brooks\* 5. Rudy Dichtl\* 6. Vernon Miller\* 7. Mark Evans\* 8. Ron London\* 9. John Jackson\* 10. Roger Gilbert\* 11. Eric Jumper\* 12. Jean Lorre\* 13. Robert Ewing\* 14. Roger Morris\* 15. Ken Stevenson\* 16. Don Devan\* 17. Joe Accetta\* 18. Steve Baumgart\* 19. Tom Haverty\* 20. Haverty Child 21. Patti Lynn 22. Don Lynn\* 23. Marge Jumper 24. Mary Stevenson 25. Bill Mottern\* 26. Joan Dichtl 27. Kay Jackson

Children in front row from the Haverty, Jackson and Stevenson families.

\*STURP Team Members (20 included)

We worked in smaller regional groups around the country. I was in the California group which included all of the photography and most of the imaging researchers. In addition to the Brooks group, also included was optical physicist Sam Pellicori from the Santa Barbara Research Center (a division of Hughes), imaging scientist Don Devan from Oceanographic Services, Inc. and two members of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California: Don Lynn, who had been Imaging Project Manager on the Voyager, Viking, Mariner and Galileo projects for NASA (and who candidly was my "hero" on the team) and Jean Lorre, whose last work at the lab before his passing was to monitor and track any asteroids in our solar system to insure they were not on a collision path with earth. No pseudo-scientists need apply!

Another group was located in Colorado and included STURP co-founders John Jackson and Eric Jumper, both physicists and professors at the Air Force Academy. They also did weapons research for the military, which is what brought them both to Los Alamos National Laboratory in the first place. Other Colorado team members included Rudy Dichtl, responsible for technical support in all of STURP's experiments. After leaving the Air Force he became a civilian researcher in Antarctica and technical manager for Automatic Geophysical Observatories (AGO) and did that for some years. Also at the Air Force Academy was Ken Stevenson, professor of English, who ultimately became the public spokesman for the STURP team. Ken was one of the few non-technical members of the team.

The New Mexico group was the largest, since the idea for the project originated at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), which also provided the perfect resource of experts in the many critical disciplines that would be necessary for examining the Shroud. This resource was supplemented by several members from the U.S. Air Force Weapons Laboratories and x-radiography expert Bill Mottern from Sandia National Laboratory, a sister lab to Los Alamos. The expertise they brought to the project was immeasurable. A perfect example was physicist Larry Schwalbe, one of the lesser-known but extremely important team members, who held a PhD in solid state physics from the University of Illinois. Sadly, he is the most recent team member to pass away, but not before the last paper he co-authored on the Shroud (with fellow STURP team member Sam Pellicori) was published the day before he died! He worked at Los Alamos National Labs from 1975 to 2005 and spent time at the Pentagon from 1998 to 2002. He received an achievement award from Los Alamos National Lab for his "Leadership in the programmatic development of the Theater Missile Defense Project." No pseudo-scientific nutters need apply!

After Larry's passing earlier this year, his co-author Sam Pellicori wrote, "Larry never lost interest in Shroud research and worked closely with Ray Rogers and other members of the STURP group analyzing results and co-authored several peer-reviewed science-based papers dealing with Shroud science and conservation. He performed x-ray fluorescence analysis to identify and quantify elemental concentrations of iron and calcium."<sup>2</sup> He was anything but a second-rate scientist.

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<sup>2</sup> Quote from Sam Pellicori's Memorial for Larry Schwalbe available on [www.shroud.com](http://www.shroud.com)

Of course, Ray Rogers is probably the best known of the Los Alamos team members because his final Shroud paper was the first scientific paper to directly challenge the 1988 radiocarbon dating results in the peer-reviewed literature. He was the head of STURP's Chemistry Group and well known for the tape samples he collected from the Shroud in 1978. He was also the one who chastised me on several occasions for using the word "proved" in something I had written when the data didn't support that conclusion. He told me to "change it!" and I did. Sadly, Rogers has been personally attacked on numerous occasions by skeptics and those attacks continue today, eighteen years after his death! However, I am not going to list Ray's accomplishments here because in 2008 I produced a PowerPoint presentation that was shown at the St. Louis Shroud Conference titled, "Remembering Ray Rogers: A Personal Reflection On The Man And His Work," It tells Ray's story in detail and you can find a pdf of it at this link: <https://www.shroud.com/pdfs/stlschwortz2ppt.pdf>.

In the extremely important and relevant field of forensic medicine, our team was honored to have as a member forensic pathologist Dr. Robert Bucklin, both a medical doctor and a lawyer. He specialized in forensic pathology and practiced as a medical examiner/coroner in Texas (Austin, Houston and Galveston), California (San Diego and Los Angeles) and Nevada (Las Vegas). He was in part the model for the fictional forensic pathologist in the television program "Quincy" and actually acted as a consultant and technical advisor to the producers.

Joining him on the medical team was Dr. Joseph M. Gambescia of the St. Agnes Medical Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, who provided medical expertise in the development of STURP's original test plan and helped in the analysis of the data they collected. We featured him and his contributions to Shroud research in an article titled, "Remembering STURP Team Member Dr. Joseph M. Gambescia" back in 2020. The article is available online at this link: <https://www.shroud.com/late20.htm#gambescia>.

This article would be incomplete without mentioning the late Dr. John Heller and Dr. Alan Adler. Heller was a biophysicist at the New England Institute and Adler (the other Jewish team member), was a biophysicist and blood expert at Western Connecticut State University. They were colleagues and both were highly respected researchers with extensive credentials in their field. I am smiling as I write this because Adler used to lecture me frequently and often reminded me to "follow the data" and "do an experiment."

There are many more esteemed team members that I could mention here, like Roger and Marty Gilbert, founders of the Oriel Corporation that designed and produced the finest spectral instruments of that era, instruments that were in use by research laboratories around the world. However, this article has already grown longer than I expected and you should have gotten the idea by now. Sadly, much of the STURP team members' non-Shroud-related work and many of their achievements are still classified and cannot be discussed publicly. Trust that the work they accomplished has helped to keep us all safe

over the years. They were neither religious fanatics nor “scientific nutters!” They were simply a dedicated group of real scientists who took the task seriously and performed the best science their technology allowed. In the end, they conducted the only in-depth, non-destructive scientific study ever performed on the Shroud of Turin. There was no precedent for what they did so they had to carve new territory at every step and overcome unique challenges on literally a daily basis. And that’s exactly what they did! I am proud to have been a member of that team.

I can honestly state that I learned more about empiricism from this group of researchers than from all the other researchers I have worked with in my 50+ year career! But it is also with a real underlying sadness as I write this article since more than half of the team have since passed away and none of us are getting any younger. So I thought it was time to set the record straight and challenge the skeptics who continue to mount personal attacks on the STURP team members to this day. I was there and it was my job to document what took place. The skeptics are simply wrong (and they know it)! As of today, enough is enough!

Barrie Schwartz  
September 12, 2023

*Author’s note: Since this article was written, we sadly lost another STURP team member, Thomas D’Muhala. We included a memorial for him in our November website update.*



### The BSTS Team

<b>Editor:</b>	Michael Kowalski	editorial@bstsnewsletter.com
<b>Deputy Editor:</b>	Revd. Andrew Willie	
<b>Typesetting, Proofreading:</b>	Philippa Foster	
<b>Circulation, Membership</b>	Brenda & Stuart Benton	circulation@bstsnewsletter.com
<b>Secretary:</b>	Pam Moon	familyofmoon@aol.com
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Revd. Phil Moon	familyofmoon@aol.com
<b>Outreach, Distribution:</b>	Lynne Kowalski	outreach@bstsnewsletter.com
<b>Social Media:</b>	Paul Bishop	socialmedia@bstsnewsletter.com

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