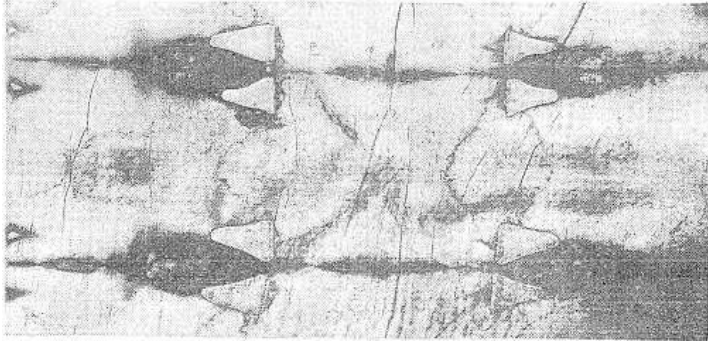


Latest Facts from Science, Mechanics and Invention

How Blood Stains on the Saviour's Shroud Show His Stature



A Photograph of a Part of the Blood-Stained Shroud Believed to Be the Very Linen in Which the Body of the Saviour Was Wrapped When It Was Taken Down From the Cross and Entombed.

Photographing the Sacred Linen by Infra-Red Rays in a Study of the Strange Impressions on the Death Cloth of Christ

Two French scientists, Professor Colson of the French Polytechnic School, and Professor Vignon, professor of Biology at the Paris Catholic Institute, have just completed a very minute study of the famous "Shroud of Christ," preserved at Turin, held to have been the very

linen that wrapped His body when it was removed from the Cross and placed in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea. Photographing the chemical stains by use of the infra-red rays these scientists assert that they have proved beyond any doubt that Christ was exactly five feet and ten inches tall. The stains of His blood left on the linen, which has been preserved for these nineteen centuries at last reveals one of the most interesting facts, the height of the Saviour.

The scientific precision of this investigation is hardly to be questioned, but some, and these are not a few, are as yet to be convinced that this particular garment is actually the shroud which was wrapped around the body of Jesus before he was laid in the tomb. Tradition, however, bears out the contention of the genuineness of this shroud which has been revered for many centuries in Turin; that is, ever since 1578, when it was placed there permanently.

The shroud was first heard of at Lirey in the diocese of Troyes in 1300. In 1451 it was in Chambéry in Savoy, where it barely escaped destruction by fire, marks of which are traceable on the folds, at the corners.

It is claimed by Professor Paul Vignon that the impressions upon the shroud are "vaporigraphs," which were caused by the ammoniacal emanations radiating from the surface of Christ's body after His death.

The statement as to the height of Christ has raised another interesting and important question, which appears to have been overlooked by the large majority of the artists who have painted pictures of Jesus when alive. Christ is usually depicted in the garb of the country of which the artist was a native. Italians pictured Jesus wearing Italian clothing, Frenchmen showed him in French clothes, and the Hollanders painted a Christ clothed like a Dutch burgomaster.

It remained for the accomplished French artist, J. James Tissot, who made seven pilgrimages to Palestine to study Jewish life and types, to paint Jesus in Jewish garb and environment, with His head covered, as was and is still customary in tropical Palestine.

According to Edersheim, the esteemed expert on the life and times of Jesus, Christ wore a "sudar," which was wound into a kind of turban, or perhaps the "maaphoreth," which seems to have served as a covering for the head and to have descended over the back of the neck and shoulders, somewhat like the Indian pungaree. His feet were probably covered by sandals. The "chaluk," or more probably the "kittuna," which formed his inner garment, must have been close fitting, and descended to his feet. It was fastened around the middle by a girdle. Over this Jesus probably wore the square outer garment, or "tallith," with the customary fringes of four long white threads, with one of hyacinth knotted together on each of the corners.

The ordinary pictures of Christ and His apostles walking through the fields of Palestine bareheaded are quite impossible when the tropical heat of Palestine is borne in mind.

The original paintings of Tissot are now in the Brooklyn Art Museum.



Artists of different nationalities not only painted the Saviour in the style of garb peculiar to their own countries, but they also portrayed the face of Christ according to their own conceptions. Among the many early representations of Jesus is a piece of sculpture known as the "Jerash Head," which is believed to have been made at some time during the last half of the second century, A. D., and discovered some 300 years later in a Christian church in Europe. Ecclesiastical authorities regard the finding of this sculptured piece as an event of supreme importance, for it bears every evidence of being the first sculptured likeness of the Saviour.

In describing the Jerash Head, Professor John Garstang says:

"When we learn . . . from the record of discovery—that the head was, in fact, found in the cloister of a Christian church of the fifth century, with which it had been in temporary use, eye cannot but conclude that this unique piece of sculpture was set up by the early Christians as the first representation of Christ."

The Famous Jerash Head of Christ Which Is Believed to Be the First Sculptured Representation of Christ. It Was Found in the Cloister of a Great European Church of the Fifth Century, A. D., and Was Probably Made Some 300 Years Earlier.