

Introducing the Shroud of Turin Education and Research Association, Inc. (STERA, Inc.)

I am extremely pleased to announce that our new non-profit organization, the **Shroud of Turin Education and Research Association, Inc. (STERA, Inc.)**, has received final approval and 501(c)(3) non-profit status from the I.R.S. and has begun to function. As you may have noticed on the Home Page of the site, I have already begun the process of transferring the ownership of **www.shroud.com** to STERA, Inc., which will become the formal publisher and legal owner of this website in the very near future. I will remain as Editor of the site and become Executive Director of STERA, Inc. I have also created a new [STERA, Inc.](#) page where you can find more detailed information about the organization, read our **Mission Statement**, view a list of our **Board of Directors** and most importantly, make a **Tax Deductible Contribution to STERA, Inc.**

As many of you know, I created this website in 1996 and have supported it completely at my own expense for almost fourteen years. I have never allowed any advertising on the site out of respect for the subject matter. As the site has grown in size and viewers, the bandwidth costs have risen dramatically and at times, have been a financial burden on me, particularly as the economy faltered.. My purpose in forming STERA, Inc., was to insure that this website would continue into the future in the event that I was unable to continue it myself. It has become far more important than the simple website I originally envisioned where I could share my Shroud photographs with the public. It has grown into the most extensive and foremost resource on the Internet for in-depth Shroud information and now contains thousands of pages, hundreds of articles and photographs and represents the work of many of the world's foremost Shroud scholars. As such, it has become an essential reference for Shroud studies and I felt obligated to create an organization that would preserve and perpetuate this work into the future. And now, STERA, Inc. will make that possible.

Over the years, I have also been entrusted with the care of the private collections of a number of important Shroud scholars and researchers. These include the **Kim Dreisbach Collection**, the **Mark Evans Collection**, the **Ray Rogers Collection**, the **Robert Dinegar Collection** and the **William Mottern Collection** and several additional collections that have been pledged but not yet received. These collections need to be cataloged, archived, digitized and preserved and ultimately made available to future researchers. We must also establish a means of physically caring for these materials and keeping them together, safe and intact. STERA, Inc. was formed to serve all of those purposes. And now, for the first time ever, I can appeal to you, the viewers, to help support the work that STERA, Inc. will do and help keep this website growing and thriving. In the near future, a special page will be added where you can safely use a credit or debit card to make tax deductible contributions directly to STERA, Inc. In the interim, contributions can be accepted immediately in the form of checks or money orders. Use this link if you wish to contribute now: [Make A Tax Deductible Contribution to STERA, Inc.](#) The future of this website is now in your hands and your support will make it possible for the site to grow and flourish and for STERA, Inc. to achieve all of its goals. We are entering an exciting new era!

Posted September 1, 2009