

The Shroud: A Critical Summary Of Observations, Data And Hypotheses Version 2.0

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Abstract:

In 2013 The Shroud Center of Colorado (TSC) posted **Version 1** of a new document on its website entitled **The Shroud: A Critical Summary of Observations, Data and Hypotheses**. **Version 2**, including updates to exiting materials and a new section on Shroud History, should be available by the time of the St. Louis Shroud Conference and it is our desire to present **Version 2** at the Conference. The purpose of TSC's **Critical Summary** is to provide a synthesis of the TSC team's thinking and understanding about the Shroud and to make that synthesis available to the serious inquirer. The evaluation of scientific, medical forensic and historical hypotheses presented in the **Critical Summary** is based on TSC's internal research, STURP data, studies by other groups or persons as appropriate, and published literature. There is a large corpus of scientific, forensic and historical data related to the Shroud and that data in its totality is complicated and interconnected and for the average inquirer hard to access and properly correlate. TSC's goal in publishing the **Critical Summary** is to help individuals to be exposed to the best summary of the totality of Shroud data that TSC can prepare along with our comments and opinions. We have also aimed to include in the **Critical Summary** sound references to aid individuals in furthering their own research and inquiry into what many consider the most important artifact in existence.

As an organization TSC has studied the Shroud for literally 10's of thousands of hours and the publishing of the **Critical Summary** is part of the effort of the organization to make our understanding of the Shroud available to the serious inquirer. We disclose in the **Critical Summary** that TSC as an organization holds that a critical assessment of the totality of currently available data on the Shroud supports the judgment that the Shroud of Turin once wrapped the body of Jesus of Nazareth. Nevertheless, we respect the autonomy of each person to formulate his or her own judgment concerning what conclusions the data leads him or her to. Unfortunately, many people make a snap judgment concerning the Shroud based on only one or two pieces of data, the publishing of conflicting hypotheses or simply their inability to get their arms around the large corpus of Shroud "data". The **Critical Summary** is a fairly long document, pushing 100 pages, but we believe an individual must spend at least a number of hours in studying the extensive evidence related to the Shroud in order to begin to form his or her own judgments and arguments concerning this fascinating object.