

TURIN 2010 - A Personal Report **By Barrie Schwartz**

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In spite of the volcanic ash cloud hanging over parts of Western Europe causing the cancellation or delay of many people's flights, I arrived at the Milan airport on May 10, 2010, only five hours behind schedule. I was excited to be back in Italy again and looked forward to seeing the Shroud for the first time since the controversial restoration performed in 2002. Although I had seen the new photographs made of the cloth after the intervention, there is nothing more thrilling than seeing the relic with your own eyes and I was truly excited at the prospect.

This trip to Italy was different than my previous visits in one major way. This time I was there as the Executive Director of STERA, Inc. (Shroud of Turin Education and Research Association, Inc.), our new non-profit organization, and would be meeting with a number of tour groups from Canterbury Tours as part of STERA's first official fund raising effort. I had worked informally with Canterbury during the 1998 and 2000 exhibitions of the Shroud, but this time there was a formal schedule and I would be meeting a number of large and small groups of pilgrims and giving each group a private presentation, as well as visiting the Cathedral with them to view the Shroud.

It was truly a pleasure to meet with these groups, since it gave me the first opportunity to actually meet in person many of the people that I had corresponded with over the years (like **Fr. Eamon Kelly**, Director of the Jerusalem Shroud Center) and even some whose work I had published on the website (like former NASA scientist **Ed Prior**).

It was also an opportunity to connect with some of my very best friends in the Shroud world, many of whom are world renowned expert Sindonologists and well known to viewers of this website, like **Aldo Guerreschi**, **Emanuela Marinelli**, **Nello Ballosino**, **Dr. Thibault Heimburger** (from France), **Franco Faia**, **Rudy Dichtl**, **Russ Breault**, **Mark Borkan** (the latter three from the U.S.) and **Dorothy Crispino**. I was also privileged to meet two of the late **Prof. Luigi Gonella's** sons, **Giovanni** and **Bernardo** and was deeply honored that **Prof. Franco A. Testore**, world renowned Turinese textile expert, graciously attended my last lecture in Turin, on May 20, 2010.

My first visit to see the Shroud was with a large group of pilgrims on May 12, 2010. As we poured off the bus at the entrance to the exhibition, another bus pulled in behind us and started to offload their passengers. Among the first to exit was my dear friend **Dr. Cora Galvez**, founder of the **Sindone Educational Gallery** in Stockton, California, along with her entire family! I am sure we created something of a spectacle as we hugged and kissed and marveled over our chance meeting. Over the years they have been like a second family to me and it was truly ironic that we got off the buses at the Shroud exhibition at virtually the same moment! Of course, there are no coincidences!

The wait to enter the exhibition varied depending on the time of day you arrived. The average wait was around an hour, but the lines grew longer later in the day and the wait on weekends could be as long as three hours. Special consideration was made for those with any physical limitations and wheelchairs were provided for anyone who needed them. The organizers have always shown great consideration for those who might not be able to stand in a long queue and this exhibition was no exception. The event was very well organized and literally hundreds of volunteers were available to help wherever necessary.

We finally entered on the left side of the Cathedral and moved slowly forward in the queue, now in the same room with the Shroud. We were eventually divided into three different lines and each led to three different levels of risers that were positioned directly in front of the relic, thus allowing more people to see the Shroud simultaneously. Those in wheelchairs were positioned in front of these risers, so they were probably no more than ten feet from the cloth. Once you reached the viewing gallery, you were given only a few minutes in front of the Shroud before being ushered out to exit on the right side of the Cathedral.

Lining the walls on both sides of the Cathedral were a series of large, high definition flat screen video monitors, each displaying a beautiful image of the interior of the Cathedral with the Shroud as its center point. On a platform in the rear of the room was the large, professional high definition video camera mounted on a tripod that was making the image we saw displayed on the monitors. As we approached the viewing gallery, I strained to see over and around the heads of those in front of me so I could get my first glimpse of the Shroud.



The Shroud on Public Display - 12 May 2010

This is where I must choose my words very carefully, because I was sadly disappointed by the experience. I was shocked to see that the Shroud was very dimly lit and appeared to be gray to the eye! All the color seemed drained from it and it was difficult to distinguish the color of the red blood stains from the brown scorches and yellowish image. The background also appeared to be gray rather than its distinctive straw color and the image contrast was very low. The level of the light in general was quite low and the entire Cathedral was very dark, although the Shroud itself was rightfully the brightest object in view.

I had long ago come to accept the changes in the Shroud's appearance made during the 2002 restoration, so it was not that that shocked me, although the apparent contrast between image and background seems to have decreased since the restoration. (Perhaps this is because of the lighter cloth that was sewn to the back of the Shroud to replace the Holland Cloth that was removed during the restoration).

It was the poor illumination on the cloth itself and the dramatic shifting of the Shroud's apparent color to gray that really bothered me. I understood that if the color temperature of the light shining on the cloth was bluish or cool in color, it would neutralize the yellowish warm tone of the Shroud itself and make it appear gray to the eye. At this point I have to remind you that I am one of the few people in the world who has ever had to light the Shroud of Turin for photography, so I have an inherent bias as to how it should look, having seen it up close and personal for five days and nights in 1978. When it comes to viewing the Shroud, the quality of the lighting is extremely important.

I could see there were only two light sources illuminating the Shroud and they were sharply focused to light only the cloth and not its frame. As a professional photographer, I was naturally trying to determine what types of lighting instruments were being used. However, it wasn't until my fourth visit to the Shroud, some days later, that the answer became only too apparent.

On Saturday, May 15th I went to visit the Shroud with **Ed Prior**, **Afzaal Khokhar** (a good friend and Pakistani Christian who journeyed outside his country for the first time in his life to make a pilgrimage to see the Shroud) and **Paolo Tealdi**, a friend of the Gonella family who agreed to drive us to the Cathedral and visit the Shroud with us. We arrived to find an enormous queue, with an estimated three hour wait to see the cloth. It was the next to last weekend of the exposition and the weather was good, so large crowds were to be expected.

Rather than wait in the extremely long queue that would take us to the front of the Cathedral and close to the Shroud, we decided to enter through the main doors at the back which were open to the public and where you could view the Shroud at a somewhat greater distance. Unlike the viewing galleries in the front, which were very close to the Shroud but where you were limited to only a few minutes, here you were further back but you could sit in the pews or stand at a rope barrier for as long as you wanted and still have a good view of the cloth. After only a five minute wait we were all

inside, moving forward to the rope barrier and getting as close as possible to the Shroud.

We stood quietly looking at the Shroud and I turned to Paolo as he shot some video footage of the cloth with his little handy-cam. At that moment, a large gasp rose up from those in the Cathedral and I turned back to the Shroud in time to see the words “Panasonic Digital Projector” in fluorescent green letters splashed across the cloth! I realized immediately that the Shroud was being illuminated by two digital projectors! I am sure the Turin authorities had their own good reasons for using these to light the Shroud, but it seemed inappropriate to see what looked like an advertisement on the cloth at such a solemn moment. Apparently, one of the projectors rebooted at that precise moment, sadly answering my question about what lighting instruments were being used.



Frame Grab from Video Clip © 2010 Paolo Tealdi

Of course, in all fairness, most pilgrims who visited the Shroud this year had no frame of reference as to how it *should* appear, at least not as I did. I am sure their experience was a totally positive and spiritual one. However, several other Sindonologists, including **Richard Orareo**, owner and curator of the **Boston Collection of Shroud Art**, had reported that they too were disappointed by the Shroud's dim lighting and gray appearance. It also finally explained a rather cryptic e-mail I received in April, before I left for Turin. The writer stated that he had visited the Turin exhibition but believed he had not seen the actual Shroud! He said that it did not appear “real” to him and wondered if it was a replica or a projected image. I had no idea what the writer was referring to so I simply ignored it at the time. Now I understood.

One of the real highlights of the trip was the visit I made to **Dorothy Crispino** and her husband, **Luigi**, in rural Cavour, about an hour and a half from Turin by bus. Dorothy was the editor and founder of **Shroud Spectrum International**, published from December 1981 to December 1993, and she made a critically important contribution to Sindonology. Spectrum was the only peer-reviewed journal in the world exclusively devoted to scientific and scholarly studies of the Shroud of Turin and is still quoted and used as a reference by Shroud researchers around the world on a regular basis. Before the Internet, Spectrum was the definitive source of information on the Shroud. (You can get detailed information and view a complete Index of Shroud Spectrum International at <http://www.shroud.com/spectrum.htm>).

Weeks earlier, before leaving for Turin, my dear friend and Sindonologist **Mary Hines** and I had decided we would visit Dorothy while we were in Turin, since Mary was also a member of one of the tours I was meeting with. On Wednesday, May 19, 2010, along with her friend, **Susan Leveille**, we made the bus trip to the country (an adventure in its own right) and were met at the bus stop by Luigi and Dorothy, who drove us to their charming country home.



Dorothy Crispino, Mary Hines & Barrie Schwartz - 19 May 2010

Although Dorothy and I had met in person only once before, at the Shroud Conference in Turin in 1998, we had spent many hours on the phone together when she still lived here in the U.S. during the process of incorporating the Spectrum Index onto the website. It was a great pleasure to spend some time with her and Luigi and look at some of the work she had done over the years. I was pleased to discover that Dorothy was an avid photographer and an expert darkroom technician in her own right. Many of

her beautiful fine art photographs were displayed around their home and it revealed a side of her I was not previously aware of. It was truly an honor to spend time with Dorothy, who is now 94 years of age. Although her eyesight and hearing are starting to fail and she must use a walker (due to an injury caused by a fall a few years ago), she was sharp as ever and in great spirits. We all had a wonderful time that day!



With Aldo Guerreschi - 16 May 2010

Another highlight of the trip was getting to see my old friend and brother photographer, **Aldo Guerreschi** and his lovely wife **Nella**. Aldo has done excellent research on the Shroud and written some of the best papers and articles published in the past ten years. (All are available online via the [Website Library](#) page). I consider Aldo part of my family and as you would expect when two old photographers get together, Aldo drove me up into the hills overlooking Turin to get a better view of the city!

One of my dearest friends is world renowned Shroud scholar and educator, **Emanuela Marinelli**, who, along with her brother **Maurizio**, produced **Collegamento pro Sindone**, a bimonthly printed periodical published from 1986 to 2001, when they ended print publication and created their award winning [Collegamento pro Sindone Website](#). (Get more information at: <http://www.shroud.com/collegam.htm>).

I was able to catch up with Emanuela at a major book fair in Turin when she arrived to give a short presentation as part of a lecture tour she was doing around Italy. We only had time for warm greetings, a glass of wine and lunch, but I was thrilled as always to be in her company.



Emanuela Marinelli

My final presentation in Turin was given on the evening of May 20, 2010 in the Novotel Hotel. It was the smallest group of pilgrims that I met with while in Turin, but they were truly fortunate as there were some important visitors in the room that night. First and foremost was my dear friend and original STURP team member **Rudy Dichtl**, who was responsible for equipment maintenance during our work on the Shroud. With him was **Franco Faia**, who worked closely with Rudy during STURP's 5 day examination of the Shroud in 1978. Franco had been responsible for maintaining the temperature and humidity controls of the Shroud during its public exhibition in the Cathedral and came over to work with STURP as soon as we arrived in the Royal Palace to set up our gear. He quickly became a good friend to all of us and that friendship has endured for 32 long years.



**Giovanni Gonella, Prof. Franco Testore, Franco Faia,
Barrie Schwartz & Rudy Dichtl**

I was also very honored by the presence of **Prof. Franco A. Testore**, world renowned Turinese textile expert. He was very gracious and demonstrated an excellent Shroud facial image on cloth that was the result of a recent attempt to duplicate the image properties using lasers. After my presentation, he was kind enough to come up and tell me that although he disagreed with some of my conclusions (regarding the Rogers, Benford and Marino research), he truly enjoyed my lecture. It was really a pleasure to meet a Shroud scholar who did not take intellectual disagreement as a personal insult!

Also at the presentation were **Giovanni** and **Bernardo Gonella**, two of **Professor Luigi Gonella's** sons. Professor Gonella was the scientific advisor to the Archbishop of Turin during both the 1978 STURP examination and the 1988 radiocarbon dating. STURP could not have done the quality work they did were it not for the dedicated efforts of Professor Gonella. I had just met both brothers a day or so earlier, but we already had formed a great friendship and I was honored at their presence.

I left Turin for Rome by plane early the next morning. I had been invited to lecture on the Shroud at the **Ateneo Pontificio Regina Apostolorum** in the Masters in Science and Faith program at the University of Rome by **Fr. Hector Guerra** of the Legionaries of Christ, who operate the university. I had met Fr. Guerra some months earlier when he and **Petrus Soons**, the researcher from Panama responsible for producing the amazing holographic images of the Shroud, were my houseguests here at my home in Colorado the day after opening the permanent new Shroud exhibit in Sacramento, California.

Upon my arrival in Rome, Fr. Guerra and I had a wonderful luncheon meeting with **Fr. Rafael Pascual**, Dean of the program and **Fr. Gianfranco Berbenni**, who teaches a course on the STURP science at the university and is a Shroud expert in his own right. I was next given a tour of their facilities, including the only permanent Shroud exhibit in Rome, identical to the excellent exhibit founded by the Legionaries in Jerusalem. At the exhibit I was thrilled to bump into my friend **Paolo di Lazzaro**, noted Shroud scholar that I had first met at the 2008 Ohio Conference. Paolo, who had organized and managed the International Workshop that had just ended in Frascati, had graciously come all the way to Rome to attend my presentation.

Shortly thereafter, in a beautifully equipped lecture hall, I gave my presentation to a full room of seminarians and priests. Afterwards, I was surrounded for almost an hour answering questions and discussing the Shroud with the young men. It was only our need to get some dinner that finally brought the proceedings to a close. I again felt very honored by the positive reception I was given.

The next morning Fr. Guerra and I were on a plane again, this time to Dusseldorf, Germany, to attend a family weekend event sponsored by the Legionaries and to make a presentation on the Shroud. That afternoon we took the opportunity to visit the Altstadt (old city) section of Dusseldorf, although I was very disappointed to discover so many American fast food restaurants in that setting! That night I stayed in a small but beautiful

old hotel near the Rhine River, had a great German meal (I recommend the potato soup) and drank a good German beer! (Altbier, of course)!

The next day we attended the family event where we met up with Petrus Soons, who had driven in from Holland. He and I were scheduled to give our presentations that afternoon at a nearby Cathedral.



Sankt Antonius Church - ©2010 Bärbel Matthaei

The **Sankt Antonius Church**, where we made our presentations, was already bustling with activity when we arrived early to set up our computers. There was a Catholic Television film crew placing multiple lights and setting up three large cameras in the church and we were all fitted with wireless microphones. Our presentations would be videotaped (and I will post a link to the video once it becomes available). Petrus and I then met with **Fr. Klaus Einsle**, who kindly translated our presentations into German as we spoke.

At the appointed time, Petrus and I made our presentations, which went off flawlessly. In fact, we received a generous, enthusiastic and truly warm response from the packed church! In spite of the language issue, the audience was completely in tune with the subject matter and I felt very welcome. It was truly an amazing experience!



Fr. Klaus Einsle Translates My Presentation into German - ©2010 Bärbel Matthaei

That afternoon, Fr. Guerra and I flew back to Rome. It was my last night in Europe and I was preparing to return home in the morning. I had experienced so much on this journey and I was flooded with emotions as I packed my bag for the last time. I would remember this trip and all the wonderful people I met forever. The Shroud had once again taken me where I had never dreamed I could go!

Epilogue

Aside from a 15 hour overnight delay in Washington, D.C.'s Dulles International Airport due to bad weather in Denver, my return trip was uneventful! I arrived home in Colorado to find more than 1800 (non-spam) e-mails in the mailbox, dozens of phone messages and a huge pile of postal mail waiting for my attention. I have been working on them ever since, and am finally getting caught up. I wanted to write this article and post it as quickly as possible and frankly, I have been working on it for weeks, but it has taken until today, July 4, 2010, to get it finished.

I wish to thank everyone I met during this trip that helped make it the truly memorable experience it was. That includes every member of every tour group, large or small, and every individual I spent time with. You made this trip truly worthwhile and for that I am deeply grateful.

Barrie Schwartz - July 4, 2010