

# **The Shroud of Turin**

## **An Enduring Mystery**

### **Part 2: Science Encounters the Shroud**

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#### **Introduction**

This is the second part of a five part course the is divided into sessions: 1) Introduction, 2) Science, 3) History, 4) Skeptics & Images, 5) Integration & Conclusions. Prior to 1898 and the first photograph of the shroud its very existence was noted only rarely when it went on exhibit. It had long been venerated as the burial cloth of Jesus Christ, although its authenticity had been questioned and its provenance was very uncertain. Today we will explore the intersection of the shroud and modern science and the surprising facts that emerged as a result.

#### **Resources**

##### **Websites**

**www.shroud.com** The premier Shroud of Turin site founded by Barrie Schwartz.

**www.shroud.com/pdfs/** a directory full of pdf files by a wide variety of shroud researchers

**http://www.sindonology.org/** Mario Latendresse's website which includes the Shroud Scope

**http://www.sindonology.org/shroudScope/shroudScope.shtml** Shroud Scope

**http://www.sindonology.org/photomicrographs.shtml#locations** Photo Micrographs

**http://shroudencounter.com/** Russ Breault's website on encountering the shroud

**http://www.shrouduniversity.com/** Website archiving many videos and papers

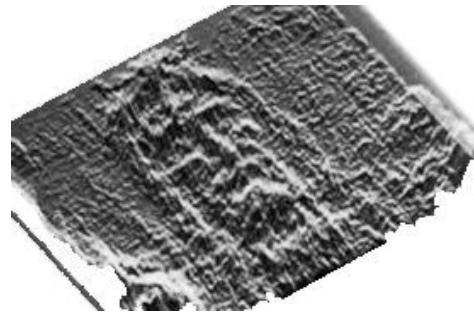
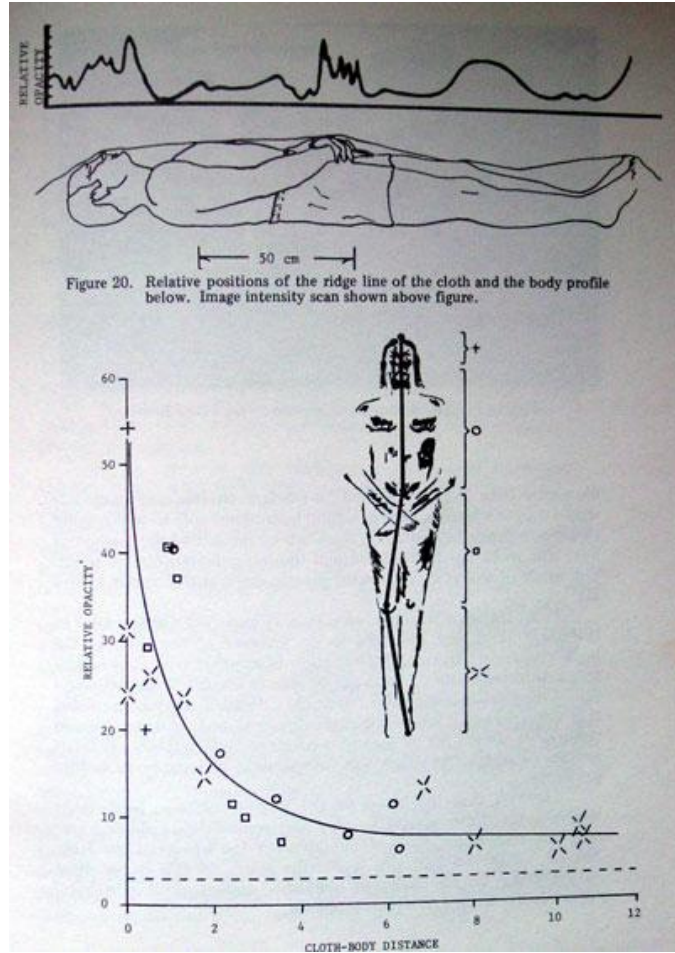
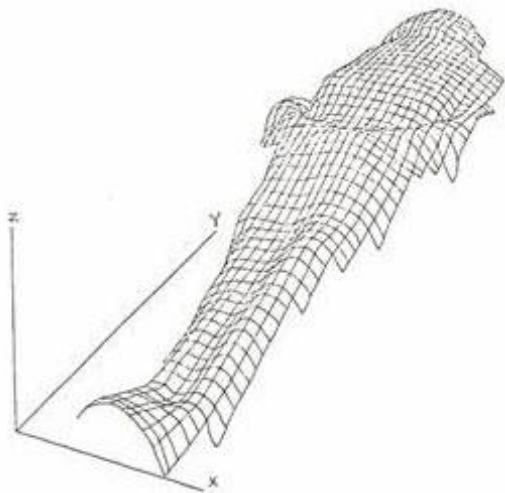
**http://shroudstory.com/** Dan Porter's blog which is a good source for what's going on right now

To find some of the many excellent and not so excellent videos that are on-line you can google something like: shroud of turin youtube -- that search produces 211,000 hits. The alternative is to just enter [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and enter "shroud of turin" and that gets a nice selection of videos.

#### **Homework**

Some excellent on-line videos about the shroud can be found by entering the link:

[http://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=shroud+of+turin](http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=shroud+of+turin) You might consider spending an hour watching one and telling us what you thought of it when you come next time.



Besides the negative character of the image, the most intriguing feature is the three dimensional information encoded in the image intensity which encodes darker as less cloth to body distance. This was noted by Vignon in 1902 and quantified by Jackson and Jumper using microdensitometer scans as well as the VP-8 image analyzer. The mechanism for producing such an image remains a mystery.