

## **Press Release**

For Immediate Release

Date:

Contact:

**Shroud Encounter** will be coming to \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_PM. This highly acclaimed 90-minute multi-media presentation will be held at \_\_\_\_\_ Admission is free and open to the public.

Shroud Encounter is a production of *Shroud of Turin Education Project, Inc.* and will be presented by renowned international expert Russ Breault. The presentation is a fast moving, big-screen experience using nearly 200 images covering all aspects of Shroud research.

Mr. Breault has been featured in several national documentaries including “Mysteries of the Ancient World” on CBS and most recently “The Real Face of Jesus?” on the History Channel. He has presented at numerous colleges and universities including Duke, West Point, Penn State and many others. See [ShroudEncounter.com](http://ShroudEncounter.com) for more information.

The Shroud of Turin is the most analyzed artifact in the world yet remains a mystery. The 14-foot long linen cloth that has been in Turin, Italy for over 400 years and bears the faint front and back image of a 5'10" bearded, crucified man with apparent wounds and bloodstains that match the crucifixion account as recorded in the bible. Millions of people over the centuries have believed it be the actual burial shroud of Jesus. The historical trail tracks back through Italy, France, Asia Minor (Turkey) and may have originated in the Middle East according to botanical evidence.

A team of 24 scientists in 1981 concluded it was not the work of an artist. They found no visible trace of paint, pigment, dye or other artistic substances on the cloth. The blood is AB positive with human DNA. Skeptics have mounted numerous attempts to show how a medieval artist could have produced the image but all have been inadequate to fully explain how it was formed. The image is so superficial it only penetrates the top micro-fibers to the depth of a single bacterium. In addition, there is no image under the blood meaning that the blood was on the cloth before the image was formed. No attempt at replicating the image has resolved these two key attributes. If the cloth did indeed wrap a corpse, there are no stains of decomposition.

The Shroud was largely dismissed in 1988 when three carbon dating labs indicated a medieval origin. However chemical research published in a peer reviewed scientific journal in 2005 showed that the single sample cut from the outside corner edge may not be part of the original Shroud material. In violation of the sampling protocol, only one sample was used for dating and was cut from the most handled area of the cloth, an area that should have been avoided. The sample may have been part of a section that was frayed and repaired sometime during the Middle Ages. Based on this new evidence, many scientists now believe the carbon dating result is inconclusive and should no longer be considered valid.

Adding strength to the Shroud's authenticity, scientists from Hebrew University confirmed the presence of pollen from plants that grow only in Israel. The mystery continues. National Geographic called it "One of the most perplexing enigmas of modern times."

**Shroud Encounter** will cover all aspects of the history, science, art and theories of how the image may have been formed.