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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Shroud of Turin Conference Will Reveal New Findings

International Conference at Ohio State Will Present New Data Contradicting 1988 C-14 Test Placing Shroud Origins in 13th–14th Centuries

COLUMBUS, Ohio, March 20 — On Aug. 14–17, 2008, the Shroud Science Internet Group, composed of about 100 scientists, scholars, and researchers from around the world, will host “The Shroud of Turin: Perspectives on a Multifaceted Enigma” conference at The Blackwell Hotel, 2110 Tuttle Park Place, at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, to discuss the controversial Shroud of Turin, the reputed burial cloth of Jesus of Nazareth and one of the most intensely-studied artifacts in human history.

The conference, which commemorates the 30th anniversary of the Shroud of Turin Research Project (STURP) group’s investigation and the 20th anniversary of the Carbon-14 (C-14) dating of the Shroud, will highlight STURP members, including a special presentation by documenting photographer Barrie Schwartz (80816). There will be four other presentations by members, as well as a previously-unpublished paper by the late Raymond N. Rogers, a member of STURP and the Shroud Science Internet Group, who, after being given leftover samples from the 1988 C-14 dating, asserted in the January 2005 issue of *Thermochemica Acta* that “Pyrolysis-mass-spectrometry results from the sample area coupled with microscopic and microchemical observations prove that the radiocarbon sample was not part of the original cloth of the Shroud of Turin. The radiocarbon date was thus not valid for determining the true age of the Shroud.”

The Shroud had been intensely studied for five days in 1978 by the STURP group. None of the data collected by the group suggested the Shroud could be a forgery. Although the 1988 C-14 dating on the Shroud produced a date of A.D. 1260–1390, which would eliminate it from being the authentic burial cloth of Jesus, the 2005 paper authored by Rogers indicated that the sample may have been taken from a repaired area of the cloth. While some researchers have challenged Rogers’ findings, there have been no rebuttals in peer-reviewed literature.

The conference will provide additional compelling evidence supportive of Rogers’ findings. A scientist and former colleague of Rogers at Los Alamos National Laboratory, who was given three yarns from the C-14 sample area, will present new experimental data demonstrating that all three of the yarns are cotton and contain a surface-colored coating strongly suggestive of a medieval repair. It is well known and accepted that the main Shroud is all linen. M. Sue Benford (43016) and Joseph Marino (43016), researchers whose paper at the 2000 Shroud conference in Orvieto, Italy, had prompted Rogers to undertake the research that led to his 2005 publication, will present two new papers. Additionally, conference speakers will present the findings of scientific analyses of dusts and particles taken during the 1988 C-14 dating.

For more information regarding the conference, including a tentative schedule, or to register, visit
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ohioshroudconference.com. Registration is also available by visiting ced.osu.edu/CED_conference.html or calling the Office of Continuing Education at (614) 292-8571.

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