

SHROUD STORY

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A LIFE'S WORK ON THE SHROUD TO COME TO THE SCREEN

Performance Films Ltd has acquired exclusive film and TV rights to the research conducted by the Turin Shroud Center of Colorado led by John and Rebecca Jackson. The films will be produced and directed by David W Rolfe who made the acclaimed award-winning film on the subject *The Silent Witness* in 1977.

John Jackson, a Professor of Physics at the University of Colorado, was a leader of the American team that was given exclusive access to the cloth in 1978. He has almost finished the definitive analysis of the data collected. The new films will follow the progress of the final experiments that are the culmination of Jackson's life's work and which may succeed in resurrecting the cloth from the obscurity it has endured since the Carbon 14 test branded it a mediaeval fake.

For Jackson, the archeological, historical and cultural evidence were enough to convince him that there must be something odd about the C14 result. As someone who knew more about the physical and chemical characteristics of the image, he was also struck at the absence of any plausible explanation for how the image came to possess them. Much of the knowledge on cultural history has accumulated since he married Rebecca, a Jewish convert to Catholicism. Among many other things, she brought with her the realization that any claim to authenticity must also resonate strongly with 1st Century Jewish burial customs and traditions.

Since 1984 when he first published his ["collapse"](#) hypothesis for image formation in the *Journal of Applied Optics* and with the help of a steady stream of students from the university he has been methodically building up a digital model of the Shroud and the body it contained. This data will enable him – and the film – to simulate a range of events at the very edge of science that may, for the first time, be able to recreate that formation process.

Can Jackson's life's work succeed in resurrecting the Shroud from the obscurity that the 1987 Carbon 14 test condemned it? The new film will combine the Shroud's story with Jackson's own story of obsession for the truth about it. His science has always come under additional scrutiny because of his Christian beliefs. And with the weight of a very skeptical scientific establishment it will be no different this time.

The first film will tackle the issue of the dating head on. Until the barrier of that mediaeval provenance is lowered, speculation and science on image formation is never going to capture the public's imagination as it once did in the original *Silent Witness*.

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