

Spectroscopic Analyses Of Fibers From The Shroud Of Turin--What Do They Mean?

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Abstract:

The Shroud of Turin is a centuries old linen cloth that appears to show the image of a crucified man, which many believe to be Jesus of Nazareth. For years the debate has raged as to whether this is the cloth that wrapped Jesus' crucified body or a clever medieval forgery. In 1988 carbon dating studies demonstrated the Shroud to be medieval (1260-1390). However, a theory suggesting that samples were taken from an area of the Shroud that was damaged then repaired and rewoven in medieval times was forwarded. A chemist from Los Alamos, Ray Rogers, verified the carbon dating was valid, but that the sample appeared to not be representative of the entire Shroud. Bob Villarreal, another Los Alamos chemist, was asked to carry on Ray Rogers' work upon his death in 2005. We have studied fibers from the Shroud with several analysis techniques and will discuss our findings and interpretations of the data.