

BESANÇON AND OTHER HYPOTHESES FOR THE MISSING YEARS: THE SHROUD FROM 1200 TO 1400

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FORWARD

I continue to regard Ian Wilson's 1978 book¹ as my Shroud "Bible." I have built a "Shroud career" upon his research. Without his insights about Edessa, Shroud history would begin with Robert de Clari in 1203 (Fourth Crusade). Ian is the first to applaud the scholar who makes a good case for some theory, even though it may depart from his own position. I am counting on this as I speak. I consider that we have been partners in the search for the true history of the Shroud since we had espresso together with eminent Archbishop John A. T. Robinson on an October evening in Turin in 1978. I wish my friend, Ian Wilson, could be here with us in Ohio today.

I will begin with a strong statement and try to back it up in the rest of my talk. If the Shroud was not at Besançon where it is named--and claimed to have been--during the famous gap in its record (about 1200 to 1400), it was somewhere else, unnamed, unclaimed, unattested, and undocumented.

At least three popular hypotheses may be briefly discussed.

THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

First, the Knights Templar hypothesis. The above statement means that the words

“Shroud of Jesus” are not found in all the documents of the trials of the Templars. The hypothesis that they possessed the Shroud during the missing years hinges on their worship of an idol in the form of a head. In 1911, before the Shroud was ever a Templar issue, Salomon Reinach noted, from the records of the trial, that no two members gave the same description of their supposed idol. More recently, other scholars² have echoed this, noting that no Templar described it as a cloth image and that some said it was a skull or had (3) three heads. They noted, too, that some interrogated Templars were menials who were never present at the secret meetings when the idol was supposedly exposed. Yet they also proffered a description. Today the real issue is not a Templar possession of the Shroud but the very existence of an idol. The inquisitors used the same questions in the trial of the Cathars. It now seems proven that the inquisitors themselves intruded the idol into the interrogations, and the members of the Order described one in hopes of receiving leniency.³

THE SMYRNA HYPOTHESIS

Regarding the Smyrna theory, I can say unequivocally that Geoffroy de Charny did NOT go on the “Smyrna Crusade” in 1346 for the purpose of obtaining the Shroud. Again, the Shroud was not mentioned by any of its supposed owners in the Greek East. Further, in 1902 the evidence was manipulated by the Baron du Teil, and modern advocates of the Smyrna hypothesis have not noticed it.⁴

THE SAINTE CHAPELLE HYPOTHESIS

Finally, no Shroud was ever inventoried among the relics placed by King St. Louis IX in his new Sainte Chapelle, where the (5) Grande Chasse (“Great Reliquary Chest”) housed the Crown of Thorns and other relics which had come from Constantinople in 1248. There we read two contradictory items, neither of which is the Shroud: Du saint Suaire (a piece of the Shroud) and une sainte face (a holy face).⁵ Periodic inventories of Sainte Chapelle relics refer to the latter as the *sancta toella in tabula inserta*: the “holy towel (of Jesus’ face) in a frame.” This had been a term for the Mandylion from Edessa. However, the “towel” had already been unfolded in Constantinople in 958. From then on we must agree with Ian Wilson that the legend of the (6) Mandylion (face only) had to be preserved (after its “ticker-tape” arrival parade in 944) and something called the *tuaile* was kept separately in the Pharos Chapel relic treasury, where, in 1203, Robert de Clari (par. 83) saw only the container hanging from the ceiling, while (7) the Shroud (the mandylion unfolded) was later moved to the Blachernes Palace, where Clari (par. 92) saw it raised up every Friday and identified it as the *sydoines*, i.e. the Shroud. In the meantime, in Europe, Ordericus Vitalis (1130) and Gervase of Tilbury (1211)⁶, using the Abgar legend, already described a full-length Shroud long before 1248. Yet the towel in a frame continued to be named in Sainte Chapelle inventories until at least 1575, when we know the actual Shroud was already on its way from the Savoy to Chambery to Torino.⁷

These three scenarios, plausible in their own way, and laid out by sincere scholars, are built on foundations of silence. Historiography, however, proceeds by documents.

THE BESANÇON HYPOTHESIS

The hypothesis which identifies the Turin Shroud with the cloth said to have been previously used in the Easter liturgy at the cathedral of St. Stephen at Besançon has been

scrutinized by scholars, but it has never been refuted.⁸

In fact, the Besançon hypothesis has been revived often in the past 20 years, by me in 1989, others, and most recently by Alessandro Piana in 2007.⁹

The case for Besançon continues to acquire more supporting evidence. Here let us all be reminded: The Shroud remains--overall--relatively free of historical documentation. Even Geoffroy de Charny, owner of the Lirey- Chambery-Turin Shroud about 1349-54, never gave any sign that he ever heard of it. Long after his death his descendents say, vaguely, that he acquired the Shroud as a “reward freely given.” This is true enough, though one gets the feeling that something is being held back.

The official papers of the foundation of Geoffroy's church at Lirey from 1343 to 1353 mention other relics but not the Shroud. Still, the Shroud at Lirey has been vindicated by Bishop d’Arcis’s Memorandum in 1389, the Shroud’s first firm document 34 years after its arrival in Lirey.¹⁰ The Besançon hypothesis is defined by a series of documents and runs as follows.

OTHON DE LA ROCHE

First we must ask: Who was Othon de la Roche that he, of all the illustrious French knights of the Fourth Crusade, should acquire the most striking relic in Christendom. Othon was a Burgundian nobleman who emerged as a leading figure of the Fourth Crusade, was awarded the fief of Athens, and somehow acquired the Shroud of Jesus along with other relics in Constantinople in 1204.

So our first task is to get the Shroud from Constantinople to Othon in Athens. In 1983¹¹ Pasquale Rinaldi discovered in Naples a 13th c. copy of a (10) letter asserting that the Shroud of Jesus from the relic collection in Constantinople was in Athens. Othon had been the Seigneur of Athens since late in 1204.

The letter is dated August 1, 1205. Theodore Angelos, brother of Michael, Despot of Epirus, wrote to Pope Innocent III, complaining that the Shroud of Jesus had been taken to Athens. Michael was one of only a few remaining Greek rulers after the capture of Constantinople by the 4th Crusade.

Is the letter to the pope authentic? Some scholars have denied it. The main issue raised is their claim that Theodore would have signed his name as Doukas and not Angelos. However, Robert Lee Wolfe, who has authored a massive history of the Crusades, has preferred to identify Theodore as Angelos Comnenus. Importantly, the timing of the letter rather favors the choice of Angelos for the following reasons. In 1205 Pope Innocent III was still threatening to excommunicate the leaders of the western crusading forces for the looting of Christian Constantinople. It was a time when a leading spokesman of the Greeks might yet hope that a pope’s intervention might result in the return of the Greeks to power in their own land and of the Shroud and other relics into Greek hands. Would Theodore have presented himself as Angelos in the letter? Despite the short tenure of the Angelos rulers on the Byzantine throne (1185-1204), the name might have been received more favorably in Rome than Doukas because, as emperor, Alexius IV Angelos had shown a friendly hand towards the Latins.¹² It is also true that Theodore, who succeeded Michael in Epirus from 1214 to 1230, was already ambitious for power in 1205 and might have felt himself in a position to deal with the papacy.¹³

In 1989 I uncovered a second support of the Shroud’s presence in Athens. In the years immediately after the Latin takeover of Constantinople in 1204, Nicholas of Otranto, Abbot of Casole monastery in southern Italy, was the personal translator for the newly seated Latin Patriarch, Benedict of Santa Susana. Together they held discussions with Greek clergy, hoping

to reconcile disagreements over dogma and papal primacy. These differences included the Greek use of leavened bread as contrasted with the Latin church's use of unleavened (ázyμος) host in the Eucharist.

Nicholas' reports were written in both Greek and Latin. His reference to the Shroud comes in the midst of a discussion of the Communion bread in 1207. The Byzantines had asserted that a portion of the original (leavened) bread used by Jesus had been present in the imperial relic collection but had been stolen. Here is the crucial passage: "When the city was captured by the French knights, they entered as thieves, even in the treasury of the Great Palace where the holy objects had been kept, and they found among other things the precious wood, the crown of thorns, the sandals of the Savior, the nail [sic], and the burial linens, which we [later]and saw with our own eyes." Among the lost relics of the Passion, which Nicholas now enumerated, were that bread and Jesus' burial linens. In this passage, the key words are "with our own eyes."¹⁵ The question must be asked as to just where it was that Nicholas actually saw the linens. To answer this, we must add what he says in another context: that, in 1206, Benedict and he had traveled to Athens and to Thessalonika debating the same questions of Church unification with the Greek theologians. It may, therefore, be in Athens that Nicholas saw the burial linens--so emphatically "with our own eyes"--which is such a peculiar part of the passage just cited. Most significantly, he says he saw them after the rush of pillaging of Constantinople's precious relics by the crusaders. For the linguists among us, it is crucial to notice that the Latin pluperfect *ubi sancta posita erant* ("where the holy things had been kept") and the Greek imperfect *en tois ta hagia ekeinto* ("in which places the holy objects used to be kept") argue strongly that the linens were no longer in the Great Palace and that Nicholas did not see them there. Theodore of Epirus and Nicholas of Otranto thus provide mutual supports for the Shroud in Athens.

How did Othon get the Shroud? During the second siege of Constantinople, which effectively placed the crusaders in control of the Byzantine government on 14 April 1204, Othon was among the Burgundians following Henry of Flanders and garrisoned in the (12) Blachernes Palace, according to Chamard.¹⁷ If so, and since the Shroud of Jesus was in this precinct--and accessible--as Robert of Clari attested, then Othon could have gained possession of it that very day.¹⁸ Official ownership would be earned and granted later. Unfortunately, I could not confirm Chamard's assertion of Othon in Blachernes by any document, but Theodore's letter (Note 11 above) about the Shroud in Athens already in 1205 does indicate Othon's possession prior to that year.

By summer of 1204, Othon emerged as a personal representative of the Marquis Boniface de Montferrat, who nearly became the first Latin Byzantine Emperor. Baldwin of Flanders was elected, and Boniface was compensated by possession of Thessalonika. This, in effect, made him the overlord of a kingdom comprising most of mainland Greece, for which he paid feudal homage to Baldwin.¹⁹ In November of 1204, he appointed Othon Lord of Athens.

In 1205, Baldwin was killed, and his younger brother Henry was crowned emperor in August 1206. Soon afterward Othon was personally entrusted with a special mission to the new emperor bearing the offer of Boniface's daughter Agnes in marriage.²⁰ It is an attractive possibility that in the joyous generosity of this event (ceremony in Hagia Sophia, reception in the Imperial Palace), Henry awarded (or confirmed) the Shroud to Othon's protection. The question is not so much whether Othon received the Shroud but only about when and how he received it.

In April 1209, after helping to reduce Greek resistance led by (the same) Theodore of Epirus in the Peloponnese, Othon arrived as a conqueror at Henry's important council at Ravenika. In May, Henry visited Othon for two days in Athens. He was accompanied by Pons de Chaponay de Lyon, his fiscal agent and "shuttle diplomat," who had already accomplished missions in the West to profitably dispose of relics, precious fabrics, and imperial jewels in

France. The bonding of the three men continued when Othon escorted Henry on his journey to Euboea.

Logic demands that Othon would have shipped the Shroud or carried it home to Burgundy. Sometime, either in 1206 or in 1219, it arrived at his (13) Burgundian Chateau de Ray-sur-Saône near Besançon. Michele Bergeret and now Alessandro Piana have provided evidence that (14) this was the permanent home of Othon's Shroud. They have introduced photos of a wooden chest labeled in recent times as that in which the Shroud was "brought back by Othon de Ray in 1206." The great Byzantine scholar, Eduard Riant²¹ noted that this Pons de Chaponay was sent to Burgundy in 1219 on an undefined but important mission. Given Pons's other special assignments and the friendly relationship that existed between Emperor Henry and Othon, it is not too brash to suppose that in 1219 Pons might have delivered Othon's precious relic to his Chateau de Ray.

I have preferred this latter option for several reasons. The first is that document of 1207, the year when Nicholas of Otranto was in Athens and asserted that he saw it personally. I have shown above that he did not see it among the relics in Constantinople, and that the context of the reference to the Shroud was his enumeration of relics lost or stolen in the Fourth Crusade. A second reason is the fact that Othon's military and administrative activities, not least of which were the negotiations for the wedding of the daughter of Othon's lord Boniface of Montferrat to Emperor Henry, would have required his presence in Thessalonika and Constantinople during 1206 and 1207. There seems little or no time for the long voyage to Castle de Ray and back to Athens during these years.

Othon died in 1224. (15) Though no written document attests to Othon's return home,²² (16) Alessandro Piana has presented a replica in the chateau of an actual tomb-memorial, whose epitaph reads: "Under this stone is buried Othon de Ray. Pray God that the enemy no longer can surprise him."

A short historical digression may serve to indicate what major events could become factors in the itinerary of the Shroud in France. From 1309 to 1377 the papacy resided at Avignon; French popes pursued a French foreign policy. By 1377 there must have been few alive who had ever known a papacy that was truly the spiritual leader of all Europe's Christians. After 1377 rival popes in Rome and in Avignon claimed the allegiances of Catholics in what is called the "Great Western Schism."

The location of Besançon rendered it a hotbed of all the political and religious dichotomies of the times. Sometime capital of Burgundy, the city straddled France and the German Holy Roman Empire in its geography and politics. A French party constantly worked for the city's annexation by France and for the legitimacy of the French anti-popes. A German party strove for Besançon's continued attachment to the Empire and, not surprisingly, supported the popes in Rome. The Vergy family was among the pro-French faction in Burgundy.

THE YEARS 1351 TO 1354 MARK THE WINDOW WHEN GEOFFROY OBTAINED THE SHROUD FROM JEANNE DE VERGY

Besançon's historians wrote that on March 6, 1349, a fire in St. Stephen Cathedral resulted in the apparent destruction--certainly, the disappearance-- of their Shroud and the loss of all church documents attesting to the circumstances of its arrival in that city. Safe in the chateau, the Shroud survived the fire and would have been accessible to (17) Jeanne de Vergy (c.1320-1388?), descended from Othon and with her family's proper claim to ownership. In 1349 she could deal with the Shroud in the same way that the Savoyes exercised their family's ownership of the Shroud well into the 20th c. The powerful Vergy family had a virtual lock on the post of seneschal in Besançon from 1191 to 1310.²⁴ Bro. Hilary de Cremiers,²⁵

especially, has supported my own research in the Wuenschel Shroud Archives (with thanks to Fr. Adam Otterbein) giving virtual certainty that soon after the fire, Jeanne carried the Shroud out of Burgundy and subsequently to her marriage to Geoffroy I de Charny between 1351 and 1354. All the evidence for the ever-silent Geoffroy's acquisition of the Shroud leads neatly to his second wife, Jeanne de Vergy. This is what was not said in the Charnys' vague "reward freely given." It would have been unwise to announce that Lirey now possessed Besançon's lost precious relic.

In 1929, Noguier Malijay suggested a variation on this theme, namely that Jeanne de Vergy brought the Shroud out of Burgundy, thereby saving it for France. Malijay argued further that she presented it first to the French king, Philip VI de Valois (d. 1351), who in turn awarded it to Geoffroy de Charny, his trusted porte-d'oriflamme (banner bearer) as a major relic to be placed in the as yet unfinished new church at Lirey and as a wedding present that was--again--"freely given." In any case, the question of the Shroud of Jesus in Besançon and its transfer to Lirey has a decidedly political dimension.

COULD GEOFFROY HAVE ACQUIRED THE SHROUD IN THE 1340S?

In the interest of thoroughness, let us consider if Geoffroy could have obtained the Shroud in the 1340s. During most of that decade Geoffroy was pursuing his career as a fighting knight in western France. He suffered his first British imprisonment in the battle of Morlaix in 1342. During this time,

as a man (bachelor) of modest means--not yet advantaged by Vergy wealth and not yet the king's porte-d'Oriflamme--he considered praying for a miracle. The tradition is well-known that he vowed to build a church to the Virgin if he should ever be freed. He was released from that imprisonment--whether by ransom or escape--in 1343, when, with financial aid from the same King Philip, work began on his Lirey church.

In 1345-46 he was present on the Smyrna (Turkey) Crusade. Back in France, he again saw battle as the banner-bearer for King Philip from 1347 to 1349. The end of the decade found him again imprisoned from December 31, 1349, until mid-1351. This time his ransom was paid by Philip's son King John the Good, and Geoffroy needed no miracle. All this leaves little time for a wedding.

Dorothy Crispino, who has vigorously denied the validity of the Besançon thesis, has found a request by Geoffroy I to Pope Innocent VI on August 3, 1354, for permission to have a cemetery by his (18) new Lirey church. I have found his letter in the writings of Ulysse Chevalier.²⁸ As Dorothy has put it, Geoffroy "changed his mind" about where he wished to be buried--and his new choice was in this new graveyard. She is sure, and I can agree fully, that the reason was his obtaining possession of the Shroud about that time. Dorothy's valuable evidence places any acquisition of the Shroud by Geoffroy in the 1340s in serious doubt.

Ian Wilson²⁹ noted that in 1355 Geoffroy gave a receipt "as lord of Savoisy and Montfort," titles and properties acquired via his marriage to Jeanne, for the removal of the Shroud from Lirey on account of the dangerous presence of the British in the Hundred Years War (1337-1453). In 1356, after Geoffroy's death, ownership of the relic was exercised by Jeanne, since Wilson also notes that Geoffroy II was still a minor in 1356. It remained safe in their castle of Montfort from 1356 to 1389. Jeanne's death must have occurred during this period, for Bishop d'Arcis's Memorandum of 1389-90 named Geoffroy II as displaying the Shroud in Lirey falsely as the true Shroud of Jesus.

The absence of any mention of the Shroud in the earliest documents (1343-1353) of the Lirey church and the (19) presence of the Vergy arms on the famous Seine medallion point to Vergy ownership and Jeanne's delivery of the Shroud from Besançon. No other theory of the

missing 150 years has ever explained so efficiently--or at all--how Geoffroy wound up with the Shroud.

SHROUD CONFUSIONS

In 1624 J. J. Chifflet, Besançon's first historian, convinced that the original Shroud was consumed in the St. Stephen fire, wrote that in 1377 it was miraculously discovered in a niche in the new cathedral. In 1902, based on the (21) illustrations of the Lirey and Besançon shrouds from Chifflet's book, Vignon wrote that the Shroud of Besançon was clearly a replica of that of Lirey, made between the years 1349 (the fire) and 1375. Besançon's own historian Dom François Chamard (1902)³⁰ agreed--though he was not forthcoming about how Lirey had obtained the original.

Remember how Bishop d'Arcis complained in 1389 that in Lirey an artist had "painted" an imaged shroud? Now we can demonstrate that there really was a copy of the shroud painted by an artist. It was most likely commissioned by Jeanne, now the Lady of Lirey, and sent in 1377 as a replacement for the one she had taken out of Besançon in 1349. I will have more on this in the exciting conclusion of my paper.

BASIS OF OPPOSITION TO THE BESANÇON HYPOTHESIS

Opposition to Besançon is largely the result of the loss of records. What shall we make of the fact that local scholar Chifflet in 1624 knew nothing of Othon? (It is time to play the "lost documents card," and we will understand the reasons.) Recall the loss of virtually all church records from the fire in 1349. This means that in Chifflet's time there were no documents attesting to the role of Othon in the Shroud's arrival in Burgundy. Then comes the strongly anti-clerical French Revolution. J. Gauthier, authoritative archivist of Besançon, was not a defender of his town's ever possessing the true Shroud of Jesus. Ca. 1901 (56) he wrote the following about the French Revolutionaries.

And when . . . the delegates of the departmental directory of Doubs threw to the fire or shredded . . . all the administrative records of the diocese over four centuries . . . this destruction . . . reduced by about nine-tenths the sources of the Archbishopric . . . [Now] all together they form only 534 articles . . . from 1412 to 1790.³¹

This destruction of all ecclesiastical records before 1412 immediately announces the obstacles in the path of Chifflet as he attempted to reconstruct the history of the Shroud in his city from a few isolated documents. Jeanne's role in removing the Shroud about 1350 is also lost. Chifflet knew only that it had "disappeared" after the fire. A few of his isolated documents referred to the Shroud's rediscovery in a niche in the church in 1378. Chifflet could see it in his day: a cloth with a clumsy frontal only image of the body of Jesus looking so much like the true Shroud still in Lirey that Vignon said Besançon's was surely a copy of Lirey's. This frontal-only "replacement" shroud of 1377 was singled out in the official account of those events in 1794 as having been torn into bandages.

My next point is supremely important: it needs to be understood that writers who casually reject the Besançon hypothesis have focused only on the replacement copy of 1377 with its frontal-only image. (It was the Lirey "painted" copy mentioned by Bishop d'Arcis in 1389. Those detractors have wasted many pages proving what nobody denies--that the later shroud in Besançon was not the Shroud of Turin. In short, these "refutations" have not disproved the original Shroud sent to Burgundy from Athens.

This present fresh approach to the Besançon hypothesis provides answers to some major

issues in Shroud history. Besançon's possession of the replacement shroud explains why the city did not more strenuously claim prior ownership of the Lirey Shroud. They had the copy and believed it to be the rediscovered original. In 1624 poor Chifflet, well aware of Lirey's Shroud, opined that there had been two real Shrouds, one for carrying the body and one for wrapping it.

A frequently used argument against Besançon's one-time possession of the present Shroud of Turin is that the earliest extant record of it in the city dates from 1523. However, to be accurate, this was a reference to (22) the city's Easter ritual, in which the city's shroud played a role. Nobody says Besançon first received a shroud in 1523. Chifflet thought that the ritual already was used in Besançon "before the union of St. John and St. Stephen in 1253," and that it was "renewed" in 1523.³³ Consider that the question has never been asked as to why, given the Shroud's adverse notoriety in Lirey in the 14th c. and its possession in 1523 by the powerful Savoy family in Chambéry, Besançon should seriously enter the "shroud business" in that year. Besançon's claim on the Shroud of Jesus makes sense only if the city previously had possession of the original.

Chifflet did not mention Othon. But he was clear when he wrote: "The fire burned up the [Shroud and] the details of the Shroud's arrival: i.e., the means, the time, and the carrier."

The next episode seems to be a patent and deliberate conspiratorial contrivance. However, instead of destroying the Besançon thesis, it rather strengthens it. Chifflet wrote that in 1377 the cloth in its chest was rediscovered by means of a strange light coming from a hidden part of the cathedral. Judging from the lapse of 28 years (1349-1377) between the fire and "rediscovery," there could not have been many in Besançon who knew precisely what the original had looked like. Here comes my exciting conclusion.

Archbishop Guillaume III de Vergy (1371-91), was the fifth in line since the fire. That is to say, four archbishops, who might have been able to compare the replacement cloth with the original, had died. In order to determine if it was the same true burial Shroud of Christ previously lost, Chifflet relates that the cloth newly found in 1377 was placed upon a corpse, which miraculously sat up and began giving Shroud lectures. (□) It was thus a Vergy who "verified" by a "miracle" that the new Besançon replacement shroud was indeed the original Besançon Shroud. Is anyone thinking "family cover-up"? Nobody doubts that the new cloth residing in Besançon until its destruction in 1794 was only the painted copy, and Vignon has so described it. There supervenes the history of the Shroud at Lirey, the Shroud whose continuity extends to the present day, the Shroud which is beyond a doubt identifiable as the Shroud of Turin. Besançon's claims to possession of the true burial wrapping of Christ thus gradually evaporated.

SUMMARY

All of the mysteries surrounding the initial appearance of the Turin Shroud are by no means solved by these historical revelations, but new insights may have been gained into the mind that produced the d'Arcis Memorandum and about its weakness as a document always adduced by sindonoclasts in attempts to refute the authenticity of the Shroud.

You may judge if the case for the Shroud in Besançon during the lost years remains merely a hypothesis. It offers documents that actually name the Shroud, which other hypotheses do not. It has a reasonable provenance from Constantinople via Othon. It affords us the moment and circumstance for Geoffroy de Charny's acquisition of the cloth, which no other hypothesis could do. I hope to have shown that the Besançon hypothesis is the only one that truly fills the chronological void commonly called "the missing years" of the history of the Shroud of Turin.

NOTES

- 1 Wilson (1978).
- 2 Reinach (1911); M. Barber (1983); Frale (2001); Partner (1982).
- 3 Barbara Frale, *op.cit.* (118-132 and Chapter 3) has revealed the accusatory protocol initiated by King Philip the Fair as “fluid,” a work always in process, the charges capable of increasing as the poor knights and lowly brothers uttered statements that permitted new avenues of interrogation. So, an initial basic list of seven charges had grown to 87 in Cyprus and to 127 in some places. Frale has called this the “terrible mechanism of power.”
- 4 See Pingonius. Du Teil, (25f.). See the full argument at <www.shroud.com>.
- 5 Dubarle (1998); Hilda Leynen, (1991). Her paper, which discusses the Grande Chasse, is an extract from *Soudarion* (Bruges, 1991) trimestral revue published in Flemish. Here it is translated into French, and in fall of 1993, from French to English by Dan Scavone.
- 6 See Mazzucchi for the first clear reference to the Shroud in Constantinople in 958. Yet there exists no record--no celebration--of the arrival of the Shroud. This led Ian Wilson to hypothesize, correctly, I think, that the Mandyllion had been unfolded and revealed as the Shroud. In order to conserve the 900-year-old Abgar legend, another cloth (*tuaille*) was sealed inside one of two *vaissiaus* seen hanging by chains from the ceiling of the Pharos Chapel by Clari in 1203. See Ordericus in Von Dobschütz; Gervase in Banks and J. W. Binns.
- 7 Vidier gives the first inventory of the Ste-Chapelle as 1279. It says: “Item: A painted wooden box in which is a great sanctuarium without a label.” The next three are dated 1341, 1349, 1363. In none of them is a towel in a *tabula* mentioned, nor is the above quote mentioned, nor “*la sainte trelle in tabula*.” Mme. Leynen herself noticed the inconsistent descriptions of this crucial object, and she described a supreme confusion, that in an inventory dated 1534, *toella* has become *La sainte trelle inserte a la table* (*ou est la face de Nostre Seigneur*). *Trelle* is either a copyist’s error for *toella* or signals the discovery of only a trellis, which was the classic decoration framing the face of Christ in the artists’ copies inspired by the Mandyllion of Edessa.
- 8 See Chifflet (1624); Vignon (1902, 64-76); Fr. Paul de Gai (1973); and Dorothy Crispino (1985).
- 9 M. Buttigieg (1990); Bro. Hilary de Crémiers (1991); Michel Bergeret in *CIELT* (1993); and now Alessandro Piana in *BSTS Newsletter* (2007). See also Piana, *Sindone: gli anni perduti* (2007).
- 10 See the translation of the Memorandum in Wilson (1978, 230-235) from the original in Fossati (1961, 213-219).
- 11 Pasquale Rinaldi (1983); Scavone “Documents” (1989). The letter was rediscovered in the archive of the Abbey of St. Caterina a Formiello, Naples; it is folio CXXVI of the *Chartularium Culisanense*, originating in 1290, a copy of which came to Naples presumably as a result of close political ties with the imperial Angelus-Comnenus family from 1481 on. See also Longnon (1949, 118).
- 12 Karlheinz Dietz (personal letter), citing Polemis (89f.), is essentially correct about the nomenclature of Theodore of Epirus. But other scholars are not so insistent. Theodore himself could use *Doukas*, *Angelos*, and *Comnenus* sometimes together and sometimes interchangeably. Polemis concedes, with Stiernon, only that after Theodore’s fall from power did his contemporaries call him by *Angelos*. See Wolfe (240). The use of the name *Angelos* and the credibility of Theodore’s letter in 1205 are supported by the following. In 1202, when the Western princes launched the Fourth Crusade from Venice, Alexius IV, the son of the deposed Isaac II, appealed to the crusaders, promising to end the schism of East and West, to pay for their transport, and to provide military support to the crusaders against their original target, Egypt, if they helped him to depose his uncle and to sit on his father’s throne. Moreover, Alexius V *Doukas Mourtzouphlus*, had initially led the resistance to the crusading forces. The name *Angelos* was decidedly more popular in the West than *Doukas*.
- 13 Wolfe (214 and *passim*).
- 14 Nicholas of Otranto, Abbot of Casole (c.1155-1235), should be distinguished from a younger contemporary poet of the same name. Our Nicholas was also known as *Nectarius* and as *Nicholaus Hydruntinus*. See Longo and Jacob; also Hoeck and Loenertz; Gerland (133-37, n. 40); Norden (183-87, n. 40); and Heisenberg (1923, 8-12, n. 42). Cardinal Benedict was then Bishop of Porto, on the Tiber opposite Ostia, and of S. Rufina, two hamlets united by Pope Callixtus II (1119-1124).
- 15 Riant, *Exuviae II* (233f., n. 2), gives both the Greek and Latin versions: *quum capta esset a Francingenis regalis civitas . . . et in scevophylachium Magni Palacii tamquam latrones, ubi sancta posita erant, scilicet: preciosa ligna, spinea corona, Salvatoris sandalia, clavis, et fascia (que et nos postea oculis nostris vidimus) aliaque multa invenerunt . . .* (Riant’s parentheses—no reason given). Nicholas’ own Greek translation of the above text has no parentheses. The Moscow MS published by Bishop Arsenij, Greek only, with Russian translation (Novgorod, 1896, 41), does not have the word [h]ύστερον, “later,” which is in Riant’s Greek text, from Leo Allatius, *Examen de libris ecclesiasticis Graecorum in Fabricius* (Vol. V, 151f.). The present interpretation takes his

- neuter plural relative pronoun *que* (*quae*) in Latin, [*h*]atina in Greek, to refer only to fascia /σπάργανα, “burial linens.” See also Fabricius (Vol. XI, 288f.). See also Heisenberg (1923, especially 10, n. 1) from the first treatise of Nicholas of Otranto on the procession of the Holy Spirit.
- 16 For the linguistic evidence placing the Shroud in Athens, see Scavone “Documents” (1989), now accepted by Bonnet-Eymard (1989), Zaccone (2000), and Raffard de Brienne (2000, 427), but doubted by Dubarle (1998). These last, however, have other destinations in mind for Othon’s Shroud.
- 17 Chamard (40f.).
- 18 Robert de Clari (par. 92). These passages prove that Clari knew a painting when he saw one. His words are evidence that he did not “see” the sydoines as a painting.
- 19 Villhardouin (ch. 12-13); W. Miller (28f.).
- 20 Villehardouin (ch. 19, par. 450), in Shaw (146-148). See Henri de Valenciennes, in Longnon (1948, 108 and n. 2).
- 21 See Bergeret and Piana. Riant (1875, 87). Also Riant (1878, Vol. I, clxiii), in which latter place he suggests the delivery in Burgundy of the “Saint Suaire de Besançon” by Ponce de Chaponay de Lyon in 1219. Chamard (43f.) thought this was the natural explanation of the presence of Othon’s Suaire in Burgundy “as a moral certitude.” Alas, though I agree with Chamard, he spoke here with an inordinate confidence. See the case for the arrival of the Shroud from Athens in 1206 in Piana (2007, 59 and 71).
- 22 Longnon (1949, 118).
- 23 Piana, BSTS (18). The text reads MOLA SUB ISTA CI PREMITUR OM(ni)S RAIANI OTHO ROGATE DEUM NE PREMAT HOSTIS EUM.
- 24 See Chamard (49) and Legrand (1985, 9). By the present interpretation, Jeanne de Vergy could establish her family’s ownership of the Shroud in 1354. It is not clear that Geoffroy I could assume any right of ownership by virtue of his marriage to Jeanne, though Zaccone (2000, 407), has suggested a certain *jus patronatus* conferred on Geoffroy I “and his successors” by Pope Innocent VI in 1354 by virtue of his founding of the collegiate church at Lirey. Wilson (1978, 173) also thought Jeanne may have originated the Shroud’s expositions at Lirey in 1357, after Geoffroy’s death. This is certainly possible, judging from the absence of the Shroud in the founding documents.
- 25 Cremiers, op. cit. (note 9 above).
- 26 Noguier Malijay (1929).
- 27 Crispino, (Sept.-Dec. 1988); Leynen (1998); Contamine (1992); Contamine (1973).
- 28 Crispino, SSI (Vol. 1, 1982). Chevalier (1903, 28).
- 29 Wilson (1998, 278f.). Vignon (1902, 57) places the venue of the safekeeping of the Shroud at St. Hippolyte-sur-Doubs. He cites Chevalier (1900, 24), who in turn cited Chifflet (1624, 107), that Marguerite, granddaughter of Geoffroy, showed it each year in Burgundy, in a meadow outside the town of St. Hippolytus on the banks of the Doubs (. . . *traditione fertur, Sindonem illam quotannis publicae ostendi solitam extra S. Hippolyti sanum in aperto quodam prato, ad ripam Dubis, quod vocant Domini pratum*). See also Bergeret.
- 30 Vignon (1902, 62-76). Chamard’s summary has been drawn from his excellent concluding chapter, 95-101. Essentially, his recitation of the adventures of the Constantinople-Athens- Besançon-Lirey Shroud agrees with that of the present survey, with only minimal points of contention.
- 31 J. Gauthier, *Collection* (ca. 1901, iv), authoritative archivist of Besançon. (Translation and italics mine). *Et quand, suivant l'exemple malheureusement donne par les feudistes ou les faiseurs d'inventaires (détruisant comme fatras inutiles des milliers de comptes et de chartes) les delegues du directoire departemental du Doubs jettent au feu ou au chiffonnier tous les registres de la chambre archevêpiscopale, c'est-a-dire l'administration du diocese pendant quatre siecles. Les destructions infiniment regrettables qui reduisirent des neuf dixiemes environ les fonds de l'Archevech et du Chapitre de Besançon en 1793—au point que reunis, ils forment seulement 534 articles—ont heureusement laisse survivre et des inventaires et des cartulaires precieux, et les registres de deliberations du Chapitre de 1412 á 1790.*
- 32 Most recently Zaccone (1996, 108-112) has also written pages to prove that which is already accepted by all: that the new shroud in Besançon from 1378 (Chifflet) and cited again in 1523 was a copy. Raffard de Brienne (1994) has done the same in his brief and cursory review of Chamard. The Bibliotheque Municipale de Besançon was kind enough to send me the microfilm of MS 826 for research. It has two parts: “In favor of the authenticity of Besançon’s shroud” and *Dissertation qui Prouve que le S. Suaire de Besançon n’est pas Authentique*, which focused almost entirely on the “replacement” shroud and therefore did not prove that the original Shroud (from Othon in Athens) was a fake.
- 33 Chifflet (55) and Chamard (44, n. 1).

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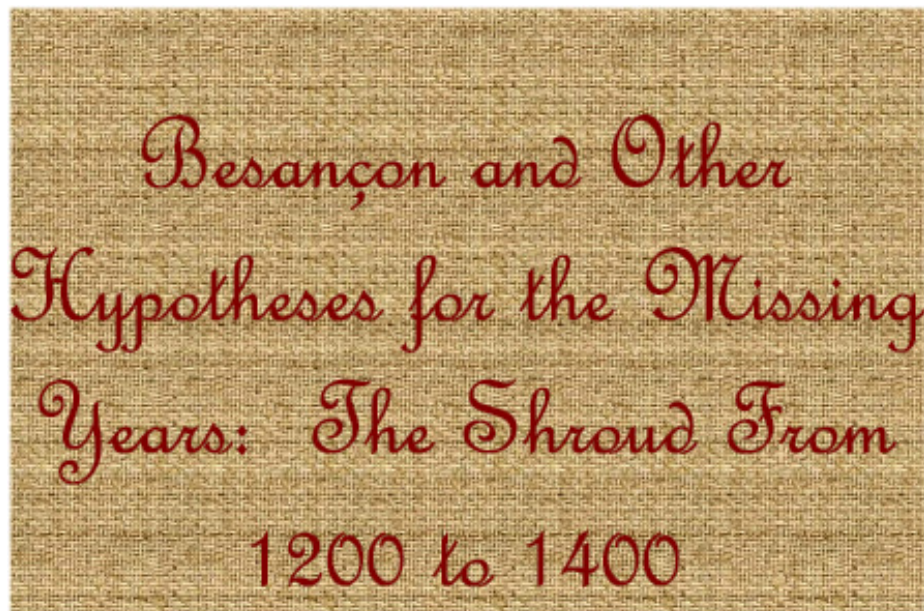
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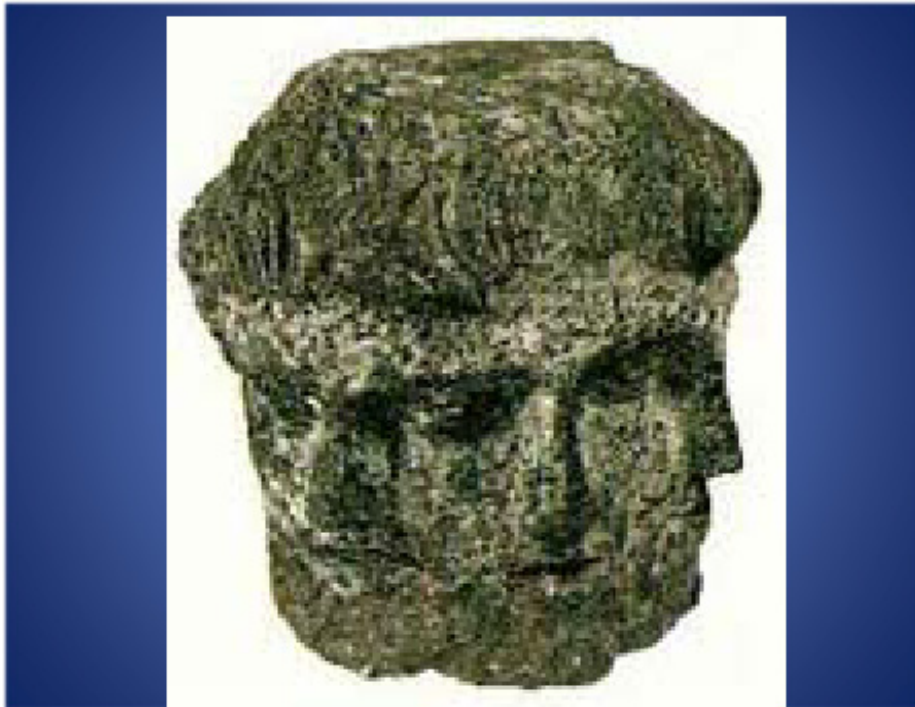
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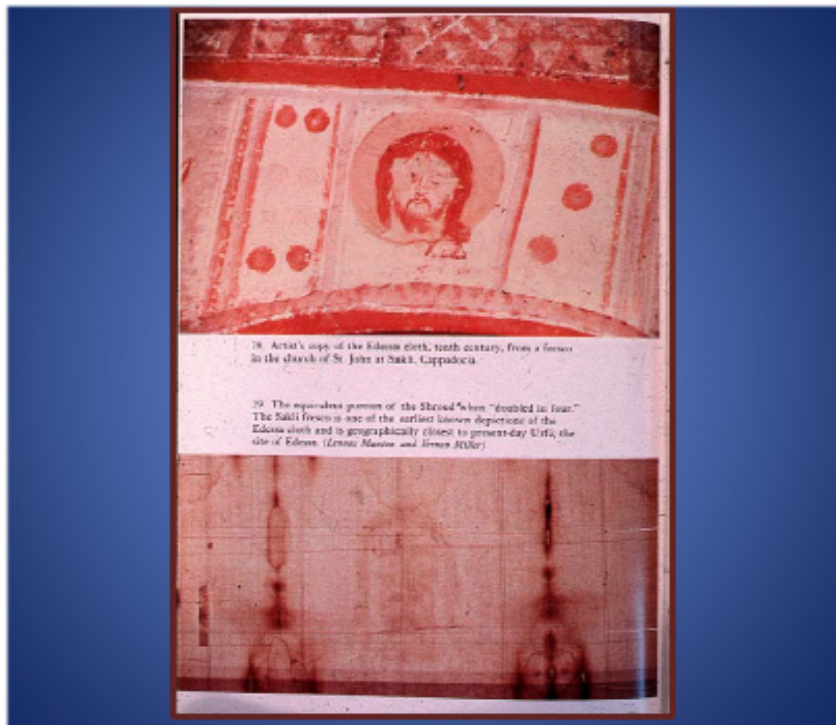
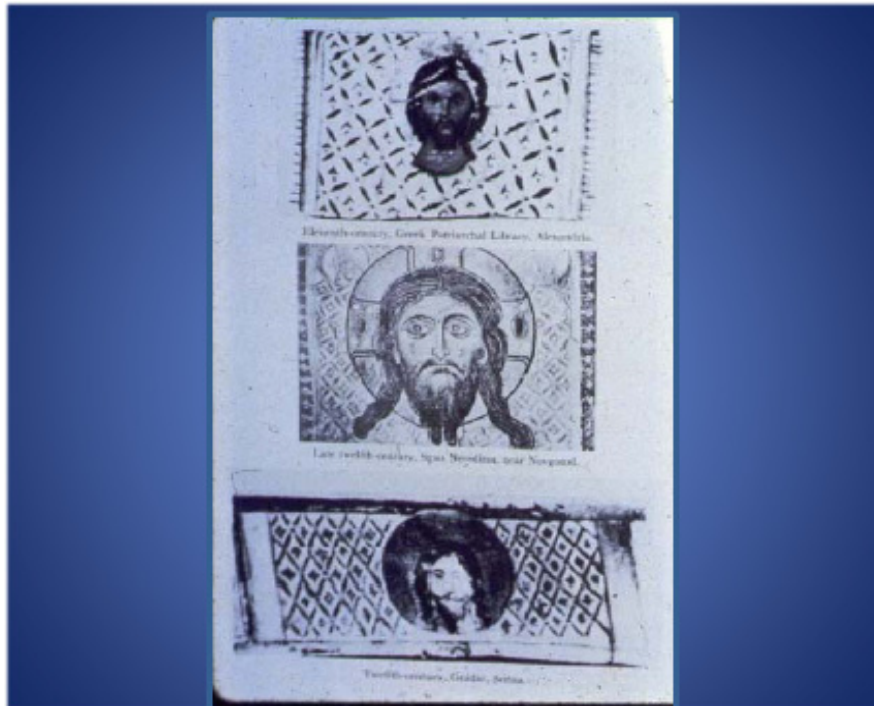
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FIGURES









“THE BESANÇON CLUB”

Dan Scavone, 1989

M. Buttigieg in *Collegamento*, 1990

Bro. Hilary de Crémiers in *Catholic Counter-Reformation*, 1991

Michel Bergeret in *CIELT*, 1993

Alessandro Piana in *British Newsletter*, 2007

Mark Guscini, editor of *British Newsletter*, 2007

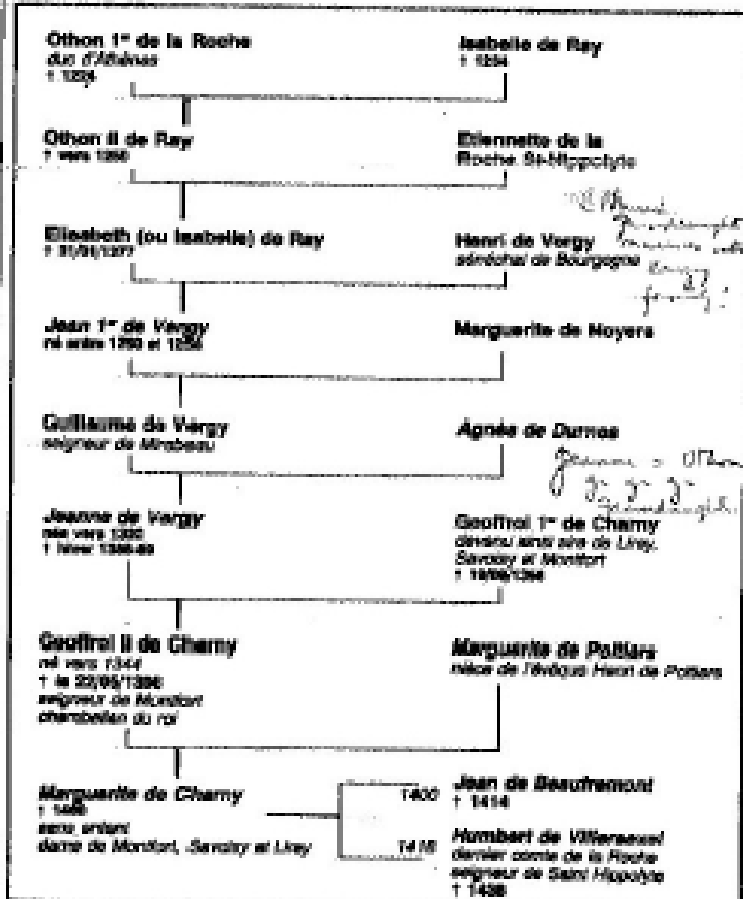
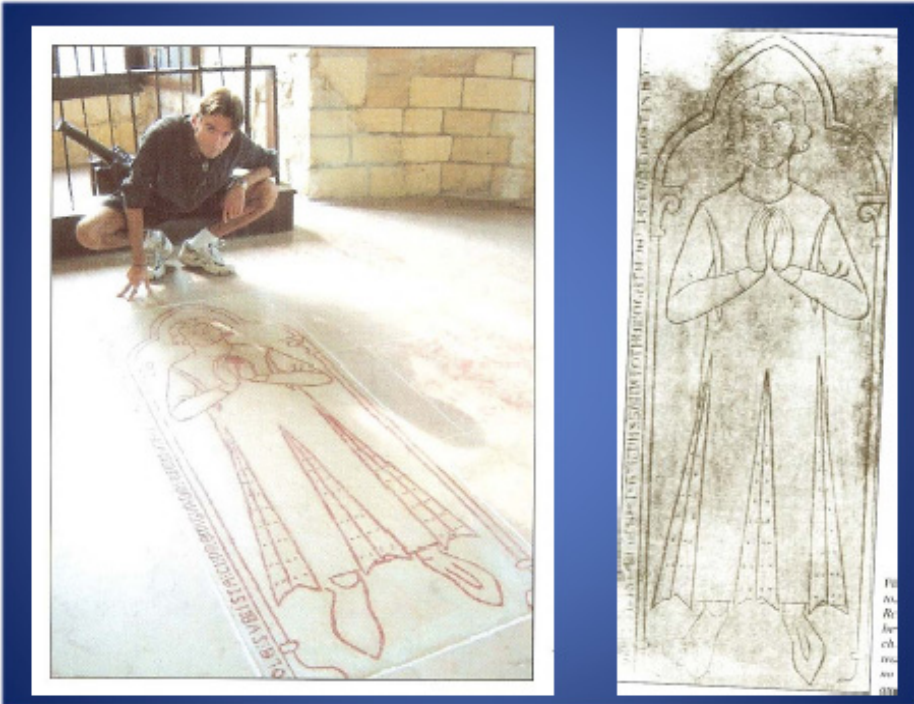


Blachernes Palace- Panaghia



CHATEAU DE RAY SUR SAÔNE





Sur cet arbre généalogique simplifié est indiquée la descendance d'Othon 1^{er} de la Roche. A travers les alliances matrimoniales successives, le Linçay, puis de guerre d'Othon de la Roche en 1204, fut cédé en 1403 par Marguerite de Chamy aux ducs de Savoie.



