



J19 Seen and Unseen Evidence of the Shroud of Turin and Use of the VP-8 Image Analyzer

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Learning Overview: After attending this presentation, attendees will understand the Shroud of Turin and the use of the scientific instrument, the VP-8 Image Analyzer, that assists with demonstrating the apparent 3D-relief image on the Shroud of Turin.

Impact on the Forensic Science Community: This presentation will impact the forensic science community by explaining the Shroud of Turin and the methods and materials used with the VP-8 Image Analyzer to show the apparent 3D-relief image on the XYZ axis as the brightness information of the grayscale.

The Shroud of Turin documents an image of a man consistent with the events leading up to the crucifixion and death of Jesus of Nazareth, approximately two thousand years ago. It is believed to be the burial cloth which wrapped Jesus Christ when he was laid in the tomb, after he was taken down from the cross. Of interest today is that the linen cloth documents these historical events. The bodily image on the cloth indicates that the body was placed supine on half of the approximately 14-foot linen fabric, and the other half was pulled over the head, then laid on top of the body. Today this linen cloth is maintained in Turin, Italy, in a specially made environmental case.

Although the VP-8 Image Analyzer is no longer in production, other technologies may show the apparent 3D-relief image. The VP-8 provided one of the early analog image projections in the 1970s. This was of interest to the distinguished scientists, representing a vast range of scientific expertise, who were involved with the initial Shroud of Turin Research Project (STURP). The use of the VP-8 Image Analyzer was one of the deciding factors used by the scientists prior to their traveling to Turin, Italy, to examine the original linen cloth in 1978. The scientists examined the fabric, performed various tests and experiments focusing on what may have caused the image formation, and noted the other evidence they found on the cloth. They issued a scientific report of their findings in 1981 and described additional areas of research. The most comprehensive data on the Shroud of Turin is available on the website at www.shroud.com. It is available to scientists and anyone interested in learning more about this unique mystery.

The VP-8 uses the input of a 2D photograph of the Shroud of Turin, from an image analysis camera, to visualize an apparent 3D relief image. What appears is that of a relief image of the Man of the Shroud, not seen on the normal 2D photograph. This unique phenomenon may indicate radiating energy, possibly photons from a possible blast of radiation parallel to gravity. The VP-8 records the data that is then imaged on the display monitor.

Given the uniqueness viewed on the display monitor of the possible photons from a potential source such as radiation, the VP-8 Image Analyzer assists in this visualization of the photographic grayscale. This characteristic, along with the fact that the image of the man of the Shroud of Turin is found on the inside of the folded linen, indicates the radiating energy came from the body of the man within the folded cloth. Additional research is ongoing.

This case study describes a unique phenomenon on the linen of the Shroud of Turin along with references for further investigations. Additional research, such as the examination for possible letter forms, pollen, body fluids, and other areas for forensic research is intriguing, along with how the image was formed on the burial cloth of the Shroud of Turin.

Shroud of Turin, VP-8 Image Analyzer, Evidence