

The Sudarium of Oviedo



Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen.

John 20: 6-7 (NIV)

What is a sudarium?

- According to Jewish tradition of the time, if a dead man's face was deformed by injury, then it should be covered to protect the public from the gruesome site. This tradition is similar to the more modern act of placing a hood over the face of a criminal during public executions.
- Sudarium is the Latin term for "sweat cloth." This type of cloth was typically used in ancient times to clean the face of sweat and grime. In the case of the crucifixion, a sudarium was used to cover the face of Jesus after his death.
- Because blood was absorbed onto the cloth, Jewish law dictated that it must be buried with the body.



← 84 cm →



↑
53 cm
↓

Recent photo of the Sudarium

History of The Sudarium

The first surviving historical mention of the Sudarium outside the Bible came in 570 AD when Antoninus of Piacenza wrote that it had been stored in a cave near Jerusalem. When Jerusalem was conquered by Persia in 614, the Sudarium traveled through North Africa until it settled in Seville, Spain. When the Moors invaded Spain, the Sudarium was taken to Oviedo in 1075, where to this day it has remained in a small chapel called the Camara Santa adjacent to the Oviedo Cathedral.

Oviedo, Spain

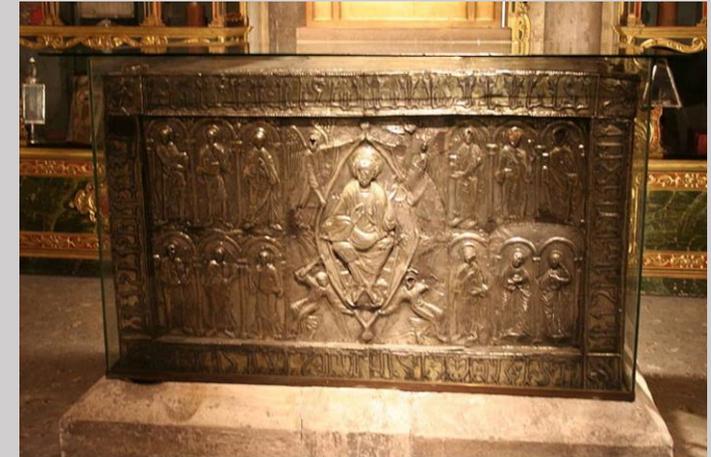


The Oviedo Cathedral



The Camara Santa, a small chapel attached to the Southeast corner of the Oviedo Cathedral.

Inside the Camara Santa



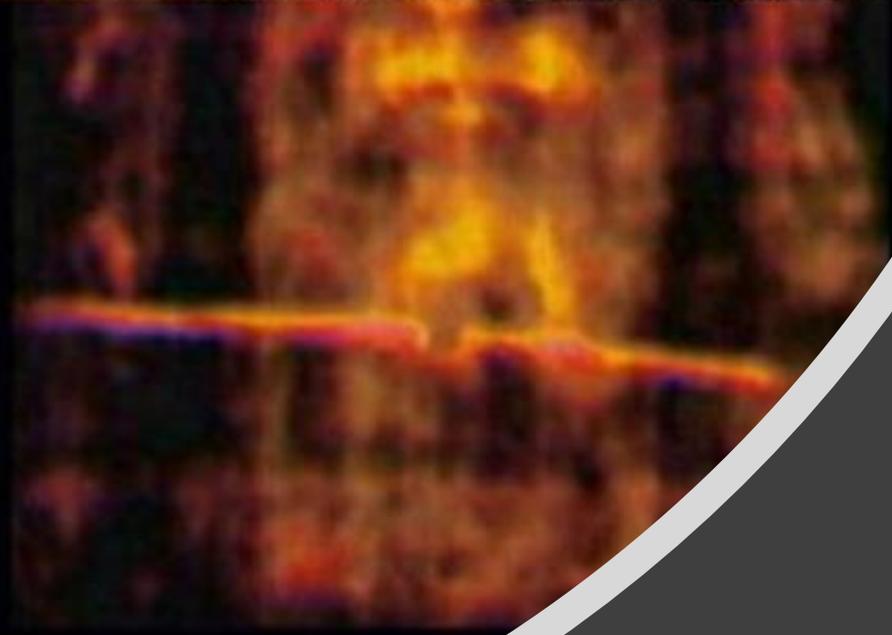
The Sudarium on Display



The silver plated ark containing the Sudarium. The inscription reads: “The Sacred Sudarium of Our Lord Jesus Christ.”



**Forensic Evidence
Linking The Sudarium
to the Shroud of Turin**

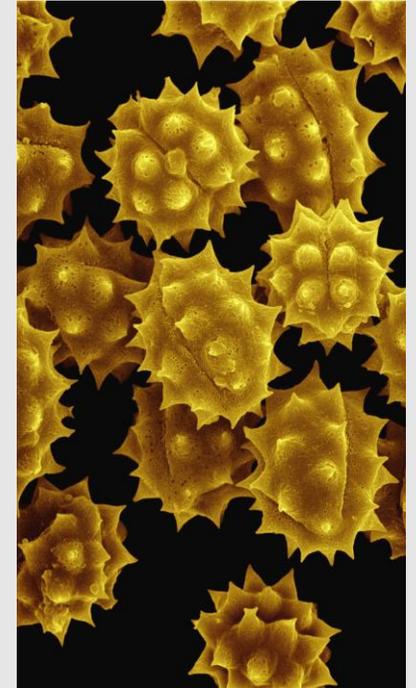


- Experimental studies using a model head reveal this cloth was placed on a dead man in an upright position whose head was tilted so that it was facing down by seventy degrees and tilted twenty degrees to the right, suggesting he died from crucifixion.
- Trace amounts of what is believed to be aloe and myrrh have been detected on the Sudarium. This is consistent with Jewish burial customs as is mentioned in John 19:39. It is said that until this day the fragrance of myrrh still clings to the Shroud of Turin.
- When studied by an anthropologist, stains on the Sudarium are consistent with having wrapped a man of typical Jewish facial structure with pronounced cheekbones and a prominent nose. In fact, the nose on the Shroud is the exact same length as the nose indicated by the Sudarium's stains.



Pollen Evidence

- Pollen samples taken from the Sudarium show species that are native to Jerusalem, North Africa, Toledo, and Oviedo, coinciding perfectly with the historical record concerning the Sudarium's movement. No pollen was found from France, Constantinople, or Italy, suggesting that the only time the Shroud and Sudarium were together was in Jerusalem.
- Most notably, a pollen species found on both the Shroud of Turin and the Sudarium is *Gundelia tournefortii*, pollen from a thorn bush that grows only in the vicinity of Jerusalem and blooms during Easter. This could only be pollen from the crown of thorns.

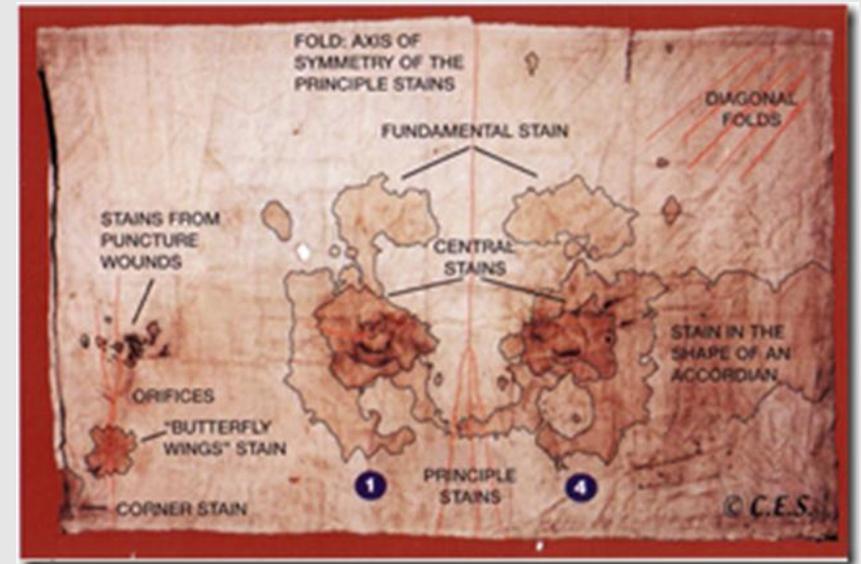


The Stains on the Sudarium



- The stains are only about 17% blood but 87% pleural edema fluid, which would fill the lungs during the asphyxiation caused by a crucifixion.
- There are a series of stains that are superimposed over each other implying a sequence of events that is consistent with crucifixion and the removal of the body afterward. (See the next slide for details)

- The first and largest stain was formed after the Sudarium was placed over the head while the body was still nailed to the cross.
- After this stain had dried, a second stain is formed about an hour later after more fluid is expressed from the lungs during the body's removal from the cross.
- Another stain was formed about forty-five minutes later when the body was lifted and removed from Golgotha for burial.
- Smaller blood stains toward the outer edge of the cross were most likely caused when the Sudarium was pinned to the back of the head to hold it in place. The spots of blood are consistent with wounds caused by sharp thorns.

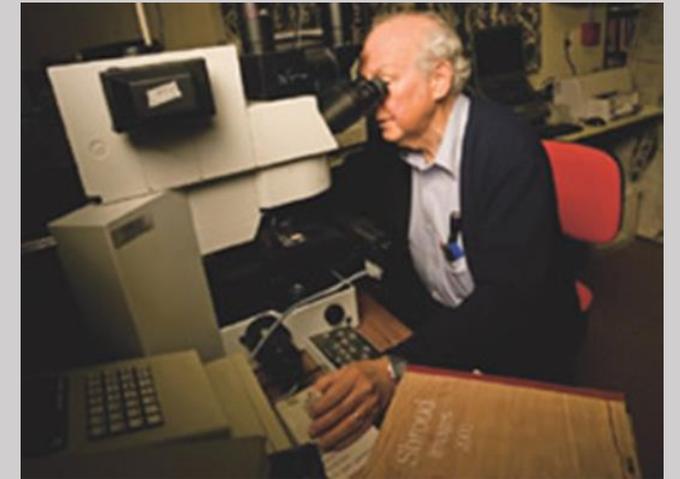
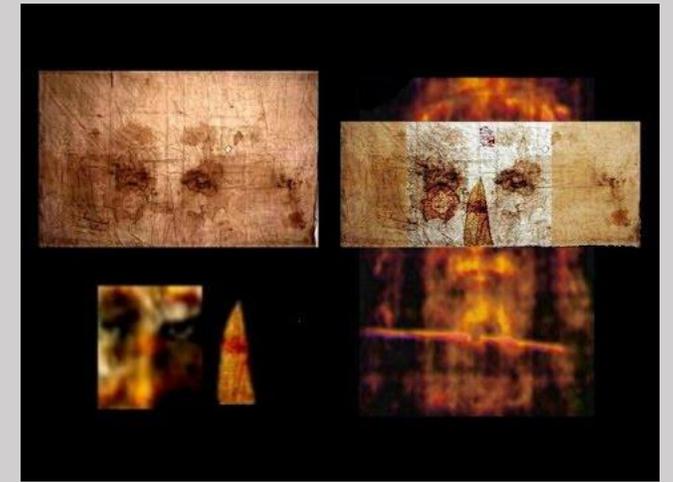


Perfect Alignment With the Shroud

When using a technique known as Polarized Image Overlay, Dr. Alan Whanger discovered that the Shroud of Turin and the Sudarium of Oviedo share many points of congruence in blood stains. He found seventy points of congruence on the front image of the Shroud and an additional fifty point on the backside of the Shroud that line up perfectly with the Sudarium.

For more information, click the following link:

<http://www.shroud.com/guscin.htm>



The late Dr. Whanger at work.

The Rare Blood Type

The type of blood on the Sudarium is AB, the exact same blood type as the blood on the Shroud. AB is a rare blood type, accounting for only about 4% of the population if you combine both AB+ and AB- blood types. We know that the Sudarium can be historically traced to 570 AD. We also know that there are many points of bloodstain congruence between the Sudarium and the Shroud. If a forger made the Shroud 800 years later, he must have used the Sudarium as a template. However, at the time, they were unaware of blood types, let alone how to perform a blood type. So, the forger had to have chosen his blood donor randomly, and the odds of finding the correct blood type by chance is only 4%. To crunch the numbers differently, the odds that both the Sudarium and the Shroud would have the same AB blood type is 1:625.

YOUR BLOOD TYPE		PERCENT OF POPULATION
O+	◆	37.4
O-	◆	6.6
A+	●	35.8
A-	◆	6.3
B+	●	8.5
B-	◆	1.5
AB+	■	3.4
AB-	■	0.6