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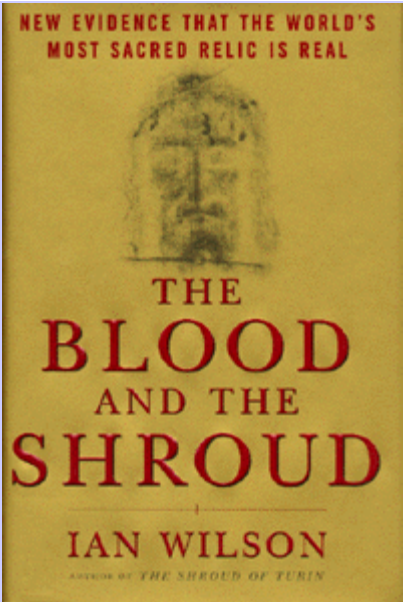
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A scholarly work supporting the authenticity of the Shroud of Turin, which is supposed to bear the likeness of Christ. Appears to be a serious, substantial research effort with lots of footnotes, timelines, references, charts. Includes two photo inserts with dozens of black and white photos. If you are interested in the Shroud of Turin, this is probably an important volume. It updates Wilson's earlier book The Shroud of Turin. -- *Glenn Campbell*

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From the Book Cover

The Shroud of Turin remains one of the enduring mysteries of our age. No convincing explanation has yet been given for the "negative" image of a crucified man transferred to a length of cloth and preserved in Turin for the last four centuries. Although radiocarbon dating of the fabric in 1988 indicated it to be medieval, synchronous with the Shroud's first recorded appearance in the 1350s, there is still no satisfactory explanation for the image itself. Was it painted? If so, by whom? How could the artist have understood perspective before this technique was "discovered" in the Renaissance? How could he have painted an image in negative with no means to see and check it?

With so many questions about the Shroud as inexplicably unresolved as ever; with the radiocarbon dating findings only deepening the riddle, not solving it; and with the Shroud about to be shown again, in 1998 and 2000, an overview and an up-to-date consideration of the evidence is overdue. Here, Ian Wilson returns to the subject of his international bestseller, The Shroud of Turin, to reveal such startling findings as the discovery of human blood and DNA on the Shroud; the uncovering of historical evidence that something very like the Shroud existed at the time Jesus lived; the discovery of a "bioplastic coating" of living microorganisms which, if it had been carbonated in 1988, would have indicated that the Shroud was some one thousand years older than it was thought to be; and the new analysis of the photographic-negative-like image on the Shroud.

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Wilson's landmark book on this subject, The Shroud of Turin, was published in 1978. In the intervening twenty years, in addition to the radiocarbon dating, much additional research has been done on the Shroud, and the dating process itself scrutinized. Ian Wilson's pursuit of every discipline related to the Shroud, including art history, physiology, chemistry, microbiology, photography, and archaeology, has equipped him to give the most authoritative answer yet to the question: Did the Shroud wrap the body of Christ? His enthralling text, with its objective but persuasive answers, tells us as much as it is currently possible to know. It also makes it possible for us to believe.

IAN WILSON was educated at Magdalen College, Oxford. He is the author of The Shroud of Turin and Jesus: The Evidence. He lives with his wife in Brisbane, Australia.

ADVANCE PRAISE FOR THE BLOOD AND THE SHROUD

"Through Wilson's genius, a mosaic-like structure of hundreds of pieces is assembled into a single, logically unfolding whole. Suddenly everything makes sense, one part of the puzzle explains the other and the Shroud emerges dressed in the reality of authenticity. This magnificently researched book is not only exciting and even entertaining reading, but much, much beyond that, it is one of the most monumental achievements of Shroud literature, not only joining the bits of Shroud research that exist today but also forging the path for the future. This book indeed is an unusually great achievement."

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