

DR. DANIEL SCAVONE
TO DISCUSS CARBON DATING
OF SHROUD OF TURIN



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Dr. Daniel C. Scavone, professor of history at the University of Southern Indiana who has developed expertise on the Shroud of Turin, will discuss the recent analyses indicating the shroud dates from the 14th century and was not the burial cloth for Jesus in a special program at the University next week.

In "The Shroud of Turin and the Carbon Dating," Dr. Scavone will offer coins and icons of Jesus to demonstrate that the 1350 date being reported from the carbon process is incorrect. He also will present a survey of everything that is known about the shroud. The program, sponsored by the USI History Club, will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, October 27, in Forum I. It is free and open to the public.

The Vatican owns the shroud and has kept it at Turin Cathedral in Italy. Dr. Scavone was one of 300 scholars invited to a symposium on the shroud at Turin Cathedral in 1978. The most extensive previous analysis of the shroud had been done that year, when scientists through chemical analysis found that stains on the cloth are blood and that the Christ-like image it bears is too thin to be a painting.

The Vatican allowed the carbon-14 dating -- a 10-year-old process -- to be used for the first time this year on the mysterious linen. Analysis was done at three sites, the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology at the University of Urich, the University of Arizona, and Oxford University. Dr. Scavone contends the dating was faulty because it was done on contaminated areas of the shroud.

Dr. Scavone said the most convincing evidence that the shroud pre-dates the 14th century are the paintings and coins from the 5th century that appear to have been copied directly from the faint image on the shroud.