

School of the Air” from the San Francisco Station KFOX, in May 1971. (Taped recordings of the entire series as printed above are available by special order from POPE Publications.) Price \$1.00.

But still there was no clue as to the identity of the author.

Now, had a patron requested just the article from a hardcopy or the original printed publication, the article is all one would have received. Microfilm, on the other hand, does have an advantage. Everything published by P.O.P.E. that had been collected was filmed. Volume 1, Number 1 is missing. However, the archivists at the University of Iowa did manage to preserve Volume 1, Number 2 – an article entitled “The Sin in Sensitivity Training from the Standpoint of Catholic Doctrine) dated February 1969. They also preserved a letter dated May 30, 1970 to “all of the pastors of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia from Parents for Orthodoxy in Parochial Education” prepared by Mrs. Therese Ickinger complete with a list of texts and footnotes entitled “‘Religion’ Texts: An Indictment”.

The next item on the reel as you approach the end, is a transcript of a radio broadcast by a woman who wished to remain anonymous. The lady, we learn, graduated from the Dominican Convent mentioned by Hieromonk Ambrose. The introduction adds more:

"The following is the unique testimony of a woman who, after graduating from Dominican Convent in San Rafael, California, practiced Hinduism for twenty years; and who, finally, through the grace of God, returned to the one true Faith.

Originally, this was a series of five letters written to the Dominican Nuns who had educated her. The author herself, broadcast these letters on the San Francisco radio program *POPE Presents the Catholic School of the Air*. POPE Publications has responded to popular demand by publishing *Is Hinduism Invading the Church?* The original tapes, in impeccable English, have been reproduced for sale and are available upon request.

The author for many reasons desires to remain anonymous. She and her husband, who also embraced the Hindu religion, have spent the few years of their re-conversion in comparative obscurity; making reparation for the sins of idolatry.

The conclusion one may draw is that Sarah Hoffman(n), who we believe is the author of the piece on the shroud, also wrote these letters. Circumstantial evidence is frowned upon in the courts but in this case, more clues were to be added. Immediately following the transcript of the radio broadcasts on Hinduism, one finally comes to the "Testimony of the Holy Shroud". The unnumbered page 26 states that the program aired in May 1971. Page 27 lists other reprints that were available and that one could hear the program on KFAX (April to September 6:45 p.m.).

Page 28 is a 5 ½ by 7 ½ inch reprint of the Holy Face with the caption (Fig. 4):



Fig. 4

http://www.holywoundsapostolate.com/html/adored_be_the_holy_face.htm

The Holy Face of Jesus Christ painted by Sister Genevieve of the Holy Face and of Saint Therese, 'Celine' before the Blessed Sacrament at the Carmel of Lisieux, France; she used a copy of the Holy Shroud of Turin to help develop the painting in 1904.

Sister Genevieve of the Holy Face, Celine Martin, the sister who painted the portrait of St. Therese of the Little Flower, had painted the Holy Face – the very same image that is almost never labeled but is carried by penitents with a special devotion to Our Lord and The Holy Face! Here to the surprise of the brothers at the Novitiate Chapel was the name of the painter of an image they sold in the bookstore!

So, the devotion of St. Therese to the Holy Face of Jesus, which through her was promoted throughout

the Church, was learned from her "sister" in Carmel, Sister Marie of St. Pierre. It is as if God chose one Carmelite to carry on the work of another. A third Carmelite, St. Therese's sister Celine, also had a mission to fulfill, for it was Celine who painted the picture of the Holy Face of Jesus from the image on the Holy Shroud of Turin. This painting, copied and printed on holy cards, was granted indulgences by Pope Pius XI. It is venerated by Catholics throughout the world. After she was in Carmel, for some time, St. Therese received permission to add to her name " and of the Holy Face." She was then Sister Therese of the Child Jesus and of the Holy Face.

(<http://www.monks of adoration.org/therpray.html>)

The only other information about this particular painting is in the list of artwork for sale on the same website listing the Curtis Hooper painting, the one by Dr. Julio López Morales of Mexico.

The whereabouts of Sarah Hoffman(n), however, still remain a mystery. An inquiry sent off to Katherine Martin, contact for Sisters of St. Dominic Congregation of the Holy Name in San Rafael, California E-mail is sent to Julio López Morales to inquire the asking price.

The first attempt (July 22) to send e-mail to Wanderer Press resulted in a "Returned Mail - The user(s) account is temporarily over quota." message." A phone call placed on August 19 to the editor is a dead end. The editor remembers hearing of P.O.P.E. but there is no connection with *The Wanderer*.

Thursday, July 24 – Father Ambrose remembers that Sarah's husband's name was John. According to the Social

Security Death Index, a John A. Hoffman passed away in Seattle in 1997. He was born October 10, 1921. He died on January 18 at the age of 75 years, 3 months. Switchboard.com has a listing for a J.A. Hoffman in Seattle.

Friday, July 25 – Father Ambrose suggests calling the numbers in the Seattle directory. Although he thought John Hoffman had died sometime between 1994 and 1995, Father Ambrose writes that we should proceed.

This could very well be the right John Hoffman, although I thought he had died a year or two or three before that, but I'm really not sure. It is about the right age, however. (I also was never sure if it was one or two "n"s, either.) If it would be possible to see his death certificate, that would be a further clue, both in terms of his wife, and cause of death. Bishop Kryril told me that he just literally dropped dead during a conversation with Sarah. So, cause of death on the certificate wouldn't suggest something like cancer. And I would certainly also give the J.A. Hoffman a ring just on the "off chance" that that is how Sarah continues to list their number (although she was such a private person that I would be surprised if her number was listed at all.) I would also call the listings for S. Hoffman.

I think it IS possible that she's still in the Seattle area, and I also think it's possible that she might have left the Russian Church Abroad, and therefore wouldn't be attending St. Nicholas any more. Thirty years ago she and John were what today we would NOT think of as "middle-of-the-roaders." And so she may have become dissatisfied with the positions of the Russian Church Abroad and gone to

some other group more to her liking. If none of these leads pan out then the only other possibility is Bishop Kyril, because he's the one who buried John, as I recall. And for some reason I think that Sarah had John's body flown back to the Bay Area, so he may very likely be buried in the Serbian Orthodox Cemetery, which is where most Orthodox in the area are buried.

They did not have any children. I'm sure this was Sarah's first marriage, but it's possible John, being older, had had a previous marriage, and children from that marriage. But neither of them was from the Seattle area originally, so I doubt that any family would be there.

--Fr. Ambrose

Friday, July 25

Mary Mansur's e-mail sent on Thursday arrives. Her letter adds a most unsuspected twist.

I just spoke to Bishop Kyril. He said he buried John Hoffman sometime in the 80s - so that eliminates the John A Hoffman d.1997. Bishop Kyrill said that John worked for the CIA, which explains why the Hoffmans were so reclusive. Sadly, Sarah appears to have gone "off the deep end" after her husband died. She became a "tree dweller" (!) for a time, and Vladika Kyrill was unsuccessful when, a few years after her husband's death, he tried to contact her. We may have reached a dead end here, but before we call off the search, I will inquire of some of the old timers at Saint Nicholas. Someone there may have kept in contact with Sarah.

Monday, July 28

E-mail sent on Sunday arrives from Dr. Julio Lopez. Dr. Lopez has placed an asking price of \$12,000 on his collection:

- 1.- Library of Sindonology - Books, booklets, pamphlets, paperbacks, etc. Hardcover deluxe editions, out of prints, antique editions, reeditions, softcovers, etc. in english, french, italian, spanish language and some in belgian, japanese and polish. More than 300 titles!.
- 2.- Magazines, issues, bulletins and periodicals: Sindonology specific issues/bulletins, scientific, art, religious, etc. in english, french, italian and spanish language (some articles from India in english language).
More than 400 titles!.
- 3.- Magazines, issues, bulletins and periodicals in xerox copies (photocopies) : English, french, italian and spanish language. Includes articles since 1902 to 1983 (Periodical Collection: more than 1600 photocopies on "trapper keeper" portfolios).
- 4.- Videos on the Shroud of Turin & Audios on the Holy Shroud and the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ 12 videos in english and spanish language. Lectures, conferences, interviews, etc. in english, french and spanish. Audios: 65.
- 5.- Lectures with slides (booklets included) on the Holy Shroud, Life of Jesus, Byzantine Art, etc.
Includes 7 audios, 25 booklets and more than 1610 slides!.
- 6.- Art.

July 29, 2003

The movie trailer for Mel Gibson's *The Passion* gets the media's attention. Christopher Goodwin, writing for *The Times* on July 13 states

Nobody should be surprised that a film depicting the last 12 hours of the life of Jesus Christ, and the moments of his greatest suffering, should be controversial. What happened to Jesus of Nazareth has been the source of religious controversy and social conflict for the best part of two millennia. But even veteran Hollywood observers have been blindsided by the vehemence of feelings over Mel Gibson's film *The Passion*, which is not due for release until next Easter. No film since Martin Scorsese's *The Last Temptation of Christ*, in 1988, has provoked such a furor.

Not since Scorsese's 1988 film, the one profiled in *Time* prefaced with a collage of thumbnail prints of the Holy Face, has Christ's passion caused such a stir. Curtis Hooper's painting appears lost in the literature. The only complete reference appears on the bibliography of magazine articles posted by Dr. Julio López Morales. Sarah Hoffman appears to have deliberately dropped out of sight. The task of obtaining copyright is becoming ever more daunting.

Father Tague suggests I contact Hutton Gibson, Mel Gibson's father in the hopes of finding a buyer for the Shroud Collection.

August 18, 2003

E-mail arrives from William Meacham, Research Fellow, University of Hong Kong. Unfortunately,

Professor Meacham writes that he “probably borrowed the Maimonides quote from another Shroud writer”. He promises to try to find his notes and write back. Meacham also adds a suggestion:

Your attempt to track down Sarah Hoffman reads like some genealogical inquiries I have made. One person who might be able to help is Richard Orareo. He has one of the best collections of Shroud literature and art in the world. His email is

[REDACTED]

E-mail is sent off to both Richard Orareo, sindologist and owner of the Boston Shroud Collection and Russell Breault founder of the Shroud of Turin Education Project, Inc. asking for assistance in tracking down the passage about Maimonides.

Articles appear all over the news wires about the Gibson’s film. The LIFE section of *USA Today* runs a feature article complete with the photo (Figure 5) of Gibson and his actors.

The article is reprinted in India. The header was retrieved using GOOGLE’s beta search engine for news wires and appears with its original formatting as:

Jesus Christ is a superstar again
Hindustan Times, India - 2 hours ago
... Such as a time of terrorism at home, militant Islam abroad, job losses, a swelling national debt." • The **Passion, Mel Gibson's** story about the last 12 hours ...



Fig. 5

Tuesday, August 19, 2003

Tried phoning the library at Dominican University in San Rafael but all of the librarians were in a meeting.

Sent e-mail off to three different shroud experts.

Wednesday, August 20, 2003

Talked to the Chuck Wenger, Director of the Library at Dominican University, and then sent him the account in hopes that someone in the San Rafael Dominican community will know whatever happened to P.O.P.E. Publications and that someone may remember Sarah.

Received e-mail from

From: [REDACTED]
[mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 2003 11:57 AM
To: bcampbell [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Need help tracking a passage from Maimonides about Jewish burial practices