

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

17 September 1997

Dear Editor,

Professor R. E. Taylor, in his review for *RADIOCARBON* of my book *Relic, Icon or Hoax? Carbon Dating the Turin Shroud* (Taylor 1997) noted that I had incorrectly used the word “invent” and its derivatives in connection with the origins of accelerator mass spectrometry (AMS). A more accurate description of the development of AMS is to be found in the papers that I co-authored (Gove, Litherland and Purser 1987) and authored (Gove 1992) prior to publication of my book. Who actually “invented” AMS is not clear. Certainly, strong contenders are L. W. Alvarez and R. Cornog (Alvarez and Cornog 1939) and K. H. Purser (Purser 1977). The contributions made by Purser, A. E. Litherland and me to the development of AMS were recognized by Pergamon Press in 1980 when the Board of Editors of the *International Journal of Applied Radiation and Isotopes (JARI)* voted to give us the first *JARI* award. I should note that neither of my two colleagues with whom I was involved in the development of AMS, Professor Litherland nor Dr. Purser, saw a copy of my book before publication. If they had, this unintended contretemps would not have occurred.

Yours sincerely,

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