

the relic was transported across the Alps, and was conveyed solemnly into Turin by the archbishop, a small phalanx of bishops, the duke and his court, the foreign ambassadors, and the highest government officials. A month later Archbishop Borromeo arrived on pilgrimage from Milan to venerate the Shroud. Afterwards the relic was placed in a casket in the cathedral, pending the construction of a special chapel to house it. After several false starts, this chapel would finally be built a century later, to a breathtaking design by Guarino Guarini. It still stands today, though grievously damaged by fire in 1997. Guarini designed it to link the cathedral to the royal palace, emphasizing the spiritual power of the House of Savoy as patrons of the relic, and the sacral quality of their rule. From the moment of its arrival in Turin the Holy Shroud became a central element in the city's identity, elevating its spiritual prestige and making it a center for pilgrimages and massive demonstrations of popular devotion. On special occasions, both secular and religious, the dukes would have the Shroud brought out and ceremonially displayed to the crowds that gathered from far and wide to venerate it in Piazza Castello. The Shroud thus united the House of Savoy and the city of Turin symbolically, as joint guardians of this priceless relic, enhancing the renown of both the city and the dynasty.

Emanuel Filibert's son Charles Emanuel succeeded him in 1580. His fifty-year reign would be more turbulent than that of his father; it was marked by recurrent wars, and two terrible visitations of the plague, in 1598-99 and 1629-30. However, despite the impact of plague, war and a long-term economic depression after about 1620, Turin continued to grow. A census taken in 1571 listed 14,244 inhabitants, which by 1612 had risen to 24,410, and which would continue to rise – though more slowly – through the coming century. By 1702 the population had almost doubled again, to 43,806 souls. Much of this growth, in an era of economic crisis during which the populations of most of Italy's great cities stagnated or declined, can be attributed to Turin's new importance as a capital city, which drew people and resources to it not only from Piedmont but from all over the Savoyard state, and beyond. Turin had acquired a vitality that the old urban centers could not match.

Under Charles Emanuel the government and the court grew fast. Expenditure on the court rose steadily, for unlike his parsimonious father, Charles Emanuel loved pageantry, and did not hesitate to spend lavishly on his pleasures. Under him the court of Turin gained a reputation as one of the most refined in Europe. Charles Emanuel patronized artists and writers, among them the baroque poet Giambattista Marino, the political philosopher Giovanni Botero (who served as tutor to