

CONSERVATION - A NEW KEY THEME, AND THE SUBJECT OF THE NEXT BSTS PUBLIC LECTURE, WEDNESDAY 17 OCTOBER

Alongside the recent Vatican announcement, the ecclesiastical authorities have also indicated their interest to hear proposals for the most scientific conservation of the Shroud. This interest seems partly to have arisen from rumours of a bungled attempt to try to smooth out the extant creases on the Shroud's surface in preparation for the Pope's private examination of the Shroud in April 1980. Apparently an experiment with reverse-rolling the Shroud simply introduced new creases in addition to the old. There have also been concerns regarding the possible deleterious effects on the Shroud of some of the experiments carried out by STURP in 1978.

In response to this the BSTS has been in touch with Sheila Landi, recently retired head of textile conservation at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London. Mrs. Landi is author of the definitive textbook *The Textile Conservator's Manual*, published by Butterworth in 1986, and at the Society's invitation she will give the Society's next public lecture. This will be entitled:

"The Ethics of Conservation of Textiles and its Application to the Turin Shroud"

and will be held at 7 pm Wednesday 17th. October at the London Health Care Information Centre, 2nd Floor, Aviation House, 129 Kingsway, London WC2 (tel. 071 831 8771). The Centre, a new venue for the Society, is opposite Holborn Tube Station. The meeting, to be briefly preceded by the Society's AGM, promises to be an important one, with a particularly authoritative speaker, and as many members as possible are urged to attend.