

BOURNEMOUTH EXHIBITION

As remarked in the last Newsletter, the Turin Shroud exhibition at the (so-called) Bournemouth Exhibition Centre includes literally dozens of copyright photographs relating to the Shroud. Some belong to STURP photographers, others to this Newsletter's Editor, yet others to BSTS Chairman Rodney Hoare, to Dr. Alan Whanger, to the late Drs. Max Frei and David Willis, and many more. All of these have been copied from books, and reproduced without authorization.

Challenged on this matter the exhibition's organizer, Dr. Michael Ridley first claimed that copyright law did not apply to exhibitions, and quoted (clearly out of context) a Museums' Association leaflet to this effect. Consulted on this matter, the Museums Association denied all knowledge of Dr. Ridley, who, they said, was certainly not one of their members. Their legal adviser also confirmed that on the kindest interpretation Dr. Ridley had completely misunderstood their leaflet, his Shroud exhibition seeming to be in clear contravention of copyright law.

Since Dr. Ridley has completely ignored a subsequent attempt to reach an amicable settlement, the only available interpretation is that he believes that no-one will actually go to the trouble and expense of taking legal action against him. Also, in the light of *Bournemouth Echo* 'exposés', he seems positively immune to adverse publicity. However, a serious matter of principle is involved. The Bournemouth exhibition has now been fully photo-documented for inventory purposes, and all practical legal procedures for pursuing Ridley are currently under review.