

OBITUARIES

USA

Obituary: Dr. John Heller

Biophysicist **Dr. John Heller**, formerly of the New England Institute, Connecticut, U.S.A. died on December 13, 1995. It was to John Heller, in partnership with **Dr. Alan Adler**, that the STURP team entrusted the tiny samples they had taken from Shroud 'bloodstain' areas during their visit to Turin in 1978. Through his close ties with Yale University, Heller was able to arrange for use of the university's microspectrophotometer to analyse 'blood' particles taken from the samples. A distinctive peak on the graph produced by the microspectrophotometer clearly indicated the presence of haemoglobin denatured to acid methaemoglobin, and thereby that the particle was indeed from old blood. From further tests on the samples, including other positive indications of blood such as the presence of protein, albumin, etc., Heller and Adler concluded that the Shroud's 'bloodstains' are indeed of human blood. The key scientific papers in which they jointly put forward their findings were 'Blood on the Shroud of Turin' *Applied Optics* 19 (1980), pp.2742-44 and 'A Chemical Investigation of the Shroud of Turin', *Journal of the Canadian Society of Forensic Science* 14, 3 (1981), pp.81-103.

Members of **STURP** have kindly supplied the following additional information about John Heller for the purposes of an obituary: 'Dr. Heller received his bachelor's degree from Yale University and did graduate work both at Yale and Cornell. He also had a doctorate in medicine from Case Western Reserve and was a professor of internal medicine and medical physics at Yale University. He was a member of the American Physiological Society, Biophysical Society and Bioelectromagnetic Society. He wrote extensively in his professional fields and was awarded four national and international medals. He was the author of the popular book about the 1978 Shroud testing expedition *Report on the Shroud of Turin* published in 1983. Dr. Heller was an expert on blood and concluded that the blood on the Shroud is human blood. He was also convinced that the Shroud is not a forgery. Perhaps his most significant contribution, however, was bringing other eminent scientists into Shroud research, including the famous chemist and expert on porphyrins Dr. Alan Adler. Dr. Adler delivered the eulogy at the memorial service for Dr. Heller.

Germany

Obituary: Professor Werner Bulst, S.J.

On almost the same mid-December day as John Heller, there died at the age of eighty-two Professor (and Jesuit Father) **Dr. Werner Bulst** of Darmstadt, Germany, another of the most senior advocates of the Shroud's authenticity. Born in Berlin in 1913, Werner Bulst joined the Jesuit order in 1932. He studied at Munich, Breslau, Frankfurt-am-Main and Rome, took a doctorate in Biblical Theology, and had already published his first book on the Shroud by 1950. In 1952 he became Professor at the Jesuit Theological Faculty in Frankfurt, and three years later saw the publication in Germany of his most definitive book on the Shroud *Das Grabtuch von Turin* [The Shroud of Turin]. This combined his own already considerable historical research with the insights of helpful medical specialists at Frankfurt-am-Main University's Institute of Forensic Medicine. *Das Grabtuch* was quickly translated into English and in 1957 published by

Bruce of Milwaukee U.S.A. as *The Holy Shroud of Turin*. Proficient in seven languages, during the 1980s Professor Bulst contributed authoritative articles to the Italian Shroud journal *Sindon* and the American *Shroud Spectrum*. In 1987 appeared his profusely illustrated *Das Turiner Grabtuch: und das Christusbild* [The Turin Shroud and the Christ Likeness], written in collaboration with art-historian and fellow-Jesuit **Dr. Professor Heinrich Pfeiffer** of the Gregorian University, Rome, and published by Joseph Knecht of Frankfurt. Following the carbon dating Professor Bulst quickly wrote *Betrug am Turiner Grabtuch: Der manipulierte Carbondatentest* [Fraud and the Turin Shroud: The Manipulated Carbon-dating], published by Knecht in 1990. This was followed only a year later with *Das Echte Christusbild* [The True Christ Likeness], again written in collaboration with Prof Pfeiffer and published by Knecht, and arguing for a face of Christ preserved at Manoppello, Italy, as being the true Veronica cloth which pilgrims flocked to Rome to see during Jubilee Years held in the Middle Ages. Although this Editor, for one, felt unable to accept this particular identification by Professor Bulst, of the range and depth of his erudition there can be absolutely no doubt. The already tiny world of serious Shroud researchers has lost one of its most distinguished scholars.