

EDITORIAL

By Mark Guscin

First of all, my sincere apologies: due to a mix up in the last edition of the Newsletter, despite the notice on the front cover and what I said in the Editorial, the articles concerning the Letter of Alxius V to Innocent III, and my thoughts on Joe Marino's book were inadvertently left out. They are, of course, included in this Newsletter.

In June of this year, I was kindly invited to take part in an International Shroud Conference in Savonlinna, Finland. An exhibition had been on show for some time when I arrived with Bruno Barberis, Director of the Shroud Museum in Turin. We were interviewed by a major national newspaper - the journalist was very interested in the subject and it was a pleasure to talk to him for such a long time. Finnish is such a different language that we have no idea if what we said was faithfully reflected in the published article.

The actual conference was very well attended and there were plenty of interesting questions after each presentation. The pastor of the church where the event was held read a fascinating paper concerning the Shroud and Protestantism - I have included it in this newsletter, together with some photographs from the event. If we take a look at the photograph of the recent BSTS meeting, with a really first class speaker, the differences in numbers are all too obvious: around 400 people at the congress in Valencia this year, over 100 in Finland (and they had to pay at both events), and just a handful in the UK.

The first article in the newsletter concerns one of the most significant discoveries in Shroud history in recent years - the discovery of a new example of the Lirey pilgrims' badge. On a more theological note, BSTS member Andrew Willie has written some reflections on Thomas de Wesselow's recent book on the Shroud, *The Sign*. Another article herein argues for the Shroud's authenticity from the bloodstains - the author is Canadian-based Shroud researcher Yannick Clément.