

SHROUD NEWS

A NEWSLETTER ABOUT THE HOLY SHROUD OF TURIN
By REX MORGAN - Author of PERPETUAL MIRACLE



Issue No. 22

MARCH 1984



THE BROOKS EXHIBIT OF PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE SHROUD OF TURIN NOW TOURING AUSTRALIA IS HERE TO BE SEEN BY MAN OR WOMAN, ADULT OR CHILD, YOUNG OR OLD, RICH OR POOR, SCEPTIC OR BELIEVER, CHRISTIAN OR NON-CHRISTIAN, AUSTRALIAN OR NON-AUSTRALIAN, VISITOR OR RESIDENT, WORKER OR HOLIDAY-MAKER. BY THE END OF MARCH NEARLY 100,000 WILL HAVE DONE SO AND MADE THEIR JUDGEMENT: IS IT THE IMAGE OF CHRIST?

EDITORIAL

Since the last issue of SHROUD NEWS the Brooks exhibit has visited a further four Australian capitals and knowledge of the Shroud has been brought before many thousands of Australian; who have confronted this evidence face to face. Countless thousands more have heard or seen or read a little more about the subject through the numerous media interviews I have given in connection with the exhibition. This issue brings you news of the exhibit tour, of the death of Paul de Gail, of various events on the world scene and an interesting challenge to the work of Pierre Barbet so long accepted in Shroud circles.

The exhibition has given many more people the opportunity of joining SHROUD NEWS subscribers' group and I take this opportunity of welcoming them to the readership. I trust that the roughly bimonthly newsletter will provide interest and help. It is a great pleasure for me to be meeting so many Shroud friends all over Australia as I visit each capital for a few days with the exhibit. I look forward to meeting many more.

REX MORGAN

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THEFT OF CHRIST'S ROBE

It was reported throughout the world on 15th December 1983 that thieves had stolen the so-called Tunic of Christ, a relic kept in the Basilica of St Denis of Argenteuil, a northern suburb of Paris. This relic is regarded by many people as being almost as important as the Holy Shroud and some researchers (especially Ricci of Rome) claim that there is evidence in the Shroud image markings of the existence of the robe being placed over the man's shoulders after the flogging.

The thieves had broken into the church, forced open the gate to the crypt where the tunic was kept and scrawled graffiti on the walls of the building. The theft was politically motivated and shortly afterwards they demanded a donation of about \$35,000 to Poland's outlawed Solidarity movement and the release from jail of a bunch of anarchists. Church officials of the diocese of Pontoise said they would not meet the demands made in three telephone calls to a daily paper, the Liberation, to release the prisoners who are members of a guerrilla group calling itself Direct Action.

Theft of Christ's Robe (contd)

The garment is believed to be the robe worn by Christ before the crucifixion. It is maroon in colour and is a seamless garment upon which it is claimed there are traces of blood. It is the subject of an annual pilgrimage and is displayed publicly every 50 years. In the year 800 AD it was given to Emperor Charlemagne first emperor of the Holy Roman Empire by Irene of Constantinople, Empress of the East. Charlemagne then gave the robe to his daughter Theodrade, Abbess of Argenteuil. It was stolen by the Normans in 882 and rediscovered in 1158 since which time it has been kept at the St Denis Basilica.

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EPISCOPALIAN AND ROMAN CATHOLIC COVENANT SIGNED

At the Omni Center, Atlanta, Georgia, on 3rd January 1984 at an ecumenical service of worship a Covenant between the Episcopalian and Roman Catholic Church was signed by the Most Revd Thomas A. Donnellan, Catholic Archbishop of Atlanta and the Rt Revd C. Judson Child, Jr, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta.

The covenant is a pledge that the two dioceses will pray and work together for unity in parish ministry, community dialogue to exchange the views of each denomination, joint retreats, consultation over social ministry, mutual respect for each other's status and position and, where possible, to issue joint declamations.

The service was conducted on the "neutral ground" of the permanent Shroud of Turin Exhibition at the Omni Center which is surely an example of the present-day practical "use" of the Shroud as a vehicle for co-operation and unity under the inspired direction of Episcopalian Father Albert Dreisbach.

The Atlanta exhibition is a remarkable collection of photographic and other material (see SHROUD NEWS 19) much of which is also contained in the Brooks Exhibit currently touring Australia.

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SHROUD SPECTRUM INTERNATIONAL

A number of Australian readers have subscribed to SHROUD SPECTRUM, perhaps the best quality Shroud magazine available. Enquiries should be addressed to

The Indiana Center for Shroud Studies, R. 3 Box 557,
NASHVILLE, Indiana 47448, USA

Four issues per year \$15 p.a. Airmail to Australia \$8.50
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MEDICINE, MIRACLES AND THE SHROUD

One of the interesting spin-offs from the current exhibition of the Brooks Photographic Data in Australia is the considerable number of interesting people I have met who have some special interest in the Shroud. One of these areas includes those who are students of the various miraculous revelations over the years and about which I know very little. (Be it remembered that I am not a Catholic!)

One Sydney man has sent me an interesting article concerning the MYSTICAL ASPECTS OF THE SHROUD and hopefully we shall be able to publish it in SHROUD NEWS in due course. I have also been confronted with a number of people who tell me about hitherto unpublished miraculous appearances of Christ or other revelations which seem to coincide with the evidence on the Shroud.

An important letter from a Sydney medical practitioner, Dr Vaughan Davis, raises some issues which readers of SHROUD NEWS may like to consider and/or comment upon.

Referring to the treatise THE MYSTICAL CITY OF GOD by Mary of Jesus of Agreda (1602-1665) Dr Davis points out that according to this source it was revealed to her that Christ was buried wearing his nether (loin) cloth that the Roman; were unable to remove for his crucifixion. He asks: "Is there any evidence that around the pelvic area of the Shroud image there is a cloth garment?"

This speculation ties in, of course, with the latest research done by Filas and Haralick (see this and last issue of SN) which suggests that there is indeed evidence of what Filas calls a "modesty cloth" on the image.

Davis also refers to the living Italian priest, Brother Gino, who exhibits the stigmata. "The stigmata on his hands have one wound in the palm and the other (dorsal) on the wrist. The impression given is that of a nail driven obliquely from before backwards. It seems to me that from the medical view, it would be next to impossible to find the surface marker that would enable a nail to be driven through the Space of Destot." This raises two interesting issues. I have referred before in my writings to the fact that all known stigmatics (hitherto) have exhibited bleeding from the palms, as in almost every artistic representation of the crucifixion and apparently based on the collective historical impression of how it "must have happened" and also based on the (now questioned) translation of the gospels from the Greek which talk of hands and

Medicine, Miracles and the Shroud (contd)

not wrists. Readers will be familiar with John Robinson's articles showing that the original Greek words could include the wrist areas of the hands and this therefore provides no difficulty about the Shroud evidence. Dr Davis's comment also raises the point that Barbet in the 1930s could have been wrong about the nails having been put directly through the Space of Destot (see my PERPETUAL MIRACLE and many other sources). Since the Shroud image does not reveal what happened on the palm side of the hands Dr Davis's proposition must be given serious consideration. It would be helpful to have comments from Zugibe, Bucklin and other contemporary medical experts in Shroud analysis.

Davis says further:

"Venerable Mary of Agreda stated that Christ was stretched excessively (tearing ligaments, dislocating joints) before the nails were driven home. His arm muscles and chest muscles would have become like the string of an archer's bow. There is a law in physiology (Sherrington's Law) that when a muscle is stretched a reflex contraction is induced. (This is the analogy of Newton's Law in physics that to every action there is an equal and opposite reaction). This muscular spasm in the living Christ would have taken the strain off the hands by limiting the degree to which the trunk would descend by gravitational pull. The nails would thus have been protected from tearing out. Dr Pierre Barbet used dead tissue and an experimental compromise when he demonstrated tearing."

This is the first serious challenge to the validity of Barbet's conclusions I have encountered (apart from the blanket dismissals of the sceptics who dismiss all Shroud evidence before they examine it) and again it would be interesting to hear other medical opinion about this matter.

I hope some SHROUD NEWS readers in Australia or overseas will contribute to the discussion which Dr Davis raises on the basis of his acceptance of certain revelations regarded by the Catholic Church as authentic and by corroborating these from medical knowledge.

BROOKS EXHIBIT IN AUSTRALIA - REPORT No 2

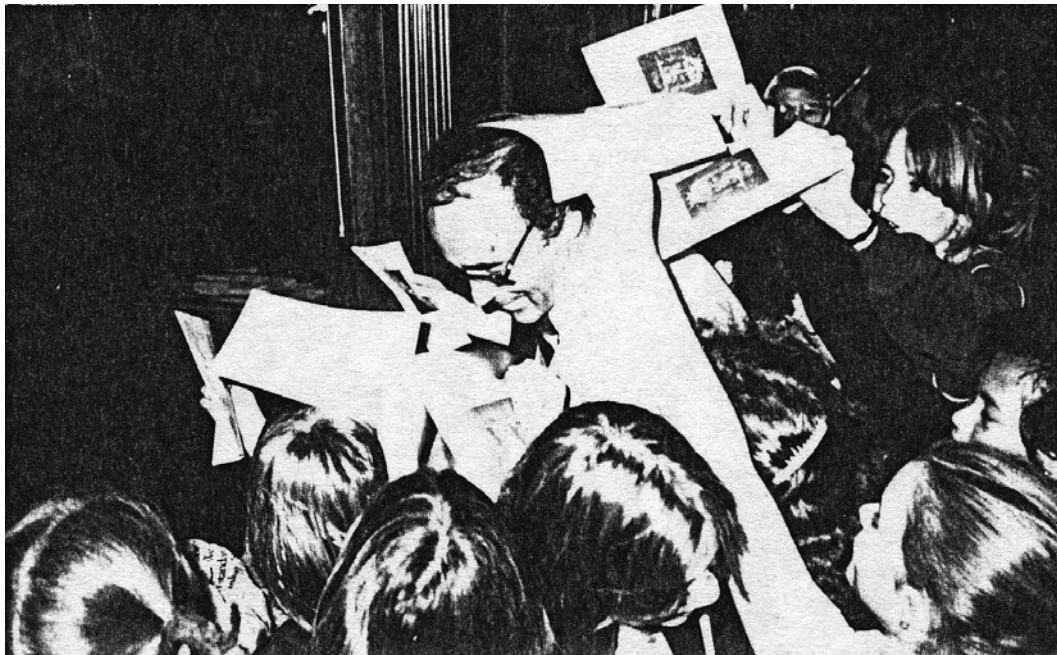
In the last issue of SHROUD NEWS we reported that the exhibition was about to go to Canberra. Because the Commonwealth Bank was not big enough to accommodate the exhibit in Canberra we hired a reception room at the Canberra-Rex Hotel. With great co-operation from the hotel staff we exhibited there for seven full days and another 10,000 Australians (after 42,000 in Sydney) had the chance to see the remarkable photographs. That excellent newspaper the Canberra Times gave us the front page story on day 2 and references every day of the exhibition. The first day in Canberra was marked by the attendance of the Papal Nuncio in Australia, Archbishop Barbarito who, as it happens, is a native of the Montevergine district of Italy where the Shroud was taken secretly from Turin during the Second World War, the only time it has been moved since the middle ages. The Canberra season was also marked by the visit of Carmelite nuns who had to obtain special dispensation from their bishop to attend and a group from the rarely seen Australian house of Mother Teresa's Order of sisters. We attribute the good attendance, on the basis of population percentage, to the splendid coverage given us by the Canberra media, press, radio and television.

In Melbourne, Victoria, the Commonwealth Bank had constructed a special exhibition area beside its main banking chamber in the new Head Office building in Collins Street. For ten working days the exhibit there drew a total of 15,000 visitors. ABC national TV news did an excellent piece by Lima Kineva (a rarely good reporter) and we had good support from provincial press and several radio stations. Rex Morgan presented a 7 minute segment on the commercial TV programme Good Morning Melbourne with Roy Hampson who must be one of the most pleasant, calm and unaffected television presenters in Australia.

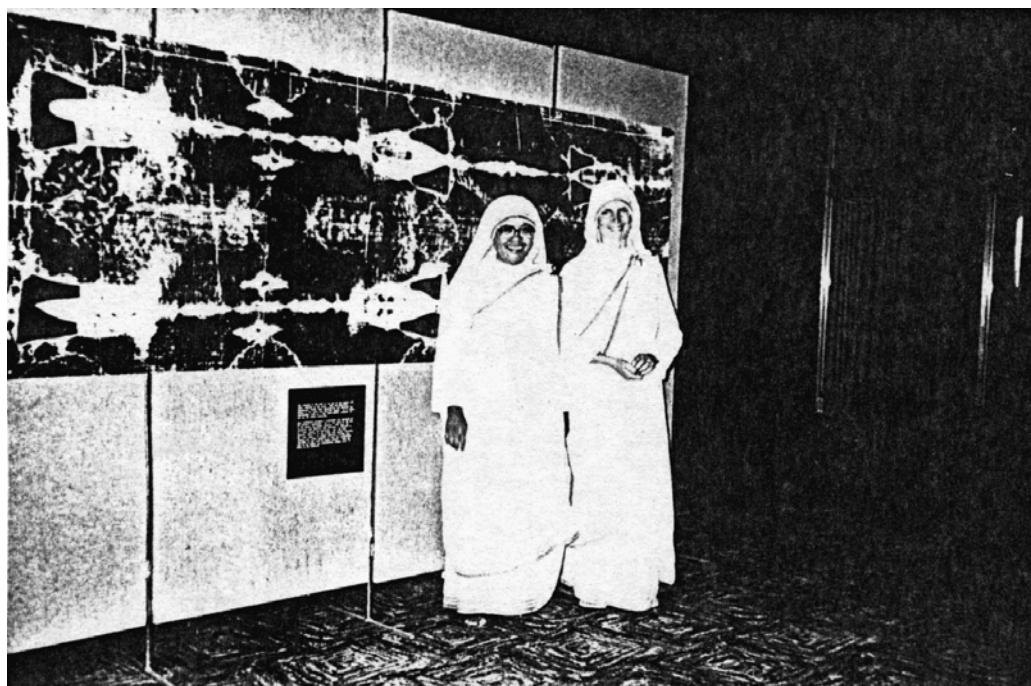
Amongst many interesting visitors in Melbourne was a 90-year-old nun who had been present in Turin in 1973 when the Shroud was being returned to its casket after the European television presentation that year. It was also pleasing to meet Mr and Mrs Richard Brooks (no relation to Ernest), Shroud News subscribers and members of the British Society for the Turin Shroud and who have also worked with Group Captain Leonard Cheshire, VC, in England. Another great promoter of the Shroud study in Australia, Mr Paul Smith, visited the exhibition several times. Again, we had excellent co-operation from the Bank, from Senior Management through all departments associated with us.



JUST BEFORE LEAVING SYDNEY, ERNEST BROOKS PRESENTS REX MORGAN WITH A SPECIAL PLAQUE OF APPRECIATION FROM BROOKS INSTITUTE



BUT NOT BEFORE BEING MOBBED BY ENTHUSIASTIC AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLGIRLS FOR THE AUTOGRAPH OF ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST PHOTOGRAPHERS



IN CANBERRA TWO OF MOTHER TERESA'S ORDER OF SISTERS BESIDE THE FULL-LENGTH NEGATIVE IMAGE OF VERNON MILLER'S 1978 SHROUD PHOTO



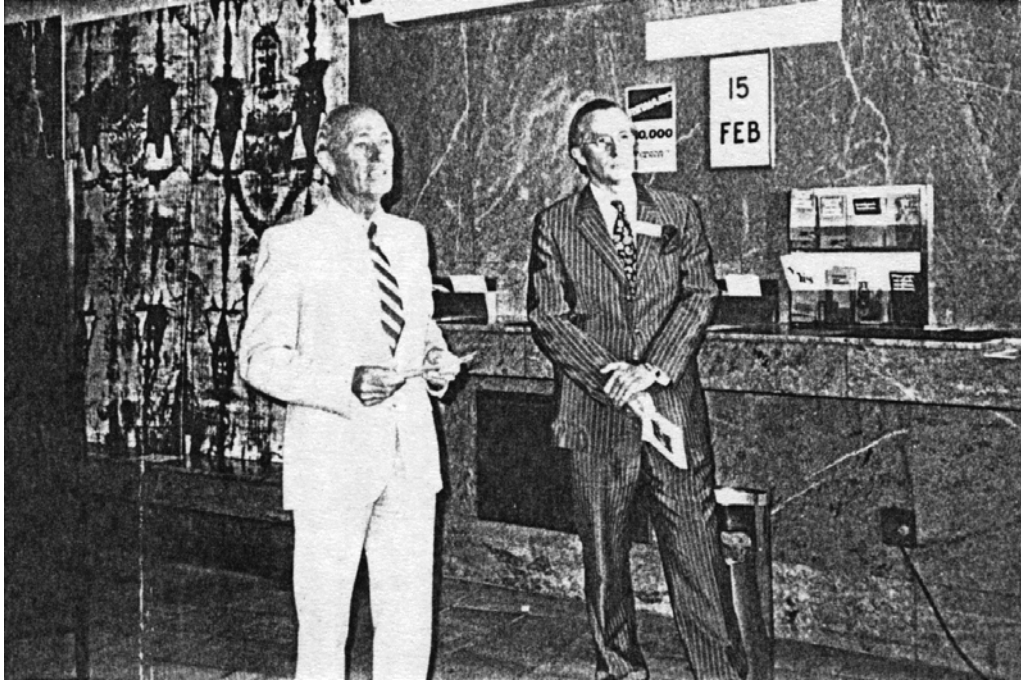
PART OF THE CONTINUOUS QUEUE OF VISITORS AT THE CANBERRA-REX HOTEL



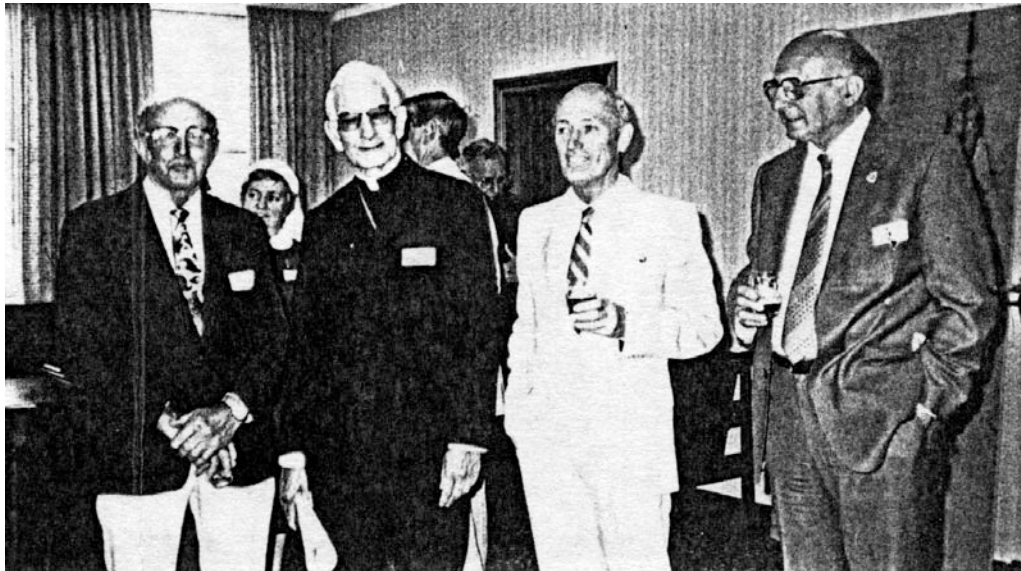
IN MELBOURNE MR AND MRS RICHARD BROOKS MEET REX MORGAN AT THE EXHIBIT



A QUIET MOMENT (ONE OF THE FEW) AT THE MELBOURNE EXHIBITION



IN HOBART THE COMMONWEALTH BANK CHIEF MANAGER, JOHN ANDREW, DECLARES THE EXHIBITION OFFICIALLY OPEN



AFTER THE HOBART OPENING, DISTINGUISHED TASMANIANS, The Honourable HARRY BRAIDWOOD, President of the Legislative Council; The Most Revd SIR GUILDFORD YOUNG, Archbishop; JOHN ANDREW, Bank Chief Manager; and GORDON PLUMMER, Deputy Chief Manager

Brooks Exhibit in Australia - Report no. 2 (contd)

On, then, to Hobart, capital of Tasmania. Considering the small population of Tasmania we were delighted with the response of 6,000 visitors. Chief Manager of the Bank, John Andrew, had arranged a very good official opening for the exhibit in the presence of the President of the Legislative Council, the Honourable Harry Braidwood, the Most Revd Sir Guildford Young, Catholic Archbishop of Tasmania and various other dignitaries and representatives of our several sponsors. Once again we obtained good media coverage in press, radio and television. We need as much as we can get in each city because there is no paid advertising budget for the tour. It is heartening that the less cynical areas of the Australian media have taken up the exhibition for what it is: an important visit to Australia of a controversial, serious and international subject of interest to almost everyone.

The short space of time we had allowed between closing in Hobart and opening in Adelaide, South Australia to coincide with the famous Adelaide Festival caused a few headaches moving the exhibit crates. But the usual magnificent co-operation of Trans Australia Airlines (TAA) staff got them there on time despite the fact that we had to freight them out of Hobart at the crack of Saturday's dawn and then send them back from Melbourne to Sydney to connect with the only wide-bodied aircraft going into Adelaide that weekend.

In Adelaide we are, at the time of writing, set up at the front of the magnificent new head office building of the Commonwealth Bank in King William Street and attendance is averaging better than 1,000 per day. By the time the Adelaide season finishes we estimate that about 90,000 Australians will have seen the exhibition.

Among the statistics we have recorded the exhibit itself has so far travelled nearly 4,000 kilometres and the personnel involved have so far travelled a total of 25,000 person-kilometres within Australia, all by courtesy of TAA. We have received about \$3,000 worth of accommodation so far from the Homestead Motor Inns group in the various capital cities and IBM Australia has donated a further huge batch of the free leaflet we are handing out to visitors.

Amongst interesting news on the actual itinerary of the exhibit is that we can confirm that it will make a visit to the NSW border town of Albury for a four-day showing at the Albury Trade Fair and will also return to SYDNEY late in July. There has been enormous demand for this return to Sydney, the biggest city in Australia, and through the hard work of the Commonwealth Bank

Brooks Exhibit in Australia - Report no. 2 (contd)

headquarters this will become a reality. The dates are ALBURY: 4th to 7th JULY and SYDNEY 30th JULY to 10th AUGUST inclusive.

After Adelaide we shall be in Perth, Western Australia from Monday 26th March to Friday 6th April and then in Darwin at the Northern Territory Museum of Arts and Sciences from Tuesday 17th April to Wednesday 25th April (Anzac Day) open every day throughout Easter except on Good Friday.

What, do I hear our Queensland readers asking, about Brisbane? At this moment, what indeed! We are having some difficulty finalising a venue in that excellent State but every effort is being made to fix this for the month of June, either in Brisbane or the Gold Coast.

* * * * *

SHROUD GUIDE

Rex Morgan's second book on the Holy Shroud. Large format and produced on art quality paper. A brief introduction to aspects of the history and scientific study of the Shroud. Lavishly illustrated with 78 pictures, 30 in colour. Ranging from the earliest photograph taken in 1898 to present-day computerised images. Not yet released through bookshops but available to visitors at the touring Brooks Exhibit.

Some comments:

"Stupendous ... a far-reaching undertaking"

FRANCIS FILAS, CHICAGO

"The most beautiful reproduction of color pictures that are to be found in any Shroud book in the English language."

FRANK C. TRIBBE

"Shroud Guide is splendid"

Fr PETER RINALDI

"You have expanded the number of photographs ... and included a great amount of information in the printed text. You are right up to date."

Fr ADAM OTTERBEIN, NEW YORK

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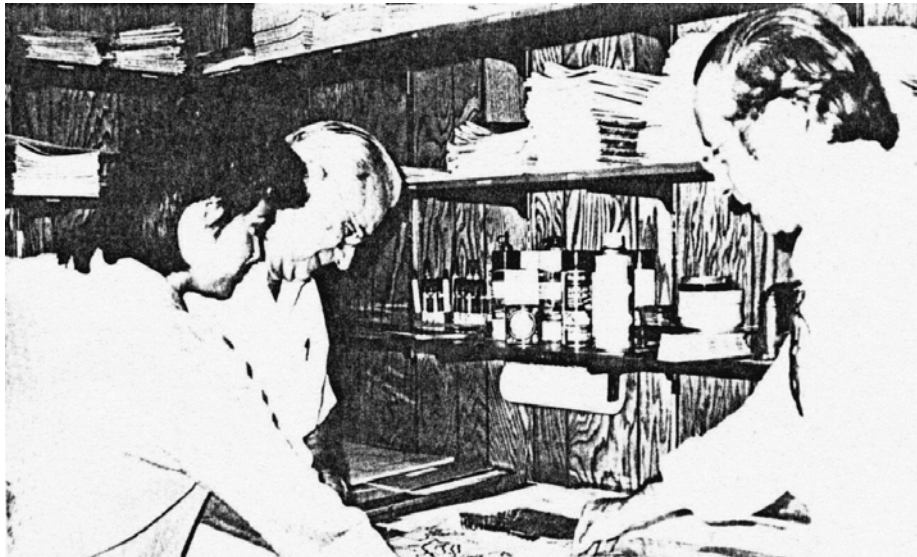
MORE ABOUT THE FILAS / HARALICK REPORT

The last issue of SHROUD NEWS contained a wire story about the image analysis work done by Dr Robert M. Haralick and Prof. Francis Filas which supports the Filas coin identification, the possible presence of a phylactery on the forehead of the man in the Shroud and the presence of a modesty cloth over the pelvic area. The full report by Haralick is available from Prof Filas in Chicago and we have just received his latest filmstrip and cassette commentary, both of which are excellently produced. Prof Filas has made many filmstrips, cassettes and slide sets over the years illustrating the story of the Shroud .and his own work on the coin identification. The new series gives a thorough and fascinating account of the Haralick image analysis and is highly recommended. There are 100 frames on the filmstrip; this and the cassette are available from:

ACTA Foundation, COGAN Productions Division, 11134 Youngtown Ave., Youngtown, Arizona, 85363, USA.

The price is \$30 US. No airmail charge is quoted but we suggest sending an additional amount to cover it.

We have also received an advance copy of Filas's 1985 Shroud Calendar. Rex Morgan saw it in preparation in Chicago last year. The finished result is an excellent pictorial wall calendar with many photographs and diagrams explaining the Holy Shroud. It contains the liturgical dates for the Catholic Church but would be an attractive and useful calendar for anyone. We hope to arrange for distribution in Australia and will advise as information comes to hand.



PROF FRANCIS FILAS and REX MORGAN STUDYING PROOFS OF THE CALENDAR AT THE CHICAGO PUBLISHING HOUSE IN 1983

VALE - PÈRE PAUL DE GAIL

Increasingly SHROUD NEWS and other international Shroud journals are reporting the demise of older members of the world-wide Shroud circle. Last year Max Frei, King Umberto and John Robinson departed and just to hand is news of the death in December of Father Paul de Gail, a French priest who, for many years, conducted the AMIS DE LA SAINTE FACE from Compiègne, north of Paris. I met de Gail in 1983, a few months before he died, and spent an enlightening several hours with him discussing the Shroud and many allied matters.

De Gail was born in November 1899 at Amiens, a member of the noble family from Alsace of the Barons de Gail and after his early schooling became a graduate engineer of L'Ecole Centrale de Paris, pursuing for several years a career as an engineer in various parts of France. He had been brought up as an ardent Catholic, particularly by his mother, and in 1925 began the study of theology at Florennes in Belgium. He was ordained just before the Second War but in 1939 he enlisted in the army and as an artillery captain he served in the front line with great distinction and bravery, particularly at Dunkirk and was awarded the Croix de Guerre and was made a Knight of the Legion of Honour for his war service.

He had been student of the Shroud since he first saw it in the 1931 exposition at Turin and began to publish books on the subject. There are more than a dozen of these to his name and whilst all of them pursue a devout line of argument he always gave careful consideration to the scientific discoveries of recent times.

Vale - Père Paul de Gail (contd)

Named as almoner of the retirement home of St Regis in Compiègne in 1971 he lived there for the rest of his life and devoted all his time to the promotion of his books and other literature and items concerning the Holy Shroud. By 1975 there was such great interest in his work in France and beyond that he established the association AMIS DE LA SAINTE FACE and wrote a tri-annual newsheet. It is fortunate that the present writer was able to obtain from him all back issues in 1983 in order to have a complete resource file on de Gail's work. He also published cassette lectures, filmstrips and sets of slides on the Shroud as well as life - size reproductions of the Shroud face on actual film which can thus be back-lighted and which are used in churches, chapels and private homes all over the world. It is to be hoped that his work of writing and dissemination of such material will be taken up by a successor.

I received my latest issue (December 1983) in his hand-written cover which must have been done a day or so before he died. In the same mail I received a special issue of the bulletin announcing his death, obviously sent out by his secretary, Mile de Beauchamp.

De Gail held a unique place in European sindonology, especially for French-speaking people. I am grateful that I was given the opportunity to meet him and his acute and wise mind not long before his death at the age of 84.

ONE OF THE LAST WRAPPERS PAUL DE GAIL WROTE IN DECEMBER 1983



SHROUD NEWS

Shroud News began in 1980 when Rex Morgan, author of PERPETUAL MIRACLE - SECRETS OF THE HOLY SHROUD OF TURIN started putting together a few notes about current developments for a small circle of interested people in Australia. He didn't think it would go beyond a few issues.

The bulletin now reaches subscribers all over the world and because of its relatively simple method of production it can be written and produced and the information disseminated more quickly than most news-sheets of a similar kind.

It contains information, news, articles and illustrations gathered from sources of Shroud study world-wide through Rex Morgan's extensive personal connections with what has recently been called the "Shroud Crowd".

Rex Morgan is a frequent overseas traveller and has the opportunity to keep well abreast of latest developments in Shroud matters. He was present at the preview of the Shroud itself in August 1978 in Turin and has since met with numerous Shroud researchers in many countries. His quest for information about the Shroud has become, as he describes it, a "passionate hobby" and he has since written SHROUD GUIDE (December 1983) and is writing another major book on the subject.

Our list of subscribers continues to increase. We request a subscription rate in Australia of \$4 for four issues. Shroud News comes out approximately 6 times a year. Overseas postage is by negotiation according to country.

Please encourage those of your acquaintance to take out a subscription. The more we have the more we can improve the bulletin.

LECTURES

Rex Morgan is happy to lecture (free of charge) to any group interested in the Holy Shroud. Contact SYDNEY (02) 981 4633

All information and opinion published in this newsletter is given in good faith. It is edited (and mainly written) by Rex Morgan and published by

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