

SHROUD NEWS

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

ISSUE No. 33

FEBRUARY 1986

THIS MONTH THE
SHROUD
PHOTOGRAPHIC
EXHIBITION FROM
BROOKS INSTITUTE
CALIFORNIA
WHICH HAS
TOURED EVERY
STATE CAPITAL
CITY IN
AUSTRALIA AND
FOUR MAJOR
CITIES IN NEW
ZEALAND GOES TO
HONG KONG AND
MACAU



EDITORIAL

It seems to me that 1986 heralds a very exciting and interesting year for the Shroud. To begin with, in this issue, is more than one item touching upon the speculation over a new investigation and even the possibility of a new public exposition in Turin THIS YEAR. This comes from the Italian newspaper article translated and reproduced in SHROUD NEWS connecting an exposition with the centenary of St John Bosco. At a recent lecture in Sydney given by Dr Ron Jenkins of the International Centre for Diffraction Data, Pennsylvania, USA, and a member of the Shroud of Turin Research Project (STURP) (which conducted the 1978 tests with other scientists) it was stated by Dr Jenkins that a series of tests had been planned for later this year and he gave the strong impression that they would take place. It is difficult to tell whether this is enthusiastic speculation or information from inside. Indeed, it was a surprise to hear about the Sydney lecture. Dr Jenkins was here as a delegate to the conference of the Australian X-Ray Analytical Association to lecture on such matters as X-Rays and he is in the habit of offering a Shroud lecture wherever he goes. A SHROUD NEWS subscriber let me know about it a few days beforehand and I was fortunately (and amazingly) able to attend. Dr Jenkins gave a two-hour general lecture on the history and scientific work but gave away very little of what STURP is actually doing or of his special interest in the research. The audience was large and appreciative.

Also on the immediate scene is the Hong Kong season of the Brooks Shroud Photographic Exhibition. Readers will know that I organised its tour of Australia and New Zealand in 1983 - 1985 and the latest information is that it will open in the Landmark Centre in Hong Kong on Monday 3rd March 1986 for one week. It will then be going across to the Portuguese colony of Macau for the following week. The leader of the Hong Kong committee, William Meacham, archaeologist and sindonologist, has been able to gain considerable support by way of sponsorships for the exhibition. One of the most exciting pieces of news is that we have confirmed that a gathering of Shroud experts will take place in Hong Kong during the first week to present a series of papers at such places as Hong Kong University. It is really a scoop for Hong Kong as the group will consist of Father Peter Rinaldi from New York, Professor Luigi Gonella from Turin, Ian Wilson from England, John Heller and Alan Adler from USA. Together with Meacham this provides a Shroud mini-conference of six top sindonologists and I shall be in the background to report although I must add that I have

Editorial (contd)

been asked to give a paper on my new book, about which more later. So the Hong Kong exercise promises to be quite a significant one in Shroud modern history and statistically we expect a very large number of Chinese residents of Hong Kong to see the exhibit as the Landmark Centre is one of the busiest venues in HK. I just hope there are no foul-ups with the consignment of crates as happened in New Zealand (twice) and which one always fears when one consigns the exhibit to the ocean waves in the light of the kinds of industrial activity which characterises this part of the world.

In view of my presence in Hong Kong for half of March and then my departure for Jerusalem in April I had better say in advance that the April edition of SN is likely to be late but it will doubtless bring you exciting news of these two main events. The Environmental Study of the Shroud in Jerusalem has been planned by Sister Damian of the Cross. Her experiments with a heated manikin and simulated shroud were reported recently in SN. The object of the expedition is to carry out a series of tests in an ancient tomb in the same rock shelf as the tomb of Christ must have been (regardless of its exact location which is still a matter of conjecture) to see what effect the tomb environment would have had on the Shroud. Sister Damian has developed the theory that the presence of limestone and the heat from the corpse could have been the image-forming agents. Her group will consist of a number of experts in various fields and she has always been keen for the widest representation of Shroud-related groups to take part or observe so that all tests carried out and all results obtained can be scrutinised and evaluated virtually publicly. My part in it will be to observe and report and I look forward to bringing news of the study to SHROUD NEWS readers first.

I have just completed another book: THE HOLY SHROUD AND THE EARLIEST PAINTINGS OF CHRIST. This book, which grew to a book accidentally, is based on the work of a little-known English artist who painted copies of depictions of Christ in the Roman catacombs last century. His work has been scarcely noticed by Shroud scholars but in the past hundred years two commentators took up his theories about the received likeness of Christ and the possibility that some of the earliest catacomb paintings could have been painted by artists who had actually seen Christ or at least were working from directions by those who had.

Editorial (contd)

Since having circulated the draft of my book to a number of Shroud scholars around the world it seems that Heaphy's datings were not as accurate as he thought and that none of the paintings could be earlier than about AD 200. What I have done in the book is to point out the extraordinary similarity between some of these earliest paintings and the Shroud face indicating that we are looking at the same man depicted from two different sources or, at the very least, that early catacomb paintings were copied from the Shroud. In either case additional evidence is provided for the existence of the Shroud back to the very earliest times. The reactions of the scholars suggests that the book will cause some interest and certainly some argument which pleases me. It also reproduces for the first time a set of the Thomas Heaphy paintings in colour through photographic means. The originals have lain for a hundred years in the Print Room of the British Museum where I found them and had the Museum make for me the first set of coloured slides, now to be published in the book. We expect it to be available by about mid 1986 and SN readers will be given the details when release is imminent.

The Runciman Press is also going ahead with a project to publish a series of monographs of very interesting articles which have been submitted to SHROUD NEWS over recent times but which are too long for inclusion in the newsletter but well worth publishing. Amongst these will be two concerning the Lier copy of the Shroud attributed to Dürer, work from Sister Damian of the Cross, and papers by American Shroud author, Frank Tribbe, whose excellent book PORTRAIT OF JESUS? we brought to SN readers a year or so ago.

This issue also notices two new newsletters of the same format as SN. One is that of the newly formed Roman group Collegamento Pro Sindone and the second is that of the Consortium of Shroud Centers, both exciting developments in sindonology worldwide. We also bring you the first of articles now being translated from the Italian for SHROUD NEWS.

Yes, I think 1986 may very well be a vintage year in the continuing and increasing study of the Shroud as it brings many elements of mankind together in a common quest for the solution to one of the greatest mysteries in the world and the spread of the easily contracted condition (some call it a disease) of sindonology.

REX MORGAN

FROM THE TURIN FRONT

A propos of speculation about further testing of the Shroud we bring you part of a report from Father Peter Rinaldi published in the Holy Shroud Guild (New York) Newsletter in January 1985:

There have been interesting developments in the city of the Holy Shroud during the past few months. First and foremost was the meeting held at the residence of Anastasio Cardinal Ballestrero, Archbishop of Turin and official custodian of the Holy Shroud.

Present at the meeting on October 16 were, besides the writer, Professor Luigi Gonella of the Turin Polytechnic Institute, who in 1978 supervised the tests made on the Shroud as scientific consultant for the Church authorities, Professor Giovanni Riggi, a Turin micro-chemist who worked directly on the Shroud in 1978, Thomas D'Muhala and Dr John P. Jackson, respectively president and vice-president of the SHROUD OF TURIN RESEARCH PROJECT INC. (STURP) whose work in Shroud research in 1978 and since has had worldwide recognition.

PROPOSAL FOR NEW TESTS. The purpose of the meeting was to explore the possibility of new tests on the Shroud. In a memorandum I prepared for the Cardinal prior to the meeting I stated, among other things, what one of the Shroud experts had told me some months previously. "What we have discovered on the Shroud so far is so amazing as to be almost unbelievable. We would like to examine it again since we are convinced that there is much we still do not know about the relic."

Once again the Cardinal showed his willingness to discuss the matter with the scientists. His Eminence is a superb listener. He is extremely knowledgeable of all Shroud complexities and is genuinely interested in the work of the scientists.

Briefly, the STURP researchers presented the Cardinal with a detailed proposal of what they would expect to do if and when a new round of tests is permitted by the Church authorities. As was expected the Cardinal made the point that the final decision rests with the Vatican authorities with recommendations. He likewise stressed the point that, in receiving STURP's proposal, he wished to make it clear that proposals from other responsible scientists, independent or coordinated, would be given the same careful attention by the competent authorities.

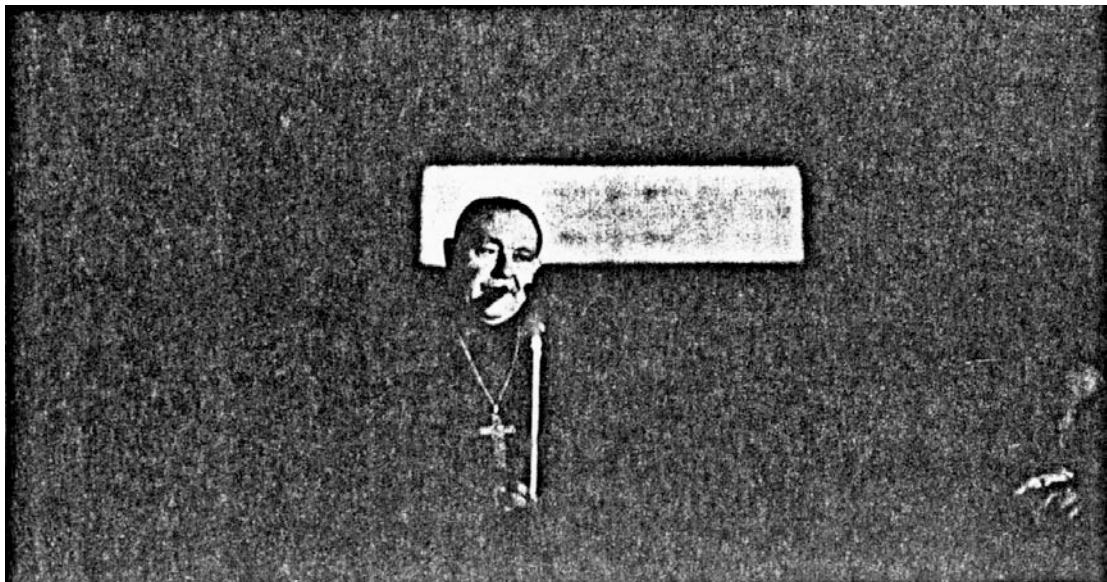
From the Turin Front (contd)

IN DUE TIME. What does it all mean? Quite simply that, in due time, a Church-appointed technical review commission will carefully examine all proposals submitted by the experts. The Church authorities will then make a decision on whether a new round of direct tests on the Shroud is to be permitted. What are we to understand by "due time"? Certainly not a few weeks or even a few months. It is known that in the Church time is seldom if ever measured in weeks or months.

For such as are likely to wonder and grow impatient at the Church's apparent delaying tactics it may be well to remember that if the 1978 tests had the unexpected, almost incredible success they did, it was simply because the Church had determined at that point that the time was ripe for a thorough examination of the Relic. Anything done before would have proved inconclusive, as indeed was shown by some limited tests in 1969.

I am personally convinced that new tests will eventually be made. I am convinced too, that the Lord is guiding the steps of such as are responsible for future Shroud developments. I might add that, more than ever before, do I feel that the best things in the Shroud have yet to be told, and will one day be told.

PETER M. RINALDI SDB



Cardinal Ballestrero of Turin speaking at press conference on day 1 of the 1978 Exposition of the Holy Shroud. [Photo: Rex Morgan]

WILL A NEW INVESTIGATION BE MADE ON THE PRECIOUS RELIC?

THIS ARTICLE is from Stampa Sera (The Turin Evening News) of 9th December 1985. It was written by Professor Pier Luigi Baima Bollone, Director of the International Centre of Sindonology, reprinted in the Newsletter of Collegamento Pro Sindone, Rome, translated for SHROUD NEWS by Professor Nereo Masini and edited by Rex Morgan

PERPLEXITY ABOUT AMERICAN RESEARCHERS' REQUEST PROBABLE EXHIBIT FOR DON BOSCO CENTENARY

The proximity of Christmas once again brings to mind religious themes for both adults and children: amongst these one cannot avoid that of the Holy Shroud. The theme is well known and has meaning beyond any emotional response even to researchers from an archaeological point of view.

Notwithstanding the length of time and the interpretation of the very sophisticated tests and methodologies using the most up-to-date instruments since the series of tests made in 1978, the findings appear to consolidate the mystery of its origins and, at the same time, close the gaps proclaimed by those who deny its authenticity.

It is this very convergence of the involvement of believers and sceptics, who have overlapped, which causes the burial cloth, kept in the Guarini Chapel at Turin and which tradition indicates as the one that covered the corpse of Jesus Christ, to be regarded as a unique object.

At the present time numerous questions are being addressed by specialists.

Why are medical examiners involved with it? Because the evidence shows that it is a burial cloth bearing the imprint of a corpse which shows traumatic lesions and biological traces and microtraces such as blood, conservation substances used for burials and pollens which have been deposited on it over a period of many centuries.

What are the latest results of scientific research? That the blood traces are human, that this blood reacts as group AB and that the conservation substances are aloes and myrrh.

Will a New Investigation be Made on the Precious Relic? (contd)

What does all this mean? It demonstrates an exact concordance with the synoptic Gospel narrations as it might have occurred together with substances used at the same time in history. Surely this statement is not too outspoken since it is the personal conclusion most researchers have reached and, it ought to be pointed out, every fresh analysis leads in the same direction.

Within a few days the 1985 issue of the magazine Sindon, the official journal of the Turin Sindonology Centre, will be published and will contain new information about the blood traces. This new data shows that the blood is consistent with contemporary measurable samples from Yemen Hebrews (an uncontaminated blood group) and so far as is possible two thousand years later shows that it is of the same ancient Semitic stock.

Investigations are also moving towards other findings which could be related to the origin of the Shroud of Turin, Posthumous results of the studies of Professor Max Frei concerning pollens on the Oviedo Sudarium indicate a Palestinian origin and transfer towards Spain through North Africa.

This is not all, however, that justifies the widespread excitement researchers feel about the Shroud. There is an extraordinary possibility, being spoken about by the press, that another exposition of the Shroud might occur in the near future on the occasion of the celebrations for St Giovanni Bosco. Should this occur, scholars may just be happy for a fresh opportunity for everyone to observe, beyond their own 'credo', an object rescued almost two thousand years later by scientific research from cultural world distrust.

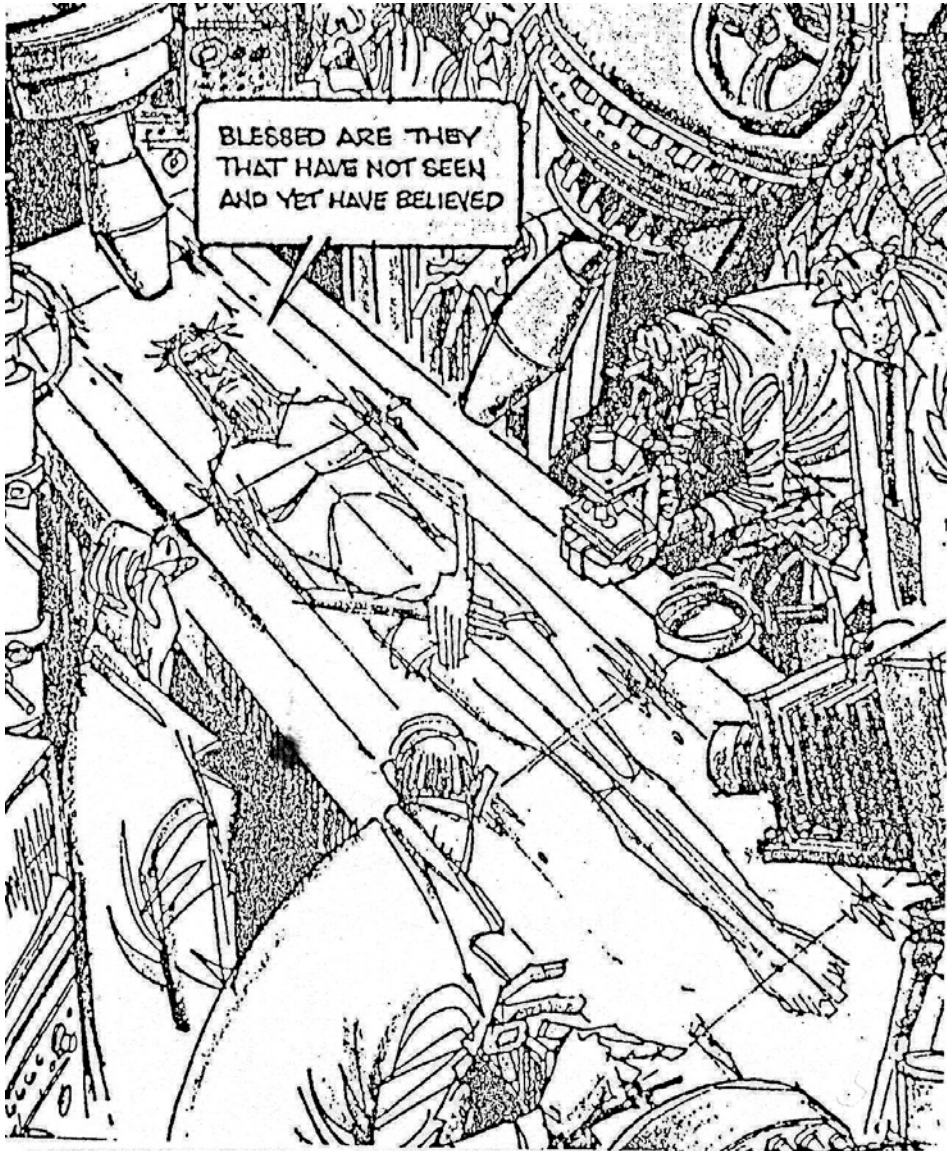
Also surprising has been the news of a request, made by qualified scholars across the Atlantic Ocean, for a new series of tests and observations. This is obviously a matter of wish-realisation and it is certain that European researchers will also have to support careful and productive projects.

There is, however, another question. Is it seriously tenable to propose new examinations whilst all the studies from the 1978 investigations have not yet been completed, published and debated?

Will a New Investigation be Made on the Precious Relic? (contd)

Requesting new investigations before having made known all the preceding results appears to be an implicit acknowledgement of inadequacy with regard to the researches carried out up to now. Should a new enquiry be allowed to begin without explaining why the past one has not been resolved, the study of the Shroud could become a rush for continuous investigation and research.

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CARTOON COMMENT FROM THE LOS ANGELES TIMES 16 October 1978

RADIOCARBON DATING COMES OF AGE

VICTORIA MORGAN REPORTS ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS FOR SHROUD NEWS

Initiated by Willard Libby in Chicago only thirty-five years ago, the techniques of carbon-14 determination of the age of organic material have now reached maturity. The new Radiocarbon Accelerator Laboratory at Oxford University is one of six worldwide which, by using "accelerator mass spectrometry", is able to measure the age of material up to 100,000 years old. This is ten times older than the age limit imposed on materials by conventional carbon dating methods.

Although much has been postulated in recent issues of SHROUD NEWS over the great carbon dating debate and its possibilities for the Shroud the basic facts concerning the role carbon plays in dating an object should not be overlooked.

Carbon-14 is a mildly reactive isotope produced by the reaction of thermal neutrons (which are created by cosmic rays colliding with the atmosphere) with atmospheric nitrogen. The carbon in all living things, deriving from the atmosphere, is more or less in equilibrium with the element's isotopic make-up (98.9 per cent stable carbon-12, 1.1 per cent stable carbon-13 and about one part in 10^{12} of carbon-14). Exchange of carbon with the atmosphere ceases when an organism dies. The carbon-14 begins to decay to stable isotopes, reducing to one part in 10^{16} over about 70,000 years, so its proportion of the total carbon present is a measure of the time elapsed since death. The older a given object is, the less carbon-14 will be present in its isotopic make-up.

Accelerator dating with a high energy mass spectrometer is a new process which counts the amount of carbon-14 atoms in a given material. An uncontaminated sample is vital to accuracy so pretreatment processes must be thorough. Yet the customary ten per cent margin for error is not only connected to sample purity. Errors can also occur due to isotopic fractionation and ion beam distribution differences between the standard and the unknown. Once a sample has been purified the carbon-14 count is identified by accelerating the ions to a high energy removing the non-carbon-14 ions in stages. An accurate measurement of carbon-14 ions by means of the accelerator process is achieved much faster than by conventional carbon dating methods. The accelerator mass spectrometer also allows a thousandfold

Radiocarbon Dating Comes of Age (contd)

reduction in sample size. The machine's accuracy at Oxford is checked frequently by comparing results with those of material for which age is already a known factor.

These advances in technology could mean that a radiocarbon dating of the Holy Shroud of Turin is closer at hand particularly now that only a minute portion of it would need to be destroyed. Yet scientists such as Christopher Chippindale when heralding the advances in archaeology made possible by the accelerator laboratories dismissed any suggestion of it:

"Early determinations will certainly not be made on the Turin Shroud, repeatedly publicised as the prime target for Oxford. Certainly it could be dated from a single thread in a virtuoso performance of the machine's capabilities (but it) would have little to do with the laboratory's research strategy."

Oxford's research strategy does not rest on the need to authenticate the age of the world's most important holy relic. It rests on the two special capabilities of accelerator dating: its ability to date accurately a sample of only one milligram and its capacity to detect low concentrations of carbon-14 found in material far older than the Holy Shroud. The research emphasis is currently on handling systematic sets of determinations of the age of seeds, bones, etc, in order to resolve major archaeological problems concerning periods rather than single sites.

So far, at Oxford, pieces of artefact and other materials from early South American sites of up to 12,000 years old have been carbon dated using the mass spectrometer. Scientists have also calculated that Neolithic human remains found at Dorchester in England are 4,800 years old. Oxford researchers have concluded however from these early experiments that the Accelerator Mass Spectrometry method demands new approaches to archaeological sampling and dating. Samples cannot, for instance, be packaged neatly in acid-free tissue that contains modern carbon which, naturally, would completely throw the carbon-14 measurement.

This new technique raises endless possibilities for archaeologists not least of which is the closer prospect of a carbon dating of the Shroud. The final proof for many, permission for such a test, must

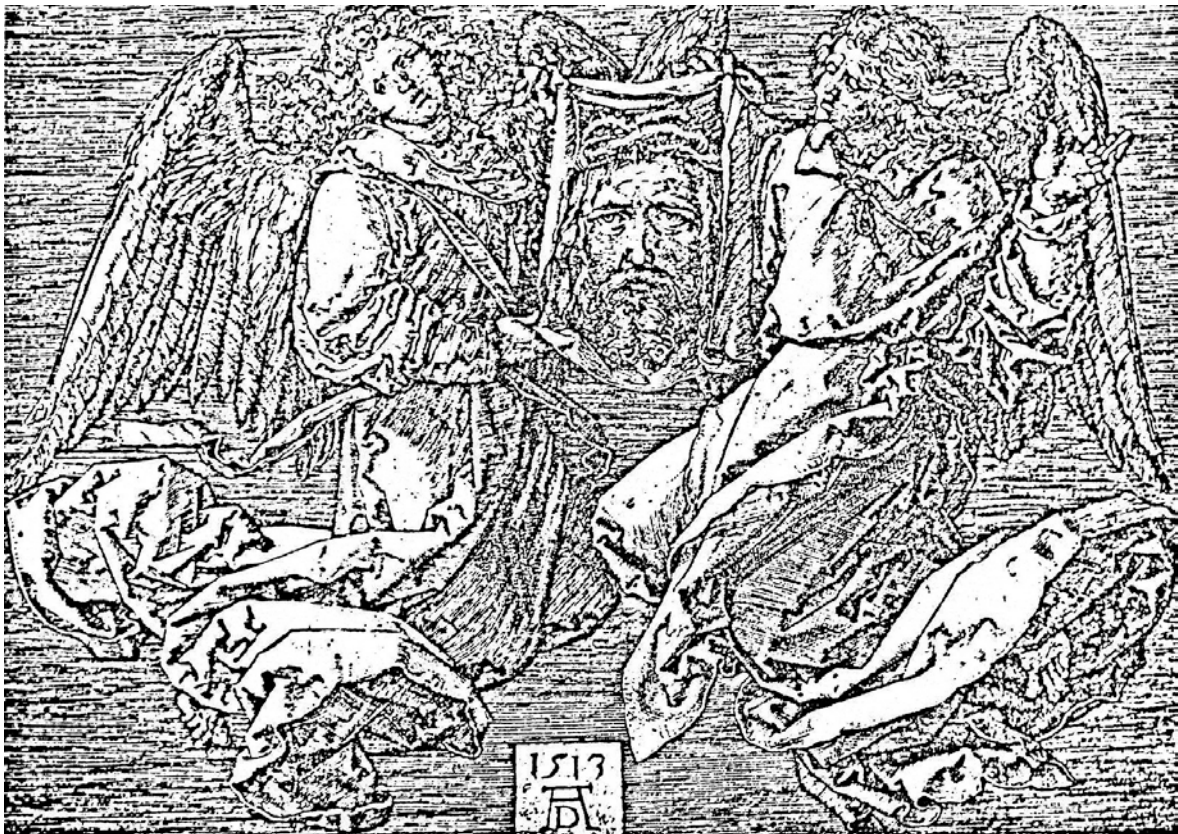
Radiocarbon Dating Comes of Age (contd)

still be granted by the Vatican. Each new advance in carbon dating technology and the acceptance of dating accuracy by the scientific community at large will fuel speculation and increase public demand for the Shroud to be put to this ultimate test.

Sources

Chippindale, C., 'Radiocarbon comes of Age at Oxford', New Scientist, 21 July 1983.

Gillespie, R., Gowlett, J.A.J., et al., 'Radiocarbon measurement by accelerator mass spectrometry: an early selection of dates', Archaeometry, vol 26, part 1, February 1984.



THE MANDYLION CARRIED BY TWO ANGELS. ALBRECHT' DÜRER ETCHING 1513 [From Rex Morgan's collection of Dürer etchings]

THE CONSORTIUM OF SHROUD CENTERS

The welcome news of the foundation of this consortium was brought to us by the new newsletter IMAGE which is yet another in the same format as SHROUD NEWS. Emanating from the headquarters of the Environmental Study of the Shroud in Jerusalem project (ESSJ) at Salt Lake City, Utah, USA, IMAGE contains much useful information for those who conduct Shroud research centres and libraries. It is the brainchild of Sister Damian of the Cross, formerly Dr Eugenia Nitowski, eminent archaeologist, university teacher and museum curator. In the opening statement IMAGE says:

"It has been the dream of many to have an organisation which would act as a medium of communication between Shroud Centers, as a source of information for supplies, equipment, display ideas, as well as resources and materials from research groups. The Consortium of Shroud Centers (CSC) is to be just that: a source, a bond, a tool, a friend, a goal, and more -- all you, as a practical sindonologist, want it to be. As a voluntary organisation with an international membership, all that could possibly be needed can be found amongst its members. By channelling the vast energy of that membership in specific directions, new and almost limitless horizons beckon. The beginning of such an organisation need not be slow or difficult, it all depends on the willingness of its members to share in the mutual responsibility of the demands of such a venture. Those demands consist of contributions of time and experience. The younger, struggling Centers need help to keep them from making the mistakes which those who are established have already suffered through. Because of this, some will, in a sense, contribute more than others. Each Center is unique, some are like museums, while others are mostly geared to research, while still others distribute literature. All have their place, and all, whether established or still a dream, are needed to make the Consortium a moving, working realization. The first priority must be to set the Consortium's policy firmly."

The first issue of IMAGE contains articles on the lighting of exhibits, museums in Turin, various exhibits and videos available, a list of current journals and newsletters, and several advertisements for resources and materials. In all it is a most useful and welcome addition to the field of sindonology and we wish every success both to CSC and IMAGE, not to mention the continued inspiration of Sister Damian herself, whose agile and perceptive mind is already a force to be reckoned with in the Shroud Crowd.

THE MEXICAN CENTRE

A letter received from the Centro Mexicano de Sindonologia advises that during the disastrous earthquakes of last September the building of the Mexican Archbishopric which houses the Mexican Shroud Centre was severely damaged and was likely to be demolished. It was estimated that considerable loss and damage occurred to the Mexican Shroud collection. The bulletin publication has been postponed until further notice as are normal activities of the Centre. Fortunately no reports were made of the death of any members of the Centre. The temporary address for the Centre is C/o Dr Julio Lopez Morales, Av Azcapotzalco No 150, Mexico, DF, 02080.

SHROUD SPECTRUM INTERNATIONAL

In our last issue we erroneously quoted the annual subscription for SSI as \$15 p.a. This should be \$18 p.a. plus postage to Australia of \$8.50 airmail. SPECTRUM is widely acknowledged as a quality scholarly journal of Shroud matters and is issued quarterly by the Indiana Center for Shroud Studies, R 3 Box 557, NASHVILLE, Indiana, 47448, USA. Prices are in US currency.

NEW ITALIAN SHROUD PUBLICATION

The newly formed COLLEGAMENTO PRO SINDONE, based in Rome, has produced its first newsletter dated November/December 1985. The 20-page newsletter of similar format to SHROUD NEWS contains news items and a major article on some of the problems of sindonology by eminent Italian, Professor Gino Zaninotto. There is a good round-up of current events including several references to SHROUD NEWS. Clearly there is an increasing place and demand for bulletins of this kind, of which we believe SHROUD NEWS was probably the first in this format, to supplement the more scholarly journals such as SINDON and SPECTRUM. After the pleasure of seeing the British Society for the Turin Shroud change to our format several years ago it is good to know that the Italian group has done a similar thing. The new Roman group is also getting on with the urgent business of exchanging information and has already sent us several articles translated from Italian into English.

DON LUIGI FOSSATI

SHROUD NEWS readers who also subscribe to SHROUD SPECTRUM INTERNATIONAL will be familiar with the work of Don Luigi Fossati who has published many distinguished and scholarly papers on a number of aspects of the Shroud. Amongst these, one of the most important contributions he has made is his complete catalogue of every known copy of the Shroud and has made many observations upon their comparisons from which facts may be deduced concerning the whereabouts of the Shroud itself at various times in history. Fossati's catalogue has been published in SPECTRUM.

When Rex Morgan was researching his new book which deals with some aspects of the traditional likeness of Christ and its connection with the Holy Shroud he came across a little-known print dated 1604 in the British Museum which was not listed in Fossati's catalogue. Don Fossati as commented:

"I did not know it and I have never seen it in books or magazines, therefore I am very grateful to you for having the courtesy to draw my attention to it. It reproduces in part the print of 1578 which was illustrated in SPECTRUM No 15. There are so many other interesting things about it that I will also illustrate it in a new article ..."

Incidentally, SHROUD NEWS is indebted to Mrs Helen Ferris, MA, of Sydney for her instant translations of our Italian correspondence.



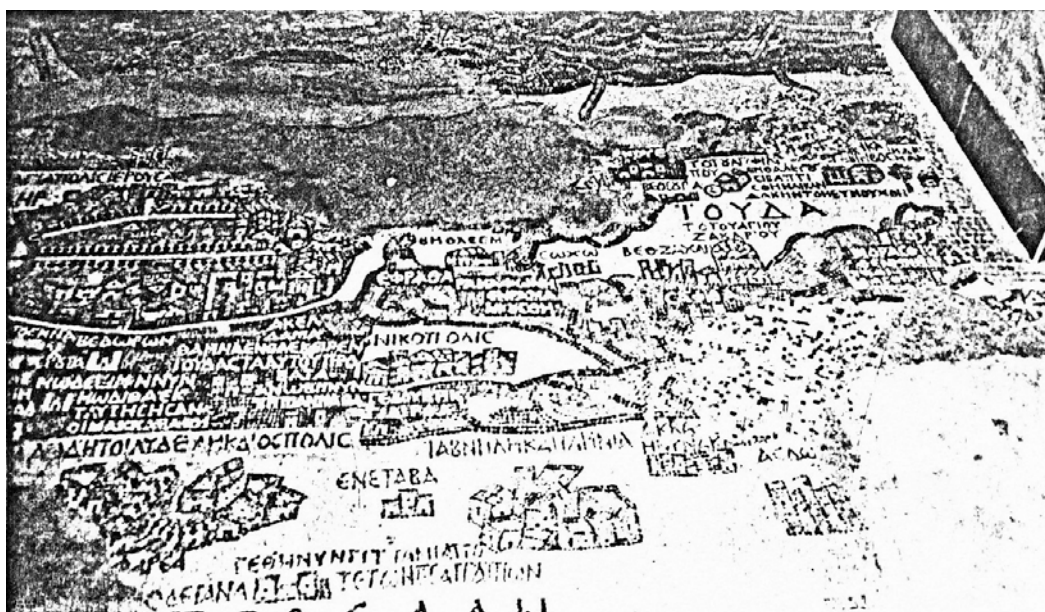
DON LUIGI FOSSATI
AT THE
MONASTERY SAN
BENIGNO NEAR
TURIN, ITALY WITH
REX MORGAN
AUGUST 1985

BOOKS RECENTLY RECEIVED

PIERLUIGI BAIMA BOLLONE: L'Impronta di Dio - Alla ricerca delle relique di Cristo, Milan 1985

Dr Baima Bollone is Professor of Forensic Medicine in the Faculty of Law in the University of Turin and Director of the International Centre for Sindonology in Turin. He is well known for his specific work on the identification of the blood on the Holy Shroud and many other areas of Shroud research. This new book is a very well presented survey of the history and authenticity or otherwise of a number of relics associated with Christ. Much of the book deals with the Shroud and current research problems and he discusses such interesting allied items as the Argenteuil Tunic, the Oviedo Face-cloth and the Title of the Cross. He is the first author I have noticed who comments on the remarkable mosaic map of Jerusalem extant in Madaba, Jordan in connection with a study of the Shroud in which he considers the site

of the tomb of Christ. The book abounds in Baima Bollone's own sketches, diagrams and maps. In an excellently reproduced sixteen-page colour section there are photographs relating to sites and items dealt with in the text and amongst the most striking are an excellent photograph of the Oviedo face-cloth, some superb details of the Shroud cloth and several microscopic photographs of the samples taken from the Shroud in 1978. One hopes that an English edition of this splendid addition to the Shroud literature will be forthcoming.



The Madaba Map, Jordan. The oldest known map of Jerusalem. (Photo: Rex Morgan 1985)

Books Recently Received (contd)

PETER M. RINALDI, SDB: In Verdant Pastures - From a Pastor's Diary, New York, 1985

Everyone who reads SHROUD NEWS knows that Father Rinaldi is one of the most important people of the Shroud. He has written many books and articles and has been a champion of Shroud research for more than fifty years. Whoever meets Rinaldi is captivated by his humanity and concern for people. In celebrating his fiftieth year in the priesthood Rinaldi also celebrated thirty-five years at Corpus Christi Church, New York, twenty-nine of them as its pastor. This book contains numerous vignettes of his experiences there, all written in his style of masterly simplicity and all with a useful message. In the one chapter concerning the Shroud he relates his detailed memories of first visiting King Umberto and his subsequent work towards bringing together the investigations team in 1978 at Turin. He retells the story of the visit to the Shroud in 1955 by the late Josie Woollam with Group Captain Leonard Cheshire and her second visit, arranged by Rinaldi, in 1978. This book should be on the shelves of anyone who knows Father Rinaldi and for those who do not have that privilege, reading the book gives them just that opportunity.

GERALD O'COLLINS, SJ: Interpreting Jesus, London 1983

This book is the second in a series "Introducing Catholic Theology". Within a whole range of issues important to modern Catholic theologians O'Collins dwells for about six well-packed pages on the significance of the Shroud. He relates that for twenty-five years he dismissed the Shroud as ridiculous but that the developments of the 1970s made him realise that science had much to offer about its non-fraudulence and he neatly summarises the various scientific and medical evidence it has revealed. He cites the cases of various people whose faith has been restored or strengthened through their knowledge of the Shroud, a fact which one encounters all the time through Shroud exhibitions and lectures, and points out that John Robinson's term 'a trigger of faith' was well chosen in the case of the Shroud. He describes (for the benefit of his readership of theologians and priests) the numerous developments which have done away with the traditional resistances to the Shroud both amongst Catholics and others and concludes: 'In fact many people have looked at the face on the Shroud and come to recognize the exalted Son of God in the crucified Jesus'.



GEOFFREY II de CHARNY WHOSE FAMILY ONCE OWNED THE HOLY SHROUD OF TURIN AN ENGRAVING OF HIS TOMBSTONE IN THE ABBEY OF FROIDMONT, FRANCE, NOW DESTROYED. (Illustration: Bibliotheque Nationale, Paris)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

In SN 32 under the title 'Radiocarbon Dating Conference', you refer to the test dating of two samples of linen cloth from 1st Dynasty Egypt (c 3000 BC) and ancient Peru (c 1200 AD). The results of the Peru datings are recorded, with the comment '... accuracy within a 1% margin of error.' But no mention at all is made for the Egyptian results. Why?

I cannot help wondering whether this omission is yet another example of the cloak of silence which always descends whenever Early Egyptian radiocarbon datings are involved; or perhaps I should say - whenever the results obtained differ widely from the established conventional dating. Such results are often simply discarded as 'spurious' or as being 'contaminated'. They are rarely published.

As you are probably aware, the whole of the archaeological dating for the Middle East and much of Europe and elsewhere, is based on, and tied to the supposedly soundly based Egyptian Dynastic dating sequence. However, there is a growing body of opinion which is questioning this assumption. John Dayton, in his *Mineral, Metals, Glazing and Man*, produces persuasive evidence - based on his glazing hypothesis - that the conventional Old Kingdom dates are some 750 years too early. On page 184 of his 1984 edition, he also quotes 7 radio carbon dates (T.2052 for material from Tarkhan) giving an average date of c 2250 BC for the 1st Dynasty. The much maligned Velikovsky also suggested a comparable revision figure of 600 years.

What has all this to do with the Holy Shroud? I must admit that my interest lies in both fields. But the point is that they have to share the same carbon dating laboratories and what appears to be more significant - to share the access routes to these laboratories. In the archaeological field it is the 'Arts Faculty' professors of archaeology who call the tune over the 'mere technicians' running the laboratories, and who decide whether or not the results, which are basically statistical, should be accepted and/or published. I should hate to see the same somewhat blinkered, and highly unstatistical approach spilling over into the scientific activities of the Shroud Crowd.

May I take this opportunity of saying how much I enjoy receiving and reading your SHROUD NEWS.

ALBERT de QUINCEY, SYDNEY

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 in sindonology (the study of the Shroud of Turin) for a small circle of interested people in Australia. He didn't expect it to 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 worldwide through Rex Morgan's extensive personal connections with what has been described as the "Shroud Crowd".

Morgan is a frequent overseas traveller and thus has the opportunity to keep abreast of latest developments in Shroud study and research. He was present at the world media preview of the Shroud itself in August 1978 in Turin, Italy 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 the best-selling SHROUD GUIDE (December 1983) and is working on another major book about the Shroud. He is currently Honorary Director of the Brooks Institute Photographic Exhibition on the Shroud which is touring Australia, New Zealand and parts of the Far East. Morgan has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the USA based Association of Scientists and Scholars International for the Shroud of Turin (ASSIST).

Our list of SHROUD NEWS subscribers continues to increase. We request a subscription in Australia of \$6 for six issues posted. SHROUD NEWS comes out approximately 6 times per year. USA subscription for 6 issues is \$US 6 (posted surface mail) or \$US 12 (posted airmail). Postage to other countries varies. All back issues are available at \$1 (US or AUS) each plus postage charges.

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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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