

BOOK REVIEW (reprinted from *BSTS Newsletter* No 44)by **Ian Wilson**

Orazio Petrosillo & Emanuela Marinelli *The Enigma of the Shroud: A Challenge to Science*, trans. from the Italian by Louis J. Scerri, Malta, Publishers Enterprises Group, 1996, 258pp., 16pp colour plates

The translation into English of *La Sindone: Una Enigma all Provo della Scienza*, as published back in 1990, and presented to Pope John Paul II. The translation, by Louis J. Scerri, has been a long time coming, but it is of excellent quality - partly thanks, it would seem, to the additional editorial involvement of Rex Morgan of Australia's Shroud News - and the book retains its freshness as a searching enquiry into the saga of the Shroud radiocarbon dating.

Authors Orazio Petrosillo, a Vaticanologist with the Rome newspaper *Il Messagero*, and Professoressa Emanuela Marinelli of Rome's Collegamento pro Sindone, make the most thorough investigation into the whole set-up of the Shroud radiocarbon dating. They chronicle how highly respected individuals such as Professor Carlos Chagas of Rome's Pontifical Academy of Sciences were ousted from any involvement, and how the chosen radiocarbon dating scientists then bullied and politicked to make sure that theirs would be the only serious 'test' allowed. This thus gave them the maximum limelight, and had the effect of excluding anything that groups such as America's STURP wanted to do.

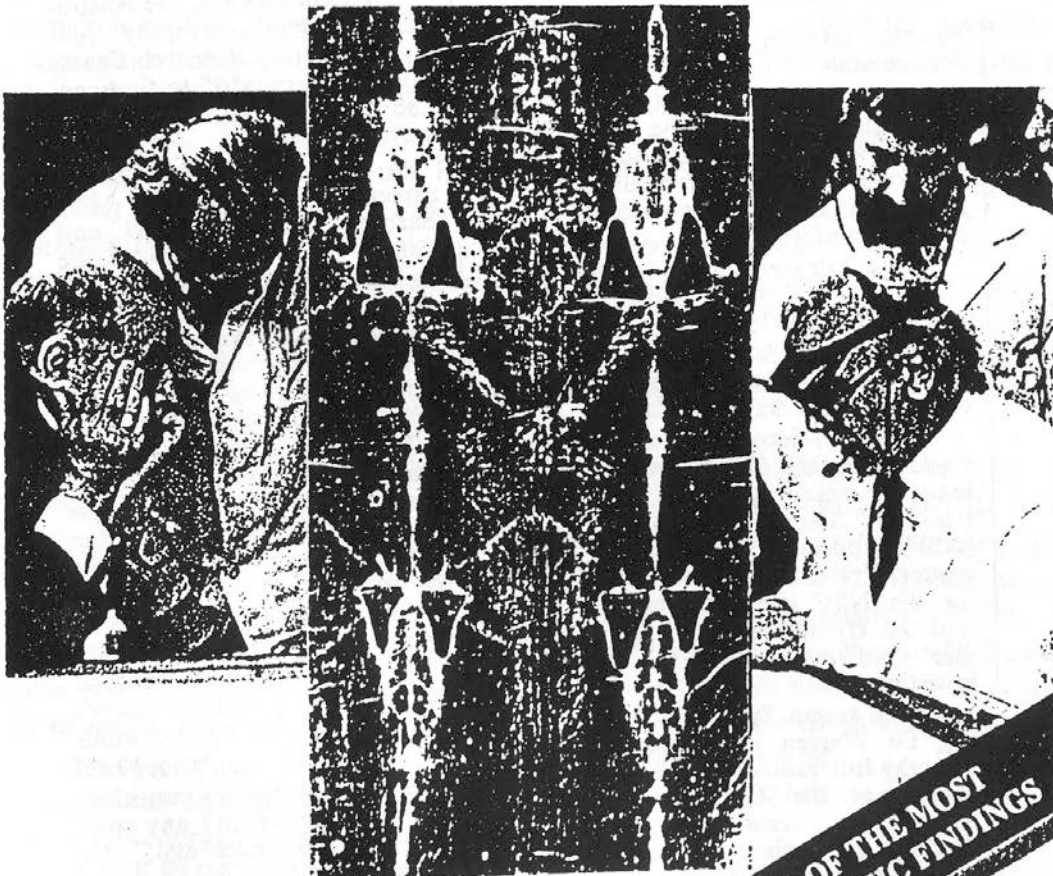
A point that Petrosillo and Marinelli make particularly well is that because the radiocarbon laboratory scientists wanted to make their testing of the Shroud a showpiece demonstration of their AMS method, any question of the test's possible unreliability or unsuitability for the Shroud became completely downplayed. Because it was well-recognized that it could not be blind (due to the distinctiveness of the Shroud's weave), Dr. Michael Tite's putting of the samples and controls into containers out of sight of cameras, etc., was totally unnecessary and was bound to give rise to every form of suspicion, as indeed proved the case.

For the English edition the book has been brought fully up-to-date, with succinct but well-informed discussion of the findings of Dr. Dmitri Kouznetsov, of Dr. Leoncio Garza-Valdes of San Antonio, also Professor Gino Zaninotto's discovery of the Codex Vossianus Latinus Q69.

ORAZIO PETROSILLO • EMANUELA MARINELLI

THE ENIGMA OF THE SHROUD

A CHALLENGE TO SCIENCE



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