

QUESTION CORNER

Q. What does the term 'sindonology' mean?

A. The word sindon is Greek for shroud; and of course, 'logy' is a combining form, also from Greek, denoting science, theory, doctrine, etc.

The term 'sindonology' was coined by Don Pietro Scotti, S.D.B., a professor at the University of Genoa. At the Congresses in Turin (1939) and Rome (1950), Don Scotti gave scientific reports and later edited the publication of the Acts. He wrote the article under 'Sindon' in the Italian Catholic Encyclopedia and is the author of many writings.

In 1940, he collaborated with Dr. Pierre Barbet in translating Barbet's book, *Les Cinq Plaies de Christ (The Five Wounds of Christ)*, in which the proposal of the term was first published.

In an article written in 1976, Don Scotti explains: "The study of the Shroud is not possible without a global vision of the problems involved (whether this vision is actuated in the mind of a person exceptionally prepared in the various fields, or is accomplished in a group of various experts). That is why, following the 1939 Congress of Turin, I proposed the term 'sindonology', that is, a science which takes into account all the various aspects of Shroud problems."

The word is now universally accepted.