

A NEWSLETTER ABOUT THE HOLY SHROUD OF TURIN
edited by REX MORGAN, Author of several books on the Shroud
Issue Number 67 OCTOBER 1991



AT THE ST LOUIS SHROUD OF TURIN SYMPOSIUM JUNE 1991
SPEAKER REX MORGAN OF AUSTRALIA SHARES THE ROSTRUM
WITH DR ALAN WHANGER OF USA.
Fr ARAM BERARD, CHAIRMAN, AT RIGHT

EDITORIAL

As I mentioned in the August issue of *Shroud News* this October number is devoted entirely to a report on the St Louis Shroud of Turin Symposium which I was fortunate enough to attend in June. As I have said elsewhere it was one of the best organised for a long time and provided a very valuable opportunity for sindonologists from several countries to get together and discuss their common interests and the latest gossip about the Shroud.

It is remarkable that so much new study is going on all over the world in the wake of the widely discredited 1988 carbon dating test. One of the advantages of a lull period in the world media (which has all but written off the Shroud as a media seller) is that we can all get on with the research and development of theories and ideas without being constantly hounded for comments and stories and without having to waste time refuting or explaining badly written beat-ups or incomplete claims by those who know little about the subject.

The St Louis Symposium brought together mainly experts in a wide range of disciplines but the sprinkling of a few dilettantes, amateurs and onlookers served to highlight the importance of the work being done by the serious and the intelligent.

One is constantly amazed at the resurgence of support for Shroud studies. It is said that the majority of the world's "believers" simply ignored the result of 1988 as certainly have most of the Shroud scholars. There are more and more theories being produced as to why the 1988 test was invalid or corrupt and more and more books are being written on the Shroud.

It is pleasing to note that new subscribers to *Shroud News* continue to appear from various countries. But then I suppose, at the price, this is a perfect "recession" publication. It costs about the same these days for a daily "news" paper which, although much bigger and more use for wrapping up garbage, is not as good value, I daresay.

REX MORGAN

THE ST LOUIS SHROUD OF TURIN SYMPOSIUM: HISTORY, SCIENCE, THEOLOGY AND THE SHROUD

REPORT by REX MORGAN

This excellent symposium on 22nd and 23rd June 1991 was arranged under the auspices of the Man in the Shroud Committee of Amarillo (Texas) but was really the brainchild of Brother Joe Marino, an erudite and indefatigable Shroud scholar of the younger brigade domiciled in St Louis, Missouri. The Symposium with its title *History, Science, Theology and the Shroud* allowed contributions from all branches of research to be discussed and explored and there were, in the end, no less than 17 papers presented as well as a good deal of corporate discussion.

The whole conference was held in the excellent Busch Center of the St Louis University where a large and properly equipped plenary hall allowed optimum use of presentation equipment and had first class sound, lighting and audio systems. The arrangement of chairs in audience mode allowed customary comfort and there was a very considerate and considerable area of chairs set at tables in the front section of the hall which allowed those with tape-recorders, masses of camera equipment and all the rest to opt to sit very comfortably and take notes or generally spread themselves, a feat normally accomplished at a conference only in the most difficult circumstances or by dint of application of logistic genius and a lot of luck. There was also large amount of space available for speakers to set up static displays in the hall and plenty of room at the back for tables to house the many books and other offerings brought by contributors and organisations alike.

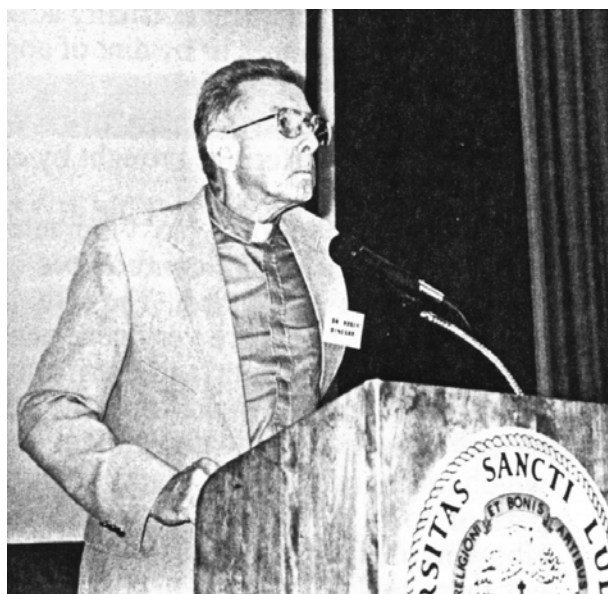
The creature comforts (so vital and yet so often badly under-organised at high-powered intensive conferences like this one) were as well arranged as any conference I have attended. The eating arrangements were in the same building on the same floor and were very generous. No one ever went hungry and there was always plenty left over and plenty to choose from. I understand that this had much to do with a generous sponsorship accorded the organisers. What a pleasure it was to know that all facilities for comfort and victualling were hard by which meant none of the searching in a foreign land for sustenance in some other part of town or thrown in with a mob of delegates from other conferences elbowing their way towards the feeding troughs in a time slot insufficient even to get there and back as so often happens. And not only this but the residential accommodation for those from out of town (most of us) was cheap, comfortable and nearby at the residential university Reinert Hall a couple of blocks' pleasant



Bro Joe Marino and Revd Dr Ken Stevenson



Dr John Jackson



Revd Dr Robert Dinegar

ST LOUIS SYMPOSIUM (cont'd)

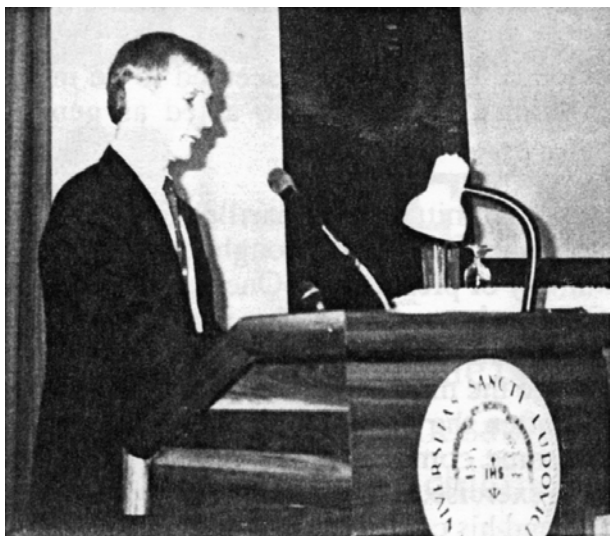
walk down the boulevard. All the practical arrangements seemed to be in the hands of a splendid former Briton, Monica Hillings, who acted as general factotum and guide to everyone.

The Founder of the Man in the Shroud Committee of Amarillo, Father Aram Berard, opened the conference and acted as its Chairman throughout. This was a good move because it ensured the continuity of presidency. One person was able to deal with speakers who had special requirements or who ignored the time constraints; one person was able to deal with questions, last minute changes, special announcements and generally gauge the mood and feeling of the audience and the development of the whole. So often the idea of a series of conference chairmen (usually so that everyone on some committee gets their name in the programme) tends to fragment the whole exercise. Father Aram showed himself to be a most sanguine yet firm chairman and his contribution to the success of the conference was quite considerable.

Before the conference proper got under way a five minute overview of the current situation was given by the historians' historian, Professor Daniel Scavone, as a curtain raiser to the main events about to unfold.

Dr John Jackson

The doyen of Shroud scientific research and progenitor of the late twentieth century programme of scientific interest in the Shroud, Dr John Jackson, was the first speaker, addressing the topic "Science and Religion". Jackson used all his brilliant research leadership to set the tone for the conference by raising and redefining all the questions which have been in the minds of the thinking researchers and scholars since the carbon test of 1988. Jackson has the tantalising knack of referring to religious matters in scientific terms and in rarely making a statement but leaving his audience in no doubt that he can disprove scientifically any claim to the Shroud's fraudulence without actually proving its authenticity. He leaves you realising he has stated the obvious and his thoughts on the unification of science and religion in the twentieth century and beyond were climaxed with the notion that the Resurrection could bring about violations of phenomena. (And there is no doubt that if the Resurrection was a fact the only explanation for a whole lot of things is the violation of phenomena, the bending or suspension of the rules held by science.)



Dr David Mayschak



Fr Robert Brungs and Fr Aram Berard



Bro Bruno Bonnet-Eymard (France) and Rex Morgan (Australia)

ST LOUIS SYMPOSIUM (cont'd)

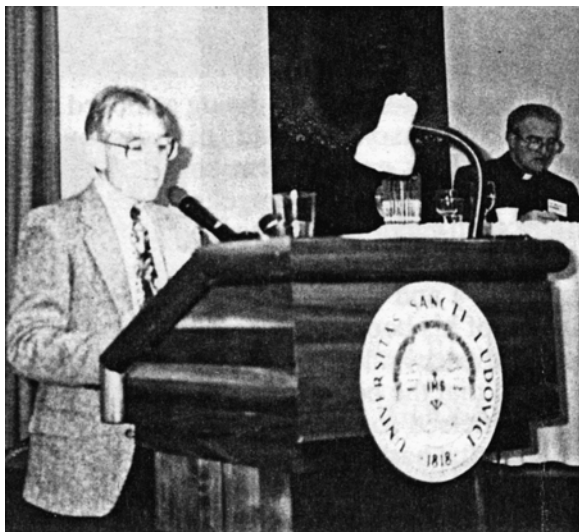
Revd Dr Kenneth Stevenson

Five minutes earlier than the schedule (who ever heard of that being achieved at a conference?) the Revd Dr Kenneth Stevenson opened his discourse, "Multidisciplinary Study of the Shroud". This open, warm speaker gave a remarkable and arresting address, using his powers as an evangelical preacher to make his message attention-holding, if not spell-binding as he cast off some of the chips on his shoulder like being expunged from the National Geographic record ("You're a Christian so you're not objective") and the denial by STURP of his involvement with them after the publication of his book. He talked of the issue of the difference between science and pseudo-science and gave as a good example the critics of Frei's work when it has been found that the best pollen samples are taken by hand pressure, exactly what Frei was criticised for. He reminded us that fear of the media, fear of Turin, fear of the skeptics has hampered collaboration and generated a top secret atmosphere leading to suspicion. He exhorted all researchers to stand and look the media in the eye and remember that almost no-one stays neutral. Ken exhibits an archetypal martyr image which enables him to get to the fundamentals of the problems with Shroud communication. He pointed out that of 40 involved in STURP only 6 were committed Christians so that their perceived bias has nothing to do with the totality of scientific evidence which points to the authenticity of the Shroud. "STURP," he concluded, "must work together for the good of all mankind with the evidence it has." Everyone agreed.

Dr Robert Dinegar

Revd Dr Robert Dinegar spoke next to the topic, "The Radiocarbon Date of the Shroud of Turin: Controversy as a Revival to Iconoclasm." Bob Dinegar has a wry humour and a no holds barred attitude to all his deliveries. Just as fiery as he was in Paris he supported the Shroud far more than he did on that previous occasion. His talk was heavily sprinkled with frankness: "Fr Otterbein always keeps it quiet unless the Bishop approves." "Gonella, Mr Secrecy Himself - the Cardinal doesn't want it this way." "The true story of the C14 has not yet been told." "Machiavellian political intrigue has ruled the Shroud of Turin Investigation since 1976." Dinegar went on to contrast the vying interests of religion and science in the studies despite STURP's origin from a common interest in science and religion and claimed that the continuing debate between authenticity and fraudulence has led to the heresy of iconoclasm. There has been a polarisation leading to bias and which is contrary to the whole basis of Christianity.

We need, he said, an unbiased assessment of all scientific investigation and a charity and respect for all investigators.



Professor Daniel Scavone



Miss Isabel Piczek



Chairman Fr Aram struggles to help Barbara Sullivan juggle microphone, diagrams and tracings

ST LOUIS SYMPOSIUM (cont'd)

Dr David Mayschak

Dr David Mayschak's "The Shroud of Turin and Thomistic Theology" was a highly esoteric and theologically technical and philosophical paper discussing a possible bridge between science and theology arising from the Aquinas point of view on such things as hypostasis, resurrection, transfiguration and the manifestation of the soul's glory in the body. In this discussion of a highly specialised theological field the layman, the secular and the public (like me) had great difficulty.

In a brief remark to the gathering before lunch Fr Robert Brungs, SJ, said we don't need a discipline for Shroud study. "Biases form the lens through which we all provide a passing appreciation of reality." And the reassuring statement, "In science we lie a lot."

Bro Bruno Bonnet Eymard

The French Brother Bruno Bonnet Eymard always acts as a catalyst in Shroud circles. His views are extreme, his research is untiring and exceptional, his publications are thorough, comprehensive and extremely interesting. It is Bruno who didn't mince words with his accusations about the interference with the 1988 carbon dating procedures; it is Bruno who will confront in argument anyone from the Pope to the lowliest scientist and he frightens the conservative and polite scholars out of their wits. His paper, "The D'Arcis Memorandum of 1389" turned out to be one of the few in the brilliant class from this symposium. On account of Bruno's limited English the paper was read from alongside him on the rostrum by his co-worker Claude de Cointet. Once and for all, it seems, the D'Arcis nonsense has been put to rest by an avid scholar who (unlike most commentators) has had access to the memorandum itself and all the relevant associated original documents and who lives in the very district of France where it all happened and understands the background well. He pointed out, amongst other things, that the document is an anonymous, unsigned, unsealed, undated, untitled, unofficial draft about which Chevalier forged the date and which Saxe had never examined. It is not on parchment and does not mention a whole list of facts about the Shroud in de Charny's possession which had taken place prior to the date. The very word "painter" in the "confession" is a falsification of the text. The original word means "reproduced" in the sense of approaching the original to copy it. "It is a gross lie now; it was a gross lie then." Bruno cited reams of documentary evidence to support his condemnation of the D'Arcis legend and then gave a remarkable description of the Pilgrim's medallion pointing out that the coat of arms is of



Dr Alan Whanger sets up equipment during a break



Part of the audience watching Whanger's polarized image overlays'

ST LOUIS SYMPOSIUM (cont'd)

another branch of the de Vergy family to that generally supposed and it is not the badge itself which bears the arms but the reliquary of de Charny in which he kept the Shroud. It is to be hoped that this paper will shortly be published in English so that all scholars can study and assess the new and first-hand evidence Bonnet Eymard has presented.

Miss Isabel Piczek

Relatively new to the world Shroud stage but a long-time researcher, artist Isabel Piczek has already taken her audiences by storm wherever she has spoken. She gave two papers successively in this conference, "Is the Turin Shroud a Painting?" and "Co-ordinating Physics and Theology? The True Function of the Turin Shroud Deciphered." This diminutive Hungarian American with more than 400 major and massive artistic works to her credit revealed her spectacular gift of genius with a remarkable series of slide illustrations of her remarkable theories. The machine-gun bullets of her evidence as a world-class painter destroyed any possibility of the Shroud's image having been painted. It is impossible technically then as now. In the medieval period there was no three dimensionality portrayed and anatomical painting was primitive. "Foreshortening" simply was not known until the 15th century. She then demonstrated the absolute impossibility of having painted the Shroud that size even with the "long arm of my mind." It is impossible to place a living model in any way to paint the dorsal image at all and if a dead body were used rigor mortis would set in before completion. There was much, much more (as they say) to this exposition which was the only one of the conference to induce a standing ovation. Isabel proved herself just as adept at discussing quantum physics, time physics and energy dissipation in her second paper.

Mrs Barbara Sullivan

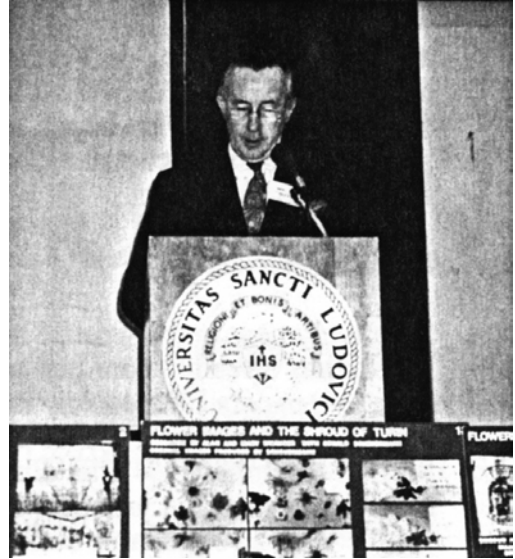
It is unfortunate for any speaker to have to follow the brilliance of Bonnet Eymard and Piczek who had really stimulated and excited the audience but for an amateur like Barbara Sullivan it proved disastrous. Her convoluted title was, "The Shroud of Turin: A Problem in (A) Spatial Perception, (B) Historical Perception and (C) Art Perception" and the exposition was no less convoluted than the title.

Dr Daniel Scavone

The conference returned to normality with the dissertation by one of the Shroud's most erudite scholars, Professor of History, Daniel Scavone. His topic, "History



Raymon Olle reads Moroni's paper



Rex Morgan



Fr Kim Dreisbach, Dr Joe Wesley Dickerson, Dr John Jackson

ST LOUIS SYMPOSIUM (cont'd)

of the Shroud before the 14th Century" was the fascinating, thoroughly researched and supported information to which we have become accustomed from Scavone. He dwelt particularly on the extensive evidence for the early existence of the Shroud and strongly supported the theory of Templar ownership in the Middle Ages. He cited the theory of its being in England but pointed out that there are no Templar references to it. The theory thus enjoys the merit of silence.

Dr John Jackson

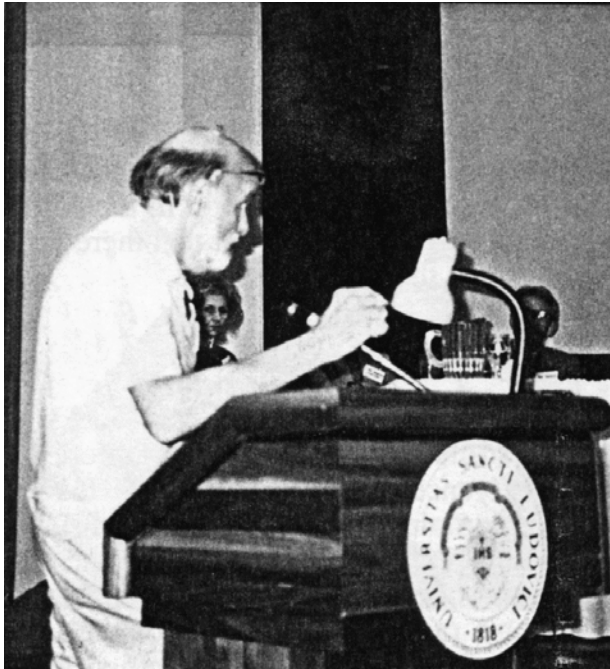
The evening session, after a very full first day, was devoted to John Jackson's, "What is Missing?" in which he drew some very detailed and interesting comparisons about image colouring and differences in bloodstain tints. He raised a host of new questions. Why did the tape samples come off the Shroud surface more easily from the body image than elsewhere? He commented on the Giles Carter (x-ray) theory and the visibility of the bones in the hands and is the thumb visible in X ray? So we are talking about a radical mechanism for the image production. Are the "coin images" in fact eyes? (Jackson has never supported the coin identification theory although he discovered the coin images). His discourse provoked a lengthy question and discussion session which elicited some interesting points about how much UV could have been in a tomb and what about coronal discharge, a theory which Jackson did not exclude. On the carbon dating John said, "It was a terrible area to take a sample from", "The sample was filthy", and, in response to a question from the writer, "those samples shouldn't have been tested." During the general discussion session one of Fr Aram's wry comments was, "There seems to be a need for Resurrection physics." And with that the first day concluded.

Dr Alan Whanger

After a number of delegates had joined an ecumenical mass in the Reinert Hall chapel, day two began with Dr Alan Whanger's characteristically spectacular presentation using his polarised image overlay technique. After describing his technique and methods of image comparison he took the audience through demonstrations of the congruity of Shroud image with early icons, Byzantine coins, the Oviedo cloth, the Dura-Europus frescoes, the Pilate coins and others all with his hands-on participatory enthusiasm.

Mario Moroni

Moroni, respected Italian numismatist and art historian, was not present and so his



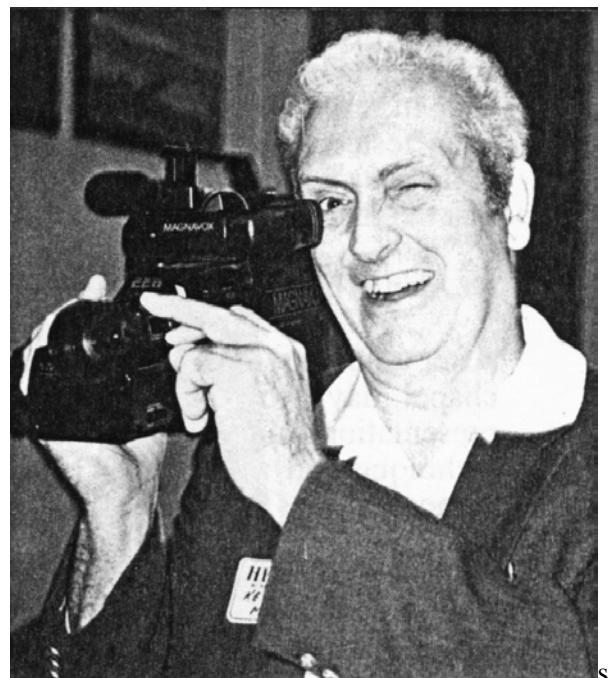
Dr Philip Callahan



Frank Tribbe



Paul Maloney



Kevin Moran

ST LOUIS SYMPOSIUM (cont'd)

paper, "The Coin of Pontius Pilate on the Right Eye of the Man in the Shroud in the Light of New Archaeological Finds." was read by delegate Ramon Olle. As always, Moroni's work is fascinating and intricate and he had done considerable new work on the positioning of coins in skulls. He opposed Whanger's view that the image was caused by radiation and also disagreed with some of Filas's matchings of the lepton and the image on the basis of coins newly discovered in 1982. He has identified marks on the coins caused in casting and claims that the reproduction of the coin images was caused by being covered with blood which led to changes in the size and shape of the images.

Rex Morgan

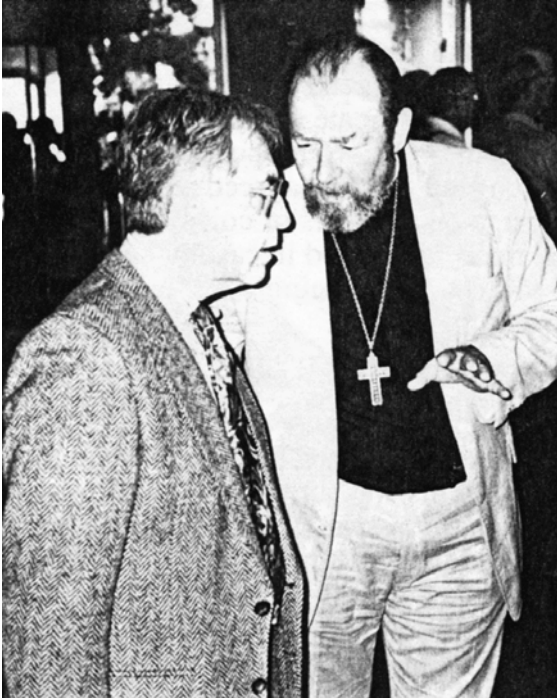
This was followed by my paper, "Did the Templars Take the Shroud to England? New Evidence from Templecombe." This was an updated version of the one I gave in Italy and I have touched upon my research in this area in past issues of *Shroud News* but have never published the total findings to date. Perhaps I shall be able to do this shortly. At the opening of my address I was able to announce the death of Dr Jean Volckringer, information which had reached me only the day before the conference as I was leaving Sydney and this had not filtered through to the American Shroud Crowd.

Revd Albert Dreisbach

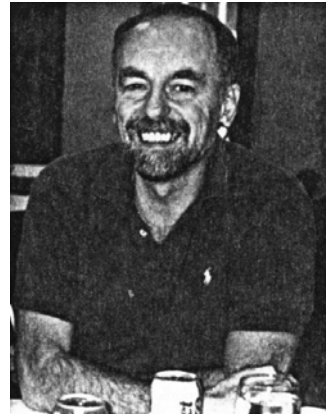
There followed two papers by Kim Dreisbach, "The Shroud and Healing" and "Spy Clues to the Shroud's Early Existence". In these discourses the very eloquent and persuasive Dreisbach, who has a gargantuan memory for fact, took us back through much of the fascinating biblical reference to the Shroud and a specially interesting segment he developed on the question of whether or not Peter saw the image.

Dr Philip Callahan

Dr Philip Callahan's presentation, "Comparison of the Shroud with the Image of Guadalupe" tended to vary from his text a good deal but he was a stimulating and very fascinating speaker. He described some of his amazing escapades in life and talked, too, of some of his theories of image formation. He pointed out that an Israeli cloth impregnated by chemicals becomes a radio-wave detector and compared this with the Lourdes limestone and the radio sensitivity of granite and limestone. The radiation in a limestone tomb is 25 times normal and the image could have been formed by electromagnetic induction heating. An eminently



Dan Scavone, Kim Dreisbach



Richard Orareo



Rodger and Connie Apple

ST LOUIS SYMPOSIUM (cont'd)

practical and informal man, Callahan showed an insight unusual in a physicist, I thought, into matters such as the earth's field and energy points. "I'm supposed to believe all this physics stuff and not believe in the Shroud?" "All you got to do is look at it." "People get bored with wiggly lines."

Frank Tribbe

Well-known author on the Shroud and mysticism, Frank Tribbe, gave his paper, "Religious Mystics and the Shroud of Turin" as the afternoon was drawing to a close. He gave definitions of mysticism and visions in the light of recorded history over the past few centuries and then spoke of several religious mystics to whom visions and retrocognition had been attributed. Tribbe described the accuracy with which they had talked, for example, of their "viewing" of the Passion of Christ and the details they had corroborated, many of which have only recently been verified scientifically. He indicated nine items of description validated by the Shroud evidence and a number of peripheral items which give credence, Tribbe claims, to the attention given to what the mystics have to say.

Paul Maloney

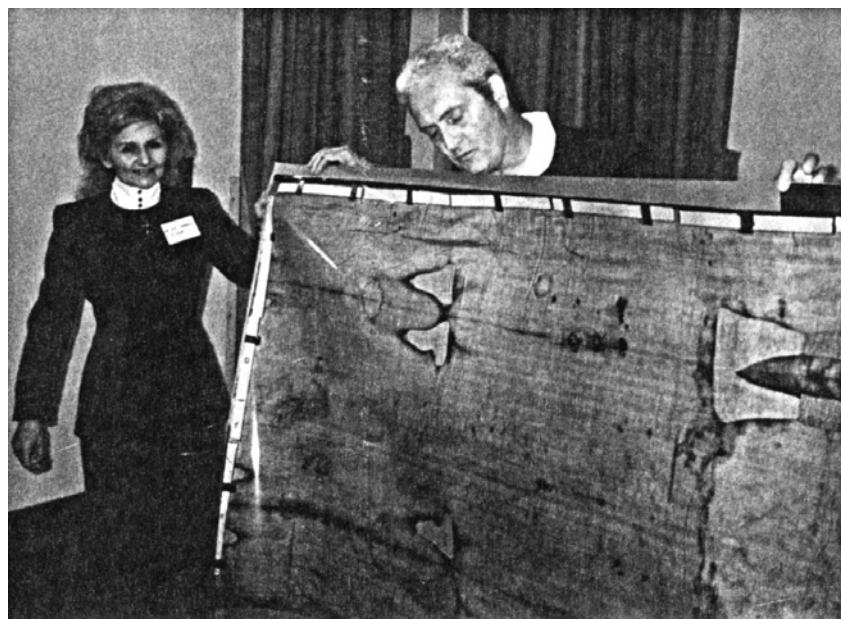
The final paper in the conference was given by Paul Maloney. Entitled, "Physics, Fluids and the Shroud of Turin", after the presentation of some old stuff as if it were brand new he then got to his new work and demonstrated some level of intrusion into the image in the light transmission pictures taken in 1978 and noted that no analysis of these had been made. He had made observations on the gravitational effect on bloodflow. Commenting on other liquids Maloney noted that the wet limestone benches in the tomb had sealed in the Jerusalem pollen particles.

The conference, because of its relatively small enrolment, about a hundred, allowed a far better interchange of ideas than most symposia and also allowed better small group meetings before, during and after. It was generally agreed that there was much new and challenging material ventilated and the renewed spirit of research and study in the Shroud world was well in evidence. The majority of Shroud workers have ignored the carbon test result of 1988 since there are many controversial theories about why it was inadequate. The St Louis Symposium was a model of management and a great credit to its organisers.

After the formal proceedings a meeting was held to form the *Holy Shroud Task Force of Saint Louis*, yet another group with the idea of co-ordinating future



L to R: Mgr Augusta Nebrusa (Philippines), Mark Antonacci (USA),
Fr Jorge Loring (Spain)

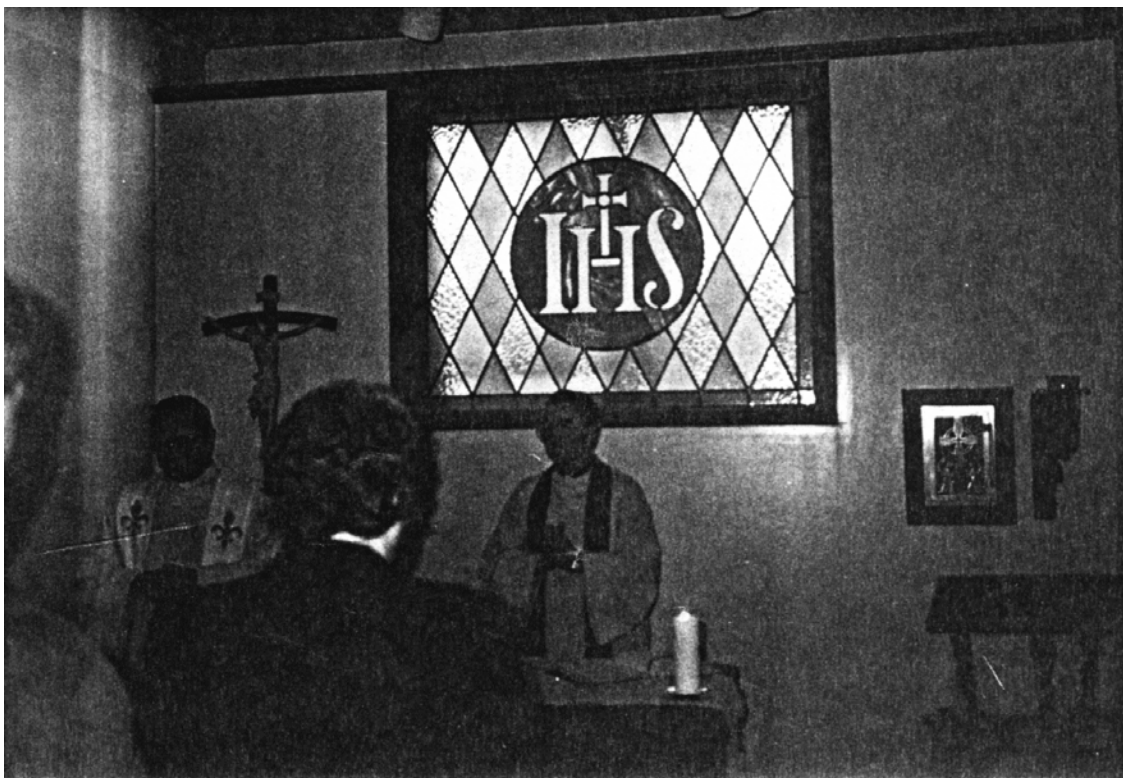


Isabel Piczek helps Kevin Moran with his fullsize photograph of the Shroud

ST LOUIS SYMPOSIUM (cont'd)

testing and preservation of the Shroud. A number of Shroud heavyweights attended the meeting and it was pleasing to note that the Chairman elected was the a-political Fr Aram Berard; Vice Chairman, John Iannone and Secretary/ Treasurer, Dr Michelina LeMargie.

A full set of videos has been made of the symposium and is commercially available.



Shroud News began in 1980 when Rex Morgan, author of three books on the subject of the Holy Shroud (*Perpetual Miracle*, *Shroud Guide*, and *The Holy Shroud and the Earliest Paintings of Christ*) 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 his home country of Australia. He didn't expect it to go beyond a few issues.

The bulletin now reaches subscribers all over the world and it is written and produced and the information disseminated more quickly than most news-sheets of a similar kind or the more prestigious Shroud publications. It contains information, news, articles and illustrations gathered from sources of Shroud study worldwide through Rex Morgan's extensive network of personal connections with what has been described as the "Shroud Crowd".

Rex Morgan is a frequent traveller overseas and this has given him the opportunity to keep abreast of latest developments in Shroud study and research at first hand. He was present at the world media preview of the Shroud itself in August 1978 in Turin, Italy and has met with numerous Shroud researchers in many countries. His quest for Shroud information became, as he described it, "a passionate hobby". He brought the world-famous Photographic Exhibition created by Brooks Institute, California, to Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Macau and Canada and during those tours it attracted more than 600,000 visitors. The exhibition was subsequently donated by Brooks Institute to the non-profit making organisation, The South East Asia Research Centre for the Holy Shroud (SEARCH) of which Morgan is President. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the USA based Association of Scientists and Scholars International for the Shroud of Turin (ASSIST) and was a member of the scientific team which conducted environmental experiments in a Jerusalem tomb in 1986 (The Environmental Study of the Shroud in Jerusalem). He has made several original contributions to the research of the Shroud, has presented papers at international conferences, has written many articles and given numerous broadcasts and telecasts on the subject in many countries.

The list of *Shroud News* subscribers continues to increase internationally and the publication has been described many times as one of the best available. Its production is obviously privately subsidised as we still request a subscription in Australia of only \$6 for six issues posted. *Shroud News* comes out six times per year. The USA subscription 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 Aust) each plus postage charges except the famous 50th issue which is \$3 plus post.

Please encourage those of your acquaintance to take out their own subscription rather than borrow your copies since the more genuine subscribers we have the more we can improve the bulletin and the longer it is likely to survive.

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