



A NEWSLETTER ABOUT RESEARCH ON THE HOLY SHROUD OF TURIN
The most frequent Shroud-related publication in the English Language
published in Australia for Worldwide circulation since 1980
edited by REX MORGAN, Author of several books on the Shroud

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TURIN - MAY 1997

The dome of the Chapel of the Holy Shroud at the rear of Turin Cathedral
blackened and almost destroyed by the fire in April. Huge gantries are
still removing debris from the rubble of the circular chapel and
the Royal Palace (not visible) [Pic: Rex Morgan]

EDITORIAL

Amongst the masses of letters of congratulation and support I have received concerning *Shroud News* No 100 it has been pointed out to me by Ian Wilson that I have left myself open to legal action by him for publishing Ian Dickinson's article (*SN* 100 page 46 ff).

Ian Wilson believes that my decision to include the article totally negates any congratulation he sent in advance. He says that the article is a malicious attack on his personal integrity and educational competence. I have explained to him that I obviously did not see such an interpretation in the article nor did I read the footnotes carefully before printing the whole piece as received holus bolus and without even re-typesetting it. He holds me solely responsible and therefore I unreservedly apologise to him for any hurt the publication may have caused him.

In the meantime, and hopefully onto less sensitive agenda, I am bringing readers the first part of my commentary on the Shroud Symposium held in Nice, France, in May. Overall it was a very enjoyable and positive conference with only a few papers difficult to understand or of dubious inclusion. I had the opportunity to meet with Shroud friends from many countries including, for the first time, another Shroudie from Australia, film maker Ron Tesoriero.

I trust that my work will continue to bring pleasure and information to the vast majority of my readers. The next issue will continue the Nice report and contain other items of which I have many before me.

REX MORGAN

THE SYMPOSIUM AT NICE: May 1997 by REX MORGAN

THE SETTING

The French Riviera is a legendary and remarkable part of the world. For centuries it has been famous for having one of the most equitable climates and has become the most sophisticated and developed of all the Mediterranean resort countries. Reflected in the unique turquoise waters of clean sea wherein lie the world's most gracious yachts, some as big as battleships, are the masses of apartments, palaces and great hotels of the world.

Used today and for centuries as a playground for the rich and famous, supporting major economies based on pleasure seeking spenders from the richest to the humble coach and backpack tourist onlooker, this incredible line of cities enshrined in fable derives vast income from gambling profits which principally accrue to the operator rather than the punter.

THE SHROUD IN NICE

The scene of many dramatic events in the recent history of the 20th century, this area is also steeped in European history of considerable significance in international affairs. It is not widely known that the Holy Shroud itself was in Nice from 1537 until 1540 and possibly 1543 where it was kept in both the Franciscan Monastere de Cimiez and the Chapelle du Sainte Suaire where the street is named after it the Rue du Sainte Suaire.

On the weekend of 11 to 14 May 1997, sandwiched in time and place between the great motor car race, the Monaco Grand Prix in Monte Carlo on Sunday 11 May (in teeming rain) and what is said to be the world's greatest film jamboree at Cannes through much of the month, there were several events for those of a somewhat less commercial turn of mind, designed to commemorate the 460th Anniversary of the Shroud's sojourn in Nice.

One of these was a Solemn Pontifical Mass, first introduced by Pope Julius II in 1506, held in the Church of St Jacques le Jesus in Old Nice (Vieux Nice) amid the ancient and narrow medieval roads and buildings.



Members of the Penitents Rouges walk in solemn procession to celebrate the 460th Anniversary of the Shroud's arrival in Nice, France



The opening session of the 3rd International Symposium on the Shroud.
Centre Prof Daniel Raffard de Brienne, President of. CIELT

SYMPOSIUM AT NICE (cont'd)

THE ANCIENT MASS

In light rain a procession of some 100 clergy, red-robed members of the Confraternite des Penitents Rouges (an organisation dedicated to the annual celebration of the Holy Shroud's stay in Nice), white robed men and women of the Penitents Blancs and followers moved slowly from the Chapelle du Sainte Suaire bearing a huge photograph of the face of the Man in the Shroud and chanting the words: "O filii et filiae, Rex celestis, Rex gloriae, morte surrexit hodie. Alleluia."

Into a packed church of some 500 faithful moved this sombre and gently swaying line, as if just plucked straight from the middle ages, to the sound of a magnificent sixty-voice choir combined from the Eglise de Jesus itself and L'Ensemble Polyphonique de Nice, and a superb string orchestra with harpsichord. In a long and moving high mass the ritual was underlined by the choir and orchestra as well as by appropriate vocal solos.

The presiding priest delivered a lengthy sermon and despite the occasional intrusive noises of shouts outside from the younger peasantry and the odd unbridled thunder of their motorcycles, there were moments of profound communal silence during the remarkable service taking place in almost a medieval time-warp.

The celebration served to focus the minds of the people of Nice on their important religious heritage. It also acted as a curtain raiser for about twenty of the international delegates to the 3rd International Scientific Symposium on the Shroud of Turin, organised by the Paris based Centre International d'Etudes sur le Linceul de Turin (CIELT) and to begin next day.

CHAPEL OF THE HOLY SHROUD

As the procession left the church at the end of the Mass and as I tried to stuff a booklet I had been given into my pocket I sliced deeply open a finger on the poorly cut edge of the paper (a hazardous consequence of late twentieth century paper trimming technology) thus drawing copious and dramatic quantities of blood which some near me thought a not inappropriate adjunct to the occasion.



Castelfranco of Vatican Radio and Dr Bruno Barberis of Turin



Emanuela Marinelli examines an exquisite embroidery of the Shroud recently acquired by collector Richard Orareo for his vast collection

SYMPOSIUM AT NICE (cont'd)

We followed the procession along Rue du Sainte Suaire to the Chapelle du Sainte Suaire where there are several memorial paintings to the Shroud. The principal of these was painted in 1660 by Jean-Gaspard Baudoin (1590-1669) and, like the more famous one by Rovere, depicts the image on the Shroud and beneath it a demonstration of the folding procedure. This church is being restored and was therefore half full of scaffolding and equipment.

MEETING AND GREETING

In the precincts of both churches in light rain members of the international Shroud community greeted each other. It was good to meet up with old friends such as Alan Adler, Dorothy Crispin, Fr Kim Dreisbach, Isabel Piczek and Richard Orareo from the USA; Lennox Manton and Ian Dickinson from UK; Mark Guscini from Spain; Emanuela Marinelli from Italy; and to meet Ron and Gabrielle Tesoriero from Australia as well as representatives of our French conference hosts. Ron is a movie maker and took enormous amounts of footage throughout the conference and allied visitations. One looks forward to a very useful result.

FOOD AND NEWS

All repaired to nearby restaurants for various informal dinners and began the pleasant experience of several days of the superb food found in Nice. As well, one was able to gather current news such as that Michael Minor of USA and Michael Clift of UK were ill and that Rodney Hoare of UK had died as had Claire MacAllister White of Paris a few days before. Obituary notices will appear in *Shroud News*.

THE CONFERENCE BEGINS

The conference was convened in the Westminster Hotel itself a reasonable 4-ish star establishment situated on the beachfront of the main drag of Nice and close to the legendary Negresco Hotel. When it wasn't raining this allowed very pleasant excursions onto the promenade and pleasanter ones to the Negresco. The conference itself was set in a large and beautiful baroque meeting hall with adequate space and reasonably comfortable chairs.

The usual simultaneous translation equipment (soundproof booth, earphones etc) was in place but for the first several hours of the conference the translators were absent which meant that an amateur tried valiantly and

SYMPOSIUM AT NICE (cont'd)

unsuccessfully to render the translations. Accordingly much of the first morning's agenda went over the heads of any English speaker who was not fluent in French and vice-versa. The hotel also provided a room off for the display of several exhibits by delegates and the sales of their books and materials. One gained access to this by squeezing past the administration table manned by secretaries and officials of CIELT and placed firmly in the middle of the only corridor.

It needs to be recorded that throughout the two day conference of many lectures, whilst break times were blessedly included (unlike some previous experiences), there was no proper provision for coffee or tea. One discovered in the end a useful bar for inter-session alcoholic refreshment but at the greatly inflated prices of a famous beach resort on the Cote d'Azur. It is odd that coffee break comforts are not provided in the registration fee.

AN EVEN MORE BEAUTIFUL IMAGE

Genial, gentle and erudite Dr Daniel Raffard de Brienne, President of CIELT, and author of many French Shroud books including titles for children, declared the conference open on the morning of Monday 12 May 1997. He was supported at the table by Conference Chairman Marcel Alonso and Moderator Olivier Pourrat. The first series of talks came under the general heading of "Optical Physics and Digital Imaging" and included a paper by Eric de Bazelaire entitled *Considerations on the Image Digital Encoding and Proposals for Relevant Research*, the main thrust of which was that there is evidence for stability of the image on the cloth despite the assaults of fire, water, etc over the centuries and it should be possible through computer technology to generate an "even more beautiful image"

GRAFFITI ON THE CLOTH

Anne-Laure Courage and Andre Marion of the Optical Institute of Paris then presented: *Deciphering Shadow Letters Appearing on the Shroud*. They claimed to have confirmed earlier reported traces of letters and words written on the cloth by using digitising processes. These revealed a number of letters and words in Greek and Roman characters. They claimed many of these dated back before the Middle Ages which therefore threw the C14 result in doubt.

The entire subject of marks on the Shroud other than the image has been a



Alan Adler (USA)



Ron Tesoriero (Australia)



Shroud painting at Church of the Holy Shroud, Nice

SYMPOSIUM AT NICE (cont'd)

source of speculation for many years. There is opinion that you can find anything you want to on the Shroud if you apply your own parameters of observation. But then I recall how Francis Filas was laughed at by those who thought they knew it all when he first showed details of the coin images on both eyes, images now virtually accepted as fact.

ISABEL PICZEK

As usual one of the best presentations was given by artist/physicist Isabel Piczek. Her paper, *The Concept of Negativity through the Ages vs the Negative Image on the Shroud*, was a brilliant discussion of the various claims for medieval abilities to understand and reproduce negativity. These have been used to suggest the easy possibility of a man made image. Through her remarkable use of more than seventy transparencies thrown onto the screen in rapid succession like a display of indoor fireworks as she spoke in equally short sharp sentences she clearly explained her thesis without the baggage of verbal padding many of us employ when we give orations.

Once again Isabel showed her genius both as an artist and a physicist by taking us through descriptions of the many examples of negativity: techniques of printing, the mechanics of photography, engraving, bas relief and so on. She has on previous occasions clearly demonstrated that no form of painting could have created the image and on this occasion that no form of photography (a light-based process) could have done so. The fact is that density differences in an unexplained process of dehydration on the cloth is what caused the negative-like image. She reminded us that when the Curies found the image of a key on a photoplate which had been under a stone in a desk drawer it was thought that sunlight hidden in the stone had caused the image.

Subsequently the Curies discovered the hitherto unknown phenomenon of radioactivity. Piczek's unassailable conclusion was that we cannot explain the image through the physics and chemistry we know today but might perhaps be able to in the future. She believes the fact that we still cannot find the answer after centuries of study is itself the greatest proof of authenticity. Many agree with her.

SYMPOSIUM AT NICE (cont'd)

IMAGE ANALYSIS FOR THE EXPERTS

Professor of Mechanical Engineering Julio Fanti next presented *Proposal for a High Resolution Colorimetric Mapping of the Shroud*. This turned out to be a highly technical university-type lecture delivered in university type monotone, reading from barely comprehensible overhead projections. After a long diatribe setting out his aims and objectives and furnishing the audience with lists of equipment (a kind of mission statement for his own laboratory) there were some long questions and answers with the lecturer finally conceding, "There are many problems with this calibration system."

No-one seemed much the wiser after this talk and indeed someone said that such presentations were likely to turn people off the Shroud forever. Perhaps it was an important contribution but for a general symposium some authority needs to take into account the level of technicality introduced.

This was followed (with the air conditioning having been closed for some inexplicable reason until I demanded it be re-opened) by an equally inexplicable (to the unqualified moron like me) exposition of image analysis by Keith E Propp, a highly tentative speaker who seemed unsure of himself, and, indeed, of his material. At the end of *Color and Intensity Analyses of the Shroud of Turin* someone asked the question: "What is the point of your analysis relevant to the Shroud?" Propp was rescued to some extent by an answer given by John Jackson who added information which the layman could almost understand. It has to be said that there was considerable confusion in many minds because of the abysmal level of translation for and of the non-English speakers.

The session concluded with a not unfamiliar highly technical private interchange between Adler and Jackson but performed in public as the other delegates tried to grasp what was going on.

OUT FOR LUNCH

A welcome break from all this was declared for a Civic Reception Luncheon which was to be held in the gardens of the Monastere Franciscain de Cimiez. The reception was hosted by the Mayor, Maitre Jacques Peyrat, and the Municipal Council of the City of Nice. Delegates were taken in comfortable buses but on arrival had to walk a long distance through gardens in pouring



Anne-Laure Courage and Andre Marion (France)



Emanuela Marinelli (Italy)



John Jackson (USA)



Keith Propp (USA)



Jean Soles (France)



Sebastiano Rodante (Italy)



Lennox Manton (UK)



Heinrich Pfeiffer (Italy)



Robert Bucklin (USA)



Daniel Scavone (USA)

SYMPOSIUM AT NICE (cont'd)

rain to a cloister where the only thing dry was the sparse food and drink and the waiters under some small tents. There was little room for the people who huddled together in the cloistered arcades remote from the action or under an inadequate bit of canvas cover which leaked copiously.

It was a very disorganised affair where the fight to get anything to eat or drink was reminiscent of some military mess buffets (surely a contradiction in terms) I have attended over the years. The numbers had been swelled considerably by the attendance of a lot of local dignitaries who were there first and got most of the food and drink being more adept than the visitors at finding and capturing it. There were three or four speeches of welcome, which was very civil, but most people concentrated more on trying to keep dry and suppress their largely to be unsatisfied hunger.

INTERVIEWS

The opportunity was taken during this party by a number of media representatives to interview delegates and I was interviewed at length by Sabina Castelfranco, an excellent journalist from Vatican Radio. She had come to the conference largely as a sceptic but, being also highly intelligent, disclosed in her later excellent series of radio programmes that she went away by no means as sceptical.

Following this event there was time to see a Shroud related exhibition in the adjacent Monastery where at one time the Shroud itself had rested. This consisted of the usual photographic displays, mainly plagiarised from worldwide sources, and set so close it was almost impossible to see anything in the crush. It included a bizarre life-sized statue of Christ laid out in the manner of the Shroud image with his head resting on a 20th century bed pillow.

During this session I had the pleasant opportunity to link up with other Shroud friends such as Remi Van Haelst now recovered from his shocking facial injuries and plastic surgery and miraculous escape from death in the Antwerp hotel fire several years ago.

BACK TO WORK AT THE WESTMINSTER

Fortunately the professional interpreters had been found during lunchtime

SYMPOSIUM AT NICE (cont'd)

and so for the remainder of the conference proper simultaneous translations were made. The afternoon's group of papers was headed "Physics and Analytical Chemistry, Genetics, Biology".

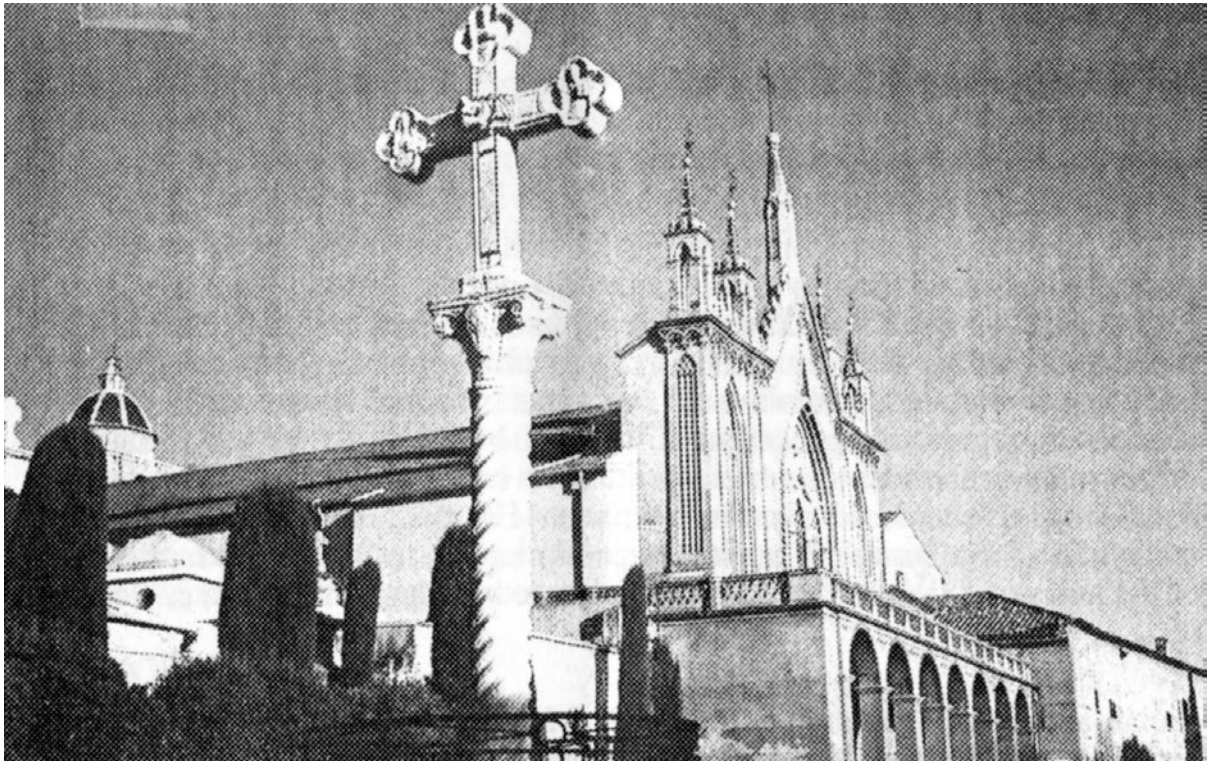
Whilst there was some confusion in this observer's mind about who was saying what from time to time Bertrand Ludes's *Genetic Analysis of a Fragment from the Turin Shroud* expounds a complex theory of using molecular biology techniques and gene amplification to enable characterisation of an individual from minute fragments of human tissue or blood. He describes preparatory procedures in detail but warns that the possible presence of preservatives which could have come into contact with other tissue samples should be taken into account. He concludes that "the storage conditions of the Turin Shroud are too poorly known to foresee the feasibility of the analysis." What then, one surely has to wonder, is the point of doing it.

Italian author and researcher Emanuela Marinelli Paolicchi presented the paper jointly written by her and Silvio Diana: *Natural Textile Fibres - Optical Activity, Racemization and Epimerization*. This was a paper short and to the point and demonstrated how cellulose degradation could be measured in different textiles. By creating a table of comparisons through laboratory observation the degree of depolymerisation can be measured. The identification of this degree could well assist in understanding the image making process.

Professor Carlo Goldini gave the paper: *The Dating of Haemoglobin Molecules by Electrophoretic Mobility*. He explained how, as he was unable to conduct his tests on blood from the Shroud itself, he did so on samples from the Oviedo Cloth. He noted a very marked difference in the migration rate, on cellulose gel, between ancient haemoglobin and that of fresh blood.

JACKSON ON KOUZNETSOV

John Jackson spoke on *Scientific Considerations of the Shroud's Radiocarbon Date*. This paper largely supported and explained the elaborate hypothesis of Russian Kouznetsov claiming that the 1988 radiocarbon dating was affected by the 1532 fire. This brought about significant isotopic transfer from the surrounding air to account for the medieval date of the carbon testing. Jackson's paper assessed the discrepancies and demonstrated the internal consistency of the Russian data. Jackson has worked with



Monastere Franciscan de Cimiez, Nice



Rex Morgan and Remi van Haelst

SYMPOSIUM AT NICE (cont'd)

Kouznetsov in Russia and in the USA and has formed an alliance between their two organisations.

BLOOD AND INJURIES

After a short break the next section of the conference dealt with "Medicine". The first presentation was by Jean Solas, *Blood Stains on the Shroud. Distinctive Characteristics. The Problem of their Transfer*. Solas indicated that extraordinary detail of blood stains can be ascertained by the study of even poor photographs of the Shroud. His initial studies suggest justification for continuing analysis on better photographs using enhancement and erasing techniques. He has devised a comprehensive programme of research into this aspect which has bearing on the nature of the transference of the blood from body to cloth in its various degrees of dryness. He expects to present the results of this work with other medical doctors by 1998.

A very well-known researcher in Shroud circles, Dr Sebastiano Rodante received an enthusiastic reception when he presented his *Topographic Anatomy Medico-Necroscopic and Mystical Investigation: New Light is Shed on the Crowning with Thorns*. One of the reasons that this was an interesting paper was that Rodante was talking on a new topic, a circumstance uncommon in Shroud conferences. He described his research into a painting of St Rita in 1457 which bears the scar she carried on her forehead of a thorn from a crown of thorns from the year 1432 until her death in 1447. He showed comparative pictures and diagrams which indicated an exact congruence of the position of that scar and the epsilon bloodflow on the Shroud image. He suggests that there must be some "mystical" significance in the exact match of the scar on the woman's forehead and the indication of the similar wound on the Shroud face.

The next lecture was also extremely interesting as the speaker used pictures very rarely to be seen and, I believe, unpublished, of Barbet's experiments. Surgeon Pierre Merat's *The Nailing of the Feet on the Cross* provided a extremely graphic and interesting series of photographs of dissection procedures to demonstrate his thesis about the positioning of the nails through the feet. He showed that nailing must have taken place rather than through the inter-metatarsal space as shown by Barbet, through the tarsus using one nail which went through the left foot placed over the right foot. The imprint on the Shroud of the sole of the right foot presents a stain corresponding to the nail's point of exit in the experiment.

SYMPOSIUM AT NICE (cont'd)

Dr Robert Bucklin is one of the original members of STURP which conducted all the tests of 1978. He is a well-known forensic pathologist and gave his paper: *An Autopsy on the Man of the Shroud*. He takes his audience meticulously through every step of a medical examination of a cadaver but uses the image on the Shroud. He determines the age, size and physique of the man and concludes from the bloodstains and the imprints the entire series of assaults which occurred to that body and establishes the cause and time of death based on reasonable medical probability.

ADLER DEBUNKS CARBON DATE ACCURACY

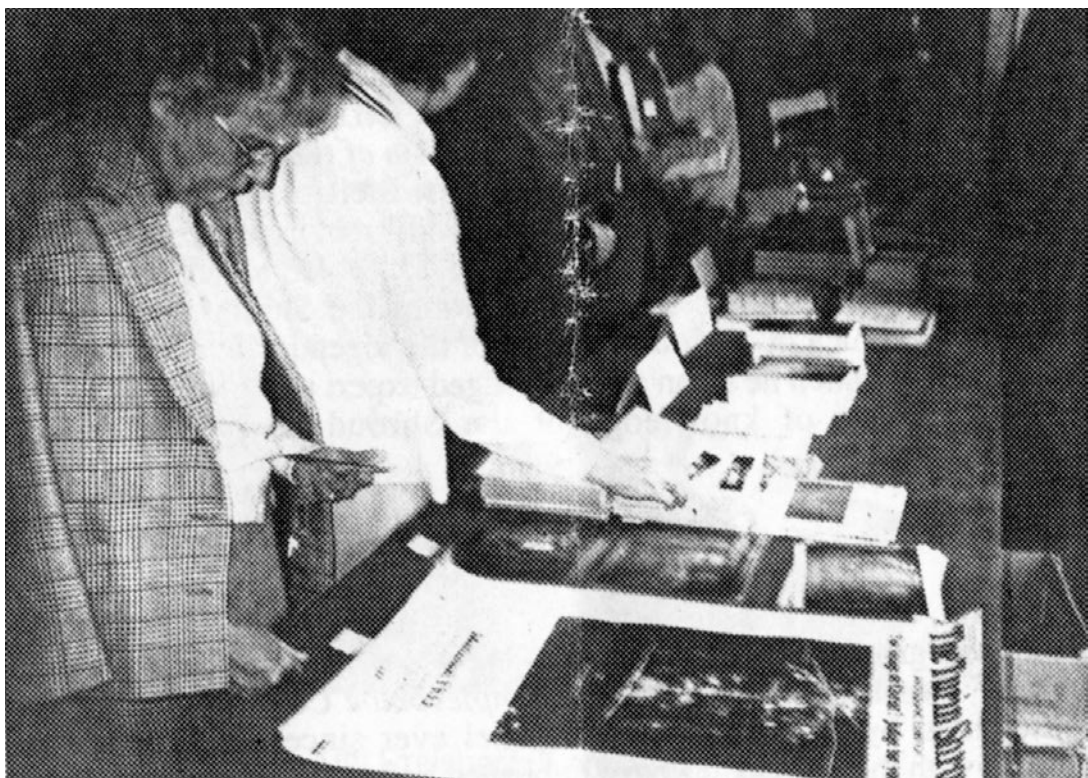
The final group of papers for the day appeared under the heading "Epistemology, characterization of the Shroud". Dr Alan Adler one of the handful of top Shroud experts from America presented *Concerning the Side Strip on the Shroud of Turin*. In his inimitable and totally engaging style, without notes and prowling amongst his audience as he spoke, Adler gave an emphatic and convincing demonstration of his incisive mind. He traced in detail his reasons for proposing that the sidestrip is in fact part of the cloth itself and the apparent seam is a tuck through which a rope or pole had passed to aid suspension of the cloth for display. The only seam is at the ends where pieces have been cut off. He pointed out that there would have been repairs made to the cloth where it was held and under physical stress (at the ends) and that there is indeed plenty of evidence on the cloth for such repairs.

He has also studied several of the threads from the sample used for the radiocarbon tests of 1988 and they have a different chemical composition to the original samples taken in 1978. He has examined 50 fibres from the C14 samples which also indicate that they were from areas where pieces had been cut off and repairs carried out before the fire. In fact the carbon testing was done on a medieval piece of cloth used for repairs and if the proper protocols had been followed at the time this would have been obvious from the differences of pieces from other areas of the Shroud. He was emphatic that taking one sample gives no basis for accuracy. The sample was from a repair, had been waterstained and scorched.

There followed a paper by Stéphane Mottin: *Problems of Metrology on the Shroud of Turin, UV Fluorescence of Ancient Cloths*. This paper sought to discuss the numerous measurement problems associated with the various analyses of the properties of the cloth. These were demonstrated by



Mayor of Nice welcomes delegates



Delegates at the sales tables

SYMPOSIUM AT NICE (cont'd)

experiments on various cloths.

Getting away from the purely technical papers Ian Dickinson gave the final one for the day: New Evidence for the Image on the Shroud. This was a collection of pieces of information on the author's researches on a reliquary casket a 12th century miniature, his own examination of the Veronica in St Peter and a claim that the umbilicus is definitely recorded on the cloth. At the conclusion of his paper Isabel Piczek pointed out that he could not have been shown the real Veronica because it has no paint on it at all.

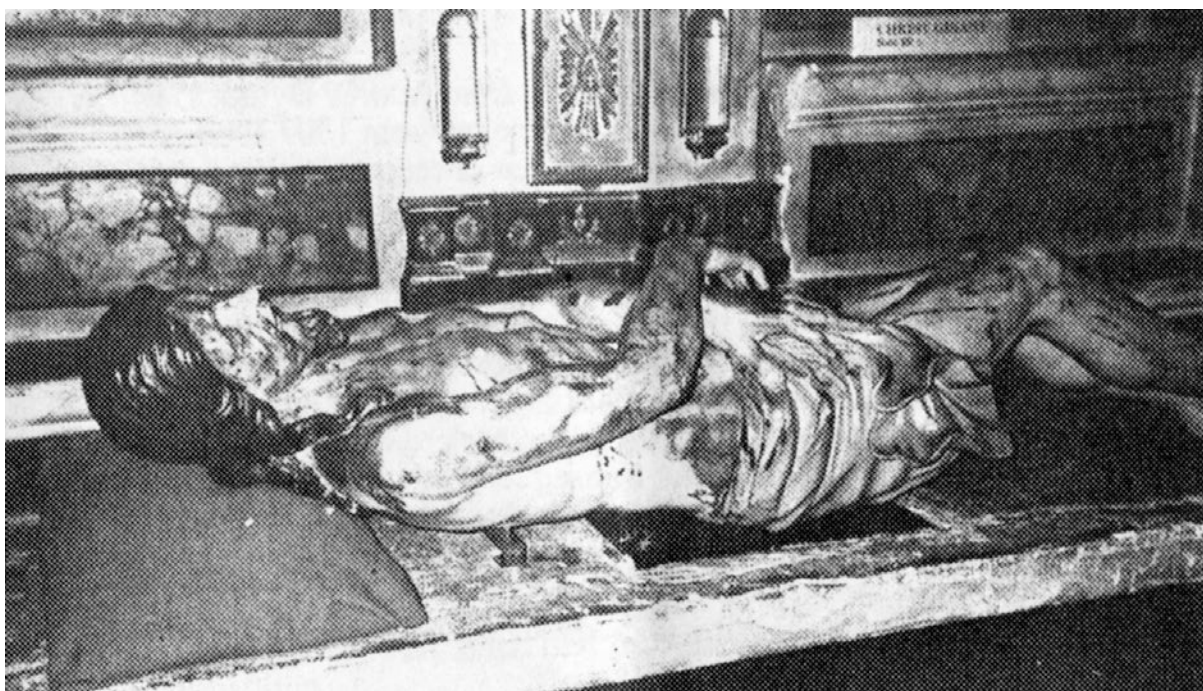
A NEW DAY

Next day the conference opened with a section which had been advertised as "The medieval hole" by which no doubt was meant medieval "gap". Under the watchful eye of Chairman Dorothy Crispino and Moderator Maxence Hecquard, the first splendid lecture by Lennox Manton was entitled *Frescoes of Cappadocia*. Manton gave an excellent description of his remarkable work taking numerous photographs over many years of frescoes in caves now inaccessible or non-existent. Some of his work has been published by Runciman Press and has attracted great interest. He has filled an important gap in the artistic history associated with the Shroud iconography.

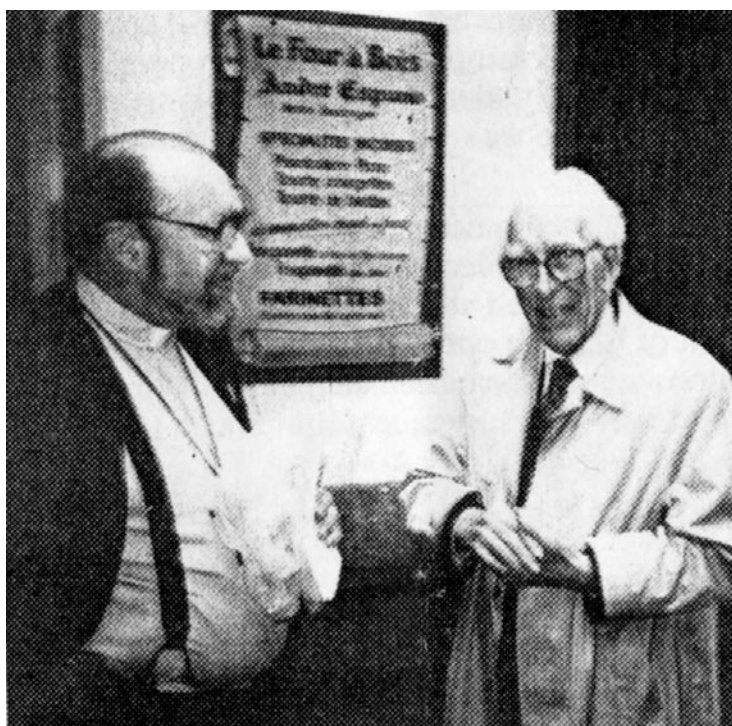
Well known art historian Father Heinrich Pfeiffer presented *Artistic Representations of Christ's Passion along the Path of the Shroud's Probable Journey from Constantinople to Lirey*. In this, Pfeiffer, translating from German into French as he spoke, described the different hypotheses based on the places it had been kept between 1204 and 1350. He also talked of the exchange between the characteristic elements of the Shroud and the veil known as the Veronica in various versions of the legend. He described the Manoppello veil in which he is an acknowledged expert and generally gave a lecture of evidence of knowledge of the Shroud in various artistic representations.

TEMPLECOMBE

Father Pfeiffer, a world class art historian, is a difficult act to follow but the next paper was given by Rex Morgan: *Did the French take the Turin Shroud to England? More Evidence from the Templecombe Connection*. I have been fascinated by the Templecombe panel ever since Ian Wilson first connected it with the Shroud. I have published before the theory that it was



Statue of Christ after the Shroud



Kim Dreisbach and Lennox Manton

SYMPOSIUM AT NICE (cont'd)

the lid of a great wooden box (based on ideas from Audrey Dymock) which housed the Shroud in Templecombe sometime between 1307 and 1356 and have developed this over the years to the point of reconstructing a replica of the box.

This lecture recapitulated some of my earlier work and also reported for the first time that in 1989 I gained permission to remove the panel from the wall of the church with biblical archeologist Dr Eugenia Nitowski and witnesses as well as total video recording. In this study we took a number of samples of particulate matter from various sites on the back of the panel, especially in the crevices between the planks. Subsequent microscopic study of the samples has revealed a wide range of materials such as cotton, flax, pollens, calcium, myrrh, aloes and others. Whilst it is too early in our work to conclude that these are from a box which contained the Shroud there are remarkable similarities to the particulate matter found on the Shroud itself.

DUST SAMPLES SAME AS SHROUD

We hold hundreds of microphotographs of the original 1978 Shroud samples for comparison. These were made long after STURP concluded its study of them and are in far greater detail than STURP ever pursued. Nitowski has commented that she repeatedly thought she was looking at samples from the Shroud itself rather than those we removed in Templecombe in 1989.

My paper also described developments in tracing Templar routes from France to and through England to Templecombe and have found much evidence to support our view that the Shroud was taken by the French to Templecombe. I took the precaution of handing out to every delegate printed versions of my pictorial presentations since I have been caught, as have others, including at this conference, too many times by faulty equipment, poor light and sound, inefficient technicians, etc.

DANIEL SCAVONE

The next paper was by another of the Shroud's most respected historians, Professor Daniel Scavone of USA. His paper was: *Joseph of Arimathea, the Holy Grail and the Edessa Icon: the Social Pathways of a Popular Legend*. This brilliant and sanguine researcher proceeded to give an exhaustive account of his studies relating to the Holy Grail which lead to the conclusion

SYMPOSIUM AT NICE (cont'd)

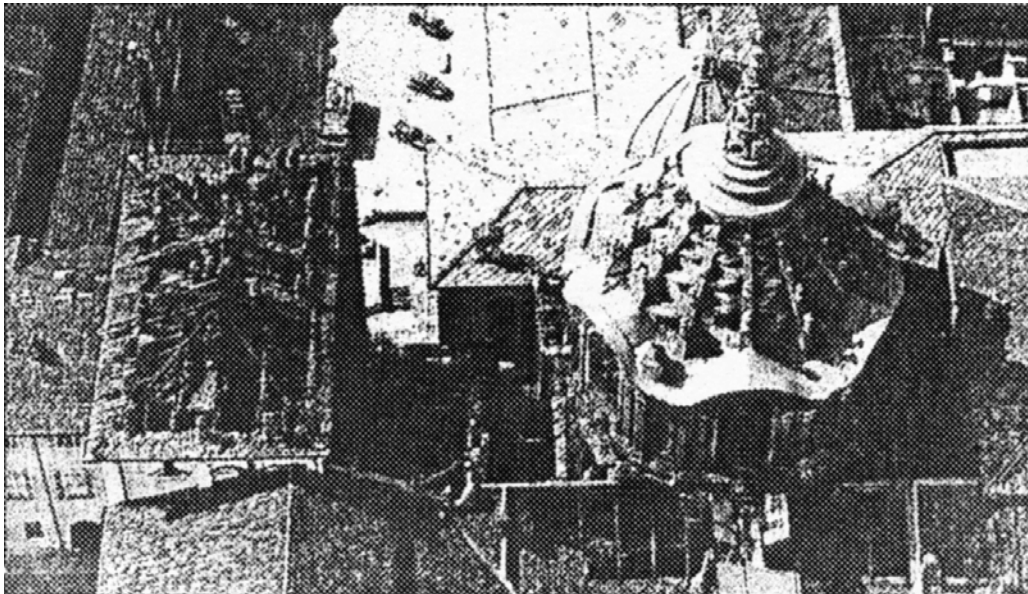
that the legendary Holy Grail was, in fact, the Holy Shroud and not some cup or other object.

He handed out a comprehensive supporting list of some 38 documentary references referring to Joseph of Arimathea and Edessa dating from 80 AD to 1380 AD. Scavone's thesis is being published more fully in *Shroud News*, the first part having appeared in *SN* 100. Dan Scavone is such a nice chap that every time the timekeeper tried to stop him speaking (he was a little over time - but we all wanted to hear him) he just smiled and said, "one more minute" and, indeed, Hecquard allowed him an extra 5 minutes.

It is worth interpolating here that the control of speakers was highly organised for once and very few were allowed extra time thus making the conference work well. Indeed some segments actually finished earlier than advertised, a matter unprecedented in my annals of Shroud conferences.

MORE NEXT TIME

The description of another dozen papers, the final public session at the University of the Mediterranean and the visit to Turin by delegates to meet Cardinal Saldarini and to see the damage to the Cathedral and Palace will be published in the August 1997 edition, *Shroud News* 103.



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*) and editor of several others, began sending a few notes about current developments in the study of the Shroud of Turin (Sindonology) for a small circle of interested people in his home country of Australia. He didn't expect it to go beyond a few issues.

Today, the bulletin, now highly acclaimed, reaches subscribers all over the world and is written, produced and disseminated more quickly than any other Shroud publication in the English language. 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 which gives 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 and knows numerous Shroud researchers in many countries. His quest for Shroud information became, as he described it, "a passionate hobby". He took 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 700,000 visitors. The exhibition was subsequently donated by Brooks 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 Board member of the US 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 (ESSJ). He has made a number of original contributions to Shroud research has presented major papers at international Shroud conferences has written numerous articles and has given hundreds of broadcasts and telecasts on the subject in many countries.

The list of *Shroud News* subscribers continues to increase internationally and it has been described many times as one of the best available. *Shroud News* comes out six times a year. Its production is obviously privately subsidised as we request a subscription in Australia of only \$6 for six issues posted. The USA subscription is \$12 (posted airmail - there is no longer any surface mail from Australia). Postage to other countries varies. ALL back issues are available for \$1 (US or Aust) each plus postage. The famous 50th issue is \$3 plus post. Customers should note that as it costs us \$8 to negotiate each foreign cheque we request all payments be made in currency banknotes of your country or charge to Visa, Master or Amex cards.

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