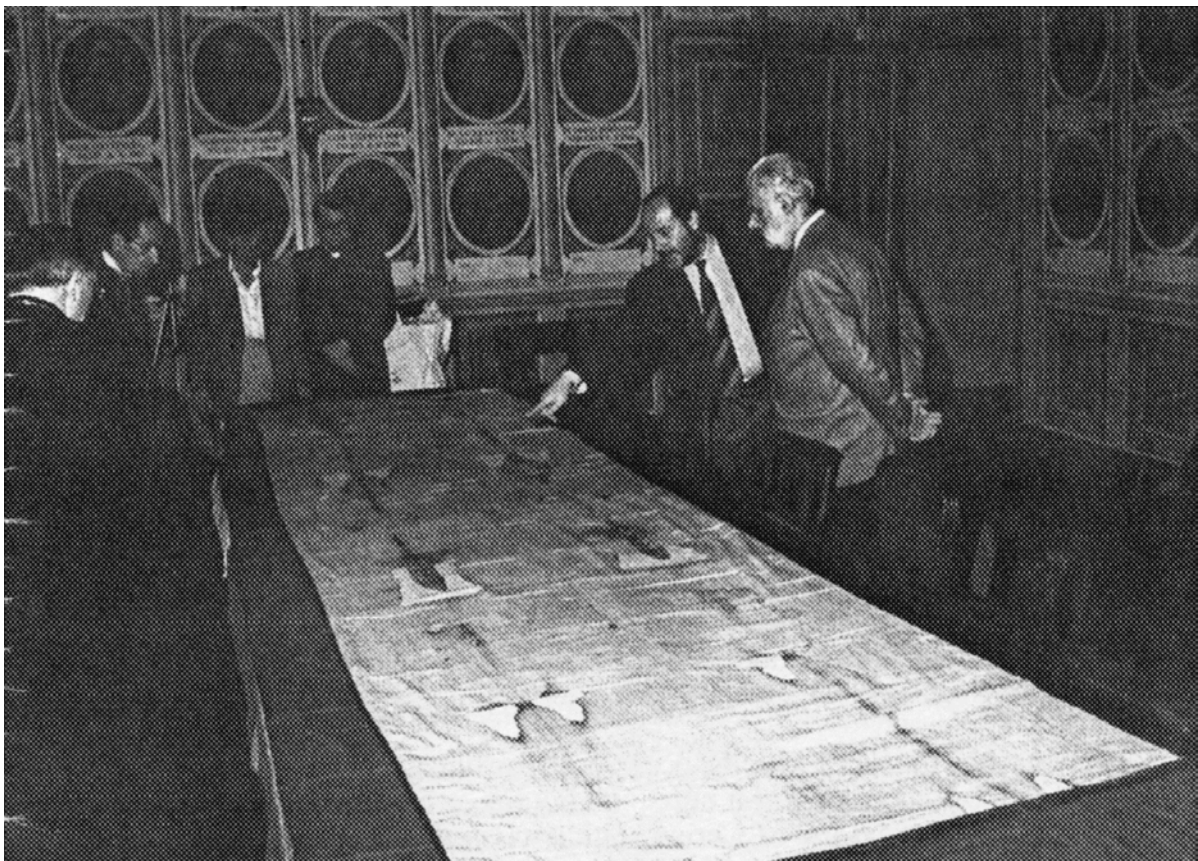




A NEWSLETTER ABOUT RESEARCH ON THE HOLY SHROUD OF TURIN
The most frequent Shroud-related publication in the English language
published in Australia for Worldwide circulation since 1980
edited by REX MORGAN, Author of several books on the Shroud

Issue Number 105

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Under the watchful eye of the Gallery of Popes in the Savoy Royal Palace at Turin, Cardinal Giovanni Saldarini (at left) and Dr Bruno Barberis and Professor Pier Luigi Baima Bollone (at right) and other experts inspect the Shroud after it survived the disastrous fire of 11 April 1997

[Pic: Vatican Press Office]

EDITORIAL

It has been a long and fascinating year in the history of the Shroud. It began, for me, with the 100th issue of *Shroud News*, the significance of which was quickly overshadowed by the great fire of April when the object in which we Shroudies take so great an interest might very well have been destroyed. But, in the way which seems to be characteristic of this amazing piece of cloth, it survived unharmed as it has, to a greater or lesser degree, survived attack and disaster for its entire history, however long that may be. Following closely on the heels of the fire was the 3rd International Shroud Symposium held in Nice which enabled many Shroud researchers to meet together once again and exchange the results of their work and interests as well as, for a few of us who did not have more urgent agenda, to visit Turin for a day to see the fire damaged cathedral and palace as well as to meet in private audience the Shroud's custodian Cardinal Saldarini.

There are many new books being produced to coincide with the renewed interest in the Shroud in the world media, as a new generation (that is to say 5 to 10 years) of journalists hatches wet to discover it for the first time. It is good to discern these, the most powerful people in the world, taking a slight step backwards as they do in their political writings when they realise they have misread the mood of the people. There is increasingly less scepticism in the reports we now see about the authenticity of the Shroud because there is a widening agreement that something must have been wrong with the results of the carbon tests in 1988 and was certainly wrong in the way those results were handled by the authorities and were then reported to the world. And next year we shall be off to Turin to see again in reality this remarkable item, the most mysterious and controversial piece of cloth in the world.

I certainly look forward to retracing my steps of twenty years ago in August 1978 when I was swept into Turin cathedral with the world media for a preview of the cloth suspended in its frame and experiencing virtually everyone catch their breath and halt their steps as they came into the presence of something self evidently inexplicable and profoundly impressive.

Despite having to put up with the occasional patronising comment or strident cry from those whom the truth hurts, and blame others for it, I wish all my readers the peace and joy of Christmastide when they too can recall, with their children and their grandchildren, as shall I, that historic personage responsible for our interest in what may very likely be His burial Shroud.

REX MORGAN

MEMORANDUM FROM THE NICE SYMPOSIUM

(reprinted from *Revue Internationale du Linceul de Turin* No 5 (1997)

Centre Internationale d'Etudes sur le Linceul de Turin (CIELT), Paris)

After the symposium, the experts who had attended compiled a memorandum addressed to the Cardinal custodian of the Shroud. In it, they put forward proposals for the relic's storage as well as a programme of research to be conducted in the next few years. Lack of space means that we have had to summarise the prologue, which will be published in full in the Proceedings. In particular, the many suggestions concerning the management of the relic itself and of the scientific material brought together have been left out. It is clearly the custodian who is responsible for this type of management.

PROLOGUE

The CIELT is an association which brings together scientists¹ and historians of all disciplines whose aim is to search for and promote the truth solely through scientific objectivity. Indeed the association considers that the truth can be guaranteed by experimentation only². It is aware that some of its members are driven by their faith to take an apologist's approach, as are many of those who take part in its congresses. Whilst not the association requests that when working for the CIELT they should take the approach adopted by it. This rule is taken seriously and

with good humour by all.

The Turin Shroud is an archaeological object unique in the world. It presents a challenge to the scientific world since, to this day, the sharpest minds have tackled it, without being able to put forward a rational explanation for the image it bears, as regards its nature and the way it was formed. Furthermore, with the exception of the disputed carbon 14 dating results, all the evidence collected by other disciplines points to the authenticity, none however providing a formal and irrefutable demonstration (...)

The uncertain future of all the scientific material gathered over the years, at the price of such self-denial, and

which may well sink into oblivion through indifference, is a source of anxiety to many scientists. Furthermore, as was seen to happen in the recent past, certain individuals have been able to appropriate samples of the cloth³ without due reason and all sorts of samples which are extremely precious for scientific knowledge have been taken in this way. Others managed to obtain measurement results which it is doubtful were put to the best use and they refuse to be honest and share them with other researchers (...)

When the photographs of Enrie are compared with those of Miller or Cordiglia, separated by an interval of 50 years, the image on the Shroud appears to have

Memorandum from the Nice Symposium (cont'd)

faded". Is it that the contrast has decreased or else, was the photographer looking for special effects? Despite the presence of serious pieces of evidence attesting to the image's great stability, an urgent enquiry is imperative. The optical engineers present at the Nice symposium, guided by a need to remain prudent, therefore hope that they will soon be provided with the means to have access to existing documents, enabling them to make a judgement, through the intermediary of the custodian. If proof of fading was found, it would be necessary to initiate as soon as possible, and probably at the coming exposition, the project for the creation of an optical memory of the image, the outline of which was put forward at the symposium, on Monday, May the 12th (...)

Many criticisms have been made concerning the way the sheet was rolled up, the red silk backing cloth, the choice of inert gas, the humidity, the bactericidal and plant-care products (...) [end of prologue extracts].

THE PRINCIPLES FOR EXPERIMENTATION⁴

They have been requested by the Scientific experts taking part in the CIELT's 3rd International Symposium in Nice.

Five committees proposed the acquisition, at the next exposition, of data corresponding to the five following disciplines:

OPTICAL PHYSICS AND DIGITAL IMAGING

- High resolution colorimetric mapping, digital and analogue, using reflected, transmission lighting of the two sides⁵ in different spectral bands ranging from IR to UV. In order to do this, the Shroud will have to be placed on an adequate pane of glass. Before taking the photos, ad hoc spectral analysis will be conducted. Lighting will be chosen and adjusted so as to be the least aggressive as possible⁶.

- Infra-red, low-aggression, reflectance spectra by comparison with those conducted 20 years ago by the STURP (Accetta, Gilbert) will make it possible to determine the degree of fading and to establish the causes. These analyses will be sufficiently unaggressive to allow their renewal every 20 years.

- Macrographs of the eye region and of the regions sampled in the past. Radiography in order to detect any overloading of threads (see the densitometric chart of Committee N°3). Comparisons with the studies carried out by Mottern, London and Morris in 1978.

- Infra-red video by ultra-sensitive camera (studies of molecular interaction between linen and body fluids).

PHYSICS, ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY, BIOLOGY, GENETICS

- Collection of any material naturally detached from the Shroud which might be found in the reliquary casket after any handling.

- testing for trace elements, such as Strontium, a possible indicator of retting in Jerusalem, suggested by the late lamented Professor Lejeune.

- investigating for cellular material which was shed following the scourging, the sweating of blood, the carrying of the cross: red blood cells, epithelial cells sweat glands, hairs, etc. The discovery of white blood cells would be of invaluable interest in terms of genetic identification.

- investigating for a genetic identity on an archaeological object (ancient piece of bloodstained linen) will be conducted in the year. If the result is positive, Committee N° 2 would like to be able to sample an infinitesimal quantity of dried blood (less than 1mg)⁷.

- Fourier-transform infrared microscopy to identify:

Memorandum from the Nice Symposium(cont'd)

letters, serum, interactions between blood and image.

TEXTILE STUDIES

- study of the degree of depolymerisation of the cellulose of the linen.

- Observation of the different appearance of fibres which have been in contact with water, blood, heat, body imprint.

- collection of thread ends from the rolled edges of the sheet⁸ in order to conduct a series of statistical cross-sections the only way of diagnosing the certain presence of cotton, as indicated by Professor Raes.

- study of textile density by a recent Australian X-ray technique using phase contrast which yields contrasting images for textiles presenting low X-ray absorption (densitometric map). The non-aggressive nature of the procedure must be demonstrated beforehand.

-- verification that the mapping put forward in 1 enables identification of the textile in all points, and hence the diagnosis of the side strip.

- was the linen retted after weaving, as Ray Rogers established? If so, the probability of a post-8th century date becomes very low. The zones to examine are those where, at thread intersection, the lower threads have remained unbleached.

- assisting opticians in the separating of the Shroud from its backing (Holland cloth). Collection and examination of seam threads, dust, pollen, miscellaneous debris..

Repeating all examinations on the hitherto hidden side.

- study of the backing cloth. Establishment of its age according to the CIETA principles.

MEDICINE

- observation by transparence, during experiment 1, should provide additional verification of Dr. Barbet's analyses, confirmed by Dr Met-at & Dr Lavoie, as well as new details, in particular concerning capillarity.

RADIOISOTOPES, ARCHAEOLOGY

- with the support of well known physicists, the CIELT is pursuing its investigations, both using conventional procedures and using new, nondestructive, non-aggressive procedures. Non-destructive trials are therefore currently underway on a variety of linen cloths in advanced research laboratories on very low radioactivity. Results are expected sometime in May. If successful, the method will be appropriate for the Shroud and its side strip. A short and reliable protocol will then be put forward in addition, in the coming weeks. The procedure could be applied without removing

the Shroud from its reliquary casket.

- dating of the Holland cloth (in collaboration with 3).

The Scientific Experts

1) Physicists, chemists, doctors, mathematicians, etc...

2) Provided it does not affect the integrity of the relic and that it does not offend against the faith of believers.

3) Ranging from threads to pieces and even a sizeable strip from the sheet which could allow thousands of new determinations.

4) Added to these principles, which were set out at the symposium, there will be research and study protocols, to define rules of access and study with which the scientists must comply, as well as to describe the methods and equipment used. Only experiments which do not duplicate others already conducted have been selected. We trust that our proposals for international collaboration, through the intermediary of the custodial authority, have been noted and implemented. Researchers, in accordance with the principles stated in the Prologue, undertake to present the custodial authority with the results, within the year, and return the material "borrowed" from the relic in its entirety, except for the infinitesimal quantities used for the

Memorandum from the Nice Symposium(cont'd)

measurement itself. The custodial authority may extend the deadline if it sees fit. Subsequent research, which will have access to these results or this material, will be obliged to mention the authors.

5) Although the image is on the surface of the cloth only, the impregnations are not, as witnessed by the Superior of the Poor Clares, who, looking at the back of the Shroud, before placing the Holland backing cloth, said she could read the Body's wounds "as if through a glass pane". The same must apply to the shadow letters identified by the IOTA. Furthermore, J. Jackson's theory (sagging of the Shroud in the radiating Body) suggests that the

radiation affects the dorsal shroud on one side only, whereas it should affect both sides on the frontal part of the Shroud. The Mother Superior did not notice this anomaly. A photograph of the underside and the "reflection-transmission" technique are the two experiments most requested by sindonologists.

6) Minimising light intensity by maximising other parameters: aperture, exposure time, emulsion sensitivity. Radiation will range from soft X-rays to IR. Whenever possible, magnifying cameras can be used. The light energy yielded for these operations must under no circumstance exceed that which is equivalent to what the Shroud

would receive in a normal day's exposition.

7) See Prologue.

8) In these rolled edges, the warp threads in particular are loosened from the sheet. This was proposed by Gabriel Vial, who at the Paris symposium pointed out the feasibility of this kind of sampling, which has no detrimental effect on the Shroud (as would the cutting of a sample). Moreover, the threads will undergo optical and mechanical examination by specialists in flax cellulose, then be returned, within the year, with the results, to Turin.

9) on the scraps of thread recovered.



Dr Daniel Raffard de Brienne, President of CIELT, welcoming international delegates to the 3rd International Shroud Symposium in Nice, France

A NEW SHROUD INTERNET CONTACT

- **William Meacham. Hong Kong**

Usenet Newsgroup alt.turin-shroud

This newsgroup is up and running well since November 1997. It has had about 200 posts, and only five off-topic advertising pieces (known in Usenet parlance as "spam"). So far, no whackos, racists, sex freaks, etc.

Usenet newsgroups (27,000 at last count) are another huge part of the Internet. Unlike the world-wide web, newsgroups are an open forum for discussion. Most are unmoderated, so anyone can post anything, hence the large amount of spam and whacko posts in some groups.

When I was first browsed the Usenet several years ago, I was surprised that there was no newsgroup for the Shroud. But the motivation to set one up came after the lengthy and very interesting email exchange between Whanger and Lombatti last year on the question of coins on the eyes. It seemed to me that a Usenet forum would encourage this kind of exchange. So far, there have been some interesting brief exchanges, and a few insights. But the general level of discourse has not been as high as I had hoped. The reason for this is that most of the people posting have only a superficial knowledge of the Shroud, and offer snap judgments or clichés. I hope that more serious exchanges can take place, especially say in discussing new published articles on the Shroud, or new theories. If anyone has any comment or new work that you would like to discuss with others, please post it to alt.turin-shroud.

Access to Usenet newsgroups depends on your Internet connection -- usually there is a command (eg "news") that you type, or an icon that you click on. Some new programmes like News Xpress have fancier features, such as killfiles (to block out posts from spammers and pests) and header readers to arrange the posts in each newsgroup by thread (e.g. all posts dealing with one subject, in chronological order). There is also a command to type or click on in order to post to a newsgroup.

A NEW SHROUD INTERNET CONTACT (cont'd)

Your Internet Service Provider (ISP) may carry five to ten thousand newsgroups, but may not have added alt.turin-shroud. If not, please request that they do so, as ISP's will usually act on requests from customers and this also helps to propagate the newsgroup -- the more ISP's that carry it, the more traffic it will have, attracting more ISP's to carry it, etc.

If your ISP does not have alt.turin-shroud, you can still read the recent posts in the newsgroup by going to www.dejanews.com, selecting "Quick Search" and typing in "alt.turin-shroud". You can also post something to alt.t-s by selecting "Post an Article." Using Dejanews is rather slow, however, compared to having a direct feed via your ISP.

Someone remarked to me that he didn't have time to argue about religion or debate with people who still think Joe Nickel or McCrone solved the mystery of the Shroud. Neither do I. But it would be very interesting to have several threads like the Whanger-Lombatti exchange. The background noise can be ignored.

New Usenet Newsgroup alt.turin-shroud for discussion of the Shroud

Recently, I came across frequent discussion of the Shroud in existing newsgroups (especially in soc.history.medieval) and noted how widespread are misconceptions and misinformation about it among educated people. It seemed to me that a new newsgroup would serve two purposes: a vehicle for Shroud researchers to discuss current events and new research in public, and an open forum where anyone interested can pose a question or an argument. I set this up in alt.* because the procedures are relatively simpler than in the other major groups. The charter is given below:

"This newsgroup is created to provide an open internet forum for discussion of all aspects of the Turin Shroud — scientific, art historical, historical, religious, conservation-related, etc. It is unmoderated, but advertising, binaries and off-topic posts are not welcome, in line with Usenet practice. Single brief announcements of events or services related to the Shroud, for example new organizations, books, websites, lectures, tours, and activities, will however be acceptable."

A NEW SHROUD INTERNET CONTACT (cont'd)

Please help to make this newsgroup a success. There are two important things you can do to help:

1. If your internet service provider does not have alt-turin-shroud on its list of newsgroups by now, please request that they add it. (The "newsgroup control message" was sent out on Nov. 6/7, and there will be "booster messages" every two weeks.) There are thousands of Usenet newsgroups, and servers will usually add one to their feed if requested by a customer.
2. Post a note to the newsgroup about your latest research, or a comment on some current event (e.g. Madame Siliato's claims), or ANYTHING else relevant to the Shroud.

The propagation of new newsgroups is something of a chicken-and-egg situation, sometimes Catch-22! If it does not propagate well among the main servers, it attracts fewer posts, which discourages the main servers from carrying it, etc.

To keep up with the flow of posts in alt.turin-shroud, you need to find out how long your server retains posts to the newsgroups; the norm is usually 1-2 weeks. My server for example only keeps posts for 6 days, so I try to look in on the newsgroups I am interested in at least once a week. If your news reader (e.g. News Xpress) has a "reload old posts" function, you can still view old ones by invoking reload. If not, posts for all newsgroups are archived at www.dejanews.com for a few months and can be read at that site.

Hope to see you in al-turin-shroud!!!

William Meacham



William Meacham (right) at the highly successful Shroud Photographic Exhibition and Symposium in 1986 with Rex Morgan and Prof Luigi Gonella

THE SAME KOUZNETSOV?

The advent of Russian Dr Dimitri Kouznetsov on the Shroud scene at the Rome Symposium in 1993 at first caused a great deal of interest when he published his theory of how the Shroud cloth had been tainted to give a carbon date up to 1,800 years incorrect. Gradually Shroud experts began to disagree with his conclusions. Kouznetsov and his colleagues wrote letters all over the world (including to Rex Morgan in Australia) claiming that they had been funded by John Jackson and seeking further funding for their research and for the "Russian translation" of Ian Wilson's book. It was Ian Wilson who denounced Kouznetsov with an implication that he was less than honest in his *BSTS Newsletter* in Nov/Dec 1996. Dr John Jackson has also taken a very guarded view of Kouznetsov's work in recent times. And then on December 11, 1997 the following report appeared in the *USA News Times*: (Some words are not clear on our faxed copy so this transcript is E and OE)

ARREST MADE IN BAD-CHECK SCHEME

A 42 year old Moscow native, who recently moved to Danbury, was jailed on a \$100,000 bond yesterday, charged with writing bad checks at a Bethel bank.

Dimitri Kouznetsov, of White Street, was arrested on a warrant charging him with attempted first-degree larceny, first-degree forgery, third-degree larceny and first degree attempted larceny for his dealings at a First Union Bank branch.

Police said Kouznetsov had in his possession three checks that had been stolen from a Virginia Beach, Va., couple. He allegedly made the checks out to himself and deposited the money into an account he had opened at the branch.

Kouznetsov told branch officials that he needed a local account for business purposes.

Police said checks stolen from the Virginia couple have also surfaced in New York and New Jersey. More than \$20,000 was cashed in three years according to the arrest warrant.

THE SAME KOUZNETSOV? (cont'd)

Police did not elaborate on the out-of-state reports but said that the suspect used names similar to Kouznetsov and that the scheme worked in a similar manner.

At Kouznetsov's arraignment yesterday bail commissioner Judge Feulner said the defendant was trying to start up a business in the area. He has been living in Danbury for about two months.

Superior Court Judge Dale Ratcliffe set the bond at \$100,000 Police began investigating the Bethel scam on October 12.

Kouznetsov opened the Bethel First Union account on Oct 7, Police said. His initial deposit was \$6,700. He also made two more deposits in October, one for \$6,700 and the other for \$10,000.

Kouznetsov allegedly cashed a check in the amount of \$6,300 for himself on Oct 18 at the First Union Bank in Danbury. He also wrote a check which was cashed on Oct 10 in New York state in the amount of \$800 police said.



Dr Dimitri Kouznetsov of Moscow (l) at the Rome International Shroud Symposium in 1993 where he charmed and impressed many people

THE SAME KOUZNETSOV? (cont'd)



SBRL

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14.08.95.

Rex MORGAN, M.B.E.
 President,
 South-East Asia Research Centre
 for the Holy Shroud
 FAX # 61-02-98-29956

Dear Colleague,



Dr. D.A. KOUZNETSOV
 Director

DR. A.A. IVANOV
 Associate Director

MRS. N.A. MARINA
 Finances/C.E.O.

As you probably know, the most part of the data we have obtained in our experimental Shroud-related studies since 1992 now published (Analytical Chemistry 1994, v.66, No 23, 4359-4365; TEXTILE Research Journal/U. 1995, vol. 65, No 4, 236-240) or accepted for publication in Journal of Archaeological Science. These data were actively discussed at the Meeting of American Chemical Society (Anaheim, CA, USA, April 2-6, 1995).

We have already a lot of things to discuss, also we have a lot of things to do as well.

We feel that the 1988 dating error should not only to be proven and analysed, but we can and have to develop an alternative dating approach to escape from several mistakes which, as we believe, were made in 1987.

Please find our brief description of the current situation we have now in our work.

It would be great to have your response in a very near future.

Sincerely,

Dmitri KOUZNETSOV
 FAX # 7-095-186-7409

THE SAME KOUZNETSOV? (cont'd)

for your information:

- we have something not enough for a month-long trip for both of us.
- a) our anticipated US lecturing/debating tour will cost us about \$4,800 total;
- b) One-year grant for laboratory studies (6 full-time employees including 2 Ph.D's we're hunting for now is about \$44,500
- c) A whole privatization plan (joint venture is possible) for the lab costs \$650,000.
- this could be discussed on a commercial basis.
- d) Plus, I'd like to note briefly that I ~~am~~ translated a famous book about the Shroud written by British historian Ian Wilson. I'd like to publish at least 60,000 copies of this book in Russian (this is commercial project I'm ready to discuss). Keep in mind (John Jackson saw it as many others) it.

the interest in the Shroud in modern Russia is really great. The starting sum we need to publish this book for our readers is \$12,000. So far, there is no one book devoted to the Shroud in Russian. In my ~~own~~ viewpoint, ~~the~~ Wilson book would be the best beginning to educate many of my co-citizens.

As for the method of any possible help, how it is no problem since we have opened our accounts in ~~some~~ THE BAHAMAS (offshore) and US small banks. We could give our recommendations as soon as any positive decision ~~would~~ would be made by you or anybody else.

THE LATE RODNEY HOARE - Shroud Author and Researcher
(Reprinted from the *British Society for the Turin Shroud*
Newsletter No 45 (June/July 1997))

**British Society for
the Turin Shroud
Chairman
Rodney Hoare
1927-1997**



No individual more gave the lie to caricature portrayals of the BSTS (pace the Picknett/Prince book) as some relic-obsessed Catholic mafia than the Society's Chairman, Rodney Hoare, who died on Friday 21 February, after a long illness. In terms of his personal standpoint on the Shroud Rodney was (a) a trained scientist; (b) an Anglican, and (c) very much his own man.

In his first book on the subject *The Testimony of the Shroud*, published by Quartet in 1978, he described his having consulted with pathologists of the East Midlands Forensic Science Laboratory who persuaded him that the Shroud, although genuinely of someone crucified in the exact manner of Christ, showed the individual it once wrapped to have been still alive at the time he was laid in it. As a result, while Rodney upheld the Shroud's authenticity as the burial cloth of Jesus, he argued that neither the crucifixion nor the lance-thrust actually killed Jesus. He also argued for the exoneration of Judas Iscariot as Jesus's betrayer, Jesus himself having allegedly been party to Judas's approach to the Temple authorities.

While in other Shroud groups around the world such views might have caused Rodney's outright rejection, if not as a heretic, certainly as a *persona non grata*, it was characteristic of him never to try to impose his opinions, and his objectivity, common sense and sound grasp of constitutional niceties made him the natural choice first as the Society's deputy chairman, then as full Chairman from October 1989. When in the early 1990s the Society came under serious threat from the 'infiltrate, discredit and destroy' tactics of the Leonardo da Vinci

THE LATE RODNEY HOARE (cont'd)

cult it was Rodney who took the lead on the appropriate responses, both by letter and in person at the confrontational meeting of April 28, 1993. His leadership at this time was all the more heroic as he had already begun suffering from the debilitating 'ME' type symptoms that stayed with him until his death from what was diagnosed as acute viral encephalitis.

Rodney was born in Newport (Gwent) to a Royal Navy family in 1927. After education at Haileybury School he served four years with the British Army as part of the then compulsory national service, the later part of this time in India with the 1st KGV's own Gurkha Rifles, in which he attained the rank of Captain. He then won a place at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he gained his MA in Natural Sciences, and on graduating taught physics at Shrewsbury School for twenty years. Part of this time included a one year exchange in California and two years in Freetown, Sierra Leone training science teachers to develop techniques to teach science via television. On his returning to the UK he became a lecturer at Trent Polytechnic, Nottingham, training future teachers in educational technology.

On his retirement in 1985 he and his wife Jennifer moved to Salisbury where he quickly became involved in the Civic Society, reviving it from its previously moribund state, and much raising its public profile on matters of the preservation of Salisbury's historical heritage, including its incomparable Cathedral. He was also a former chairman of the Salisbury Talking Newspaper Association for the Blind and Partially Sighted, and did voluntary work for the Salisbury Citizens Advice Bureau.

Besides *Testimony of the Shroud* published in 1978, Rodney's Shroud publications include *A Piece of Cloth* in 1984, *The Turin Shroud is Genuine* published by Souvenir in 1994, and a historical novel, *The Final Witness*, self-published from his home in Salisbury in 1989. His funeral was at St. Thomas's Church, Salisbury on Wednesday March 5. At the service the Society was represented by General Secretary Dr. Michael Clift and Committee member Miss Gresham Wells, and in lieu of floral tributes a donation of £30 was made on the Society's behalf to the St. Thomas's Restoration Fund. Rodney is survived by his widow Jennifer, three grown-up children and eight grandchildren. He will be greatly missed.

A STRANGE MEETING IN NICE

- Remi Van Haelst, Belgium

The reception offered by the township of Nice should have been a moment of relief during the 3rd CIELT Shroud Symposium held in Nice, France. I was talking with a handsome young lady from Radio Vatican who had interviewed me earlier that day about my criticism of the radiocarbon dating. I mentioned the fact that, in spite of the written permission of Pope John-Paul II to give me access to the Turin files, I had not been able to obtain a copy of the OFFICIAL report made up by the British Museum. She refused to believe that the official radiocarbon dating report was never published for examination by scientists of other disciplines, not by the British Museum, Oxford, Arizona, Zurich, Professor Bray nor by the Turin authorities. Then, by some strange coincidence, Professor Barberis of the Turin Shroud Center passed by. The journalist asked him why Turin still refuses to publish the official radiocarbon dating report. The answer was, "Because the only document ever received by Turin is the four page report published in *Nature* ..." But when I asked why Turin did not oblige the British Museum to publish the Official report for scientific research, the answer was silence.

This is about the same answer I was given by Professor Gonella and Dr Tite when I was talking about the issue in Paris in 1989 during the first CIELT Shroud Symposium. I will never forget the angry words of Dr Gonella and the gentlemanlike behaviour of Dr Tite. Remember that I filed a motion during the 2nd CIELT Symposium in Rome in 1993 to publish the official report. Until today the report has not been published. I begin to believe that I will not live long enough to witness the publication of the official report of the radiocarbon dating of the Shroud of Turin.



Remi Van Haelst talking to Miss Sabina of Vatican Radio and Dr Bruno Barberis at right

Reprinted from the *Bangkok Post*, Thailand (31 Oct 1997)

Archeologist: Turin Shroud is no fake

'It did wrap the dead body of Christ'

Rome, Reuters

A Swiss archeologist said yesterday he had proved beyond all doubt that the Turin Shroud, one of Christianity's most mysterious and controversial relics, did wrap the dead body of Christ and was not a mediaeval fake. She said new research in Paris had also shown that what appear to be the words "Jesus Nazareth" were written on the cloth shortly after the body was wrapped in it.

"This is the only document on earth that proves the material presence of Christ 2,000 years ago," Maria Grazia Siliato told a news conference in Rome to present her book, "Shroud".

"It is the only real, concrete, archeological relic. Now (its authenticity) is beyond all doubt," she said.

Siliato hopes her book will finally give the lie to carbon-dating tests in 1988 by three laboratories in England, the United States and Switzerland that concluded the fragile linen sheet, which bears the apparently blood-stained image of a crucified man, was a 13th or 14th century forgery.

In the book, she traces what she says is the history of the Shroud, which many had thought could only be traced to 1357 when crusaders were believed to have brought the 4.4 by 1.4 metre cloth to France from the Middle East.

Siliato; who has studied the shroud for 16 years, said the carbon-14 tests were wrong for one simple reason the fragment tested was a corner of the cloth repaired five times since 1400.

The proof, she said, was that the samples taken weighed 42 miligrammes per square centimetre, whereas the whole Shroud had an average weight of 20-23 miligrammes per square centimetre.

"These are numbers. They can't be discussed on an emotional level," she said. "They prove large scale restoration."

That explained why the scientists in 1988 differed about the shroud's age, dating it from between 1260 and 1390.

The Turin Shroud, which was saved from a fire in Turin Cathedral last April, clearly bears the image of a man with shoulder-length hair and a beard lying flat with his hands crossed, but sceptics down the centuries have dismissed it as a painting and the apparent blood marks as fake.

Reprinted from the *Daily Mail*, London (9 December 1997)

Is this the Shroud's last secret?

by JUNE
SOUTHWORTH.

A HUMBLE little plant may solve one of the greatest mysteries — whether the Turin Shroud, thought by many to have been wrapped around the dead body of Jesus after the Crucifixion, is genuine.

The latest detective work, by an Israeli plant expert examining pollen grains taken from the ancient linen, has pinpointed the Judean wilderness to the east of Jerusalem as the place where wild flowers garlanding the shadowy head of the 5ft 10in figure on the shroud were picked.

The scientist can also name the time of day and season — 2pm on a spring afternoon. But tantalisingly he cannot give the date. Yet.

Two thousand years have passed since Jesus of Nazareth was nailed to a cross at Calvary, just outside the city walls of Jerusalem, by the Roman conquerors of Judea in Palestine. According to The Bible, there was a crown of thorns on his head when friends claimed his body and laid him in a tomb, wrapped in his death shroud.

So is this the shroud acquired by Crusaders in the Holy Land in 1357 and placed by the Vatican in the

chapel of Turin cathedral in Italy? Or is the piece of linen bearing the imprint of a crucifixion victim merely a fake exposed again and again by modern science?

The truth may lie in that grain of pollen taken from a caper plant.

It was in the Seventies that Max Frei, a Swiss forensic scientist, identified 25 plant species from pollen found in the shroud, mainly around the imprint of the head. He died in 1982 before completing his research.

Taking up the challenge in 1985, Alan Whanger, a retired doctor who was a keen photographer, enhanced images from a 1931 photograph of the shroud and identified 28 species of plant native to the Holy Land. There were rock roses, crown chrysanthemums and a bouquet of bean capers.

Dr Whanger called in Professor Avinoam Danin, an expert on the botany of the Near East, to examine Frei's pollen. The Israeli botanist has now confirmed that 27 of the 28 species grow in the Jerusalem area. His findings appear in the latest issue of the Israeli nature magazine *Eretz*.

The database Danin built up shows that likely places where the plants could have been picked to the east of Jerusalem include the traditional site of the Inn of the Good Samaritan, or the Qumran area where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found.

The combination of the bean caper (*Zygophyllum dumosum*) and rock rose (*Cistus creticus*) growing in the same area is unique to an area within 50 miles of Jerusalem. They grow together only along the Jerusalem-Jericho road through the Judean desert. He emphasises that the pollen grains of the rock rose extracted from the shroud are real ones, some on the outside of the material and some embedded among the fibres.

'There can be no mistake about them,' Danin says. He is Professor of Botany in the Department of Evolution, Systematology and Ecology in the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

THE SHROUD'S LAST SECRET? (cont'd)

The bean caper and another caper found in the Turin Shroud were picked one spring in Judea, Professor Danin claims. He can pinpoint the time of day as 2pm because 'in spring this caper starts to open at 12 noon and continues growing until 5pm. If you cut it, it stays frozen in the same form'.

This means that we have now added to the data on the Turin Shroud the fact that it contains two plants that grew together in Judea at the time of the death of Jesus Christ, a combination found nowhere else. The caper was plucked on a spring afternoon. The question is, which spring?

Other branches of science may yet prove whether it was picked on the day Christians everywhere now mark at Easter as the day Christ died.

PROFESSOR Danin's botanical research may put paid to theories advanced in recent years about how the shroud might have been forged in medieval times. One theory suggests a man daubed with red paint commonly used in Italy was wrapped in a sheet to create the image. Another, that it is the shroud of Jacques de Molay, Grand Master of the Knights

Templar, crucified by the Inquisition in the 14th century.

Carbon-dating the Turin Shroud has proved to be something of a farce. It was identified as a fake dating, between 1290-1360, which seemed to knock on the head any claim to authenticity until it was revealed that the carbon-dating was performed on a sample from one of the triangular patches applied after the first Turin fire.

The shroud has certainly proved its claim to having miraculous properties after being saved from another devastating fire at Turin Cathedral last April. Since then, research has found the imprint of a Roman coin on the cloth. Two months ago, French researchers claimed to have proved that the words 'Jesus' and 'Nazareth' were written on the cloth shortly before a body was wrapped in it.

So, as yet another story about the Shroud unfolds, one thing is certain it won't be the last.

• *Additional reporting by David Shaw in Jerusalem*



Dr Alan Whanger (right) at a discussion group with Prof Emanuela Marinelli in Bologna, Italy, 1989

ONE PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND TESTS

-Fr Peter Little, SJ, Australia

The massive amount of enthralling information about the Shroud (conveyed so faithfully to us by our own Rex Morgan) risks obscuring a basic truth about it. While we cannot be grateful enough to Secondo Pia for discovering - in 1898 - through the 'living' majesty of the shroud face on his camera negative, that the shroud itself is virtually a giant negative, notice he didn't need any scientific tests before knowing what, rather, who, he was looking at.

Many scholars, heads sunk in dusty documents, refused to look at Pia's photos. Photography was merely a new-fangled thing. Any evidence it uncovered couldn't possibly prevail against an array of documents that denied the genuineness of the shroud. My archaeology professor in Rome remarked one day, a propos of the shroud that people obsessed with the worth of documents wouldn't accept somebody standing in front of them without documents proving him to be there.

Many scholars today, their learned heads sunk in books full of information on the shroud from every kind of testing contemporary apparatus makes possible, tell us that we need more testing before we can decide it's genuine. The carbon-14 tests had media moguls in-forming their clientele of millions that the shroud had at last been shown not to be genuine.

But, here's my point. No tests are needed at all. Only one condition is needed for anybody looking at photographs of the shroud to know immediately it's real.

The condition is almost universally fulfilled. Virtually everybody has seen one or more famous artistic depictions of the Face of Christ in his passion or resurrection. It's not only that the similarity between these hundred and one masterpieces and the facial image on the shroud is enough for instant recognition. It's the living majesty of Christ the Lord in death that grips every onlooker. To link it with mere artistic masterpieces would be unpardonable: the difference is unmistakable. Scientific tests simply don't deal with haunting majesty.

Maybe if the shroud contained no image of the only crucified Man the whole world knows about, carbon-14 tests might help us determine if it was old enough to have enfolded Christ the Lord. If there were no facial image with its awesome look of majesty and affronted dignity - tests might pinpoint the cloth in time. But to think we need tests, and more of them! to determine if the shroud is contemporaneous with the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ, when that crucifixion is placarded on it in front of our very eyes, is surely bizarre beyond belief. Next year the millions who make a pilgrimage to Turin for the Centenary Exhibition of the Shroud won't suffer from such a Nervous Nellie syndrome!

Reprinted from the *Catholic Times*, UK (11 May 1997)

Turin shroud stays in Turin

LETTER FROM THE VATICAN

THE Shroud of Turin now, is and forever will be kept in the northern Italian town that has been its home for almost 420 years, the local archbishop has insisted.

Of course, the Pope, who owns the cloth, which many believe was Christ's burial shroud, could conceivably invoke his authority and command the archbishop of Turin to deliver it to the Vatican.

But Cardinal Giovanni Saldarini of Turin, the papally-appointed custodian of the shroud, said he doubted it ever would be known as 'The Vatican Shroud'.

The cardinal came to the Vatican to outline plans for the public exhibition of the shroud, which in recent times has been done every 20 years. The cloth was last on display in 1978.

"When I asked the Holy Father, who is the owner of the shroud, if we should exhibit it in 1998 or 2000, he responded, 'Why not both?'" the cardinal said.

So, the Archdiocese of Turin, the city, and the regional and provincial governments are setting up restoration projects, exhibits and tourist facilities for 1998 and 2000 exhibits in the Turin cathedral.

Cardinal Saldarini hinted that someone thought it might be a good idea to move the shroud to Rome or, at least, to exhibit it at the Vatican as part of the Holy Year celebrations.

But two weeks after a fire severely damaged the Guarini Chapel, where the shroud was usually kept, and burned part of the adjacent St John the Baptist Cathedral, Cardinal Saldarini said: "It is in Turin and there is no reason to move it."

The shroud's permanent shrine has been the Guarini Chapel since 1694. When the fire broke out, the shroud was in the cathedral because of restoration work on the chapel. Examinations of the shroud after the fire ruled out any damage or change in the cloth.

"I truly believe that Turin deserves to keep it, given the care and concern with which its been kept" since Duke Emanuele Filiberto of the royal House of Savoy brought it to the city in 1578, Cardinal Saldarini said.

The House of Savoy, Italy's royal family from 1861 to 1946, owned the shroud from 1453 until 1983. Pope John Paul II, who formally was given ownership of the shroud in the 1983 will of Umberto of Savoy, has never shown any sign of wanting the cloth moved to the Vatican, the cardinal said.

But others have, he continued.

"It was not the Pope and it was not Cardinal (Angelo) Sodano," the Vatican secretary of state, "nor any other ecclesial authority," the cardinal quickly added. "The decision of the Pope to leave the Holy Shroud in Turin forever and to name the archbishop as his custodian has never meant his lack of interest in this precious icon of the mercy of our Saviour," the cardinal said.

After the 1988 announcement that church-approved carbon-14 tests dated the shroud to the Middle Ages, Pope John Paul told reporters there was no reason not to consider the shroud a relic.

"If it were not a relic, one could not understand these reactions of faith that surround it and which are now even stronger after scientific test results," he said in April 1989.

The Church has never made a pronouncement on the shroud's authenticity, he said, but for those who believe it is real, the visual image alone tells them it held Christ's body. Cardinal Saldarini said: "While we cannot say with certainty that it was the linen used to wrap the body of Jesus ... it can be proposed as a reminder, as a very eloquent image of Christ."

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The Piedmont Region considers the Exposition of the Holy Shroud in 1998 and the exhibitions planned for the Jubilee in the year 2000 to be an exceptional opportunity to reintroduce the image of Piedmont at the international level both culturally and in terms of tourism.

It is a chance for us to show an exceptional number of visitors our attractive region which is ready to receive them with efficient services, exhibitions and activities of excellent quality and ample choice among various different itineraries.

The holy places and monuments that make up an important part of the artistic and architectural heritage of our region will be open to visitors and many will be open to the public for the first time.

The Piedmont Region has therefore carried out a maintenance and restoration programme on the religious buildings of Turin and Piedmont, enabling us to provide specific excursions and itineraries.

These itineraries are centred around buildings of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries AD in Turin, while fifteen different excursions have been organised into the surrounding countryside of Piedmont, following the Shroud's movements and the pilgrim routes from the fifteenth to the eighteenth centuries.

The Piedmont Region and the Italian Touring Club will produce a guide to the itineraries around the holy buildings of Turin and Piedmont, together with a CD ROM and videos which will be distributed during the period of the Exposition.

Restoration work is in progress on the Museum of Sindonology, which is adjacent to the Church of the SS. Sudario in Turin. The museum will open with a permanent exhibition of important items, alongside other documents which will be rotated periodically. A visit to the museum will be included along one of the information itineraries.

The museums of Piedmont will also be open, and particular attention will be devoted to the places of interest on the various itineraries.

During the Exposition there will also be an exhibition on the representation of the Shroud over the centuries, ranging from the most ancient art reproductions (miniatures, prints, drawings, paintings) to the official photographs, up until the most modern electronically processed images. It will guide the visitor through the knowledge people have had of the Shroud over the centuries.

The exhibition will conclude with the "new" way of looking at the Shroud by means of computer images, with an "interactive" section enabling the visitor to "experience in real time" the computer experiments carried out on the Shroud.

Giampiero Leo
Councillor for Culture
Piedmont Region

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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