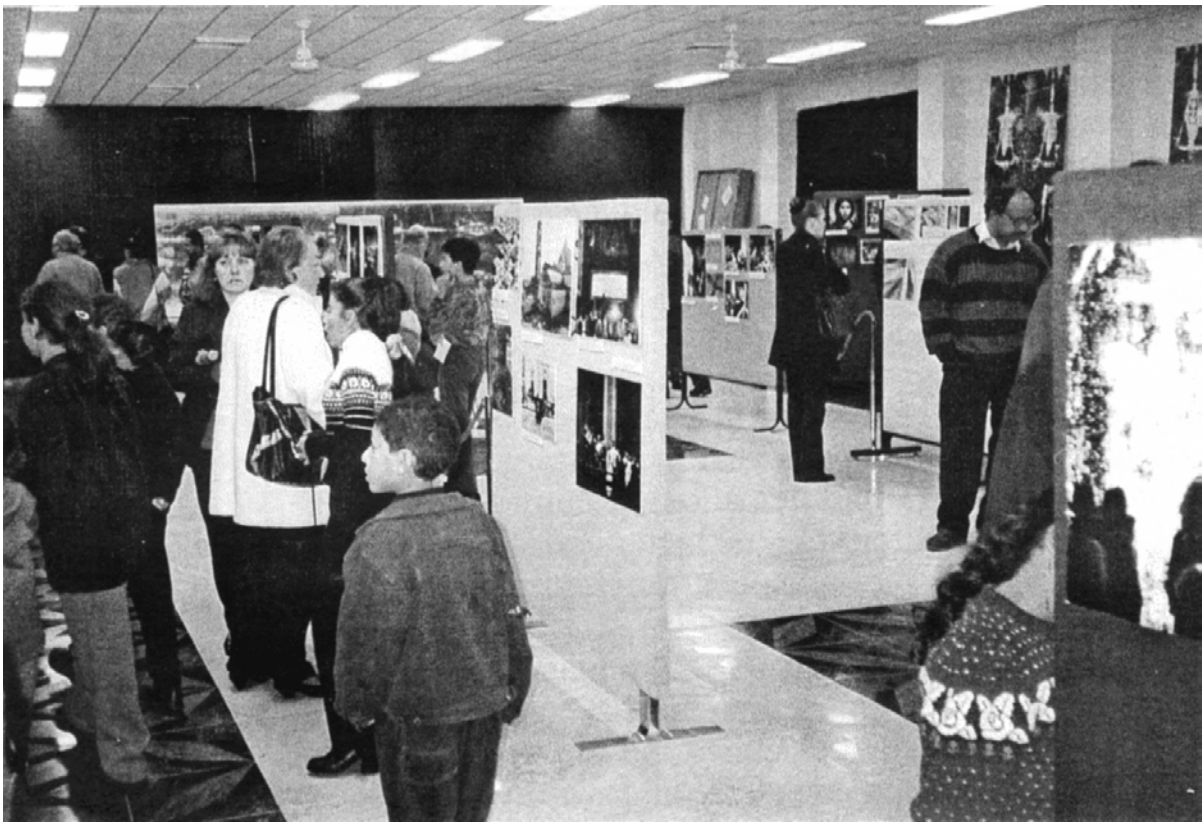




A NEWSLETTER ABOUT RESEARCH ON THE HOLY SHROUD OF TURIN  
The most frequent Shroud-related publication in the English language  
**published in Australia for Worldwide circulation since 1980**  
edited by REX MORGAN, Author of several books on the Shroud

**Issue Number 111**

**DECEMBER 1998**



The Brooks Photographic Exhibit of the Shroud of Turin on display in July at Mount Druitt Coptic Orthodox Church in Sydney under the auspices of the South East Asia Research Centre for the Holy Shroud (SEARCH)

## EDITORIAL

As the past two or three issues have been crammed with reporting from Turin I have spared my readers an editorial comment in them. I have been overwhelmed with the amount of material which continues to land on my desk and I always seem to have enough for several issues more than can ever be produced. So this issue is back to a more normal variety of inclusions.

It has been one of the most extraordinary years for the Shroud following 1997 when the cloth was nearly lost in the fire at Turin. I had the opportunity to be at Turin twice during 1998, first for the opening of the exposition of the Shroud, reminiscent of the days I was there in 1978. The amusing press conferences, the numerous interviews I gave to international radio, television and press, and the marvellous round of allied functions and exhibitions in that wonderful old city of Turin.

One of the highlights for me was to meet several times, Mario Trematore, who saved the Shroud but seemed to get precious little acknowledgement for his deed. The second trip was for the International Congress which requires no further comment from me if you have read the past two numbers other than, perhaps, to say that the amazing announcement that there would be no international conference during the Holy Year of 2000 when the Shroud will again be on display, took everyone by surprise. Understandably, there are several groups mobilising themselves to arrange international conferences even if Turin doesn't want to.

Christopher Morgan reports on the showing of the Brooks Photographic Exhibition in two locations this year in Australia. It is important to point out that in the past we have had items lost or damaged despite assurances from occasional users who should know better and the exhibit is only available in exceptional circumstances and under our very stringent criteria.

The Christmas season reminds us of the man whose image we study in the Shroud as our children and grandchildren gather with us to celebrate this great event in the Christian calendar and the world calendar. And I wish all readers a happy Christmas and a safe and worthwhile New Year.

REX MORGAN

## END OF THE TURIN CONGRESS

Most of this year's issues of *Shroud News* have been devoted to one aspect or another of the Turin Congress and the Exhibition of the Shroud for the fourth time this century. The Congress, described in detail in the last three issues, ended with a Solemn High Mass in the Cathedral of St John in Turin, where the Shroud has been traditionally kept from 1598 until 1997 when the disastrous fire destroyed parts of the Royal Palace adjoining it and the Chapel of the Holy Shroud itself. It is ironic that the Shroud had been moved into the cathedral during the restoration of the chapel only to be almost destroyed in April 1997 and the Shroud itself dramatically rescued by Mario Trematore.

The delegates to the congress were given a final special walkthrough of the exhibit areas leading to the cathedral. This was the last day of the exhibition of the Shroud and not unexpectedly a huge crowd was there for the last minute look. This meant that those of us who were at the end of the line arrived in the cathedral when it was full. By an act of Providence Christopher Morgan and I and one or two other Shroudies, when the ushers realised we were part of the international research fraternity took us up onto the special platform before the high altar reserved for the clergy and we sat a few yards from the Shroud and within reach of the Cardinal Archbishop and opposite some fifty priests involved in the Mass.

For non Catholics we regarded this as a remarkable privilege and a moving experience to be able to worship in such a position, so close to the object of our research for many years and of our continuing fascination and interest. The Mass was inspiring and beautiful and involved participants from many countries including lay people. It was a remarkable finish to what had been a remarkable congress from many points of view and served to redeem some of the absurdities we had experienced in the days before. The organisation had left much to be desired; the supporting activities of the Shroud exhibition were excellent; the food associated with the congress was superb; the announcement of no International Congress in the year 2000 was a disappointment. But our farewells to our colleagues on the steps and to the organisers were genuinely warm and grateful.



Part of the Stupingi Palazzina di Caccia Savoy Hunting Lodge where the lavish Shroud Congress Gala banquet was held



At the banquet Isabel Piczek (standing) with Jim Owens, Dan Scavone and Mrs Scavone

## TURIN SHROUD PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION (THE BROOKS EXHIBIT) ON DISPLAY AGAIN IN AUSTRALIA IN 1998

**A report by Christopher Morgan**

### **Bathurst, New South Wales**

Many *Shroud News* readers are familiar with the superb Shroud Photographic Exhibit which was created by Brooks Institute, California after the scientific investigation into the Shroud in 1978. Rex Morgan brought the exhibition to Australia in the early 80s and it was subsequently seen by more than half a million people in 20 cities and travelled to Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Macau, and Hong Kong as a non-profit making enterprise under the auspices of the South East Asia Research Centre for the Holy Shroud (SEARCH) who remain the custodians of the now expanded exhibit.

The world class display which includes full size photographs of the Shroud and a collection of several hundred captioned photographs based on the 1978 research of the S.T.U.R.P. team is a celebration of the work of such eminent photographers as Ernest Brooks, Vernon Miller, and the indefatigable Barrie Schwartz, and others, and was the subject of many reports in early editions of *Shroud News*. Since the early 80s the exhibit has been gradually expanded to include recent and current Shroud research and awaits future permanent display in a planned Shroud Research Centre in Australia.

In April 1998, to coincide with the celebration of the centenary of the first photograph of the Shroud by Pia and the discovery of its photographic negativity and also in celebration of the exposition of the Shroud itself in Turin, we were able to extract the exhibit from careful storage and once more place it on public display.

### **Unusual venue**

We chose a small historic church in the tiny village of Raglan near Bathurst in New South Wales, (Rex Morgan's Australian home town) as an appropriate setting for the exhibition where it could be seen by many and we used the event to help raise funds for the hardworking parishioners of Australia's oldest inland church, Holy Trinity, Bathurst, whose members are building a much needed community centre in the city. Despite the limitations of space and the lack of high tech resources desirable for mounting such an important exhibit the display looked good in the intimate setting of the little church.

## PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION (contd')

### **Thousands of visitors**

As is always the case the exhibit generated an enormous amount of press and public comment and thousands of locals and visitors came to see it. Quite a few subscribers to *SN* made the trip. The exhibit was timed to coincide with the duration of the exposition of the Shroud in Turin and so lasted from 9th April to 14th June 1998 and was manned by volunteers from the parish. Many visitors expressed their gratitude for having the opportunity to share in the Shroud phenomenon although they were at the opposite end of the earth to events taking place in Turin. The Roman Catholic Bishop of Bathurst, The Rt. Rev Patrick Doherty was particularly impressed as was the Rev Samuel Marsden, Rector of Holy Trinity Church.

### **Irony**

An interesting irony for me was to observe one Australian TV news crew making the 3 hour trip from Sydney to see and report on the Shroud and the photographic exhibit at Bathurst for very little cost while a week later I found another Australian film crew in Turin covering the exposition of the Shroud and the conference there - at enormous expense - and with about the same result for the eventual audience back in Australia. And I took great delight in pointing this absurdity out to them in a lift in a hotel in Turin but I think they enjoyed their 'free' trip to Europe.

One visitor from Canada who was travelling through Bathurst and came to the display made the memorable comment,

"Fine photos indeed," she said, "maybe next year you can get the real thing!"

### **Sydney, 1998**

#### **Coptic Orthodox Church, Sydney**

One family who visited the Bathurst exhibition were members of the Coptic Orthodox Church of Archangel Michael and St Bishoy at Mount Druitt, Sydney. The delightful Mr Abe Mikhael and his family subsequently asked us if the Brooks Exhibit could be placed on display in the Church buildings at Mount Druitt for the celebration of the feast of Saints Peter and Paul the Apostles and for the celebration of Saint Bishoy between the 12th July and 26th July 1998 which we were happy to do on seeing his professionally presented proposal.

## PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION (contd')

### Rex Morgan lecture

These arrangements included an illustrated lecture on the Shroud by Rex Morgan on 24th July to a packed church. It seemed the entire church community attended. I counted more than 500 excited and animated people crammed into the magnificent building for the lecture. The importance of icons among the Egyptian Coptics and the obvious relationship between these images and the Shroud image made the event quite exceptional and unforgettable for this observer for the sheer enthusiasm it generated. It was a dramatic demonstration of the importance of the Shroud amongst groups widely divergent from its traditional custodians and further demonstrated the Shroud's global ecumenical power.

### Shroud Face

The Coptic Orthodox Church at Mount Druitt, led by Fr. Mina Nematalla and Fr. Antonious Kaldas accorded us a most generous welcome and warm hospitality. Many hundreds of their community and other Coptic Church communities in Sydney visited the exhibition. We presented the church a back-lit transparency of the Shroud face at the conclusion of the lecture. When it was held aloft and its back-light turned on a huge roar of approval rose up from the audience. And then the church community kindly presented us with icons of St Bishoy.

### Gratitude

It was particularly gratifying to have been able to present the Shroud exhibit to so many people in such an important 'Shroud Year' who otherwise would not have been exposed to the superb photographs and the questions which they raise. Now the exhibit again rests, carefully stored waiting for the development of its permanent display area in the future.

#### UN LIBRO AL PAPA

Prima di partecipare da domani al congresso internazionale di Sindonologia, tre protestanti (due anglicani e un episcopaliano) hanno voluto rendere omaggio al Papa ieri mattina nell'udienza del mercoledì, donandogli quattro volumi sulla Sindone.

In controtendenza rispetto alle posizioni espresse da altri esponenti del protestantesimo contro la Sindone, Rex Morgan e il figlio Christopher, entrambi anglicani,

provenienti da Sydney (Australia), e Jim Owens, episcopaliano del Nevada (Usa) e scultore, hanno ottenuto di essere nelle prime file, di fronte al Papa. Rex Morgan è autore di tre libri sulla Sindone.

«E' assurdo - hanno spiegato - che la Sindone divida cattolici e protestanti: si tratta di un oggetto di studio. Perché i protestanti non dovrebbero essere interessati a quello straordinario lenzuolo funebre che fa pensare a Gesù?».

LA STORIA 4/6/98

## REPORT OF DALLAS CONFERENCE 5 - 8 November 1998

**By ISABEL PICZEK**

Entitled *Planning for the Shroud of Turin in the 21st Century*, the Dallas, Texas conference held in November at the Catholic College Information Center was a huge success. It was the common opinion of the participants that it was the best conference held on American soil for a long time.

We start a new millennium and the second one hundred years of Shroud research now. We had to summarise what sindonology had achieved from 1898 until 1998, from Pia to the Turin Congress. Each discipline also had to make suggestions for the future and we had to attempt to see the path leading into the future of Shroud research. Above all we aimed to achieve unity among the different Shroud Centers and the individual researchers.

I am happy to report that all these aims were achieved by the conference. American sindonology is united. We have a path leading to the future.

After Michael Minor, the host, welcomed the delegates I pointed out our aims and hopes. Paul Maloney delivered a summary of the entire history of Shroud research in the last one hundred years. It was a landmark performance showing the logical and inspired sequence and excellence of what has been done. It left all of us stunned, proud and eager to continue. Fr Dreisbach further enhanced this by his excellent talk on the heartrending struggle and victory of the two founders of American sindonology, Father Peter Rinaldi and Father Adam Otterbein. They gave us a heritage of unprecedented magnitude.

Dr Gilbert Lavoie followed with a talk on his blood transfer theory and some very eye-opening remarks about 1st century Jewish funeral practices. Dr August Accetta gave another landmark talk. His completely new research was a giant step into the future. Accetta had injected himself (what a sacrifice for the Shroud!) with nuclear material and his body was scanned with a special scanning device through six hours. He showed us the resulting slides. He stressed that he did not try to create a Shroud image per se, merely to show a radiation created human image. The result was stunning. The slides at least have shown a definite resemblance to the Shroud, telling us that the possibility is strong that the image on the Shroud is, in fact, a radiation created image emanating from the body: a concept which gained a lot of credence.



## REPORT OF DALLAS CONFERENCE (cont'd)

Dan Scavone summarized historical research giving equal time to all the theories about the missing years and suggested directions for future research. Then followed another completely original research demonstration. Dr Warren S. Grundfest, a much celebrated medical researcher working mainly in nuclear and radiation medicine, demonstrated a new scanner he has developed which could, through an entirely non-destructive method, scan the Shroud surface, register its refractive indices at every point, create its spectral map and read its chemical contents and physical qualities, and gather enough data, without touching the Shroud or taking any samples, which could supply researchers with most information they need for years to come. This was followed by a thorough report by Alan Adler on the conservation issue, many details we did not know, and finally the Jesuit Fr Walter Abbott talked followed by Mass, dinner and discussion.

Dr Bob Bucklin started the second day with a summary of Shroud medical research from the forensic point of view and the causes of death of Christ on the cross. Then Fr Fred Brinkmann, speaking on archiving, gave a down to earth, practical account of the state of the Esopus collection, its preservation and his cataloguing efforts. These are going on constantly at Esopus to record and file the many documents, papers, letters and photos Fr Otterbein and Fr Rinaldi (whose trunk has been found) had collected. It is a vast collection with some real treasures hidden until now. The Esopus Center is still entirely active.

Richard Orareo gave a delightfully personal talk on physical archiving and the importance of a real repository for the treasures which now exist in private hands. He demonstrated his talk by actually showing to us some rare books and magazines. We all gained a taste of what these treasures mean and how vulnerable they are. Fr Dreisbach also talked about his collection which is now in store, some of the problems of archiving and its future.

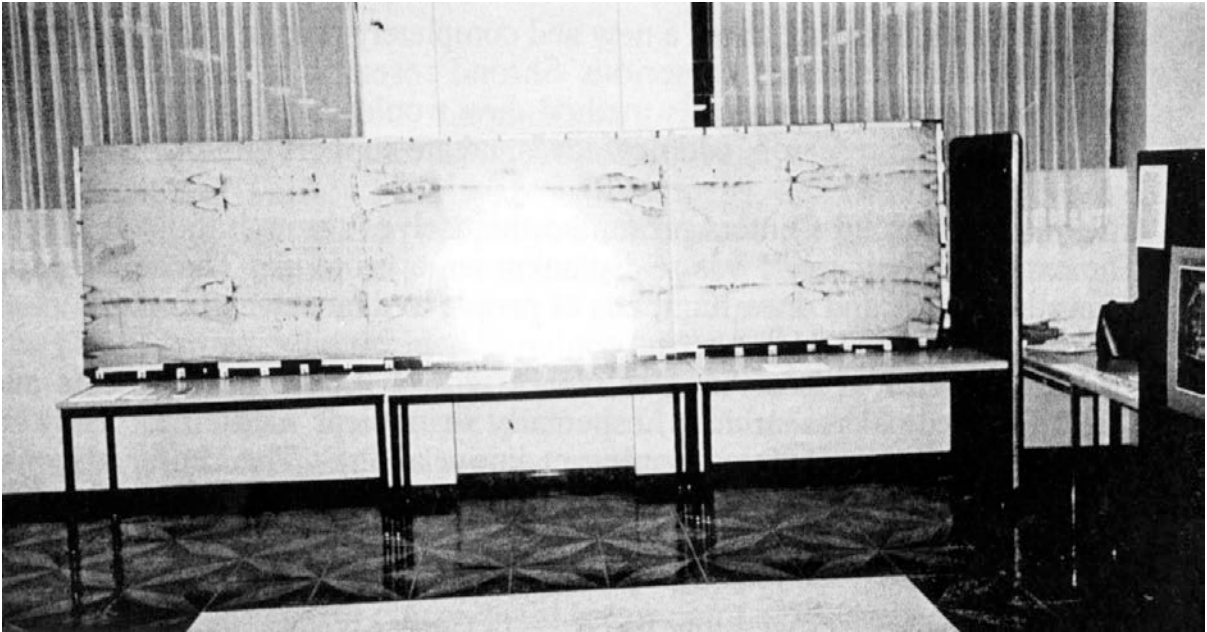
Next a group spoke about electronic archiving, a very important modern concept which opened up the world for research results. Barrie Schwartz, Marc Borkan and Kevin Moran teamed up for the demonstration. Kevin gave a general introduction to the work followed by Mark Borkan's great knowledge of the Internet and its use for Shroud research. Then Barrie Schwartz gave a talk on the wide range and great reach of the Internet and the importance and power of electronic archiving. He showed his CD Rom program and part of his Internet program and a demonstration of the VP8 Image Analyser 3D image of the Shroud. Barrie received a standing ovation.



At the Coptic Orthodox Church, Mount Druitt, Sydney, the spacious and well organised exhibition area for the Brooks Photographic Exhibit



At Mount Druitt members of the Coptic Orthodox community at the exhibition



The full-size photographic replica of the Shroud on display



Christopher Morgan lectures to members of the Coptic Orthodox community

## REPORT OF DALLAS CONFERENCE (cont'd)

Russ Breault gave a talk about a new and completely revolutionary method to teach different branches of serious Shroud research to high school and college students. Through this method they would write papers, theses etc based on Shroud research, add new ideas, create support groups.

The various Shroud Centers presented themselves through their delegates. The extent of their work was really unknown even to us. The centers do a marvellous work and draw hundreds of people to themselves.

Dr Gus Accetta of Los Angeles works with a group of volunteers and scientific medical researchers, especially in nuclear medicine. They do entirely new research few people yet know about. The center also has programs, guided tours to the exhibits and contacts hundreds of people of all faiths and walks of life.

Fr Kim Dreisbach showed that the Atlanta Center is very active through its contacts even though its exhibits are in storage.

Dr and Mrs Alan Whanger's Center was represented by Philip Dayvault who gave one of the finest talks of the day. Again we had reason to be enthused about the future. New breakthroughs about authenticity presented themselves not only through the excellent work of the Whangers but also through their collaboration with Professors Danin and Baruch of Israel. It has been proved beyond a shadow of a doubt that the Shroud was in Jerusalem. Since the history of it does not include a visit there after 1356 it must have been there before, which at once defeats the carbon date and the painting theory.

Fr Dreisbach talked again about ecumenism and Don Lynn gave some deep thought about Shroud research in the future.

Michael Minor summarized the conference to show how one discipline enhances the other and together they create a unified whole. A feeling of great pride and enthusiasm filled everyone clearly seeing that American sindonology has new goals and a new path, new research and strong unity.

As a surprise, an unexpected speaker appeared at the end, the original creator of the VP8 Image Analyser, Pete Schumacher, who was deeply moved by Barrie Schwartz's recreation of it on the Internet. He gave an unforgettable talk about Shroud research.

## WHAT ABOUT GONELLA?

**by Rex Morgan**

One of the most maligned, marginalised and now ignored members of the Shroud Crowd is Professor Luigi Gonella, former scientific adviser to the Archbishop of Turin. He is also, as it happens, one of the most erudite, delightful and entertaining people you could meet. Since the October 1988 announcement that three laboratories had, by a C14 method, dated samples taken from the Shroud to mediaeval times, Gonella has been blamed. It was he, it is said, who decided to reduce the original 7 laboratories to 3 and to eliminate the Small Proportional Counter method leaving only the Accelerator Mass Spectrometer method of the two known methods. Double blind testing was also done away with and Gonella got the blame for that, too.

Ten years down the track and with millions of people having poured into Turin, Gonella's native city and still his place of work and domicile, to see again at first hand the extraordinary piece of linen, it seems that if there were a re-assessment of attitude towards Gonella, there might be a great deal to thank him for.

It is generally agreed that since the preponderance of evidence about the Shroud suggests that it cannot possibly be mediaeval nor can the image possibly be some kind of man made artifact, then the carbon testing must somehow be flawed. Ian Wilson's latest book gives a masterly analysis of this. Amongst the many theories at the moment one of the most plausible is that there is a coating of biochemical "plastic" on the fibres of the linen which has clearly affected the dating result and, indeed, probably accounts for the anomalous results obtained from tests performed with many other pieces of cloth.

But if, in fact, Gonella had allowed all seven labs to make tests from various sample sites on the cloth in 1988 by both of the known carbon dating methods we would likely have been facing a situation much more difficult to justify as erroneous or one affected by this then unknown factor, the biochemical varnish or some other factor. Indeed, it is likely that many, even of those who know enough about the Shroud to be sure it cannot be mediaeval, might have been persuaded by such apparently convincing evidence, that of fourteen laboratories, and might have given up. The chances of a flawed result would have appeared to be infinitely smaller if the full protocol had taken place and a result in those circumstances would likely have been universally accepted and highly unlikely to be reversed in people's perception later as is now beginning to happen.

## WHAT ABOUT GONELLA? (cont'd)

Based on what we appear to know it seems to me, then, that despite decisions which have been forcefully criticised, Gonella might have contributed, wittingly or unwittingly, a very great deal to the continuing interest in the Shroud. Perhaps Christian charity will ultimately prevail and he could be invited to come out of exile and reappear in both the literature and the activity of sindonology to which he contributed so much and in which he surely has a rightful and well deserved place, not least in view of his intimate knowledge of the Shroud and its surrounding personnel, circumstances, situations and tensions over a very long period.



**HOLY FACES, SECRET PLACES: An Amazing Quest for the Face of Jesus** By I. Wilson. Like the Shroud of Turin, mysteries surround other ancient, tattered pieces of cloth reputedly imprinted with the face of Christ: What do these venerated images — kept in the inner sanctums of sacred shrines — reveal? Color & b&w photos, illus. (Doubleday) 238pp. HC A138972 / Pub. \$26.00 / SALE \$7.98



**THE TURIN SHROUD IS GENUINE** By R. Hoare. Scientific reasons why the Shroud could not have been forged in medieval times and must have existed before the banning of crucifixion in the fourth century. Exposes the fallibility of the carbon-dating tests applied to, the Shroud in 1988. B&W illus. (Barnes & Noble) 188pp. HC E113278 Orig. \$24.95 / Only from B&N: \$9.98

On the next three pages are items for, one might say, festive season entertainment. There is a letter accompanying advertising for a South African Shroud face sculpture done in a couple of hours and in which letter the promoter also claims to have seen the Shroud in Paris in 1954.

There is also a letter I saw in the *Bangkok Post* in July. I have read it through several times but cannot make any sense of it at all. Perhaps I am more stupid than I thought but it seems to me to be total nonsense.

And then there are the adverts for Shroud books on special remainder prices from Barnes and Noble's catalogue. No wonder it's difficult to market books on the subject through normal channels.

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28.9.98

Mr Rex Morgan, Director SEARCH  
Box 244, P.O.  
Manly, 2095 New South Wales  
Australia

Dear Sir

## THE FACE IN THE SHROUD OF TURIN

I saw the Shroud of Turin on display at Sacre Coeur in Paris in 1954. The awesome impression it made on me convinced me that I was looking at stains left by the body of Jesus Christ and carbon-dating will not convince me otherwise.

South African sculptor Willem Branca read an article on the Shroud in an April edition of TIME magazine and was so moved by it that he felt a compulsion to try and sculpt the face reflected in the burial cloth.

The result was a face so serene and moving that he is making it available to believers in the Shroud all over. In this way the sculpture will help to promote Christianity. It will also, fittingly, help to relieve the plight of street children and indigent people.

To this end 20% of proceeds is discounted to the church or religious institution or Shroud Centre placing an order.

A further 5% will fund the manufacture of a lightweight, warm garment designed by the artist which doubles as a sleeping bag, for street children and the homeless.

Reproductions of the sculpture are in the form of white or terracotta coloured light weight plastic, terracotta or sepia-coloured prints (A4-size), and terracotta or sepia-coloured post cards.

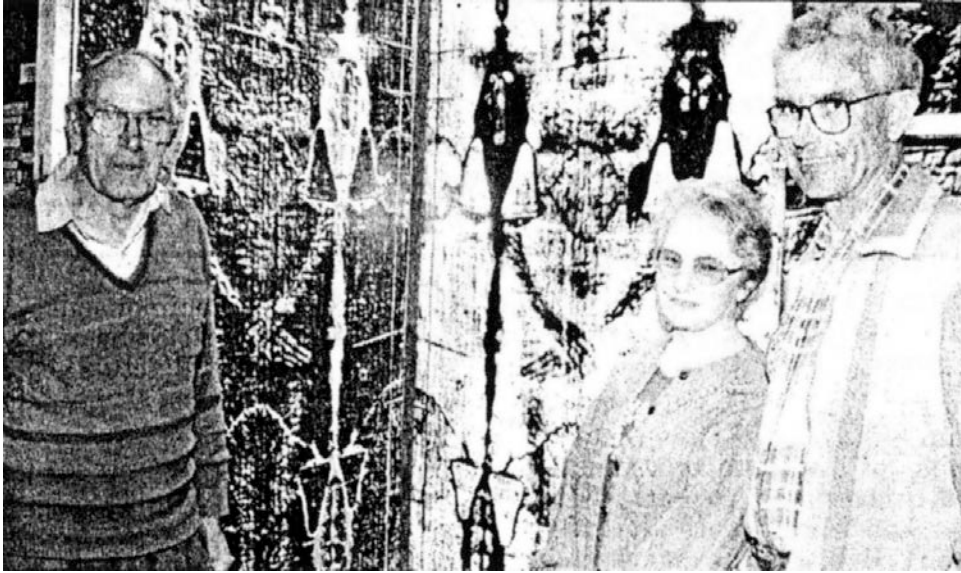
If the plastic face is turned in front of a light source there is a very close resemblance to the stains left by the face in the Shroud of Turin.

Please use the order form if you would like to see the face in any of these variations, and deduct the 20% discount.

With best wishes for the work done at your Centre.

Yours faithfully

STELLA BRANCA Mrs  
Managing director



**Religious riddle ... Horrie Shillabeer and Marea and Jim Wright with photographs from the Shroud of Turin exhibition.**

## Hundreds see Shroud of Turin exhibition

**Story: SCOTT ANDERSON Photo: JASON GALLAGHER •**

Visitors from across the region continue to flock to, the Old St James Church in Raglan to examine the unique photographic exhibition of the Shroud of Turin.

Believed by many to be the burial cloth of Jesus Christ, the shroud bears the image of a crucified man yet to be explained by modern science, art or religion.

Exhibition organiser, Chris Morgan,' said hundreds of people had already visited the exhibition with many more expected before its close on June 14.

"The exhibition has been very popular with both people from Bathurst and the surrounding region," he said.

"It seems there are plenty of people out there who want to look at the evidence contained in the photographs and decide for themselves whether or not the image on the cloth is that of Christ."

The exhibition has been timed to coincide with the public unveiling of the actual Shroud in Turin this May.

Despite many attempts at explanation, the shroud and the image it bears continues as one of the era's most enduring enigmas.

Carbon dating carried out in 1978 suggested the shroud's origins lay in the middle ages but many researchers now believe the process was flawed and that the cloth is in fact much older.

The photographic exhibition of the shroud will remain open from 10am to 4pm every day at the Old St James Church, Raglan, until June 14.





Rex Morgan presents to the Coptic Orthodox Church a light box illuminating a negative transparency of the Shroud face originally made by French Shroud author Fr Paul de Gail



Part of the Brooks Exhibit at Kelso, Bathurst, Australia

## Shroud inspires local artist

Staff Reporter



THE Shroud of Turin, which was the basis of a cover article by *Time* magazine, was an instant inspiration for self-taught sculptor, Willem Branca, 39.

"I looked at the pictures in the magazine very closely and decided to make a three-dimensional version of the face," said Mr Branca.



Willem Branca with a bust of President Nelson Mandela.

"I felt inspired and it only took two and a half hours to mould, cast and paint it. It is the highlight of my work," said Mr Branca, who turned to sculpting portraits ten years ago. He has completed busts of famous South Africans such as President Nelson Mandela and comedian Pieter Dirk Uys.

After the first cast of the face was completed, he created a more detailed version (above) based on precise information on the shroud available on the Internet.

"Scientists cannot explain how the marks came on to the shroud. but I am fully convinced they are from the body of Jesus," said Mr Branca.

The sculptor will mass-produce the work and offer 20% of the proceeds to the Church and charities.

## History is subject to societal biases

I would like to thank Michael Wright [Shades of Siam, Focus, June 22] for his very complimentary mention of my letter of June 14, in which I tried

to demonstrate how many claims based on scientific evidence are still dictated by prejudices and cultural perceptions, attitudes and beliefs and how the choice of targets of investigations such as the Shroud of Turin is similarly biased.

## History is subject to societal biases (cont'd)

I would like to make a point about the historical sense of the old masters. Contrary to what one would expect today from their epigones, they were very cultured in Vitruvius' sense. The history they knew was, though, a small part of what we may know today, and it was shrouded in myths and legends and degraded by sycophantic partisanship. It was only with the fall of Constantinople and the access to precious ancient texts brought into safety by Byzantine scholars that the Europeans could re-examine their own histories.

History however has always been one field most subject to improper biases. Only in the last 30 years, the enormous accumulation of, archaeological data and the methodical comparison of texts from all sides has allowed history to receive a more critical and more honest treatment at the hands of scholars.

There are still, though, throw-back cases: they are coincidentally Americans and Australians who have never been able to live down the fact that they are only very young, 200-year-old offshoots of a long process of civilisation. To them one may add a number of British historians who, against their very high scholarship, have never been able to accept the fact that the Empire is dead.

Therefore, to illustrate this particular point, I used "in the unpublished part of my letter the case of Ian Wilson, a British art historian who involved another glory of Italy, Leonardo da Vinci, in the shroud debate. To do this, Ian Wilson had to dub Leonardo a unique genius among master forgers. For some reason, poor Leonardo has been a constant target of attacks from scientists and artists of the English-speaking world since his death — that did not, though, stop them though from rifling many of his ideas while vilifying him.

Therefore Ganymede, Michael Wright's oracular cat, only anticipates the next charges against poor Leonardo: that his mane was so strong that he could travel back in time and learn how to forge correctly the shroud and that he could produce forgeries of all sorts and kinds, including of his own paintings and discoveries through the genius of his after-death ectoplasmic powers.

To highlight further the bias in investigations, I put a case within the same field of holy relics, that there has never been an attempt to debunk a third glory of Italy, which is also of great religious significance: the Iron Crown (*Corona Ferrea*). The 1400-plus-year-old Crown of the last Roman Empress Theodolinda takes its name from an iron nail bent into a circle and borne on - the inside of the crown. This nail is claimed to be one from the True Cross and used to crucify Jesus Christ.

Nails are, however, famous for being very unresponsive witnesses of very anonymous personality and very easy to debunk. The crown is however the last link with the Roman emperors of old and the central symbol of the premier Hapsburg and Savoy Chivalry Orders.

Therefore all power-addict would-be lords of Europe would just dream of wearing the crown that adorned the heads of Charlemagne, Charles V of Spain and Napoleon I, while all social climbers would just, more ferociously, endeavour to be invested with such noble and prestigious knighthoods. Since the year dot, politics and social ambitions have always had precedence on religion: therefore the nail in the Crown remains untouchable.

**Dr Massimo F Buonaiuto**

*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.

All information and opinion in this private newsletter is published in good faith. It is edited by Rex Morgan and published by

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