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THE SHROUD AND THE MARCHES

Abstract

There are many things and finds which link this land to the burial cloth of Jesus of Nazareth.

Inventio crucis - The patron saint of Ancona, St. Ciriaco bishop and martyr, was a priest of the Temple of Jerusalem and his name was Judas; he became a Christian and with the baptism he took the name of Quiriacous. He showed Helen the place where (Disma's?) "patibulum" was buried; the empress would take this patibulum to Rome and put it in the Basilica of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem.

The lance - A gift that the Sultan Bajazet made to Ancona in 1492; it must be an integrating part of the lance, which is said to be in the treasure of St. Peter's Basilica.

The coin - Under the papacy of Leone X (1513-1521) the "Marca Anconitana" (which extended from Ancona to Tolentino) issued a coin on whose back the solemn face of Jesus, surely copied from the Shroud, stood out.

The stele of Mystras - It came from Mystras (in the Peloponnese, Greece) and had been showed in the exhibition "Stone Books - 1000 years of Ancona Cathedral". This marble stele bears the effigy of the "Pantocrator", who has Shroud features.

The old book - On page 14, the "face" of a book/diary of the "New convent founded in the 1613" by the Franciscan Minorites in Belvedere Ostrense, we can read that on October 18, 1637 Brother Theodore of Belvedere (Angelo Mei), Minorite General Predicant, Apostolical Prefect, chaplain and an intimate friend of the House of Savoy, bore the Shroud to Belvedere Ostrense (Ancona); it was "borne in procession with the relics of the saints and the devotion of the people".

The thorn - It is almost sure that a crusader, who took part in the Fifth Crusade with the Duke of Varano (Camerino), took to Serra San Quirico the thorn that, preserved in a silver monstrance, is shown only on March Fridays.

The Crucifix of Sirolo - The legend has it that the Crucifix of Numana, known as the Crucifix of Sirolo, was engraved by Nicodemus right after the tragedy of the Golgotha.

The copies of the cloth - In Fabriano (Ancona), coming from the monastic area and buildings of St. Catherine of Alexandria (unfit for use on account of the earthquake) it is preserved a copy of the Shroud of Turin dating from 1646. In Arquata del Tronto (Ascoli Piceno) in the church of St. Francis, in the hamlet Borgo, lit up by 100 "lights", so as the local tradition says, it is preserved an undated copy of the Shroud cloth.

Brother Innocenzo of Petralia - He was a Franciscan Minorite who operated in the Marches between the end of the 16th and the first years of the 17th centuries. He carved various life-size crucifixes, most of which have Shroud features.

In the Marches there are also icons depicting the "lame Christ" painted by local masters (1300/1400), icons (1200) coming from the Middle East and borne here after the Fifth Crusade, the thorn of Fermo and the one of Ascoli Piceno, little "strange" crucifixes worshipped in small country churches, big "triumphans" crucifixes carved at the beginning of the second millennium, and so on.