

OVERSEAS NEWS

Onto the U.S. scene has sprung another cryptic set of initials, in the form of ASSIST, the Association of Scientists and Scholars International for the Shroud of Turin. This group is largely the inspiration of *Biblical Archaeologist* writer Paul Maloney and biophysicist John Desalvo, and has set itself to be more broadly-based than STURP, incorporating scholars from a wide variety of disciplines. One danger the group faces is being too diffuse in its composition, but it has succeeded in securing the participation of some particularly worthwhile specialists, including Israel's leading pollen expert, Dr. Aaron Horowitz of the Institute of Archaeology, Tel Aviv University. According to a letter received from Paul Maloney:

"I sent Dr. Horowitz a photocopy of Dr. Max Frei's article in *Shroud Spectrum International*. I was pleasantly surprised to receive a letter back stating that his careful reading of Dr. Frei's materials and his conclusions lead him to believe that Dr. Frei's work is sound. In fact he agrees with Dr. Frei that the evidence is convincing that what we have on the Shroud is not a case of contamination by wind transport. There is evidence of too many plants there to support that conclusion. I then sent Dr. Horowitz a letter inviting him to join us. I received his reply in the affirmative this past Monday."

On his recent visit to England Dr. John Jackson (see page 11) re-iterated the STURP group's dismissive attitude towards the work of the late Dr. Max Frei, raising the need for Dr. Frei's findings to be carefully cross-checked in the course of any new testing. Dr. Horowitz would appear to be eminently suited for this role.

ACCSST

To add further to the profusion of initials, members may cure to learn of ACCSST, the Atlanta Centre for Continuing Study of the Shroud of Turin. Atlanta Georgia would appear to have taken to the Shroud in a very big way, largely due to the enthusiasm of local Episcopalian priest Fr. Albert "Kim" Dreisbach. In recent months the Centre formed by Fr. Dreisbach has mounted the most impressive Shroud exhibition so far assembled, complete with the world's only full-size colour transparency of the cloth. This transparency formed the backdrop of a remarkably ecumenical dedication ceremony for the exhibition, held in Atlanta on August 16 this year, and concelebrated by Greek Orthodox, Episcopalian, Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Methodist, Baptist and other leading church ministers.