

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Rodney Hoare, *A Piece of Cloth: The Turin Shroud Investigated*, Aquarian Press, 1984, price £7.95

BSTS member Rodney Hoare has never been a man afraid to hold views on religion differing from the majority - nor has he hesitated to justify these views both in print and in international discussion. This, his second book, is admirably set out, with clear reference lists at the end of each chapter, crisp reminder summaries of foregoing chapters at key points in the text, and a comprehensive index.

Like his first work, *Testimony of the Shroud*, this book contains the hypothesis that Christ did not die on the cross, rather being revived from a coma at a later point. *A Piece of Cloth*, however, argues from a historical standpoint rather than from the rather shaky forensic evidence formerly employed, and is hence more persuasive.

Notwithstanding his somewhat maverick views, Rodney Hoare has provided an excellent and easily assimilated account of the scientific tests so far carried out on the Shroud, an analysis of the historical Jesus, and a mass of fascinating detail concerning Jewish custom at the time of the crucifixion. Mr. Hoare deserves an accolade, too, for his indefatigable experimental research (without the benefit of access to STURP samples, but using his own ingenuity in dealing with matters which do not require actual original material).

His hypothesis that 'the Resurrection can be explained rationally, and that God did not step outside the physical laws of the Universe to translate the body of Jesus from substance to a uniquely observable spirit' will certainly disturb many - but it will intrigue others.

Although the author falls into the common trap of stating theory as fact from time to time, this is an immensely attractive book for all those who are interested both in an examination of 'Jesus, the Man' and in the possible origin of the markings on the Shroud.

Susan Black

Revd. David Sox, *Relics and Shrines*, George Allen & Unwin, 1985, 220 pages, 8 pages of black & white plates, price £12.95

Just published at the time of this *Newsletter* going to press, no review copy has yet been received, but according to the publishers' blurb:

"In the course of this book David Sox takes the reader on a pilgrimage of his own throughout modern Christendom to examine objects and sites of faith ranging from fragments of bone and cloth housed in magnificent reliquaries, to the bodies of incorruptible saints. He visits the site of St. Bernadette's vision at Lourdes, the Holy Land, Rome and even the vaults of the Midland Bank in Croydon in his search for items of interest to the ancient and modern Christian. There is also a chapter on that best-known relic of all time, the Turin Shroud, in which the author brings the reader up-to-date on the latest research and evidence since his book *The Image on the Shroud*."

Revd. Manuel Soli, S.J. *La Sabana Santa de Turin - Su autenticidad y trascendencia*  
Mensajero, Bilbao Spain, 1985.

For anyone with a knowledge of Spanish, a particularly detailed and up-to-date study of the Shroud, more than 480 pages long and with numerous text diagrams.

The Revd. Soli also gives careful attention to various ancillary relics, such as the reputed *titulus* of Jesus' cross preserved in Rome. The Revd. Soli first saw the Shroud in 1933, and helped at the International Shroud Congress in Turin in 1978.