

SHROUD WEEK IN HONG KONG

Shroud scholar and archaeologist William Meacham, who made a very important contribution to the subject with an article in the journal *Current Anthropology*, has organized a Shroud exhibition and mini-symposium in Hong Kong during the week of 2nd to 8th March this year. The Californian Brooks Institute's travelling exhibition of the Shroud will be on display at the Landmark Centre on Hong Kong Island, then during the following week at the Silvercord Centre, Kowloon. There will be special captions in Chinese as well as English.

Meacham has managed to obtain considerable sponsorship and donations from local companies, as a result of which several speakers from around the world will be addressing the mini-symposium, among these Father Peter Rinaldi, Professor Luigi Gonella from Italy, Doctors John Heller and Alan Adler from the U.S.A., Ian Wilson from the U.K., and Meacham himself.

Meacham has already submitted to the Turin ecclesiastical authorities his own set of proposals for Shroud testing, and is particularly concerned that any carbon dating should include samples from the main, undamaged part of the cloth rather than from underneath the Poor Clare nuns' patches. He suspects that even if portions from the latter seem to be un-singed, they may well have been subjected to excessive heat, carbonizing, altering and fixing any contaminant material into the cellulose so that this might provide a seriously unreliable reading.

Meacham's concerns derive from correspondence he has had with a leading specialist in radiocarbon dating research. They underline the good reason for the Church authorities proceeding with the utmost caution, and obtaining the fullest possible cross-section of views from world experts before finally allowing samples to be taken from the Shroud.