

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

A.M. Dubarle, o.p., *Histoire ancienne du Linceul de Turin*, O.E.I.L., 12, rue du Dragon, 75006, Paris, 175pp.

The name of Père Dubarle may not be a familiar one in English-speaking Shroud circles, but this deficiency needs to be swiftly remedied in the light of his just published *Histoire ancienne du Linceul de Turin*. A Dominican formerly with France's renowned Ecole Biblique in Jerusalem, Père Dubarle first became attracted to the Shroud when he happened to see a life-size photograph in the Vatican pavilion at the Paris Exposition Universelle in 1937. Fluent in several languages, and with a deep understanding of ancient texts, Père Dubarle has applied himself to the problem of the Shroud's early history, and familiarised himself with all the relevant literature, including English-speaking, with particular attention to the theory that in the early centuries the Shroud may be identified with the Mandylion, or Image of Edessa. He carefully reviews objections to this theory, such as those raised by Professor Averil Cameron [*The Sceptic and the Shroud*, Inaugural Lecture delivered at King's College, London, 29 April 1980], and finds these wanting, pointing out that it is in the combination of artistic and textual evidence, together with the scientific evidence for the Shroud's authenticity, that the Shroud/Mandylion identification has special cogency. Père Dubarle writes with exceptional clarity, and includes additional sources not cited by previous authors. His work will merit much future study.

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Yet again a fascinating issue, particularly notable for the first translation into English of photographer Secondo Pia's account, in a letter to Professor Benedetto Porro, of his pioneering photography of the Shroud in 1898. The letter, written 28 February 1901, reveals Pia's concern to counter the insinuations of fraud and trickery which were circulating against him at that time. Also in the same issue is a translation of Salesian Don Natale Noguier de Malijay's account of the so-called Holy Shroud of Cadouin. This was written before the discovery, in 1935, that this cloth has an inscription in Kufic characters, dating its manufacture to the time of the Egyptian Caliph Ali, who reigned from 1094 to 1100 AD. Editor Dorothy Crispino appends a most useful note on the origins of the name *Charny*, of considerable importance for any enquiries into the Shroud's early history.