

## A PERSONAL VIEW

By Susan Black

As a working member of the National Union of Journalists I can only express my distaste at the way many members of my profession seem to have unquestioningly accepted the `fake' verdict on the Shroud. Not least of the neglected issues is the, to me, impressive art historical evidence for the Shroud's existence before the fourteenth century, and I believe this area demands fresh research, including perhaps direct investigation of some of the ancient "holy faces" which may provide important fresh clues. Also, as pointed out by Sister Damian in the recent *Q.E.D.*, there are serious concerns that the Shroud's image may now be rapidly disappearing. Even if, ultimately the Shroud may be established as an art object, it is so unique that it deserves nothing less than the very best conservation attention.

As Secretary of your Society I am very aware of the widely differing beliefs, backgrounds and views held by our members, and in the wake of the carbon dating news it is only natural that some will feel dispirited. But I have been encouraged by several enquiries from prospective new members even in the wake of the carbon dating announcement. Until the Shroud image is properly understood there remains a genuine mystery, and while that mystery prevails we believe that your Society can still serve a useful purpose. Accordingly we will continue as normal while there are members nationally and internationally who want to be kept in touch with news on the subject.

Susan Black