

## OBITUARY

### DR. JEAN VOLCKRINGER

In the last Newsletter we announced the publication in Australia of Dr. Jean Volckringer's *The Holy Shroud: Science: Confronts the Imprints*, translated from the French as first published in wartime Paris in 1942. Sadly, Dr. Volckringer, who was 85 and lived in the Montrouge district of Paris, died on 5th June, within days of receiving the English language edition of his book. The news of his death was conveyed to his Australian publisher, Rex Morgan, as Rex was on his way to the St. Louis Symposium.

From 1934 to 1946 Dr. Volckringer was chief pharmacist at St. Joseph's Hospital, Paris, the same hospital where the pioneering Shroud medical specialist Dr. Pierre Barbet worked as surgeon. Volckringer's special contribution to Shroud studies was his highlighting of the strange images created by pressed plants, and the likely parallel of these to the mysterious image on the Shroud. In his later career he was a consultant to the World Health Organization, and saved many in France from the horrors of thalidomide by taking personal responsibility for withdrawing authorization for the drug's manufacture.