

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

***Byzantium: Treasures of Byzantine Art and Culture*, ed. David Buckton, London, British Museum Press for the Trustees of the British Museum, 1994, 240 pages & numerous colour & b & w photographs, £25**

The catalogue of the British Museum's recent 'Byzantium' exhibition, this superbly illustrated book includes, besides the 6th century curtains mentioned earlier in this Newsletter [see p.7 ], several items of Shroud interest. Sadly, not included among the illustrations is a magnificent example of Justinian II solidus with (arguably) Shroud-inspired Christ portrait which the British Museum had received on loan from the Bank of England Museum, London. For coin-buffs, the Bank of England's reference no. for this coin is CM R 108; CM 1852, 9-22,23.

But also of obvious Shroud interest is a superb ivory panel [cat. no. 54] with half-figure of Christ Pantocrator, dated to Constantinople at the end of the 10th century, and therefore to the period shortly after the arrival of the Mandyllion of Edessa [see detail on cover]. The modelling of the Christ face is extremely fine, and a Vignon 'triangle' is clearly visible just above the junction of the eyebrows. This panel was on loan to the Exhibition from the Department of Applied Arts, the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge.

An equally welcome inclusion to the Exhibition was the Epitaphios of Nicholas Eudaimonoiannes [cat. no. 226] from the Victoria & Albert Museum. Usually kept behind the scenes at the V & A, this liturgical 'shroud' dates from 1407, and includes the loin-cloth clad figure of Jesus laid out in death with his hands crossed in a semi-Shroud-like manner across his stomach. Shroud-wise an interesting feature is a herring-bone style decoration to the long rectangular feature on which Jesus is laid. The catalogue interprets this as a stone slab, but whether it is this or a shroud there is a tempting similarity to the weave on the Turin Shroud.

### DIARY DATE

**Wednesday 25 October, 1995, BSTS Autumn Meeting**

**A.G.M. plus GUEST SPEAKER**

7 p.m. The Society of Authors,

84 Drayton Gardens, South Kensington, London SW10

Details to follow in the Aug./Sept. Newsletter

The British Society for the Turin Shroud was founded in 1977 to act as a forum for individuals from all walks of life sharing an interest in the Shroud mystery. The Society is non-denominational and has no party-line for or against the Shroud's authenticity. The Society's officers all work on an entirely voluntary basis, and members include doctors, chemists, physicists, genealogists, lawyers, artists, historians and many more. Approximately one-third are from outside the U.K. This Newsletter is published three times a year, and while a balanced stance is attempted, inevitably it reflects the Editor's personal biases. For subscription/membership details contact General Secretary Dr. Michael Clift at 9 Glevum Close, Longlevens, Gloucester GL2 9JJ, tel. 01452 532515