

Letters to the Editor

From Bruce N. Lee of the Microsoft Corporation

For the past several years I have been an avid reader of anything regarding the Shroud of Turin, and in October 2000 visited Turin and see the Shroud for myself. It was therefore interesting for me to read the back-issue of your organization's November 2000 newsletter, and see there a "Letter to the Editor" regarding the "Second Coming Project" in Berkeley, CA.

After laughing out loud at the preposterousness of this assertion, a quick Internet "Google.com" search found the "Second Coming Project" to be a widely publicized "urban legend". Please let your readers know that there will be no "Jesus of Nazareth" clone born 25-December-2001. Reference: <http://www.snopes2.com/religion/clone.htm>

Bruce N. Lee

From Mario Latendresse, of Monterrey, California

In the BSTS newsletter number 53 (July 2001), there was a review of Michael Hesemann's book *Die Stummen Zeugen von Golgotha*

I find it very interesting that the author took all this trouble to find the total volume of the purported pieces of the true Cross. For several years, I have been curious to know if any study of that kind I had ever been done. Yet, the statement that the total volume is an "astonishing" 3,946,416 cubic millimeters is not that astonishing, since this is much less than a cubic meter. (More precisely, it is less than 0.004 cubic meter.) So, what can we build with that? Certainly not an Italian fleet!

One piece of wood, of 2 meters long by 10 centimeters wide and 2 centimeters thick gives a volume of $2000 \times 100 \times 20 = 4$ million cubic millimeters. So the 3,946,416 cubic millimeters is close to the right amount necessary to build a cross to crucify Jesus. But the review seems to imply that the total volume is way above the amount resulting from the True Cross. So was there some typographical error? Is the measurement specified in the review the right one?

Mario Latendresse

[The error was in my mind, Mario. I learned mathematics during the feet and inches' era. Conceiving cubic millimetres by the million. was therefore very difficult for me. I am most grateful for your elucidation! Ed]

From David M Shaw of Crosby Liverpool

If the modern scientific conservation procedures are inefficient then let's get back to the traditional ones which served the Shroud so well for so long.

David M Shaw, 27 Poplar Avenue, Crosby, Liverpool 23