

My Philosophy for Future Issues of this Newsletter

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The political circumstances in which I have started to take over as editor of this newsletter have been far from ideal in all aspects - the politics of international terrorism, which no matter what one's own personal ideas about the subsequent war in Afghanistan may be, can surely only produce feelings of horror and deep pity in all the civilised world for the families of all the victims, and that never-ending saga of Shroud politics, showing all too clearly how human we all are.

Over the past few weeks before the congress and especially over the last days in Dallas, I have heard all kinds of versions and opinions as to what happened and why some people were absent. My own point of view, as your future editor (Ian and I will be working together on practical aspects for the next year, although I will be responsible for the actual editing), is that the only way forward is collaboration, mutual respect and a healthy desire for serious debate about the cloth and image that first drew us all into the British Society for the Turin Shroud. As I told just about everybody in Dallas, this will be my philosophy for the newsletter. It will be difficult to maintain the exceptionally high standards set by Ian over the last twenty years, but with help from all round the world and immediate contact with various Shroud groups and researchers, I hope I will be able to do justice to his choice, for which I am very grateful. Just as it is indeed no secret that the majority of members of the BSTS favour authenticity, neither will it be a surprise that I myself do too. However, I undertake to respect all opinions that are based on serious research and investigation. There are "fringe" or "lunatic" theories that both favour authenticity and deny it. No paper or article should be included in the newsletter just because it takes either party line, but because it is a good paper or article. The subscribers to this newsletter deserve no less.

The next question is clearly "Who decides what is good and what is not?" The editor must have the final word (the buck must stop somewhere!), but as I have already stated, my intention is to collaborate with experts in all fields from all over the world. I will also be very happy to receive ideas and feedback from anyone who reads this newsletter, especially as I do not know most of the subscribers personally. I do travel quite a lot so answers might not be as quick as they could be, but I will get round to it in the end.

One of my ideas for the next issues is to introduce a kind of Shroud world who's who digest. Many readers see names of Shroud people from different countries and have no idea of who they are, what they look like, what they do etc, and I think it would be a good idea to introduce some of these people to you.

If you do wish to contact me, my address is

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