

NEW BOOKS.

Two Volumes of Shroud Congress Proceedings.

While in Dallas for the International Conference in October 2001, I was given two books, both of them proceedings from previous congresses. Given that the Shroud seems to be well covered in general all-enveloping books, it is in books like these where the enthusiast can find much more detailed information.

The first volume consists of the *Proceedings of the 1999 Shroud of Turin International Research Conference, Richmond, Virginia*, a truly excellent meeting, at which I was myself present. The book has been edited by Bryan Walsh, one of the organisers of the event. The book is divided into the following sections: Medical Observations, Image Analysis, Art, Archaeology and History, and Radiocarbon Dating. Of course, not everyone will agree with all the conclusions and presentations, but this is only to be expected in a book written by various authors.

The second book was in fact the proceedings of the first Dallas Symposium, held in 1998. The presentations were compiled by Michael Minor and edited by the late Alan Adler, Dame Isabel Piczek and Michael Minor. Once again, the detailed presentations are a mine of new information, although as with the Richmond proceedings, not everything in the book will be to everyone's liking. One of the special attractions of the book is an interview with Mario Trematore, the fireman who was involved in saving the Shroud from the fire in 1997.

Sacred Blood, Sacred Image – The Sudarium of Oviedo

Janice Bennett

Anybody who has attended a Shroud conference over the last few years will have heard about the Sudarium of Oviedo, the latest and most convincing recent evidence in favour of the Shroud of Turin. This cloth purports to be the “sudarium that had been around his head” as mentioned in the gospel of John, the cloth that was “separate from the linen cloths, rolled up in a place by itself” when the two disciples entered the otherwise empty tomb the Sunday after the crucifixion.

Janice Bennett has written an excellent book about her own experience with this cloth and the investigation work carried out by the Spanish Centre for Sindonology (CES). The investigation work carried out by the EDICES (the Investigation Team of

the Spanish Centre for Sindonology) has been a long and complex process – I know this first-hand given that I am part of the team – and Janice has done a formidable job of making all the work understandable and accessible. Beautifully produced with high quality colour photographs and illustrations, the book is a must for anybody interested in the Shroud and the Sudarium.