

EDITORIAL

Without doubt the main Shroud-related event of the last six months was the 3rd International Conference in Dallas, USA. It was the first time a joint congress with the Centro Internazionale di Sondonologia from Turin and an American Shroud group (AM*STAR) had ever taken place, a unique opportunity to exchange points of view and quite obviously talk about the subject that has certain people up in arms - the 2002 restoration work carried out on the Shroud.

I have decided to devote virtually the whole of this BSTS newsletter to the conference, including a summary by organiser Mike Minor. Mike's article includes a highly significant question session directed at Mechthild Flury-Lemberg, in which a lot of the rumours about the 2002 restoration work are answered and concerns laid to rest.

BSTS member in Canada Joanna Emery was at the conference (as were various other members of the Society) and her impressions and photographs are included here. A third report from Diana Fulbright is also included.

Two presentations from the Conference are included - one of the best from the whole event was without doubt Diana Fulbright's linguistic study on the exact meaning of a "clean linen shroud", as recorded in the gospels, and despite the linguistic intricacies it is well worth reading.

The second paper I have included is by Bruno Barberis, Director of the Centro Internazionale in Turin. Bruno was not actually present in Dallas but his paper was read and is a great contribution to what has happened over the last few years.

I have had to put this newsletter together much earlier than usual (it is still September as I write this) and it has been a real race against time to get all the necessary Greek, Hebrew and Coptic fonts installed (I normally use different ones from Diana), with e-mails and CD's flying to and forth from one continent to another.

My thanks are also due to BSTS member (this time in Britain) Mrs. Rosemary Bresson, who has kindly sent me newspaper cuttings with all kinds of strange stories of faces of Jesus appearing on breakfast toast, bath towels and garden trees. No, the BSTS has not started believing in such things - the thing I find interesting is that what is generally accepted as the face of Jesus is the face on the Shroud, whether or not the cloth is mentioned in these outlandish reports. Just so that you know what I am talking about, I have included a photograph of the "face" that supposedly appeared on a tree in a garden in the United Kingdom.

Now a short message from our treasurer Reggie Norton, who sent out a questionnaire with the previous newsletter, asking about interest in a possible BSTS meeting in 2006. The results were not particularly enthusiastic, as Reggie says, "I'm afraid I only got 15 members writing in and willing to attend a meeting. I said that I would need at least 30 to make arranging a meeting worthwhile. So we will not have a meeting in 2006. Sorry to those who wrote in and wished to have one.

Even though, as I have already said, it is only September, by the time the newsletter is distributed and reaches members' homes, it will be much closer to Christmas, and so as every year, I would like to finish this editorial by wishing everyone a peaceful and loving Yuletide.