

EDITORIAL Shroud 2010

The culmination of one of the busiest times in recent Shroud history was without doubt the personal viewing of the burial cloth in the cathedral in Turin in April and May this year. BSTS Treasurer Reggie Norton and myself were present in Turin with a small but select group of BSTS members, who saw the Shroud on 27 April. A kind of diary or logbook of the trip proudly forms part of this newsletter, along with some photographs of the trip.

The months before the official showing were full of all kinds of Shroud-related activities, among them the podcast (like a radio interview but available for downloading on Internet) for the Catholic Laboratory. Readers can listen to the interview and visit the Laboratory's web site at [http://www.catholiclab.net/TheCatholicLaboratory/Podcast/Entries/2010/4/6_Cathlab34 -
_The Shroud of Turin.html](http://www.catholiclab.net/TheCatholicLaboratory/Podcast/Entries/2010/4/6_Cathlab34_-_The_Shroud_of_Turin.html).

Earlier this year I was invited at very short notice to take part in a documentary about the Shroud being made for the National Geographic in Canada, provisionally entitled (at the time of writing) Remaking the Shroud. The film will have been shown in Canada by the time this newsletter is distributed, but I have no information about broadcasting plans for other countries. I have included a short interview with the film's director, British born Jane Armstrong.

There has, of course, been no shortage of Shroud-related products, as can only be expected in a year when the Shroud is so much in the news. Film director David Rolfe, who won a BAFTA award for the Silent Witness back in 1978, and who filmed the documentary that was screened on the BBC at Easter 2008, has produced a DVD especially for the Shroud's going on public viewing. The film is available in English, Italian, French, Spanish, German and Portuguese.

Ian Wilson, our previous newsletter editor, has written a new book entitled quite simply The Shroud (Bantam 2010). It should come as no surprise that the book can only be described as excellent, taking readers on a journey from the very beginnings of Shroud studies right up to Luigi Garlaschelli's "reproduction" from 2009. Another book that has just seen the light of day is by BSTS member Mark Oxley (resident in Zimbabwe). Both books are reviewed herein.

I have also included a report of the first ever Shroud exhibition to be held in Finland, by Juha Hiltunen, author of a recent comprehensive book on the subject in Finnish.

Finally, a word about costs - which are, of course, rising. The recent weakness of the pound has not helped matters as the newsletter and postage are paid in Euros. I honestly do not remember when the last time subscription fees went up (apart from an increase in the fees in the USA a couple of years ago to compensate the dollar exchange rate) - there has been no general increase since I took over as editor almost eight years ago. So next year there will have to be an increase in membership fees (up to 20 pounds sterling across the board, i.e. no difference for younger people). Euro rates will remain at 25, and dollar fees at 40. The increase will not affect

people who have already paid for membership, or who pay before the end of this year - the new prices will only take effect in 2011. Even thus, the BSTS is still the best value Shroud association in Europe, comparing costs to sister associations in Spain and France.