

EDITORIAL

It has been a relatively quiet summer after all the action in Turin with the Shroud being on show, although I have included a colourful report by Barrie Schwortz of his own experiences in Italy. Another of our BSTS members sent me his thoughts in a letter (does anybody remember real letters on real paper, written by hand?) – I received this after the previous edition had already gone to print and so it is part of the Christmas 2010 newsletter.

Ian Wilson has sent us a fascinating account of the Mandylion in the Royal Family collection, while BSTS member Hugh Duncan has written a further instalment in the history of the Shroud in France. Both articles are accompanied by photographs, which makes things so much easier to understand. Finally, on a sadder note, an obit for Sue Benford by her companion Joe Marino. Many will have seen Sue on a recent documentary on television. Which reminds me – in the last newsletter I included an interview with Jane Armstrong, director of a film made by National Geographic Canada, in which I took part. I had some hope for this, after being assured before accepting that it would present a balanced view of the debate (the best blend – a pro-authenticity programme that ignores the problems is no good, but neither is a sceptical point of view that is scientifically untenable). I still haven't seen the finished product myself (despite reminding the makers of their promise to send me a copy), but after reading the reviews on www.shroud.com maybe that is for the best

We also mentioned an increase in BSTS membership fees to come into place next year. The new rates will be 20 pounds, 40 dollars or 25 Euros for everyone (i.e. no increased rates for being younger, no reduced rates for the more experienced, depending on how you look at it). The renewal forms I am sending out with this newsletter (and there are a lot) reflect the new rates, although Reggie has assured me that if members renew before the end of the year, the old rates will still apply.

And so, as always at this time of year, I would like to wish everyone a peaceful and joyous Christmas, and success of all kind in 2011.