

EDITORIAL

Interest in the Shroud hardly waned after the ostentation in honour of St John Bosco at Easter, although it might be thought surprising that it came in August from a Muslim Community rather than a Christian one. Although the Ahmadiyya are undoubtedly unorthodox, rejected as 'proper' Muslims by mainstream Islam and persecuted in their homeland of Pakistan, they are no less devoted to the Quran, the practice of the Sunnah, and the authority of the Hadiths than any other Muslim. Their commitment to peace, abjuration of all forms of terrorism, and active participation in their motto, 'Love for All, Hatred for None' make them increasingly attractive as a religious movement, and they now number some twenty million, in over 200 countries throughout the world. Their interest in the Shroud is explained in the next article.

Apart from that, Hugh Duncan and Pam Moon have continued their researches, this time into the shadowy period of the Shroud's history between leaving Lirey and becoming established at Chambéry (Hugh), and into Ray Rogers's discovery of a possible dye coating the threads of the radiocarbon corner of the Shroud (Pam). I myself have commissioned an examinable piece of 'invisible mending', and explored what happens when metal at 1000°C is dropped onto 32 layers of folded cloth, as we are told occurred at 1532.

Elsewhere Colin Berry is still investigating a medieval origin for the Shroud, while in Italy, Giulio Fanti and Paolo di Lazzaro are continuing their scientific investigations into some possible natural explanations. A huge new field of inquiry has been opened by Gianni Barcaccia, investigating DNA, so far inconclusive but with far ranging implications.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Hugh Farey