

A TRIBUTE TO REX MORGAN AND THE SHROUD NEWS

It is indeed a great honor and rare privilege to have the opportunity to pay my respects to the *Shroud News* and Rex Morgan, its well informed and erudite veteran editor.

To my knowledge no other Shroud publication has had a centennial issue. Rex Morgan is to be commended for his devotion, scholarship and tenacity in fairly and accurately reporting Shroud news for twenty years.

The *Shroud News* does a marvelous job of keeping the Shroud community apprised of the latest developments internationally.

Seldom has there been a significant Shroud function in the past twenty years at which Rex Morgan has not been present--often at great personal sacrifice and expense, e.g., as most recently at the Esopus, New York Seminar in honor of Father Otterbein.

To all whom are interested in the Shroud--the most interesting and most studied artifact on earth, as well as a scientific singularity--I call on you to close ranks and join forces. The post C14 era is the dark night of the soul for the Shroud. Critics are legion and misinformation is rampant. It is in this climate that Rex Morgan's "*Shroud News*" is, quite literally and figuratively, a candle in the darkness which temporarily engulfs sindonology.

I call on each of you to be a candle for the dissemination of the truth and accurate information about the Shroud in your respective spheres. We must all lay our differences aside and join forces in furtherance of a cause much greater than us all. We would all be well served to follow in the footsteps of some of the sindonological giants and pioneers who have gone before us and whose names will ever be known in sindonology: Vignon, Wuenschel, Rinaldi and Otterbein.

During the past twenty years I have observed people from all walks of life, educational backgrounds, cultures and even religions involve themselves with Shroud research. Early on, I wondered why certain individuals were involved at all. While I still do not know the answer to my question except being prima facie evidence of the Lord's sense of humor, I have learned that no one is involved by happenstance. That is, perhaps, the best reason of all for all of us to lay our petty differences aside and work together. The honeymoon is over. We are all here for the long haul. Now we simply need to learn how to live together--and become friends.

Michael Minor