

NEWS & ACTIVITIES AROUND THE WORLD

The "big news" comes from "Down Under". **Rex Morgan** has brought the Brooks Exhibit of Photographic Data to Australia, where it is having a tremendous success. In the opening week in Sydney, for which Ernest Brooks and Peter Skinner were in attendance, more than 40,000 people came to see this collection, of more than 80 panels of visual data, prepared from the 1978 scientific work of the Shroud of Turin Research Project. Australia is the first country outside the USA to mount this exhibit and the event has, not surprisingly, received an enormous amount of publicity. From Sydney, it went to Canberra, Melbourne and Adelaide, and will then travel to Perth, Darwin and Brisbane.

Through the efforts of **Fr. Aldo Grasso**, OSJ, the Milwaukee Shroud Exhibit is enjoying success at St. Joseph's Shrine, Santa Cruz CA. After March 31, this display will move to Belleville IL for Lent and Easter. Fr. Grasso, an active promoter of Shroud studies, recently returned from Rome where he visited with Mons. Giulio Ricci, founder of the Centro Romano di Sindonologia, with which the Milwaukee Center is affiliated.

Scheduled to open in late April is a special Shroud exhibit authored by **Fr. Francis Filas, SJ**. The exhibit will inaugurate the opening of the "That's Incredible" museum of Museums International. The new museum is located at Maple Leaf Village, 5705 Falls Avenue, Niagara Falls, Ontario L2G 7M9.

Also in Canada, a new Shroud Center has been organized, thanks to the efforts of **M. Luc Trépanier**, a librarian and longtime devotee of the Shroud. We hope to give details on the objectives of this Center in a future issue; in the meantime the Center invites correspondence or a visit, from persons interested.

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We extend our warmest congratulations to M. Trépanier with wishes for an ever-widening circle of members and many contacts around the world.

Spectrum was pleased to learn of two more lecturers in the USA. Mr. **Clayton F. Bower, Jr.**, recently spoke to an audience of more than 550 at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge MA.

His slide-lecture, lasting two hours, aroused such interest that the question period, to which Mr. Bower ably and amiably responded, lasted another hour and a half.

From Enfield, CT, **Fr. Stanley Smolenski**, whose study is dominated by full-size photos of the frontal image, negative and positive, reveals that he has been lecturing for several years. With rare modesty, Fr. Smolenski describes himself as a "popularizer" of the Shroud, but newspaper articles about his activities clearly show him to have a very solid knowledge and understanding of sindonology. In these interviews, Fr. Smolenski relates that in 1970, running to catch a train, he stopped at the station newsstand to buy something to read, and his choice was Pierre Barbet's *A Doctor at Calvary*. This was the basis for a Lenten program for his students, as he was then teaching in a Canadian high school. After describing the Shroud to one of his classes, one of the boys asked him: "You mean all this about Jesus Christ is true?"

A detailed presentation of the goals, organization and "philosophical structure" of the newly-formed group ASSIST was written by Paul Maloney, General Projects Director, and prepared in its entirety for this issue of *Spectrum*. Regrettably, the length of the article went beyond the space-limitations of this issue. But we will be hearing much about ASSIST so let the following highlights from the text serve as an introduction.

A new concept in Shroud research is offered by the Association of Scientists and Scholars International for the Shroud of Turin, Inc. (ASSIST), a non-profit, tax exempt, peer review organization incorporated in the State of New York.

The board of directors is currently composed of Frederick T. Zugibe, M.D., Ph.D., (President); John A. DeSalvo, Ph.D., Northwestern College, Minneapolis, MN (Executive Director); Richard Fiene, PhD., Adjunct Prof. of Behavioral Sci. and Educ., Pennsylvania State University, (Secretary); John Slattery, M.B.A. Deputy Chief Auditor, New York State Prosecutor's Office for Medicaid Fraud (Treasurer); Paul C. Maloney, M.A. research archaeologist, Director, Ancient Near Eastern Researches (General Projects Director); The Rev. Peter M. Rinaldi, SDB, Vice President, Holy Shroud Guild, (International Advisor).

Current liaison officers on the board of directors are: Rev. Albert R. Dreisbach, Jr., Founder and President of the Atlanta Center for Shroud Studies (Atlanta, GA); Rex Morgan, MBE (Australia); and Ian Wilson, M.A. (British Society for the Turin Shroud).

To this point in time, the organization has nearly 50 members spanning such diverse fields as archaeology, art history, botany, chemistry, data processing, information theory, forensics, history, medical, microscopy, palynology, photography, physics, serology, textiles and translation. ASSIST desires to establish contact with other organizations (regional or international) which are dedicated to scientific and/or scholarly study of the Shroud. Those interested may write to: ASSIST, Office of General Projects Director, Box 334, Quakertown, Pennsylvania, 18951, U.S.A.