

NEWS AND ACTIVITIES AROUND THE WORLD

The news of greatest concern to us at this time is the tragic earthquake which recently shook Mexico City; particularly how it affected our friends of the Centro Mexicano di Sindonologia. *Spectrum* has received two reports, the first from Dr. Julio Lopez Morales, the second from the Board of Directors.

The day of the earthquake, September 19, and the next two days, nobody was allowed to enter the building. There were almost two feet of broken glass on the sidewalk, so the army and some volunteers helped to remove it. The offices of our Ecclesiastical Advisor, Father Faustino Cervantes Ibarrola, were on the 4th floor, where we had been allowed to settle the Centro Mexicano. On the third day, we could enter the building along with 15 volunteers. There is no need to say that it took the whole day to pack all the books from Father Cervantes Ibarrola's private library, archives, etc., and the items of the Centro. Just imagine all the bookshelves fallen down and the books and pictures covered with tiny splinters of broken glass from the windows. Our work was done without light; the elevators were out of order and some of the stairsteps were broken. All the packing was done with high risk due to the after-shocks. That day, more than 90 boxes filled with damaged books, bulletins, archives etc. were sent to three different places.

Our life-size negatives of the Holy Shroud were damaged. We found two books trapped between the wall and the floor, because the wall moved away from the floor during the quake; twenty days later, these books disappeared due to little quakes during October.

Specially trained engineers think that the building could possibly be restored, but we all know—considering the location of the building, the amount of damage, the soil beneath it, the everyday little quakes and the whole structure already affected—surely it would not stand another earthquake. And what if all the members were inside at such a moment?

We all appreciate very much your offer to help us, although it is still impossible to determine what is missing. I would like to suggest that anyone who wishes to help us replace our collections of Shroud materials, should send a list of suggested offerings. We can then let him know what is most important, and can give an address to which his offering can be sent.

For the moment, please address correspondence to me:

Dr. Julio Lopez Morales
Av. Azcapotzalco, 150
Mexico D.F. 02080
Mexico

Our blessings are with you all. Yours,
Julio

28 Sept. 1985

Dear Sindonologist Friend,

In order to explain the results caused by the two earthquakes of 19 and 20 September to the building of the Mexican Archbishopric in which the Centro Mexicano de Sindonologia had its residence (4th floor), so as to avoid errors and mistakes from the press, we wish to inform you:

1. Although thousands of people were killed, fortunately no deaths have been reported among our members.
2. The building suffered serious damage. It has been evacuated and possibly will be demolished.
3. The activities of the Centro and the publication of our Bulletin will be postponed until further notice.
4. An official evaluation of the damages to and loss of such items as books, photos, slides, projectors etc. etc., cannot be established as yet; however we can say that the damages are considerable.

Therefore, the address of the Centro—Durango 90, 40 piso-obviously is no longer valid. If you wish to collaborate with us for the reorganization of the Centro, please contact: Dr. Julio Lopez Morales, International Relations [see address in preceding letter].

Today more than ever, we ask your blessings and prayers for the continuing study and divulgation of the Holy Shroud of Turin.

Very Truly Yours,
Board of Directors

A conference on the Shroud of Turin will be held on February 15-16, 1986, at Elizabethtown College. The purpose of the conference is to provide a balanced discussion of the Shroud as an object of archeological significance. Among those who have agreed to speak at the conference are: Mr. Joe Nickell, Dr. Alan D. Adler, Dr. Walter C. McCrone, Dr. John P. Jackson, Lt. Col. Eric J. Jumper and Mr. Paul Maloney.

For further information contact: Prof. W. Wesley McDonald, Department of Political Science, Elizabethtown College, Elizabethtown, PA 17022.

Sindonology is gradually making inroads into the universities, where this multidisciplinary study belongs. The latest instance is the lecture given recently by Luc Trepanier at Quebec City's University Laval.

REFEREES in 1985: Dr. Alan Adler; Rev. Francis L. Filas, S.J.; Dr. John Jackson; Rev. Robert M. Moore, O.C.S.O.; Rev. Adam J. Otterbein, C.S.S.R.; Mr. David Schultz.