

## THE ECCE HOMO OF SALAMANCA

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The reproduction of the very beautiful *Ecce Homo* is from *Santa Teresa di Gesu, Viaggi e Messaggi*, by Revs. Tomas Alvarez, C.D. and E. Fernando Domingo, C.D., published by Editorial Monte Carmelo, Burgos. It was obtained by Professor Maria Delfina Fusina, art historian and sindonologist, in anticipation of the publication, in *Spectrum*, of her generously illustrated article, "The Crown of Thorns in Iconography". The following excerpt is from the projected article.

A mystical feeling is realized in the *Ecce Homo* of Salamanca, an oil painting by an unknown artist.

The Person depicted here harks back to the III<sup>rd</sup> c. fresco in the Praetextatus Catacomb [conjectured to be a scene of the crowning with thorns]. But now, in the attitude of a *pover' uomo* [a poor fellow, object of pity], he is stooped and defenseless under outrages and mockings, with a cap well-studded with thorns, the marks of the flagellation over his entire body, and a worn-out scarlet mantle thrown over his shoulders.

There is an interesting story connected with this painting. In 1570, St. Teresa of Avila founded one of her monasteries at Salamanca. After she had paid all the expenses from the donations of benefactors, she had 14 reali left over. It is said that she discovered the *Ecce Homo* in a street market and bought it to give to the new monastery.

The painting is now in Burgos.