

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Shroud Spectrum International, Issue No. 3

This new US quarterly journal, already praised in previous Newsletters, continues to get even better. Issue No. 3 has some particularly important articles, including the following:

- 1) Dr Max Frei: "Nine Years of Palynological Studies on the Shroud". This is a clear and most up-to-date statement of Dr Frei's findings, by the expert himself. Every pollen grain identified so far is listed, some with accompanying photographs.
- 2) Gilbert R. Lavoie: "In Accordance with Jewish Burial Custom, the Body of Jesus was not Washed". This repeats the arguments of Dr Lavoie's *Biblical Archaeologist* article referred to in the last *Newsletter*.
- 3) Rev. Luigi Fossati: "Was the So-called Acheropita of Edessa the Holy Shroud?" This has new insights into some little-known and very inaccessible icons of the Image of Edessa preserved in Genoa and in Rome. Fossati notes that some of these incorporate pieces of herringbone twill linen, and argues that their association with the Turin Shroud demands a closer investigation.

Shroud Spectrum International is available on subscription from the Indiana Center for Shroud Studies, R.3, Box 557, Nashville, Indiana 47448, USA - price 18 US dollars for the four quarterly issues. The editor is Mrs Dorothy Crispino.

Peter M. Rinaldi: "On Disproving the Shroud of Turin" This is a printed pamphlet replying to two articles on the Shroud, one by Steven D. Schafersman, the other by Marvin M. Mueller, which appeared in the Spring 1982 issue of *The Skeptical Inquirer*. (See last *Newsletter*).

A particularly pertinent remark by Fr. Rinaldi is the following:

"The notion that Church officials feared anything like a definitive examination of the Shroud by experts should be laid to rest for once and for all, and this applies to future testing, including the Carbon 14 dating test. As Cardinal Ballestrero said when in 1978 he literally placed the relic in the hands of the scientists: 'The Church has nothing to fear from the truth'. Nor is the Church particularly worried about the 'immensely epochal implications' you, Messrs. Mueller and Schafersman, mention. After all, again to quote Cardinal Ballestrero: 'Christianity does not stand or fall with the Shroud'".

Copies of this pamphlet are being sent from the USA, and will be available to BSTS members in the near future.

Hella Georgiadis: "The Witness of Blachernae" **

This is an excellent article concerning the Blachernae church where Robert de Clari reported seeing the 'sydoine' in Constantinople in 1203. In particular, Miss Georgiadis

shows why the Byzantine authorities may have moved the Shroud/Mandylion from the Pharos chapel to the Blachernae church at the time of Robert de Clari's visit.

**This appeared in *Chrysostom*, vol VI, No. 4, Autumn 1982. *Chrysostom* is published by the Society of St John Chrysostom, Marian House, Holden Avenue, London N12 8HY.

Malcolm Barber: "The Templars and the Turin Shroud" *Catholic Historical Review*, Washington, 1982

This is a very balanced and fair-minded critique of the theory that the Knights Templar were owners of the Shroud during the so-called 'missing years' preceding the time of Geoffrey de Charny of Lirey. Dr Barber rightly shows some of the weaknesses of the theory, but offers no overwhelming objections. Dr Barber is at the Department of History, the University of Reading.