

A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

A very happy New Year to all B.S.T.S. members, new and old. We do apologise for the delayed publication of this *Newsletter*, due to a prolonged awaiting of news concerning Shroud exposition/testing during 1984. Following a fleeting visit by Fr. Peter Rinaldi, we are now able to provide more positive information than hitherto, and because of a backlog of other news, this *Newsletter* takes the form of a double issue.

THE SHROUD'S OWNERSHIP - A RESOLUTION AT LAST

As remarked in *Newsletter* no. 5, future plans for the Shroud have been clouded by uncertainty whether ex-king Umberto's bequest of the cloth to Pope John Paul II and his successors would be recognized by the Italian state authorities. A testing moment came on October 18 of this year, when Umberto's executors made the formal hand-over of title to the Shroud to representatives of the Holy See. The event was widely reported in the Italian press, but fortunately raised no state opposition, as a result of which it may be assumed that the Pope is the Shroud's new legal owner unless some unforeseen new political wrangle emerges. Despite the change of ownership, it is envisaged that the Shroud will stay in Turin, with the Cardinal-Archbishop of the city continuing as formal custodian.

In order not to be seen flaunting the new ownership the ecclesiastical authorities appear to have rejected the idea of an exposition of the Shroud coinciding with the end of the Holy Year next Easter. Many will therefore be disappointed that there is unlikely to be any exposition, for the general public at least, within the near future.