

FRANCE FORMS A NEW SHROUD GROUP

In the wake of last autumn's Paris Symposium there has now been formed the Centre International d'Etudes sur le Linceul de Turin (C.I.E.L.T.), a French equivalent of the BSTS. C.I.E.L.T. publishes a monthly newsletter, and has become particularly concerned about the statistical validity of the Shroud radiocarbon dating results. According to a declaration made by the Scientific Committee of the Paris Symposium:

"Even before the Symposium took place, the Scientific Committee had been informed that professional statisticians (among them Bourcier de Carbon, Symposium moderator) had expressed strong reservations about the manner in which the results obtained by the three laboratories had been statistically analyzed. According to these statisticians, it would appear from the results entered in Table 2 of *Nature* (p.613, second column) and especially the values given by the X^2 test for the three samples (6,4 in column 1), that the samples are not homogeneous in their radiocarbon dates. In the absence of more information, this opens up the possibility that the statistical estimates do not have the value that has been imparted to them." C.I.E.L.T.'s Scientific Committee has requested publication of the comments made by Professor Bray of the G. Colonetti Institute on this very point; also publication of the raw results as obtained by the three laboratories.

Membership of C. I. E. L. T. is 150 francs annually. The President is M. André van Cauwenberghe, and application should be made to 50 avenue des Ternes 75017 Paris, France.