

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

SHERIDAN BOWMAN, *Radiocarbon Dating*, a booklet in the "Interpreting the Past" series, British Museum Publications Ltd., 1990, £4.95

Dr. Bowman has succeeded Dr. Michael Tite as Keeper of the Department of Scientific Research at the British Museum, and in this 64 page illustrated booklet she has provided a most useful, authoritative and up-to-date guide to the radiocarbon dating technique, inclusive of brief but fair-minded mention of the Shroud. Of this she remarks "The calibrated radiocarbon result ... corresponds well with its first appearance in France. However it remains to be established how this striking image came into being."\* Equally fair-mindedly she writes of the two radiocarbon dating techniques used for Lindow Man [the body of a sacrificial victim discovered in a Cheshire peat bog in 19847: "Accelerator mass spectrometry suggests Lindow Man was killed sometime in the first century AD, whereas minigas counting suggests that the event occurred some three or four centuries later: this is surely a mystery equal to that of the motive for the murder itself!"

In a section dealing with the way archaeologists should package materials for radiocarbon dating Dr. Bowman notes: "Many materials used for preserving or conserving samples contain carbon that may be impossible to remove subsequently: do not use glues, biocides... [etc]. Many ordinary packing materials, such as paper, cardboard, cotton wool and string, contain carbon and are potential contaminants. Cigarette ash is also taboo." In this light, bearing in mind that the Shroud must have been engulfed in smoke from the 1532 fire, and has subsequently been 'packed' for over four centuries in a sixteenth century, carbon-containing holland cloth, it seems somewhat strange that it was ever considered as a suitable candidate for radiocarbon dating.

Dr. Bowman has a rare gift of being able to set down complex scientific and technical information in a manner which can be readily followed even by the least scientific layman, and her booklet is highly recommended. Overseas members should be able to obtain it by writing to British Museum Publications Ltd., 40 Bloomsbury Street, London, WC1B 3QQ.

[\* Dr, Bowman's personal speculation, derived from telephone discussion with her, is that the image may have been created from some form of designer-crucifixion carried out in the fourteenth century]

SHROUD SPECTRUM INTERNATIONAL, quarterly publication of the Indiana Center for Shroud Studies, issue no. 32/33 Sept/Dec. 1989

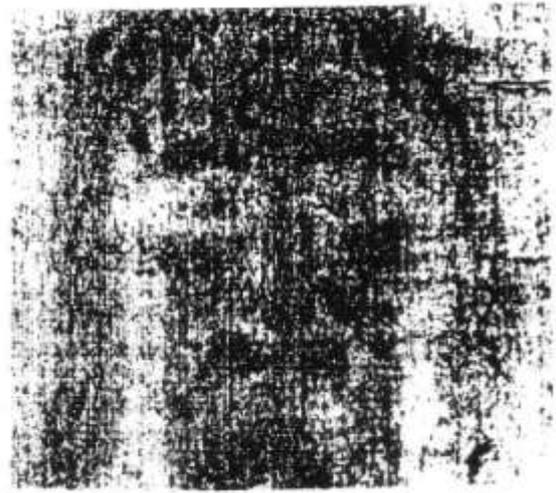
Another fine production by indefatigable editor Dorothy Crispino, this features as its lead article an important paper by Dr. John Jackson "The Vertical Alignment of the Frontal Image". This shows of the Shroud a simple, mathematically expressible relation between two surfaces "one of which corresponds to an anatomically reasonable body shape and the other to a physically correct cloth surface draping over that body." As Jackson concludes "To our mind, the elegance of being able to describe the Shroud image in this fashion argues strongly that the image was formed while the Shroud enveloped a body as opposed to its being the result of an eye/brain/hand coordination technique of some artist. This same issue also includes an interesting article by Dorothy Crispino on the Oriflamme, the sacred banner of France which Geoffrey 1 de Charny was carrying at the time he was killed at Poitiers on 19 September 1356.

SHROUD NEWS, publication of the Runciman Press, Box 86, PO, Manly, 2095, NSW, Australia, issue no. 57, February 1990

In this issue editor Rex Morgan discloses "Among my plans for 1990 is to edit the first English version of Dr. Jean Volckringer's classic work from 1942, describing his discovery of the similarity between images made by pressed plants on paper, and the image on the Shroud." Morgan also includes a report on a visit to Australia in November 1989 by Professor Luigi Gonella, the scientific advisor to the Cardinal of Turin. Gonella, who superintended the carbon dating project in 1988, gave talks on this subject both in Sydney and Melbourne.

THE ASSIST NEWSLETTER, bi-annual publication of The Association of Scientists and Scholars International for the Study of the Shroud of Turin, Ltd., vol. 1 no. 2, December 1989

Besides the 'new testing' proposals reproduced earlier in this Newsletter, this publication includes a useful, though curiously jumbled report on last year's Paris Symposium, and an interesting article by Paul C. Maloney "The Shroud's Image and Numismatics in Byzantine Culture". The latter discusses findings of the American coin collector Wilburn Yarbrough of Atlanta, Georgia, arguing for particularly Shroud-like features in the Christ portrait on *tremessis* coins of the first reign of the Byzantine emperor Justinian II (685-695 AD). Among the features noted are wavy hair, forelocks, heavy brow lines, droop of the moustache and swollen cheek, as below:



Justinian II tremessis from Wilburn Yarbrough's personal collection