

CARDINAL SALDARINI: CONSIDERING PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE WORK ON THE SHROUD

Although the Shroud is apparently still in its traditional place in the altar of the Royal Chapel while work progresses on the dome above, Cardinal Saldarini of Turin is understood to be considering recommendations both for the Shroud's conservation, and for any future testing work. He is said to favour receiving individual suggestions from informed individuals, rather than high-pressure lobbying from competitive Shroud groups.

In a personal letter to the Cardinal's chief adviser on Shroud matters Don Giuseppe Ghiberti, your Editor has urged in the short term at least, for no more high-tech, destructive 'tests'. The recommendation is for just a few well-chosen, genuinely impartial specialists to be allowed simply to observe (using no more than a hand-lens), record, and report. The advised priorities are for conservation, and for examination and recording of features of the Shroud still unknown and undocumented, in particular the cloth's edges. Specialists suggested from this country are textile conservator Sheila Landi, textile archaeologists Dr. John Peter Wild and Dr. Gillian Eastwood, and mediaeval art conservator Anna Hulbert.