

The warm spring weather is the sign that it is time to start work on the summer edition of the newsletter. I have just returned from a very intensive four days in Oviedo, where I was at the Second International Congress on the Sudarium of Oviedo. As always, it was wonderful to see old friends - BSTS members from all over the world, including John Jackson from the USA, Bruno Barberis from Italy, Joanna Emery from Canada, David Rolfe and Alan Foster from the UK. A full report with photographs is included within.

In the section on new books I have included a review of an excellent new Shroud book specially written for children, and a reply from John Loken from my review of his book in the last newsletter.

The majority of the newsletter is taken up by an article written by textile expert Mechthild Flury-Lemberg, who carried out the restoration work on the Shroud in 2002. This particular article addresses the issue of the side strip and invisible mending. Mechthild was also in Oviedo and I made the most of the opportunity to talk to her about her work in 2002 and to get her impressions about the Sudarium in Oviedo.

Other parts of the newsletter are the regular sections with news from Italy, and a letter forwarded to me by Ian Wilson concerning contamination on the Shroud caused by its exposure to fire.