

EDITORIAL
SHROUD 2010

This will be the last newsletter before the Shroud is on public display in April and May 2010, and so a large part of this edition is devoted to the practical aspects of the “Ostensione”. I have taken over the FAQ from the official web site and reproduced them here, and have added a few ideas about what else visitors can do while in Turin.

As usually happens on these occasions, there are no bargains to be found in the city and hotels make the most of the chance. Our treasurer Reggie Norton has included details of the proposed BSTS trip to Turin – if we reach 30 people the trip will be on. I would encourage everyone to try and get to Turin, whatever your interest in the Shroud may be – seeing the cloth for yourself is a wonderful experience.

All this brings the Shroud very much into the news, and as before other similar occasions when the Shroud is on display, there are stories in the mass media to suit all tastes. I think we must all have seen or read something about the work done by Luigi Garlaschelli, the Italian researcher who claims to have found out how the Shroud was made. I have been in contact with him and he has kindly agreed to publish the preliminary findings and some photographs, while awaiting the definitive peer-reviewed paper in a scientific journal. Some people may wonder why I would agree to publish an article that is most definitely anti-authenticity, but my job as editor is to try and keep members up to date with what is happening in the Shroud world, not just the pro-authenticity world. Mr. Garlaschelli himself expressed a wish for more open dialogue and respect in this aspect.

At the other end of the spectrum is Barbara Frale, who recently discovered a manuscript according to which the Knights Templar paid homage (or cult) to a cloth with a full-body image. Barbara now claims to have seen an inscription on the cloth with Jesus’ name.

Amidst all the novelties, we have another article from Ian Wilson’s history notebooks, this time concerning the Templecombe panel. We all eagerly await Ian’s new book on the Shroud.

And as always at this time of year, I would like to wish all members and their families a Happy Christmas and joyful New Year – and I hope to see you in Turin next year!