

SYMPOSIUM ON THE HOLY SHROUD

THE DEFENCE OF THE GOSPELS' HISTORICITY

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My speciality is the historicity of the Gospels or, more accurately, the defence of the Gospels' historicity. I represent the JEAN CARMIGNAC ASSOCIATION, named after a French priest who died in 1986 and was both a true saint and a great scientist. He proved, with vigorous accuracy, that the Gospels are historic documents, almost first-hand chronicles.

I am here not simply for the obvious reasons that link the Holy Shroud and the Gospels. The Holy Shroud is a testimonial evidence that cannot be equalled: The whole argument of those who deny the Gospels' historicity lies in describing them as myths, while the Shroud (among other proofs of course) invigorates the authenticity of many of the facts reported through the Gospels.

No! I am here, above all, because I wish to outline an extremely important fact, and it is my wish that it be known by everyone: We, defenders of the Gospels' historicity, likewise those who defend the Shroud's authenticity, are all victimised by the same expedients, the same accusations and finally, by real persecution. We are introduced to the world as fanatics opposed to science. There are, however, people among us who, in most cases (if not always), came towards both these "objects" of research with a very sceptical frame of mind about their truth or authenticity. We also count among us scientists who support the authenticity of their findings – always very wary – through various, indisputable and numerous scientific achievements. I should add, to cut a long story short, that among the defenders of both the Shroud and the Gospels are even found agnostic scientists. In combating this it must be noted how similar to the Shroud's our situation is. Both positions are opposed by a false science - a "science" that rejects all the parameters of true and normal science and has theories based solely on a priori evidence, the same exactly that motivates the rejection of the Shroud: The Supernatural cannot exist. God cannot interfere with history and the human mind is the absolute and insuperable reference point of the whole truth and of whatever is real. (In other, simpler words, God has no right to be more intelligent than mankind.) I could at length make a list of all those methods used and which pass for science, which have nothing to do with it. I have spent several years of my life characterising them and have described them in a book.

It is also essential to mention that we are facing an intolerable interference with freedom: freedom of expression, freedom to inform and to be informed. Here is an eloquent example: Abbé Carmignac carried out, as I mentioned, both philological and linguistic studies that prove the historicity of all facts reported within the Gospels. Unfortunately, he made the serious error of bequeathing all his written works to the Institut Catholique in Paris in the belief that both researchers and students could examine and study them. Incredibly these documents are locked up, out of reach of those who ask to examine them, except those who disagree with Abbé Carmignac's "opinions" in relation to the Gospels. However, after his death Miss Demanche completed a classified list of these documents that she then transported, in numerous crates, to the Institut Catholique. In addition, François-Xavier de Guibert, who was Jean Carmignac's editor, is now forbidden to publish posthumously anything of the Abbé's works. We are facing a real embargo. As a further example we should take into account all the ways used to silence, or discredit objects that prove the historical character of our four booklets. These are the same methods, with some "variation," that were brought to my attention by people here present and that have been used against their findings relating the Shroud: methods that make one's blood run cold.

We know very well the reasons of all this... But on our side stands the defence of the deceived, the moderate and humble ones and most of all the defence of *someone* who said, "I AM THE TRUTH".