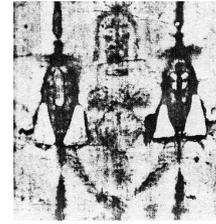


SHROUD NEWS

A NEWSLETTER ABOUT THE HOLY SHROUD OF TURIN
By REX MORGAN - Author of PERPETUAL MIRACLE



Issue No 1

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WHY A NEWSLETTER?

Since the publication of my book PERPETUAL MIRACLE (Runciman Press) in Australia in June this year and the radio and television appearances in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane associated with it, many people have suggested the formation of a group or society similar to those which exist in other countries for the exchange of information on the Holy Shroud of Turin. I have also felt that a newsletter would be a useful vehicle for keeping people in Australia up to date with new developments in the study of the Shroud, examination of press reports and the reporting of information as it comes to hand from various sources throughout the world.

This, then, is the first edition of my newsletter. It is being sent to a limited number of people I know or believe to be interested, under the auspices of the Runciman Press. Let us hope we can establish a regular publication from this humble beginning which might help anyone interested in the subject to pursue that interest usefully and to further our knowledge of one of the greatest mysteries of all time.

AUSTRALIAN PRESS REPORTS "FAKE"

On 21st September 1980 several Sydney newspapers (and presumably those in other states) reported a story that the Shroud had been proved a fake last week in London.

The general gist of the reports was that at a private meeting of the British Society for the Turin Shroud in London on 11th September, Dr Walter McCrone (U.S.A.), a member of the team completing detailed and intensive analyses of the tests done in October 1978 in Turin, had claimed the Shroud to be a fake.

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Australian Press Reports "Fake"

The reports suggested that Dr McCrone had revealed at the London meeting that there were "considerable" amounts of artist's pigment on the Shroud and that it would be dated by Carbon tests at around 1356.

Rex Morgan telephoned Joy Pagano, Treasurer of the British Society for the Turin Shroud, and who was present at the lecture last week to find out if, as he suspected (and perhaps hoped), the reports were wildly exaggerated.

Joy Pagano stated that Dr McCrone had said that traces of pigment he had discovered were probably some sort of enhancement applied to the Shroud image. During the London meeting last week a member of the audience had become "extremely excited" and had suggested that the team of scientists (yet to release their reports) were colluding together to withhold information from the public (which is absolutely untrue). He then went to the press in London suggesting that Walter McCrone had called the Shroud a fake, which he did not do.

This audience member had said at the meeting something like: "Are you saying, Dr McCrone, for the record, that the Shroud is a fake?"

Dr McCrone said something like: "No, I am not saying that. All I am saying is that I have found pigment on the Shroud."

Dr McCrone also said that he did not know what the yellow colouring (the basic image) on the Shroud was. (Dr Ray Rogers has already described this as a sort of scorch-mark). Walter McCrone did not say, and admitted that he did not know, what caused the marks on the Shroud.

This is a very different story from that reported in our press at the weekend. Rex Morgan expects to receive a tape recording of Dr McCrone's lecture in a few days time and will report on this in the next newsletter.

In the first two days of this week several people have expressed to Morgan their disappointment at the attitude of the press.

Australian Press Reports "Fake"

Misreporting (it appears) what McCrone said in London and publicising it as a story to discredit the Shroud will naturally have disappointed a great many people in Australia and elsewhere who are hopeful that the scientific reports to be released (we understand) next month will support the now widely held view that the Shroud is genuine.

It is strangely (and sadly) significant that the positive statements and opinions about the Shroud have received scant attention in the Australian press to date yet the moment it appears (incorrectly it seems) to have been discredited, the press leaps at the opportunity to sensationalise the matter - even to the extent of at least one newspaper running as its billboard headline in inches high letters TURIN SHROUD FAKE.

It was some reassurance that after such headlines as "Shroud of Turin is a Fake, says Scientist" and "Christ's shroud a fake", the reports said that most of the 30 scientists to report in October are expected to disagree with the (mis?)reported views of Dr McCrone.

Readers of Rex Morgan's book and those of other authors will realise that Dr McCrone is a highly respected scientist and he did prove the Vinland Map to be a fake (which comparison our press was quick to point out in the articles under discussion). If McCrone's view is that the Shroud image is faked then we should examine that claim very carefully. Indeed, if the anticipated scientific reports suggest a hoax, then we should read them with an open mind but Rex Morgan ventures to predict that they will more likely add to the already enormous evidence for authenticity. For every and any scientific explanation for the existence of the Shroud image we must surely balance against them the facts of its negativity; its three-dimensional property; its accuracy as to the wounds; the crucifixion nails through the wrists; the crown of thorns; the discovery (and identification) of the coins on the eyes and so on and so on ...

So, when Morgan has more information on the McCrone lecture there will be more to report in the newsletter.

COIN IDENTIFICATION

In July this year Father Francis L Filas of Chicago published a paper reporting his identification of one of the coins over the eyes of the man in the Shroud. We have this report and photographs and will discuss it in a future issue of this publication.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE REPORT

Did you see the 17 page report with coloured photographs in the JUNE 1980 edition of National Geographic? It is quite comprehensive and based on the October 1978 studies in Turin.

SUBSCRIPTION LIST

If you would like to encourage Rex Morgan to continue this newsletter please send in a subscription form (as enclosed) to cover forthcoming issues.

You may care to encourage others to subscribe. If the scheme grows we could perhaps envisage a properly produced regular magazine of far greater scope than this one.

FUTURE ISSUES

- * More on the McCrone lecture
- * Information about the Shroud for new readers
- * Discussion of the Filas coin identification
- * An interview with Dr Gregory Winter (DNA expert)
- * Sydney artist John West's Shroud experience
- * Your own article ?

PUBLICATION

All information and opinion published in this newsletter is done so in good faith to pass on to interested persons matters concerning the Holy Shroud of Turin. It is written by Rex Morgan and published by The Runciman Press, Box 86, P.O., MANLY, 2095, N.S.W.