

Dear Mr Morgan

The publication of the fiftieth issue of *Shroud News* is an occurrence that simply cannot and must not be ignored. Your excellent Newsletter is proof of your outstanding work on behalf of the Shroud's cause, a work that has been nothing short of extraordinary.

It has been my privilege to have personally followed your varied Shroud activities, and I doubt if, during the past decade, the Turin relic has had a more dedicated and enlightened promoter than you. The fifty issues of *Shroud News* published thus far, constitute an unusual contribution to Sindonology, and should be treasured as such by Shroud students and admirers throughout the world.

Significantly, the fiftieth issue of *Shroud News* follows the publication of the results of the carbon-14 test on the Shroud, thus opening a new phase in the study and research of the Turin Cloth. I note with pleasure that the October 1988 issue, number 49, is entirely dedicated to those results. It is, I must say, a remarkable commentary on what the carbon-14 did not achieve when it purportedly proved that the Shroud is a medieval forgery.

Aside from the fact that serious questions have been raised by experts on the procedural validity of the test, the truth is that, in dating the Cloth approximately to the 14th century A.D., the radiocarbon test in no way solved the mystery of the Shroud's incomparable portrait of Christ. That portrait is at the very core of the Shroud's enigma. I for one, and I believe millions of people with me, will not be persuaded to accept the results of the carbon-14 test until the experts will demonstrate beyond all question how a medieval forger produced so extraordinary an image as that of the Shroud.

Let me congratulate you, dear Mr Morgan, not only on your past accomplishments, so remarkably exemplified by *Shroud News*, but on the spirited way in which you propose to pursue your quest on the mystery of the Shroud's image, an image so unique and impressive that it will continue to haunt and inspire millions of people for years to come. Best wishes!

Father Peter M. Rinaldi, S.D.B.  
Vice-President  
Holy Shroud Guild  
New York, NY  
Turin, Italy



### THE FIFTIETH ISSUE OF SHROUD NEWS

Since 1978 Rex Morgan has made an extraordinary contribution in bringing to Australian people acknowledge of the Shroud of Turin. In that time he has written three books on the subject - one of which *The Holy Shroud and the Earliest Paintings of Christ* is an entirely original piece of research.

As well as his writings Rex Morgan has travelled to Palestine to take part in on-location experiments to see how body images might be transferred to cloth. His enquiring mind has brought to light new information on the 13th century painting at Templecombe as well as other investigations in Europe. Added to this he has found time to tour Australia, New Zealand and Asia with the Brooks Photographic Exhibition of the Shroud.

All this represented an enormous contribution to sindonology in Australia. Yet I would consider that Rex Morgan's greatest contribution has been the publication of *Shroud News*. To publish a Newsletter, largely unaided, for fifty issues is quite an achievement. More importantly it has meant bringing together and retaining the interest of those who are concerned with a more serious study of the Shroud. Thus, while *Shroud News* goes to only a fraction of those who have seen the photographic exhibition or read the books it represents a more significant contribution to the Shroud scene. May it continue to do so.

Paul Smith  
Melbourne, Australia

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Dear Rex

Congratulations on your recent (No 49) issue of *Shroud News*. Its cogency and completeness exceeded only by your editorial competence in expressing same. I was especially thankful for your evaluation of "almost all media writers and their editors" (p.3) and "Reporters who write with their self-decreed authority on this and every other subject" (p.16). Truly you have woven a masterful "cloth" of reportage from the vast array of factual warp and weft threads which constitute this unhappy "circus" (p.13).

The Church cannot be excused for its all-too-quick bowing of the knee to the false "gods" of the radiocarbon community. It is almost as though, fearing that they would be charged with "covering up" the "medieval" (sic) date leaked on 3 July 1988 or, even worse, that in the 20th Century they might once again damage their international reputation by sallying forth against the modern Gallileos, they had decided that it was "better that one relic should die than that the Church should perish by endangering the immortal souls of the faithful by permitting them to believe in a false" (sic) Shroud. All this despite the fact that about 23 different Popes have pronounced their "personal" belief in its authenticity and that liturgically there is even a date on the calendar for the Feast of the Holy Shroud and both a special Mass and Office for same.

Your quote from Dr Anna Hulbert was a "jewel". Also your quick retort to Teddy Hall's "Flat Earth Society" was another "pearl of great price". And finally your excerpt from Riggi's *Rapporto Sindone* was another "gem". There are those known to us both who believe that both this book and the "secret" protocol written by him for the taking of the samples on 21 April 1988 will, instead of providing "glory for STURP ITALIA", produce the very evidence which will be used by the "prosecution" to convict those involved in the process of gross, non-empirical malfeasance. The sad part of it is that it was all so unnecessary. Had Gonella listened to the caveats proffered by Adler, Meacham and all in October of 1986 and/or spent any time digesting Maloney's excellent paper prior to the January 1988 meeting in London, all this could have been avoided.

When it is all over, 13 October 1988, the 681st anniversary of the dawn raids on the Templars by Philip the Fair, will pale into insignificance when a future "Easter" proclamation informs the world that the announcement of the Shroud's "death" was not only premature; but that further analysis of the alleged "medieval" (sic) date has been proven to be as "empty" as the Tomb which once tried to contain the Risen Lord.

I look forward to your 50th edition.

Revd Fr Albert R. Dreisbach Jr  
Executive Director  
International Center for the Shroud of Turin , Atlanta, USA

Dear Rex

I would like to place on record my congratulations on the 50th printing of the *Shroud News*, and my deep appreciation for the outstanding role your publication has played in keeping people informed on that complex, and intriguing subject ... The Shroud of Turin.

Obviously many of your readers will know of the Brooks Institute Visual Data Exhibit, which resulted from the historic 1978 investigation into the Shroud. I was privileged to be a member of the photographic team headed by the Chairman of Brooks Institute of Photography's Industrial/Scientific Department, Professor Vernon Miller.

It was indeed fortunate that you attended the opening of the exhibit at Brooks Institute in Santa Barbara in 1981. Subsequently you worked closely with our Public Relations Director Peter Skinner, a fellow Australian, on having the exhibit brought to Australia. Mr Skinner and I were honoured to be your guests at the opening of the exhibit in Sydney when it started its tour of Australasia.

Over the years your publications - the *Shroud News* and your books have been an invaluable source of information and it was largely in recognition of your contributions that we donated the entire Brooks Institute Visual Data Exhibit to your Sydney based non-profit organization SEARCH. Since then we have been gratified to see the exhibit brought, free of charge, to hundreds of thousands of people in many countries.

Your readers might not know that Brooks Institute is a university of photography - with about 600 students from many countries completing our Bachelor of Arts degree in Professional Photography. However, on occasion we do participate in exciting projects and expeditions, providing our expertise to complement other disciplines.

Science, including our craft of photography, has been attempting to unravel the mystery of the Shroud for many years and while the true mystery - Who is the Man of the Shroud? - might never be solved, I feel fortunate to have been involved in some small way in working on this amazing and controversial religious relic.

Again, our sincere congratulations on this, the 50th *Shroud News*, and on your dedication to keeping people worldwide informed on the Shroud of Turin.

Ernest H. Brooks II  
President  
Brooks Institute of Photography, Santa Barbara, California



Ernest Brooks II with Rex Morgan in California, 1981. First discussion of the Photographic Exhibit visiting the Far East



December 1983, Ernest Brooks talks to schoolchildren at the opening of the Brooks Exhibit in Sydney, Australia. More than 600,000 people have now seen the exhibit since it left California

Dear Rex,

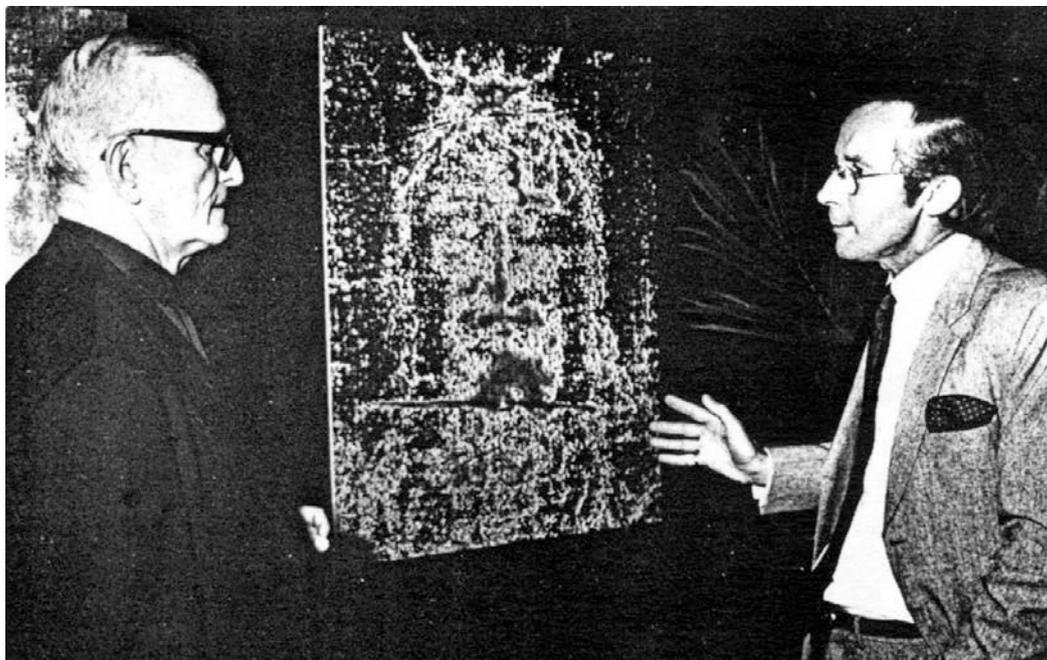
In Issue No. 1 of *Shroud News* (24 Sept. 1980) you wrote: "I have felt that a newsletter would be a useful vehicle for keeping people in Australia up to date with new developments in the study of the Shroud, examination of press reports and the reporting of information as it comes to hand from various sources throughout the world."

That was a concise and comprehensive statement of the editorial policy of *Shroud News*. Your interest in Shroud news has been unlimited, and your "various sources throughout the world" continue to amaze me. I do not know any sindonologist, who has made as many personal contacts throughout the world as you, and the response of your sources is evidence of your interest and enthusiasm.

I want to thank you especially for one change in the editorial policy as stated above. *Shroud News* was not restricted to Australia. May it continue to circle the globe for many more decades!

Rev. Adam J. Otterbein, C.S.S.R.  
Pres., Holy Shroud Guild, U.S.A.

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Father Adam Otterbein, President of the Holy Shroud Guild with Rex Morgan at the Official Opening of the Brooks Photographic Exhibition in April 1981

Dear Rex

Thanks firstly for *Shroud News* No 49. It was , as we have come to expect, thoroughly researched, factual and most importantly, commonsense. As you have correctly shown in this issue and in previous bulletins, the whole carbon-dating issue is a farce.

I would like to congratulate you very sincerely on the forthcoming 50th Issue of *Shroud News*. Although we have not yet met I feel I know you very well and your dedication and commitment to the Shroud has been an inspiration to me. Had it not been for you I would not have read *Portrait of Jesus?* or viewed *The Silent Witness*. You have done more for Shroud enthusiasts in this part of the world than anyone else, and I hope Issue No 50 will be seen as a fitting acknowledgement of your very loyal services to us subscribers. You are, in my view, a leader in Shroud studies and your humane, courteous and friendly approach to persons like myself (who are quite without real knowledge of the subject) has enhanced my interest in the Shroud immensely.

I began reading about the Shroud some 15 years ago. My interest developed further after reading Wilson's first book. Since then, and particularly since your New Zealand visit, I have, unashamedly, become "addicted". Most of my friends think I am potty but the Shroud has an overwhelming influence on me and my life. It has undoubtedly strengthened my faith in God and Jesus Christ. I am 100% convinced that the image on the Shroud is Jesus and it is as though there had been someone in the tomb 2000 years ago with a camera. My belief in the image will remain, even if the cloth does not carbon-date to the first century. With many of the faithful wavering in their indoctrinated beliefs, the Shroud provides the extra proof which some of us need to keep us on the right track.

I am honoured to write in this manner to someone like yourself who has done so much already in the Shroud world, is so highly regarded and respected, and yet can still find time to communicate with me and encourage my understanding of this amazing legacy Jesus has left us.

Rod Devlin  
Upper Hutt, New Zealand

Distinguished Dr Rex Morgan

I look forward enthusiastically to the excellent material which the magazine will contain next December: the 50th issue!

What fine articles you have written in this period of time! And not only articles but outstanding books which have disseminated knowledge of the Shroud to a very large number of people, and not only in Australia.

Now I wish that the enterprising founder and director of *Shroud News* will be able to gather together even more of this eagerly sought-after material.

I extend my good wishes to your collaborators and to the loyal readers who, I like to think, are becoming more numerous.

Discussion about the Shroud is endless but the many aspects of the study must lead to greater knowledge of Our Lord whose death and resurrection are the origin of and way to our salvation.

Therefore I participate heartily in your joy over the excellent information gathered together, and encourage you most warmly in your quest to reach ever more ardently desired goals.

With great cordiality I declare myself to be,

Yours,

Don Luigi Fossati, SDB  
San Benigno, Turin, Italy

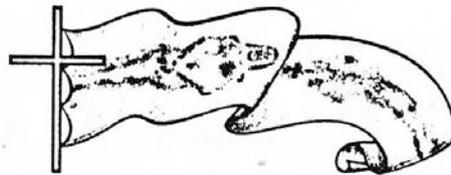


Hearty congratulations to *Shroud News* on reaching this 50th milestone. Buoyantly it has touched down in every nest and cubby where two or three are gathered together in the name of the Turin Shroud, thus widening communications amongst all. It has told us of the astounding travels of the Brooks Photographic Exposition, and news of conferences. And so we salute the man who modestly styles himself the Editor of *Shroud News*, Rex Morgan, who has canalized his energy and initiative and zeal for the Holy Shroud into a path as original as it is effectual and has traced an itinerary of friendships around the globe. Best wishes for the future from

SHROUD SPECTRUM INTERNATIONAL

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# SHROUD SPECTRUM INTERNATIONAL



SHROUD SPECTRUM INTERNATIONAL is published quarterly by the Indiana Center for Shroud Studies, R. 3, Box 557, Nashville, Indiana 47448, U.S.A.

Dear Rex

Your recent edition of *Shroud News* came as a powerful morale-booster after all the ill-considered and precipitate judgements on the Shroud we have been hearing. I feel sure the Good Lord will bring good out of all the present confusion! When more reliable tests reveal the truth, even greater world-wide attention will be focussed on the Shroud and also, Please God, on the sufferings which Christ bore to redeem us. May the Good Lord continue to bless your marvellous work.

Revd Fr Denis Martin,  
Macau via Hong Kong

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Dear Rex

The carbon dating was disappointing, but we feel, as you do, that it cannot be accurate. Giotto was the most naturalistic painter of the 13th Century - and his lovely work is certainly not in the same category as the Shroud, for realism. I am most interested in your comments in *Shroud News* No 49, for which thanks.

Audrey Dymock-Herdsman,  
Templecombe, England

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Dear Mr Morgan

The immense input you have given this research and your numerous "it is not good enough"s in *Shroud News* No 49 keep the Shroud the mystery it always was. Everything external is a mystery but hope springs eternal too and you have given us hope.

James Gair,  
Sydney, Australia

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Dear Mr Morgan

Your latest issue of *Shroud News* (no 49) is the very best work you have ever done! Congratulations also on the forthcoming edition (no 50) which I eagerly await. God bless you!

Harold B. Nelson  
Director, Corpus Christi Holy Shroud Memorial  
Texas, USA

Dear Rex,

Congratulations on a fine piece of work in *Shroud News* No 49, re your summing up of the case against the recent tests and your strong personal stand in support of the Shroud. I felt that you have expressed very well the new situation, namely, that the sceptics and the lukewarm will have shrugged it all off ("it said in the papers ...") and those with insight and faith will go on without fanfare treasuring the Shroud, as a miraculous gift of the crucified Lord of History to his followers in this Age of Science.

In this respect, it follows the paradoxical pattern that we find in the Bible and above all in the New Testament. The acclaim of the crowds for Jesus' wonder-working and their desertion of him when his message runs contrary to nationalistic hopes etc. Or the scepticism of the leaders of the Jews despite all the evidence offered (but not thrust upon them) by our Lord's public life. How well then, the history of the Shroud bears witness to the inner core of the meaning of the Crucifixion, derision by the masses, and fidelity of the few.

As you said so well "the mystery of the Shroud has only just begun for those of us who are interested. Nothing has happened.

God bless you and reward you for your continued work for the Shroud.

Revd John Conliss  
Tajimi, Japan

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I was indeed very honoured when Rex Morgan asked me to contribute to this jubilee number. Rex started his *Shroud News* after he witnessed the 1978 exhibition in Turin followed by the famous examinations of the Shroud. What Rex Morgan achieved in Australia and the whole world will remain unique. *Shroud News* is only a small, but very important, part of the Shroud activities of this dynamic man who is, by his own word, "not driven by any religious force."

I had the opportunity to meet Rex several times when he passed through Belgium on some of his world trips. He helped the Belgian Lijkwadegenootschap to start its own travelling exhibition. In the same unpretentious way he gives Shroud enthusiasts his very own *Shroud News* which many of us hope to receive for many years to come.

Remi Van Haelst,  
Antwerp, Belgium

**FROM EMERITUS PROFESSOR GILBERT RAES**

Dear Mr Morgan

I have read with great interest issue No 49 of *Shroud News* devoted to the results of the Carbon-14 determinations. I fully agree with you that it has not been conclusively proved that the Turin Shroud is of the 13th-14th century and for me it is clear that, as long as it has not been scientifically explained how the negative image on the Turin Shroud has been formed, the Shroud of Turin remains a mystery. We should not forget that the notion of negativity was not even known in the Middle Ages.

I am not competent in Carbon-14 dating, so it is not possible for me to appreciate the value of the test conducted or the value of the designated laboratories. But many questions arise concerning these tests. Why was the number of designated laboratories reduced to three? What is the exact place from which the samples were taken? From the photograph on page 9 of *Shroud News* (No 49) it seems it was about at the same place that my sample was taken. Also, at this place a piece of about 7 cm width of cloth was added, probably to centralise the image. There is no evidence that this piece of cloth is of the same age as the remaining part of the Shroud, and may have been added centuries afterwards.

Another question is the possible influence of the Chambery fire on the results of a Carbon-14 dating. Here again I am not competent to answer this question but we may suppose that the authorities have put the question to the designated laboratories and that they have received satisfactory answers. To me it seems evident that before communicating their results to Turin the laboratories contacted each other in order to avoid too much difference between their results. Indeed, big differences would contribute to doubts about the credibility of the laboratories and it is logical that the three laboratories tried to avoid such a possibility.

Many other questions may be put, on which we will probably never receive a satisfactory answer.

Concerning my personal contribution to the study of the Shroud I should like to make a small rectification about the last line of the 2nd paragraph of page 6 (in *Shroud News* No 49) "...for examination by Prof Raes in 1973 (which examination concluded that the cloth was of Palestinian origin and probably 2000 years old)". This is not entirely correct. I simply stated in my report that the traces of cotton fibres found in the Shroud were from the variety of *Gossypium herbaceum* and that was the cotton variety cultivated in the Middle East. I concluded that there was no objection to suppose that the cloth had come from the

FROM EMERITUS PROFESSOR GILBERT RAES (cont'd)

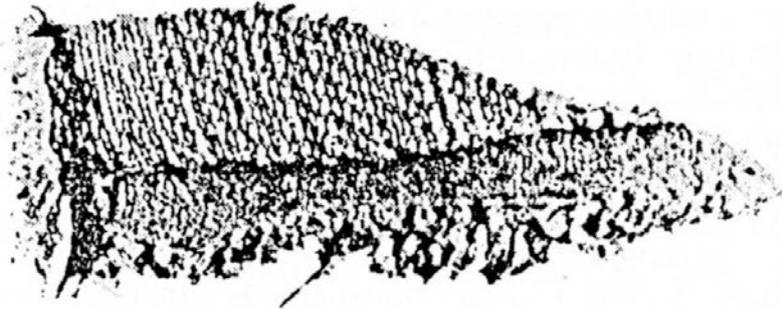
Middle East, but I did not state in my report that it was probably 2000 years old. This rectification is however of minor importance compared to the discussions about the validity of the Carbon-14 results.

A few days ago I received a visit from Mr Holger Kersten of Frieburg. He is highly interested in the Turin Shroud and has visited many countries such as India, Afghanistan, Turkey, Iran and Israel in order to gain more information about the historical personality of Christ. He wrote a book entitled *Jesus Lived in India*. Mr Kersten is also of the opinion that the three laboratories were manipulated and that they were asked to give the Middle Ages as the age of the Shroud.

I remember often your visit to Ghent some years ago and I was very sorry not to be able to join you a few years ago during your visit to Lier at the invitation of Mr Remi Van Haelst.

Dear Mr Morgan, this letter gives me the opportunity to send best wishes for your very interesting publication, *Shroud News*.

Professor Emeritus Gilbert Raes  
Gent, Belgium



The piece of the Shroud examined by Professor Gilbert Raes in 1973