

A NEWSLETTER ABOUT THE HOLY SHROUD OF TURIN
edited by REX MORGAN, Author of several books on the Shroud
Issue Number 78 AUGUST 1993



PROFESSOR ARNAUD AARON UPINSKY OF PARIS ADDRESSES
THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM ON THE SHROUD
OF TURIN IN ROME, JUNE 1993. THE SECOND PART OF OUR
REPORT ON THIS SYMPOSIUM IS CONTAINED IN THIS ISSUE

EDITORIAL

This issue, like number 77, is devoted to bringing you a resume of activities at the recent Rome Symposium. In view of the many changes to the printed programme, the non-appearance of speakers, the reading of papers by persons other than the authors, the failure to introduce speakers properly and the survival necessity to leave the appalling auditorium from time to time and miss some of the proceedings, makes it impossible to be sure whether all the papers listed were given. Where I am in doubt I have used the notes from the abstracts (where they were published and not all were) so it is possible that some of the reported papers were not given at all but may appear in the printed proceedings of the conference. Indeed I wonder if anyone knows exactly who spoke at the thing. Apart from the conditions of this conference which are touched on in a separate report in this issue I was disturbed to have reported to me recently by an American delegate that as he checked out of Domus Mariae the old call of, "Yankee go home" was repeated several times. As he says in his letter, "Things sure changed since 1945."

It was interesting to observe that at the Rome Symposium a number of prominent Shroudies were notable by their absence. Amongst these was Professor Luigi Gonella, not to mention the rest of the Turin brigade. He had sent a letter outlining his reasons for non attendance and asking that it be read out to the Conference. I am unaware of whether it was as I missed the final session. It is published in this issue for the record. One also missed Brother Bruno Bonnet Eymard whose contribution to Shroud studies is significant if not universally popular and one also missed American Kevin Moran a former member of the STURP team and particularly his video camera. Amongst the many significant researchers present who did not give papers were Dr Alan Whanger, Bro Joe Marino, Ian Wilson, Dr Bob Dinegar, Revd Kim Dreisbach and Professor Daniel Scavone, all of whom, I should have thought, could have made contributions more important than some we heard.

In other background to the Symposium I should report that I was granted a private audience with His Eminence Cardinal Ratzinger [later Pope Benedict XVI] early in the week. We spent half an hour discussing aspects of Shroud research and whilst he is unable, in accordance with Vatican policy, to give any official point of view on the Shroud, he was very familiar with all aspects of it, including my own research. Our discussion, in which he led with each topic, ranged over the 1988 carbon result, the fifty years of medieval disappearance of the Shroud

EDITORIAL (cont'd)

and my research on that period connected with Templecombe in England, the earliest catacomb paintings, the work of prominent Romans in Shroud research and the Brooks Photographic Exhibition in Australia. And his parting remark to me was, "It is very important to know more about things connected with the Resurrection," a clear indication that he relates the existence of the Shroud and its image to that event.

The weekend following the Symposium another was held in Rome, attended by several of the delegates to the International event. This mini-conference was arranged by the group at the Caravita, Via del Collegio Romano. The speakers were Marinelli, Zaninotto, Diana, Petrosillo, Brunati, Taddei, Loazza, Berbenni and others. It was very well attended and conducted entirely in Italian.

I note that Ian Wilson is now writing for *Shroud Sources* which, since Bro Joe Marino retired from its production, no longer seems to give any sources although publishes useful articles. I was glad to receive the latest issue of the *Newsletter* of the British Society for the Turin Shroud. Amidst rumours in Rome that Ian Wilson had resigned, that he had been expelled, that the newsletter would not appear again and all kinds of other tripe it was good to see him with his wife Judith and good to see him writing his *Newsletter* again after an interim couple of valiant news sheets. The tenor of the whole newsletter is conciliatory and all-embracing, a welcome development which should continue to hold both the publication and Ian's reputation high in esteem around the world.

In Ian's description of the Rome Symposium we read that a resolution was passed at the final session that the whereabouts be made known of the quite large piece of the Shroud cut off in 1988 and not sent to any laboratory. I shall be very surprised if the Turin authorities take any notice of such a demand.

REX MORGAN

THE ROME SYMPOSIUM - PART 2

Dr Gilbert Lavoie

Dr Gilbert Lavoie has long been an expert medical researcher on the Shroud and has published numerous papers. This one, "Origin of the Shroud," was an extension of the work he described in Paris in 1989 in which he showed that the man in the Shroud was, indeed, a three dimensional man, crucified according to the blood stains. He also shows that the image formation process was a separate and subsequent event. He demonstrated that the energy source to cause the image came from above the head according to the shadows but the man was not lying down but upright and suspended when the image was made. He then drew extensively and repeatedly on biblical references to explain this phenomenon. Quoting particularly John 12:32 "And when I am lifted up. ." as well as references to lifting at John 3:14 and John 8:28 he claimed that the body was somehow literally raised and the image then occurred. He also made extensive comparisons between John 23 and Daniel 7.

Dr Tarquino Ladu and Dr Robert Bucklin

Dr Tarquino Ladu of Italy gave a paper entitled, "Interpretation of Imprints on the Shroud," in which he studies in detail the Wood's lighting pictures of the Shroud image taken by Judica Cordiglia in 1969. Dr Robert Bucklin, another doctor of medicine and early medical expert on the Shroud from the days of the STURP 1978 investigation, had prepared a paper in which he gave a second opinion on the work of his predecessor Dr Pierre Barbet who presented a paper in Rome fifty years ago. He concluded that the pathological features of the image and the forensic studies on the Shroud show that it must be authentic.

Prof Silvio Diana and Prof Emanuela Marinelli

The joint paper of these two Italian experts was entitled, "Research on Racemic Features of Old and New Plant Fibres," involving the study of the transfer of sugars present in fibres through the process of racemisation. The experiments enable observation of the changes in polarisation from which a dating system of the fibres can be established. Marinelli concluded by saying

ROME SYMPOSIUM (cont'd)

that the final results will be published. Professor Diana then took the floor for a few minutes. I was unable to forge any connection with what he said to the paper given but as he was one of those very few present at a special viewing of the Shroud in 1992 to study its condition and preservation he made some interesting remarks on this aspect. "The Shroud," he claimed, "is not in any danger. It is not badly deteriorated." He criticised the already publicised work of the Russians (the paper had yet to be given) saying that they had made observations on an old Russian cloth which would have different characteristics to a linen from Palestine. "There is no sense in guess work. The mineral salts from one place differ from those in another." And he then claimed that the Church had already taken steps in conservation by placing the Shroud in a bullet proof glass container at a controlled temperature and humidity. He did not allude, however, to the fact that it is still rolled around a pole and in the old silver casket it has been in since 1598.

Dr R. P. Jouvenroux and Dr Remi van Haelst

Dr Jouvenroux of France in his paper entitled, "Confidence Intervals and Radiocarbon Dating of the Shroud of Turin," based his research on the Bienayme - Tchebychev mathematical formulae. To the accompaniment of loud drilling from outside the auditorium he claimed that a much wider interval of time in the dating was warranted than the results indicated. He demonstrated a number of factual errors made in the reports. "The British Museum," he said, "is not capable of using computers." This paper led readily into that given by the Belgian researcher, Remi Van Haelst, who has consistently and persistently claimed that the results were incorrectly calculated. He has been campaigning for years to be given the raw data from the three laboratories so that others may examine their accuracy, but so far has been rebuffed by all of them. He gave a detailed resume of his years of work on the statistical data, profusely illustrated by graphs, indiscernible in the auditorium, but supporting his constant claim that inconvenient data were ignored by the laboratories, their calculations were wrong and that there is no conclusive evidence to suggest that the Shroud is medieval.

Dr Marie Claire van Oosterwyck-Gastuche

Dr van Oosterwyck gave a most interesting discourse entitled, "C14 Ages from Archaeologically correctly dated cloths." She demonstrated that there were many faults in the methods used at the 1988 dating procedures and their results are in no way consistent. She showed that the large surface of the

ROME SYMPOSIUM (cont'd)

cloth lends itself to accretion of many pollutants as well as many substances being absorbed within the fibres. She claimed that the very cleaning process used by carbon dating specialists who do not understand these residues led to the removal of ancient substances which could have dated the cloth. In other words the integral evidence for an accurate carbon date is actually removed by the cleaning process. She noted that the effects of fire and water on parts of the cloth would affect the linen significantly and the samples were taken from such a site. She concluded by reporting on her experimental work which shows that there is considerable migration of radiocarbon on cloth samples.

Andrey A. Ivanov and Dr Dmitri A. Kouznetsov

The much heralded Dr Kouznetsov presented his paper entitled, "The Accuracy of the Radiocarbon Method for Dating Ancient Linen Textile Samples." In this very well presented and convincingly argued paper the Russians claimed that the carbon test results were totally wrong on account of radiocarbon testing being a quite inappropriate method for dating linen. (This has been argued by a number of observers before and since 1988). Kouznetsov declared that the method of spinning flax leads to a removal of lipids and proteins from the original flax stems with the result that the flax fibres and the textile contain more C14 than the living plant which automatically leads to a basic error in radiocarbon dating of any kind of textile. The result obtained from C14 dating would therefore yield a younger age than the real one. (This observation has also been proved many times). He also claimed that Damon (USA) had made a methodological error in normalizing the delta 13C values and the effects of the Chambery fire would have made a significant increase of delta 13C values through the evaporation of lipids and proteins and isotopic exchange reactions. They had then conducted their own experiments on old linens to find that the data obtained by Damon et al should have been differently interpreted and that had it been done correctly an age for the Shroud of at least 1900 BP would have been found. Like the editor of *Shroud News*, Ian Wilson was given a copy of this paper by Kouznetsov and he immediately submitted it to various scientists for comment. It is significant to note that Michael Tite who supervised the tests and has consistently claimed he is correct and consistently refused to release the raw data obtained has claimed that the Russians are wrong in their conclusions.

ROME SYMPOSIUM (cont'd)**Professor Georges Bene and Mr Y. Raillard**

One of the shortest papers in the conference was presented by Professor Bene entitled, "Comments on Reactions Following the C14 Dating in 1988." This was another impassioned diatribe against the perceived C14 errors and mistakes, poor scientific method and secrecy as well as the repetition of the weakness of using one testing method and the massive contamination of the cloth. He also commented on the publication of definitive interpretation of results without any multidisciplinary investigation.

Professor Olivier Pourrat

The French organisers were determined, despite the risks of overkill, to labour the point about the dating result dissatisfaction by presenting yet another paper on the same theme, "Dating of the Shroud of Turin in 1988: Methodological Questions Still Remain Unanswered." In this paper the questions of blind procedure, informing the labs of the date of control samples, the avoidance of any epistemological discussion were raised by Pourrat.

Countess Maria Grazia Siliato

The final paper under the sub-heading of "dating" was the second contribution by Countess Siliato prefacing her delivery with dramatic messages of greeting from the famous Monsignor Ricci and the Hungarian Embassy. Since certain press stories had been said to have reported the symposium incorrectly she then went to some lengths as the official Italian representative of CIELT to disclaim any responsibility for creating controversy. Her paper, "Shroud of Turin: Structure Mendings and Radiodating," was an interesting discourse on the enormous damage done to the cloth, particularly on the edges, by handling over the years. Her group had done experiments to measure the average weight per sq cm of the Shroud and compared with the weight of the samples taken in 1988 it was clear that one third of the total sample consisted of threads used for repairs and otherwise threads not as old as the original Shroud.

After a welcome lunch break the conference turned its attention to observations on the image on the Shroud beginning with:

ROME SYMPOSIUM (cont'd)**Dr Sebastiano Rodante**

Dr Rodante is a well-known medical doctor and Shroud researcher from Sicily who has published many papers over the years. His present work, "A Flash of Light on the Shroud," was to be yet another hypothesis for the image formation process. In a new series of experiments Dr Rodante has impregnated a cloth with a solution of aloes and myrrh, unguents known to have been used at Christ's burial, and these have produced an image with sunlight, provided the cloth was still wet. Rodante has concluded that if a body wrapped in the Shroud of Turin when it was still wet (and after 30 hours, which was the time elapsed between the death of the Man spoken of in the Gospel and the moment when the tomb was found empty, the linen would have still been wet) had been irradiated by a flash of instantaneous, blinding light such as sunlight, this would have been able to imprint on the linen images which are still visible on the Shroud of Turin.

Isabel Piczek

Isabel Piczek, American artist and physicist, has rapidly become one of the Shroud's most convincing researchers. Drawing on her very considerable and world renowned expertise in art techniques and art history as well as her background in physics, she presented yet another extraordinary and riveting audio-visual presentation entitled, "Observations Relative to the Image on the Shroud." Choosing to speak from the projector rather than the stage was sad only because we couldn't see her but very wise so that she remained in control of the projection herself and didn't have to fight with the eccentricities of the stage arrangements. It is remarkable to think that she showed 129 slides in the space of twenty minutes and kept up a staccato delivery of fascinating fact and observation, enthralling everyone with her ability to illustrate her words with brilliant visual images. She began by proving her ability to paint huge scale paintings, murals and frescoes, and to fashion mosaics and glass windows up to twenty-five meters high. She then demonstrated conclusively that no-one could have painted the image on the Shroud at all let alone with the perspectives and shades it has. She just as effectively disposed of the theory of there being paint on the image with her artistic and scientific demonstrations of pigments and materials. She crammed into a few minutes almost the history of paint media and then showed conclusively that the submicron paint particles on the Shroud have been dispersed from the touching of paintings to it for sanctity in early years.



Dr Gilbert Lavoie (USA)



Dr Remi Van Haelst (Belgium)



Dr Marie Claire van Oosterwyck-
Gastuche (France)



Dr Dmitri A. Kouznetsov (Russia)

ROME SYMPOSIUM (cont'd)

In describing the physics of the image she declared that, "The use of space on the Shroud is against the laws of nature," and concluded, "The professional artist must therefore solemnly state that the Shroud of Turin cannot be, nor is it, a painting. Therefore it should not be conserved as a painting or else we may destroy the only object on earth which is the blueprint of the future of our cosmos." The Shroud world is fortunate to have Isabel Piczek working in it. Her presentation was regarded by many as one of the most memorable and significant of the entire Symposium.

Archbishop Van Lierde

The unofficial visitor from the Vatican, Archbishop Van Lierde, was pressed to make a comment at this point and he said that he was neither an expert nor an academic. "The Catholic Church," he said, "has always paid a lot of attention to this event and this fact so I am interested in the subject of this symposium. It seems to me interesting and important to say that in regard to opinions as to the authenticity of the Shroud it is necessary to know the quality of the speaker and his professional qualifications as well as the intentions which led him or her to express that opinion on the Shroud. It is also useful and important to express the basic arguments for and against the authenticity of the Shroud. So please express all of the arguments because then the world will be able to know the truth about this subject and properly make a summary of it so that we will all be better able to understand these things. I am one of those who thinks that the Shroud is authentic."

Bernard Ribay

Mr Bernard Ribay of France, a lifetime friend and colleague of the late Dr Jean Volckringer gave a very interesting paper on the subject of Volckringer's work. He pointed out the perfection of the imprints made by plants on paper, a phenomenon known to almost everyone, and therefore similar to those on the Shroud, and described the detailed studies of this process made by Volckringer. It was Volckringer who identified the process as a degradation of cellulose and then likened it to the process of image formation on the Shroud linen. Indeed he published this theory more than forty years before current scientists even used the term in connection with the Shroud. Ribay pointed out that the process for paper and linen is different but produced similar images and in neither case has the actual formation process been explained. He was kind enough to acknowledge the work of Rex Morgan in editing and publishing the only English translation (by

ROME SYMPOSIUM (cont'd)

Victoria Harper) of Volckringer's work. This is in book form with coloured illustrations and is available from the Runciman Press.

Dr Leoncio A. Garza-Valdes and Dr Faustino Cervantes Ibarola

The paper of these two researchers entitled, "Biogenic Varnish and the Shroud of Turin," was presented by Dr Garza-Valdes. This turned out to be one of the most fascinating papers on new ideas to be presented at the conference although hampered by the gross inadequacy of the technicians. Basically it demonstrates another possibility for the extraordinary result of the carbon dating of 1988. Dr Garza-Valdes has discovered a new genus of the Loculoascomycetes fungi which form microcolonies. Each fungus which is dark-brown to black in colour, exudes a yellowish gel that when deposited on stable surfaces for long periods of time may produce a varnish composed of calcium carbonate, kaolin montmorillonite, lichenothelia remnants, melanin, manganese and or iron compounds and silica. Garza has reported and studied the varnish on six ancient artefacts: blood, bone, cotton, clay, gold and rock. On studying samples taken from the Shroud itself he has identified a Lichenothelia microcolony, several thalli fragments and fluorescence consistent with deposits on the other artefacts. He conducted studies using eleven procedures including AMS radiocarbon dating and has compared them with similar studies of the Shroud. His conclusions are that firstly the radiocarbon age obtained in 1988 from the Shroud by the laboratories measured a mixture of radiocarbon from the cellulose of the linen and from the Lichenothelia fungi and varnish on the linen fibres and secondly that the image itself was formed by differential depositional thicknesses of Lichenothelia Varnish directly related to blood, sweat and other deposits on the linen.

Dr Eberhart Lindner

Dr Eberhart Lindner of Germany gave a paper entitled, "A Hypothesis Which Can Explain All the Traces in the Shroud of Turin: its Origin, Validity and the Possibilities of its Verification." He dismissed at once the supposition that the samples were substituted in 1988 since the photographs show an exact conformity between them and then dwelt at length on the development of his own hypothesis that the high content of radiocarbon was caused by a neutron flux during the Resurrection. His reasons are summarised as: 1, The image of the body consists of conjugated double bonds and carbonyl groups which can only have been caused by electron radiation. 2, the images of coins on

ROME SYMPOSIUM (cont'd)

the eyelids are caused by the same electron radiation. 3, the 1988 carbon results show a non homogeneity of C14 expected and calculated corresponding to the position of those parts of the Shroud where the samples have been in the grave. 4, The origin of the exactly depicted hair is possible only through electron radiation, and 5, the fact that the fingers on the right hand seem to be a little too long and the nail beds a little darker. Lindner suggested further tests to verify his hypothesis could include radiocarbon analysis of the threads used to sew on the added strip to the Shroud, carbon dating of the unwashed sample taken in 1988 and taking new samples from other parts of the cloth. He then gave considerable emphasis to biblical quotations about the Resurrection.

Revd Jean-Baptiste Rinaudo

Dr Rinaudo is a familiar lecturer at Shroud conferences and his paper was entitled, "A New Mechanism for the Formation of the Image on the Shroud of Turin which could have Included an Inaccurate Medieval Radiodating." He expounded the theory that the image was formed by proton radiation from the body which had been focussed by the rock surrounding the corpse with variations according to the different paths it followed. This would explain the three dimensional quality of the image. He had carried out experiments of artificial ageing of cloth which demonstrated that the image could not be seen in its earliest stages but had developed over a period of time. This also shows that when the linen was in Lirey it was not new and therefore the carbon date must be wrong. The origin of the energy which produced the radiation is still unknown. The lecture was illustrated with slides which, as was becoming normal, were subject to the incapacities of the equipment causing annoyance and frustration to the audience.

Professor John Jackson

Probably the foremost of twentieth century Shroud scientists, John Jackson, can always be relied upon to give a most comprehensive and interesting paper whenever he appears. On this occasion he discussed much of the work he expounded at the St Louis Conference but drew further conclusions based on his extensive knowledge. He reiterated his well documented theory about the age of the foldmarks which show a great age for the Shroud, well before the middle ages. He also discussed some of the differentiation of coloring on the image which suggests radiation as the source of the image. He even showed that the thumbs of the hands were visible through the hand images rather like

ROME SYMPOSIUM (Contd)

X rays. He then explained that the blood from the side of the face had been transferred to the hair of the man and spoke again about his theory that the cloth appears to have fallen through the body by this and other evidence. As usual, Jackson stopped short of saying that therefore the body suddenly disappeared from within the folded cloth but left his audience with little other conclusion to draw.

Dr Ian Dickinson

Dickinson's second paper in this conference was no less well enunciated and prepared than his first. He touched on several quite different areas of his research and maintained the keen interest of the audience despite the late hour and the fact that some of them near me were talking loudly and rudely until I told them equally rudely to shut up which they did. Dickinson spoke about his unique research into ancient measurements showing that the exact dimensions of the Shroud cloth prove its antiquity. This also has bearing on the sidestrip making up the proper shape of the Shroud. He discussed his fascinating research on relics at Pamplona with the tantalising information about another piece of cloth yet to be examined which he believes is part of the Shroud. Finally he gave his thoughts on the etymology of the cloth from biblical and other texts and the reason for the distortion of the image between the head and neck. In all one hopes he will develop each of these matters into a full paper.

Prof Arnaud Aaron Upinsky

This remarkable French professor of mathematics and logic again applied his epistemological approach to the problem of the Shroud. Reminiscent of his breathtaking paper given in Paris in 1989, subsequently produced as a book in its own right, but never translated into English, he took us through the clear steps of logic relating to the facts about the whole Shroud story. With excellent overhead slides which were clear and quickly understood he made the usual considerable impact on his now tiring audience. He demonstrated scientifically that the Shroud image is certainly authentic on the basis of all the evidence and secondly that it must be identified as no one else but Jesus Christ. His conclusion was, and perhaps as fitting a one for any conference on the Shroud, "Considering results already obtained, it arises, from such a method, if science submits the evaluation of the Shroud to the same level of epistemological demands as those regularly used for identifying physical phenomena, that science cannot conclude anything other than scientific

ROME SYMPOSIUM (cont'd)

authenticity of the second degree. This means that the Shroud of Turin is indeed the Shroud of Jesus of Nazareth who has been historically crucified towards the end of the year 30 of our era."

Conclusion

Thus ended the presentations of this Shroud Symposium which contained a great deal of useful interchange. The comment was made about it that the "Shroud sideshow alley is crowded but the main arena is sparsely populated." Perhaps so.



Archbishop Peter C. van Lierde, talks to Isabel Piczek at left Alberto Di Giglio and at right Mrs Paul Maloney



Revd Prof Jean Baptiste Rinaudo
(France)



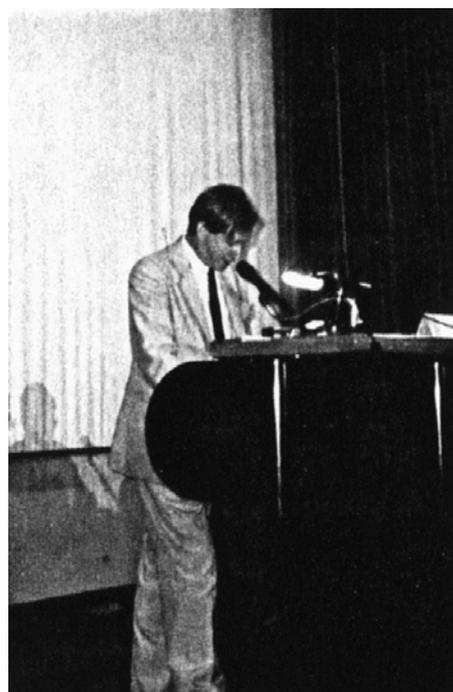
Dr Eberhart Lindner (Germany)



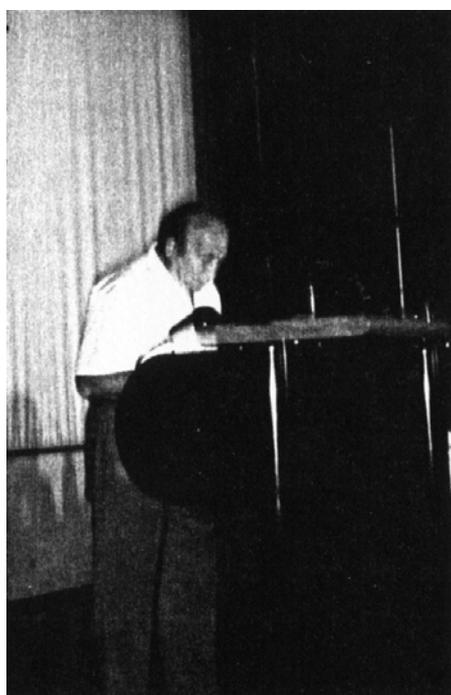
Professor John and Dr Barbara Jackson (USA)



Dr Leoncio A. Garza-Valdes (USA)



Dr Ian Dickinson (UK)



Dr R. P. Jouvenroux (France)



Prof Georges Bene (Switzerland)

LETTER FROM GONELLA TO THE ROME SYMPOSIUM

The following letter was sent to the Symposium to be read to the delegates:

Prof. Dott. Ing. Luigi Gonella
Torino 30/05/1993

To:

Dr Andre van Cauwenberghe
President of CIELT
Paris

Dear Sir

In the imminence of the Rome Symposium I feel it my duty to state clearly my position with respect to CIELT.

In your newsletter of February 1990 the main article, signed "La CIELT", ended with the words "on doit necessairement conclure que l'echantillon, qui a ete coupe en trois fragments remis a chacun des trois laboratoires, ne provenait pas du Saint-Suaire.", thereby charging the Turin staff with substituting the Shroud samples before their delivery to the carbon laboratories. I phoned you immediately and gathered from your answer that a retraction would be forthcoming in the next newsletter. But in the issue of March 1990 you did not deny the accusation, but only assured that, "personnellement, je ne puis mettre en doute la parfaite honnetete des personnes qui, le 21 Avril 1988, procederent aux prelevements sur la Relique at les certifierent de leur autorite.", which is no retraction (as I told you on the phone). It was clearly impossible for me to deal any more with you until receiving a formal retraction of such grave charges upon the whole Turin staff, and I asked M. Jacques Evin to expound our position to CIELT (of which he had been a founding member), but his efforts brought only his estrangement from CIELT, and your invitation to me and others of the sampling team to present our "scientific point of view, while excluding all polemics" at your Rome Symposium, after submitting the papers to your scientific committee (!), with no hint of the retraction that Evin had explicitly asked.

The charge of a simple substitution in Turin was thereafter repeated, mostly orally or by innuendo, by several people in various contexts. While you carefully add that you do not attack any way the honour of the Turin staff you never denied the charge, a position logically untenable that appears as a poor legal device to avoid an openly actionable statement. The

GONELLA TO ROME SYMPOSIUM (cont'd)

procedure used in taking the samples was such that no substitution could have been made without the active collaboration of all the following seven people (in alphabetical order):

H.E. the Cardinal A. Ballestrero, Archbishop of Turin and Pontifical Custodian of the Shroud

Ing Mgr R. Dardozi, Director of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences;

Prof L. Gonella, of the Turin Polytechnic, appointed as such to supervise the operations;

Mr G. Riggi, executive Vice President of STURP, appointed to carry out the operations;

Prof F. Testore, of the Turin Polytechnic, appointed as a textile expert;

Dr M. S. Tite, of the Research Laboratory of the British Museum, appointed by the laboratories to control the sampling;

Mr G. Vial, of the Lyon Textile Museum, called in to collaborate with Prof Testore for his experience in ancient textiles;

plus one or more technicians. Moreover, since the samples were officially certified as belonging to the Shroud by Card. Ballestrero and Dr Tite (a procedure not used for any other test on the Shroud), any talk of substitution means automatically charging them with fraud (or at least gross negligence in their professional duties).

The issue is not the esteem you claim to have for me (though I do not care to be misquoted as you do in the newsletter of May 1992), but the charge of substituting samples that CIELT advanced and never denied. The accusation is so ridiculous that when we first heard it we took it for granted that it would have been firmly denounced as lunatic utterance by all the Shroud friends. Unfortunately the more vociferous Shroud groups chose instead to support it, and in so doing brought to a halt the whole scientific research on the Shroud. Indeed one can only shudder to promote further action in a climate fostering shouts of foul play or malpractice for any unpopular result.

Of course in principle anything may happen, even a Cardinal conspiring with members of the Politechnico Faculty, with unmentioned and unimaginable motives, to deceive both the Church

GONELLA TO ROME SYMPOSIUM (cont'd)

and the scientific community, but if you are thinking this way the correct line of action would have been to address the issue to the Holy See, the owner of the Shroud, explicitly and privately, expounding the grounds of your suspicions and asking that a Commission of Inquiry be appointed. This is the proper procedure when malpractice or foul play by responsible officers is implied, and this I challenge you to do, if you do not want to make a full public retraction of your wild charges with the proper apologies.

To a proper Vatican Commission we shall gladly submit all the data and documents we have, that will amply show how utterly unfounded are such charges. But we do not think we have to account for our actions to any person or group who appoints himself to the combined role of prosecutor, judge and jury. For these reasons my colleagues and I do not care to come to the Rome symposium, and I am not even answering letters that demand details of the Shroud sampling for a check against other undisclosed data in order to "reach the truth" (thereby implying that our account of the operation is untruthful), letters by which we have been pestered since you and others chose to shift the Shroud research from the scientific ground into the quagmire where it is now drowning.

The Rome Symposium might be the occasion to clean the slate of the stupid polemics and accusations of the past years, or may become the tombstone of the Shroud scientific research for this generation. It is up to you. Anyhow I feel it would be proper for you to read this letter to the Symposium if the circumstances of the Shroud sampling in Turin are ever mentioned there.

With regards,

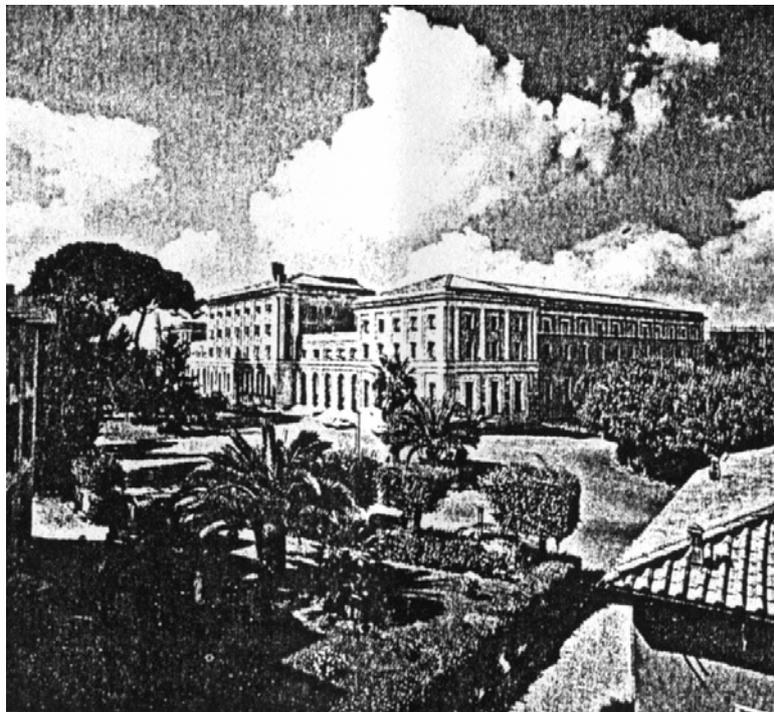
Yours truly,
Luigi Gonella



Gonella and Tite, Paris 1989



Ian and Judith Wilson (UK)



The Domus Mariae (looking good in the brochure)

HOME TRUTHS ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

A background comment on the Rome Symposium Rex Morgan

(containing some widely supported views from Rome which touch upon the standard of accommodation and how to run international conferences)

There is a magnificent building of sandstone and stucco, with plenty of parking space, just off a remote end of the busy Via Aurelia in Rome: large entrance foyer; wide marble floored public corridors; looks good on the postcards. But the Domus Mariae, a former convent, leaves a very great deal to be desired as a place to stay and as a venue for a conference. On arrival, in the absence of any servants, one struggles with one's baggage along corridors whose length might well have been measured in leagues. There is a fairly efficient elevator (despite the limitation of holding, like most of its compatriots in Italy, only four to six people if you breathe in, and provided for the hundreds of people trying to move, especially at the rigidly fixed feeding times) but the signs on the buttons bear little relationship to the numbering system of the floors. There is no apparent airconditioning connected anywhere in the building despite the presence in the yard of large machinery which looks like airconditioning and which thunders its operation from early in the morning -- perhaps to some official's private chambers? certainly not to any space being paid for by the punters.

Unlike the illustration in the promotional brochure, the bedrooms are, of course, like cells not surprising since that is what they were built as in the monastic tradition. The tiled bedroom floors, after a few steps in bare feet, leave the soles black with grime. A hard, military style bed and a lighting system ingeniously wired so that you can either switch on the room light or the bed light but never both at the same time, presumably in a fatuous attempt to conserve the power despite the cost of such budget items being programmed into the tariff at any sane hotel, and no light at all, over the rudimentary desk which you address from one of the two hard dining chairs provided, the only seating in the room apart from the bed and the floor.

A converted washstand of nunnery period allows one to place one's suitcase on something other than the dirty floor and one can suspend some of one's clothing on an assortment of filthy old wire hangers donated, no doubt, by

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generations of dupes who have stayed there before. (I left a good wooden one for the next unfortunate occupant of the room I was sentenced to). One had the dubious blessing of using the same minimal bath towel and hand towel for three days, barely dry from the previous mopping of bathwater and sopping of sweat in the appalling heat of Roman June. Needless to add, the bedsheets were not changed either despite their being sweat-soaked from each previous night of uneasy tossing and turning.

There were room-maids (a generous term) sometimes in evidence who clattered their way about in safe groups of three or four at a time but what they did I never discovered, other than to sit about in a room labelled "Servizio" which must surely have been a joke, eating fruit stolen from the kitchen, smoking cigarettes and loudly grumbling. I do not believe any cleaning was done in my room for the duration and I discovered that it couldn't have been for years as there were several millimeters of dust and fluff around the leg of each meagre piece of furniture and covering the entire floor under the bed which had obviously never been moved. I took good care not to breathe too deeply to avoid the onset of Legionnaire's Disease or worse. The only thing that actually seemed to happen in the room when I wasn't there was a brief pull-up of the top sheet and bed cover and one morning the curtains completely vanished from their rod never to return. As I spent each night with the windows wide open in a desperate attempt to reduce the oven-like temperature as I moved in and out of the bath cubicle there must have been some comic scenes provided for anyone who cared to look from cells opposite.

At least the thing had a shower which more or less worked, as opposed to no shower in the Columbus Hotel where I stayed for a few days in downtown Rome at very high cost. The Domus Mariae's lavatory cistern was a challenge to hydraulic engineering. It took on average three attempts to make the flush operate, only once I managed it in two and another took seven. The bathroom waste bin was fortunately (and predictably) plastic and could therefore be used to catch the runoff from the leaking handbasin.

Needless to say there were no wirelesses or televisions provided in rooms which was, in my view, a great blessing, not to mention the absence of telephones which prevented disturbance (or the possibility of calling for any service). I noted that there was a kind of inmates viewing area on the ground floor with serried ranks of chairs in a marble hall which addressed a large

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television receiver blowing out the salacious Italian evening movies for anyone who cared to watch. The only patronage of it I saw in three days was one old man asleep in front of it, an apt comment on the standard of European TV, I thought.

The place had other "facilities" such as a bar, to which one could repair at all times of the day for a much needed pick-me-up. This bar is one of the only sensible things in the building despite the quirky selection of drinks and eats available in it at the usual extortionate Italian prices. Probably the only pleasant area in the whole complex where one might have sat was a small courtyard near the bar furnished with plastic tables and chairs which got a bit of sun for the British to sit in and a bit of shade for everyone else. The funny thing was that every morning, at about the time when one might have sat there, some lackey hosed the whole area down leaving all the tables wet and the plastic chairs with a pool of water in each concave seat which I discovered to my discomfort.

One had paid for all meals in the tariff and so, at first, one dutifully attended upon the dining room, two floors below the ground level. Here one found, in appalling temperatures, four-person tables placed so close to each other that only the most adept servant could get through the melee when occupied, leaving the rest of the large room vacant. The meals were a stern reminder of boarding school or wartime army camp and were served extremely slowly, and whilst their quality was about fifth rate I do not believe they were unwholesome, just primitive. The amazing thing was that one could buy drinkable wine to drown the food and one's sorrows for less than \$3 a bottle. And I suppose the advantage of the intimate closeness of the table arrangement lay in the possibility of conversing with people at any number of tables nearby as one juggled one's stack of plates in the inadequate table surface space and as one held doggedly to one's dirty cutlery to recycle it for the next course.

Since one was in this awful place for a conference one should warn potential users about its conference facilities. All sessions took place in a plenary theatre with about three hundred seats in it. It is a matter of extreme good fortune that less than that number attended the conference since the seats are of minimal width, minimal padding and minimal distance between rows. Unbelievably the hall had neither airconditioning nor fans and the temperature and humidity in it were both well in excess of what was ambient elsewhere,

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which was bad enough. The seats were also specially balanced to bounce up as soon as one raised one's body and throughout the conference sessions people's cameras, tape recorders and bags went sporadically clattering to the floor. There were no notepad rests in the arms and nowhere for delegates to put any of their basic conference equipment. My limit of seat tolerance was reached after the first ninety minutes. But then I reasoned that this was the length of time it was all designed for: lectures to nuns and perhaps their weekly black and white silent movie. I suffered from what is politely called "conference coccyx" for the rest of the symposium despite bringing one of the primitive pillows from my bed. I have to say that I managed to stake out one of the best seats in the house, fronting a main access aisle so affording some leg room and near the only open door at the back which let in an occasional whiff of freshish air (accompanied by the drills and hammering of deranged workmen somewhere near) and even this reminder of freedom and the normal world was closed from time to time because some delegates imagined they could better see the slides which occasionally' got projected properly during the sessions.

The stage was set with a huge table and banner well suited to a political rally behind which sat the moderator for the session and up to four other VIPs who variously came and went throughout the presentations as it seemed to please them or as they remembered some more pressing business elsewhere. Indeed the only moderator to stay posted for the duration of her responsibility was Dorothy Crispino. During the tour of duty of the others there were frequent times when only the speaker was there in his or her unsupported isolation. The other facilities of the hall consisted of a good sound system and immediate translation into the three official languages, French, Italian and English. But even these good interpreters became breathless from time to time on account of the speed of delivery of the speakers about which more later.

There were facilities for showing slides which were required by almost every speaker and one would have thought that the place could have provided a fulltime technician dealing with nothing else but projectors. I do not know whether this is the fault of the Domus or the conference organisers. As it was, each speaker had to rely on his or her own resourcefulness in finding a friend in the audience who could operate the machine, provided one had also resourcefully found a slide carousel and a working machine. As the conference drew on it became increasingly farcical to find machines not

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working at all; others partly working or jamming in the middle of a lecture; some requiring to be mended midstream so that an increasingly overworked lad who sat up in a box above, presumably controlling the sound system, had to leap through the people and at times join four or five "experts" usually aided, in the absence of other light source, by Alan Whanger's pocket flashlight (he must have been a boy scout) trying to get the thing operational. One lecturer demanded two projectors simultaneously which caused near panic.

At the speakers' rostrum itself there were also severe difficulties. To begin with there was no lectern light so one had to hold up one's papers in the floodlight for the video cameras which bore down on one like an interrogation. Several hours into the first day someone produced a hand torch for a speaker who then tried to juggle it and his notes. This was subsequently replaced by an ordinary desk lamp which spent much of its time turned outwards into the eyes of the audience or the lenses of their cameras. The rostrum was also constructed with a high step from the stage floor. Unless one was a midget (and there appeared to be none at this conference) if one stood on the step to get close enough to the reading desk one was then trying to read from notes at waist height. There are not many people who have reached public lecturing age whose eyes will allow such a feat and so one either put one foot on the step and stood in an excruciating half forward twisted position to use the desk or held up the papers insecurely in mid air.

On those occasions that the slides were visible one could use a faulty laser beam pointer. An astonishing observation, which is the fault of neither the Domus nor the organisers, is the number of lecturers (or pseudo lecturers) who do not understand the simple principle that if you project slides containing masses of typing, pages from books, cramped handwriting, etc., they simply cannot be seen by anyone past the front row of an audience of plenary size. Several speakers totally wasted their time and that of the audience by trying to show such things which included even pages of statistics all of which are meaningless and almost invisible, the same comment applying to overhead transparencies. Indeed, the master of using the informational visual aid is Professor Upinsky with his two or three word slides and overheads which (a) one can read and (b) one can understand. The master of pictorial presentation is artist and physicist Isabel Piczek with her quickfire machine gun like images of great beauty, significance and comprehensibility.

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Amongst other aspects of this conference which drew widespread criticism was the fact that upon registration one was given a programme which was not adhered to even on the first day. Without announcement or distribution those who had luck on their side were able to find a replacement page of an amended first day listing which had, however, conveniently left off the last three speakers altogether. There was also no list of delegates provided for the convenience of us all to know exactly who was registered (I wonder if anyone did know), a simple service which could have helped many to enjoy the thing more. One of the evidently overworked secretaries promised to photocopy the four or five pages of delegates for me (a one minute job): I never received it. Indeed the secretariat seemed to spend the greater part of its time paranoically collecting money from people who took an extra meal.

On the day before the conference there was rumoured to be a private audience with the Pope for a few delegates. I was told that my name was on the list but when appearing at the time of assembly (and we had been given four different times for that the day before) I was told that it was not. I was then offered the possibility of tagging along just in case I could be admitted. I then discovered that it was the weekly public audience for 7,000 to which they were going. As much as I love His Holiness I was certainly not going to stand in the Roman sun for two hours on the off chance of joining 6,999 others for a distant view of the Pope when one can get such a ticket any week as a foreign visitor without any difficulty.

Each speaker at the conference had been told by letter during the very long lead time for the event that papers would be 30 minutes in duration. This is little enough and about the minimum anyone can use to present a serious topic at a conference, let alone allowing for it to be simultaneously translated. Having spent many months, in most cases, preparing, editing and adapting one's work to fit this parameter, some of us were told the day before that we could speak for only 20 minutes as "so many papers had been accepted" (!!) Quite a number of people spent long hours trying to edit down their work to fit that absurd time and still make sense. And then, in the opening announcements of the opening session, which predictably started late, it was said that since we have started twenty minutes late all speakers are asked to speak for only 15 minutes.

It is the height of insult and impertinence to accept papers from international

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speakers who have come great distances and at great expense to share their work to then give them a kindergarten school time slot. It is not possible to make much impact in 15 minutes with a learned discourse, especially when the audience is grossly uncomfortable in the stinking heat and humidity (not to mention the very high incidence in those circumstances of foul breath and body odour from one's neighbours) and the added burden of each speaker following the last with no proper introduction and absolutely no gap between each one. This led to frantic attempts to set up slides, frequent questions from the audience as to who it was actually speaking, and many abuses of the time restraints by speakers (what else could they do?) with moderators nudging them, sounding off buzzers, shoving clocks in front of their faces and otherwise making the whole thing like a vaudeville performance of stand-up comics.

Someone said that the French organising a conference in Italian facilities represented a formidable formula for slapstick and we got plenty. There were no coffee breaks on the first morning, an inadequate break for lunch, a fifteen minute break in the afternoon and none on the second day. The situation was not helped by reading out papers of those who were not there. It is my belief that the papers of those not present, for whatever reason, should not be read at any self-respecting conference. Perhaps they might be included in the printed proceedings except that even these are a highly speculative aspect of some conferences. Apart from three papers, to the best of my knowledge, the proceedings from the 1989 French organised symposium have yet to see the light of day as, for that matter, have those of the Italian Symposium of the same year!

Despite the comment with which I do not entirely agree that, "90% of the programme was crap" and another that people were "blathering on with repetitive twaddle" and "we have heard many lecturers and pseudo-lecturers" with which I am more inclined to agree, there were, nevertheless, some very good contributions, if abbreviated, at this symposium but the conditions under which it was held were little short of scandalous. The organisational infrastructure left much to be desired considering the exceptional lead time the organisers had at their disposal.

And if there were a public health authority of any kind in Italy, which I very much doubt, places like the Domus Mariae, reminiscent of the third world, would surely have their residential section closed down.

Shroud News began in 1980 when Rex Morgan, author of three books on the subject of the Holy Shroud (*Perpetual Miracle*, *Shroud Guide*, and *The Holy Shroud and the Earliest Paintings of Christ*) started putting together a few notes about current developments in Sindonology (the study of the Shroud of Turin) for a small circle of interested people in his home country of Australia. He didn't expect it to go beyond a few issues.

The bulletin now reaches subscribers all over the world and it is written and produced and the information disseminated more quickly than most news-sheets of a similar kind or the more prestigious Shroud publications. It contains information, news, articles and illustrations gathered from sources of Shroud study worldwide through Rex Morgan's extensive network of personal connections with what has been described as the "Shroud Crowd".

Rex Morgan is a frequent traveller overseas and this has given him the opportunity to keep abreast of latest developments in Shroud study and research at first hand. He was present at the world media preview of the Shroud itself in August 1978 in Turin, Italy and has met with numerous Shroud researchers in many countries. His quest for Shroud information became, as he described it, "a passionate hobby". He brought the world-famous Photographic Exhibition created by Brooks Institute, California, to Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Macau and Canada and during those tours it attracted more than 600,000 visitors. The exhibition was subsequently donated by Brooks Institute to the non-profit making organisation, The South East Asia Research Centre for the Holy Shroud (SEARCH) of which Morgan is President. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the USA based Association of Scientists and Scholars International for the Shroud of Turin (ASSIST) and was a member of the scientific team which conducted environmental experiments in a Jerusalem tomb in 1986 (The Environmental Study of the Shroud in Jerusalem). He has made several original contributions to the research of the Shroud, has presented papers at international conferences, has written many articles and given numerous broadcasts and telecasts on the subject in many countries.

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