



A NEWSLETTER ABOUT RESEARCH ON THE HOLY SHROUD OF TURIN  
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edited by REX MORGAN, Author of several books on the Shroud

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FOR SEVERAL YEARS WE HAVE SEEN SCAFFOLDING AROUND  
THE CATHEDRAL OF ST JOHN IN TURIN AS A MASSIVE  
RESTORATION PROGRAMME WAS BROUGHT ALMOST TO A  
CONCLUSION IN 1997. NOW WE SEE NEW SCAFFOLDING AS THE  
REBUILDING OF THE GUARINI CHAPEL OF THE SHROUD TAKES  
PLACE AFTER THE DISASTROUS FIRE OF APRIL 1997

## THE 3rd INTERNATIONAL SHROUD CONGRESS, TURIN (Continued from last issue)

**An extensive coverage of the International Congress in Turin held 5 to 7 June 1998 was begun in *Shroud News* No 108, occupied all of *SN* 109 and continues here**

### **1. Balossino**

The second session of the second day entitled "Image Formation" began 45 minutes later than scheduled. The chairman of this section, Professor Nello Balossino, gave an eighteen minutes introductory paper, not listed on the programme, in which he described work as a disciple of the late Professor Tamburelli. He gave a history of the computer-enhancement work done on the Shroud image which began with Jumper and Jackson in the USA and reported in 1977. This process was carried on by Tamburelli in Italy. The enhancement processes using imposed colour values and three dimensional procedures enabled analysis of the image which cannot be achieved by any other method. Balossino reminded us how his team had removed the background "noise" on the computerised pictures and this revealed details hitherto unknown of the features of the image. It was unfortunate that presenters of Balossino's high calibre were not the only people to speak at the conference which would have been far more informative listening for longer times to such researchers as he.

### **2. Work in Russia**

Thus at 1203 began the first scheduled paper of the session which was A Belyakov's *The Origin of the image Formation*. This Russian researcher paid many tributes to Jackson's work pointing out that under the old regime in Russia knowledge of the Shroud was very limited. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union however there was freedom to study such things in Russia. Dr Jackson's work and his connection with the Shroud Centre in Moscow had greatly improved opportunities. Belyakov, seeming almost to be the successor to the discredited Kouznetsov, spoke with highly technical slides about the radiation energy evident as the cause of the image and was promptly silenced at 12:15 by the chairman.

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**3. A Bene**

Frenchman Mr Bene presented a succinct and non controversial paper on *Suggestions for a detailed study of the cloth and of the backing cloth*. He made the point that all studies have been conducted on the visible side of the cloth to the exclusion of the reverse side and the backing cloth sewn to it. He suggested that a study of these could reveal information otherwise impossible to obtain. There could be evidence of mendings and sewings, there could be further deposits of blood and serum, there could be pollens there before the backing sheet was attached. Comparisons of the particles on both sides could reveal new information. The backing sheet and the threads used for sewing should be dated. Measurements of the varying thicknesses of the cloth should be made which would relate to its capacity in various parts for the absorption of energy rays. None of this work would damage the Shroud in any way. Despite quoting Siliato at one point this was a highly sensible and useful contribution to Shroud study.

**4. A confused and confusing half hour**

The next papers listed on the programme were ostensibly by Fanti and Marinelli: *Un modello probabilistico per quantificare i risultati delle ricerche sulla Sindone di Torino* and by Fanti and Winkler: *Analisi do fattibilita di indagini sul lino della Sindone mediante risonanza magnetic*. This turned out to be two papers by Fanti with commentary by Marinelli and a totally unrelated and unnamed paper by Winkler. As far as I could gather Fanti was given eight minutes to present both which he rightly announced was impossible but launched into an abbreviated description of designing a digital colorimetric mapping of the Shroud prior to which he would need to define a calibration system before carrying out any measurements. He showed some diagrams with a cute little finger pointing to various otherwise indecipherable matters on the screen. He described a method of eliminating electronic disturbance and said that the work could be used to check degradation of the image.

He then went into his second paper (listed as the first) which was a probabilistic model of results based on assertions of probability as to whether the cloth is authentic, false or a miracle. Giving up his attempt at description Marinelli then commented on these results at machinegun speed with resultant scanty translation but it seemed to be about making 100 assertions and then applying 7 parameters: The results of their work fully supports authenticity and will be put on the Internet for comment. Thank goodness for that.

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U. Winkler of the University of Leipzig was then called to the stand to give a paper not listed, spoken in unintelligible English but seemed to be about carbon atoms. It may have been to do with the Carbon dating but I wonder if anyone at the conference understood it. This form of presentation does no justice to the work of researchers given a fatuous time limit and no proper chance to explain themselves.

### 5. More details from specialised photography

The next two papers reported interesting work in the photographic field again being pressed for time since it was now fifteen minutes before the end of the session with 9 papers still listed. In *Il Fotorilievo applicato alla Sindone* Dr A. Guerreschi spoke about the use of relief photography to simulate 3 dimensionality. He took photographs made after the 1997 fire and could see that the cloth image imprints were single coloured with variations of intensity proportional to the distance of the cloth from the body which verified earlier work. He demonstrated with detailed slides minutiae of the face and body wounds which are not revealed when the same processes are applied to images produced by laboratory methods such as those of Rodante and Moroni made from casts. He also discovered on the back image masses of hair falling onto the shoulder which should be studied as well as asymmetrical thighs suggesting rotation of the body.

Spanish researcher G. Heras gave a presentation comparing the Oviedo Cloth and the Shroud in his *Estudio comparativo entre el Sudario de Oviedo y la Sindone de Turin*. Valuable time was wasted getting the slide control to work and seeking a pointer. He showed that the Oviedo cloth shows two basic positions of the head it surrounded which indicate movements on the cross and a high degree of correlation between the two cloths. He posed the question: "Who is now testing whom? Is the carbon dating testing the cloths or the cloths testing the carbon dating? I leave it on the table." Many of the audience agreed with this proposition.

### 6. More computer revelations

Dr G. Imbalzano in *Duplicata del volto Sindonico* spoke of a doubling of the image shown by computer resolution. He said he had observed what seems to be a second face on the image about which he was at first skeptical but was encouraged to investigate by Balossino and others. The second face appears to the right of the first and was probably caused by folding lengthwise of the cloth. The only possible explanation is that the cloth has been folded over to

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produce this effect after the formation of the original imprint.

As it was now 1310 hours the session was stopped to be carried on later in the day.

**7. Alternatives**

For the record here is the list of papers presented in the alternative hall during the day, none of which your reporter could therefore attend and which one assumes were probably given:

**8. Chemistry Session - chairman Prof ALAN ADLER:**

- a. LATTARULO, F: How a seismoelectric effect can explain the human image impressed on the Holy Shroud
- b. MACRY AREVALO, A: Y despues de la autenticidad. Que?
- c. MILLS, A: The singlet oxygen hypothesis for the origin of the image
- d. MORAN, K: Remote positioning system to examine the Shroud of Turin
- e. PICARD, G: Fluorescence spectroscopy and fluorescence lifetime measurements of the Shroud of Turin
- f. RINAUDO, J B: Modello protonico di formazione dell'immagine sulla Sindone di Torino

**9. Art Session under Prof H PFEIFFER:**

- a. COMPRI GAETANO: Il Mandylion di Odessa nelle pitture di Cappadocia
- b. GIARDINI ROSANNA: La Sindone: interpretazione pittorica con riferimenti biblici e di storia dell'arte
- c. GRISERI CARLO: Rassegna fotografica delle immagini della Sindone nel cuneese
- d. MANFRIN M, No title

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e. PISOTTI, PAOLO: Cognizione dell'immagine della Sindone e i suoi riflessi sulla raffigurazione del Cristo dell'arte moderna

f. SULLIVAN, B: The Shroud of Turin: Was it the model of the Claus Suter "Head of Christ"

### 10. Conservation

Following an extensive luncheon we reconvened to hear the chairman of the conservation section, Professor (Ms) M. Flury Lemberg give a 27 minute discourse on the history and characteristics of the Shroud known by everyone in the room. This lengthy general discourse led to her observation that all conservation strategies must take into account circumstances of the time. One might ask why worry about its conservation if the cloth has survived so long. Since it is a unique item and in a very different climate from that of its past there are additional risks in contemporary conditions. The main problem is that the image has been caused by oxidation of the threads and scorch marks have accelerated the oxidation process of the whole cloth as well as water and dirt damage. There are also problems associated with its size, the disadvantages of having rolled it, the damage caused by folding, superficial rubbing affecting the marks on it. Conservation must address preservation of the image and must slow down the oxidation process of the yellowing of the background. This can only be achieved by keeping it unfolded, which has now been agreed to in a special casket. Even if it were a fake there should still be an explanation of the image scorched on its upper fibres. The gospel indicates that Christ had an energy field, a charisma, a karma and recent examples of such people have had bodies warm for 72 hours after death which might have caused this image.

### 11. Security

A very well prepared paper: *The Sanctuary of the Shroud: a security challenge* was given by Philip Dayvault, an associate of the Whangers of USA. Speaking at high speed he gave a definition of security companies of which he is a director and said: "A master security plan can offer the most comprehensive integrated and supported protection available to cover all procedural contingencies on a redundant circle of defence." And then, "At the risk of sounding presumptuous I feel that I am the most qualified international security management consultant for the task of developing such a comprehensive protection programme for this most Holy Relic."

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As the audience was still gasping at this claim he continued, "I've had 15 years experience of federal law enforcement," and went on with a long curriculum vitae indicating his suitability for the task. He then regaled us with a great deal of high powered management style jargonised proposals which did not impress some of his European colleagues, old hands at Shroud congresses, if admittedly not security experts. (I have to say that the intensity of the presentation reminded me of a security situation I once found myself in the middle of in a Far Eastern country in the same hotel as a visiting vice president of another country, who subsequently became an international laughing stock just as the security measures had made him in that hotel).

He then showed us graphics and slides of his proposed display case for the Oviedo cloth and for the Shroud (a stainless steel case flat showing the Shroud for display through a mirror). He went on to say that his master plan had been submitted to Cardinal Saldarini 2 years before but had not been adopted and if it had the fire risk of 1997 might have been avoided. This may well have been the case and his plans are very comprehensive. So much so that one commentator in the audience said "It sounds like the Shroud better be moved to America."

### **12. French conservation**

Two French women, C. MACADRE and O. ROCHER then gave the paper: *Securite et conservation du Linceul de Turin*. They began by telling us that they both work for the Aerospace Agency in France on security systems. Their paper was an interesting follow up to Dayvault's in which they talked of their specialisation in risk management. They base their assumptions on the premise that all that can go wrong will go wrong and then plan damage control. Their scheme concerned the cloth itself, the casket, the services and the equipment on the basis that the Shroud must be conserved forever and that it must be visible. They explained the main matters to be addressed amongst which were: accidents, internal failure of systems, natural environment, toxicity, lightning strikes, electrical blackouts, evacuation, circuit breakdown, operating conditions, attack, surveillance, maintenance of systems, repetitive faults in equipment, handling of crises by personnel.

### **13 Lost camera**

Just as the conference was taking on, for the first time, some semblance of a proper conference with papers being given a not unreasonable duration for presentation and well prepared material some chap got to the microphone to

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announce that he had mislaid a camera "probably in the men's' room" but that "if one of you has taken it with the intention of not returning it then God loves you as much as anyone else." We thought this patronising remark must have been encouraging at least for the thief, if any, and he later confessed that it was a cheap camera anyway. This bit of pantomime being over we returned to the logical and brilliant mind of:

### **14. Isabel Piczek**

The indefatigable and inimitable Professor Isabel Piczek, brilliant professional artist of world renown and trained nuclear scientist then gave, as usual, one of the best presentations of the congress. Her paper was entitled: *The professional arts and principles and practice of conservation - restoration versus the Shroud of Turin*. As usual she treated us to numerous slides shown in rapid fire mode which kept her audience riveted. In a few minutes she again totally destroyed the theories of McCrone, the latter twentieth century leading advocate of his painting theory which has since been discredited by almost every other Shroud scholar.

Subtly showing her enormous credentials for speaking as a professional artist (murals and stained glass windows in 486 buildings around the world some as big as 2000 square feet including one in the Vatican when she was 14 years old, not to mention numerous accolades in various countries) Isabel began by quoting McCrone, who believes the Shroud is a medieval painting as making the astonishing remark: "The Shroud is not a question for art experts." She then systematically showed the mediums which paint theorists have claimed were used and destroyed each of them categorically and showed basic flaws in McCrone's arguments.

Most importantly Piczek warned of the grave errors which could occur if the Shroud were to be addressed for conservation purposes as a painting of any kind. We must ensure, she indicated, that no conservator of the future should adopt the methods of conserving paintings for the Shroud or it will be destroyed.

### **15. Reproduction textile**

After a break the session resumed with its last scheduled speaker G. Vercelli on: *La Struttura tessile della Sindone*. This was a discussion on the different thicknesses of weft and warp threads and an assurance of the good quality of



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the cloth. He had prepared an exact copy of the textile with all its original characteristics which would be made available for experimentation and could also be used for repairs to the Shroud itself. He also showed an intriguing slide of a contraption he had used which was reminiscent of Leonardo's drawings

### **16. Solar scorching**

The earlier session of Balossino's resumed to give the ousted speakers a chance to present their material with S. Mourayev's: *Image Formation mechanism on the Shroud of Turin: a solar reflex radiation model, the optical aspect*. He announced that he would give the first part in Italian, the second in English and the third in French. No-one could discover why, other than to demonstrate his exceptional skill in all three languages. He suggested that the reason for there being no solution to the problems of the Shroud after a hundred years is that all the sindonologists are believers who forget the principles of science and most non believing scientists have not taken it seriously. Despite both of these statements being flawed he gave a highly intelligent and technical presentation about his theory that the images were produced by exposure to sunlight similar to that of Moroni and Rodante.

### **17 Propp and Jackson**

Last time I heard Keith Propp I was critical of his presentation in this journal. This elicited some spirited correspondence between his colleague Jackson and me. I am very glad about two outcomes. First a very cordial series of exchanges occurred between Jackson and Propp and me in Turin this year and second, Propp gave a very good presentation having, I like to think, taken some note of my supportive advice. He gave a proper introduction to the paper: *Computer colour intensity analysis of the Shroud for conservation and research*. He explained how colour intensity analysis differentiates between features which appear the same and the technique is similar to stellar observations.

Colour intensity distribution fits a scheme which can be applied to the Shroud image in which red, green and blue intensity values are plotted by computer for every pixel of the Shroud image. The method applied to image and bloodmarks shows distinction between them. Just as Jackson has shown radiation mark samples and background cloth aged differently when heated so differences are shown by the colour intensity method. Isolation of the

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bloodstains should enable the method to show how much has eroded and it can distinguish between them and burns.

The implications for conservation are that precise image data can be used to monitor changes in intensity and could highlight those parts undergoing change. The technique requires imagery to be digitised on site which becomes permanent unlike photographic records which degrade over time.

### **18. Circus mode**

After such intense and sensible reporting by Propp the show went again into circus mode with the introduction of an Austrian speaker not listed anywhere in the programme and whose paper appeared to have no title. This fellow took more than two minutes to get started at the microphone and then spent his entire time giving a lengthy preamble to whatever he might have been going to say. He described in dreary detail the anecdotal story of his "miraculous" visit to Turin in 1978 and all about finding a hotel room and what time he got up etc, etc. He then, in a long queue to see the Shroud, met Father Rinaldi who helped him to attend the conference next day and we were treated to a further long diatribe (his voice now well raised in passion) about how he got in past the guards unauthorised and so on.

"I was convinced", he yelled, "that the Shroud was authentic and it was my obligation to find out more so I studied and met many of the experts." At this point the chairman wisely told him he had one minute to go.

"I've been cut off in my prime. How can I finish here? I want you to understand what I'm talking about and the chairman tells me to wind up. Here is the last part of my paper - but I can't continue. I'll just say I am convinced of the authenticity of the Shroud." [shouting and gesticulating as the lights were turned up and the audience clapped to drown him out]. The nature of the delivery put some in mind of Nuremburg: one only needed the long banners in the backdrop to complete the effect.

### **19. Sullivan and so on**

Having descended into slapstick to have a paper from Barbara Sullivan: *A critical analysis by application of logic* did nothing to rescue the situation. She rambled on for twenty minutes in a disjointed, almost unintelligible way chiefly telling us she is in a group in Chicago which publishes psychological

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material.

She was followed by one W. Verniers on *Natural Formation of the Shroud Image* in which he mainly showed a whole lot of overhead projections filled with illegible tiny writing and over which he frequently held his notes in order to read them, then obscuring the projection.

One feels sorry for the lightweights whose sincerity one cannot doubt. But someone said that to put these good people on in an international conference where many experts were present certainly serves to emphasise that Shroud research, like all areas of human endeavour, has a fringe group.

### **20 A new day dawns**

The following morning after a magnificent Gala Banquet which I shall describe later, delegates arrived to find that the programme had been changed without proper information being broadcast. The organisers had at last realised that some papers would attract greater audiences than others and had arbitrarily swapped the total programmes for the two lecture halls. This, however, did little to solve the problem. Many delegates missed papers they expected to hear and the numbers in the Sala 200 often far exceeded the seating. Added to this the doors of the Sala 200 opened directly onto the main concourse, and opposite the canteen, usually jammed with people trying to move in both directions and during many papers loud background noise off became an occupational hazard. There was total confusion at the start of the day which involved the audience, the intrusive media presence, the difficulty of setting up slides for presentation in the right room, making sure the interpreters for each room had the papers of the changed speakers, delegates giving impromptu lecturettes in the passageways to otherwise disappointed delegates, and so on and so on.

### **21 Archaeology**

The archeology section had only three papers on offer for the first session. It did not help that the History section of 13 papers was held at the same time in the other salon. Basic sense might have suggested that those interested in the archeological section would also be interested in the historical. As it happened, since only half the historical papers were managed in the session one was able to hear some of them later. The chairman of archaeology, Professor P. Kaswalder gave a lengthy introduction. His paper was an

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extremely interesting and detailed description of the 1968 discovery in Jerusalem of the remains of a crucifixion victim. This, the only known such discovery, has been discussed many times in *Shroud News*. The work has had considerable bearing on the evidence of marks on the body depicted in the Shroud relating it without question to aspects of crucifixion and supporting the work of many earlier twentieth century researchers. We hope to bring a transcript in English of Kaswalder's work in due course to our readers.

### **22. Hamon and Kiss**

Two further papers of great interest were given in this session. French Professor M. P. Hamon, formerly of the University of Riyadh in Saudi Arabia gave an excellent paper: *La solution archeologique de l'enigme ou vers une nouvelle orientation des recherches sur la generation de l'image sur le drap mortuaire de Turin*. An examination of the time elapsed during the various aspects of the crucifixion and burial on an archeological basis serves to confirm the evidence of the Shroud image.

This was followed by Dr Irene Kiss, of Budapest, who gave an extensive discussion about the placing of coins on the eyes of the dead: *L'usanza di mettere monette sugli occhi*. The evidence for this on the Shroud has taken many years to convince some experts but Kiss described the practice having been prevalent in many cultures. She also commented on the cryptography on the Hungarian Pray Manuscript as confirming coins on the eyes of the Shroud man.

### **23. Morgan of Australia**

The next paper was my own and, if I may say so, was well received. I believe I ought to bring it to readers of *Shroud News* in full, and will do so as soon as practicable since I have made only passing references in *Shroud News* to many years work which has involved a number of people in our work in the Roman catacombs. This has resulted in the planning of a series of four books on the subject, so extensive is it and so important in general terms and specifically in relation to the Shroud.

On this occasion in Turin I was given ten minutes to summarise what we have done and our latest discoveries. These are that we believe we have discovered the earliest portrait of Christ ever painted and it resides in a

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cubiculum of the Domitilla catacomb excluded from the public. Having now made three expeditions into it I can say that we are convinced it is of first century origin; we have located a hitherto unknown entrance to the complex which led to earlier supposition that its date was later; there needs to be re-evaluation of all dating principles in the catacombs; we have corroborated the early work of Sylvia Bogdanescu by drawing on the expertise of Isabel Piczek, Alan Whanger, Lennox Manton, Mario Maroni and Christopher Morgan.

Most importantly of all, the features of the portrait are very similar to those of the man in the Shroud and virtually provide evidence from a totally independent source for the origin of the Shroud itself being first century since we have two independent depictions of the same man at the same time.

I was pressed to give a number of significant radio and television interviews on these matters and they received wide diffusion in England, America and Europe.

### **24. Papers not attended**

For the record here are other papers which it was impossible to attend:

R. De BRIENNE: Relazione storia

CAPPI, M: L'incendio di Chambery - Un monito per la scienza

DE DOMPSURE, B: L'Image de Edesse est-elle le Linceul de Turin?

FRAIKIN, J: Geoffrey de Charnay, un personnage énigmatique

MARKWARDT J: The fire and the portrait

SCAVONE, D: Joseph of Arimathea and the Edessa Icon: Identifying the Holy Grail

SCOTT BELDON, J: Ostension of the Shroud, Architecture and ritual in Piazza Castello

BIANCO, L: Sacra Scrittura e Sindone

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BISCEGLIA, G.: Sindone e catechisi - Esposizione di alcune yenta della fede alla luce delle piu recenti scoperte sindonologiche

CUCCAROLLO, E.: La letture spirituale della Sindone

DI GIGLIO, A.: Ecco l'uomo ascoltatelo

DREISBACH, A. R.: A theological basis for sindonology and its ecumenical implications

FALCINELLI, R.: Testimonianze sindoniche a Chartres

FERRER, A.: L'unione fra scienza e religione spiega l'enigma della Sacra Sindone

LADU, T.: La Sindone e la liturgia mozarabica

LETHEL, F. M.: La Santa Sindone come icona di gesu sepolto: Aspetti dogmatici, teologici e spirituali

LINDNER, E.: The Holy Shroud and the Resurrection

LINGIARDI, E.: Il volto sindonico: svelarsi e nacondersi di Dio

MINGRONE, G.: La Sindone: umanizzare Gesu per divinizzare it Cristo

PASINO, P.: Comunicazione

PERRIELLO, A.: Il mistero della Sindone

PERM, S.: La gente comune e scettica o perplessa circa l'autenticita della Sindone: problema di fede o di comunicazione mass mediale

PHAM, J.: So what if it's a medieval forgery?

QUATRIN, S.: Gemma Galgani e la Sindone

RIBAY, B.: Opsi et quelques autres vocables grecs de Jean dans les oeuvres de Flavius Josephe

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SORMANI, ZODO. F.: Esperienze in tema di serate Sindone

TAMIOZZO, G.: Sacra scrittura e Sindone

WIJFFELS, F.: The relation between St John 20. 6-7 and the water stains on the Turin Shroud

## 25. Carbon Dating

A section of the conference on carbon dating was held in the small hall at the same time as the section on religion was in the large one. For a largely scientific conference this defied logic. Not a seat was to be had in the smaller room. Chairman Professor P Savarino gave a general introduction to carbon dating and its reliability or otherwise.

## 26. Van Haelst

One of the leading protagonists for the inaccuracy of the dating results of 1988, Remi Van Haelst has frequently been first published in *Shroud News* and his mathematical calculations have been widely studied. He spoke in English: *New light on the radiocarbon dating of the Shroud*. He reminded us that the results of 1988 put through the computer do not agree with what was announced at the time. There is always room, for a mistake. Van Haelst had challenged the 95% confidence claim in 1989 and he described his statistical deductions of corrections to the results. The British Museum and the laboratories had consistently refused to make their raw data available for examination. His recalculations confirm that the samples examined were not typical of the Shroud and he closed with an appeal to open those files again for scrutiny.

## 27. Alonso

M Alonso's paper was entitled: *Quelques doutes de nature scientifique sur la validite de la datation de 1988*. He stated that there is a conflict between age and authenticity. Many factors suggest authenticity such as the Pray Codex, a text designed by an agnostic and which has characteristics of the Shroud which are strong proof of pre dating to the tenth century. There are icons dating it to the 6th century. The only factors against it are the d'Arcis memorandum which has been discredited which leaves only the carbon dating result. But it has been shown that radio carbon is unreliable for

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fabrics and the testing samples ages were not known.

### **28. De Diego**

A quite interesting paper followed which was not on the programme, nor was its presenter present but it was read in translation by a colleague: *Study of the Age of the Holy Shroud*. He gave a full description of every detail of the sample taking in 1988 and pointed out that no pictures of the samples were taken by the laboratories; no-one checked Tite's samples; Ballestrero was the only one to control it and he was 65 and tired with his elbows on the Shroud. Perhaps he was confused and a mistake occurred with Tite's delivery of the sample. An analysis of the videos of the procedure could demonstrate how mistakes might have occurred.

### **29. The Jacksons**

Several people tried to ask questions but the chairman was adamant that time did not allow it. He got into several spirited arguments with members of the audience although the absurd time restrictions were not his fault. He announced that the Jacksons, Dr John and Mrs Rebecca, would have 20 minutes between them, and ominously, "I will stop them at 19 minutes." Rebecca gave a paper about their work on the foldmarks discussed in previous forums but now updated.

Jackson had first noted the foldmarks in 1978 when he arranged for Miller to take raking light photos for later study. Rebecca explained that some of the folds intersect not only the 1532 fire burns but also the previous fire. They had calculated that some of the folds indicated that the Shroud had been wrapped around pieces of wood so it was folded for storage in this manner long before its European sightings and was possibly used for raising the Shroud to show the face. They had made a fullsize model with wooden struts which showed this very procedure. There are many Byzantine and other references to such a practice. The Byzantine icon of Extreme Humility and the Shroud are one and the same thing. There is also a discoloration band on the Shroud and tack marks consistent with this usage on wooden struts.

After 16.5 minutes Rebecca left. John three and a half minutes to speak. His overview was that although the level of contamination needed to shift the C14 from 14th to 1st century seemed impossible the contamination must be very small and yet strongly enriched in radiocarbon. "Kouznetsov's is the only



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work I know that purports to do this and we are looking at this with our lab in Colorado." At this stage the audience were harassing the chairman even more with his shouting "Don't interrupt."

### **30. Moroni**

Mario Moroni has been a researcher in several fields, the current one being: *L'incendio di Chambery del 1532: esperimenti di simulazione termica*. He had conducted experiments with folded cloth simulating the fire at Chambery checking the spectral analysis with temperatures taken at many different sites on the cloth and in the casket. Their conclusions were that such conditions definitely generate a radiocarbon rejuvenation up to 700 years.

### **31. Novelli and Van Oosterwyck**

The next two speakers. G. Novelli: *Analisi critica della datazione col metodo al radiocarbonio del tessuto della Sindone* and Mme M. C. Van Oosterwyck: *Le sainte Suaire et le radiocarbon* followed much the same themes as the whole section. Novelli concluded that degradation can only be caused at low temperatures and that cellulose rich objects may be involved in chemical changes according to environmental impacts which alter the cellulose itself and which changes the carbon content. Experiments since have shown this effect and in 1988 modifications not allowed for were fire, microbes and biorefraction inside the linen.

Van Oosterwyck had prepared heat and water tests after 1988 and pointed out that one does not do a statistical test with only three labs. She talked of errors in general in carbon dating and claimed that the British had hidden the results of a sample in some earlier tests for the Trondheim carbon conference because they did not suit them and refused to answer some questions. She also called for the raw data to be revealed.

### **32. Ian Wilson**

To hear Jackson and Wilson in the same section of the same programme is an indication of the quality of the conference. But to be limited to hearing them only for a few minutes is absurd. Between them these two have probably been chiefly responsible for the vast Shroud researches, theories and popular interest of the past thirty years. Ian Wilson's talk was entitled: *An appraisal of the mistakes made regarding the Shroud samples taken in 1988 - and a*

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*suggested way of putting these behind us.*

The previous day a page had been circulated making certain accusations and imputations about Wilson and so he began by saying: "I can only ask you to pray for the particular individual who is putting some rather unfortunate and untruthful messages around, about me." And then, "If I may occasionally hurt people it is solely in the interests of truth in the Shroud."

He said that if the C14 dates were wrong we must try to understand why. Tite did not act dishonestly but Wilson quarrels with the conclusiveness with which they made the findings. Many have opted for the Kouznetsov isotopic exchange theory. "I warned you Kouznetsov could not be trusted. He ended up in prison in the USA. If you still believe his science you have greater faith in human nature than I do."

Wilson continued that we should ignore claims that the samples came from invisible mending areas and are therefore not original. Riggi and Gonella selected the location and could hardly have been more ill advised. That corner was where it was held up for centuries and had therefore the greatest amount of contamination. Also no laboratory properly documented its sample: Oxford only photographed the face; Zurich only the underside and Arizona which had two pieces only photographed one. Nor did the photos include a measure as is standard procedure in any archaeological photo which led to the conspiracy theories.

There was no chemical analysis of what they were dating which violated the first basic principle in biochemistry. We now know that Riggi kept part of the sample plus trimmings in his private possession which in 1993 allowed pieces to be taken by Garza Valdes leading to the bioplastic theory. "I have been greatly encouraged by Harry Gove who has collaborated with Valdes, Mattingly and David whose experiments showed similar coating on Egyptian mummy cloth. It was thinner than that on the Shroud and showed a 550 year discrepancy therefore the Shroud could have changed date by 1300 years."

But the Valdez samples have not received formal recognition by the Cardinal so the work lacks validation. The bottom line is that if Valdes is correct then someone must develop the matter further. If the bioplastic can be eliminated then a proper test can be made. There should be enough cloth left from the

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last sampling and the Pope has said the Shroud should be made available for further work.

"I ask that the Church's door be open and welcoming for future dating."

### **33. Barrie Schwartz**

During Wilson's talk some clown obligingly responded by opening the back door of the hall where noisy exchanges were taking place outside. Barrie Schwartz therefore spoke with a background of extraneous noise. The genial Schwartz gave one of the most positive and hopeful papers of the conference. He was an original member of STURP in 1978 and was responsible for many of the now world famous photographs taken of the Shroud during that scientific study.

He reminded the audience that in the 1970s there was no technology such as we have today (faxes, portable telephones, etc) and no sharing or co-operation amongst researchers. In the 1990s the new information techniques, notably the internet, has allowed universal access. He opened his famous website for the Shroud in January 1996 which can enhance and further the goals of sindonology. He has suggested that there could be an internet linked multidisciplinary review panel so that far more research work can be published than at present. He is also currently compiling a massive bibliography and foresees research debates and forum discussions through his website.

### **34. The last papers**

A series of five papers from the Historical session were put on in the smaller hall at the end of the conference whilst in the larger hall a "debate" was being held, open to the good people of Turin, on who knows what topic. As it happened these last historical papers were some of the most interesting of the congress and more is the pity that no speaker had time to develop his theme. The first of these was D. Seglie's: *La Sindone a pinerolo nel 1478 - un aggiornamento a cento anni dagli studi di Stanislao Cordero di Pamparato* in which he gave a description of the findings of all details concerning Shroud related monuments and paintings.

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**35. The Fire at Chambery**

Fr R. Sorgia gave one of the most challenging papers entitled: *L'incendio di Chambery, un monito ed in ulteriore riprova dell'autenticita*. He stated that he was here to raise a simple question to believers and non believers alike. Why was the 1000°C of the Chambery fire not enough to destroy the linen when it could melt the silver box? Why did the cloth burn only in marginal areas? Why does the Shroud seem to question the regular procedures of cause and effect? When the folded Shroud was in contact with the red-hot bottom of the box, why did physics and chemistry seem to make an exception?

Silver, he pointed out, is usually hardened with copper. Silver melts at 960.8° and copper at 1083° and at a probable 80/20 alloy there was still more than 1000° heat in the box. Furthermore thermal conductivity of silver is eight times greater than iron and cloth burns at 150° to 160°. So a cloth made of what was very common flax must have been isolated by a mysterious heat shield. Since the item itself cannot suspend cause and effect of the laws of nature this macroscopic phenomenon cannot simply be explained by the magic formula of chance.

According to science nothing can occur without there being a specific cause. The blocking energy must therefore be identified as something beyond any possible natural cause. Every believer and non believer must ask with common sense, why? The word *supernatura* "beyond and above nature" is relevant here. Surely only an authentic Shroud could rely on such intervention and to suggest manufacture in the 14th century is meaningless. Science and faith could surely meet to determine this question.

(It is indeed a fascinating point and one hopes to see more debate about the reasons why the cloth was not simply incinerated at Chambery. It also leads one to ask whether the conditions in 1997 when hero Trematore smashed the unbreakable glass to remove the Shroud from the cathedral have been closely examined. How hot was the glass and the Shroud in it? What was the ambient temperature in that part of the fire? Is there any relevance to the question of why it did not ignite then?) - Ed

**36. The Parthians**

Another very interesting paper was Prof L Tabori's: *The Turin Shroud and*

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*the Parthian Empire*. Regrettably what would have been a very important contribution was cut off before he had the chance to expose his main theme. He had given considerable background to the relevance of Mesopotamia and the Parthian empire which straddled 250 years each side of the time of Christ and the relevance of Osroene and Urfa and the Armenian dynasty of Abgar. He was about to explain why Joseph of Arimathea is the key figure in the life of Christ when his lecture came to an end. He concluded only by saying: "If Joseph of Arimathea had done the burial according to their laws and local prescriptions we would not have the Turin Shroud now." *SN* hopes to acquire the full text of this paper (and several others) in English for reproduction.

### **37. Kornelimunster**

Belgian Remi van Haelst is well known for his work on statistical probability but he is also a detective who has discovered a large variety of obscure references to the Shroud in many European libraries and church treasuries. He spoke on this occasion on: *The Shroud of Kornelimunster*. He described his discovery of this little known relic and several other related items in the treasury, several obscure depictions in remote places of a Shroud image and gave details of the unique Kornelimunster Shroud, the history of which he had thoroughly researched and showed that it dates to the time of the Turin Shroud and could possibly have been associated with the burial or was at least brought into contact with the Shroud later.

### **38. Zaninotto**

Prof Gino Zaninotto is one of Italy's greatest researchers and historians and has made some very significant discoveries in Shroud studies. This paper: *Poliforma e transfigurazione de Cristo. Una lettura antica della Sindone?* discussed some of the earliest documentary evidence of Christ from the second century which appears to corroborate the image on the cloth. There are parts of John's gospel which talk of an image produced at the time of Pontius Pilate and ended up in Rome in the hands of the Gnostics. There are also legends, depictions and descriptions of images taken to Pella and Beirut and reports from 160 AD describe appearances of Christ which have been interpreted as reports of seeing the Shroud with its image. Details such as apparently open eyes and feet in a peculiar rising position (at the transfiguration) suggest the attitude of the Shroud image. John describes seeing the Lord with a black beard but bald. Could this be reference to the gap in the Shroud? The extraordinary knowledge of the features of Christ in the 2nd century tally with the Shroud having been seen.

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**39. Final announcement**

After this last paper of the congress Professor Pier Luigi Baima Bollone said, "The organising committee should not only speak at the opening of the congress but should also have the last say. I want to thank you all, the President of the Republic of Italy, His Eminence the Custodian of the Shroud and the authorities that have taken part. A special thanks to the rapporteurs and the moderators of the various sessions and their efforts to try to give the floor to all even if briefly so that all could offer their viewpoints. Some have given us very detailed papers and we shall be publishing all this material which will be the basis for any consultation in the future.

I thank all the individual participants who with great passion and interest have been present: the secretariat, the interpreters, the hostesses, all the people who have taken part in the organisation of what I believe to have been a very successful meeting. And for one reason in particular because after four years it has allowed us to meet in harmony and we have made agreements for common research in the early part of the third millennium."

And then the final coup de grace, the bombshell: "The President of the Confraternity of the Holy Shroud which organised the congress has authorised me to inform you that a National Conference will be organised in the year 2000. And in 2005 to celebrate the 50 years of the International Centre there will be the 4th International Conference of Sindonology and with this announcement I say goodbye to you all and see you next time."

The announcement of no international conference in 2000 when the Shroud will again be on display caused a great deal of concerned comment. It was probably a neat way of saying to the international delegates we have heard all your comments and some of them have been almost offensive in their patronising stance so we, who own the Shroud in any case, will have our own conference here in Turin next time around. I have to say that I would not presume to advise the Roman Catholic Church or the Italian people how to go about dealing with their Shroud. Too many foreigners have tried to tell them what they should or should not do in a manner that does not make for friendship and co-operation. Not surprisingly, since then there have been several plans got under way to hold international conferences under other auspices in the year 2000.

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**40 Finally**

Here endeth what has been a somewhat serious report of the conference papers and so I shall report on the final magnificent Mass held in the Cathedral that night and at which I had a privileged seat, in the next issue of *SN*. Let us instead finish with a report of what the conference did best: the food.

**41. Lavish catering**

I was told that the original budget figure for the lunches, morning and afternoon coffee breaks and continuing refreshments during the conference was a staggering US\$55,000 and the meals so provided were excellent and extensive. Every morning and afternoon tea and luncheon break consisted of superb Piedmontese culinary excellence. We enjoyed several courses for lunch as well as major plates of food each coffee break. Beverages always included iced blood orange juice and a variety of other drinks including the excellent local wines. The great banquet was a very significant culinary experience. This was held at the Palazzina di Caccia at Stupingi. This remarkable place was the hunting lodge of the Savoyes in days gone by. The Palace itself is approached through a major road passing two kilometres of continuous several storeyed stable buildings. This vista is staggering and the palace at the end of it is marvellous to behold. Needless to say the arrangements for getting there left much to be desired. There were five Pullman buses engaged to move the troops from the conference at 1930 hours after the congressists had spent a long and arduous day with no opportunity, I take it, to refresh themselves.

My group had sensibly retired at the close of play to our hotel and so we arrived by taxi in a better state than many. Held in one of the converted riding halls, some 500 persons sat down to a magnificent meal in delightful and dignified surroundings. There were cocktails first, something of a fight, but then what 500-strong cocktail party isn't. The table settings were splendid and reflected one of the things that the Italians, and the Piedmontese in particular, do very well: that is to provide excellent food and excellent service. The meal consisted of four very large courses with four appropriate wines. The feast was accompanied by some opera singers who struggled valiantly to be heard against the animated conversation taking place at the decibels of shout. But it was a very civilised evening and one of the few aspects of the Congress which worked really well.

REX MORGAN

*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*) and editor of several others, began sending a few notes about current developments in the study of the Shroud of Turin (Sindonology) for a small circle of interested people in his home country of Australia. He didn't expect it to go beyond a few issues.

Today, the bulletin, now highly acclaimed, reaches subscribers all over the world and is written, produced and disseminated more quickly than any other Shroud publication in the English language. 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 which gives 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 and knows numerous Shroud researchers in many countries. His quest for Shroud information became, as he described it, "a passionate hobby". He took 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 700,000 visitors. The exhibition was subsequently donated by Brooks 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 Board member of the US 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 (ESSJ). He has made a number of original contributions to Shroud research has presented major papers at international Shroud conferences has written numerous articles and has given hundreds of broadcasts and telecasts on the subject in many countries.

The list of *Shroud News* subscribers continues to increase internationally and it has been described many times as one of the best available. *Shroud News* comes out six times a year. Its production is obviously privately subsidised as we request a subscription in Australia of only \$6 for six issues posted. The USA subscription is \$12 (posted airmail - there is no longer any surface mail from Australia). Postage to other countries varies. ALL back issues are available for \$1 (US or Aust) each plus postage. The famous 50th issue is \$3 plus post. Customers should note that as it costs us \$8 to negotiate each foreign cheque we request all payments be made in currency banknotes of your country or charge to Visa, Master or Amex cards.

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