

RECENTLY PUBLISHED

SEBASTIANO RODANTE: "Le Parole di Cristo sulla Croce e la Sindone" (The Words of Christ on the Cross and the Shroud), *Scienza e Fede* #11, 1984.

Numerous articles on sindonology have appeared in this journal of scientific-theological studies, and Dr. Rodante has been a frequent contributor on the subject. In this article, the Author recalls his earlier work on the wounds from the crown of thorns (see *Spectrum* #1, Dec. 1981), in which he argues authenticity from the fact that there are both venous and arterial bloodflows from thorn punctures; a distinction no medieval forger could have reproduced 300 years before the discovery of how blood circulates in the body. The blood from each puncture (particularly obvious on the forehead and left wrist) diverges into two flows, forming an angle; and since each rivulet, by the force of gravity, must run perpendicular to the ground, it follows that the man whose image is on the Shroud must have assumed two positions: one of slumping and one of straightening up to avoid asphyxia. These considerations are not new to students of the Shroud.

Dr. Rodante presses onward. A forger, he reminds us, would follow the Gospel descriptions to the letter, to make his forgery convincing. But the evangelists say nothing about the alternating movements on the Cross.

The angled bloodflows are witness to the Victim's efforts to overcome the difficulty in breathing as he hung forward, forcing the chest into abnormal expansion. And Dr. Rodante finds further confirmation in the Gospel reports of the words Jesus spoke from the Cross: "They are staccato phrases, broken monosyllables, from breath caught in the throat."

If the precision of the scientist is evident in Dr. Rodante's medical exposition, it is from a deep and thoughtful faith that he describes, with all simplicity, those Seven Last Words; those few short phrases uttered from the agony and urgency of the Cross, on gasps of breath retrieved by lifting the body on the fulcrum of the nail in the feet.

D. C .

JEAN-JACQUES WALTER: *Le Visage du Christ: Présentation de l'ensemble des résultats sur le Linceul de Turin*, pub. by "Montre Nous Ton Visage," Paris 1984. 118 pp., of which 20 are illustrations.

In a synthetic exposition destined for the general public, the Author has assembled the major results of Shroud research since the first photograph in 1898. After a short chapter on the Shroud's history, he studies the fabric; the negative and 3-dimensional properties of the image and the lack of directionality in the coloration; the ethnic characteristics

of the person represented; the tortures of crucifixion and its particularities in this case; the scourging and the lance wound; and finally the indications of the resurrection.

The Author refers to earlier research, but in a manner neither systematic nor exhaustive. He gives the details of some of his own experiments: his unsuccessful attempts to produce a darkening of cloth by means of laser rays of visible or infra-red light, even when the cloth was wet with sweat. [See RODANTE: "The Imprints of the Shroud do not derive only from radiations of various wave-lengths," *Spectrum* #7, June 1983. Ed.] He remarks that in this instance he did not use the mixture of aloes and myrrh, as other scientists had done. Finally, Walter tells the reader that we do not yet know the process which produced the image on the Shroud.

One notices that there is no allusion to coins placed on the eyes of the corpse; this is probably an admission of skepticism on this point. Non-specialists, who do not themselves attempt to control all the details of the general overview and their degree of certainty, will find in this book a résumé of the most important acquisitions of modern research. The list of the principal works on the Shroud would have been more instructive if it had been arranged chronologically instead of following the order of the chapters.

Mr. Walter, a mining engineer and professionally active in the industry, has published a number of books on secular and religious subjects. He has studied the problems of the Turin Shroud for several years and his treatment of the subject is well-grounded in his expertise as a scientist and skill as a writer.

A.M. DUBARLE, O.P.

JOHN JACKSON, ERIC JUMPER, WILLIAM ERCOLINE: "Correlation of Image Intensity on the Turin Shroud with the 3-D structure of a Human Body Shape," *Applied Optics*, Vol. 23 #14, July 1984. 18 pp. of text, 9 pp. of illustrations.

This article arrived too late to be reviewed; however, since it is the most recently published article by members of STURP, readers will want to be informed of it. Reprints are available at:

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