

CORRESPONDENCE

In a recent letter, Mr. Remi Van Haelst has sent *Spectrum* the texts of the inscriptions on the Lierre copy of the Shroud (1516), as well as English translations. While the Latin text has been published, the text in Old Nuremburg dialect has not appeared anywhere, so far as I know, since it was given in a Flemish book, Lyrana, in 1909.

Spectrum is pleased to communicate both.

*Exanimu Christi pius in qua corpus Jesu
A cruce depositum involverat ipse
Joseph Sindonis hoc were: saltem est pars tertia sindon:
(Quippe hoc ter major corpore Jesus erat)
Huius que mortis lector te instigat acerbe
Qua pro te misero plasmate sponte tulit.*

(This shroud is only one-third [the size] of the Shroud in which the pious Joseph himself wrapped the dead body of Christ taken down from the Cross. (In fact the body of Jesus was three times larger.) May this shroud, reader, remind you of his bitter death which for you, O miserable creature, he freely accepted.)

*Der sun gottes Jhesus Cristus vnser erloser,
Jst nach seine pitern tod in ain rain tuch gelegt
vnd pegrabe worde. In wölchen ex aun
göttlicher kraft dieser gestalt gleich sein
mentschlicher pildung hat gelassen.
Dis hailig tuch wird alle jar auf nächsten
tag nach Inueeo Crucis zu Camerach in
Saphoy gezaigt and mit andacht auch
wunderzeichen wurcke gesechen.*

(The Son of God, Jesus Christ our Lord, after his bitter death, was wrapped and buried in a clean cloth on which, through his divine power, he left this effigy of his human figure. Every year, the day after the holy day of the Finding of the Cross, this holy cloth is exhibited in Chambéry, in Savoy, where it is beheld with devotion and miracles.)

Remi Van Haelst, of Antwerp, is the author of *De Lijkwade van Turijn* (1983), which was reviewed in *Sindon* 32 p. 130.

COMMENTS FROM READERS ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPH
OF EGYPTIAN PRIEST MUMMIES IN *Spectrum*# 13, DEC. 1984:

The photograph of the Egyptian mummies is an excellent illustration. As early as 1955, I was convinced that the Man of the Shroud (I believe that he is Jesus) was disposed in precisely the same manner. Such a position was by no means exclusively Egyptian. In the Qumran cemetery, most of the skeletons of the dead Jews are in precisely the same position: lying on the back, as if sleeping, with the hands folded over the lumbar region. The Man of the Shroud is obviously not an Egyptian mummy, for mummy bandages exclude an image such as is seen on the Shroud. The undistorted image presupposes a burial according to the Jewish custom in the case of a blood-stained body.

PROF. DR. WERNER BULST, S.J.

This is an amazing photo. Every single mummy is positioned differently. Some have their arms bent (though at different angles), some have them straight. One sees just how differently the human body can look in repose, depending on the size of the person and his basic body characteristics (i.e., the proportion of the various limbs and the trunk). I wonder if there is enough information on the Shroud to recreate, even if only feebly, a profile of the body?

DAVID SCHULTZ

Ancient Egyptian mummies do not show uniformity in the position of arms and hands. Frequently bodies were mummified with their arms crossed over their chests and sometimes lying stretched out along their sides. However, a few mummies have been found that show the arms and hands in the same position as those of the Shroud, namely so that the hands cover the pubic area. The following five mummies, all found at Thebes together with the mummies of many royal personages, show their arms and hands in the position just as those of the image on the Shroud. They were published by G. Elliot Smith, the first physician and anthropologist who made a systematic examination of all the Royal Mummies in the Cairo Museum.

G. Elliot Smith, M.D., F.R.S., *The Royal Mummies*, Imprimerie de l'Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale, Cairo 1912. The book contains plates of: Queen Sitkamos, King Thutmose I, High Priest Masahirti, Zadptahefonkou, and Unknown Man E, lying in the position seen on the Shroud.

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