

RECENTLY PUBLISHED

Esprit et Vie #5, January 1986, carries a 5-page review of recent publications on the Shroud in France: "Le Linceul de Turin dans les publications recentes", by Rev. A.M. Dubarle, O.P. For nearly 50 years, Father Dubarle has been studying and writing about the Shroud; he has just finished his book on the Relic's early history.

There is a French saying: "If it is not clear, it is not French." Fr. Dubarle is a prime example of French clarity. This, coupled with his comprehensive knowledge of sindonology, makes him a perceptive critic.

The first book discussed is John Heller's *Report on the Shroud of Turin*. It must be noted that Fr. Dubarle has complete command of the English language; and criticism is levelled at the translation with a warning to French readers that there are serious omissions, numerous mistranslations of words and a general liberty in the translation which would be permissible in a mystery novel but is inappropriate when dealing with scientific research. A few examples are mentioned, as well as the fact that neither the four pages of Acknowledgments nor the list of STURP publications have been included in the French version. On top of everything, the translator had no previous knowledge of the subject, "which is always dangerous".

To French readers, Fr. Dubarle recommends the substantial summary of Heller's book by Jean Solas, *Enquête sur le SaintSuaire de Turin* or the more extensive writings of Br. Bruno Bonnet-Eymard, whose articles appear in English translation in *The Catholic Counter-Reform of the XXth Century*.

After giving STURP's most important scientific findings, the Reviewer emphasizes the fact that the American report does not attempt to identify the person whose image they examined; the objective of the team, clearly stated at the outset, consisted in a strictly rigorous scientific method.

While Fr. Dubarle finds it completely understandable that the report is limited to only STURP research, he advises readers against concluding that other research lacks importance or interest.

A book by a medical man next comes under the Reviewer's scrutiny: *Passion de Jésus: Les conclusions d'un médecin* (1985) by René Gilly, chief of the medical staff at Menton's Hospital Center. The Author treats mainly medical questions. He attributes Jesus' death to progressive asphyxia which, under the effect of

all the preliminary sufferings, tetanizes and blocks the respiratory muscles.

Gilly then ventures into history, biblical exegesis, etc., where he makes many blunders, even in his description of the Shroud image. (Over and over again, Giovanni Judica-Cordiglia wrote, in various words, that the medical man should not write on theology, artists should not write on medicine, etc. But his exhortations have gone universally unheard.) Gilly also discusses the date of the crucifixion according to astronomy, and Fr. Dubarle's excursus on this point is enlightening. The article in *Nature* (1983): "Dating the Crucifixion" by the Oxford professors Humphreys and Waddington, fixes the crucifixion date from evidence which, to their knowledge, had never before been brought to bear on the calculations. Fr. Dubarle points out that already in 1598, J.J. Scalinger had fixed the date in connection with a partial eclipse of the moon. In 1725, Dom Calmet proposes the same; in 1929, G.B. de Scharberg renews the hypothesis. Dubarle reminds readers that the crucifixion took place from noon to 3pm, at which time of day the moon is not visible; and he suggests that the obscurity mentioned by the prophets and apostles had another explanation. The Rev. M.-J. Lagrange, who lived for more than 20 years in Jerusalem, often witnessed the "black siroccos", or sand storms, particularly frequent in springtime.

To conclude, the Reviewer gives good marks to Mons, J.-C. Thomas: *C'est le Seigneur*, and J.J. Walter: *Le Visage du Christ*. This book was reviewed in *Spectrum* #13, p. 42. Mons. Thomas' little book, *Le Linceul de Turin*, was reviewed in *Spectrum* #14, p. 33.

Esprit et Vie, formerly *L'Ami du Clerge*, is a weekly now in its 96th year.

D.C.

Sindon #34, December 1985, carries new and interesting information, bringing readers up to date on the research of the past year. As we all know, *Sindon* is the official journal of Turin's Confraternity of the Most Holy Shroud and the International Center of Sindonology (Centro Internazionale di Sindonologia). Following established tradition, the introductory article is by the new President of the Centro and Confraternity, Dr. Gian Maria Zaccone. Elected in April 1985, we were asked to await this formal announcement before communicating the news.

Dr. Zaccone took his degree in Law at the University of Turin; he was awarded an eminent prize for his dissertation on the history of Italian Law. Since then he has not only organized a vast history for an Italian industry, but has continued his archival research in history and juridical history.

In a few sincere and modest words, Dr. Zaccone accepts the responsibilities of his election and pledges his every effort to continue in the spirit of his illustrious predecessors. We congratulate the Confraternity for having elected Dr. Zaccone and we envisage an earnest and energetic future under his presidency.

In this issue of *Sindon*, Dr. Zaccone has contributed an 18-page article with extensive notes on his archival research of documents relative to Marguerite de Charny and the eventual transfer of the Shroud to Savoy. This article will be of invaluable importance to historians, as it presents heretofore unpublished documents from the archives of Turin.

Presenting their latest examinations of blood from the Shroud, Dr. Pierluigi Baima Bollone and collaborators identify the erythrocyte antigens M, N and S. Prof. Tamburelli describes the work done by CSELT in computer readings of the mark of a coin on the eyelid. Frank Tribbe appears again this year, with an article entitled, "The Shroud of Turin; Mystical Visions and Retrocognition". Massimo Centini describes paintings with a Shroud motif, by the XVII century artist Octavianus Monfort, displayed at Turin's Third Exhibit of Antique Dealers. A little-explored field of study in sindonology is that of liturgical music. Paolo Tarallo traces the history through the centuries. It will be remembered (*Spectrum* 13, p. 44) that Prof. Tarallo, of Turin's Conservatory, arranged a score from a computer reading made by Prof. Imbalzano, in which the luminous quantities of the Shroud Face were transformed to sound. At the Trani Congress, Prof. Tarallo performed his score on the organ.

Sindon reviews publications of 1985, notes worldwide activities and ends with obituaries.

SPECTRUM INDEX

20 pages; \$3.50 + 50¢ postage

The Index covers issues from the Pilot (Dec. 1981) through #15 (June 1985). It is divided into ten sections: Contents of each issue; Recently Published; News & Activities; Correspondence; In Memoriam; Question Corner; Commemorations; Editor's Angle; Articles in alphabetical order; Index of Authors.

Each section is arranged for quick and easy location of any item and for cross-reference to other sections.

ALSO RECEIVED:

Collegamento pro Sindone is the newsletter of the study group formed in Rome in February 1985. The Nov.-Dec. issue, of 19 pages, has found a new format, center stitched, and new design, with a picture on the cover. The bimonthly paper records the reports and discussions of the scholars and scientists who are members of the group. In this issue, Prof. Gino Zaninotto concludes his study centered on crucifixion. Drawing from many ancient sources, he describes Roman and Jewish burial customs, with particular emphasis on the burial of executed criminals; and he examines texts applicable to the washing or non-washing of the body of Jesus. While it is established that both Romans and Jews permitted the burial of criminals, the rules about washing/not-washing are not so definite in textual sources.

Prof. Zaninotto's exhaustive research on the technique of crucifixion was published in *Emmaus* #3, Rome (undated, but see review in *Spectrum* #8, 1983, p. 47). This was followed by *The Roman Flagellation and Crucifixion in the Latin Theater* (see *Spectrum* #15, p. 31).

For information about receiving *Collegamento*, write to:

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The Environmental Study of the Shroud in Jerusalem has formed a new organization called "The Consortium of Shroud Centers". Its purpose is to promote communication between Centers and provide assistance in locating research materials, supplies and equipment. Membership and quarterly newsletter, *Image*, are free to all Centers and their members; to those engaged in research; and to those still in the planning stages of a Shroud Center.

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