

DR. WALTER McCRONE: A NEW FINDING

Chicago microanalyst Dr. Walter McCrone, well known for his arguments that the Shroud image consists of an iron oxide pigment, reports that during a two week vacation in Provence he came across 'several Shroud-like images' painted according to the method he believes a mediaeval artist used for the Shroud. In particular he has supplied an interesting postcard of one example, a Virgin and Child with Angels, painted by Simone Martini, dated 1341, that was formerly in the tympanum of the Cathedral of Notre-Dame des Doms, Avignon, and is now exhibited in the Grand Tinel, the banqueting hall of the Palace of the Popes at Avignon. The painting is described as created in sinopia, a red-ochre pigment used for one of the preparatory drawings of a fresco, and obtained from sinopite, an iron ore.

Dr. McCrone asks attention to be drawn to the closeness of the painting's date to the 1350 date ascribed to the Shroud; also 'the monochrome and lightness of the image.' Regrettably, only a poor reproduction is possible in this Newsletter [see opposite], but it can at least be seen that the images are straightforwardly outlined in traditional artistic manner, rather than with anything of the so singular outlineless quality of the Shroud. Also, the colour is a deep red, rather than the yellow-brown of the Shroud. Even so, if the Shroud really is 14th century, this Simone Martini 'lead' has to be considered one worth pursuing.