

## NEWS AND ACTIVITIES AROUND THE WORLD

In Turin, on September 29-30 and October 1, a meeting was held for discussions about carbon-dating the Holy Shroud. The official communiqué from the Turin Archbishopric, issued on October 4, 1986, is here published in its entirety:

Various requests having been received in recent times from ecclesiastical and scientific circles concerning the carbon-14 dating of the Holy Shroud, His Eminence the Cardinal-Archbishop dutifully submitted the question to the Holy Father, who granted his authorization, but requested that the matter be referred to the Pontifical Academy of Sciences for consultation by experts on the carbon-14 test.

Following this, in accord with the Academy, from 29 September to 1 October, a meeting of scientists from divers countries was held in Turin under the responsibility of H. E. the Cardinal-Archbishop, Pontifical Custodian of the Holy Shroud, and presided by Prof. Carlos Chagas, President of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences.

At the meeting, the proposals presented to H. E. the Cardinal-Archbishop were examined and agreed upon and an operational program was drawn up which awaits the approval of the Superior Authorities.

The program provides for a coordinated operation of divers laboratories specialized in the radiocarbon-dating of small samples in collaboration with experts in other disciplines, in order to obtain the maximum guarantee not only for the accuracy of the measurement but also for preserving the integrity of the fabric and the sindonic image. It is probable that the results could be published around Easter of 1988.

Present at the meeting were:

- Prof. Carlos Chagas, President of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, Vatican
- Shirley L. Brignall, Dept. of Physics and Astronomy, University of Rochester, USA
- Vittorio Canuto, USA
- Paul E. Damon, Dept. of Geosciences, University of Arizona, USA
- Don Renato Dardozzi, co-director, Pontifical Academy of Sciences, Vatican
- Robert H. Dinigar, Shroud of Turin Research Project, USA
- D.J. Donahue, Dept. of Physics, University of Arizona, USA
- Jean-Claude Duplessy, Radioactivity Center, CNRS-CEA, France
- Jacques Evin, Radiocarbon Laboratory, University of Lyons, France
- Metchthild Fleury-Lemberg, Abegg Foundation, Switzerland
- Luigi Gonella, Dept. of Physics, Turin Polytechnic, Italy
- Harry E. Gove, Dept. of Physics and Astronomy, University of Rochester, USA

- Edward Hall, Research Laboratory for Archeology, University of Oxford, England
- Garman Harbottle, Dept. of Chemistry, Brookhaven National Laboratory, USA
- Robert E.M. Hedges, Research Laboratory for Archeology, University of Oxford, England
- Stephen J. Lukasic, Shroud of Turin Research Project, USA
- William Meacham, University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong
- Robert L. Otlet, Laboratory of Harwell, England
- Giovanni Riggi, Shroud of Turin Research Project, Turin
- Rev. Enrico di Rovasenda, Director, Pontifical Academy of Sciences, Vatican
- M.S. Tite, Research Laboratory, British Museum, England
- Willy Wolfli, Federal Polytechnic of Zurich, Switzerland

Father Peter Rinaldi reports that, in his welcoming address to the participants, Cardinal Ballestrero expressed satisfaction that the Pontifical Academy of Sciences had taken the initiative in this project. Assuring the participants that the Church had complete confidence in their contribution to a fuller understanding of the mystery of the Shroud, he expressed the wish that their work be done in full freedom of action. In his parting message, he thanked them for a fruitful and successful conference and expressed his satisfaction that the agreement to proceed with the carbon-14 test had been unanimous. It was his hope, he said in closing, that the implementation of the test would mark a turning point in Shroud research.



Some of the participants in the Carbon-14 meeting: (l. to r.), Prof. Luigi Gonella, Rev. Renato Dardozzi, Dr. Carlos Chagas, Rev. Peter Rinaldi, Anastasio Cardinal Ballestrero, Rev. Enrico di Rovasenda, Dr. Robert Dinigar.

Photo by G. Riggi