

EDITORIAL

The worst fear of anybody working with a computer – suddenly the screen flickers and before you can even try to save anything, the whole system blocks up and turns itself off. No matter how you try to coax it back into life, it refuses. This is what happened at the beginning of October, just when I was starting work on this edition of the newsletter with Lennox Manton's article. I only had a few days to vent my rage and frustration before ordering a new computer (the old one was seven years old, an eternity in the world of new technologies) and flying off to Canada on business. While there, I managed to find time to have breakfast with the BSTS' only member in Canada, Joanna Emery. It is always a pleasure to meet up with members and be able to chat about the Shroud. On returning to Spain it was a race against time to get the newsletter out.

Lennox Manton's article is a detailed explanation about the Mandyllion in Sakli – an essential part of the Shroud's more than probable history in the Byzantine Empire before its appearance in Europe in the fourteenth century. This issue is without doubt devoted to historical issues, as I have also included a translation of the sermon pronounced (or written) by Gregory Referendarius on the occasion of the Image of Edessa's coming to Constantinople in the middle of the tenth century. I translated this from the only known surviving manuscript of the sermon, conserved in the Vatican archives. The great value of the sermon is that it shows the Image of Edessa was much more than a simple facial image – it had bloodstains on it, and also the side wound in the body of Jesus. The translation was first published on Barrie Schwartz's web site (www.shroud.com).

Another historical article I have included is an analysis of the Gospel of Gamaliel, by Daniel Scavone. However, in an attempt to keep the balance and not distract the more scientifically inclined, I have included an interview with Ray Rogers, a chemist who was part of the STURP team back in 1978. Ray makes some fairly scathing comments about the restoration work carried out on the Shroud in 2002. You might very well notice that there are hardly any photographs or images in this edition (at least compared to more recent numbers), due to the nature of the articles selected for publication.

When my computer crashed I had no back up copies of Sindone News, sent out by e-mail from Italy and redistributed by Michael Minor in Dallas. Kim Dreisbach

kindly sent me the whole collection and only thus have I been able to include the section entitled News from Italy, missing from the last newsletter due to problems with space.

Finally, as always at this time of year, I wish peace and joy to every BSTS member and everyone else who reads the newsletter.