

SHROUDS

A NEWSLETTER ABOUT THE HOLY SHROUD OF TURIN

edited by REX MORGAN

Author of *PERPETUAL MIRACLE* and *SHROUD GUIDE*

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THE LATEST CITY TO SEE THE MAGNIFICENT BROOKS INSTITUTE PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION ON THE HOLY SHROUD - BEAUTIFUL CAIRNS IN TROPICAL NORTH QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA, VIEW ACROSS PART OF TRINITY BAY. THE GREAT BARRIER REEF IS BEYOND THE MOUNTAIN RANGE

EDITORIAL

Whilst the last two issues of SHROUD NEWS have been absorbed with a major report in each, Number 36 is back to the format of bringing you several pieces. We report on the greatly successful exhibition of the Brooks Photographic Exhibit in Cairns, North Queensland where I was able to stay for the duration and found myself giving up to ten mini-lectures every day to the throngs of people.

A formal report from the Environmental Study of the Shroud in Jerusalem is expected in September and a major article about this work appeared in the August issue of BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY REVIEW.

In this issue you will see an interesting article by Don Luigi Fossati, one of the world's leading Shroud scholars, containing his reflections on the matter of Carbon Dating, a subject still hotly discussed by all associated with the Shroud. On the same matter, I understand from several sources that a conference is to be held late in September in Turin to see how much closer (or more distant) such a test might be.

Another interesting piece this month comes from Fr Dubarle, a French Shroud author relating to the 'poker holes' in the Shroud. This item opens up a whole new area for discussion and research and could be a further very important step in establishing the existence of the piece of cloth we know today to an earlier confirmed date than the fourteenth century.

SHROUD NEWS readers interested in subscribing to the most prestigious regular Shroud journal SHROUD SPECTRUM INTERNATIONAL should write to Dorothy Crispino, R 3 Box 557, Nashville, Indiana, 47448, U.S.A.

I am holding for the October issue of SHROUD NEWS a translation of part of Belgian Remi van Haelst's new book which deals with an aspect of the Shroud in the apocryphal gospels and another translation from the indefatigable pen of Nereo Masini in Rome concerning an article on the Shroud published in a Soviet atheistic propaganda journal which comes to the conclusion about the Shroud that most others in the West do!

As I look at my desk today I cannot believe that people still ask what else there is to study concerning the Holy Shroud. Surely it is just beginning.

REX MORGAN

DEATH OF SPANISH SINDONOLOGIST

The death occurred on 29th May 1986 of the best known Spanish sindonologist, Don Jose Luis Carreno Etxeandia, SDB. SHROUD NEWS is indebted to Don Luigi Fossati of Turin for an article published in Spanish in the journal TIBIDABO (Barcelona) for July/ August concerning this occurrence. Father Carreno for nearly thirty years wrote extensively about the Shroud for his Spanish countrymen. His first book on the Shroud was written whilst he was Provincial of the Salesian Order in India in 1958. This was in English under the title CHRIST'S PORTRAIT. His subsequent books were: EL RETRATO DE CRISTO (Madrid 1968 and 1972),



EL ULTIMO REPORTERO (Pamplona 1975) and published in Italian as LA SINDONE ULTIMO REPORTER (Edizione Paoline, Rome 1977 and two subsequent editions). This book was updated and published as LAS HUELAS DE LA RESURRECCION and followed by AL CERRARSE LA URNA DE LA SABANA DE CRISTO in 1980. His last book was LA SENAL - LIBER SIGNORUM (The Signal - Book of Signs) (Pamplona 1983). Don Carreno was one of the speakers at the 1978 International Congress of Sindonology presenting a paper: THE SHROUD: LOVE AND BANNER WHICH UNITES.

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MEXICAN GROUP

Dr Julio Lopez Morales advises that the Centro Mexicano has re-formed after the disastrous earthquake and is provisionally housed in a church opposite the US embassy. Earlier this year they celebrated the one-thousandth lecture on the Holy Shroud by their President, Dr Enrique Rivero-Borrell Vazquez.

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It is interesting to note the wide publication being given to the Zias and Sekeles refutation of the Haas findings on the crucifixion victim's remains discovered in Jerusalem in 1968 (the only known crucifixion remains ever found). An article from the Jerusalem Post received wide foreign dissemination through being reproduced in the Spring 1986 edition of the Israel Hiltons Magazine.

BROOKS PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBIT IN CAIRNS

At the instigation of Cairns artist, John West, the Brooks Institute Shroud Photographic Exhibit was shown in Cairns, North Queensland, for the first week of August. The principal sponsor was the Pacific international Hotel, Cairns, which provided the exhibition space in its splendid ballroom for the week as well as accommodation for the exhibit personnel. We express our gratitude to Mr Paul Kamsler, (owner of the hotel) for his ready and generous co-operation. Mr Paul Cullen, Food and Beverages Manager, made all the arrangements and numerous members of the Pacific International staff went out of their way with courtesy and assistance. Cairns is a very beautiful place and anyone considering a holiday there who prefers an international class hotel should stay at the Pacific.

Other sponsors were Ansett Airlines who carried the exhibit to and from Cairns with great care as well as providing transportation for the personnel. The Catholic Diocese of Cairns rendered great assistance with publicity, as did Mr Alec Martin. The diocese, under the watchful eye of Monsignor M. E. Walsh, also provided a full roster of volunteers to assist our own honorary staff with manning the exhibit for the duration.

An official opening reception was hosted by Mr Paul Kamsler Snr and some fifty or so dignitaries from the Cairns district were present for drinks and savouries. The group stayed for two and a half hours and obviously appreciated the exhibition. The Catholic Bishop of Cairns, Rt Revd John Tethersby, officially opened the show following an introductory address by Rex Morgan in the presence of the Anglican Bishop, Rt Revd George Tung Yip and Mrs Tung Yip; Mr A. de Lacey, MP and Mrs de Lacey and leaders of church, state and community life.

On the first morning of the exhibition Rex Morgan gave the usual press conference to television, radio and print media representatives as the first members of the public were clamouring at the doors. In the five days of exhibition time 11,000 people came to it making a grand total so far of about 525,000 visitors since the tour of Australasia and the Far East began.

A special feature of the exhibit for Cairns was the inclusion of John West's painting "Have Faith", the story of which, and its connection with the Holy Shroud has been told in SHROUD NEWS Nos 5 and

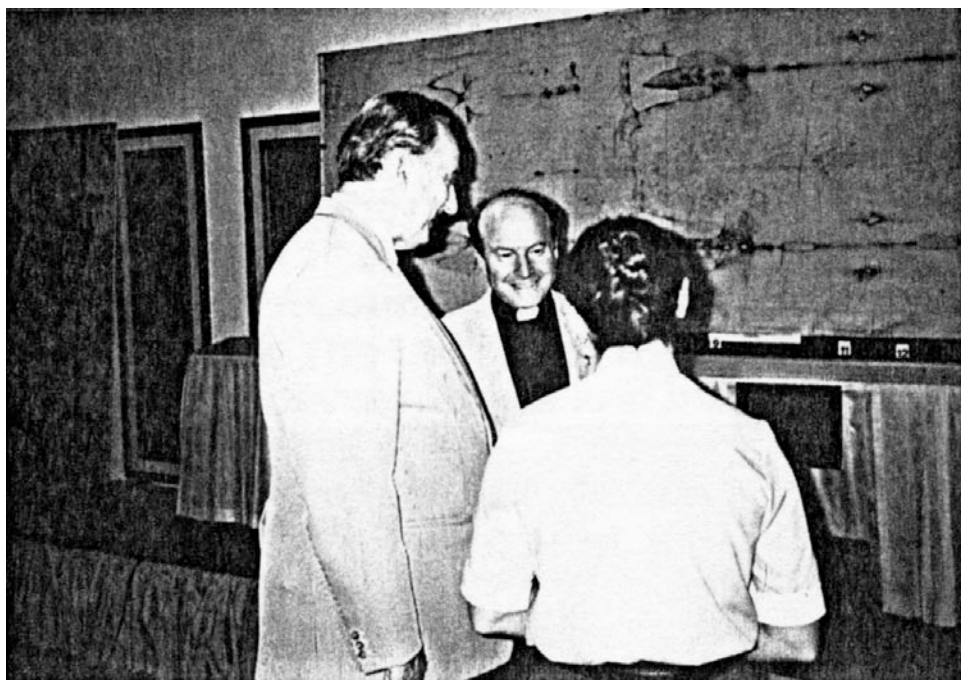
Brooks Photographic Exhibit in Cairns (contd)

14. John West himself spent a good deal of time at the exhibition and numerous people were fascinated to see his painting which exhibits the phenomenon of `trompe l'oeil', the eyes of the figure moving to follow the viewer.

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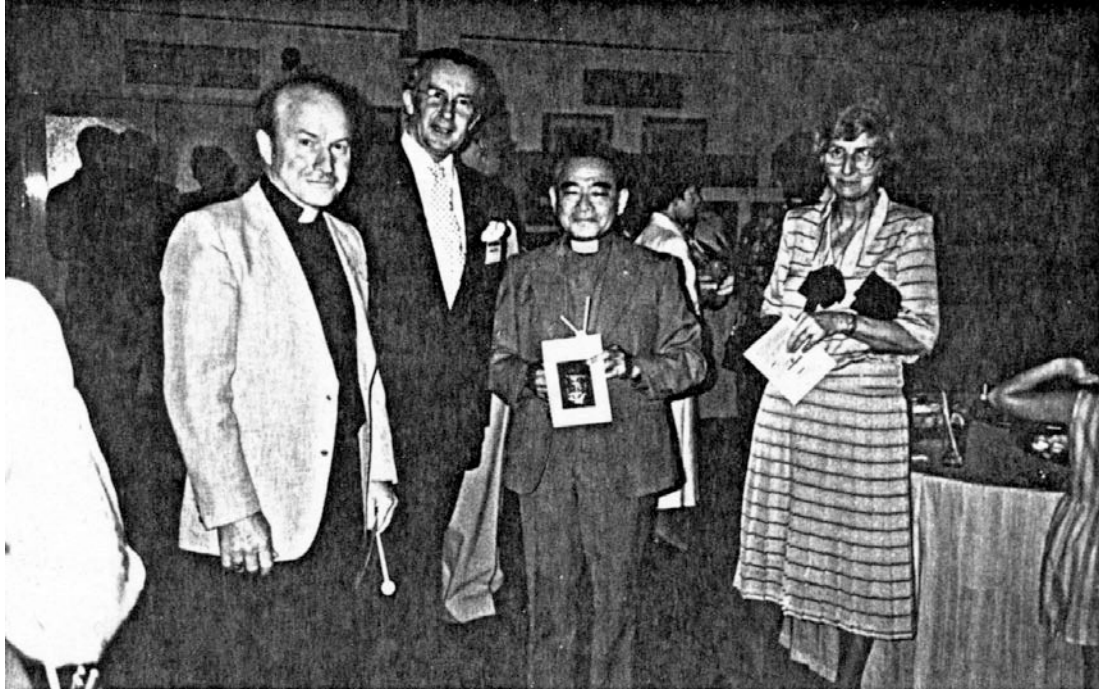
PART OF THE LARGE CROWD WHICH ATTENDED DAILY IN CAIRNS AT THE PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL HOTEL BALLROOM TO SEE THE BROOKS SHROUD PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBIT IN August 1986



PRINCIPAL SPONSOR OF THE EXHIBITION IN CAIRNS MR PAUL KAMSLER WITH CATHOLIC BISHOP JOHN BATHERSBY



CAIRNS ARTIST JOHN WEST (at left) AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE EXHIBITION. HIS PICTURE "HAVE FAITH" IS VISIBLE CENTRE



CATHOLIC BISHOP JOHN BATHERSBY, REX MORGAN, ANGLICAN BISHOP GEORGE TUNG YEP, Mrs TUNG YEP at CAIRNS OFFICIAL OPENING



YET ANOTHER TELEVISION INTERVIEW

THE STUDY OF THE SHROUD - IS RADIOCARBON ANALYSIS USEFUL?

This article, published in Italian by DON LUIGI FOSSATI, one of sindonology's most respected scholars, was translated into English for SHROUD NEWS by HELEN FERRIS

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In the vast literature about the sacred Shroud, growing with the greatly increased public interest since the 1978 showing, there is persistent reiteration of the proposal that the precious relic be subjected to radio carbon analysis.

The reasons given are not unanimous, as also are not the judgements about the proposed method; and they reflect the fundamental attitude of which is written: there is much discussion at least regarding authenticity. Finally it is stated that the analysis is presented as the one single proof of authenticity, whereas originally it was simply desired as a confirmation of the many considerations which have, until now, been regarded as sufficient.

The problem needs to be dealt with quietly, and only after the explanation of those matters of fact which may give a reply to the question, would it be opportune, suitable and wise to expose the Holy Shroud to radio carbon analysis.

As is known, the system of analysis by C14 to determine the age by the amount of carbon found, was perfected by W.F. Libby of the University of Chicago and, as is always accepted in this type of research, is the result of various contributory studies.

The fundamental technique consists of discovering, by means of appropriate instruments, the radio activity contained in one isotope of carbon which has been classified as Carbon 14 which emits Beta rays. Carbon 14 is produced in the atmosphere by complex nuclear reactions of the cosmic rays which combine with the nitrogen atoms transforming them into Carbon 14. The C14 atoms thus produced have the same chemical properties as ordinary carbon, combining with oxygen to form anidride carbon (carbon dioxide), and this being re-integrated into the great carbon cycle. On the death of the organism whether animal or vegetable, the assimilation ceases and the interaction with the atmosphere; and the radioactive carbon C14 begins the cycle of disintegration according to the laws of radioactive failure losing in any one cycle or period, 50% of its radioactivity. Being aware of the time taken for the disintegration of C14 and calculating the quantity of

The Study of the Shroud - Is Radiocarbon Analysis Useful? (contd)

particles emitted a given period of time, it is possible to determine, where there is a more or less considerable amount of decay, the age of the material, previously reduced by combustion to the state of pure carbon; moreover, according to more recent techniques, in gaseous compounds like anidride (carbon dioxide), carbon acetylene or similar is added.

Intrinsic Limits

The first proposal to examine the Sacred Shroud by the C14 method occurred, as far as one can ascertain, in 1951 and was made by A. Bauchau in the *Nouvelle Revue Theologique* in an article which recounted the tests carried out on materials wrapped around the manuscripts found in the caves of Qumran. "The Carbon14," maintained the author, "would tell us whether the Holy Shroud of Turin does or does not date from the 1st Century AD." (1)

A few years later Albert Ducrocq in one of his treatises *Science and the Conquest of the Past* (Paris 1955), which has also been translated into Italian, expressed a contrary opinion because of the quantity of material which, at that time, it would have been necessary to destroy to carry out the test. Not a small piece as Bauchau had written, but a much larger amount, approximately 200 grams, which in the case of the Shroud would be the equivalent of one seventh of the winding sheet. A truly impossible quantity. Here are the words of Ducrocq: "The necessity of having at one's disposal 20 grams of carbon means that it is necessary to have a piece of wood weighing at least 65 grams... In the case of requiring to analyse soil or woven material one has to work on at least 200 gr whereas if bones are to be done the quantity of material must be even greater. The request for so much material may be discouraged, especially when it is a question of precious objects ... In other cases on the other hand, as for example with the dating of the Sacred Shroud of Turin, there is a natural hesitation to accept the necessity of damaging a portion of the Relic." (2)

So therefore techniques have notably advanced with the reduction of the amount of material having to be damaged to conduct a test. According to information presented at the conference on the Shroud held in Albuquerque, USA, in March 1977, it is known that there could now be a quantity of a few milligrams with results, it is said, that are more than satisfactory. (3)

The Study of the Shroud - is Radiocarbon Analysis Useful? (contd) '

Measurement by means of radiocarbon - wrote Giuseppe Bosio - are approximate, with a margin of inaccuracy of one to several centuries, which is a period that is being reduced to a more restricted time span, but one that it will be hard to eliminate completely. (4)

And more recently Roberto Gallino: "The uncertainty of the measurement of age is ± 100 years for a 2,000 year span, an uncertainty essentially due to the statistical fluctuations of the calculations." (5)

There will never be, as is generally believed, absolute certainty, but only a good possibility which will besides lend support to the first definite historical proof that there is of the Shroud, namely the middle of the 14th century. Then the most noteworthy writings, admitted by all the researchers and many times supported by those who have written about the argument, are always too comprehensive to refer to the effectiveness of a method applied to the Shroud which might give chronological indications only for long periods of time.

In spite of the most optimistic forecasts of those who support radio carbon analysis for the fabric of the Shroud, a prime series of difficulties always arises from the recognised limits of the method itself, a limitation derived from three uncertainties which I list: they are also of a technical nature.

1. Uncertainty about the precise value of the time scale of the splitting of C14 which has been noted with good approximation (5745 ± 50 ; 5685 ± 35)
2. The possibility that variations in the intensity of cosmic radiation have occurred; these could influence the values of the concentrations of C14 in ancient times
3. Reduction in the activity of C14 due to the effect of inactive CO₂ introduced into the atmosphere through the burning of vast quantities of combustible fossil materials during the last 50 years (7)

Disturbing Factors

To these uncertainties must be added a by no means unimportant factor which resulted from the analysis of a thread drawn from the Shroud a -century ago, and subjected to scanning by the electron microscope: there was found a considerable quantity of foreign material which could be difficult to eliminate and therefore distort the final analysis. Here should be noted the relevant formulae of the

The Study of the Shroud - is Radiocarbon Analysis Useful? (contd)

researchers: P. L. Baima Bollone; P. Coero Borga, E. Morano as published in SINDON (No. 26, October 1977, pp 18-19):

a. The presence on the thread from the Shroud of extraneous material thought to be pollens is in perfect harmony with the palinological researches of Frei who, on the occasion of the private showing in 1973, identified numerous grains of pollen on the surface of the woof and weft of the Shroud by means of the direct application of strips of adhesive tape.

b. The presence on the thread of the Shroud of mites and fungus spores is in perfect harmony with the Observations of Eula who, at the 1931 showing, had a method of identifying on the surface of the cloth the presence of small colonies of mites and bearing in mind also the fact that the thread concerned in this examination was preserved separately for more than 100 years, from the cloth, may have affected the presence of a fungoid population diverse both in quality and quantity, in respect of the specimen.

c. In any case the demonstration of the possibility of an addition of living biological material at a percentage rate above 10%, supplies a reason for caution and restraint in all the laboratory tests which have been proposed, and for prudence in their interpretation of results should the tests be carried out.

More especially it is obvious that the foreign material we have described and illustrated causes us to take into consideration the problem of the most suitable means of cleaning, particularly with regard to the possibility of the research and dating procedures being carried out with C14. The approximation limits of the latter are greatly increased by the proximity of such material.

Another set of difficulties derives from the case itself.

To whom should a task of this nature be entrusted? The financial question may also intrude, remembering that, from information gained in such analyses, there must be exchanges in specialised institutions which range from a reasonable figure to very high costs.

Consider this other practical difficulty of remembering that, should the responsible authorities decide to permit radiocarbon analysis, this will have to take place in pre-determined conditions.

1. The examination of at least 3 diverse samples of threads or fragments of the cloth (among which 1 from the Shroud) classified

The Study of the Shroud - Is Radiocarbon Analysis Useful? (contd)

only by numbers or abbreviations. The main Egyptian museums, (Turin, London, Paris,) would be able to collaborate on the material offered, partly reliably dated and partly not dated.

2. Examine the possibility of having the research done in various institutions which agree to undertake it without charge in view of its exceptional nature.
3. The final results, with the relative indications obtained from different sources, will be communicated by the Commission responsible for the research only if there is a positive relationship between the data guaranteeing the effectiveness of the method used, and above all that there is agreement about the results of the tests as far as previous experiments on the Shroud are concerned.

The abovementioned conditions may seem too strict and too limiting, but we believe them to be indispensable to confront the validity of the proposed method, and to be sure that no interests of whatever kind and no preconceptions, will interfere with the objectivity of the research.

Open Questions

After the explanation of these matters there are certain other considerations to which it is necessary to refer.

Established however - concluded Gallino in the article quoted - that it is possible to obtain a dating of the Shroud fabric by removing a small quantity of the material, then it is clear that such direct scientific proof of the age of the cloth could provide an extremely valuable contribution while recognising that dating is only one method of approach to the authenticity of the Shroud.

No-one is obliged to accept the authenticity of the Holy Shroud, but if the radiocarbon test gives a positive response, showing that what is found therein derives from the 1st century and taking into account the inevitable problems which must arise in the final context, those who do not accept this should at least review their position of doubt or prejudice to take into account these new factors which complete a picture already abundantly supplied with favourable proofs.

Certainly in their judgement there have always been lacking the final proofs: these are of Christ, which nevertheless emerges from the interdisciplinary researches conducted and which have been sufficiently testing so as to offer moral certainty that this Shroud is true,

The Study of the Shroud - Is Radiocarbon Analysis Useful? (contd)

sincere and genuine evidence of the passion, death and resurrection of Christ.

Should the result be positive, making certain that the material dates from the time of Christ, such a result would demonstrate as unfounded the various theories of artificial manufacture in good or bad faith during subsequent centuries (including the theory of an unusual crucifixion similar to Christ's, a controversy about the Shroud that was originally begun by Yves Delage and taken up by other writers.)

On the contrary if the result is negative and the Shroud is proved to be of more recent manufacture, therefore not originating from Christ's tomb, the question will still remain:

- who left these imprints on this Shroud?
- by whom was the deception perpetrated?
- Where, how, why and when was it done?

If it is not scientifically and apodictically proved to be a fake by valid means, as for example has been done in the case of Cadouin's Shroud (10), the Holy Shroud with its somatic and ematic imprints will always remain a sign of the love of the Father for humanity in its living representation of all aspects of the passion and death of Christ.

All the questions which stem from analysis, from archaeology, from the lack of history, do not destroy the reality which remains and will remain an insoluble mystery in the minds of all the people who approach it with prejudice and without humble perceptiveness.

How many mysteries of nature there are for which no satisfactory explanation has been given; but they exist and their attractiveness appeals to us.

From the moment that it cannot be doubted that those imprints re-create the passion undergone by Christ, there remains open and debatable the theory, already advanced in other studies of the Shroud, of a miraculous event unknown to us yet inscribed in the history of humanity for whom the strange discovery will continue to be a sign which will inspire and encourage devotion to Our Lord as the Crucified One.

Whether or not a radiocarbon analysis is valid, some scholars maintain that if the Shroud were really the winding sheet used in Christ's tomb, the results of the analysis might not be exact because altered to some degree by the phenomenon of the Resurrection.

The Study of the Shroud - is Radiocarbon Analysis Useful? (contd)

A similar objection does not take account of the clear distinction between the natural and the supernatural order of things, and turns the fact of the Resurrection into a mere occurrence in nature. The Resurrection is essentially a mystery, object of our faith, not subject to analysis by ordinary scientific principles. From this clear distinction between the natural and the supernatural it can be deduced that all existing information about the Shroud may be of non-miraculous origin.

In any case, in spite of all the research done, there has been no success in offering a reasonable explanation of the complex collection of problems that appears before us. This, therefore, can only be, and should be admitted to be, because supernatural forces have intervened to produce this unique creation.

Essential Comparisons

In view of the possibility of an eventual radiocarbon analysis, there should definitely be a more extensive study, combined with adequate research, of the other objects which may have had a more or less close relationship with or dependence on the Shroud from an historic and iconographic standpoint.

We wish to allude, as already done in other articles (11), to the Sacred Face of Genoa, to the delineated image in the Vatican Palaces (Matilda Chapel), to the Sacred Table of the Lateran, to the so-called "Veronica" preserved in the Basilica of St Peter.

A most important point to be made is that the delineated image preserved in the Matilda Chapel of the Vatican Palaces whose protective winding sheet is visible at several points on the peeling painting, appears, in the opinion of Carlo Bertelli and Umberto Fasola, to have the "backbone of a fish" (12).

And similarly with the Sacred face of Genoa which, when submitted to radiographic and tomographic testing, presents two faces very different from the one that is seen - hence this revelation by tomography seems to have been with "closed eyes." (13)

There arises therefore the necessity for parallel analysis which could produce results of great interest and clarify so many mysterious details about the origin of those objects which in some degree can be associated with the Shroud. This is the worldwide and complete study which researchers expect to carry out, and are able so to do.

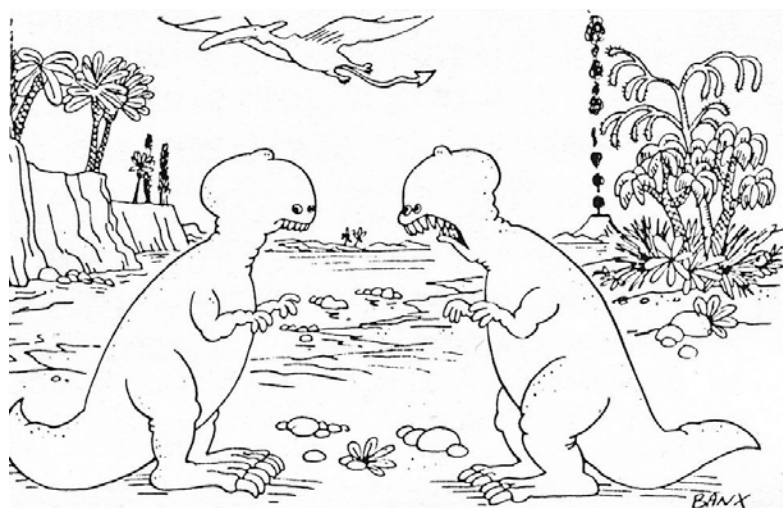
The Study of the Shroud - is Radiocarbon Analysis Useful? (contd)

For this purpose there will have to be decisions that can come only - from the top, as happened in the examination of the wooden Chair of Saint Peter at the Vatican, decided by Pope Paul VI who in 1967 appointed a special commission charged with "studying the question of presenting a project of work." (14) The conclusions of this Commission were approved by the Pope in a letter from the Cardinal Secretary of State, Cardinal Morella, on 11th July 1967, and the execution of the project was subsequently entrusted to a more restricted Commission nominated on 10th July 1968. With so many serious doubts about the authenticity of the chair which had been so many times expressed, only after accurate tests, among which was radiocarbon analysis (15) was a definite conclusion reached which states that the Chair re-appeared at the time of Carlo di Calvo (833 - 877).

These historical precedents allow us certainly to hope that, in time, it will be possible in the case of the Holy Shroud to arrive at a satisfactory conclusion regarding its approximate age and consequently pronounce on its authenticity.

LUIGI FOSSATI

The above article was published in STUDI CATTOLICI Number 300, February 1986. We have not included the extensive footnotes but if any reader should wish to have them please write to the Editor of SHROUD NEWS and a copy will be sent gratis.



Fossilisation I don't mind - it's carbon dating I dread."

THE BULLETIN, FEBRUARY 25, 1986

NEW INFORMATION ON THE 'POKER MARKS'

Of the numerous lines of enquiry and continuing research on aspects of the Turin Shroud, one of the more fascinating arguments amongst scholars is that concerning the nature of the 'burn holes' which are on the cloth on either side of the image on both frontal and dorsal halves of the cloth. These have variously been proposed to be the marks of red-hot poker insertions during an 'ordeal by fire', burn-holes caused by hot pitch, blood-marks from the placing of crucifixion nails on the cloth and most recently, burn-marks caused by pieces of hot coal from a censer swung carelessly during a church procedure.

Of the many known copies of the Shroud in existence that recorded (or at least attributed to) Albrecht Dürer at Lier, Belgium, shows these holes very clearly and pre-dates the Chambéry fire. A recent scholarly work by the French author Andre M. Dubarle: *Histoire Ancienne de linceul de Turin jusqu'au XIII siecle* (O.E.I.L. Paris 1985) puts forward the censer proposition.

SHROUD NEWS is indebted to Nereo Masini of Rome for some further information from Fr Dubarle relating to an even earlier positive dating of the recording not only of the full image on the cloth but of these holes. Referring both in his book and in these subsequent notes Fr Dubarle discusses the reproduction in Ian Wilson: *The Turin Shroud* (Gollancz 1978) of a manuscript illustration of 1192 from Pray manuscripts Folio 27v, Budapest, which shows that the body was known to be naked, that the hands are folded across the lower abdomen, and that such a detailed illustration must have had the Shroud as we know it as the model for the artist's work.

Dubarle points out that the miniaturist would have attempted to imitate the herringbone weave which is also reproduced in the pilgrim medallion found in the Seine and evident in the Budapest drawing. What he now points out, through the suggestion of one of his readers, is that there is an arrangement of small circles on both the frontal half of the picture amongst the herringbone pattern and on the dorsal amongst the decorative crosses and that these match exactly the pattern of holes we see on the Shroud.

Dubarle tells us that these arrangements of circles would be what Pfeiffer has called 'spy items', details impossible to account for

New Information on the 'Poker marks' (contd)



on the basis of the scene portrayed or the information from the gospels but only from copying the Shroud.

Dubarle continues:

"These burns which are not exactly alike on the dorsal half (the first to have been burned) as on the frontal half (the second to be burned) were, until now, dated only 'earlier than 1532' or even 'than 1355', since they appear on the pilgrim medallion of that date. They were sometimes regarded as marks of an ordeal by fire, tried in order to have certainty about the Shroud's authenticity. I would incline, rather, to see in them the effect of an awkward censer jerk. Now it is possible to move their date back several centuries owing to their appearance on the 1192 - 1195 Pray Mss.

"But these burns bear witness of another event different from ordeal

New Information on the 'Poker Marks' (contd)

by fire or awkward censing. The way the four areas of the cloth are overlapped (as per Wilson's diagram) shows the sheet was then folded in four layers. First the right half was folded on the left one, then the dorsal part was drawn over the frontal, which is less seriously burned. And what is significant is that the Shroud then had its present dimensions. The area originally forming the lower part of the dorsal half had already been cut. Investigation of the image led P. Vignon to the conclusion that originally the extreme of the dorsal part was longer and that it had been folded over the lower part of the legs of the corpse. In this way the cloth adhered closely to the sole of the left foot where the blood imprint is visible. On the other hand the imprint of the lower part of the legs up to half the distance from the knee has not been able to imprint its shape on the frontal half. As everyone knows the image marks do not go through the cloth let alone through to the second layer. About 30 cm of the lower part of the Shroud has therefore been cut off, likely to have been distributed as relics after the Mandylion was brought to Constantinople in 944 at which time it was unfolded and seen to be the Sepulchral cloth on a date we cannot define.

"The burns, to my mind, have been caused by an awkward censer jerk. Besides the three or four round holes, there is in the dorsal half and above all to the left of the body something like a trail which is likely produced by hot ashes associated with pieces of coal, rather than by poker strokes. These purported strokes would have been so measured to hardly touch the fourth layer of the cloth (face side, to the left).

"The British Society for the Turin Shroud published in its April 1986 Newsletter a summary of Dr Muller's hypothesis (The Shroud Journey in Germany). It is followed by a reproduction of holes appearing in the third layer of the cloth (frontal half, to the right). These holes are accounted for as an ordeal by fire. The question changes if these holes are earlier than 1192 - 1195, the date of the Pray Mss. In Constantinople, where they believed they possessed the true Shroud of the Lord and where the arrival of the Mandylion from Edessa in 944 had been welcomed as a remarkable divine blessing, there was not the slightest doubt about this image having been sent by Jesus himself to King Abgar and the idea of an ordeal by fire would have been blasphemous. Very different from this was the situation in Western

New Information on the 'Poker Holes' (contd)

Europe, where doubtful relics came from the East.

"Cutting a 30cm strip from the Shroud would have had, perhaps, the object of leaving in the shrine seen by Robert de Clari a piece of burial linen while the whole image was displayed? Saint Louis received "partem sudari quo involutum fuit corpus eius in sepulchro". Would this be seriously considered?"

No doubt this interesting speculation will give scholars more to discuss as yet another fascinating aspect of the Shroud evidence has been brought to light.

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SOME OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CENTRO MEXICANO DI SINDONOLOGIA CELEBRATING THE RECENT ONE THOUSANDTH SHROUD LECTURE BY THEIR PRESIDENT IN THEIR NEW QUARTERS AFTER THE DISASTROUS MEXICO EARTHQUAKE

SHROUD NEWS

SHROUD NEWS began in 1980 when Rex Morgan, author of PERPETUAL MIRACLE-SECRETS OF THE HOLY SHROUD OF TURIN started putting together a few notes about current developments in sindonology (the study of the Shroud of Turin) for a small circle of interested people in Australia. He didn't expect it to go beyond a few issues.

The bulletin now reaches subscribers all over the world and because of its relatively simple method of production it can be written and produced and the information disseminated more quickly than most news-sheets of a similar kind. It contains information, news, articles and illustrations gathered from sources of Shroud study worldwide through Rex Morgan's extensive personal connections with what has been described as the "Shroud Crowd".

Morgan is a frequent overseas traveller and thus has the opportunity to keep abreast of latest developments in Shroud study and research. He was present at the world media preview of the Shroud itself in August 1978 in Turin, Italy and has since met with numerous Shroud researchers in many countries. His quest for information about the Shroud has become, as he describes it, a "passionate hobby" and he has since written the best-selling SHROUD GUIDE (December 1983) and is working on another major book about the Shroud. He is currently Honorary Director of the Brooks Institute Photographic Exhibition on the Shroud which is touring Australia, New Zealand and parts of the Far East. Morgan has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the USA based Association of Scientists and Scholars International for the Shroud of Turin (ASSIST).

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