



A NEWSLETTER ABOUT RESEARCH ON THE HOLY SHROUD OF TURIN
The most frequent Shroud-related publication in the English language
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edited by REX MORGAN, Author of several books on the Shroud

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JUNE 1998

TURIN CONGRESS JUNE 1998



Australians Alison Pryde, Christopher Morgan and Pat Williamson outside the St John's Cathedral, Turin, where they saw the Holy Shroud itself for the first time

THE 3rd INTERNATIONAL SHROUD CONGRESS, TURIN 1998

1. Before we start: death of Fr Adam Otterbein

Adding to the list of recent deaths of well known Shroud personalities it was sad to learn, immediately after the Third International Shroud Congress in Turin which finished on Sunday 7 June 1998, that one of sindonology's great leaders of the twentieth century, Father Adam Otterbein, for many years President of the Holy Shroud Guild in New York, died on Tuesday 9 June. *Shroud News* received three faxes that day announcing the news and we are grateful to Fr Fred Brinkmann and Mike Minor of USA and Emanuela Marinelli of Rome for advising us so quickly. *Shroud News* will bring readers a full tribute to Fr Adam in a forthcoming issue.

2. The Pope

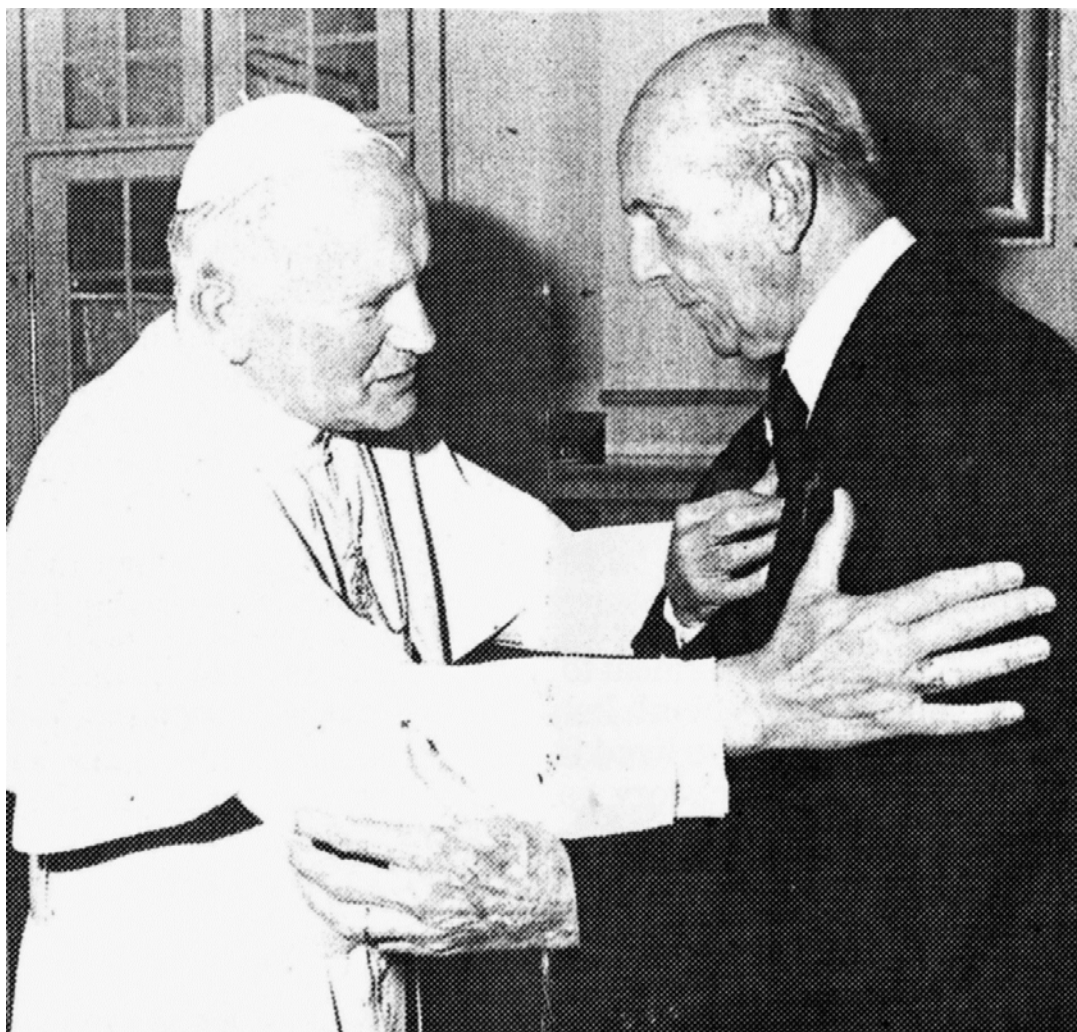
In a way the whole scene had been set for this congress when the Pope visited the Shroud the week before. He had been reported as saying in Turin Cathedral on 24 May that he believed the study of the Shroud should not be approached with preconceived positions as he requested that scientists should respect both scientific methodology and the sensibilities of the faithful.

Shroud News is grateful to Fr Peter Little SJ of Sydney who provided in his Orientation Notes for June 1998 an English version of the complete text of the Pope's address.

His Holiness began by saying:

"With my gaze turned to the Shroud, I greet the pilgrims who have come from every part of the world at the titre of this public exposition to look at one of the most unsettling signs of the Redeemer's suffering love."

Other extracts: "The Shroud is a challenge to our intelligence ... The mysterious fascination of the Shroud forces questions to be raised about the sacred Linen and the historical life of Jesus. Since it is not a matter of faith, the Church has no specific competence to pronounce on these questions. She entrusts to scientists the task of continuing to investigate, so that satisfactory answers may be found to the questions connected with this Sheet which, according to tradition, wrapped the body of our Redeemer after he had been taken down from the cross."



A memory of the meeting between His Holiness Pope John Paul II, present owner of the Shroud and Ex King Umberto II owner of the Shroud until his death in 1983. The meeting took place at Fatima on 14 May 1982

THE 3rd INTERNATIONAL SHROUD CONGRESS, TURIN, 1998 (cont'd)

"Yes, the pilgrimage that great throngs are making to this city is precisely a 'coming to see' this tragic and enlightening sign of the Passion which proclaims the Redeemer's love. This icon of Christ abandoned in the dramatic and solemn state of death, which for centuries has been the subject of significant representations and for 100 years, thanks to photography, has been so frequently reproduced, urges us to go to the heart of the mystery of life and death, to discover the great and consoling message it has left us."

During the congress there was a private view expressed that since the Shroud belongs to the Vatican and therefore also to the Italians it should be left to them to decide what to do in respect of further testing and investigation rather than to have numerous often self-proclaimed experts worldwide offering their highly developed and sometimes fanciful protocols the like of which have been bombarding the Vatican and the Turin authorities for the past twenty years. Such a view would doubtless please the Turinese.

3. The Waldensians

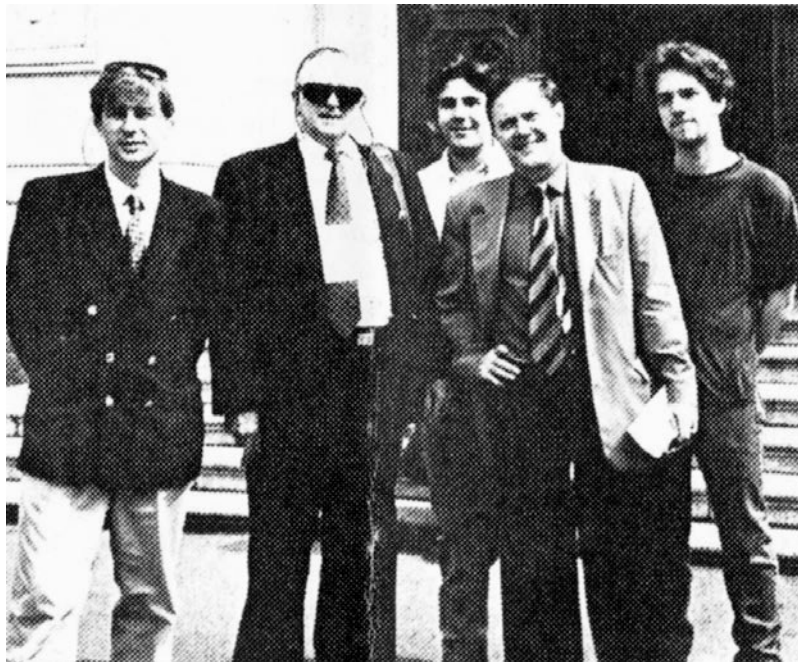
Causing not a little embarrassment to both Catholic and non-Catholic Shroud followers at the moment in North Italy is an extreme protestant sect known as the Waldensians. They have lived in a valley in the Piedmont district since 1698 but their origin and history go back to the 12th century. They were originally excommunicated from the Roman Church for adopting the view that anyone could preach even if they had not had permission or had been forbidden so to do.

In recent months they have been stating that they speak for all Protestants in saying that the Shroud is no more than a relic being foisted upon the world by Catholics. I was questioned frequently by the media, as a non-Catholic, about my interest in the Shroud on the basis of the statements of the Waldensians. I have given the following main responses:

1. The Shroud is not being used by the Catholic Church for any ulterior motive as far as I can see.
2. The Waldensians, or anyone else for that matter, do not and cannot speak for all Protestants.
3. The Shroud is for everyone whether any kind of Christian or non-Christian and the composition of those following Shroud studies amply demonstrates this fact.
4. The Shroud does a great deal for the ecumenical movement rather than the opposite.



American sculptor Jim Owens with the bronze based on the Shroud which he was to present to the Pope on 3 June 1998 and Sedarius Felice Novelli



At the Basilica Maria Auxiliatrice in Turin, Christopher and Rex Morgan with Paris Professor Phillippe Bourcier de Carbon and his sons

THE 3rd INTERNATIONAL SHROUD CONGRESS, TURIN, 1998 (cont'd)

4. Papal Audience in Rome

My second visit to Turin in as many months was prefaced again by a few days in Rome to be in contact with various Shroud connections. I was joined by Christopher Morgan and two Australian subscribers to *Shroud News*, Mrs Alison Pryde and Mrs Pat Williamson, both of Sydney, and who were to attend the International Congress with us.

Having attended a great public Papal Audience in April (described in *SN 107*) little did I expect to be at another so soon. A Roman connection with the Vatican had arranged, however, for me to present my four Shroud related books to His Holiness the Pope at a private audience on Wednesday 3 June.

Although this matter was reported (not by me) in the Italian national press as having occurred, in the event, there was a mistake in the Vatican's arrangements and not only did the Pope not conduct a private audience that morning but when we were given our privileged seats on the stage a few feet from the Pope for the duration of the three-hour public audience, we were then, at the end of the morning's activities, unceremoniously thrown out by a uniformed and armed member of the police. Such errors of management and manners obviously happen in the best of circles and, whilst we were very disappointed, having been led to believe that we were to be presented, we must be thankful that we had such remarkably close seats for the occasion which was, as usual, a most inspiring performance with the Pope greeting the pilgrims in many languages, punctuated by their cheers, their songs, a brass band playing circus music and frequent cries of "Viva Papa," a sentiment with which we heartily agree.

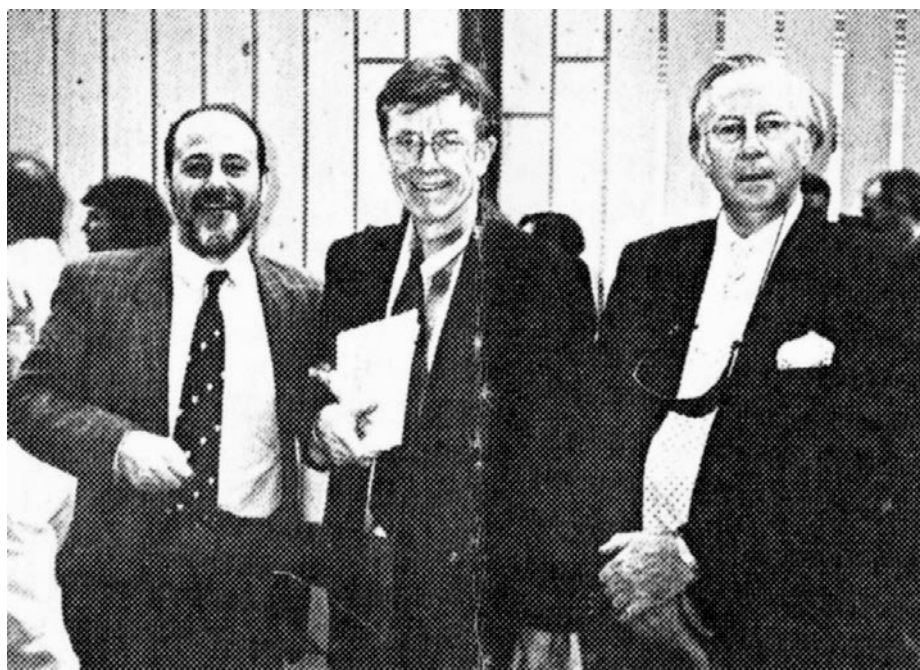
The incident of our being thrown out was described as a "scandal" by our Rome contact who had, on that morning, as had we, observed a certain Monsignor giving explicit instructions to one Mr Felice Novelli, a sedirius (usher) at these things for more than fifty years, as he was proud to tell us when he discovered I would be publishing a story including him. At the moment when he had been told to come and get us and escort us to the Pope's chair for presentation at the end, he pretended that both he and we were not there and left us to the ignorant efforts of the policeman.

5. American Sculptor - Jim Owens

Of far greater concern was the plight of American sculptor, Mr Jim Owens



The Pope arrives near the stage having driven through the thousands of pilgrims in St Peter's Square, 3 June 1998



Professor Bruno Barberis, President of the International Shroud Centre, Turin, with English writer Ian Wilson and Rex Morgan

THE 3rd INTERNATIONAL SHROUD CONGRESS, TURIN, 1998 (cont'd)

who, in the company of Mr Mark Borkan, also of the United States, was to present to the Pope a huge bronze executed by artist Owens. The bronze is of Christ based on the Shroud face. On arrival at our seats the aforementioned Mr Novelli made off with the sixty pound bronze, which Owens had brought from America and that morning had carried bodily from his hotel to St Peters. It was never seen again. Owens was not entirely enamoured with the situation and nor were we. Gladly, I had suggested to Owens that he retain on his person his Letter of Presentation and a valuation of the art work at \$48,000. Had he delivered this via Novelli with the bronze there might perhaps have been a claim that neither had ever existed.

6. Photographs of the Shroud

Since the majority of pilgrims to the exhibiting of the Shroud itself would have wanted or expected to take their own photographs of it, it is interesting to note that no photographs were officially allowed in the Cathedral by the general public but there seemed to be a fairly laissez faire attitude to those trying to take photos without using flash, especially those in the Congressists party. This requires a certain amount of expertise and reasonable equipment.

On the other hand there have been only four occasions in the past century when official photographs were actually taken, that is to say, by photographers engaged by the authorities to take them formally. The first was, of course, Secondo Pia in 1898, whose amazing revelations led to the twentieth century interest in and study of the Shroud. The second was in 1931 by Giuseppe Enrie (Commander of an order of chivalry) who is, strangely, often referred to as "Commander Enrie", as if he had just stepped out of the navy, by those who do not understand the modus operandi of chivalric honours systems. There are still those who claim that the Enrie black and white prints are the clearest ever taken.

The third official photographer was Giovanni Batista Judica Cordiglia, the genial Turinese professional, who is now also an eminent movie-maker. In 1969 he took the first colour photographs of the Shroud as well as the first ultra-violet and infra-red photographs. During this June 1998 visit we were able to strengthen our burgeoning friendship with this delightful man and his equally delightful and talented family. Finally in 1997 Giancarlo Durante of Turin was engaged to take the first official photographs showing the missing corner piece which was excised for the carbon dating tests of 1988.



Turin photographer, Giovanni Batista Judica Cordiglia, who took the first colour photos of the Shroud in 1969, in his Turin studio with the camera he used



Video photographer extraordinaire, American Kevin Moran with Chris Morgan

THE 3rd INTERNATIONAL SHROUD CONGRESS, TURIN, 1998 (cont'd)

6. Brooks Institute

There have, of course, been numerous other photographers of the Shroud whose work is very famous. Amongst the most celebrated are Barrie Schwartz, Vernon Miller and Ernest Brooks whose work was done as part of the scientific team's investigation in 1978. Some of the most widely published examples of their work are the multicoloured computer enhanced photos and the back-lit full Shroud image by Miller. It is a matter of interest that Miller has recently donated all his Shroud work: prints, transparencies, negatives, site reports, etc to the Ohio University where its president Adrie Nab has been a friend of Ernest Brooks of Brooks Institute, Santa Barbara for many years.

The collection is to be catalogued and co-ordinated this year at the Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, by Miller and the Dean of Libraries, Hwa-Wei Lee. It is intended that exhibitions will be created including a travelling exhibit. It might also be noted that the only other known exhibition of the work of Brooks Institute is the entire original 1980 exhibition which toured Australia in the eighties and was subsequently given into the care of the South East Asia Research Centre for the Holy Shroud (SEARCH) under the presidency of Rex Morgan. That exhibition was seen in Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Hong Kong and Macau and drew more than 600,000 visitors. It has recently been on show in Bathurst, New South Wales to coincide with the Turin exhibition of the Shroud and to raise funds for a local church community.

7. Reproductions

It is also interesting to note that of the numerous reproductions of the Shroud available in Turin and elsewhere at the moment, quite the most useful in size, sensible in price and quality of production is a simple 5,000 Italian lire (or \$5 Australian) 16 page leaflet of A4 format containing a fold-out 4 pages wide reproduction of the Durante photograph. As the production is listed as a supplement to issue 8 of *Bell'Italia - Grandi Guide* it suggests that there might not be many copies about unless they have been produced separately. The booklet was produced in four languages.

8. Arrival in Turin

On arrival in Turin I was astonished at the enormous increase in activity since I was there in April. This applied both to the city in general and to the area of

THE 3rd INTERNATIONAL SHROUD CONGRESS, TURIN, 1998 (cont'd)

the Shroud exposition in particular. The whole square adjoining the Royal Palace was constantly filled with thousands of people, many of them associated with tour groups with their little flags and leaders. There were also now numerous souvenir sellers set up with very large stalls selling all manner of things. I reported on some of the more tawdry in the last issue of SN but these were surpassed this time by those awful plastic dome things which contain fake snow which showers about in liquid around the subject of the souvenir. Yes, there was one with the Shroud picture in it. Apart from someone like me buying it for comment on human nature purposes I cannot imagine why anyone else would.

I was again astonished to find about a further forty titles to add to my Shroud library. Books are being produced in Italy with enormous intensity and it is noteworthy that none of the kitch (or "gadget" as the Italians call it all) has the date 1998 on it. All leftover supplies are, with great enterprise, ready for the exposition of 2000.

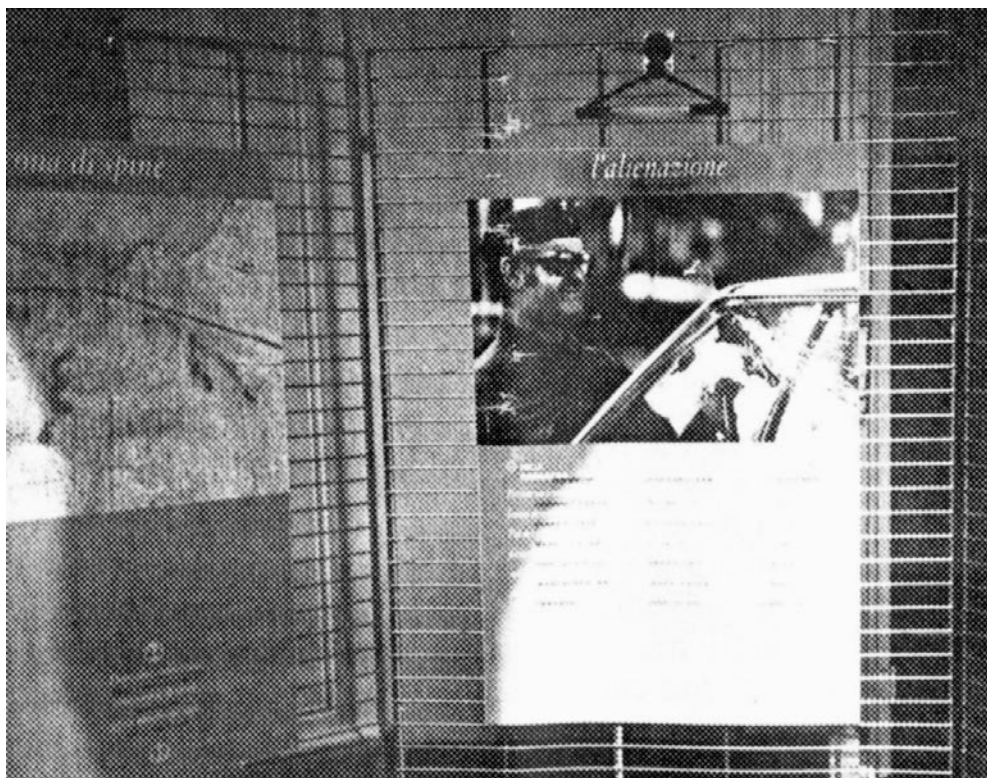
8. Exhibition visits

I was able to show our Australian party two of the exhibitions before the opening of the Congress. These were the superb exhibition of the King Umberto collection and the exhibition of memorabilia, philatelic and other, (both described in SN 107). In addition we visited an exhibition of coins related to the time of Christ in a nearby church. There was also a bizarre exhibition, near the Press Office, of materials comparing the sufferings of Christ as shown on the Shroud with the sufferings of the world's workers: *Le Piaghe di Jesu, le Piaghe del Lavoro verso it Viscatto*. This had been put up by the local and extensive communist party and it was not the last we were to hear of them.

We also embarked upon the full Shroud exhibition "walk through" (the third of four such visits for me) and on this occasion lined up with a very great number of people. I believe that in excess of 60,000 per day were passing through the exposition of the Shroud during that week. As we walked from place to place in that splendid Piedmontese city we ran into many Shroud friends and interestingly the very first was Ian Wilson whose new book, *The Blood and the Shroud*, was causing some raised eyebrows around the traps.



One of the numerous souvenir stalls selling Shroudiana mixed up with Padre Pio and Diana items



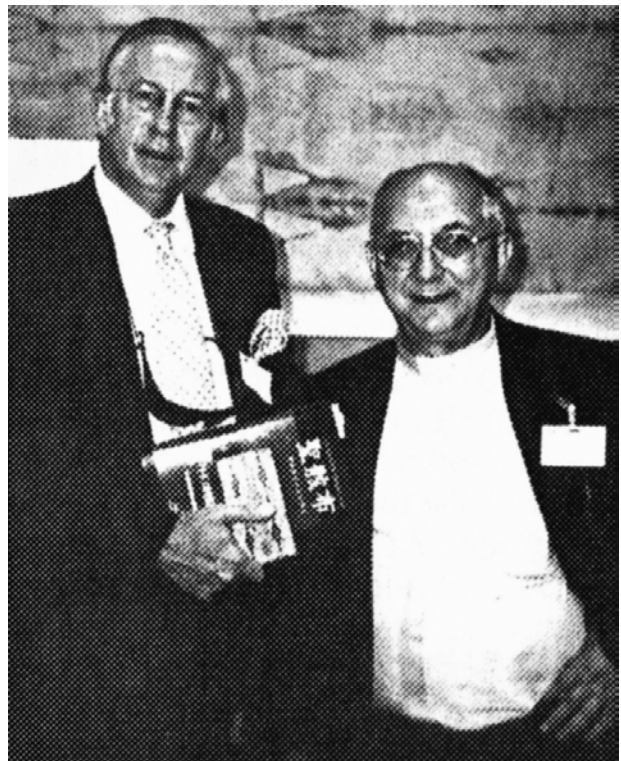
Part of the bizarre exhibition relating the wounds of Christ as shown on the Shroud to the "plight" of the world's workers



The group of sindonologists from Mexico at the Turin Congress



Isabel Piczek wearing the insignia of
Dame of the Order of St Gregory



Rex Morgan holding the new book by
Japanese based Shroud author
Fr Gaetano Compri

THE 3rd INTERNATIONAL SHROUD CONGRESS, TURIN, 1998 (cont'd)

9. Interviews

Later that day and throughout the period of the congress I gave media interviews. The most significant were to BBC news and to BBC4's *The World at One*. These interviews relating to our discoveries in the Catacombs were both broadcast next day. I also gave two more to Reuters and a major interview with Raymond Arroyo for EWTN, England. Someone noted that an Australian television programme which was there appeared to studiously avoid the only Australian to speak at the Congress (me).

10. The Congress in general

The 3rd International Congress for Shroud Studies was subtitled *The Shroud and Science*. It was an extraordinary affair. For several months virtually no-one around the world had the slightest idea whether their papers were to be accepted for delivery at the conference or, indeed, whether their enrolment as a participant had been accepted. I heard many stories of confusion, ignoring of correspondence, communications going to the wrong people etc.

I am aware of several people who did not attend because they had not been given correct, if any, information. One delegate I met the day before was returning home to another country because, as he said, it would be "like a circus".

11. The papers

Indeed, had I not had the advantage of being in Turin the month before and making it my business to track down personally the young woman who had very shortly before the event, apparently inherited the entire organisation of it, and she did a very valiant job, I doubt that I should have known my own position. At least I knew that my submitted paper had been accepted. What delegates later discovered was that it seems that every offer of a paper was accepted, irrespective of the credentials, reputation, state of mind or ability of the offering party. Several people even found themselves listed twice, for example, because they had submitted two alternative papers.

Because there were some 99 papers listed on the programme to be given as well as lengthy presentations not listed but given, as it turned out, by the chairman of each session, and very good papers they were, the last minute arrangement was made to split the conference into concurrent sessions, again without any consideration of the content of the papers or the relative merits or

THE 3rd INTERNATIONAL SHROUD CONGRESS, TURIN, 1998 (cont'd)

likely popularity of the subject or the presenter. Thus there were, at first, such anomalies as in the same two hour session, four papers in one hall and twenty in another, also without regard to the likely attendance at each in terms of seating accommodation.

Some delegates were of the view that it was an act of duplicity to enrol delegates at an international conference from all over the world and then prevent them from attending more than half the papers by arbitrarily splitting the conference in twain. And there was no-one to blame because no one person would actually take the responsibility for what was happening. Everyone one asked pointed to someone else.

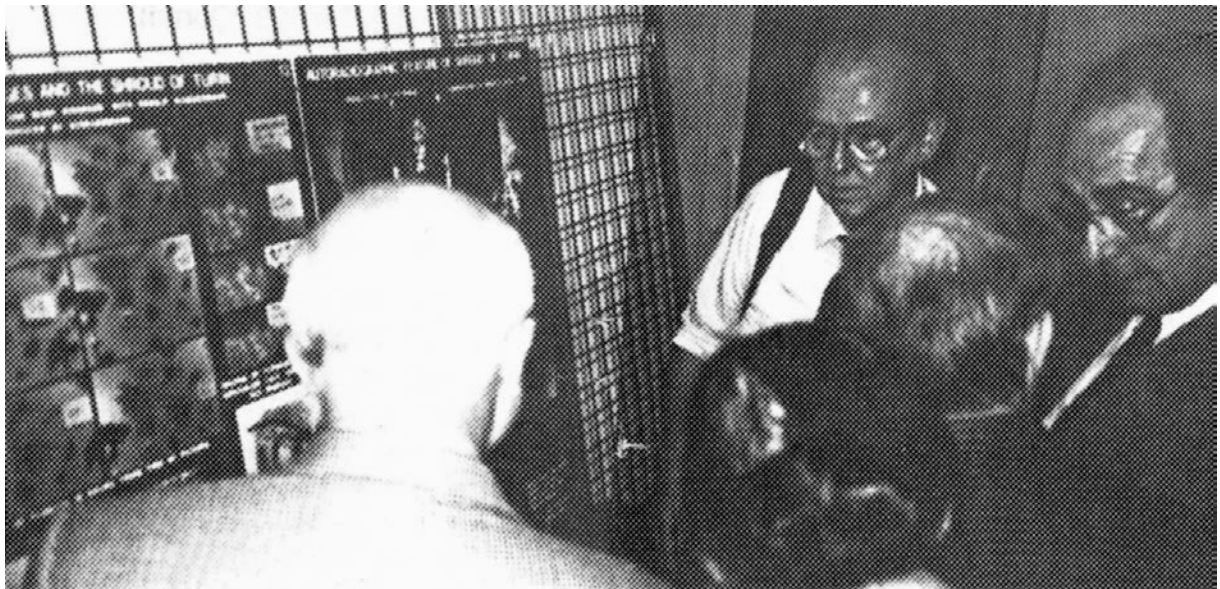
12. A pendulum

Overall the organisation of the conference was too diverse to really classify. It seemed, through the three days, to swing like a pendulum from excellent to absurd and, as I put it at the time, recalling the famous quotation, rather like the Shroud itself, there was no middle ground.

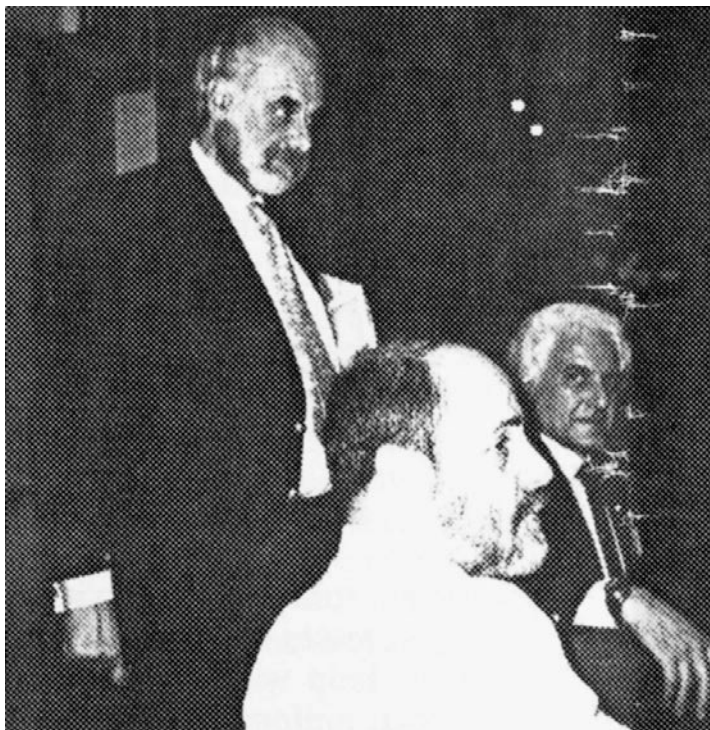
Almost everyone called into question the concept of offering a full-scale international conference, calling for papers almost two years in advance and then telling no-one anything until just before the event, in some cases too late for participation. Almost no-one really knew when or whether they were involved and whilst we are getting used to this kind of thing in Europe it becomes quite a skill to have prepared a lecture, based on perhaps years of research work, which could be given at short notice for forty, twenty, or ten minutes with or without illustrations. Indeed in some cases speakers were given even less than ten minutes and some were unceremoniously removed from the platform.

13. Clippety clop

Included in the expenditure budget for the efficient running of the congress was a team of uniformed girls who acted as hostesses. Their job was to hand things out, take things in, carry messages, help with the projection remote control, and generally assist. Their smart uniform included large, heavy, block-heeled shoes (apparently modish). In these they made a point of stomping about especially going up and down the aisles of the main hall during presentations. Who, one might ask, would design a magnificent state of the art auditorium, intended as a place where people will listen, and then put down an uncarpeted marble floor? The entire conference was punctuated



Dr Alan Whanger describing some of his work at his Congress exhibit



Three leading Turin sindonologists:
Professor Pier Luigi Baima Bollone,
Dr Bruno Barberis and
Professor Nello Balossino



Presidential Guards

THE 3rd INTERNATIONAL SHROUD CONGRESS, TURIN, 1998 (cont'd)

by the clippety clop of these shoes carrying their wearers on their doubtless important business.

14. Bolted and barred

The first impression of the excellence, namely the modern and impressive building belonging to the Industrial Union, quickly turned to absurdity when several hundred delegates, who had naturally turned up before the appointed time for registration, found the place bolted and barred. The beautiful modern building, well set up for conferences except in some absurd particulars, is run by an extraordinary organisation. Its firm closure at opening time meant that the delegates loitered outside for a time. This did allow the pleasant pursuit of greeting Shroudies from all over the world and exchanging all the latest news and gossip.

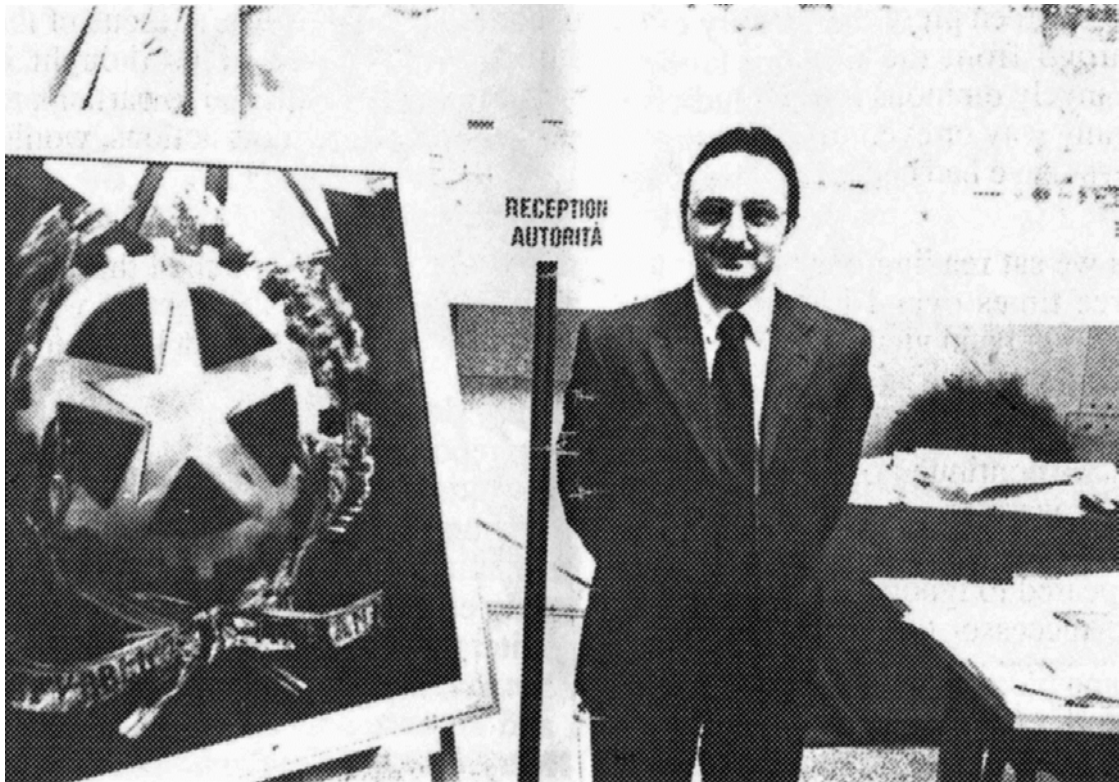
Finally a single width door was opened and some chap with a single clipboard bearing stacks of sheets of paper listing all the congressists was detailed to check the identity of each individual entering the building. You can imagine how long this took. Indeed the security aspects of the building and the conference were ludicrous. Without one's nametag one could do nothing for the duration despite faces becoming ever more familiar to the officious operators of the building who, although being communist employees were quickly named the Hitler squad by some of the participants on account of their attitude.

15. The handouts

Having finally got through the initial entry door and the name check after some time in the hot sun outside, one then reported to the next desk at which one's conference bag and name tag were waiting. Again was the problem of only two personnel dealing with four hundred enrolments. Then the pendulum swung to excellence for the quality of the conference bag itself (provided by FIAT) which was actually big enough to hold one's papers and items together with some of Mr Fiat's literature. The bag also contained some nice handouts: a recent issue of *Sindon*, the prestigious journal of the Centro Internazionale di Sindonologia and an excellent book (which I had already bought the month before) by Henry Comba: *La Passione di Cristo nei Musei de Torino*. This is an excellent reference to paintings related to the Shroud and crucifixion contained in some museums and galleries of Turin.



Usually unseen at congresses: the Interpreters John Iliffe and Claudia Chiaperotti Zavaroni



Keeper of the Industrial Union Building who proudly displayed the communist workers symbol in front of the reproduction of the Shroud

THE 3rd INTERNATIONAL SHROUD CONGRESS, TURIN, 1998 (cont'd)

After the usual argument about whether one was going to leave such a valuable item as one's passport or driving licence in an open box on the registration table in exchange for a few hours of use of the radio receiver for instantaneous translation, I managed, as usual, to trade a worthless name card for mine. There seems little point in failing to return the device as it is quite useless outside the building and in it, for that matter, if no conference or translation is going on at the time and you could buy the earphones for a couple of dollars.

16 The Official Opening

The Official Opening of the Congress was to take place in the presence of the President of the Republic of Italy, Comrade the Honorable Oscar Luigi Scalfaro at 3.30 pm. In fact there was a deal of security type operation going on in the main hall for a goodly while prior to his ultimate appearance. Numerous uniformed and ununiformed personnel strode their imperious way up and down the aisles together with said officials of the building and other sundry organisers. To offset this paranoid behaviour we were treated to a large screen presentation of the video of hero Mario Trematore's rescue of the Shroud from the disastrous fire of April 1997. Some of us thought it strangely ominous that Trematore himself had not been invited to participate in any way or even to attend the congress which, without his actions, would never have had cause to take place.

As we sat reading our good quality printed material and watched the video three times over I had grave forebodings about the timing for the whole programme in view of the fact that we were already an hour and a half behind schedule. In the event I was right about that.

As we continued to wait for the President an announcement was made that there were to be no photographs taken, a matter the logic and purpose of which evaded most people's comprehension, and which most people appeared to ignore. We supposed that a Shroud conference being opened by the successor to its former owner, the Royal House of Savoy, was entirely appropriate. One wry observer said, "I hope they don't spoil all this with any speeches."



A table at the Congress Banquet: clockwise from left: Fr Kim Dreisbach (USA); Jim Owens (USA); Prof Dan Scavone (USA); Mrs Scavone; Pat Williamson and Alison Pryde (Australia); Rex Morgan; Ian Wilson and Dr Allan Mills (UK)



Dorothy Crispino and Chris Morgan

THE 3rd INTERNATIONAL SHROUD CONGRESS, TURIN, 1998 (cont'd)

17. The President

The house was packed and one of the biggest media contingents I have ever seen in such a relatively small hall filled every available space in the aisles and all over many people's feet. I hope they enjoyed what footage they got because the President of the republic finally deigned to arrive considerably after his scheduled time. Following a pair of magnificently uniformed cavalry guards with full shining breastplates, elaborate headgear and swords, the diminutive president walked down the aisle and then sat down in the front row of the audience where no one could see him and took no further part in the proceedings. It is not for us foreigners to question the Italian way of doing things but it seemed quite pointless to have such an apparently important personage in the building at such enormous security and other state budget expense and then for him to give not even a two minute speech of some kind, possibly even to welcome the delegates.

18. The Speakers

Instead the platform was taken by Professor R. Bertolini, Rector of the University of Turin and President of the Congress; Professor Bruno Barberis, President of the International Center of Sindonology and of the Confraternity of the Holy Shroud; Professor Giuseppe Ghiberti, Vice President of the Committee for the Exhibition of the Holy Shroud and Professor Pier Luigi Baima Bollone, Director of the Centro Internazionale di Sindonologia. All of these made speeches as did the Cardinal Saldarini, Archbishop of Turin.

19. Texts

In the next issue of *SN* I shall bring to you summaries of those papers I was able to attend as well as others of which I have the texts. The concurrent sessions meant that many people, including me, missed some important contributions and sat through some less than important ones. There were, in fact, some very significant contributions as well as a good deal of repetitive and at times nonsensical stuff.



Shroud authors Dr Fred Zugibe and Isabel Piczek with Chris Morgan



One of the many philatelic covers produced for the 1998 Exposition with special Shroud stamps



CENTRO INTERNAZIONALE DI SINDONOLOGIA
FONDATO CON DECR. ARCV. DEL CARD. MAURILIO FOSSATI IL 18 DICEMBRE 1959



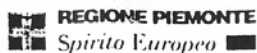
18 aprile - 14 giugno

III Congresso Internazionale di Studi sulla Sindone “SINDONE E SCIENZA: Bilanci e programmi alle soglie del terzo millennio”

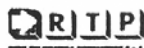
Sotto l'Alto Patronato della Presidenza della Repubblica

Torino, 5-7 giugno 1998

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Shroud News began in 1980 when Rex Morgan, author of three books on the subject of the Holy Shroud (*Perpetual Miracle*, *Shroud Guide* and *The Holy Shroud and the Earliest Paintings of Christ*) and editor of several others, began sending a few notes about current developments in the study of the Shroud of Turin (Sindonology) for a small circle of interested people in his home country of Australia. He didn't expect it to go beyond a few issues.

Today, the bulletin, now highly acclaimed, reaches subscribers all over the world and is written, produced and disseminated more quickly than any other Shroud publication in the English language. It contains information, news, articles and illustrations gathered from sources of Shroud study worldwide through Rex Morgan's extensive network of personal connections with what has been described as the "Shroud Crowd".

Rex Morgan is a frequent traveller overseas which gives him the opportunity to keep abreast of latest developments in Shroud study and research at first hand. He was present at the world media preview of the Shroud itself in August 1978 in Turin, Italy and has met and knows numerous Shroud researchers in many countries. His quest for Shroud information became, as he described it, "a passionate hobby". He took the world famous Photographic Exhibition created by Brooks Institute, California, to Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Macau, and Canada and during those tours it attracted more than 700,000 visitors. The exhibition was subsequently donated by Brooks to the non-profit making organisation, The South East Asia Research Centre for the Holy Shroud (SEARCH) of which Morgan is President. He is also a Board member of the US based Association of Scientists and Scholars International for the Shroud of Turin (ASSIST) and was a member of the scientific team which conducted environmental experiments in a Jerusalem tomb in 1986 (ESSJ). He has made a number of original contributions to Shroud research has presented major papers at international Shroud conferences has written numerous articles and has given hundreds of broadcasts and telecasts on the subject in many countries.

The list of *Shroud News* subscribers continues to increase internationally and it has been described many times as one of the best available. *Shroud News* comes out six times a year. Its production is obviously privately subsidised as we request a subscription in Australia of only \$6 for six issues posted. The USA subscription is \$12 (posted airmail - there is no longer any surface mail from Australia). Postage to other countries varies. ALL back issues are available for \$1 (US or Aust) each plus postage. The famous 50th issue is \$3 plus post. Customers should note that as it costs us \$8 to negotiate each foreign cheque we request all payments be made in currency banknotes of your country or charge to Visa, Master or Amex cards.

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