

IN MEMORIAM

The last session of the II International Congress of Sindonology, held in Turin in 1978, opened with a talk by Don José-Luis Carreño Etxeandia, S.D.B. It could not be called a "speech"; after the sober presentations of scientists, the solemn exegeses of theologians and the earnest expositions of historians, Don Carreño came to the podium with a profound spiritual message clothed in spontaneous humor and irresistible persuasiveness. Amazing how the ebullient Spaniard could shake together science, politics, theology, exhortation, funny anecdotes and a plan for world peace, all in relation to the inestimable gift of the Holy Shroud.

His books were like that: a running conversation with the reader, the "man in the street" to whom they were addressed. In *Spectrum* #9 (December 1983), Don Luigi Fossati, S.D.B., reviewed Don Carreño's "summa sindonologica", *La Serial—Liber Signorum*, and gave the titles of other books, composed in Spain after Don Carreño had served for more than a quarter of a century as missionary and Provincial of the Salesian Order in India. His first little booklet, *Christ's Portrait*, written in English while he was in Goa, has been distributed worldwide by the thousands, translated into many languages.

The wellspring of his whole being was love for God: "For me," he wrote, "a flower is all I need to fall in love with my Creator." In Don Carreño, love showed its power; in his words, his songs, his personality, his mission, his charm, which attracted people around him all eager to partake of his joy.

His poems are of a deep and simple beauty. One he left to be published after his death:

¿Còmo quieres que no quiera
irme ya con el Señor?
Ho dicho al Amor: ¡Espera!
durante una vida entera:
¿Quieres que "me raje" ahora?
Por favor.
Para mí la Gran Frontera
se llama de esta manera:
"La cita con el Amor".

(How is it that you do not want me to go away yet with the Lord?/ I said to Love, "Wait!" during an entire lifetime./ Do you want me to hold back now?/ Please!! For me the Great Frontier is named this way:/ "An Appointment with Love".

Don Carreño, born near Bilbao some 80 years ago, kept his "Appointment" on 29 May 1986.