

News from around the World



Bologna, Italy: A Remarkable reconstruction

A remarkable three-dimensional reconstruction of the body of the man of the Shroud has been made in bronze by the Italian artist Luigi E. Mattei.

This was reproduced on the front cover of the March/April issue of the Italian Shroud journal *Collegamento pro Sindone*, and will be exhibited from 9 January, 2000 at a special exhibition to be held in Complesso Stefano delle Sette Chiese, Bologna, as part of the celebrations of Bologna 2000 – European City of Culture.

Mattei carries impeccable credentials as an artist. Exhibitions devoted to his art have been held not only in Italy, but also the UK, the USA, Russia, Germany, Spain, Israel and Poland. Works by him are to be found in New York's Brooklyn Museum and Public Library, the Cuppiles House Foundation, St.Louis, the University of Sao Paulo, Brazil, the National Museum of Santiago, Chile, the National Museum, Warsaw, the Pushkin Museum of Art, Moscow, and the Haifa Museum, Israel.

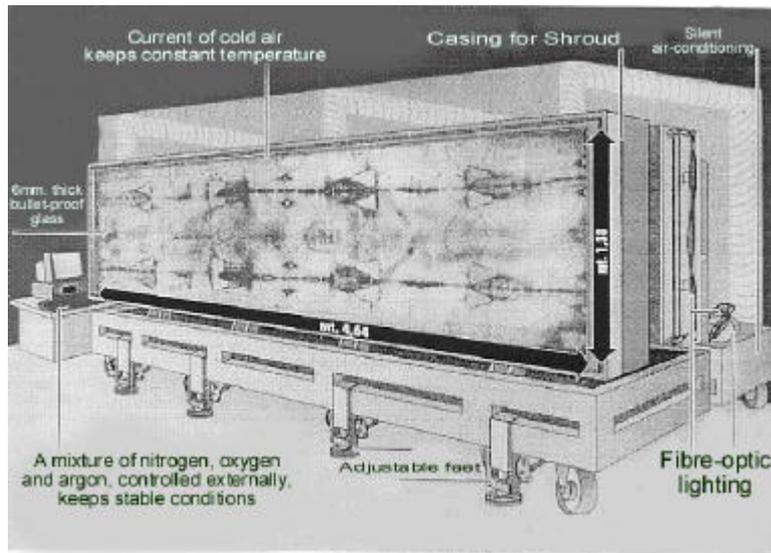
As Mattei has explained concerning his Shroud sculpture: 'Studies by the University of Bologna's Professor Fiorenzo Facchini, by anatomy teacher Professor Lamberto Coppini, and by Padua University mechanical engineer Professor Giulio Fanti have all contributed to my work. I have tried to reconstruct the figure by combining careful reference to the visual data with creative intuition, always being mindful of the exactitudes of anatomy. I hope to have achieved with due objectivity something of both the dignity and the pathos of he who was 'the greatest of all human sons'. The Editor is greatly indebted to **Emanuela Marinelli** and the *Collegamento pro Sindone*, also to Professor Mattei himself both for use of this photograph and for much helpful information concerning his work.

From Turin: Revealed: The Shroud's New Home...

The Shroud was of course taken off display when last year's expositions concluded last June 14. Few except Italian members will have seen how it is kept at the present time, which is why the earlier-mentioned view of the altar end of Turin Cathedral, as photographed by Aldo Guerreschi was chosen for this Newsletter. This can also be seen in the January 'news' section of Barrie Schwartz's Shroud web-site.

But how is the Shroud itself conserved away from view? As already mentioned, what appears to be the vertically-displayed Shroud is in fact a life-size 'colour' photograph. The Shroud itself stored away behind the blue curtains, hermetically sealed inside the elaborate apparatus shown above, reproduced here thanks to an explanatory diagram that appears in the Centro Español de Sindonología's excellent journal *Linteam*. The overall arrangement as shown here is in upright, 'display' mode, i.e. as it was for last year's exposition. However the

mechanism also enables the Shroud-containing section to be lowered to the horizontal for 'long-term storage' mode, and this is how it is at present, behind the curtains.



The casing in which the Shroud is kept at the present time Picture: courtesy Centro Espanol de Sindonologia

By the Shroud no longer being rolled up inside a casket, as it has been for at least the last three centuries, the expectation is that many creases on its surface should gradually ease. Directly covering the Shroud itself is a six centimetre-thick sheet of bullet-proof glass which also enables the cloth's condition to be regularly monitored visually. The container's interior is constantly fed with a mixture of nitrogen, oxygen and argon in order to eradicate any harmful micro-organisms (although concerns have been expressed that this itself may actually be harmful by destroying the ecological equilibrium – see review of *DNA of God?* later in this Newsletter). The container is also air-conditioned, and with devices to maintain optimum levels of temperature and humidity for conservation purposes. The whole apparatus apparently took 3,000 hours of work, and is said to have cost in the region of £120,000.



The colour photo reproduced left is by Aldo Guerreschi of Turin, holder of the now historic Enrie Shroud negatives of 1931. What appears to be the Shroud on display is in fact an Enrie black-and-white photo manipulated to appear as if in colour. Aldo Guerreschi explains: 'Enrie's plates' reproduction quality is exceptional both for the large 40 x 50 negatives and for the good lens that he used. I arranged a colouring very similar to the monochromatic original, but with the different intensities of the image itself. The work was then perfected by comparison with the original, which I was enabled to see and photograph after the April 97 fire'.

Dallas, Texas

US Meeting is told of Remarkable Experiment

A meeting of prominent American Shroud researchers, 'Planning for the Shroud of Turin in the 21st Century' was held at the Catholic Conference Information Center, Dallas, Texas, November 6-8 1998.

Those attending included **Paul Maloney**, who gave a history of Shroud research, **Rev. Kim Dreisbach**, who reminisced on now deceased 'Sindonological Greats', **Russ Breault**, who spoke on the value of the Shroud as an education tool, also **Isabel Piczek**, **Michael Minor**, **Dr. Robert Bucklin**, **Phillip Dayvault** (representing **Dr. Alan** and **Mrs. Mary Whanger**), **Dr. Gilbert Lavoie**, and **Fr. Fred Brinkmann**.

Among the meeting's major highlights was a most ground-breaking presentation by **Dr. August Accetta**, of the Southern California Shroud Center at Huntington to the south of Los Angeles. In his paper 'Experiments with Radiation as an Image Formation Mechanism' Dr. Accetta described an admirably heroic experiment by which he injected himself with radioactive methylene diphosphinate, then had the consequent radiation from his body 'photographed' with the aid of a gamma camera and vertical collimator. He showed how many of the Shroud's image properties - outline-less density shading, soft tissue and skeletal information, vertical alignment and non-contact imaging - could be reproduced by such a method. To Dr. Accetta this strongly suggests that the source of energy to create the Shroud's image derived from what he calls 'emitted biochemical bond energy'. Dr. Accetta will again be presenting at the forthcoming Richmond, Virginia, meeting, and it is hoped to be able to give further details of his research in the next Newsletter.

Another ground-breaking presentation was by **Dr. Warren Grundfest**, Director of the Laser Research and Technology Development Laboratory of Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, California. A recognized world expert in lasers and scientific/medical imaging, Dr. Grundfest described the new, non-destructive imaging technology that could provide complete spectral data and chemical analysis for every point on the Shroud and make a significant contribution to the conservation of the cloth. As remarked by **Dr. Alan Adler**, who also took part, Grundfest's technique promises to yield more information from the Shroud in 30 minutes than has previously been possible in two weeks work using more conventional technologies.

The Editor is particularly grateful to Isabel Piczek, and Michael Minor for the information from which this report has been compiled.

Paris, France Investigation of 'Holy Tunic of Argenteuil'

Last November 14 the Comité Sainte Tunique d'Argenteuil (COSTA) organised a special Round Table on the subject of the so-called Holy Tunic of Argenteuil.

This undeniably ancient garment is preserved at the Basilica of St. Denis (where France's kings were buried), at Argenteuil on the outskirts of Paris. Reputedly it is the seamless robe of Jesus, although it has a rival, a 'Holy Coat', the 'Heilige Rock' preserved at Trier, in Germany. The Argenteuil tunic has a chequered history, one of its more recent adventures

have been theft by ransom-demanding terrorists in 1983, but it seems reliably to date at least as far back as 800 AD, when Charlemagne gave it to his abbess daughter Theodrade. Recent studies by **André Marion** of the Institut d'Optique of Orsay (also responsible for discerning lettering on the Shroud) have claimed 'a particularly striking correspondence between the bloodstains of the tunic and the wounds of the man of the Shroud.'

Dr. Alan Whanger and **Philip Dayvault** of the US Shroud group Council for the Study of the Shroud of Turin travelled to Paris for the Round Table, and were allowed to view part of the Tunic through its reliquary, though not to conduct any kind of direct, hands-on examination. . According to Alan Whanger, writing in the March 1999 CSST News:

It was ... an awe-inspiring moment when we actually saw a portion of the Tunic through a 4" by 12" window in its reliquary. We could see the old cloth and its tears from centuries of mishandling and actual cutting during the 17th century. Also we could still make out on the Tunic what appear to be bloodstains, which are generally consistent with the scourge wounds on the Shroud, Much additional research, however, must be conducted before any conclusions can be drawn.'

Currently there are moves for the tunic to be given a full scientific examination, also for it to be put on display to coincide with next year's exposition of the Shroud, 26 August – 22 October 2000. For further reading on the HolyTunic, see:

Abbé Parcot, *Nouvelles recherches sur la Sainte Tunique d'Argenteuil* (booklet)

Abbé Le Quéré, *La Sainte Tunique d'Argenteuil*, F.X. de Guibert

André Marion *Jésus et la science, La vérité sur les reliques du Christ* (in press)

Rome

'Surprise' Convention on Sacred Relics

Still on the subject of relics, with scant advance notice (hence the scantiest attendance by overseas Shroudies), came news of an International Convention 'Dalla Passione alla Resurrezione: 2000 anni di silenziosa testimonianza' (From the Passion to the Resurrection: 2000 years of Silent Witnesses). Organized by the Centro Diocesano di Sindonologia 'Giulio Ricci', this was held from 6-8 May at the Pontifical Lateran University, Rome.

The lack of notice, with reportedly correspondingly thin attendance, was a great pity, as the speaker list was positively dazzling. With regard to the Shroud Monsignor **Giuseppe Ghiberti**, directly responsible to Cardinal Saldarini on Shroud matters, presented a paper on the Shroud and the gospels, **Princess Maria Gabriella of Savoy**, daughter of the late ex-King Umberto of Italy, spoke on the Shroud in Savoy iconography, while **Professor Karlheinz Dietz** ventured a hypothesis on the Shroud's early history. **Professor Bruno Barberis**, head of Turin's 'Centro' for the Shroud, also participated. **Cardinal Virgilio Noè**, head of the St. Peter's basilica, and now well-known for denying all access to the Veronica cloth, spoke on Liturgy and relics. Two papers, one by **Professor Baima Bollone**, were on the subject of the Oviedo cloth. The textile specialist **Prof. Mechthild Flury-Limburg**, closely involved with the Shroud's conservation, presented a study comparing the Shroud and the Holy Coat of Trier as textiles.

Another Accolade for Barrie Schwartz's Website

Barrie Schwartz of Los Angeles writes:

'I received the following message on January 22, 1999, just after the last web-site update:
"I am pleased to tell you that your web-site has been chosen for inclusion in the BBC Education Web Guide. The Education Web Guide team were particularly impressed by the quality and educational content of your site and have placed a short review of it in our searchable database which can be accessed by Internet users everywhere. The BBC Education Web Guide brings viewers the newest and best websites for learning at home, at school and at college and university. The sites included in the Guide have been hand-picked by a team of subject specialists and scrutinised for educational rigour by experts at BBC Education. The Guide provides a one-stop shop for the best educational resources."

The same BBC Education Web Guide has apparently more recently chosen Barrie's Shroud website for its "Pick of the Week", Barrie writes 'I am pleased and honoured at the inclusion of the web-site in this prestigious and important Internet resource and thank the BBC for their recognition.' In addition to its unrivalled collection of Shroud data and images, Barrie's site also includes the text of every BSTS Newsletter since 1996. For this and future issues the illustrations will be included as well.

Other Internet News.

The Centro Español de Sindonología have informed us of a new mailing address: Avda. Reino de Valencia, 53-16^a, 46005 Valencia-Spain; a new phone number: +39 963202922; and a new e-mail address: linteum@ono.es.

Additionally, **Vaclav Sinelnikov** of Russia informs us of a web site on the Shroud in Russian. This is <http://www.shroud.orthodox.ru>

For those just coming onto the internet, other recommended Shroud web-sites sites include:

- Barrie Schwartz's five star rated site: <http://www.shroud.com>
- Fr.Fred Brinkmann's Holy Shroud Guild site: <http://www.hsg.org>
- John & Rebecca Jackson's site: <http://www.shroudofturin.com/>
- Shroud of Turin Education project's site: <http://www.shroud2000.com>
- Dr.Alan Whanger's CSST site: <http://dmi-www.mc.duke.edu/shroud/default.htm>
- The Collegamento pro Sindone's site: <http://space.tin.it/scienza/bachm/>
- And Spain's Centro Español de Sindonología's: <http://www.ctv.es/USERS/linteum>