

SUCCESS FOR SHROUD EVENTS IN HONG KONG

An estimated 200,000 thronged to view the Shroud photographic exhibition during the special Shroud Week, held first in Hong Kong from 2nd. to 8th. March, then at Portuguese near-neighbour Macau during the week that followed. In Hong Kong the exhibition was staged at the Landmark Centre, a spacious and impressive modern complex of shops, boutiques and restaurants in the heart of a commercial centre on Hong Kong island. In Macau the location was the sumptuous Senate Chamber of the Leal Senado, or Loyal Senate, Macau's most outstanding example of traditional Portuguese architecture.

Invited to Hong Kong specially for the occasion were a variety of Shroud specialists, Dr. Luigi Gonella and Father Peter Rinaldi from Turin, Drs. Heller and Adler from Connecticut, Rex Morgan from Australia and Ian Wilson from the U.K. These, together with American-born archaeologist Bill Meacham of the Hong Kong Museum of History, organized themselves into an impromptu talk-show visiting a variety of venues: in Hong Kong the Baptist College, the Centre of Asian Studies and Department of Anatomy at the Hong Kong University and the Hong Kong Polytechnic; in the New Territories the Department of Religion and Philosophy at the Chinese University, and finally, in Macau, the Metropole Hotel and Macau Forum.

The proceedings attracted considerable press, radio and television attention, with Radio Television Hong Kong creating a full television documentary based on photographs from the exhibition and interviews with the Shroud specialists.

Great credit for the success of the venture is due to Bill Meacham and his Hong Kong Committee, who included the Rev. Tom Lung of the HK Christian Council Communications Centre and indefatigable Father Dennis Martin of the Don Bosco Technical School. Similar credit is due to those sponsors who generously responded to their appeals: the Hong Kong Land Corporation, who made available the prime exhibition space within the Landmark Centre; Cathay Pacific Airways, who provided some of the flights; Hong Kong's Park Lane Hotel, who provided accommodation; and Orient Shipping Services and Tradex Transportation of Sydney, who arranged transport of the exhibition from Australia. Also deserving of the highest praise were the efforts of Australian Rex Morgan and his daughter Victoria, who not only initiated and supervised the transport of the exhibition from Australia, but physically erected and dismantled it both in Hong Kong and Macau. The whole exercise was a shining example of what can be done with collective effort, and it would be good to see something similar organized for this country. Do we have any volunteers to take charge?