

A NEW PARALLEL TO THE SHROUD?

The following letter was published in *The Guardian* on Monday 20 June:

Some 70 years ago my father was Governor of Parramatta Gaol, Australia's oldest large prison. Convict-built soon after Australia was founded it interested historians. Several times I went with father as he explained points of interest to them. In the prison morgue the outline of a human face could be seen clearly on a glass window pane. It first appeared during a violent electrical storm in the last century. The body of a dead prisoner was lying on the slab. The extremely small morgue is said to have been clouded with fumes from powerful preservative drenching the corpse. A flash of lightning blazed through the window and fumes coated the window like photographic emulsion. Thus the impression of the face near the window-pane was fixed to the glass. Could the same process of chemicals and lightning have printed the impression of the Shroud as happened when a forgotten convict's face became an etching because of lightning from the heavens?

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[Contact has been made with Professor Smith, who has been a visiting professor at Princeton and Harvard, a diplomat with the United Nations, and aide and confidante of former U.N. Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld. Professor Smith is making enquires in Australia to determine whether the pane, or a photograph of it, is still in existence.]