

REMINDER TO MEMBERS

It has been pointed out that at the Leonardo talk one BSTS member asking a question spoke as if representing the BSTS. Members are reminded that by its constitution the BSTS has no corporate view on the Shroud, and even officers can give opinions only for themselves as individuals, not for the Society. In this regard, while we try in this Newsletter to represent a reasonable cross-section of opinion on the Shroud (as in Mr. Armitage's article above), the content is unavoidably subject to the Editor's personal biases, and should not be interpreted as conveying any collective view held by the Society.

IN THE STEPS OF THE SHROUD

Plan for a BSTS autumn coach tour to Turin and to places associated with the Shroud and its history, 18 to 26 September, 1991.

In association with Sharon Tours, a highly respected company specialising in Christian pilgrimages, BSTS publicity officer Ian Dickinson has formulated an attractive plan for a fully-conducted visit to Turin this autumn, departing from London on Wednesday 18 September.

The outward Journey will feature stops to explore such Shroud-related sites as Geoffrey de Charny's Lirey and the nearby cathedral city of Troyes; also Chambéry, former capital of the duchy of Savoy, with its Sainte Chapelle where the Shroud was nearly destroyed in the fire of 1532. In Turin during the weekend of 20 to 23 September there will be conducted visits to the Savoy family's Madama Palace, scene of the 1978 testing work; to the Duomo Cathedral and Chapel of the Holy Shroud; to the Centro Internazionale Shroud Museum, with the Secondo Pia original negatives and camera; also to the Egyptian Museum, which houses one of the world's finest collections of Egyptian textiles.

The return journey will include the Textile Museum at Lyon, with an opportunity to meet M. Gabriel Vial, the textile specialist who directly examined the Shroud in 1988. This will be followed by a short stay in Paris, visiting the Cluny Museum with its collection of mediaeval pilgrim's badges retrieved from the mud of the Seine, most notable among these the one of the Shroud when housed at Lirey. A final stop will be made at Amiens on the Somme to view its superb Cathedral; the largest in area in all France, before returning to London on Thursday 26 September.

On behalf of the BSTS the tour will be led and organised throughout by Ian Dickinson. Ian Wilson will be among the party and explain en-route historical points of interest, and it is hoped that other BSTS specialists may do likewise. It is also anticipated that there may be a special welcome in Lirey by the amiable mayor, M. Continant, and his wife Danie.

Travel throughout will be by a 49-seater executive-style coach, and overnight accommodation in comfortable, well-chosen hotels. The total cost, inclusive of all transport, excursions, and half-board accommodation (breakfast and one main meal, usually dinner), will be £350, plus £14.50 obligatory insurance. Members and any others interested should send a deposit of £50 to Sharon Tours (Christian Pilgrimages), 106

Seymour Place, London W1H SDG, tel. 071 724 8246, marking their envelopes 'BSTS Turin Tour'. Sharon Tours are ABTA registered (ABTA no. 85988), and their representatives Philip Dean and Dominic Demolder will be pleased to answer any inquiries concerning transport and accommodation. Other inquiries should be addressed to Ian Dickinson at 48 Hackington Road, Canterbury, CT2 9NQ, tel. 0227 471373 (messages).

It must be emphasised that the itinerary as scheduled is subject to minor modifications (particularly, to incorporate extra attractions), and is dependent upon bookings of at least 30. In the event of this number not being reached details are subject to greater change, and if necessary the whole venture cancelled and deposits refunded. So it's up to you!