

EDITORIAL

It is always a pleasure for me to include historical articles in the BSTS, and the two I have included in this Christmas edition are (in my opinion at least) highly significant. Spanish scientist César Barta looks at a specific part of the dorsal image on the Shroud – the ponytail – and convincingly links it to what can be seen on the Sudarium of Oviedo. There were already many points that scientifically link the two cloths to the same corpse, and César has contributed one more.

The second article provides new data about the so-called “missing years” of the Shroud. Written by Italian Alessandro Piana, whose book on the subject was reviewed in BSTS 65, the theory supposes that the Shroud was in France earlier than previously suspected. Both articles come complete with images, so we can see more easily what the authors are trying to express. The third article in this edition concerns a proposal for the radio carbon dating of the pollen samples found on the Shroud. Our former editor Ian Wilson has also agreed to write a short article about Shroud-related aspects for each edition of the newsletter – the titles he has proposed are fascinating and this promises to be a most interesting feature.

Last summer the Shroud world mourned the death of Daniel Raffard de Brienne, former Chairman of the CIELT (the main French Shroud group) and author of various books on the Shroud. I met Daniel once, at the CIELT congress held in Nice in 1997, and was struck by his great modesty and gentle warmth.

Among the events to look forward to in 2008 is the Congress to be held in August in Ohio. Joe Marino has kindly sent information about the congress for the BSTS.

Meanwhile, we all look forward to David Rolfe’s new film *The Silent Witness 2*, due to be shown at Easter 2008. Thirty years on from his award winning documentary, the new film promises to be exciting and bring all recent research right up to date. David has written a short piece about the new film specially for the BSTS and I am pleased to include it in the newsletter. And on that note, the only detail remaining is to wish everyone a warm and peaceful Christmas.