

EDITORIAL

The demise of Dan Porter's shroudstory blog has closed the most lively forum for discussion on the Shroud, and frankly there is little to report in this Newsletter, for which I apologise. There has been a bit of a spat about Ray Rogers's investigation into the mass spectrometry of some Shroud fibres, and David Rolfe has released an interesting new film to accompany the latest Hollywood blockbuster 'Risen', about which more later. Perhaps the most significant news is the announcement that Spanish sculptor Juan Miñarro thinks he has conclusively matched the Sudarium of Oviedo to the Shroud of Turin, which, if true, would be a definite argument against the 14th century origin of the Shroud found by the radiocarbon dating teams in 1988.

Recently the Royal Houses of Savoy and Braganza have created a new research organization, the Federação Internacional de Estudos Sindonológicos, and with it, an award called the King Umberto II Holy Shroud Medal, of which we are delighted to see that Barrie Schwartz, the doyen of Shroud studies across the world, was one of the first recipients. We offer him our sincerest congratulations.

As last year, Barrie Schwartz, Pam Moon and I were invited to promote the Shroud at the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community's 50th annual convention - the Jalsa Salana - where we had the extraordinary honour of meeting Caliph Mirza Masroor Ahmad, the spiritual leader of the community, in person. Between us, and Brenda and Stuart Benton, long-standing members of the BSTS, we offered the endless stream of visitors - and a number of radio and TV crews - a variety of viewpoints, sometimes contradictory, about the significance and authenticity of the shroud, answering queries and explaining details throughout the three days of the Jalsa.

Hugh Farey

