

SHROUD NEWS

A NEWSLETTER ABOUT THE HOLY SHROUD OF TURIN
By REX MORGAN - Author of PERPETUAL MIRACLE

Issue No. 18

JULY 1983



EX KING UMBERTO II OF ITALY WHO DIED ON 18th MARCH 1983. HE WAS THE LAST OWNER OF THE HOLY SHROUD WHICH HAD BEEN PRESERVED BY THE SAVOY FAMILY SINCE 1453

KING UMBERTO II OF SAVOY

The legal owner of the Holy Shroud of Turin, Umberto of Savoy, the last king of Italy, born in 1904, exiled in 1946 after the abdication of his father King Victor Emmanuel III, died in Geneva, Switzerland on 18th March 1983.

His father, in an attempt to save the monarchy of Italy after the fascist dictatorship of Mussolini, had abdicated in Umberto's favour on 9th May 1946. A referendum of the Italian people voted on 2nd June by 12.7 million to 10.7 million to do away with the monarchy and Umberto, king for 26 days, went into exile and lived in Cascais, Portugal. One of the conditions of exile was that neither he nor his male heirs could set foot in Italy again. It is ironic that Umberto should have died this year just as Italian authorities were considering amending the constitution in order to allow the aged king to return to his homeland in satisfaction of his last wish: to die on native soil.

Umberto's ancestor Ludovico (Louis) I, Duke of Savoy and Piedmont, received the Holy Shroud from Margaret de Charny in 1453 and the Savoys have owned it ever since. Umberto last saw the Shroud at its exposition in 1933 which was also the last time it was seen by the public until the 1978 exposition.

Over the 37 years of his exile King Umberto showed a keen interest in the scientific studies of the Shroud and was ever co-operative with authorities who wished to carry out examinations of it.

Father Peter Rinaldi, the world's foremost expert on the Shroud, and the champion of its study this century, became a close friend of Umberto as he acted as unofficial messenger between him and the church custodians on more than twenty missions to Portugal in the last thirty years.

It was to Peter Rinaldi that Umberto had confided the secret of the Shroud's future after the 1978 Exposition: that on his death he had willed the Shroud to the Holy See on condition that it remained in Turin. This he did and the Shroud is now the property of the Roman Catholic Church as was widely reported in the world press in March this year.

King Umberto of Savoy (contd)

Let Father Rinaldi himself describe the funeral as he did to Rex Morgan earlier this year:

"Attending the funeral of Umberto was quite an experience. As you know, I was very close to him. Since 1955 I had seen him twenty to twenty-five times. It was a marvellous relationship because I always found him very open and most agreeable to anything I suggested and certainly nothing that was done with the Shroud would have been done had it not been because of that collaboration and that willingness with which he accepted most things suggested to him.

The funeral was very sad. First of all it was held in the presence of the Savoy family in the French region of Savoy at Hautecombe Abbey. We never expected to see the people that actually came from all over Italy and specifically from the Piedmont and Turin. The place was not at all prepared for such a crowd. The church is somewhat small and could only take in relations. The people stayed outside in the rain and cold but I could see how great is the feeling, not only of Italians but of the Savoy people for Umberto and members of his family. It was a very touching service: the monks in the abbey had made it a magnificent service. We know he was a deeply religious man and I am sure he would have approved the way it was done."

And so Umberto was laid to rest with his illustrious ancestors at Hautecombe. A whole era of 530 years of the Shroud's history came to an end that day. But, as father Rinaldi said in the same interview quoted above, the new era opens now for the Shroud.

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BOOKS RECENTLY RECEIVED FOR REVIEW INCLUDE:

RAY BRUCE and IAN WILSON: Jesus and the Shroud [Holt, Rinehart and Winston]

FREDERICK T. ZUGIBE: The Cross and the Shroud [Angelus Books]

FRANK O. ADAMS: Sindon - A Layman's Guide to the Shroud of Turin [Synergy Books]

EDITORIAL

Another Shroud Odyssey

As forecast in an earlier edition this year, I was able to include a number of Shroud contacts in a recent visit to the East and Europe which has enabled me to gather a great deal more up to date and useful information about current research and activities in the study of the Holy Shroud.

As I have before, let me again say to my readers that this overseas trip, together with much other immediate agenda, has prevented my preparing an issue of SHROUD NEWS since February 1983 when issue 17 was devoted to a resume of the work of the late Dr Max Frei of Switzerland. All I can say is that I shall continue to bring you SHROUD NEWS as often as I can and hopefully will not allow such a long gap to recur as has between numbers 17 and 18.

Hong Kong

Our last issue dealt with the death of Max Frei whom I had expected to meet in March and, as I left Sydney, armed with an introduction to King Umberto of Italy and the delayed audience he had granted for me in 1982, the news was quickly published throughout the world that Umberto had died on 18th March 1983. I was in Hong Kong at the time and first read of his death in that excellent journal the South China Morning Post. I thus re-arranged my itinerary, once again to exclude Portugal, and went direct to other appointments in Europe.

There is an obituary notice at the beginning of this issue. He had agreed in 1982 to accept a copy of my book PERPETUAL MIRACLE and I had intended to tell him of the interest in the Shroud which exists in Australia, an interest I find ever wider and deeper as I meet and lecture to groups in various places.

Indeed, whilst in Hong Kong I was being interviewed by the Morning Post on an entirely different subject (concerning my forthcoming book THE HERMES ADVENTURE about my expedition last year to Sri Lanka for a diving venture to a British aircraft carrier sunk in the last war) and quite by accident the matter of the Shroud was raised in connection with my writing interests. This resulted in an article about the Shroud and the death of Umberto by very competent young journalist Nicola Parkinson on 24th March 1983.

Editorial (contd)

It was entitled KING'S DEATH SHOCK FOR SHROUD EXPERT; although shock to me it was, expert I am not.

Turin Again

On my third visit to Turin which followed a few days in the East I again had the privilege and pleasure of meeting Don Piero Coero-Borga, Director of the International Centre for Sindonology. On this occasion I had the opportunity of a comprehensive tour of the Shroud Museum attached to the Centre and will, in due course, give Australian readers a full description of that institution which has in it a very large collection of documents and items concerned with the history of the Holy Shroud. Amongst the more immediately fascinating are the original plate camera used by Secondo Pia in 1898, the results of whose work sparked off the whole modern study of the Shroud through scientific means and which has grown and intensified throughout the twentieth century.

Another outstanding item is the ingenious brass device specially designed by Professor Riggi to part the Shroud linen from its backing cloth during the scientific examination in 1978 at which the first study of the back of the cloth was made with valuable results for Shroud research. There are also thousands of books, documents, photographs, pictures and other material preserved in the museum which would pay the serious student of sindonology many days of careful observation.

Baima Bollone

Through the good offices of Coero-Borga I had the opportunity of meeting Professor Pierluigi Baima Bollone, forensic scientist and Turin coroner. Bollone's work has centred upon the study and identification of bloodstains on the Shroud and he has, since 1978, made several pronouncements about this work and that of his colleagues which is coincident with the views of the Americans, particularly Heller and Adler, all of whom have made considerable progress in the identification of the blood. I recorded an interesting interview with him in French which I shall review in due course.

Editorial (contd)Giovanni Tamburelli

Next day at the Centre I met Professor Giovanni Tamburelli, the Italian scientist who has continued the three-dimensional image work begun by Jumper and Jackson in the seventies. His laboratory is continuing a programme of image-enhancement work with the computer on photographs of the Shroud and is continually coming up with new information. His latest discovery, described to me in interview, is evidence of a mark on the cheek of the man in the Shroud consistent with having been made by a cut stick on which there was a sponge, another fascinating piece of evidence of the consistency of the wounds with the descriptions in the gospels. He has also identified a tear of blood which he proposes is postmortem bloodflow, serving to add to evidence against the theory that Christ was not dead when removed from the cross. I am indebted to Tamburelli for a set of his latest photographs some of which will be published in SHROUD NEWS and in my next two books on the Shroud. A full description of Tamburelli's work will appear soon in this journal.

Jean Volckringer

In Paris I met famous Dr Jean Volckringer, the French botanist and chemist who, as long ago as 1942, published his theory of the Shroud image's formation based on his observations of the effect of pressing plants between the pages of books. This is an effect to which I shall shortly devote a whole article. Volckringer discovered that the impression left on the pages of books in which plants had been pressed for fifty years or so seemed to be similar to the image on the Holy Shroud. In 1942 he published his findings and proposed that because the negatives of photographs of these diffuse images showed tremendous detail of the original plant in the same way that negatives of the Shroud image do, then there could be some connection between the image processes.

Over the past forty years almost every writer on the Shroud has acknowledged Volckringer's work but none has really enthused. Recent discoveries have shown firstly that when Volckringer's photographs are put into the 3D image analysis process a perfect three-dimensional image is produced as with Shroud images and considerable work has been done recently on this by John DeSalvo.

Editorial (contd)

Furthermore, Volckringer's original observation that cellulose degradation of the paper caused the development of the plant images in his books is now generally accepted as the likely cause of the image formation on the Shroud. Thus after forty years Volckringer has again become one of the most significant scientists to be involved with the study of the Shroud.

My interview with him proved to be a most interesting and enlightening occasion. This charming man, the very epitome of the genteel Frenchman of a past era in his double-breasted dark suit and black silk four-in-hand at his neck, white goatee beard and sharp blue eyes, gave a most lucid and important hour or so of information to me. He showed me all his original work from fifty years ago, the very plants we see pictured in all the publications, the original images on his book-pages, his original photographs and negatives. He has kindly given me original photographs for later publication and I shall also prepare a full article on his work.

Ian Wilson

In England where I made a rendezvous with one of my sons who had just completed another season's archaeological research in the Kingdom of Jordan I went to see again the doyen of Shroud authors and leading light of the British Society for the Turin Shroud, Ian Wilson (THE TURIN SHROUD). Ian keeps on moving house but we found him still in the Bristol area and renewed our acquaintance and caught up on the latest matters of mutual interest. Ian gave me a copy of his excellent new book JESUS AND THE SHROUD which is a textbook for schoolchildren and an excellent addition to the Shroud literature. I shall review it in a future issue of this paper.

Father Rinaldi

One of the highlights of this odyssey was finally to meet, indeed to catch up with, Father Peter Rinaldi. He was at a retreat at Bollington near Manchester in England and we drove there specially to keep our appointment with him. Although suffering from a bout of laryngitis, Father Rinaldi recorded an interview with me and commented on the death and funeral of Umberto which he had attended and from which I have quoted elsewhere this month. To meet Rinaldi after several years of correspondence was a great experience. He has, as he has said himself, been described as the Grand Old Man of the



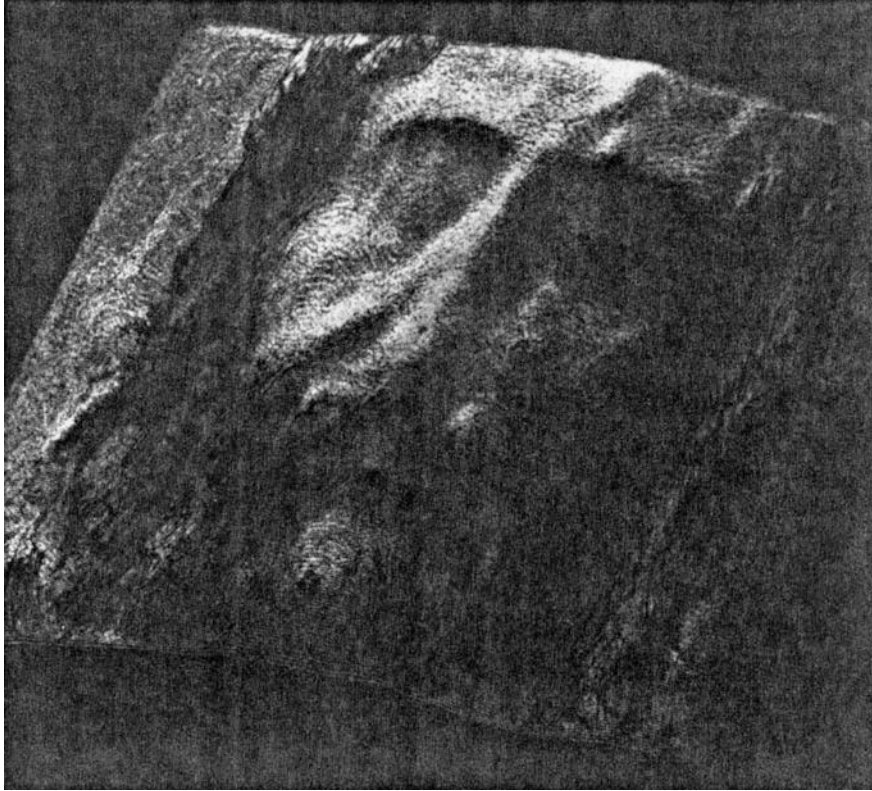
FATHER PETER RINALDI WITH AUTHOR REX MORGAN NEAR MANCHESTER

[Photo: Richard Morgan]



ONE OF THE MANY ARTEFACTS IN SWITZERLAND SHOWING THE FACE OF CHRIST ON A CLOTH. EVIDENCE OF COPYING FROM MANDYLION OR SHROUD

[Photo: Rex Morgan]



THREE-DIMENSIONAL COMPUTER AIDED IMAGE OF THE SHROUD FACE IN WHICH WOUNDS HAVE BEEN REMOVED OR REDUCED BY COMPUTER AND LIKELY DARKENINGS ON HAIR, BEARD AND EYEBROWS INTRODUCED. OBTAINED BY Prof G. TAMBURELLI in collaboration with G. GARIBOTTO, S.GAROZZO, L.LAMBARELLI, R. MOLPEN, I. PILLONI and G.PIRETTA of CENTRO STUDI E LABORATORI TELECOMUNICAZIONE of the IRI-STET Group, TURIN.

[By permission of G. TAMBURELLI]

Editorial (contd)

Shroud and whilst he wryly regrets this appellation, this is precisely what he is. He has done more than anyone else for the cause of the Shroud this century having co-ordinated the whole 1978 exercise and having been the chief intermediary amongst all parties: scientists, king, church authorities, for many years. We discussed many aspects of the latest research findings and raised the important issue of the ownership of the Shroud since Umberto's death: an issue which, under the provisions of Italian law, promises to be yet another controversy in the always controversial history of the Shroud.

Perhaps the most interesting and exciting matter to have been raised from the point of view of Australians is that Rinaldi expects to be in Australia later this year. Whilst he is not coming to our shores on Shroud business he has promised me that he will work with me to give interviews to media about the Shroud whilst he is in this country. I shall, of course, keep SHROUD NEWS readers in touch with any developments. It was odd indeed that I should meet the Grand Old Man of the Shroud who normally lives in Turin and New York in the village pub for lunch in the north of England.

Chambéry

Back on the Continent I made my first visit to the Royal Savoy Palace at Chambéry in France where the Shroud was kept for many years and was the location of the fire which damaged the cloth in 1532. Regrettably my itinerary did not allow me to be there on the only day of the week that the Chapel is open and I had to make do with seeing it from the outside in the most appalling weather. It was during one of the weeks that the whole of France was flooded and driving along the French motorways was heavy going indeed.

Swiss paintings

Acting on a hint from Ian Wilson I visited the national art museum in Zurich where we found and photographed a number of paintings showing the face of Christ depicted on Mandylyon-like cloths and probably the Shroud. These may well be some not yet studied by many researchers as the exhibitions of that museum's extensive collection are frequently changed. The carved Baar 'tomb' showing the whole Shroud is no longer on display there.

Editorial (contd)St. Gomare

We also tried to find, but without success, a well-known copy of the Shroud made before the Chambéry fire and thus showing a representation of the image before it was damaged. Our failure to discover it was caused by inefficient interpretation of clear instructions we had been given by Wilson and I am hopeful that the next odyssey will bear better fruit.

Madame Frei

Having missed the opportunity of meeting Dr Max Frei in Switzerland as planned, on account of his untimely death reported in the last issue of SHROUD NEWS, we called on his widow in Zurich. Incredibly, Madame Frei had suffered not only the death of her distinguished husband in January but just five weeks later had lost one of her daughters. Her time this year had therefore been occupied with the dismal task of dealing with the usual family matters related to two deaths. Nevertheless she most graciously gave me a long interview, in perfect English, about her late husband's work and assured me, in answer to the most pressing question in my mind, that his pollen research would be continued by a colleague. At the time of his death he had but one remaining pollen from the Shroud to identify and hopefully this will be accomplished in the near future.

William Meacham

Back again in Hong Kong on the return journey to Australia I met William Meacham an American resident of the colony an archeologist at the Museum of History and editor of the proceedings of the Hong Kong Archaeological Society. He has interest in the Shroud from the point of view of the archaeologist and a significant paper of his work is about to be published. We held a long and interesting talk about many aspects of Shroud work all over the world. A fuller review of some of his opinions is being prepared for SHROUD NEWS.

Finally

Thus there were twelve ports of call in the odyssey and I have a very great deal of material to distil for my readers in the next few months.

Editorial (contd)

Amongst the significant current matters are the ownership problem posed by Umberto's willing of the Shroud to the Church of Rome; the rumoured exposition of the Shroud within the next few months during Holy Year which could provide an opportunity for many Australians to go to see the Shroud itself if it occurs; Rinaldi's projected visit to Australia.

And the two great questions remain. Although the process of image formation seems closer to being agreed upon, that is to say, some kind of cellulose degradation of the fibrils of the cloth, the question unanswered and perhaps unanswerable by science is how the image got there in the first place.

And the second question on so many lips concerns the carbon dating test. I am planning an article on the process shortly. In the meantime there are researchers and laboratories in several countries who believe it will be they who ultimately perform the tests. I have reason to believe that information about carbon dating of the Shroud will emerge from an unexpected quarter, perhaps sooner than the world circle of Shroud watchers imagines.

REX MORGAN

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THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE TURIN SHROUD

In its recent Newsletter the British Society mentions another forthcoming book. This is by genealogist Noel Currer-Briggs and is entitled THE HOLY GRAIL AND THE SHROUD OF CHRIST. It is expected to contain more information on the historical period of the de Vergy and de Charny families, an interesting and intriguing period of the Shroud's history. Ian Wilson said in THE TURIN SHROUD that much work needed to be done on this period. Since then several scholarly historical articles have appeared particularly in SINDON and SHROUD SPECTRUM and Briggs's contribution is eagerly awaited.

McCRONE AGAIN

A useful postscript to the article "The Verdict, the Skeptic and the Champion" (SHROUD NEWS 16) comes from the Newsletter of the Holy Shroud Guild of New York, August 1982 issue:

"ON DISPROVING THE SHROUD OF TURIN. Dr Walter McCrone was not a member of the Shroud of Turin Research Project in October 1978. He did not participate in the tests; he did not see the Shroud at close range. However, several months later he was invited to join the Project and he was given some tapes which had been pressed to the surface of the Shroud in order to lift material from the surface of the cloth. Dr McCrone did some microscopic studies of this material and at subsequent meetings of the scientists announced his discovery of iron oxide and eventually his conclusion that the image on the Shroud had been painted. The scientists questioned his evidence and after presentation of 'new' evidence at two subsequent meetings not a single member of the group accepted the validity of his evidence or his conclusion. The scientists challenged Dr McCrone to publish his findings in a recognised scientific journal where articles are reviewed by qualified readers prior to acceptance. This McCrone has never done. "

* * * * *

And as reported in the British Society's Newsletter of September 1982 the following comments have been made by Miss Joyce Plesters, Principal Scientific Officer at the National Gallery, London.

"I consider that taking samples from the Shroud by means of sticky tape was rather a crude method ... It seems to me that with an object like the Shroud, which has comparatively rough surface and which has been lying around for centuries collecting miscellaneous deposits, you would with sticky tape pick up a miscellany of particles, many from the very topmost protruding fibres of the cloth, hence accidental deposits and nothing to do with the original image ... I also feel very strongly that the persons who examine the samples initially by optical microscope should be the same persons who take the samples, and that the initial examination under the optical microscope ought to be done on or near the site of the object being examined so as to be able to keep going back to the object being examined to compare the sample with the sample site and in the context of the object as a whole. It does not appear from what has been written that Walter McCrone and his

McCrone Again (contd)

team ever inspected the Shroud, nor did they take the samples ... With regard to sampling methods, we would probably use needles or fine pointed scalpels for the purpose."

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

While viewing a recent television programme on ABC on 18th January 1983 entitled "The Asteroid and the Dinosaur" I wondered if a similar event after the Resurrection could have been responsible for the image on the Shroud of Turin.

This programme hypothesised an asteroid coming into contact with the earth and in consequence leaving IRIDIUM dust for several miles over a long period of years thus causing the extinction of the dinosaur.

If cosmic dust was deposited in the atmosphere during the life of the Shroud, already impregnated with the morbid sweat of Jesus, then subjected to various temperatures over the years, would or could it cause or enhance the image?

Perhaps some of your more learned readers may care to expand on events which have occurred within our solar system during that time.

(Mrs) J. R. YOUNG
SHROUD NEWS READER

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AND THE LAST WORD FROM PROF. FRANCIS FILAS

A recent communication from Francis Filas of Chicago indicates that a Canadian newspaper published an article refuting his work on the coin identification which work has since been supported by Dr Alan Whanger's remarkable polarizing filter overlay techniques. The Canadian journal published sketches which Filas claims are totally inaccurate and amount to forgery themselves. He has reacted as follows in a statement for SHROUD NEWS readers:

Filas Statement (contd)

"1. Mr Wacks (numismatist) has never seen my original coins, but made his first public statements from photographs printed in the public press.

2. Since that time I sent him first generation glossy photographs hoping he would see the correct evidence. However he persisted in making these charges.

3. Even after Dr Whanger informed him the polarizing filter overlays completely confirmed and justified my conclusions he showed his position as completely without foundation in numismatic evidence

4. May I add that in August and September 1982 I have located two and possibly four more coins with the (U)CAI misspellings."

[Readers should refer to earlier issues of SHROUD NEWS for full information on Filas's work]

The Loyola University newspaper LOYOLA WORLD reports in January 1983 that Filas's coin identification work continues to make news all over the world. His monograph has been translated into Spanish, Italian and German and mention is made of the special Australian edition available through the SHROUD NEWS office.

In Buenos Aires his work was featured in a 40 minute telecast and POPULAR MECHANICS in the USA published the story in its December 1982 issue. Shroud exhibits in Norridge and Des Plaines drew more than 6000 visitors to see his coin photographs and Whanger's polarizing overlays. Filas has since given his lecture at Marquette University and the University of Scranton.

Filas says:

"One of the most thrilling aspects of the coin discovery is that it has started experts in physics and chemistry to think in terms of explaining the origin of the Shroud imprints in terms of electrical discharge - beta rays or streams of electrons. This points to an utterly new direction for a working hypothesis to explain the Shroud."

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Recently REX MORGAN appeared at Wagga Wagga in southern New South Wales in conjunction with a showing of THE SILENT WITNESS. He gave two lectures, two press, one radio and two television interviews on the Holy Shroud in a day and a half. Great interest was shown.

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Please encourage those of your acquaintance to join our subscription list. In this way we can only improve the newsletter in the future. Our four-issue subscription arrangement does not over-commit either the subscriber or the publisher although we do not anticipate the demise of the newsletter at the moment!

CONTRIBUTIONS

Please feel free to write to SHROUD NEWS with any comment about the newsletter itself or about the subject of the Holy Shroud of Turin. The newsletter goes to interested people all over Australia and to several other countries of the world.

FUTURE ISSUES

We have in hand much scientific and other material to provide copy for future issues. We receive the latest information from many international sources and author REX MORGAN draws on his frequent overseas visits for personal contact with people and institutions devoted to the study of the Holy Shroud.

LECTURES

Rex Morgan is happy to lecture (free of charge) to any group interested in the Holy Shroud. Contact Sydney 981 4633.

PUBLICATION

All information and opinion published in this newsletter is given in good faith to pass on to interested persons, matters concerning the Holy Shroud of Turin. It is edited (and mainly written) by REX MORGAN, author of PERPETUAL MIRACLE, and published by:

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