

THE ASSIST Investigations Group

Jan. 16, 1997

Rex Morgan
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Office of General Projects Director
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Dear Rex,

It is my pleasure to participate in your 100th issue and to wish you, on behalf of Dr. Frederick T. Zugibe, President of ASSIST, and on behalf of the ASSIST Board of Directors, congratulations on reaching this milestone.

Personally, I look at your achievement from a unique perspective. In 1985 I became convinced that there needed to be some sort of research tool to help investigators find information on topics of their interest. Thus, I began to build a computerized data base of all the publications that came across my desk related to the Shroud. Early in 1990 the project became even more specifically goal oriented when, at the kind invitation of Dr. Lawrence J. McCrank, then chairman of the Department of Library and Information Science at Ferris State University, Big Rapids, Michigan, I was to participate in the preparation of the publication of the Shroud sections of the two conferences held at Ferris State University in the Springs of 1988 and 1989. This grew into the project, The Shroud of Turin: A Case Study in Document Authentication (Haworth Press, in preparation) with splendid international cooperation from specialists in so many fields. The master bibliography is now in the final stages of proofreading and nearing completion and it is my hope that this compilation of chapters and other materials will become the first major reference work on the Shroud in this century.

I tapped into my data bank to survey *Shroud News*. How can I best communicate the breadth of your coverage? Computer buffs will relate well to figures: the survey of *Shroud News* fills a file that is 167,771 bytes in size! If that file, including the keywords extracted for the index, were printed out single spaced, it would be 60 pages! I learned that across 547 entries from issue no. 1 (1980) to the latest I have received (no. 97, 1996) your contributors range alphabetically from Adler and Allen to Wilson and Wolkowski. The discussions move from Abbas Combe and Abgar to the

works of Zaninotto and Zugibe. You have covered those against the authenticity of the Shroud (Nickell, McCrone, etc.) and those in favor, a long list of luminaries. My topical index shows you've covered everything from archaeology and architecture to photography, textiles, and theology. And because you have traveled around the world attending conferences and symposia we have learned first-hand from your witness of STURP's New London, Connecticut reports in 1981, and from conferences in other far flung locations such as Hong Kong, Bologna, Paris, and Rome. You have treated us not only with extracts from the world's press but also from your own personal interviews with specialists everywhere. Our heartiest commendations to you for this amazing coverage. Kudos for the first 100; here's a toast to the next!

Sincerely yours,

(Signed)

Paul C. Maloney

Gen. Proj. Dir., ASSIST

The Shroud of Turin RESEARCH PROJECT, INC.

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Congratulations to Rex Morgan and others involved in *Shroud News* as you approach your centenary issue) I have been associated with research on the 'Shroud of Turin for 20 years and have come to rely on *Shroud News* to keep me up to date with what is taking place all over the world. In addition to facts *Shroud News* reflects the personality and interest of its editor, Rex Morgan, in an extremely entertaining and professional manner. We wish you many more issues!

(Signed)

R.H. Dinegar