

NEWS & ACTIVITIES AROUND THE WORLD

On January 20, 1987, Concordia Lutheran Church, Decatur, Illinois, was totally destroyed by fire. Inside that church building was 25 years of collected books, articles, and other materials on the Shroud of Turin.

For 25 years I have been a student of the Shroud, and for many years have been giving lectures and media presentations throughout Illinois.

In trying to rebuild my library of Shroud materials, I find that many books are no longer in print or available. Some of these are: Rinaldi: *It is the Lord*; Wuenschel: *The Holy Shroud and Self-Portrait of Christ*; Bulst: *The Shroud of Turin*; Vignon: *The Shroud of Christ*; Walsh: *The Shroud*; Sox: *The Image on the Shroud*; Hoare: *The Testimony of the Shroud*; Rolfe: *The Silent Witness*; Nickell: *Inquest on the Shroud of Turin*; and Ricci: *The Holy Shroud* (English version).

If anyone might have these books or other materials and would be willing to sell them, please contact me:

Rev. Jeff G. Gavin
1928 South 32nd Place
Decatur, IL 62521

The Fourth National Congress of Sindonology, entitled *La Sin-done e la Scienza* (The Shroud and Science) will be held in Siracusa, Sicily, on 17-18 October 1987, under the auspices of the Sicilian delegation.

It will be remembered that the First National Congress was held in Turin in 1939. Through the initiative of the Centro Internazionale di Sindonologia, it has been established that a national congress should be held every three years, each hosted by one of the Italian delegations. Each congress publishes a report of the Acts.

The second congress took place in Bologna in 1981; the third in Trani in 1984.

To attend this congress, an application card can be obtained from the secretary:

Dr. Sebastiano Rodante
via Mons. Carabelli, 15
96100 Siracusa
Italy

The inscription fee is 30.000 lire (about \$25); the application and fee should reach Dr. Rodante before 15 August 1987. Dinner will be offered on both days, as well as an excursion to the island of Ortigia and to archeological areas.

With the application card, another card will be sent for hotel reservations, also due before August 15.

On 28 March 1987, I was privileged to visit the Dominican nuns in their monastery at Summit, New Jersey, when some members of ASSIST, headed by Paul Maloney, examined the 1624 painted copy of the Shroud of Turin (see *Spectrum* #30, Sept. 1986). A detailed report on the findings will be prepared.

For this investigation, the group borrowed the special table and microscope stand built by ESTEK (Eastman Technology Inc.) especially for Shroud studies. The equipment, weighing over 1000 lbs., was flown to New Jersey from North Carolina through the courtesy of Delta airlines. An assistant to the monastery, Ed Scarinsi, and his associates helped transport it from the airport and set it up in a meeting room below the church.

The cloth was taken from its display case with proper reverence and scientific notation. Witnesses to the opening were Sister Mary Albert, abbess; Monsignor Smith, vicar of the diocese of Newark; and Rev. Adam J. Otterbein, C.S.S.R., president of the Holy Shroud Guild. At least a dozen sisters of the community were also present with their chaplain, Father Daniel.

The cloth proved to be in excellent condition. The weave is a simple basket weave, not a herringbone like the Original.

The most unusual feature on the replica is the "bloodstain" of the side wound. It is the darkest feature on the painting and offers unusual contrast in both regular photography and video recording. In the ultraviolet light scan, it was seen that the fluorescent light from the stain in the side was different from the other parts of the painting. Closer investigation will be required.

The image is very delicately painted but looking at the backside of the cloth, we noted that the pigments had soaked through. Pigments from the "bloodstains" were especially strong.

One surprise was a machine-stitched strip along one side, which may have been added in the twentieth century to help display the cloth.

The replica was laid flat on the table, in the traditional manner with the dorsal image at the right. A grid of black polyester threads was laid over it to allow close-up photography of each grid-square. Samples were taken by vacuum and contact tapes.

The table was then rotated perpendicular to the floor. The specially-made microscope stand on casters, guided by rail parallel to the table, was equipped with a very fine Leitz microscope for observing and microphotography, provided by Jon Hinch of the Leitz Company. Overall still photographs were made by John Murach from Pennsylvania; Drs. Alan and Mary Whanger, from Duke University, made movies and video tapes. And Sister Mary Agnes was everywhere snapping pictures with great delight.

The examination of this "True Copy" would be particularly significant if any contamination or pigments unique to this replica could be found on the original Shroud.

KEVIN MORAN