

THE NEXT BSTS MEETING...

Due to a sharp increase in costs of room hire at the Foreign Press Association, the next BSTS meeting will be held at a new, but still very congenial venue, the New Cavendish Club, at 44 Great Cumberland Place, London, W.1, The nearest Underground station is Marble Arch. Turn right as you exit onto Oxford St., and Great Cumberland Place should be the first turning on your right.

The meeting will be held on Thursday May 5, and will commence (at 7.00 pm), with the Society's formal Annual General Meeting. The agenda for this will be: Apologies for absence; Chairman's Report; the 1987 Accounts; Election/re-election of Officers of the Society; Election/re-election of the Steering Committee, Nominations for Officers and members of the Steering Committee, seconded and with the consent of the nominees, should reach the Secretary no later than Tuesday May 3.

This will be followed at 7.30 pm by an illustrated talk by Ian Wilson on the intriguing Liverpool mattress image [detail, below], the closest known contemporary parallel to the Shroud, as recently publicised in the *Sunday Observer* and elsewhere. The imprint, created by the body of a 44 year old West Indian, Les, who died of cancer of the pancreas on the morning of 9 March 1981, shows most clearly the patient's hand, buttocks, arm, shoulders, and jaw, as registered in outline on a synthetic mattress cover. The image appears to have passed through the patient's pyjamas, undersheet and the pillow on which his head rested. Tests recently conducted by New York pathologist Dr. Fred Zugibe appear to have eliminated the possibility of body fluids as the likely causation.



The hand and buttocks area, as visible on the mattress cover on which patient Les died at Jospice International's Thornton hospice, just outside Liverpool, in 1981 Photo John Mills

In this connection, German Shroud researcher Oswald Scheuermann has recently pointed out a possible German parallel, apparently noted by hospital intern Dr. Nieper of the Paracelsus Klinik, Silbersee, W. Germany, in his book *Konversion von Schwerkraft-Feld-Energie, Revolution in Technik, Medizin, Gesellschaft*, MIT Cerlag, Oldenburg, 1983. According to Dr. Nieper:

Some years ago we had a patient admitted into our hospital suffering from a kidney tumour. By chance, when his bed was being made some days later, an image was noticed on the fabric padding between the bolster mattress and the underlying spring mattress. The distance between the patient and the cover with his image was some 15 cm (about 6 inches). The image comprised a particularly strong imprint of the tumour, and a weaker one of the complete body, including the limbs. After that the bed was changed, but some days later a new, identical image was found. Finally the patient's wife confirmed that a similar phenomenon had been noted at their home.

Unfortunately no photograph, or further details of this particular occurrence are known, Ian Wilson's talk will be followed by an opportunity for general discussion. If you intend to attend, an informal notification to Susan Black, by postcard or telephone message, would greatly assist catering arrangements.