

THE CASE FOR A BSTS EXHIBITION CENTRE

Ironically, at its last meeting, and before the nature of the Bournemouth exhibition became apparent, the BSTS Steering Committee discussed ideas for the Society having its own permanent (and free!) exhibition centre.

Following the controversial British Museum exhibition, Ian Dickinson very resourcefully retrieved from the scrap-heap (with permission) the loaned Shroud transparency's specially-made glass-box, with a view to this housing a full-size Shroud transparency of the kind currently being developed by Kevin Moran (see Newsletter 27, pp.19-20). Since the anticipated cost of such a transparency is a potentially manageable \$1200, (around £600), the Steering Committee has decided to set up a special fund for this purpose. It is the first time in the Society's history that it has ventured into any such fund-raising, but the cause is very specific, and already generous sums have been advanced by Bill Sinclair (father of the famous Clive), and Miss Gresham-Wells. Other members who might like to contribute are invited to send donations to the General Secretary, marking these 'BSTS Image Fund'. All donations will of course be properly acknowledged, and fully refunded should the venture prove impractical.

In this regard, a very necessary ancillary requirement is a suitable venue for the display of the transparency and any accompanying photographs. Group Captain Leonard Cheshire has very kindly offered the use of the 18th. century Staunton Harold Hall in Leicestershire, one of his famous Cheshire Homes. But obviously more desirable would be a London or major provincial city venue, perhaps a church, library, or museum, with regular opening hours, sufficient space for several other large photographs alongside the Shroud transparency, and its own pre-existent staffing. Bill Sinclair has kindly volunteered to take responsibility for gathering and exploring ideas for the project, and anyone with constructive suggestions should get in touch with him at 12, Sussex Square, London W2 2SL.