

OLDEST CLOTH IN THE WORLD

According to a report in the latest issue of *Archaeology*, a fragment of what would seem to be the oldest cloth in the world has recently been discovered at Çayônû in south-eastern Turkey, a little to the north-east of Urfa. Radiocarbon dated to 9000 years old, and believed to be of linen, the semi-fossilized fragment was found by archaeologists from the University of Chicago and from Istanbul University, and was probably part of a rag used for getting a better grip on a handle. Until this discovery, the oldest-known cloth was dated to circa 6,000 BC.

MISCELLANY

The Rev. Kim Dreisbach of East Point, Georgia, has kindly pointed out an intriguing reference to a cloth bearing an image of Christ, reported by a 6th century pilgrim from Piacenza, Italy, on a visit to Memphis, Egypt. According to the pilgrim: 'We saw there [Memphis] a piece of linen on which is a portrait of the Saviour. People say he once wiped his face with it, and that the outline remained. It is venerated at various times, and we also venerated it, but it was too bright for us to concentrate on it since, as you went on concentrating, it changed before your eyes.' The translation is from John Wilkinson's *Jerusalem Pilgrims*, Warminster, Aris & Philips, 1977, p.88.