

## **Recent Publications:**

Review of Fr. Vittorio Guerrera *The Shroud of Turin A Case for Authenticity*, Tan Books and Publishers Inc, Rockford Illinois, 2001

Fr. Vittorio Guerrera is a Roman Catholic priest resident in the archdiocese of Hartford, Connecticut, having been ordained as recently as 1991. This is a nicely produced book, and the text is succinct, readable, and on the whole well-informed and up-to-date. It lacks a great deal, however, from the point of view of factual depth and a critical sense. It is always a mistake to present the Shroud's weakest link, its history over the last two thousand years, first. Guerrera, however, devotes his first chapter to it, obliging him to treat it in a way that can only fail to do justice to its many difficulties and complexities. He includes an interesting section 'The Devil and the Shroud', pointing out that during the second half of the 19th century Turin 'became a refuge for a number of magicians and those involved with the occult.' Previously I had only come across vague allusions to Turin being ringed by occultish groups and witch covens, but Guerrera quotes as authority for this an article 'Satanism: More and More Widespread among Catholics' by Stefania Falasca and Stefano Gasseri in *30 Days* no 5, 1996, p.38.

The Shroud's detractors are summarily dismissed. Undue space is given to flaky arguments for the Shroud's authenticity, such as the coins over the eyes, and the claims of lettering on the Shroud. Kouznetsov is portrayed as a bona fide scientist.