

EDITORIAL

After the Shroud was last displayed to the public in 2000, it was stated that it would be the last time until 2025, when many of us might not be able to make the journey to Turin to see it. It came therefore as a very pleasant surprise to learn that the Pope has approved a display for spring 2010, just 15 or 16 months away. Pope Benedict XVI announced during a June 2 audience with pilgrims from Turin that he had approved the Shroud's removal from its protective casket for display to the public in the spring of 2010. He told the 7,000 pilgrims gathered in the Vatican's Paul VI hall, "If the Lord grants me life and health, I, too, hope to come to see the Shroud". The Shroud lies protected behind bullet-proof glass in a special chapel of Turin's Cathedral of St. John the Baptist. The cloth lies flat, unseen inside a casket made of a special space-age alloy that is waterproof and fireproof and is hermetically sealed to keep out oxygen. The Shroud is removed only for very special spiritual occasions, and its removal for study or display to the public must be approved by the Pope. I would urge all BSTS members to visit Turin in 2010 to see the Shroud and the rest of the city too, which is well worth spending a few days in.

After this exciting news I have to make an apology. In the last edition of the newsletter I accidentally published the wrong version of Ian Wilson's obituary of Norma Weller. What was published in the newsletter was in fact Norma's widow, Sydney's text, which was included in Ian's but I inadvertently omitted his own introduction and made it look like Sydney's text was in fact Ian's. My sincere apologies to Sydney, all the more so given the delicate moment he was going through, and also to Ian. I am publishing the full obituary as it should have appeared and hope this goes some way towards making amends.

Other features in this newsletter include a review of the Ohio conference held in August on the 30th anniversary of the STURP team's work on the Shroud in 1978 and an article about the Holy Face of Laon (France). Also included is the first part of an article by BSTS member Lennox Manton concerning Vignon marking 15 in images of Christ. Rather than exclude any of the images, fundamental for understanding the text, I decided to divide the article into two. The next newsletter will see the second part of Lennox's work.