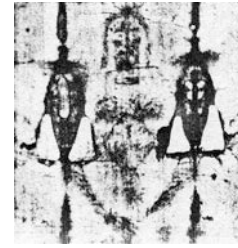


SHROUD NEWS

A NEWSLETTER ABOUT THE HOLY SHROUD OF TURIN
By REX MORGAN - Author of PERPETUAL MIRACLE

Issue No. 25



SEPTEMBER 1984



AT THE SHRINE OF THE HOLY SHROUD IN PORT CHESTER PARISH CHURCH, NEW YORK, THE WORLD'S GREATEST SHROUD SCHOLAR, FATHER PETER RINALDI SHOWS AUTHOR REX MORGAN A FULLSIZE FACSIMILE OF THE HOLY SHROUD OF TURIN PRIOR TO A RECENT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SCIENTISTS AND SCHOLARS INTERNATIONAL FOR THE SHROUD OF TURIN

AUGUST 1984

EDITORIAL

The Association of Scientists and Scholars International for the Shroud of Turin (ASSIST) whose work is described in the last issue of SHROUD NEWS held a Board Meeting in New York on 18th August 1984 which I attended as Liaison Member of the Board for Australia. I also managed to pack into this brief excursion around the world another of my "Shroud Odysseys" and saw a number of other people in the course of it. My first meeting was in Santa Barbara, California, with Ernest Brooks and Peter Skinner of the Brooks Institute where I was able to report the success of the Australian tour of the Exhibit to that date and discuss plans for its future. Next day I attended a meeting in Los Angeles between Brooks personnel and those arranging a special New Zealand tour for American photographers next year. The Brooks Shroud Exhibit will be part of that exercise and the Institute has asked me to make the exhibition arrangements there.

The following day I was fortunate to attend a private symposium at the home of Professor Alan Whanger of Duke University in Durham, North Carolina at which he and his wife and co-researcher, Dr Mary Whanger, demonstrated their latest very exciting work on the Shroud to a small group of sindonologists. At the same meeting Dr Igor Benson described his ball-lightning theory which is written up elsewhere in this issue. Mr Tom Goyne, a forensic sculptor described his work on a bust of the man in the Shroud. Attending this meeting were Father Adam Otterbein, President of the Holy Shroud Guild of New York and Father Kim Dreisbach of the Atlanta Center for the Turin Shroud. Later the same day each of us addressed a public symposium held at Duke University. The several researchers demonstrated their work and Otterbein, Dreisbach and I spoke about our various interests. I was able to tell an enthusiastic American audience about our interest in the Shroud in Australia and about the Brooks Exhibit and make general comments from my global overview, as it were. Professor Francis Filas (coins) was to have been at both symposia but a family bereavement precluded his attendance and Dr Alan Adler (blood) was also unable to attend. It was nevertheless a most interesting series of meetings.

From Durham I went on to New York where I again met with Fr Dreisbach, Fr Peter Rinaldi, Bill Meacham from Hong Kong and met for the first time Paul Maloney (General Projects Director, ASSIST); Dr Frederick Zugibe (coroner, author of THE CROSS AND THE SHROUD); Tom Zugibe (lawyer, adviser to ASSIST); Dr Gilbert Lavoie (blood); Dr Bonnie Lavoie (co-worker with Gil); and Father Vincent Donovan (sindonology author). A great deal of interesting agenda was considered at the

Editorial (contd)

Board Meeting and the ASSIST group has comprehensive active plans for further tests on the Shroud itself and many other matters connected with peer-review and research activities.

Like all conferences some of the most interesting exchanges occurred informally before and after the formal meetings and I gleaned much information from the various parties present. Over dinner with Father Rinaldi we shared our concern for a bringing together of scientists and scholars of all nationalities involved with the study of the Shroud without the international bickering which has occurred and to which I have referred from time to time in this publication. I see this aspect perhaps more clearly than some as I move about the world. It is quite clear that the Turin authorities will not allow further testing until Italians, Americans, British and others, who all have much expertise to offer, can come together with a proper attitude of co-operation on all the issues involved. It is always a pleasure and an inspiration to engage in conversation with Kim Dreisbach, the Episcopalian pastor, whose masterly turn of phrase and prodigious memory for facts makes him one of the world's most erudite Shroud conversationalists and who also has the showman's flair for making the discussion perpetually interesting.

Bill Meacham and I were able to update each other on plans for the Brooks Exhibit in Hong Kong although I missed him in London a few days later where we were to have another meeting. Having met Paul Maloney face to face after much correspondence and telephoning I can vouch for his intense interest in the subject and enormous energy. Gilbert and Bonnie Lavoie are equally delightful people with a strong background in their area of research. The Zugibes have a blunt, down to earth approach about all matters and are making an important contribution to sindonology.

In a spare hour I had the opportunity to see Father Rinaldi's own church in Port Chester where his permanent Shroud Shrine has been set up. In a side-chapel there are many Shroud items including mosaics, windows, paintings and photographs associated with the Shroud as well as a fullsize negative image behind the altar where Rinaldi also keeps a fullsize cloth facsimile of the Shroud itself. It was a happy and rewarding interlude to be conducted through the church and the shrine in the company of Bill Meacham by Rinaldi himself -- the longest serving Shroud expert in the world today -- and nearing his fiftieth year in the priesthood.

Editorial (contd)

I had to fly to Brussels immediately after the ASSIST meeting and whilst in Belgium actually found the Church of St Gomare in Lier (early SN readers will remember I went to the wrong town last time) where there is a pre-1532 copy of the Shroud which, of course, does not show the fire burn-marks or patches. Having finally tracked down the priest in charge I was unable to persuade him to let me have access to the relic but there is always another day.

Back in London I met with Bill Sinclair, one of the founders of the British Society for the Turin Shroud and Sue Black the current Secretary of that organisation. We spent a useful time exchanging information on world activities and I gathered the strong impression that the McCrone controversy (which got its first airing in Britain) did immense damage to the credibility of the Shroud in the British media and they have taken a pretty cynical view of it ever since. This is surprising when you consider that in just the last few months I have generated something like 200 media reports and fifty television and radio interviews about the Shroud in Australia alone.

Another interesting fact to come to light is the extraordinary lack of communication amongst the publishing and bookselling world. The British had never heard of Frank Tribbe's book and only that day had they managed to get hold of a few copies of Heller. All this happens because publishers will not distribute books outside their own country it seems. Of course the main thrust of the work of ASSIST is to make research immediately available in various languages and if someone could do the same sort of thing and operate internationally to share everybody's books on the Shroud it would be a great service to the Shroud world.

There are still numerous new ideas, re-working of old ones and more Shroud books being published in many parts of the world. More and more Shroud study organisations are coming to light in different countries and the heavyweights continue their research into many aspects of the subject. In this issue of SHROUD NEWS I have attempted to bring you a smattering of all of it and I hope the scheduled November issue will not run late as this one has. As your editor I find it quite amazing that this is issue number 25, the silver jubilee, when I think back to number 1 in September 1980. At that time I wondered whether there would ever be a second issue. Thank you for your continuing support of SHROUD NEWS which has now become internationally known and sought after.

REX MORGAN

THE DURHAM SYMPOSIUM Reported by Rex Morgan

At this private symposium in Durham, North Carolina, I had the chance of seeing at first hand the new work of Dr Alan and Mary Whanger, a fuller report of which appeared in SN 23. Having obtained Whanger's earlier slides on his work which substantiates Filas's coin discoveries and his own work identifying congruencies between the Shroud image and early Byzantine icons and coins it was very interesting to see the polarized overlay method demonstrated. Whanger projects two images, one of the Shroud face and the other of whatever artefact he is studying, onto a screen through a polarizing filter so that the viewer, armed with another polarizing filter, can turn it at will converging or separating the two images to examine any feature of either. Whanger explained numerous points of congruence in several examples. He also showed images of a 29 A.D. lepton with not only the "C" spelling error but a die fault under one of the letters. Remarkably this same die defect shows up in the coin image on the Shroud meaning that this one extant example of the coin in the USA is from the same die lot as the one used on the eye of the man in the Shroud.

Another startling piece of research concerns the face cloth at Oviedo in Spain. Whanger had studied the photograph reproduced in Ricci's THE HOLY SHROUD (LA SINDONE SANTA) which appears at p 140 of the English edition showing the Sudarium of Oviedo. This is a piece of cloth which has been preserved in the Oviedo cathedral since the 9th century and by tradition is the cloth placed over the head of Christ in the tomb, in addition to the burial shroud. Ricci examined this item in 1955 and at the time was struck by the similarity of the pattern of bloodstains on it with markings on the Shroud. He made a map of the markings to show their coincidence and concluded at that time that both pieces of cloth had been in contact with the same body. Whanger, by means of his overlay technique, has now confirmed Ricci's thesis in a spectacular way. Mary Whanger has made a muslin reproduction of the Oviedo cloth showing all the markings and can demonstrate with a human model the precise way in which the sudarium was folded around the face to coincide with the presence of the Shroud and that it absorbed certain bloodmarks.

A further finding by the Whangers in conjunction with the computer analysis work of Haralick is to claim tentatively that the man in the Shroud was buried with a Jewish phylactery (a pouch containing scriptures) tied to his forehead. The overlay technique using a reproduction of the only known intact phylactery to have been found and the Shroud face again seems to show that Whanger is right. There

The Durham Symposium (contd)

are clear indications of the straps which held it in place, the oblong shape of the phylactery itself (on the Shroud, the open square marking on the forehead recorded by Vignon, Wilson et al) and the torn front of the leather pouch (by way of desecration) causing a triangular flap of leather to fall between the eyebrows (the strange V-shape on the Shroud image). Needless to say these revelations gave rise to considerable discussion amongst the group of sindonologists present, especially when the Whangers demonstrated the phylactery with a reproduction of one made by Mary. It will be interesting to read peer-reviews of this proposal when Whanger publishes his full findings. Whereas Ricci postulates that the blood on the Sudarium seeped through the Shroud which was in direct contact with the face, Whanger claims that the Sudarium was more likely on the face and the Shroud covered it. There is new evidence to show that the image-producing mechanism (whatever that was) penetrated the chin-band as enhanced studies have now shown that there is image formation on the two apparently blank strips on each side of the face where the chin-band was tied, and Whanger believes that a similar process has taken place to form the face image on the Shroud through the Oviedo Sudarium which was itself contact-stained with blood.



Dr ALAN WHANGER (left) AND MARY WHANGER (right) SHOW THEIR MUSLIN REPRODUCTION OF THE OVIEDO SUDARIUM ON WHICH THEY HAVE MAPPED THE BLOODSTAINS EXTANT ON THE ORIGINAL. Revd KIM DREISBACH IN BACKGROUND

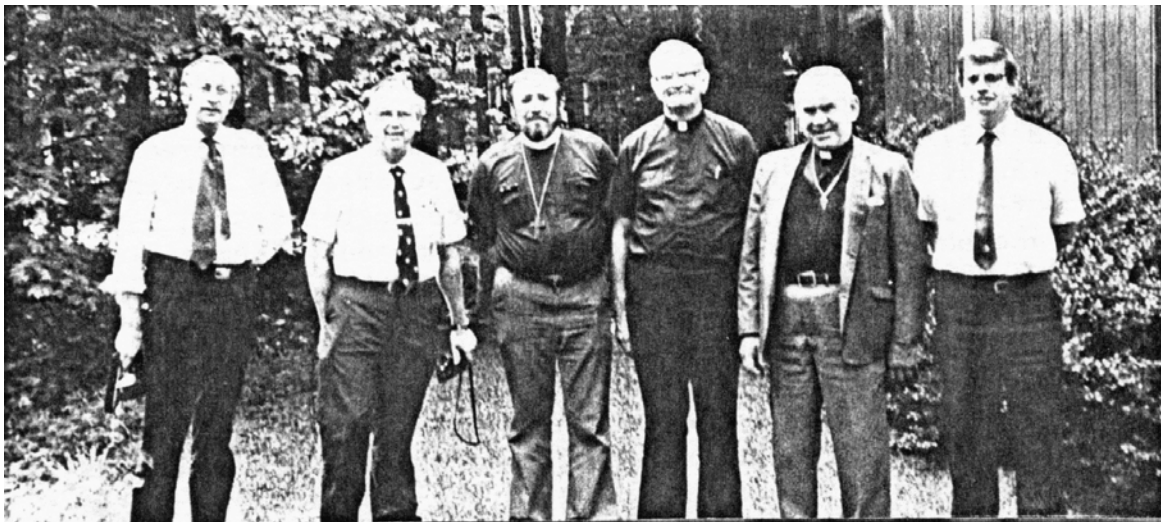
The Durham Symposium (contd)

Another fascinating presentation at Durham was given by Dr Igor Benson who holds doctorates in engineering, psychology and theology, is head of an aircraft design company and a Russian Orthodox priest. Work has been done in Germany by Scheuermann on the effect of radiation from high-voltage, high-frequency electrical discharge causing scorchmarks of objects on linen which have the characteristics of the Shroud image. Independently, in North Carolina, Benson considered the possibility of ball-lightning (thunderbolt) causing the image on the Shroud. He noted that there are numerous recorded cases of ball-lightning chasing after human beings in order to earth its enormous charge and its capacity to singe an unearthed object. He speculates that at the time the man of the Shroud was entombed if there had been a violent electrical storm and ball-lightning were present it would have entered the tomb seeking (as it does) a body in which to discharge its ion energy. He points out that all the historical evidence suggests such a possibility (gospel accounts of storm, darkness, stone moved, illumination, etc) and that a thunderbolt having entered the chamber found an exposed portion of the body under the Shroud and entered it. This then charged the body with an enormous amount of energy, perhaps 200,000 volts which would then discharge in a split second as ionizing electrical energy which would scorch the cloth covering with the features of the body through which it emanated. Benson demonstrated the technique with a specially built device consisting of a glass ball containing a cathode energy tube discharging enormous voltages of energy. He showed us that an object on the outside of the ball attracted the energy tongues which licked out from the radiation source and showed further that an object like a small coin placed in the energy field produced in a split second a perfect corona discharge scorch on a piece of pure linen. This matches exactly the characteristics of the Shroud image and shows that minute details (such as the coin imprints) can thus be produced. Benson has done a series of experiments to determine the exact time needed in microseconds to produce the image we see on the cloth. As far as I am aware his work has yet to be published but it will be a most interesting and no doubt controversial addition to current speculation on image formation. I understand that an English researcher has also written a paper on corona discharge on the Shroud. I look forward to comparing this with the recordings I made of the Benson discussion.

Another Durham presentation was the work of forensic sculptor, Tom Goyne. He is one of only twelve people in the USA who build the bust of a deceased person based on the skull or some other surviving fragment of the head which may be recovered after death. He employs

The Durham Symposium (contd)

resources of anthropology, anatomy, medicine and sculpture to create, by highly sophisticated techniques the entire structure of the head from bones through muscle to tissue and skin and hair, thus re-creating the appearance of the person for identification. His work was illustrated with slides of the technique as well as examples compared with photographs of actual people after identification had taken place. He is presently working on a bust, using these techniques, of the man in the Shroud from the evidence contained in the marks.



AT DURHAM, CAROLINA: REX MORGAN, Dr ALAN WHANGER, Rev KIM DREISBACH, Fr ADAM OTTERBEIN, Dr IGOR BENSON, TOM GOYNE

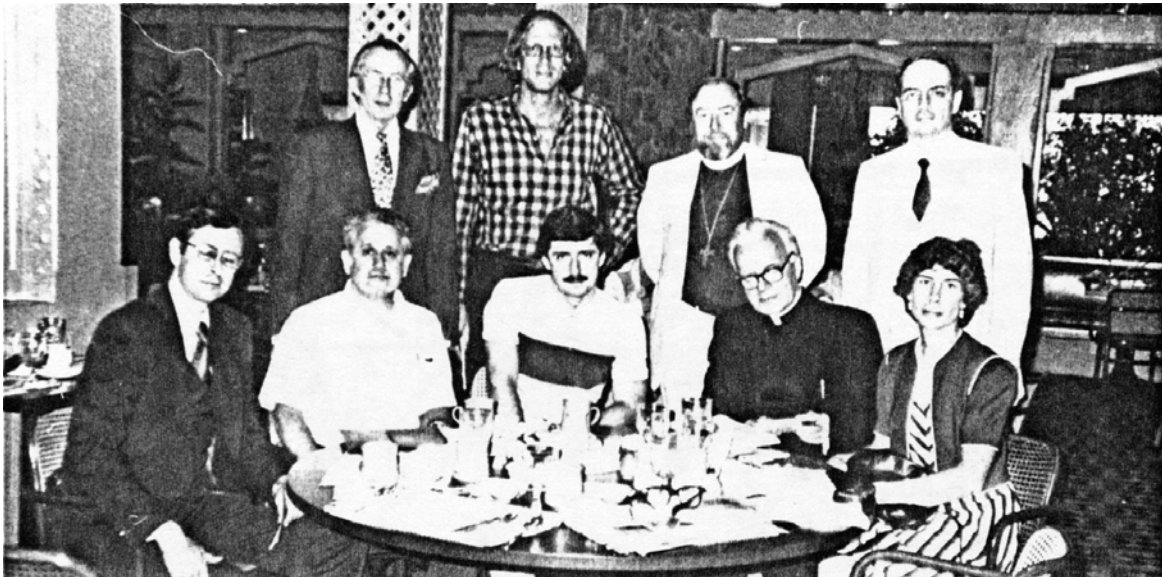


At left:

Dr IGOR BENSON SHOWS HIS INSTRUMENT FOR DEMONSTRATING PLASMA RADIATION



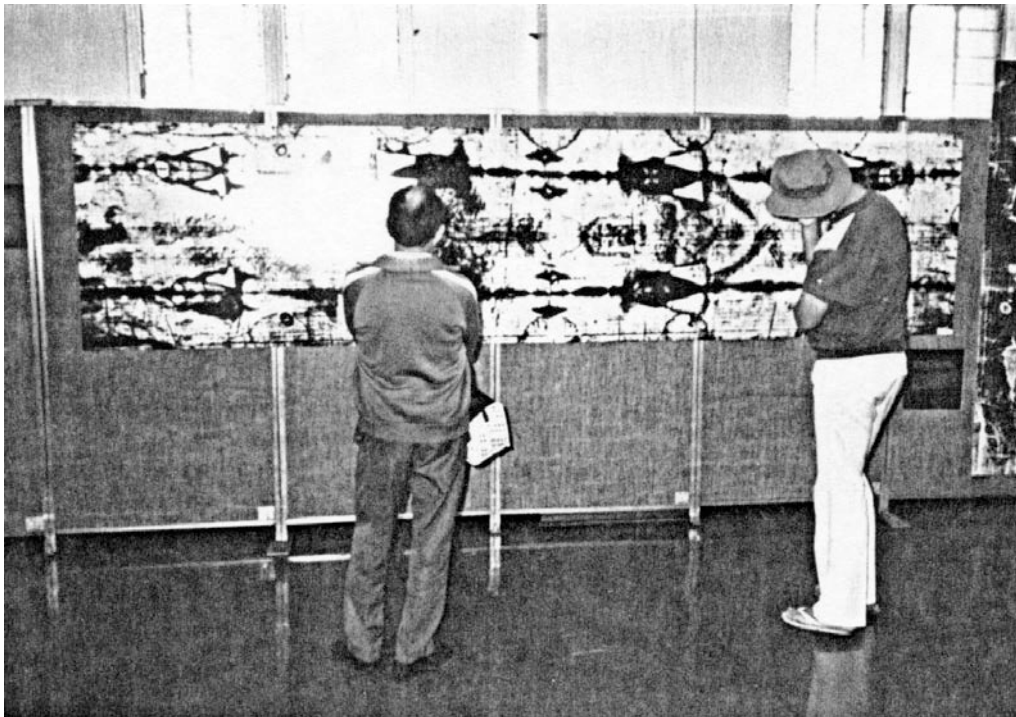
DUKE UNIVERSITY, DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA: THIS EXTRAORDINARY PICTURE SHOWS A SECTION OF THE AUDIENCE USING INDIVIDUAL POLARIZING FILTERS TO EXAMINE SHROUD/ARTEFACT OVERLAYS PROJECTED BY Dr ALAN WHANGER SEEN AT PROJECTOR HOLDING LARGE FILTER



AT THE HILTON HOTEL, PORT CHESTER, NEW YORK, MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF ASSIST: Back Row: REX MORGAN, WILLIAM MEACHAM, Rev KIM DREISBACH, Dr GILBERT LAVOIE. Front Row: PAUL MALONEY, Dr FREDERICK ZUGIBE, TOM ZUGIBE, Fr PETER RINALDI, Dr BONNIE LAVOIE



THE BROOKS EXHIBITION IN BRISBANE: GIRL GUIDES HELP TO FOLD LEAFLETS FOR THE ENORMOUS CROWD OF 30,000 OVER TEN DAYS



TWO QUEENSLANDERS STUDY AN ENHANCED IMAGE DURING A QUIET MOMENT



BROOKS EXHIBITION IN BRISBANE. SOME OF THE ADDITIONAL IMAGE SHOWING WORK OF FILAS, WHANGER AND TAMBURELLI

IN BRISBANE THE ANGLICAN PRIMATE OF AUSTRALIA The Most Revd. SIR JOHN GRINDROD PICTURED AT THE EXHIBITION WITH HONORARY TOUR ORGANISER REX MORGAN





BROOKS EXHIBIT IN BRISBANE. LOWER PHOTO SHOWS FORMER BISHOP OF
NEWCASTLE RIGHT REVEREND IAN SHEVILL AT THE EXHIBITION

BROOKS EXHIBIT IN AUSTRALIA - REPORT No 4

Since the last issue of SHROUD NEWS the Brooks Institute of Photography Holy Shroud Photographic Exhibition has been shown at a return season in Sydney and in Brisbane. It was on display at the Commonwealth Bank Gallery, Sydney, from 30th July until 10th August including a special opening of the Bank on the Sunday. We were very pleased that 22,000 people visited the exhibit during these days despite a near disaster on the last day when the Bank authorities decided from some hierarchical pinnacle and without consultation with the gallery to rebuild part of it and the exhibition had to be hurriedly moved and re-set nearby. This did not deter the enthusiasm of the crowds.

One of the most gratifying parts of the Australian capital city tour was the last stop in Brisbane, Queensland. This beautiful city in the state of Australia where a large permanent migration from other states (politically and economically oppressed as some are) occurs, especially amongst those who want to retire to good weather and easygoing conditions in a free-enterprise environment, certainly did us proud in every way. The officials of the Commonwealth Bank did not have the gallery space we required and so arrangements were made for the exhibit to be shown in the Sherwood Gallery of the magnificent Victorian Brisbane City Hall. It was an excellent venue and was open every day from 19th September until 29th September thus giving ten days of uninterrupted opportunity for the people of Queensland (and many came from as far as Townsville, Rockhampton and Cairns). We also had good media coverage, including five television interviews I made in short order at the beginning of the exhibit, and the crowd averaged 3,000 every day meaning that Brisbane notched up the record attendance of 30,000. This response amazed us. It is the second biggest in raw numbers of any city in Australia except Sydney and, apart from Darwin, was the highest per capita proportion of population. Another factor is that being in a venue set aside for the purpose every person through the door had come specifically for the exhibition and could not be classed as "passing trade". A special word of thanks is due to Mrs Beryl Hardy-Nisbett of Sydney who voluntarily took charge of the exhibit every day and gave long hours to handing out the leaflets and answering questions. She was assisted by Girl Guides and other local voluntary helpers.

A highlight of the Brisbane season was the visit of Anglican Archbishop, the Most Revd Sir John Grindrod, Primate of Australia, who showed great interest in the exhibit. The same day Bishop Ian Shevill, who has written about the Shroud, also paid a visit.

Brooks Exhibit in Australia - Report no 4 (contd)

Since the exhibit came to Australia last December it has now visited all eight capital cities and more than 175,000 Australians have seen it. The exhibit material itself has travelled more than 15,000 kms, the personnel to man it have notched up a total of 92,000 kms and Rex Morgan has flown 41,000 kms within Australia since January for the exhibit, all by courtesy of TAA. Homestead Hotel Group has provided more than 100 man-nights at their hotels throughout Australia for the team. Now that the planned Australian tour is over it would be well for us to acknowledge again that the following companies sponsored the exhibition and thus made it possible for Australia to see it free of charge:

THE BROOKS INSTITUTE OF PHOTOGRAPHY, CALIFORNIA made the exhibition ;available to us; THE COMMONWEALTH BANKING CORPORATION provided the venues in all capital cities (except Canberra where Runciman Press met the expenses); EVERCRAFT provided uniforms and blazers for the desk attendants; GRAEME BARTLETT INSURANCES covered the exhibit against all risks during the tour; HOMESTEAD MOTOR INNS provided the accommodation for the team; IBM AUSTRALIA provided the free leaflets; IMIN PRODUCTIONS provided publicity photographs in Sydney; JAX CUSTOMS AGENCY provided import and export services; MACARTHUR PRESS provided the posters for all venues; PACIFIC AUSTRALIA DIRECT LINE shipped the exhibit between America and Australia; RUNCIMAN PRESS met all the incidental expenses; TRANS AUSTRALIA AIRLINES carried the exhibit and all the personnel throughout Australia. This was a magnificent effort by these far-sighted companies; there is no doubt that the exhibition would not have occurred without their support and help. It must have cost the equivalent of about \$200,000 to do what we did and everyone associated with manning and organisation was, of course, working in an honorary capacity. Had there been a wages bill it would have been enormous. This is why, of course, one has to pay several dollars a head to see an exhibition of equivalent importance when it is staged commercially. All this was achieved without any paid advertising except for one small ad insisted upon by a one provincial newspaper in return for publishing our press release!

What of the future? Negotiations are still under way for the exhibit to go to Hong Kong and Japan early next year and it will be in New Zealand in April.

Our thanks are expressed to all readers of SHROUD NEWS who supported the work and many of whom have subscribed since learning about it through the exhibition. Well done, Australia!

BOOK REVIEW: PORTRAIT OF JESUS? Frank C. Tribbe (Stein and Day, NY)

Frank Tribbe of Penn Laird, Virginia, USA, is an attorney and a Protestant. He has brought to bear his legal skills of investigation of evidence over forty years to provide us with the most comprehensive book about the Holy Shroud since Wilson's *THE TURIN SHROUD* (1978), widely regarded as the basic handbook for all interested in the Shroud. This 280 page hard-cover begins with a factual description of the Shroud and the most recent events connected with its scientific study and follows with a concise early history based on most known references and compares the tradition of the Shroud with other artefacts related to it. He covers the 'difficult' medieval period with a logical reconstruction of the theories of Wilson, Crispino and others thus attributing its possession to the Templars. (He will be interested to read Curren-Briggs). The historical section concludes with the relatively uncontroversial facts we have from 1357 to the present day.

The next section deals with the gospel history and an examination of it in the light of the Shroud evidence drawing on a wide range of authors and references to give a logical synthesis of what likely happened. In his chapter on the medical evidence and an evaluation of it Tribbe reminds us of less-widely known matters such as the work of Caselli, Barbet and Rodante, all of whom have concluded such detail as the relativity of each bloodflow from the cap of thorns to either venous or arterial bloodflow, a difference only known since 1593. He also pursues most of the current theories concerning cause of death and -differences of opinion on the various image marks. He reminds us again of the work of the Turin Commission of the early seventies in which many important observations by such investigators as Gilbert Raes (Belgian textile expert), Max Frei's first foray into the pollens, the work of Italians Mari, Rizzatti and Filigamo, and the pictures by Cordiglia have been overshadowed in the public perception by the 1978 and subsequent discoveries. Further chapters concern a précis of the principal findings of the American-based STURP team of 1978, the work of Filas and Whanger on the coins and a chapter on the pros and cons of forgery methods.

After an objective account of miracles generally and the application of the miraculous to the Shroud, Tribbe gives a balanced account of various religious perspectives followed by his conclusions on the formation of the image. He describes several other inexplicable known images such as that of Guadeloupe and in his final chapter takes the view that all evidence in a court of law has to be weighed by a

Book Review: Portrait of Jesus? (contd)

jury who, in every case, have been exposed to experts for each side swearing opinions exactly opposite to each other as do experts have opposing views in every scientific and precise discipline. But, judgement made by the jury is accepted. He invites the reader to decide for himself, in the same way, whether the evidence presented for the Shroud mystery is reasonable or meaningless, convincing or unimpressive, plausible or probable. Is its message sensible and meaningful?

The book is very well produced and abounds in illustrations with a superb colour section. The only sad thing about this splendid book is its unavailability, it seems, anywhere outside the United States, a situation in which it is not alone. Properly promoted worldwide it should very easily sell a large number and ought to be on the shelves of every serious Shroud scholar. One would recommend this PORTRAIT OF JESUS? to anyone as a first-class, up-to-date introduction to the subject of the Holy Shroud and, as I said to begin with, it is probably the best coverage of the subject in one volume since Wilson.

R.M.

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BOOK REVIEW: THE HOLY GRAIL AND THE SHROUD OF CHRIST

Noel Curren-Briggs (ARA Publications, Maulden, UK)

An extremely valuable contribution to the current Shroud literature is the recently published **THE HOLY GRAIL AND THE SHROUD OF CHRIST** by well-known genealogist Noel Curren-Briggs. The widely known historical reconstruction of the Shroud's existence prior to the middle ages by Ian Wilson has, since his **THE TURIN SHROUD** (1978), attracted a number of researchers to delve into the 'missing years' and the 'loose ends' of the Wilson Shroud/ Mandylyon theory and, in various ways, they are building up a stronger and stronger body of evidence for the existence of the Shroud we know, bearing the image it bears today, from the dawn of the Christian era.

Curren-Briggs, during a consideration of the interesting research in **THE HOLY BLOOD AND THE HOLY GRAIL**, asked himself, as so many have, what was the true nature of the Holy Grail and at the end of his book concluded that it was, in fact, the Shroud of Christ, or at least the container in which it was housed during the middle ages: the very period which is tenuous and speculative in Wilson's exposition of its

Book Review: The Holy Grail and the Shroud of Christ (contd)

ownership by the Templars and the de Charnys. He discusses the many contradictory references to the Grail and notes that only in the 12th century does the Grail legend become linked with Christ's passion and with King Arthur. He begins his fascinating account with an etymological study of the word 'grail' and a meticulous examination of all the Grail legends in which he assesses their relative claims to plausibility, dismissing some altogether and showing how others could well fit his proposal of its being the box which contained the Mandylion / Shroud.

In a masterly exposition of medieval genealogy Curren-Briggs describes the inter-relationship of the de Charnys, the de Vergys and all the royal and noble houses of Europe and the leaders of the Knights Templar. Having supported the view that the relic was at the Pharos treasury in the Boukoleon Palace up until 12th April 1204 when it left Constantinople with Empress Mary-Margaret he shows how her marital and other circumstances and her family's connection with the Templar bankers caused her to carry the Mandylion/ Shroud to Salonika in Greece and Klis in Jugoslavia where it came into the hands of the Templars themselves with whom it ultimately went to France. He also proposes that a copy, made and kept in Constantinople, found its way after 1204 to Besançon where ultimately it was revealed as a copy in 1794.

In this rich historical journey through medieval Europe Curren-Briggs introduces complex but precisely argued evidence for the numerous reports of either the Shroud or painted copies of it which account for conflicting documents about its nature (cunningly painted or not made by hands). He concludes that between 1204 and 1356 the true Shroud was taken from a golden lattice-work casket which was, in fact, the Holy Grail, and was preserved by noble and inter-related families only to surface positively when Margaret de Charny passed it on to her kinsman the Duke of Savoy.

This 150 page paper-back contains a remarkable five-page chronology spanning two hundred years, a useful bibliography and a comprehensive index so often lacking in Shroud books (including, as my critics have pointed out, my own) and two excellent genealogical tables tracing the families of Hungarian Mary-Margaret and Margaret de Charny which are, regrettably printed in an almost microscopic typeface. But ignoring this minor inconvenience one has in ones hands an important addition to the ever-increasing scholarly contributions to modern sindonology.

R.M.

BOOK REVIEW: A PIECE OF CLOTH - THE TURIN SHROUD INVESTIGATED

Rodney Hoare (The Aquarian Press, Wellingborough, UK)

Rodney Hoare, an English lecturer in science and sindonologist of repute, wrote his **TESTIMONY OF THE SHROUD** in 1978 and says, in his introduction to **A PIECE OF CLOTH**, that "another book is required ... because the whole approach needs revising." This excellent book, to be published in England in September, is written in short, snappy chapters and employs a sentence construction revealing the precision and clarity of mind of the teacher. In the first part Hoare presents a good summary of the definitions and the published scientific results in plain English which can thus be easily read and understood. Indeed, for the first fifty pages one can read straightforward stuff without much effort although one notices a little subjectivity creeping into his criticism of STURP on p 29; this has become a British pastime but is nowhere near as damaging to international relations in Shroud circles as some of John Heller's remarks about the Italians in **REPORT ON THE SHROUD OF TURIN**. Amongst other things Hoare neatly disposes of the McCrone controversy and gives a concise summary of the arguments against the image having been painted. This summary style of the schoolmaster is a useful feature throughout the book.

From a little over a third of the way through the work one suddenly has to read very carefully as the author moves into the more serious and technical discussion of his own interesting research and experimentation on the thermographic cause of the image which leads him to a reiteration of the main argument put forward in his earlier book: that the man in the Shroud did not die on the cross, or at all in the context we know, but was in a coma, a condition not recognised by the ancients, although this proposal is at variance with most medical writers on grounds such as evidence of rigor mortis in the Shroud marks, absence of sufficient ante-mortem bleeding whilst in the cloth, etc.

Hoare produces additional experimental evidence to support his theory that the man of the cloth was supported on a sedile on the cross, as he did in his earlier work, and refers to this as a fact in many places in the book and uses the argument to further support for his coma theory. He also claims that the body lay in a depression in the tomb, and on sand, and that this was why the arms of the body stayed in the position portrayed on the Shroud.

The last third of the book is devoted to a comprehensive exploration

Book Review: A Piece of Cloth (contd)

of the gospel accounts to support the coma theory and Hoare then draws from both historical records and the Shroud evidence the speculation that Christ, until the period of post-crucifixion coma, during which his mission on earth may have been divinely confirmed, had no real expectation of crucifixion, death or resurrection and in an ingenious portrayal of Iscariot suggests that Christ, rather than being 'betrayed' by Judas at all, had done a deal with him in order to be handed over to the authorities in keeping with scriptural expectations.

Hoare concludes his important book with a renewed plea for carbon dating to verify the cloth's age and revives the myth that its guardians in Turin are refusing testing because they are afraid of finding out the truth. Hopefully, since this book was actually written, Rodney Hoare now knows (even if he reads it only in this issue of SHROUD NEWS) that the only real reason currently preventing immediate testing is the Italian attitude that the scientific world ought to stop bickering about who will do the tests and how, present a united and co-operative protocol for the tests and stop criticising each other (and the authorities) like sensitive and jealous schoolchildren, an exercise in which Hoare is himself marginally involved.

Whilst there is no reference nor any indication that Hoare has read or even heard of the work of several post 70s authors (even Ricci does not rate a mention) and whilst his excellent index is set in unreadably minute typeface (the second book I've reviewed in this issue with a similar comment -- it must be my eyes) and he perpetuates the incorrect spelling Secundo for Secondo Pia (as Dorothy Crispino will be quick to notice), this is nevertheless a thoroughly well-constructed and certainly intriguing contribution to the serious Shroud literature of our time in which the author has given very serious attention to the subject.

R.M.

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SHROUD NEWS readers are reminded that there are still some copies of Rex Morgan's first book on the Shroud PERPETUAL MIRACLE available \$3.50 plus \$1 p and p. Morgan's new book SHROUD GUIDE is now available at the published price of \$8 plus \$1.65 p and p. Orders from THE RUNCIMAN PRESS, Box 86, P.O., MANLY, NSW, 2095

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Rex Morgan is a frequent overseas traveller and has the opportunity to keep well abreast of latest developments in Shroud matters. He was present at the preview of the Shroud itself in August 1978 in Turin and has since met with numerous Shroud researchers in many countries. His quest for information about the Shroud has become, as he describes it, a "passionate hobby" and he has since written SHROUD GUIDE (December 1983) and is writing another major book on the subject.

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LECTURES

Rex Morgan is happy to lecture (free of charge) to any group interested in the Holy Shroud. Contact SYDNEY (02) 981 4633

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