

## A LETTER TO READERS

This issue begins the sixth year of *Shroud Spectrum International*. Five years, full circle, of efforts to bring accurate and authoritative information about the Holy Shroud, and of continuous groping to establish a correct and consistent style in the presentation of that information. On both counts, errors have been made. Nevertheless, each of these twenty-one issues, as it came off the press, was, for me, a miracle.

Many of you have been loyal readers since the Pilot issue of December, 1981. Many others, coming in subsequent years, have requested all the back issues, and this is wise because information about the Shroud is not confined to current news but covers twenty centuries, stems from sources in many countries.

I am grateful to all the authors who have contributed their studies, thereby raising *Spectrum* to international recognition in a variety of scholarly fields even outside sindonology.

In the course of correspondence with authors preparatory to publication—often a lengthy process of re-writing, checking facts, and not unseldom disagreements which had to be resolved—it became very clear to me that their patient cooperation reflected their deep responsibility to present to readers a valid contribution to sindonic studies, solidly grounded, logically developed and clearly expressed.

The most rewarding aspect of this work has been in the friendships it generated, in an expanding network of contacts between writers and readers, groups and individuals and, not least, the spiritual bonds by which so many, readers and authors alike, have strengthened me: all *in fraternitate Sindonis*.

The breadth of a new and intense awareness of the tremendous significance of the Holy Shroud was never so apparent to me as during this Christmas Season. Your cards, letters, flowers, phone calls, came in such abundance that a personal letter to each well-wisher is not promptly possible. I thank you all for your encouragement, your constancy and patience, your generous donations without which *Spectrum* could not survive. And I ask again for your prayers to support me through this sixth year, in anticipation of all that 1987 holds for the cause of the Shroud.

DOROTHY CRISPINO