

IN MEMORIAM

Giovanni Tamburelli
23 June 1923 — 22 January 1990

With new projects still in preparation, Prof. Tamburelli was called away from the work that had become for him a way of life. Born in Novara, he had lived since infancy in Turin and graduated from the Turin Polytechnic. Besides academic positions, he was Director of Research at CSELT (Centro Studi e Laboratori Telecomunicazioni) and member of the Board of Directors of the Centro Internazionale di Sindonologia. Among the many honors he received, one stands out as particularly significant: in 1979 he was named "Turinese of the Year" for his contributions to the study of the Shroud image.

His studies consist of a long series of 3-dimensional computer elaborations of the Shroud Face to achieve an ever sharper definition, to enhance details invisible on the bidimensional photos, to eliminate more and more "noise" from the background and from the wounds.

At the II International Congress held in Turin in 1978, he presented his paper entitled "New Developments in the Elaboration of the Sindonic Image", which he had prepared with the collaboration of Giovanni Garibotto. One of the illustrations accompanying this paper is on the cover of the first *Spectrum* (Dec. 1981); others were published in *Spectrum* #2, with his article, "Reading the Holy Shroud ... with the Aid of the Computer".

At the Bologna National Congress, 1981, Tamburelli presented his conclusion that the Shroud image could have been formed only by contact with a body. "A New Process..." was described at the Trani Congress in 1984; and at the 1987 Congress of Siracusa, with Nello Balossino, Tamburelli showed his "purified" Face as he explained "Further Developments in the Electronic Elaboration of the Face on the Shroud". The cover of *Spectrum* #15 introduced Tamburelli's article, "An Image Resurrection of the Man of the Shroud".

Concentrating on the relationship of iconography to the Shroud, a congress was held in Bologna in May 1989 (see *Spectrum* #31, p. 23) and the paper Tamburelli gave was the basis for his presentation to the Paris Symposium: "New 3-D Eidomatic Face of the Holy Shroud and New Eidomatic Correspondences with the Gospels and with Tradition".

To suppose that these successive versions of the sindonic Face were merely exercises in computer technology would be a grave injustice to the man (and his collaborators) who devoted more than a decade patiently to create them. Indeed, he defended this work in a letter to *Spectrum* (#18, March 1986), emphasizing "The Importance of 3-D Processing". Never with a tone of triumphalism but modestly he presented his case: mathematically the elaborations demonstrate beyond any doubt that not only did the Shroud cover a human body, tortured, dead and buried; but that body was Jesus Christ of the Gospels. In pursuit of ever more perfected images of the Holy Face, Giovanni Tamburelli's deeper goal was to approach the perfect mystery of God.