Pam Moon

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In 2008 Pam bought life-sized replicas of the Shroud of Turin from Barrie Schwortz and created an exhibition. She has taken the exhibition to many venues in the UK and Ireland, including Westminster Cathedral, Dublin Pro-Cathedral and the Ahmadiyya Muslim event, the Jalsa Salana. Pam learned about the Shroud from her mother Margaret and she loves the profound impact the image has on visitors. She has witnessed that people experience a visual gospel of Jesus Christ through the Shroud.

ABSTRACT

Three Treasures of Constantinople may bear witness to the Shroud: The Holy Blood of Bruges, the Madrid Skylitzes and the Limburg Staurotheke

Following the extensive research by a number of people, it is believed that the Shroud of Turin was once the Holy Mandylion and was brought to Constantinople in 944 AD by Emperor Romanos I Lekapenos. This paper examines three treasures that were sacked from Constantinople in 1204 AD to see if they bear witness to the Shroud. From Johannine texts I will argue that there is a missing cloth from the tomb. This ties in with medical evidence which suggests that Jesus' hands were bound together with a strip of linen. That linen strip could survive today as the Holy Blood of Bruges. I visited Bruges and saw that the relic is a bandage, soaked in red blood. It is housed in crystal, surrounded with the beautiful enamel work of Constantinople. The Holy Blood is associated historically with Joseph of Arimathea, and it has been venerated as the blood of Jesus for 800 years. It is not formally associated with the Shroud of Turin nor the Sudarium of Oviedo. The Madrid Skylitzes is the only illustrated manuscript from Constantinople to survive. The surviving example is a copy, illustrated in the Byzantine and Western style. Both the text and the images illustrate the Holy Mandylion and the letter of Jesus to Abgar V. There is one image which appears to be out of place, which may possibly explain the origins of the incense burns on the Shroud. The Limburg Staurotheke, a Byzantine reliquary, was created by Constantine VII, Romanos II and Basil II, who had possession of the Holy Mandylion after it arrived in Constantinople. We know from the Madrid Skylitzes that the Holy Mandylion was kept in a gold case. The Staurotheke illustrates the type of embellishment that may have been created for so sacred an object.