

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Shroud Spectrum International, issue no. 2

The second issue of this excellently produced journal has just been published. It features an excellent article: "Sindon in the Old French Chronicle of Robert de Clari", by Peter F. Dembowski, which discusses Robert de Clari's description of the sydoine he saw in Constantinople in 1203. There is also, by the journal's editor, Dorothy Crispino, an article: "The Report of the Poor Clare Nuns", which includes a full and fascinating translation of the Poor Clare nuns' account of their work repairing the Shroud after the fire of 1532.

Shroud Spectrum International is available on subscription from the Indiana Centre for Shroud Studies, R.3., Box 557, Nashville, Indiana 47448, USA, price 18 US dollars for four quarterly issues. Members wishing to contribute articles to this journal should contact Mrs Crispino at this address. There is, unfortunately, no financial saving by the Society obtaining bulk copies of the journal on members' behalf.

Biblical Archeologist

The Winter 1981 issue of the US journal *Biblical Archeologist* featured an excellent article by Dr Gilbert Lavoie and others: "Jesus, the Turin Shroud and Jewish Burial Customs". The article argues that the absence of washing of the body of the man of the Shroud may not have been due to haste, but as a result of a specific Jewish requirement in respect of one who had died a violent or bloody death. Lavoie quotes the 16th century Kitzur Shulchan Aruch (Code of Jewish Law):

"One who fell and died instantly, if his body was bruised and blood flowed from the wound, and if there is apprehension that the blood of the soul was absorbed in his clothes, he should not be cleansed, but they should inter him in his garments and boots, but above his garments they should wrap a sheet which is called sobeb."

Useful sources quoted by Lavoie are S. Ganzfried: *Code of Jewish Law* trans. H.E. Goldin (vol 4) New York, 1927, Hebrew Publishing Company; and M. Lamm: *The Jewish Way in Death and Mourning*, New York, Jonathan David, 1969.

Skeptical Inquirer

The Spring 1982 issue of the US Publication *Skeptical Inquirer* features a critical essay review "The Shroud of Turin, Science and the Public" by Steven D. Schafersman of the Department of Geology, Rice University, Houston, Texas. It uses the weaknesses of the recent US book *Verdict on the Shroud* by Kenneth E. Stevenson and Gary R. Habermas (Servant Books, 1981), as a platform upon which to lambast the whole subject - "a classic example of pseudoscience, equal in every way to scientific creationism, Veliskovskyism, dianetics and ancient astronauts". Reasonable in some places, Schafersman is breathtakingly over-simplistic in others.

Volckringer, Dr Jean: *Le probleme des empreintes*

In 1942 Dr Jean Volckringer, pharmacist at St Joseph's Hospital, Paris, published a paper on the relationship of the Turin Shroud's image to the phenomenon of images of plants

occurring on the pages of pressed plant collections. Dr Volckringer has recently republished this paper: "Le Saint-Suaire de Turin. Le probleme des empreintes devant la science," copies of which may be obtainable on enquiry to Dr Volckringer (in French) at 3 Rue Louis Rolland, 92120 Montrouge, France.

A Chemical Investigation of the Shroud of Turin

A summary of the contents of the important Canadian Forensic Science Society Journal paper "A Chemical Investigation of the Shroud of Turin" by Drs J.H. Heller and A.D. Adler appeared in the last *Newsletter*. In view of this paper's interest to members Bill Sinclair has arranged for a quantity of reprints which can be obtained from him at 23 Motcomb Street, London W1. Members should send a stamped addressed envelope not smaller than 6" x 8½", together with a cheque/PO for £1 per copy required, made payable to "G.W.C. Sinclair".

World Medicine

The April 17 issue of *World Medicine* (available in the UK) featured an article entitled "Death by Violence" by Dr Terry Hamblin, consultant haematologist at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Bournemouth.

Written under the name of "Lucas Morticio, State Pathologist to Judea", the article is a tongue-in-the-cheek mock-up of a "report of post-mortem examination of prisoner MCMLXVII known as Jeshua of Nazareth". However, Dr Hamblin has written a skilful account of the supposed pathological findings - which largely matches those described by the world-famous Professor James Cameron at a BSTS meeting some while ago.

To prove that the Society has a sense of humour, we have applied to both writer and journal for permission to reproduce the article for interested members.

Could it be that Dr Hamblin has been writing with a Shroud photograph by his side, we wonder ?