

SHROUD EXPOSITION

So far, there is still no definite news of the rumoured Shroud exposition mentioned in the last *Newsletter*. According to the latest communication from Father Rinaldi, the idea is still very much alive. Don Coero-Borga of the Turin Sindonological Centre has jokingly told Dorothy Crispino, editor of the US journal *Shroud Spectrum*: "Pack your luggage!" - but there does appear to be a legal complication hindering an early announcement. As reported in the last *Newsletter*, the Shroud was bequeathed to the Pope in the will of the late ex-king of Italy, Umberto of Savoy. While this should have been a straightforward enough bequest, according to some circles in Italy all Umberto's property passed to the Italian State when he was exiled, and this would have included the Shroud. According to this view, the Shroud was not Umberto's to bequeath, and technically belongs to the State, not to the Vatican. While Italian lawyers untangle this one, it looks as if it may be some while before there is definite news, but optimism remains high that there will be an exposition in 1984, probably consecutively in Rome and Turin next Spring.

NEW SHROUD TESTING

Very much dependent on the outcome of any decision on exposition is the concomitant opportunity for new scientific examination of the Shroud, this time hopefully including the removal of samples for radiocarbon dating purposes.

Exactly who might be allowed to participate in any new examination is very much an open question at the present time, but from a British perspective the overriding priority would seem to be that this time the work carried out should be truly authoritative and definitive. In anticipation of the new opportunity STURP have recently held a meeting in New London, Connecticut, at which it was agreed that their representation should be more international, and open to other disciplines including those of history and archaeology. Tom D'Muhala, the STURP coordinator, has recently been in England conveying this new outlook, and some radical proposals on behalf of the British Society will be submitted to the American group in time for its deadline of September 15. Any BSTS member wishing to contribute to these proposals should contact the Secretary.

STURP plans to meet again towards the end of October to consider proposals submitted, and it remains to be seen whether they will be prepared to broaden their horizons to accept co-partnership with laboratory staff from a major international museum or art gallery, which - at least, as envisaged at present - will be the broad thrust of the British proposals.