

SHROUD 'BLOODSTAINS'

As reported in the last *Newsletter*, Turin's Professor Baima Bollone has recently claimed not only that the Shroud's 'bloodstains' are actual blood, but also that he has been able to identify the blood group as AB. In the Shroud journal *Sindon*, Professor Bollone published colour photographs to substantiate his claims. Regrettably, although we wished to reproduce these for members to inspect in the *Newsletter*, the clarity would have been too poor for analysis. However, BSTS committee member Peter Freeland, Head of Science at Worth School, Sussex, has been making his own appraisal of the Bollone photographs, and reports:

"Usually, when blood is spilt on cloth the red cells appear as pale red, biconcave discs, generally separated from one another. Addition of the appropriate antibody leads to clumping. Bollone's photographs are difficult to interpret, in that red cells appear to be absent in two of the views shown; the magnification in others is too low to allow identification of the particulate objects, and the regular appearance of the disc-like objects in others strongly suggests that they are red blood corpuscles, but again the magnification is too low to be certain on this point.

"I would have expected Bollone to use fluorescent markers to indicate areas of antigen-antibody reaction on the surface of the blood cells.

"Once again, then, we have a set of results that are open to a variety of interpretations. The photographs may indeed show agglutination of red blood corpuscles. Alternatively, they may show the same particulate matter photographed by McCrone, selected from an area where the particles are regular in shape, and photographed at a magnification where their true identity is obscured".