

CORRESPONDENCE:

From James Shiel, 'Evelyn', 26, South Way, Lewes, Sussex BN7 1LY

It seems to me somewhat surprising that in a periodical representing British interest in the Turin Shroud no description has yet been given to the work of Professor Averil Cameron of King's College, London, who devoted her inaugural lecture to the Shroud. Her present views would be of great interest.

[*Ed:* James Shiel's point is well taken. Old-established BSTS members will recall that Professor Cameron was invited to lecture to this Society in 1980, shortly after her Inaugural Lecture at King's College, but we have certainly been remiss in the reporting of her subsequent comments vis-a-vis the Shroud. Noel Curren-Briggs has kindly informed me that Professor Cameron has repeated her views in a paper entitled 'The History of the Image of Edessa; the telling of a story', published in *Harvard University Ukrainian Studies*, vol. III, 1983. In her introductory paragraph in this paper, Professor Cameron wrote:

'It very soon becomes clear... that the Mandylion of Edessa, the miraculous portrait of Christ on a cloth known and loved by generations of Slavs through countless copies in Slavic churches and venerated by Russian soldiers as recently as during the First World War, cannot be traced back either as a miraculous image or as an impression on cloth, as distinct from a painted picture, beyond the sixth century. '

Commenting on this, Noel Curren-Briggs writes:

'Whether Professor Cameron is correct or not, it seems an incontrovertible historical fact that such an apparently miraculous cloth existed long before 1260. If a cloth the size of the Mandylion or the Veronica could be created to seem miraculous in the sixth century, surely we must assume that the technique used then could be used to create a full-length frontal and dorsal image on cloth too. If the present dating is accurate, then we have to assume that an earlier 'miraculous' cloth existed; that it was destroyed some time in the thirteenth century; and that a new one was fabricated to replace it either by the Templars, the de Charny or the de la Roche,... [etc] using the same technique as was used in the sixth century...'

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday 9 October, Nicholas Pomeroy, 'The Turin Shroud', The Afternoon Club, the Village Hall, Mersham (nr. Ashford) Kent, 2.15pm.

Wednesday 17 October, Sheila Landi, 'The Ethics of the Conservation of Textiles and its Application to the Turin Shroud', Illustrated lecture to the BSTS, at the London Health Care Information Centre, 2nd. Floor, Aviation House, 129 Kingsway, London WC2. 7pm.

Saturday & Sunday June 22, 23 1991, Shroud Symposium, Institute for Theological Encounter of Science & Technology, St. Louis, Missouri. Further details from Br. Joe Marino, OSB, St. Louis Abbey, 500 S. Mason Rd., St. Louis, Missouri 63141, USA.