

## EDITORIAL

Many apologies to all members for the late publication of this Newsletter. This is the fault of your Editor, due partly to a backlog of work in the aftermath of a recent bereavement, and partly because of uncertainty that has surrounded the holding of the much-postponed New York Symposium on the Shroud. With regard to this latter, the most recent cause of concern has been the Gulf War. However, the Symposium's organisers have decided that the event should go ahead, and as agreed at the most recent meeting of the Steering Committee, it will do so with the full backing and co-sponsorship of the BSTS. The formal notice of the Symposium therefore follows.

### SHROUD SYMPOSIUM FOR NEW YORK...

Sponsored by the American Shroud of Turin Association and the BSTS, the Symposium is to be held at New York's Columbia University, in the Katherine Bache Miller Theatre, the weekend of March 2 and 3 of this year. Its working title is 'The Shroud of Turin: The Current State of the Question', and its key themes will be how best to resolve the questions still posed by the Shroud in the wake of the carbon dating. These include: Is the image by the hand of an artist? Is it the imprint of someone genuinely crucified? Is the carbon dating result as 'conclusive' as has been claimed? What are the best procedures to protect the Shroud during any future examination, and for future storage and/or display?

The Symposium will include some distinguished and challenging speakers who will both present papers and participate in panel discussions. Professor Douglas Donahue, a Catholic who worked on the Shroud sample submitted to the University of Arizona's C14 laboratory, will speak on the carbon dating issue, along with the University of Glasgow's Dr. Marian Scott, who worked on the East Kilbride intercomparison experiment which showed up some serious flaws in C14 laboratories' estimates of their accuracy. Harvard University particle physicist Dr. Thomas Phillips will also contribute on this theme.

Charles Liddell, Head of Mediaeval Studies at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art will discuss the extent to which the Shroud can or can not be considered a work of a mediaeval artist, while noted Los Angeles artist Isabel Piczek, who has worked on huge murals and frescoes, including for the Vatican, will speak from her own practical experience of the near-impossibility of understanding the Shroud as the work of an artist [see feature that follows].

Dr. Walter McCrone will put forward suggestions for the checking of his findings that the Shroud's image consists of artists' pigments. Dr. Lawrence Majewski, Director of the New York University Institute of Fine Arts Conservation Centre will consider similar. From the pathology angle New York medical examiner Dr. Fred Zugibe and physician Dr. Joseph Gambescia will suggest means for verification that the Shroud's image derived from a genuinely crucified dead body.

The Victoria & Albert Museum's Sheila Landi, familiar to the BSTS from her recent most authoritative talk, will put forward specific ideas for how best the Shroud may be protected during any new examination, and be conserved in the future. Dr. Daniel Scavone, Professor of History at the University of Indiana will speak on new insights into the Shroud's history. Dr. Alan Whanger will demonstrate his polarized overlay technique, while Ian Wilson will argue for how further insights may be gained from the Veronica

cloth of Rome, and certain related 'holy faces', being studied in parallel with the Shroud if and when any new examination takes place.

One of the key moderators will be Paul Maloney of ASSIST, who has done much to bring the Symposium into being, along with its financial backer, Charles Parlato, and Federal Judge Alexander Denson of Raleigh, North Carolina. It is intended that in the wake of the Symposium its Proceedings will be submitted to both the Turin and the Vatican ecclesiastical authorities.

In view of the imminence of the Symposium, all those wanting to attend are urged to telephone the New York organisers, Charles & Carolyn Parlato on (914) 833 3000 or 834 3515 for up-to-the-minute information on booking and accommodation arrangements.