

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Pier Luigi Baima Bollone, *Shroud o No*, Societa Editrice Internazionale, Torino, 331 pages with line drawings & black & white illustrations, 16 colour plates, L.35,000

Professor Baima Bollone is professor of Forensic Medicine at the University of Turin and Director of the Centro Internazionale di Sindonologia. Arguing against the accuracy of the carbon dating findings he puts forward a variety of evidence indicating that the Shroud dates from the first century AD, inclusive of the actual remains of a first century crucifixion victim, a graffito of a Roman crucifixion, the Filas 'coins over the eyes' hypothesis, and the cloth of Oviedo (of which he provides an excellent colour photograph). Professor Bollone appears to be in favour of the hypothesis that the Shroud was one and the same as the Mandylion of Edessa, and mentions the important manuscript of the referendarius Gregory, as brought to light by Professor Gino Zaninotto of Rome; also the intriguing illustration of the Mandylion in the Skylitzes manuscript.

Archaeological Textiles, Occasional Papers, no. 10, United Kingdom Institute for Conservation of Historical and Artistic Works, 1990, A4 size booklet, 62 pages, many illustrations. £10 + 50p p & p.

This booklet, edited by Sonia O'Connor of the York Archaeological Trust Conservation Laboratories, and Mary Brooks of the York Castle Museum Textile Conservation Laboratory, is an absolute must for all interested in the Shroud. Based on the proceedings of a conference 'Textiles for the Archaeological Conservator' held at York in April 1988, it includes the important article by Jean Glover reported earlier in this Newsletter.

Other articles include 'An introduction to archaeological textile studies' by Manchester University archaeologist Dr. John P. Wild; a fascinatingly illustrated microanalytical study of 'Fibre damage in archaeological textiles' by Dr. Bill Cooke of Manchester University's department of textiles; a report by Bradford archaeologist Robert Janaway on textiles recovered during the clearing of burial vaults at Spitalfields, London; accounts of the conservation of various Egyptian mummy linens; and a description of the method of mounting and storing an archaeological textile excavated from the wreck of the Spanish Armada vessel *Trinidad Velencera*. Copies can be obtained by sending a cheque or P.O. for £10.50 (inclusive of postage) to the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC), 37 Upper Addison Gardens, London W14 8AJ. Overseas members should add approx. another £1 to cover extra postage costs.

SHROUD SPECTRUM INTERNATIONAL, publication of the Indiana Center for Shroud Studies, R. 3, NBox 557, Nashville, Indiana 47448 USA, issue no. 35/36

By far the most important feature of this issue is an article by STURP physicist Larry Schwalbe 'Scientific Issues and Shroud Research in the 1990s' which effectively summarises STURP's proposals for new work on the Shroud as submitted to Archbishop Saldarini of Turin last autumn. It essentially comprises generalities, rather than specifics, of the work still needed to be conducted on the Shroud, with concerns for conservation high on the agenda.

The issue also contains in its review section a critique of the catalogue of the British Museum 'Fake?' exhibition, written by editor Dorothy Crispino. Likening the inclusion of the Shroud transparency in this exhibition to the 'Mockery of Christ in Pilate's praetorium', this savages the British Museum, and severely censures the BSTS for its part in helping arrange the transparency for the exhibition. Since Mrs. Crispino did not view the exhibition herself, her attention is respectfully drawn to the following notice displayed in close proximity to the Shroud transparency:

Limits of Expertise:

The judgments behind the labels in this exhibition, though expert, are not infallible; objects confidently described as fake by one generation have, in the past, been shown to be genuine by the next. Scientific and cultural expertise has its limits. Objects which seem unfamiliar or bizarre, which fail to fall within an existing pattern, will tend to be dismissed. Occasionally, however, subsequent discoveries will provide the missing context and show that what was once considered fake was both genuine and important.

Members (and others) are reminded that the BSTS has no collective view on the Shroud. The Society can therefore only uphold the right of anyone to declare that the Shroud has been dated to the fourteenth century. It can also not reasonably refuse a photograph to support this viewpoint.