

## MATTERS ARISING

We are sad to announce the death on January 24th, from inoperable cancer, of BSTS Member John Auton who for many years looked after the Society's collection of slides. John had a particular fondness for the Church of All Saints, St. Margaret's Street where his widow, Christine, looks after the shop. She writes to us, "At 77 he had had a marvellous career and almost as busy a retirement, busy almost to the end, so I have much to give praise for and very little to grumble about". We are sure all Members join with us in sending her our condolences.

One or two of our readers have been misled by the words 'New Format' appearing under the number of the issue on the front page. They have taken it to mean that my format for Newsletter 33 was a new departure and that it would henceforward be like that. In fact it was in the A4 form only because this simplified the task for which I had the barest notice. Those same words have appeared on the front since Ian Wilson himself made the pocket format as an improvement on the predecessors. Issue number one of this came out in June 1982. Previously it had been A4 size and quite amateurish, so it seemed appropriate to start at one again. I have been unable to find the highest number reached before but it must have been around twelve. If Members prefer A4 to A5 they should let us know at the AGM, or write to us beforehand.

It is possible, though, that those who liked 33 did so because of the clearer printing than usual, but this was because I had changed my word processor and new brooms sweep clean. Ian Wilson is well aware of this and is in fact contemplating a new machine himself. With easily readable print in a pocket-size edition Members will then have the best of both worlds, nearer to the really professional (but subsidised) job that good Rex Morgan produces in Australia.

The post of Secretary does not in itself attract Rex's publication, more's the pity, but we do get one or two things in foreign languages, at which I am a complete dunce. There is a monthly letter in French from CIELT which is lost on me because there is no English edition. But it is possible to squeeze an advantage out of anything. In the 'Janvier' 1993 one Father Dubarle has evidently something to say about Durer's rendering of the image and the poker marks thereon. I can just about make out enough to know that what he is saying is something other than what I have just noticed: the poker mark groupings show that when they were inflicted the Shroud must have been folded somewhat carelessly so that the body levels of back and front didn't correspond. So on the front image they are at hip level but on the rear just below the bulges of the glutei. This is not of great significance but interesting all the same.

Sharp-eyed Members will have noticed that we persist in calling our Committee the Steering Committee. The *Concise Oxford Dictionary* says that is one which decides in what order items of business are to be dealt with. More practically it is surely the inner circle of Office Holders who can transact business without calling the full Committee together, but who look to the full Committee to ratify its decisions. This was how we saw it on the Parochial Church Council where the Steering consisted of Vicar, as Chairman, together with Secretary, Treasurer, and Churchwardens. Perhaps it would be useful to use it this way in the BSTS.

The next meeting of the Society is on Wednesday April 28th at St John's Church Hall, Hyde Park Crescent, London W2, and will be a Members Only evening. This does not mean guests are

unwelcome but only that all must be vouched for by a card holding Member (the card still being in force, of course).

I would like to apologise to any reader to whom I owe letters or communications. I try to keep up to date with Membership and subscriptions but sometimes things fall behind and even get lost so that I must depend on natural impatience to remind me where I am deficient. If you are too polite over these things you do not help me at all, though I do understand your restraint. It is even worse for me right now because I do have other duties. But the need to get this Newsletter out well before the meeting means it has had to have the highest priority. It therefore has cut a swath, nay a Grand Canyon, through all my other enterprises. Please don't tell me that the view isn't worth it!