

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

From Turin

Cardinal Saldarini Announces New Exposition of the Shroud in 1998 - to be followed by another in the year 2000 ...

The Shroud is to be publicly re-exhibited, for the first time since 1978, in April/May 1998, This is to be followed by a further exhibition in the year 2000. This news was officially announced by Cardinal Giovanni Saldarini, archbishop of Turin, in an Italian Television broadcast on 5 September.

According to notes from the broadcast, as kindly relayed (via Los Angeles!) by **Isabel Piczek**, Cardinal Saldarini made clear that he did not speak for himself, but for the Shroud's legal owner, **Pope John Paul II**, and for the Vatican, who had entrusted him, as the cloth's custodian, with conveying their intentions. The 1998 exposition is to be held from April 18 to May 31, and will celebrate three anniversaries: the centenary of Pia's discovery of the Shroud's hidden negative; the hundred and sixtieth anniversary of the 'Conciliazione'; and the four hundredth anniversary of the building of Turin Cathedral's Guarini Chapel, in which the Shroud has traditionally been housed. The celebration will involve the Turin archbishopric; the Turin Centro Internazionale di Sindonologia, and the city of Turin, and is to include a great Congress on the Shroud, the dates of which have yet to be set. Cardinal Saldarini said that he welcomed suggestions for papers, and from these speakers would be selected and invited to attend. Special emphasis will be given to the Shroud's conservation and preservation, and recommendations for how best to protect and preserve the cloth during the times of exhibition will be particularly welcomed. Pope John Paul II has expressed his intention to attend the Congress. The exposition in the year 2000 will be held from April 29 to June 11, and will form part of the celebrations for the two thousandth anniversary of the birth of Christ to be held in that year.

Still speaking for Pope John Paul II and the Vatican, Cardinal Saldarini said that it needed to be clearly understood that the image on the Shroud is that of Christ, and of no-one else. The Shroud is therefore to be regarded primarily as of religious rather than scientific significance, in consequence of which no testing or cutting of it is to be allowed either in 1998 or in 2000. Proposals for any fresh testing will only be considered after the year 2000. This does not rule out continuing work on sticky tape or other samples taken from the Shroud in 1978, since that was officially allowed at that time. But testing or other scientific experimentation is expressly forbidden on materials taken either in 1988, or at any other time except 1978.

The Cardinal pointed out that it was known, for instance, that a fourth portion that was among the samples taken in 1988 [this refers to the unused part of the segment cut off at that time, rumours surrounding which have been mentioned in earlier Newsletters - Ed.] was never returned to him, and that there are various other fragments and threads in private hands. Since these are mostly being held quite illegally, they should be returned immediately. He warned those who ignored this and continued to work on such materials that any results they claimed would not be recognized by the Vatican, and that measures would be taken to stop their work, and to exclude them from any future research opportunities. The Vatican had already asked the cooperation of the international press in declining to publish claims about the Shroud based on

such unauthorised samples or research. Claims regarding DNA were particularly to be disregarded, as was the promulgation of silly notions such as that Leonardo da Vinci created the Shroud or that Jesus did not die on the Cross. Instead, full encouragement would be given to any properly authorised research.

The Cardinal's statement seems mostly to have been ignored by the English-language press, yet its real bombshell, besides confirming expectations that there would be an exposition on the obvious anniversary date in 1998, is the seeming unequivocal papal endorsement of the Shroud's authenticity. This would be remarkable in any century, for traditionally, and despite popular ideas to the contrary, the Church has been very careful not to show too clear support for any of the more out-of-the-way varieties of religious phenomena, whether relics, weeping statues, or the stigmata of a Padre Pio. Previously no Pope has given a totally explicit seal of approval to the Shroud's authenticity. Yet albeit via Cardinal Saldarini, Pope John Paul II seems to have done exactly that - and less than seven years after the carbon dating - although the exact wording used in the Cardinal's statement, not available at the time this Newsletter goes to press, will inevitably need to be closely studied.

Had the English language press noticed the Cardinal's statement, there might well have been comments that the Pope in his old age has chosen to fly in the face of all scientific reason. However, for those of us still sympathetic to the case for the Shroud's authenticity the two and a half year period before the exposition provides the most ideal opportunity for reviewing the sounder of arguments both for and against authenticity in a fresh, clear-sighted and positive way. The concentration of minds can be all the better with the opportunity for access to any new Shroud samples (of which too many have already been taken too indiscriminately), so firmly denied to all.

Accordingly, with this clear lead from both the Vatican and from Cardinal Saldarini, there has never been a better time for members of the various national Shroud organizations and for the more serious and fair-minded among the Shroud's critics to cooperate together to make the 1998 Congress, not just the showpiece of any one national group, but a genuine international forum for all shades of opinion, from which hopefully greater truth, rather than yet more confusion, may emerge. The French group CIELT set an excellent example when they invited Professors Tite and Hall and other carbon dating scientists to speak at their Paris Symposium. Hopefully there will be something of the same wisdom in the choice of speakers for 1998.

Of optimum importance, therefore, will be the quality of the papers - to include, of course, ones addressing the key issue of the Shroud's conservation - to be presented at the Congress, for upon these will the outside world judge whether the Shroud has any serious interest or relevance for the twenty-first century. For the explanation of how the carbon dating may be wrong - if it is wrong - should we be looking to the argument advanced by Dr. Kouznetsov? Or that of Dr. Garza-Valdes? Or of Dr. Kitty Little? For the explanation of how the carbon dating may be right - if it is right - should we be looking to the argument advanced by Dr. Walter McCrone? Or Professor Randall Bresee and Emily Craig? Or Professor Nicholas Allen? For those supportive of the Shroud's authenticity it is of the utmost importance that weak or spurious arguments on both sides should be recognized as such just as soon as possible, and all effort transferred to those that can genuinely stand up to serious scrutiny. As will be seen, the next lecture to the BSTS will be devoted to precisely this aim...

NEXT BSTS LECTURE
Wednesday, 25 October 1995

Professor Paul Nicholls 'A Chemist Looks at the Hypotheses of Dr. Garza-Valdes and Dr. Dmitri Kouznetsov'

A Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry, and a long-standing member of the BSTS, Professor Paul Nicholls, of the Welsh School of Pharmacy (part of the University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology), has been a regular lecturer on the Shroud since 1988, most often to audiences of pharmacists. As noted above, Professor Nicholls' choice of subject could not be more topical, or more needed, at the present time. Professor Nicholls' talk will immediately follow the Society's AGM.

Time: 7pm Venue: The Board Room of the Society of Authors, 84 Drayton Gardens, London, SW10.

As usual, members intending to attend are requested to return the slip included with all U.K. copies of this Newsletter.

Stop Press: from the U.K.
The Shroud Featured on BBC News

As this Newsletter was going to press the arguments of Professor Nicholas Allen of East London, South Africa for the Shroud being 'the first photograph ever' were featured on BBC News, Friday 8 September. According to Professor Allen, all the necessary knowledge - of light-sensitive chemicals, lenses, etc - to create the Shroud as a photograph existed seven hundred years ago. The puzzle is: if they really were so clever at that time (and my goodness they seem to have been using a fourteen foot negative!), why did it take Eastman Kodak so long to get their act together?

From Russia
Dr. John Jackson and his Wife talk on the Shroud in Russia ...

According to information received since the last Newsletter, **Dr. John Jackson**, who headed the STURP team which conducted the major scientific examination of the Shroud in 1978, visited Russia with his Jewish-born wife Rebecca for ten days last February. In the course of the trip the Jacksons met up with representatives of the Catholic, Orthodox and Jewish faiths, also with scientific and university personnel, at one meeting alone showing Shroud slides to a hundred scientists and four priests. The Jackson's itinerary included a three hour trip southwest from Moscow to Obninsk City, a 'closed city' similar to Los Alamos, New Mexico, and housing Russia's first nuclear reactor. There they spoke at the Russian Academy of Sciences Nuclear Research Centre, which has replaced the Marx-Lenin University founded to promote atheistic communism. According to John Jackson 'We received an incredible response ... The scientists asked many questions on radiation. They seemed to gravitate to the idea that the image on the Shroud was formed by some sort of radiation, which I think as well.'

At Moscow's Vatican Embassy the Jacksons met with **Msgr. Ivan Jurkovic**, a native of Slovenia who has been a legal advisor at the Embassy for some three years. Jurkovic reportedly commented: 'I have a keen interest in the Shroud.... There is no problem in the joining of science and faith together.' The Jacksons also visited an Orthodox monastery founded in 1340 in Zagorsk, northeast of Moscow. Although this was a museum under communism, today it is a theological college with a thousand students. Jackson told the monastery's pro-rector, **Bishop Alexander Sokolov** 'We think the Shroud was in the possession of the Eastern Church a thousand years before it fell into the hands of the Western Church.' The bishop, one of a famous Russian family of eight brothers, five of whom are bishops and the other three priests, said 'There is the idea in the Eastern Orthodox tradition of the icon 'not made by the hand of man'. One of the bishop's brothers, Father Nikolai Sokolov, later showed the Jacksons icons from the eleventh to the seventeenth century that bore a striking resemblance to the face on the Shroud.

Father Sokolov is prior of the Moscow gallery that houses the icons. The Jacksons also spoke at St. Tikhom Orthodox Theological Institute in Moscow, founded three years ago, and the first ever theology school in Russia to enrol both clergy and lay men and women. Six hundred and fifty students enrolled in its first year. Dr. John Jackson has commented about his trip: 'The social face was different at all the talks in Russia, but the interest was very much the same We are at the window of opportunity in Russia. This is the moment of change. We have come to believe that because the Shroud is very much a tradition of the Eastern Church, although now owned by the Western Church, one could build a way of communion and communication between East and West with the Shroud.'

[This report is closely based on a Catholic News Service release issued 10 March 1995. I am most grateful to Fr. Joseph Marino of St. Louis Abbey, Missouri, for bringing this to my attention - Ed.]

From Port Chester, New York
News of Fr. Peter Rinaldi's Memorial

Fr. James McKenna, SDB, Fr. Peter Rinaldi's successor as pastor at Corpus Christi Church, Port Chester, has written to let us know the state of progress regarding the intended memorial to Father Rinaldi. As Fr. Rinaldi would undoubtedly have wanted, this is something entirely practical, a School Annex, which will be called the Father Peter M. Rinaldi Education Center. This will house much needed classrooms (the School has twice outgrown its accommodation facilities), and a library, an area of which will be set aside to house Fr. Rinaldi's desk, mementos, books and writings, these latter principally, though by no means exclusively, on the Shroud. Father McKenna writes:

We at Corpus Christi feel a close connection with the Holy Shroud through Father Rinaldi, who was Vice-President of the Guild. He tirelessly promoted interest in the relic throughout his life. He constructed a Chapel to the Holy Shroud, which contains one of the few life-size photographic duplications of the Shroud in the world. To this day it attracts visitors to Corpus Christi Church. As a member of the Holy Shroud Guild I know that you are interested in our undertaking and your support will be greatly appreciated. It will help in our effort to honour the

memory of the towering figure and great champion of the Holy Shroud, our own Father Peter Rinaldi.

Anyone wishing to make a donation to this project is invited to do so by sending this direct to: Corpus Christi Parish, Fr. Rinaldi Building Campaign, 136 South Regent Street, Port Chester, NY 10573, USA

From the U.S.A.

Dr. Kouznetsov's Claims attacked in leading U. S. Scientific Journal

There are increasing signs that **Dr. Dmitri Kouznetsov's** explanation for how the Shroud radiocarbon date was 'rejuvenated' needs to be considered with considerable caution. In vol 77 (1994) of the *International Journal of Neuroscience* there was reportedly an article by Dr. Dan Larhammar criticising work of Kouznetsov's published back in 1989. A copy of this has yet to be seen, but rather more seriously a recent article by Kouznetsov and colleagues Ivanov and Veletsky for the *Journal of Archaeological Science* was heavily criticised in the same issue by **Professor Paul Damon** and his colleagues Doug Donahue and A.J.T. Jull of the University of Arizona's Accelerator Mass Spectrometer Facility (i.e. radiocarbon dating laboratory), at Tucson, Arizona. In their response, Damon et al. address directly Kouznetsov's claim, as recently aired in *Inside the Vatican* (see Newsletter no 40, p.12), that he was able to alter by fourteen centuries the radiocarbon age of a piece of first century textile from En Gedi, Israel, apparently by heating this to 200 degrees centigrade and replicating something of the circumstances of the 1532 fire. Although much of the argument is highly technical, quite clear is that Professor Damon and his colleagues tried without success to reproduce the effect that Kouznetsov claimed. They argue that Kouznetsov and his colleagues 'have not had appropriate control experiments performed', and that they carried out their measurements 'on an apparently untested piece of equipment with no reference to normal procedures of reproducibility, standards, control and blank samples.' They go on: 'We have shown that even if the carbon displacements proposed during the heat treatment were correct, no significant change in the measured radiocarbon age of the linen would occur. We must conclude that the attack by Kouznetsov and his co-workers on measurements of the radiocarbon age of the Shroud of Turin and on radiocarbon measurements on linen textiles in general are unsubstantiated and incorrect. We further conclude that other aspects of the experiment are unverifiable and irreproducible.' Dr. Kouznetsov may have a satisfactory reply to these charges, but at present his work looks seriously under question.

From France

A Shroud Symposium in Nice for 1997?

Following a delegation (including **Dorothy Crispino** and **Ian Dickinson**), that attended a memorable celebration of the Feast of the Holy Shroud at Nice on 11 May this year, CIELT (Centre International d'Etudes sur le Linceul de Turin), the French equivalent of the British Society for the Turin Shroud, are considering holding the next Symposium on the Shroud in Nice in May 1997. As noted by the CIELT President, **Daniel Raffard de Brienne**, in a recent letter to your Editor, May 1997 happens to be the 460th anniversary of the arrival of the Shroud in Nice for a temporary sojourn between 1537 and 1539. The month of May is a time when the whole

Cote d'Azur is at its best, and the meeting would probably be held in Nice's very beautiful Palais des Congrès. Among Nice's historical associations with the Shroud are a 'Confrérie des Penitents Rouges du Saint Suaire' (Confraternity of Red Penitents of the Holy Shroud), and an old chapel dedicated to the Shroud. The proposed activities would include a civic reception, a banquet and a solemn Mass of the Holy Shroud, this latter to be held in the Cathedral. In towns and villages around Nice there are several little known old painted tableaux associated with the Shroud, to which excursions would be made. All in all, it sounds a most attractive venture, and would of course act as a useful curtain-raiser to the Turin Congress to be held the following year...