

News from Italy

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Studies

There are no highly publicised research projects on the Shroud at present; but in many fields silent research is going on, mostly documentary research, as direct access to the Shroud is not possible. Doctor Mechthild Flury-Lemberg has finished her study on the possibility of the presence of an invisible darn on the Shroud cloth, in particular in the area where the sample for the C14 test was taken, which confirms that this hypothesis is unacceptable. Research has also been carried out to check the possibility as to whether the Manoppello cloth may have been in contact with the Shroud on the occasion of the burial and resurrection of Jesus. Also in this case the reply was negative.

Looking for the Faces of Hope

In the history of the last century Azione Cattolica (Catholic Action) was one of the organizations which was most involved in devotion to the Shroud, also because Pope Pius XI gave a copy of a photograph (by Enrie) of the Shroud face to all the young people to whom he granted an audience. A group of AC adults from Verona (with three very patient children) came to Turin at the end of August on a three-day visit "seeking the faces of hope". They visited the places "of holiness and charity" in the town and devoted the last half day to the face of hope par excellence. They were welcomed by the Confraternity of the Holy Shroud with an introductory meditation on the Shroud, then they had a look at the travelling exhibition and had a quiet guided tour of the Shroud Chapel in the Cathedral, where the group paused in prayer ... seeking the Face.