

EDITORIAL SHROUD 2010

The dates for seeing the Shroud in Turin 2010 have been confirmed – 10 April to 15 May. Following the suggestions of various members, the BSTS will organise a trip from the UK to Turin to see the Shroud (if enough people are interested) and other sights in the city of Turin, which has plenty more to do and see; the Shroud museum, the Egyptian Museum etc. I will join in the group, but travelling from Spain. In order to see if the trip is feasible we would need to know how many members would be interested in taking part in an organised trip from the UK (not limited to members). If you would like to see the Shroud next year, please let either Reggie Norton or myself know – our e-mails and phone numbers are in the grey box opposite. This might well be the last chance for many of us to see the Shroud, and it is an experience well worth living.

This summer edition of the newsletter is packed with interesting articles and features. One of the most significant articles ever published in the BSTS concerns two recently uncovered Shroud copies in the village of Noalejo, Spain. They are very high-quality copies dating from 1527 and show some fascinating details that just five years later would be lost forever in the fire in Chambery. Many thanks to my Spanish colleagues for sharing this article.

Also included is the second half of Lennox Manton's article on Vignon Mark 15 on images of Christ, with all the photographs. The other article concerns possibilities for the image forming mechanism and was written by BSTS member Dr. Allan Mills. Finally, some words about Mike Minor, who died just before Christmas 2008, and another of Ian Wilson's superb History Notes series. The rest of this year and 2010 promise to be exciting times for the Shroud, and the BSTS is proud to be part of the happenings.

Finally, Time magazine mentioned the Shroud as a medieval relic, and our treasurer wrote to them to point out that this just might not be so. In Reggie's own words:

In the section "Books" in TIME magazine of the 24th November, 2008 (page 54) under the heading "Is this 1st century stone ossuary proof that Jesus existed and had a brother? Or is this just another clever fake?" the book by Nina Burleigh "Unholy Business: A True Tale of Faith, Greed and Forgery in the Holy Land" is reviewed. At the bottom of the page there was a small section entitled "Fact or Fiction" and a sentence on each of the following: The True Cross, Jesus' Tomb, the Antioch Chalice and the Shroud of Turin. The Shroud section reads: "The linen cloth, found in 1354, was believed to be Jesus' burial garment. But in 1988, carbon dating showed that the cloth was made in the 13th or 14th century".

I thought this required a reply so emailed the following letter to TIME: "The Shroud of Turin (Books Nov. 24) carbon dating in 1988 was not carried out according to the protocol agreed by scientists. The results are therefore not trustworthy. The fact is that we still don't know how the image on the Shroud was created. What we know is that the figure on the Shroud is that of a man who was crucified and the details of that crucifixion correspond to accounts of Christ's crucifixion in the Gospels. Reggie Norton, Honorary Treasurer, The British Society for the Turin Shroud".

Much to my surprise my letter was published in TIME on December 15, 2008 but they omitted the first two sentences.