

determine if the Shroud is contemporaneous with the Crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ, when that crucifixion is placarded on it in front of our very eyes, is surely bizarre beyond belief. Next year's Turin's millions won't suffer from such a Nervous Nellie syndrome.

### THE *SPUTNIK* OF THE SHROUD

On 13 July 1983 stalled from the far Australia a letter to me. It began: "Dear Professor Marinelli, I apologize for not having replied to your letter dated 28th January 1983 but I was abroad when it arrived. I have much pleasure in enclosing a copy of 'Perpetual Miracle' and also a full set of back issues of '*Shroud News*' up to the current No. 18". The letter ended: "Next time I am in Rome I hope we may be able to meet and discuss matters of common interest concerning the Holy Shroud. With all good wishes, Yours sincerely Rex Morgan MBE". This MBE for me was the abbreviation of a religious order, so I thought that Rex Morgan was a priest ... At that time, I could not imagine that my letter started a beautiful friendship with the *sputnik* of the Shroud, the only man in the world who visited (and many times!) all the Shroud Centres, Exhibitions, Associations and single scholars in existence all over the world.

The beginning for me was at the pages 114-115 of *Sindon* No. 31, December 1982. Sixteen lines signed Cesare Visconti presented *Shroud News* and immediately I decided to write to Rex Morgan. My English was (and still is) very poor, Australia was so far and nobody could imagine the coming of the fax age. My Shroudie friends made a fool of me, predicting no answer. "Never you will meet him, for what start a correspondence?", they said. "For the Shroud; to meet is not necessary", I answered.

The months of silence made me near to believe to my friends. But Morgan was a *sputnik*, and a *sputnik* answer when he can. In July the surprise; I was very proud waving the letter under the nose of my friends...

Fourteen year passed. Many letters, many faxes, many meetings, many pictures together (punctually published on *Shroud News*)... it's impossible to describe the cooperation between Rex and me.

I would like only to say what, in my opinion, is the difference between *Shroud News* and all the other magazines on the Shroud: *Shroud News* is lively. All the pictures, the comments, the description are lively, and one can imagine to be present at the events. All is transmitted by a lively *sputnik*. And really my hope is to write another page like this for the issue 200!!!

Happy birthday, *Shroud News*! And many, many thanks to his *sputnik* Rex!

Emanuela Marinelli