

NEWS & ACTIVITIES AROUND THE WORLD

On 5 December 1987, about thirty persons, mostly scientists and technicians, attended a workshop held in the auditorium of the Brazilian National Institute for Space Research (INPE) to hear four invited speakers and to discuss possible activities that could be carried out in Brazil.

This was the first scientific/technical meeting, although several informative presentations and discussions had been organized by the Brazilian Association of Sindonology (ABS), founded by and still chaired by, Otello and Elda Coltro.

Since its foundation in 1969, ABS has a record of outstanding achievements and Mrs. Coltro has made personal contacts with Shroud scientists and authorities worldwide. During the 1978 exposition, Dr. Otello Coltro, a photography engineer, with the support of AGFA in Germany, obtained an incredible life-size photocopy of the Shroud. This was exhibited during the Mass that complemented the INPE workshop.

The four speakers on the program were: Mrs. Elda Coltro, "Research on the Shroud: History and General Aspects"; Dr. Otello Coltro, "Photographic Aspects of the Shroud"; Dr. Walter Gonzalez, "Scientific and Technical Aspects of the Shroud"; and Prof. Fernando de M. Gomide, "Scientific Philosophy and the Shroud". *Convivium*, a Brazilian quarterly, will publish some of these talks.

Each report provoked a lively discussion and motivated interest in the audience for further study.

The morning session concluded with the Mass, celebrated by Mons. E. Oscar Scheid, bishop of Sao Jose dos Campos (the town where INPE is located). Mons. Scheid gave an eloquent and deeply philosophical homily on the Shroud and Christian faith.

The success of the December workshop was largely due to the intense participation of Dr. and Mrs. Coltro and the full support given by INPE. While it was mainly a local effort within Sao Paulo state, we hope that it is the forerunner of a future National Brazilian Symposium on the Shroud.

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