

CAGLIARI SINDONOLOGICAL CONGRESS - A PRAISEWORTHY RESOLUTION

On 29-30 April of this year the fifth Italian national sindonological congress was held at Cagliari, southern Sardinia. It drew some two hundred delegates, and was devoted to the now inevitable no. 1 topic, the dating of the Shroud. In the course of this Congress Brother Bruno Bonnet-Eymard put forward a resolution which won general applause 'That the various pieces of the cloth of the Holy Shroud making up the 144 milligrams held in reserve, and kept in Signore Giovanni Riggi's possession since 21 April 1988 ... should be restored to their esteemed rightful owner.' While some of Brother Bruno Bonnet-Eymard's claims have met considerable censure in earlier issues of this newsletter, we warmly concur with this particular resolution. It is understood that a considerable proportion of the Shroud sample cut away in 1988, including some interesting pieces of edging, was handed over neither to the laboratories nor to any other competent specialist, but simply retained by one or other of the duo in overall lay charge of the proceedings in Turin, Professors Giovanni Riggi and Luigi Gonella. According to rumour, one of the pieces has already crossed the Atlantic for undisclosed purposes, others lie in Professor Riggi's private drawer. Such clandestine dealings can only be deplored, and, it is to be hoped, will be firmly righted by the newly appointed Shroud custodian, Archbishop Saldarini.