

There is plenty of variety in this edition of the Newsletter, and as you will no doubt have seen, the first colour centrefold. The occasion is a special article on Richard Orareo's Boston Collection of Shroud Art, well-known by anyone who has travelled to Shroud congresses in the USA and seen parts of the immense collection, but relatively new to us in Europe. It was precisely at the Richmond International Shroud Congress in June 1999 that photographer Barrie Schwartz spent a whole night photographing various items from the collection. He ultimately scanned the photographs and transferred them onto CD's and, with Barrie's kind permission, a selection is reproduced herein. Most of the images are so much more spectacular in colour that we have included these pages to highlight the objects. To put things in context, there is also a section on Richard himself and how the collection was built up. We spent some days in Turin together, along with Marc Borkan from New York, in October, when Richard told me all the details included in the article.

On the same trip I had the chance to visit the newly refurbished Shroud Museum in Turin, to talk at length with Bruno Barberis from the Centro Internazionale di Sindonologia and to have dinner with Mario Trematore, the fireman whose heroic rescue of the Shroud from the fire in 1997 touched all our hearts. And all that in a day and a half!

In August I was in Edinburgh for the Shroud event at the Fringe Festival, organised by David Rolfe, well-known for his excellent documentary *The Silent Witness*. The story of how the documentary was filmed and all the problems David had to overcome, including sponsors who objected to the Shroud image depicting a naked man and endless newspaper strikes, makes for fascinating reading and is told in full detail within. Needless to say, there is a section on David himself, as well as a report on what happened in Edinburgh and plenty of photographs. On a more personal note, it

was a great pleasure for me to meet BSTS members Denis Marnix and Patrick Cushley, who both came to the events at the Festival.

The excellent magazine produced by the Spanish Centre for Sindonology, LINTEUM, recently ran a detailed article on the restoration work carried out by Mechthild Flury-Lemberg in 2002. I have translated and included the summary of what was done. The new look Shroud can be seen on the back cover of this edition in full colour.

Finally, while on a skiing holiday BSTS treasurer Reggie Norton found some interesting information on Shroud chapels and churches in the north of Italy, which I have also included in the newsletter. Along with the traditional news from Italy, taken from the Diocesan Commission from the Shroud newsletter and some book reviews by Ian Wilson, the Christmas 2003 newsletter is full of different events. Just one more thing – Happy Christmas to everyone!