

Welcome to our Summer Edition 2021

I am pleased to tell you that our readership is continuing its upwards direction and geographical diversity. There are several factors responsible, not least, our foray into social media. More on this inside. I am delighted to welcome two new members to our team of volunteers, Lynne and Michael Kowalski. Lynne has launched our Facebook page and Michael has got the “mechanics” of the operation running with hitherto only dreamt of professionalism.

Our driving force, of course, is the shared commitment to bring justice to the subject of our journal and the quality and range of papers now being submitted to us. This edition is a very good example. One of the most contested areas of Shroud studies is how it came into the possession of Geoffroi de Charny. In this issue, Mario Latendresse and Karlheinz Dietz develop their theory that Charny acquired it from King Louis IX. In suitably combative style they assail the work in this area of former newsletter editors, Ian Wilson and Dr. Mark Guscini.

As current editor I thought it reasonable that some form of initial response, albeit brief, was justified in this edition and would certainly have given Mario and Karlheinz the same opportunity in reverse circumstances. I am delighted that this battle to find the truth is being fought with such scholarly skills within these pages. Watch this space!

The scars, burns and stains on the cloth each have their own story to tell. Luigi Antoniazzi’s analysis of the L-shaped burn holes provide a fascinating speculation on possible causes.

This “*faked up and flogged off*” length of linen as defined under the auspices of The British Museum has now filled the pages of 93 editions of this newsletter and ever more submissions compete for space. Thank you for subscribing.

David Rolfe, Editor, June 2021.

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Correspondence on matters in this Newsletter is invited for our Winter edition: subject to editorial considerations, it will appear on the Newsletter website or in the Newsletter, itself.