

## SCRAPBOOK 1990

Never throw anything away; you never know when it might come in handy. Sindonology's scrapbag bulges with remnants from well-tailored articles, prunings from frumescant prose, oddities from literary flea-markets and antiquarians, troops of those provoking *Tard-venus*.... Some really useful things, some doubtful, all saved together because it could happen that some scrap might fit snugly into a developing pattern. There are not a few notions, however, that, having been shown to be totally in error, ought, it seems to me, to be rejected as abhorrent to the Reality we try to serve. Look over these few random notes; if there is anything you can use, please help yourself.

**SELA:** The Hebrew word signifies "rock of separations"; see I Sam. 23:28.

**COTTON:** From Constantinople in 1204, the Doge Enrico Dandolo sent to Venice an XI<sup>th</sup> century bloodstone goblet containing, the Doge avowed, a cotton thread stained with the blood of Jesus, collected during his agony on the Cross.

**COTTON:** Jean de Joinville describes how richly the lords were dressed for the banquet; King Louis sported a jacket of samite of India, a mantel of vermilion samite lined with ermine, and on his head a cotton cap that did not look good on him at all.

The Shroud imprint shows one of Jesus' shoulders higher than the other. Or lower, however you choose to look at it. Taken aback by this embarrassing imperfection — dare we say, deformity! — in the Perfect Man, some pious souls blushed for only an instant, then cried out with joy: But of course! The Man was a carpenter! Question: How many carpenters do you know with a shoulder dislevel?

**WANTED: A Volunteer;** male, athletic build, for spectacular experiment. Wearing a shift, a light-weight wool bathrobe and sandals, you will be required to extend both arms outward while a railroad tie weighing 100 lbs is laid across your shoulders and bound with ropes around your upper arms and other ropes tightly wrapping your wrists to the extremities of the beam. Thus accoutered, you will walk along a cobblestone lane and at a certain moment will be made to stumble and fall. We want to see whether you will get only a bloody nose (Mons. Ricci's meticulous calculation) or a fractured skull (my precipitate prediction). An alternative injury might be a broken neck. We just want to find out.