

BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE TURIN SHROUD

Shroud Newsletter Issue no. 49 June 1999

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The British Society for the Turin Shroud was founded in 1977 to act as a forum for individuals from all walks of life sharing an interest in the Shroud mystery. The Society is non-denominational, has no party-line for or against the Shroud's authenticity, and its officers all work on an entirely voluntary basis. Approximately one third of members are from outside the UK. Currently this Newsletter is published twice a year. For subscription details contact the Secretary, Dr. Michael Clift, at the address for him given above

Editorial – Hat Eating Deferred....

In my last Editorial I reported, with what I thought seasonal appropriateness, 'glad tidings' concerning the world of Shroud studies. Happily this trend continues. This Newsletter is being prepared on the eve of what promises to be a most worthwhile Shroud Conference in Richmond, Virginia, USA,. Following this same conference **Dr. Alan and Mary Whanger** have kindly volunteered a full personal tutorial at their home in nearby Durham on the issue of whether there are or are not flowers and other objects in the background to the Shroud's image. So any hat-eating on my part is postponed to the next issue...!

As the strong contingent of speakers at the Richmond Conference evokes, Shroud research is now burgeoning in a variety of fields, a particular focus of this issue being the long-mooted question of whether some form of radiation, as from the Resurrection, may have been responsible both for creating the image and skewing the radiocarbon dating at one and the same time. A most heroic experiment to demonstrate this, performed on himself by **Dr. August Accetta**, is reported on p.10, while **Dr. Thaddeus Trenn**, in a recent interview, offers an inspired envisioning of this event, most powerfully drawing upon his combined talents as physicist and theologian.

Meanwhile onto the scene for the BSTS has come a most welcome 'new broom' in the person of **Reggie Norton**, with plans for a permanent Shroud exhibition in the UK, a venture long overdue. He also promises to play an equally valuable role relieving the administrative strain on **Dr. Michael Clift**. The experimental meeting of the Society in London, arranged by Martin Smith, proved a success, as a result of which a further, similar meeting is now planned for Saturday November 6 see Forthcoming Events.

One always sad duty, Newsletter by Newsletter, is to record those related to the subject who have died in recent months. Sometimes the individual is an all-time 'great' such as a Rinaldi or Otterbein. Yet never to be forgotten are those more on the subject's fringes, research-wise at least, who still have a most valuable part to play. For my wife and I it was always a pleasure to meet at Shroud conferences ever-cheery **Rodger and Connie Apple** of Albany, New York state. Rodger's life's career was as a fireman – recalling that it was another of his kind, **Mario Trematore** of Turin, who so heroically saved the Shroud from the fire of 1997 – but he also founded a very special Shroud exhibition centre for his home state, and he will be greatly missed.

Finally a technical note regarding this particular Newsletter. The aim is always to improve, but with this 49th issue comes technologically at least, the greatest leap-forward yet. This is the first issue to be published with the aid of a scanner (partly funded by the BSTS, for which many thanks), hopefully giving all illustrations a greater consistency of quality than has been possible in the past. It also enables them to be more readily translatable to **Barrie Schwartz's** Shroud site on the Internet. This is also the first issue to be produced using Publisher 98 software, the potentials of which are only limited by your Editor's ability to grasp computer technology. The opportunity has therefore been taken to give this Newsletter a hopefully welcome, though not too radical, 'new look', while retaining the familiar handy size.

Home News

Ambitious Shroud Exhibition Plans Outlined at London Meeting.

On Saturday April 10 the Society held an informal get-together, organised by Meetings Chairman Martin Smith, at the Fred Tallant Hall, Drummond Street, London W1.

Among those who took part, **Martin Smith** and **Brenda Benton** described their visits to last year's exposition in Turin, **Dr. Michael Clift** dealt with a variety of matters arising, and Honorary Chairman **Dr. Allan Mills** spoke on the phenomenon of plant images, the action of oxygen radicals producing these, and the possible parallel with how the Shroud image was created.

Particularly welcomed, however, by all who attended, was a hitherto little-known member, **Reggie Norton**, of Hatford Down, near Faringdon, Oxfordshire. Reggie, one of whose other major interests is Anti-Slavery International, of which he has been Chairman for the last three years, outlined to the meeting his plans to set up at a suitable location in the UK a permanent exhibition of Shroud materials, including a life-size colour photograph of the Shroud, life-size prints of the negative, enlargements of the negative of the face, and explanatory panels detailing scientific and historical aspects of the subject. To bring such an exhibition into being he has expressed his readiness to pay up to £5,000 from his own pocket. By far the most generous donation that the Society has ever received, and completely unsolicited, this most fortuitously resurrects a project that was first mooted in this Newsletter following the British Museum *Fake!* Exhibition back in 1991. It also brings to mind, for those with long enough memories, late BSTS President Group Captain Leonard Cheshire's project of touring with a Shroud exhibition bus back in the 1950s.

Despite Reggie Norton's generosity, his project faces two major difficulties, both of which he is tackling with appropriate care before his finalising any plans. The first of these involves obtaining the right sort of life-size colour photograph. **Fr. Fred Brinkmann** of the US Holy Shroud Guild used to be able to provide excellent quality from supplies maintained for him by Kodak, similar to that shown in the British Museum in 1990 (obtained from the US and returned to them).

However, Kodak have recently told Fr. Brinkmann that they are unwilling to perpetuate this arrangement, as a result of which he is actively seeking a different supplier, and is having more than a few problems doing so. Although **Aldo Guerreschi** of Turin can offer what are almost certainly the very best black and white prints from Enrie negatives of 1931, making

the right choice for a life-size colour version is more difficult. Even the excellent Shroud life-size replica currently on view in Turin Cathedral, displayed in front of, and in lieu of the original, is made by Guerreschi from an Enrie black and white negative that has been specially coloured.

The second difficulty is finding the right home for the exhibition. A suggestion of St. George's Roman Catholic Cathedral, Southwark has recently been explored, but rejected because the Cathedral is comparatively little visited except by its own parishioners, and does not have a suitable space, except for a hall that would have to be hired and specially manned on a day-by-day basis. The ideal location would be a well-frequented stately home with a currently redundant corner requiring no extra staffing, and for which the home's owners would welcome the exhibition as an additional attraction at no cost to themselves. Enquiries with Arundel Castle, and if unsuccessful with the National Trust and English Heritage are currently proceeding, but any members with suggestions and/or potentially useful contacts are invited to contact Reggie at his home address as listed. One most happy outcome of the meeting was the election of Reggie Norton as the Society's Treasurer-Elect, with a view to his understudying Michael Clift's Treasurer role. This Michael has long and most diligently combined with that of Secretary, but with advancing years is finding increasingly difficult to maintain.

Born in Gibraltar, and educated in Inn, Reggie Norton first Gibraltar, and was the city's From 1971-79 he worked as Director for Oxfam's Latin operations, then from 1980-86 Capitol Hill, Washington, DC policies towards Latin American associated with Anti-Slavery Anti-Slavery Society), for the married, with a teenage son and help the Society in such positive welcomed. For the present should continue to go to



BSTS member Reggie Norton plans permanent Shroud Exhibition for the UK

at Eton, Oxford and Lincoln's practised as a barrister in Town Clerk from 1961-71. Field Secretary, then Field America and Caribbean for an advocacy group on pressing for responsible US countries. He has been International (formerly the last twenty-four years, and is daughter. His willingness to ways is most warmly all membership subscriptions Michael at his Longlevens, Gloucester, address, and proper notice will be given of any change in a future Newsletter.

Stop Press Announcement: Another Open Forum for the next BSTS Meeting

Following the success of the April Meeting, BSTS Meetings Chairman **Martin Smith** has arranged another for:

Saturday, November 6, 1999,
from 2.30 to 6.00 pm.

This will be held at the same location as before,
The Fred Tallant Hall, 153 Drummond Street, London NW1.

Refreshments will be available. One theme for open discussion will be the **Jospice mattress imprint** and its relevance for the Shroud, with **Peter Carr** participating to share further developments.

Letters to the Editor

From Norma Weller, 3 Albany Mews, Fourth avenue, Hove, East Sussex BN3 2PQ

Do you know anything at all about the item in the *Fortean Times* as below?

Photo copy: An exact replica of the Shroud of Turin has been found hidden in a shrine above a Benedictine convent chapel in the Czech Republic, near the Polish border. A letter in Latin signed by the then archbishop of Turin claims the copy was affixed to the original on 4 May 1651. The veil includes traces of damage on the original from a fire in 1532. Convent officials are willing to submit the relic for tests to establish how it was made. National Post (Canada) 21 Jan 1999

Ed: 'Exact replica' my foot....! The implication, particularly from the last sentence, is that this is something perfectly reproducing all the characteristics of the original in Turin. From further information, deriving from the German newspaper *Franfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, and posted on Barrie Schwartz's web-site, the location where this Shroud copy came to light is the West Bohemian Benedictine Monastery at Broumov. Apparently the monks found the copy under a 'reliquium' in their chapel, accompanied by a letter of authenticity from the Archbishop of Turin, dated 4 May 1651.

Even from these meagre details it can be confidently guaranteed that this is no 'exact replica' in the modern sense. Instead it is another of the 'artist' copies relatively commonly made in the 17th century, and often placed in contact with the original to impart something of its holiness.

As will be seen from the Chronology in my book *The Blood and the Shroud*, other, similar Shroud copies were made in 1644, 1646, 1650, 1654, and 1663, to give merely the dates closest to the Czech example. Most of these were the work of Princess Francesca Maria, daughter of the then duke of Savoy Charles-Emmanuel I. She was at her height in 1651, and as can be read in her biography 'She took delight in making faithful copies [of the Shroud] with her own hands, presenting them to eminent personages or to pious sodalities.'

No-one could possibly mistake any of these copies for the real thing, so absolutely no scientific tests are required!

Forthcoming Events

Weekends until end-September, 2-5pm (by appointment only) Exhibition: 'New and Undisclosed Secrets of the Turin Shroud' Norma C. Weller, The Basement Gallery, 3 Albany Mews, Fourth Avenue, Hove BN3 2PQ, England. This exhibition was originally only for Saturdays and Sundays in May, but Norma Weller says she is happy to extend this to end September subject to members making an appointment in advance either by post to the Albany Mews address, or by phone (01273 775630)

June 18-20, 1999, Shroud of Turin International Research Conference, Mary Mother of the Church Abbey, Richmond, Virginia, USA.

The Abbey is located just to the west of Richmond, and speakers will include Dr. August Accetta, Dr. Alan Adler, Fr. Fred Brinkmann, Rev. Kim Dreisbach, Dr. Warren Grundfest, Mark Guscini, Dr. Gary Habermas, Dr. John & Rebecca Jackson, Dr. Gilbert Lavoie, Prof. Emanuela Marinelli, Dr. Mario

Moroni, Rex Morgan, MBE., Dame Isabel Piczek, Professor Daniel Scavone, Barrie Schwartz, Dr. Alan Whanger, Mrs. Mary Whanger, Ian Wilson & Dr. Fred Zugibe. Under the auspices of the Shroud of Turin Center, Richmond, Virginia, founded by Bryan Walsh in 1997, the Conference organiser is **Diana Fulbright**, and for any last-minute enquiries she can be reached at Shroud of Turin Center, Mary Mother of the Church Abbey, 12617 River Road, Richmond, Virginia 23233-6319, tel: 804 784 3366; fax 804 784 3431, or by e-mail at shroud@erols.com.

July 24, 1999, Second Convention of Sindonological Studies, S. Felice Circeo

Theme: 'The Knights Templar and the Shroud – From Constantinople to France'. Guest speaker: Ian Wilson. Convention at the Palazzo Magistrale dei Templari, S. Felice Circeo, Italy. The organiser is Don Augusto Bonelli, and for any last-minute enquiries he can be reached at: aubonel@tin.it

Saturday November 6, 1999 – Next BSTS Meeting: Open Forum. Fred Tallant Hall, 153 Drummond Street, London NW1, 2.30 – 6 pm. Refreshments will be available.

February 26-7 May 2000 – Exhibition 'Seeing Salvation: Making the Image of Christ'
Sainsbury Wing, National Gallery, London

August 26- October 22, 2000 Daily Expositions of the Shroud, Turin Cathedral

August 27-29, 2000 World-wide Congress 'Sindone 2000', Orvieto, Italy