

TEXTILE CONSERVATION LECTURE BY SHEILA LANDI

This lecture, held on Wednesday 17 October in the somewhat bizarre setting of hospital beds on display at the London Health Care Information Centre, was an outstanding explanation of the techniques of a professional conservator. Mrs. Landi, author of the definitive textbook on textile conservation, illustrated her talk with slides of a selection of the items she had worked on during her career with the Victoria & Albert Museum, among the oldest a beautifully pleated blouse from ancient Egypt. She explained how every object poses different problems for the conservator, demanding, as readily appropriate with textiles, the most flexible approach. For instance although cleaning is normally expected as part of the conservation of most textiles, this would clearly be inadvisable in the case of the Shroud, since data arguably crucial to an understanding of its past still reposes among its surface dust. But she was inclined towards recommending removal of the patches sewn on after the 1532 fire, and replacement of the Holland backing cloth with something more scientifically inert. Her talk was tape-recorded, and a copy of the recording, price £2.50 inclusive of postage, can be obtained from Rodney Hoare, 23 Elm Grove Road, Salisbury SP1 1JW.

'THE VERONICA AND THE SHROUD' - THE NEXT BSTS LECTURE, WEDNESDAY 3 APRIL

This will be a talk by Ian Wilson on the mysterious Veronica cloth of Rome. Reputed to have been imprinted with Christ's face as he toiled towards Calvary. In the Middle Ages expositions of this cloth attracted hundreds of thousands of pilgrims to Rome at a time when the Shroud was hardly known. Today a cloth supposed to be the Veronica is still preserved in Rome, but this has received none of the examination accorded to the Shroud, and is secluded in such privacy that not even a photograph exists in the public domain. So what is, or was the Veronica, what image does it bear, and what relation does it have to the Shroud? Ian Wilson's talk, coinciding with the publication of his book *Holy Faces, Secret Places*, will be held on Wednesday 3 April at the New Cavendish Club, 44 Great Cumberland Place, London W1 [nearest underground, Marble Arch], 7pm.