

THE BOURNEMOUTH EXHIBITION

The Turin Shroud Exhibition held at the so-called Bournemouth Exhibition Centre closed on November 3 last year. According to its owner/promoter, Dr. Michael Ridley, it received 10,500 visitors. Dr. Ridley has no connection with any recognised Shroud organisation, and obtained his photographs, without permission, by copying them from published books.

Dr. Ridley is currently vigorously contesting a Small Claims Court 'test' action brought by our Chairman Rodney Hoare that the photographs exhibited were in breach of copyright. Among the photographs exhibited by Dr. Ridley were ones belonging to the following copyright-holders: H.M. the Queen; the Imperial War Museum, London; The Shroud of Turin Research Project; the Centro Internazionale di Sindonologia, Turin; the late Dr. Max Frei; Noel Currer-Briggs; Rodney Hoare; Ian Wilson; Dr. Alan Whanger; the British Museum; S. Catherine's Monastery, Sinai; Lennox Manton, the Musée de Cluny, Paris; Cassell; Joe Nickell; the late Dr. David Willis; the Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow.

Dr. Ridley claims he was using the photographs for purposes of 'review'. The legal situation appears to be that while the copying of photographs for lecture purposes is generally accepted, their showing in public exhibition, accompanied by the charging of admission fees, is a clear breach of copyright. If only Dr. Ridley had asked permission...