

LETTERS

From BSTS member Mr. D.H. Armitage

I thought you might be interested in a change of view on my part regarding the age of the Shroud. A book has recently been published which purports to be effectively a 'transcript' of conversations between a mystic, Vassula Ryden, and no less a person than Jesus himself. I have become convinced of the authenticity and importance of these conversations, and for me they have had a very significant spiritual impact, bringing God very close.

However the point of interest is a reference in these conversations to the Shroud. Following some comments on the honouring of images of Jesus and Mary in general, come the following words of Jesus:

Let it be known that my Holy Shroud is indeed authentic. It is the same that covered me,

Now whilst I have been persuaded of the authenticity of these revelations, the infallibility of everything in them is, I think, not guaranteed. However I do find myself in the position now, on balance, of having to withdraw my transfer hypothesis! I think that many of the points about the Shroud that I have been attempting to make remain valid. In particular I remain convinced that the Image changed significantly at the time of the 1532 fire, and that the Lierre copy represents accurately what the Image looked like before that fire. However, with some humility I now find myself joining in looking more actively for evidence of an error in the carbon dating process.

D. H. Armitage.

The Old Coach House, Greyhound Lane, Winslow, MK18 3E8

[Editor's Note: The book to which Mr. Armitage refers is *True Life in God: Vassula's Conversations with Jesus*, £9.50. Born in Egypt of Greek parents, Vassula Ryden has been artist, tennis player and fashion model, and took no interest in religion until 1985, when she began receiving her spiritual messages. Due to the nature of the BSTS Constitution mystical-type revelations are not consistent with the objectivity this Society tries to maintain, and so Vassula's book will not be reviewed within these columns. However, several members have expressed themselves deeply impressed by Vassula and her modest, down-to-earth approach, and they are warmly thanked for the materials sent.]