

BSTS LECTURES:**DEIRDRE O'SULLIVAN'S AUTUMN LECTURE ON ST. BEE'S MAN...**

'We lifted the lid of the coffin, and this was what met our astonished, and I might say, totally horrified gaze. Clearly there was something in a state of remarkable preservation in here, Even if there was no human tissue preserved, it looked as though there was a well preserved mediaeval shroud - and usually shrouds are found in fragments, if they are found at all in mediaeval graves ...'

With description such as this, on October 20 Leicester University archaeologist Deirdre O'Sullivan entertained BSTS members to a vividly illustrated lecture with some virtually unique insights into what mediaeval shrouds looked like. The shrouds in question were two amazingly well-preserved examples which Deirdre O'Sullivan and her archaeological team found wrapping an equally well-preserved body tentatively identified as of mediaeval knight Robert de Harington, who died in 1298. While Deirdre avoided declaring an opinion on the Shroud's authenticity, a key lesson from her lecture was that if the Shroud is a mediaeval forgery, it was by someone who created something quite different from the type of burial shroud commonly used in Europe during the Middle Ages. A slightly edited text of Deirdre's lecture, prepared by Dr. Michael Clift from a tape-recording kindly made by Jennifer Howard, accompanies this Newsletter.

THE NEXT BSTS LECTURE:**LENNOX MANTON ON THE SHROUD AND EARLY BYZANTINE CHRIST PORTRAITS FROM THE CAVE CHURCHES OF CAPPADOCIA**

Lennox Manton is a retired Guildford dentist who in the course of repeated visits to Turkey, partly to follow the tracks of St. Paul, has made himself one of the leading experts in the art of the little-known cave churches of Cappadocia. It is to Lennox that we owe a photograph of one of the earliest, most fascinating and most Shroud-like copies of the Mandylion, a fresco from the Sakli or 'Hidden' church in the Goreme region, dating probably from the tenth or early eleventh century at the latest. This and other examples collected by Lennox make a compelling case for the Shroud's existence well before the date ascribed to it by carbon dating.

Lennox Manton has kindly agreed to lecture to the BSTS on Wednesday 27 April at the New Cavendish Club, 44 Great Cumberland Place, London, W.1, commencing 7 pm. The lecture will be illustrated by Lennox's collection of slides, taken by himself, and all of superb quality, Highly recommended to all members.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

Tuesday 15 February. Dr. Michael Clift 'The Turin Shroud' Senior Wives Fellowship of Cheltenham (2), Emmanuel Church Hall, Leckhampton, 2.30 pm. For permission to attend, phone Mrs. Sheila Cooper on 02422 517757; or Mrs Joan Davies on 0242 514080.

Wednesday 27 April. BSTS Spring Lecture by Lennox Manton 'The Turin Shroud and early Byzantine Christ Images from the Cave Churches of Cappadocia - some astonishing parallels' 7 pm, the New Cavendish Club, 44 Great Cumberland Place, London W.1 (nearest Underground, Marble Arch). Steering committee 5.30pm.