

## NEWS FROM PARIS

All the news from Paris is about Rome. Since the French association, CIELT, announced in 1991 the intention to hold an international scientific symposium in Rome in 1993, all efforts have concentrated on the planning and coordination. A formal letter was addressed to His Eminence Giovanni Saldarini, Cardinal-Archbishop of Turin on 12 July 1991, informing him of the project, conceived as a prolongation of the Paris symposium of 1989.

Project Director for the Rome symposium is Arnaud Upinsky, Mathematician / Epistemologist. There are five committees. The Scientific Committee, composed of fifteen scientists from the international community, is chaired by Raymond Souverain, Honorary President of the Society of Chemists, assisted by Gerard Nomine. Chairman of the Historical Committee is Daniel Raffard de Brienne, assisted by Madame de Carne-Marcein. George Edel, director of Wagram Voyages, is in charge of travel and accommodations, except for Americans (States and Canada) who should contact Michael Minor (see p. 47). Finances are the responsibility of Alain Rostand, retired bank president; Arnaud Upinsky and Philippe Bourcier de Carbon will make the media arrangements.

Theme of the Rome conference covers important aspects of conservation of the Shroud. To formulate a well-balanced program based on the subjects required, the scientific and historical committees have been examining the proposals submitted. Those authors who will be invited to present papers will be notified by January 1993.

The sixth "work reunion" was held on Wednesday, May 27, ten persons being present. "Work" was hastily dispatched in eagerness to hear the report of Professor Jerome Lejeune, who had just returned from Turin where, on May 22, he had had an audience with the Cardinal-Archbishop Giovanni Saldarini.

Professor Lejeune is a member of the *Institut de France* and the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, of which he is president *pro tempore*. A geneticist, he discovered the chromosome that causes Mongoloidism and continues research in difficult genetic problems. He speaks in a soft, smooth tone, unhurried and confidence-inspiring.

Lejeune described the Archbishop of Turin as being very interested in the Rome symposium. Comparatively new to Shroud affairs, Cardinal Saldarini asked many questions, but since by papal designation he is the custodian for the conservation and veneration of the Relic, his major concerns were conservation studies seconded by a desire to transfer the reliquary to the cathedral where it would be accessible to the faithful during the period of repair in the Royal Chapel.

Visiting the cathedral, Prof. Lejeune could spy the altar of the Holy Shroud, high above the choir, but of course the chapel has been closed these two years.

Three days after Prof. Lejeune's visit, the Cardinal received Father Peter Rinaldi (May 25). The Cardinal had scheduled the meeting for one-half hour; he kept Father Rinaldi for two hours, talking about the Shroud. On his desk, the Cardinal had a stack of conservation proposals sent to him from experts around the world. On the very top lay the proposals from Drs. Alan Adler and Larry Schwalbe, and many of the Cardinal's questions were related to these. He stressed that his immediate concern was conservation, and that he had in mind to invite a few experts to examine the condition of the Shroud; an event that was carried out on September 7 (see "News from Turin").

Father Rinaldi and Prof. Lejeune had requested audience with the Cardinal in order to talk to him personally about the Shroud and the conference scheduled for next June. Both times, the Cardinal expressed his interest, as well as his gratitude to all those who are "actively interested" in the Shroud.

After the above-mentioned work reunion, a much larger assembly of CIELT members arrived for a banquet. Several came from other European countries to attend, and two persons were from the States: myself as American delegate, and Mr. Michael Minor, attorney for STURP and the Holy Shroud Guild. While coffee was being served, silence fell as Prof. Lejeune related the highlights of his interview with Cardinal Saldarini. Other committee members reported on the progress of their work, and Mr. Upinsky gave, as is his wont, a spell-binding discourse.

At the end of October, Prof. Lejeune was granted an audience with Pope John Paul II. Subject: the symposium. The Professor reports that the Pope is well-informed about the CIELT plans for next June, and he looks on the project with favor. It will be remembered that soon after his election to the papacy, John Paul II, in private exposition, venerated the Shroud which he had come from Cracow, as Cardinal, in 1978, to see displayed, recalling the time, many years before, when as a seminarian he had prayed before the reliquary in the Holy Shroud Chapel.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION  
for attending the  
INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM, ROME, 1993

The symposium will be held in the conference hall of **Domus Mariae**, 481 via Aurelia, Rome, on June 10, 11, 12 (Thurs. Fri. Sat.) 1993.

**Registration fee** is 600 French francs (about \$120).

**Accommodations** will also be in the Domus Mariae, classified as a First Class hotel. Double rooms and single rooms are available. One has the option to take full board (3 meals) or breakfast and one other meal. Prices are extremely modest.

**Delta Air Lines** will be the official carrier from the States to Rome. Delta has offered a substantial discount to every person flying from the United States to attend the Rome symposium. Delta will begin processing reservations in February 1993. Contact your travel agent or the Delta International Desk. The number of your Registration receipt will be requested.

**A Registration Form**, prices for accommodations at the Domus Mariae, and other details are available from:

Mr. Michael Minor  
P.O. Box 878  
Kaufman TX 75142



Domus Mariae