

NOTES OF A MEETING HELD AT 5, MARKET MEWS, LONDON W.1.
ON 10TH DECEMBER, 1976

PRESENT: Mr. I. Wilson In the Chair (deputising for
Mr J. Messent. Group Captain Cheshire)
Dr. J.A. Robinson.
Rev. D. Sox.
Mr A. Whittlesea.
Miss C.T. Short.

APOLOGIES were received from: Group Captain Cheshire.

The Chairman welcomed the Rt. Rev. J.A.T. Robinson, of Trinity College, Cambridge, who had shown an interest in the academic work being carried out on the Shroud of Turin.

1. A note was read of the previous meeting which had been held on 15th July, 1976, to establish a Holy Shroud team in Britain which could double up on various tasks so that when one member was no longer able to carry on effectively the whole organisation would not founder. The guild could for the present come under the Mission for the Relief of Suffering but Group Captain Cheshire said he would inquire about a Constitution for the work as soon as aims and objects were worked out.

The roles to be filled and the team to meet the enquiries that would come in following publicity about the Shroud expected in late 1977 when Ian Wilson's book was published and a TV documentary by David Rolf or the B.B.C. shown, was as follows:-

Photographs	-- Adrian Whittlesea
Information & academic enquiries	-- Ian Wilson
Publicity & talks	-- David Sox
Treasurer	-- John Messent
Secretary	-- Carmel Short

The Chairman explained that the formation of this group has been brought about by the sudden death of David Willis, who had spent a lifetime disseminating information about the Shroud and co-ordinating anything in the way of research in this country. Miss Vera Barclay, who for many years partnered Dr Willis on Shroud matters was also unable to carry on with the distribution of Holy Shroud photographs and literature due to age and ill health.

2. REPORT OF PROGRESS

Ian Wilson reported that:

- (a) He had written to the Holy Shroud Guild in the United States informing them that we were to form an organisation in the United Kingdom. They sent a copy of their Deed which was drawn up some years ago. He felt that the title of our organisation in the United Kingdom was

Report of Progress continued.....

important and before deciding on a title we must have clear objectives which were going to have at least a potential academic recognition. The title Holy Shroud Guild could not, it was felt, attract such recognition in this country because it implied a pre-formal opinion of the Shroud's authenticity.

- (b) A translation of the Report of the Turin Commission on the Shroud was almost complete. A copy of the translation was available for each member of the meeting and Ian explained that it had been checked by another translator to verify the most difficult wording of the Commission's Report. The final pages would follow.
- (c) He had visited Jerusalem and Turkey in connection with his book on the Shroud, due to be with his publisher, Doubledays by the end of January 1977.

David Sox reported that:

He had met with ex-King Umberto of Italy, owner of the Shroud, in London today and he had discussed the scientific test of the small fragment of cloth being carried out by Dr. Raes, a textile expert in Belgium. Umberto was quite interested in the possibility of a carbon test of the cloth being made by Dr. McCrone, of Chicago U.S.A. The King was very pleased with the translation of the Commission Report in English as this was the first he had seen of the report, nothing having been sent to him from Turin.

Before a carbon test could be carried out by Dr. McCrone the agreement of the authorities in Turin would be required. The piece of the Shroud taken by Dr. Raes in 1973 measured 4 cm x 1.5 cm, and this might be big enough for a microcarbon test.

Adrian Whittlesea reported that:

Since the last meeting he had arranged for a photographer in Oxford to produce a life-size image of the Shroud. First results were not good, as the negatives and prints we had available were of poor quality. It was suggested that we should try to produce a colour print, but the cost of the necessary negative from Turin was prohibitive Ian Wilson said that the best prints he had seen were those taken by Italian Television about 4th October, 1975. The Secretary was asked to find out whether Group Captain Cheshire had any friend in Italian T.V. who might be able to supply negatives or prints.

Continued.....

3. MATTERS ARISING.

A. Title and Policy.

IT WAS AGREED that our Title would be the British Society for the Turin Shroud, and that the Society's work would be on the scientific and research side. This would be coupled with an information service and we would need to have a series of prints of various sizes available.

IT WAS AGREED that the Society should be non-denominational, and that it should tend towards the academic. The publication of the Commission's Report and the possibility of further tests would enable the Society to be authoritative and scientific in its approach. A medical member of the group would be essential, and an expert in photography who could answer such questions as what conditions were necessary for cloth to become imprinted with an image. A student in psychological research would also be useful.

A letter to Turin requesting their approval of the British Society for the Turin Shroud would be necessary and IT WAS AGREED that Group Captain Cheshire should be asked to send this letter. Father Rinaldi had indicated his approval but said an application in writing was necessary.

4. A. IT WAS NOTED that Ian Wilson's book on the Shroud would be published in late 1977 and David Rolfe's TV film would follow. These would arouse new interest.
- B. On the financial side IT WAS NOTED that part of the translation or the Commission's report had been financed by an American benefactor in connection with the TV film. The Society would require certain funds for printing. An information booklet was being produced by Ian Wilson for the Ampleforth Journal which will form a useful basis to produce a booklet. He was also producing a catalogue of slides. IT WAS NOTED that the Mission for the Relief of Suffering Photographic Account had £94.00 which included a loan from John Messant of £30.00.

It was suggested that when the Society was formed membership could be invited and a fee charged.

PLANS TO LAUNCH THE SOCIETY.

IT WAS AGREED that a Seminar should be held to launch the Society. This should be held at the All Saints Institute of Christian Studies, 84, Margaret Street., London W1N 8JQ, Tel: 01 637 3526, on Friday/Saturday 16th - 17th September, 1977.

Plans to Launch the Society continued.....

Suggested speakers:- Group Captain Leonard Cheshire VC
Father Peter Rinaldi ✓

Leo Vala (Photographic)

? (Medical)

Dr. Walter C. Mc Crone (Micro-
scopic analysis) ✓

Dr Max Frei (Folien) ✓

Ian Wilson (History) ✓

Rt. Rev., Dr J.A.T. Robinson ✓
(New Testament)

David Sox agreed to make the preliminary arrangements
for the Symposium, particularly
the booking of the venue.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING 19th February, 1977 at 5.00 hrs.

Chairman.