

'The Holy Shroud' Controversy Still On

New York—What is believed to be a photographic likeness of Jesus, imprinted miraculously on the linen in which he was wrapped 2,000 years ago, is published in the August issue of Esquire magazine in connection with an article on the Holy Shroud and the controversy surrounding its authenticity.

The Holy Shroud — a strip of cloth 14 feet 6 inches long and 3 feet 7 inches wide on which is a visible imprint of a crucified man — is preserved and jealously guarded in Turin, Italy, and has been shown publicly only twice in this century — in 1931 and 1933, the article reports.

It made its first documented appearance in 1353 in Lirey, France, writes Karl E. Meyer, leaving a 13-century gap in its history, except for numerous references by early Church fathers to its existence and the accordance of the Synoptic Gospels of the fact that Jesus was wrapped in a linen cloth by Joseph of Arimathea after his crucifixion and death. The surmise among believers, according to Meyer, is that the Shroud came to Europe via the crusaders from Constantinople. It was passed from France to the Italian House of Savoy in 1452 and was deposited in the Royal Chapel of Turin Cathedral in 1578.

Controversy began in 1898 when a Turin lawyer and amateur photographer was asked to take the first picture of the Shroud. He reportedly was "dumbfounded" when he saw the Holy Face appear on the plate as he developed it. What startled him, explains Meyer, was the appearance of a positive image on the negative plate—in other words, normal tints are reversed on the Shroud itself, meaning the fabric is imprinted with a negative.

It has been scorned as fake by some churchmen of vast learning, says the article, while others, including agnostic scientists, have contended with equal vehemence that it is the most unimpeachably genuine of all Christian relics. "But of all the strife about relics," asserts Meyer, "none surpasses in interest or intensity this quarrel, which has enlisted the talents of photographers, historians, chemists, physicians, experts on Byzantine iconography and even a group captain of the Royal Air Force."

Courier-Journal

Msgr. Giulio Ricci, a learned Vatican archivist who has devoted several decades to an impressively thorough study of the relic, maintains that the Shroud discloses astounding details about Christ. "For example," the article reports, "He was 5 feet 11 inches tall and weighed 175 pounds; that He was scourged at least 158 times with a three-pronged whip, probably weighted with lamb or dog bones; that He carried only the cross-beam of the Cross to Calvary, a stout timber about 6½ feet long weighing up to 88 pounds; that He was nailed to the Cross through the wrists, not His palms, and that His nose was broken during the ordeal; and, finally, that He was entombed with His head leaning forward until His resurrection three days later some 1940 years ago."

While the sindonologists — from "sindone," Italian for Shroud—press for further scientific examination, the Vatican takes no official position. A number of papal judgments, reports Meyer, have been made. Most recently John XXIII was heard to say after looking at the Shroud's image, "This can only be the Lord's doing."

Pope Paul VI in the homily of a Mass at St. Peter's in 1967 reportedly declared: "Perhaps only the image from the Holy Shroud reveals to us something of the human and divine personality of Christ."

Color photographs, X-rays, infrared and ultraviolet tests could conceivably settle the question of authenticity and identify the substance forming the imprint. A carbon-14 test, which might clearly establish whether the linen was medieval poses a special problem, according to Meyer, since it would involve destruction of a sample of the Holy Shroud.

King Umberto II, who was King of Italy until 1945, is now in exile in Portugal and who owns the Shroud, told Meyer he would willingly give permission for any reasonable examinations if the Church authorities agree. The only recent indication of such examination is from Cardinal Pellegrino, the Archbishop of Turin, who, according to Umberto, said that "new photographs had been taken and he promised that this would be followed by scientific tests."

Decisive Role For Women Cited by Pope

Vatican City (RNS) — Pope Paul VI said that helping women to participate "in a responsible way" in society was a "most opportune and urgently needed" activity, "because today women are called upon to play decisive roles in their communities."

The Pope spoke at a special audience before 1,500 delegates to the ninth congress of the International Soroptomists Association, a worldwide organiza-

tion of professional and executive business women.

In consideration of a large contingent of English-speaking women present, including a group from the U.S., Pope Paul spoke in English at the conclusion of his brief address. He said:

"At this moment, when we have the happy occasion to extend to you our welcome and good wishes, we are pleased to extol the dignity that is yours as women and to emphasize

your role in the making of a better world.

"We hope that as you pursue the worthy objectives of your association you will be strengthened by the assistance of the Lord. You have a contribution to make in so many areas."

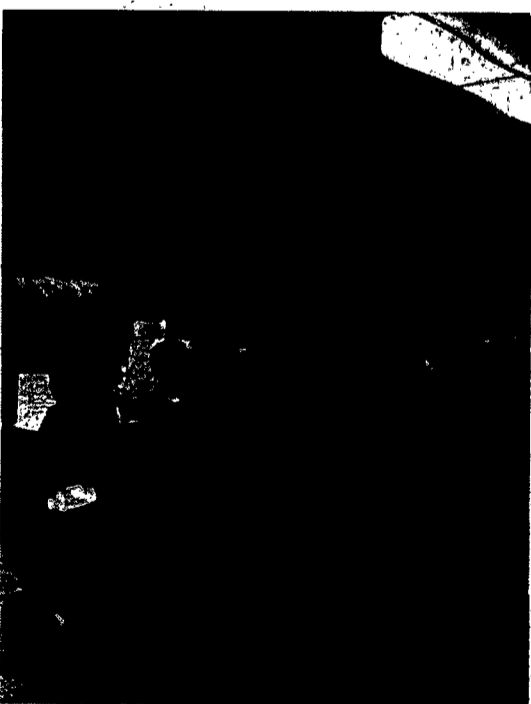
"With the Second Vatican Council, we would remind you of one of your greatest challenges — to stand guard over the destiny of our race. It is for you to save the peace of the world."

RG&E consumer news

Is Your Freezer Working As Hard For You As You Think It Should?

When you are baking something that calls for egg whites, like an angel food cake, do you throw the yolks away instead of freezing them? If you do, then your freezer is a goldbricker; it's not working as hard for you as it can. Yes, it's true; you can freeze egg yolks, or egg whites, or both together. The trick is knowing how to prepare them—and all the other foods that can be frozen — and package them for freezing.

You can learn how to make your freezer work harder for you by dropping in at RG&E's Consumer Information Center, 89 East Ave., on the main floor. You'll meet Mary Mc-



Mary McCartney points up features in a refrigerator-freezer.

Cartney, one of RG&E's Home Economists, who has a wealth of information on freezers. She can show you what is and is not a proper wrapping technique. What foods are and are not good for freezing. (You'll be amazed to learn how many foods you can freeze, if you just know how.)

On display at the Consumer Information Center are four types of freezers — a side-by-side refrigerator-freezer, a chest-type freezer, an upright, and a no-frost upright. You can learn the advantages of one type over another. Which costs least to operate, which is most convenient to use.

Hours

The Consumer Information Center is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11 a.m. till 3 p.m. and Tuesday evening from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Stop in any time during these hours and bring your questions. Mary will be glad to tell you anything you want to know about freezers, or about the use of any of your appliances. And don't feel that you have to own a freezer, or even be thinking about owning one, in order to ask questions. You probably have a freezer section in your present refrigerator which could be working harder for you.

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