

IN MEMORIAM

William Ross Woofenden

Rev. Dr. William Ross Woofenden died in his 91st year on Friday, May 4, 2012. Bill played important roles for the Swedenborg Scientific Association from 1980 to 1999 as a Director on the Board and as the Chairman of the Publication Committee. In 1988 the Association published Bill's *Swedenborg Researcher's Manual: A Research Reference Manual for Writers of Academic Dissertations, and for Other Scholars*, a work in five parts as follows: 1. Swedenborg's complete lifetime literary output. 2. Collateral literature, a selection. 3. Glossary of technical or special terms. 4. Selected list of key concepts in Swedenborg. 5. Major documentary collections worldwide: Locations, listings and descriptions. Index. This book has been close at hand in my office ever since. It is testimony to its value that the Swedenborg Foundation published a second edition titled *Swedenborg Explorer's Guidebook: A Research Manual* in 2002 and a revised second edition in 2007.

Of Bill, one former member of the Board, Rev. Daniel Goodenough, said: "Bill brought something of the original inspiration of the SSA from back in the 1890s. Overall he had a highly beneficial influence on the SSA, and he was a doer who got needed works published." And a current member, Rev. Stephen Cole, had this to say about him: "The expression 'a gentleman and a scholar,' is overused, but it seems to fit Bill so well. He was gracious and kind in his human interactions, and he was one of the greats in New Church research and teaching in the second half of the twentieth century. We have lost a champion of the faith, but, in the words of another cliché, our loss is heaven's gain."

Erland Brock