

THE NEW PHILOSOPHY

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No. 3

TRANSACTIONS OF THE SIXTY-FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SWEDENBORG SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATION

The Sixty-fourth Annual Meeting of the Swedenborg Scientific Association was held at Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania, on Wednesday, May 17, 1961.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by the President, Prof. Edward F. Allen.

The **Minutes** of the last Annual Meeting were adopted as printed in the *NEW PHILOSOPHY* for July-September, 1960.

The Chairman appointed Mr. William R. Cooper a **Committee on the Roll**. Mr. Cooper later reported an attendance of 105, 64 of whom were members.

The Chairman then announced the appointment of Mr. Kenneth Rose and Mr. Hugh Gyllenhaal as the **Nominating Committee**; and of Mr. Robert Johns and the Rev. Dandridge Pendleton as **Judges of Elections**.

The Treasurer's Report was distributed, and the Treasurer made some comments on it. The report was accepted.

Mr. Henderson read the Report of the Editorial Board. The report was accepted with appreciation.

The Report of the Board of Directors was read and accepted.

The Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Mr. Rose, nominated Prof. Edward F. Allen for the office of president. There being no other nominations, the secretary cast an unanimous

ballot for Professor Allen. Mr. Rose then nominated the following for members of the Board of Directors:

E. Boyd Asplundh
Randolph W. Childs
Charles S. Cole
David J. Garrett
Marlin W. Heilman
W. Cairns Henderson
Morna Hyatt
Hugo Lj. Odhner
Joel Pitcairn
Kenneth Rose

There being no further nominations, ballots were distributed. The Judges of Elections later reported the election of the following:

E. Boyd Asplundh
Randolph W. Childs
Charles S. Cole
David J. Garrett
W. Cairns Henderson
Morna Hyatt
Hugo Lj. Odhner
Joel Pitcairn
Kenneth Rose

Mr. Garrett spoke of the exhibit which was displayed on the stage of the auditorium. It is intended for display at the Annual Meetings of the General Convention, and may be shown on other occasions. It was designed and produced by Mr. Garrett, Mr. Lennart Alfelt, Mr. Kenneth Rose, and Miss Donnette Rose, and its purpose is to show the activities of the Swedenborg Scientific Association and to interest people in becoming members.

Mr. Gustav Genzlinger showed the model of Swedenborg's flying machine which he is making for the Smithsonian Institution, and gave a progress report. Mr. Garber, Curator of the Institution, has been to see the model, and has written a letter praising Mr. Genzlinger's work and expressing interest in the most minute details of the machine. He showed great appreciation of Swedenborg's inventive ability.

Reports from the Kitchener and Glenview Chapters and from the Toronto Philosophy Group were read.

The Rev. George C. Dole then delivered the annual address, on the subject of "The New Church and Current Old Testament Scholarship." The following members thanked Mr. Dole for his paper and discussed various aspects of it: Mr. Kenneth Rose, Rev. Ormond Odhner, and Dr. Hugo Odhner. The address and comments are quoted elsewhere in this issue of the *NEW PHILOSOPHY*.

President Allen, in closing the meeting, commented on the high quality of the address, noting that it is difficult to judge what a paper will be like from the title alone. He also expressed gratification at the opportunity to have the annual address given by a representative of the General Convention. He recalled the early days when Convention members outnumbered those from the General Church on the board of directors, and expressed the hope that close liaison would be maintained between these bodies in the common uses of the Swedenborg Scientific Association.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

MORNA HYATT, *Secretary*

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

At a meeting of the Board of Directors following the Annual Meeting on May 17, 1961, the following officers were elected:

Vice-President: Mr. Charles S. Cole

Editorial Board: Mr. Edward F. Allen, *Executive Editor*

Mr. Donald C. Fitzpatrick, Jr.

Rev. W. Cairns Henderson

Mr. Kenneth Rose

Treasurer: Mr. E. Boyd Asplundh

Secretary: Miss Morna Hyatt

The secretary was instructed to write a letter of thanks to Miss Beryl G. Briscoe for her many years of service as Treasurer of the Association. Thanks were also expressed to Mr. Allen for accepting the office of president for another year.

A motion was passed permitting the Editorial Board to be self-perpetuating for one year.

MORNA HYATT, *Secretary*

PUBLICATION ACCOUNT

Receipts

Publications sold	\$ 610.17	
Tax receipts	7.51	
Contributions to Publication Fund	5700.00	\$6317.68
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Cash received on sale (Nov. 4, 1960) of \$3,900 City of New York Corporate Stock for Transit Unification Bonds 3% due 6-1-80		3590.22
Interest on Huntingdon Valley Federal Sav- ings and Loan Association Account.....		68.45
Interest on Savings Account—closed June 3, 1960 in First Pennsylvania Banking and Trust Company		68.87
Cash transferred from First Pennsylvania Banking and Trust Co. to Huntingdon Valley Federal Savings and Loan Associa- tion account	1500.00	\$11545.22
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Balance in Publication Account: May 18, 1960		2168.17
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		\$13713.39

Expenditures

Printing and Binding 533 copies of <i>A Con- cordance of Selected Subjects treated of in the Rational Psychology</i>	\$3656.24	
Offset reprint of 750 copies of the <i>Animal Kingdom</i> (two vols.)	5394.21	
Books bought for resale	25.90	
State tax	7.16	
Expenses for mailing, wrapping, postage, etc.	17.50	
Balance on publication receipts held in Gen- eral Account	806.89	\$9907.90
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Balance in Publication Account: May 17, 1961		\$3805.49

GENERAL ACCOUNT

Receipts

Dues	\$ 793.84	
Subscriptions to the NEW PHILOSOPHY	50.53	\$ 844.37
Contributions	370.20	\$1214.57
Cash receipts from Publication Fund held in General Account		806.89
Balance, May 18, 1960	2911.16	\$4932.62

Expenditures

Printing and mailing four issues of the NEW PHILOSOPHY	\$1135.73	
Annual Notices	8.50	
Office Expense	195.05	
Cash transferred to Huntingdon Valley Fed- eral Savings and Loan Association account	1500.00	\$2839.28
Balance in General Account: May 17, 1961		\$2093.34

RECAPITULATION

Balance in Publication Account	\$3805.49
Balance in General Account	2093.34
	<u>\$5898.83</u>

MEMBERSHIP

Membership reported May 18, 1960	279
Resigned	6
Died	7
	<u>13</u>
	266
New Members	12
	<u>278</u>
(plus 28 subscribers to the NEW PHILOSOPHY)	

Respectfully submitted,

B. G. BRISCOE, *Treasurer*

REPORT OF THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Since the last Annual Meeting of the Swedenborg Scientific Association, three issues of the NEW PHILOSOPHY have been published: July–September and October–December, 1960, under my editorship, and January–March, 1961, under the editorship of Professor Allen assisted by Messrs. Donald C. Fitzpatrick, Jr., and Kenneth Rose. The April–June issue, which has been prepared by the same gentlemen, is now in proof.

Comment on the present and future status of the NEW PHILOSOPHY will come more appropriately from others. In this, my last report to an Annual Meeting, I would only repeat that it has indeed been a privilege to serve the Association as executive editor of its journal for the past seven years, and express warm appreciation to those who have contributed to the NEW PHILOSOPHY and have worked on the editorial board with me during that period. As far as interest is concerned, I would willingly have continued to serve. But it had become increasingly evident that for me to continue to do so would be unfair both to the Association and to its journal, and it was only that their uses might be better advanced that I resigned from the executive editorship of the NEW PHILOSOPHY at the last meeting of the Board of Directors.

Respectfully submitted,

W. CAIRNS HENDERSON

CHAPTER REPORTS

The Glenview Chapter sends cordial greetings and best wishes to the 64th Annual Meeting of the Swedenborg Scientific Association. We have continued our weekly meetings, except for a month or so in the summer and occasions when the pastor of Immanuel Church and leader of our group is out of town.

Our attendance has been better than in recent years. Eleven, or perhaps twelve, different persons have attended during the past year; ten of these have been regular attendants, and there are nine who have rarely missed a meeting. We continue to read the issues of the NEW PHILOSOPHY in our meetings, and continue to read *The Word Explained*, from which we get significant

lights on the course of Swedenborg's preparation to write and publish the Heavenly Doctrine.

Probably one reason for our better attendance this year than last is that a majority of our meetings have been held at the home of Mr. Henry Maynard, instead of a different home each month. Mr. Maynard has been such a good host, and his home such a suitable meeting place, as to enhance greatly the pleasure of our meetings.

None of our members expects to be able to attend the Annual Meeting, but we hope to hear all that happens there.

VICTOR GLADISH

The Philosophy Club in **Kitchener** has met only a few times this year—since the passing of Mr. Harold Kuhl, one of our most stalwart members, we have had no meetings. By mutual agreement we have postponed further gatherings until the flurry of meetings in connection with our building program has ended.

GEOFFREY CHILDS

Greetings and best wishes to the Annual Meeting of the Swedenborg Scientific Association from the Philosophy Reading Group of **Toronto**. As will be noted in the treasurer's report, our membership has increased,* and it gives us pleasure to report that our activity has increased also. Among the subjects considered have been the development of the doctrines of correspondences and degrees, with reference to papers by Bishop W. D. Pendleton and Rev. Kurt Asplundh.

We look forward to a successful year ahead.

JOHN RAYMOND

* Three of the new members who joined the association this year are from the Toronto area.—ED.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

In the past as president I have prepared a few remarks about the intellectual spirit behind the Association. However, this year I will confine myself to remarks about its administrative activities.

I shall comment on the following :

1. Publications
2. Business Affairs and Storage of Publications
3. The NEW PHILOSOPHY
4. The Office of Treasurer
5. The Office of President

1. PUBLICATIONS

The association published during the year two major works. The first of these is entitled *A Concordance of Selected Subjects Treated of in The Rational Psychology of Emanuel Swedenborg*, compiled by Harold F. Pitcairn. The other was a reprint in photo offset of two volumes of *The Animal Kingdom* by Emanuel Swedenborg as translated by James John Garth Wilkinson and published in 1843.

These works have been discussed in reviews and comments elsewhere. It is sufficient here to comment only on the work of those who made these publications possible.

Although Mr. Pitcairn's death prevented his seeing the final publication of his work, he nevertheless personally supervised its printing almost through completion. To Miss Beryl Briscoe goes the credit for the many details in connection with the editing, and to Dr. Hugo Odhner for his guidance in many respects.

Since *The Animal Kingdom* was done in photo offset, editorial work was impossible. However, the Association owes to Mr. Charles S. Cole its thanks for initiating, following through, and personally supervising the publication of these two volumes. It is naturally hoped that with the publication of these volumes, so long out of print, a new interest will be aroused in the reading of Swedenborg's anatomical works.

2. BUSINESS AFFAIRS AND STORAGE OF PUBLICATIONS

To enter into the details of these matters in this report would only add to its length without aiding problems. Suffice it to say that over a period of years the Association has gradually come into possession of a rather large quantity of printed material in both bound and unbound form—so much that as of now no adequate storage place is available. This material is at present stored in four different locations in the Academy buildings. Finally, when the bound volumes of the *Animal Kingdom* were delivered last fall, the saturation point was reached at the Academy, but storage space was kindly offered in a private home. Aside from the inconvenience to others who work and live in these locations there is the obvious difficulty in proper management of the physical properties by the treasurer as custodian.

But there is a matter for greater concern, as has been pointed out recently at our board meetings, and this is the proper care of unbound pages of several works of Swedenborg, which in their present state are suffering daily deterioration.

Because of these things and also because the board felt that it was time for us to take an overall look at what our program should be in the near future insofar as our resources permit. I appointed Mr. Boyd Asplundh to become a committee to investigate independently our business affairs, the storage problem, and our sales arrangements through book rooms. This he has agreed to do. He has made some preliminary findings and it is hoped that by this time next year a report will be made on the result.

3. THE NEW PHILOSOPHY

The past editor, Mr. Henderson, has made a report to you on his portion of this year's work on the NEW PHILOSOPHY. In the last issue of the NEW PHILOSOPHY I made my statement with respects to Mr. Henderson's editorship.

The issue mailed in February was the last issue for the previous year, 1960. If the NEW PHILOSOPHY is to be reestablished on schedule, five issues must be planned, written, and sent to press by the middle of November 1961. These would be the four issues for 1961 and the January issue for 1962.

As president I appointed myself as acting editor. I wish to acknowledge the diligent, willing, and capable assistance of Mr. Kenneth Rose and Mr. Donald Fitzpatrick, Jr., in getting out the January-March issue, which has been mailed, and the April-June issue, now in press—and to thank Mr. Henderson, who gave us lessons on proof reading and other things having to do with the mechanics of editing. Plans have been made for a considerable portion of the next three issues.

What of the more distant future? This is really a problem for the students of Swedenborg, and you need not wait until the future. If you think the above planning too hasty, or that the material which is being put into the journal is inadequate, let us have your thoughts—written down in a form for publication. Let us have the material which you think is adequate.

4. THE OFFICE OF TREASURER

Since 1942 Miss Beryl Briscoe has served as Treasurer of the Association. Although the total amount of money handled by the Association in any one year is not large, it is made up of many small items. Many times the letter that needs to be written over a small amount takes as much work as one over a large amount, and a bill rendered for one dollar takes as much pains as one for a hundred. Measured therefore in terms of the number of items that need attention, the Treasurer of the Association has as much work to do as one in many larger organizations. In addition to this Miss Beryl had the job of handling book sales—not usually the task of a treasurer. In addition to this for many years as secretary to Dr. Acton she had much to do with the editorial work of the Association both with respect to the *NEW PHILOSOPHY* and with regard to the many works he was responsible for as translator. Even during the last seven years, since Dr. Acton gave up the editorship of the *NEW PHILOSOPHY*, Miss Briscoe has given considerable service to the editorial board in going over copy and proofs and in handling business details with the publishers. The Association owes to Miss Briscoe a debt of gratitude for all these services. I wish to point out to Miss Beryl, however, and to others who may not have thought of it, that however well we may express our thanks to her for what seem

to us obvious reasons, there is one fact more real than thanks, more important than the minutiae of details associated with her tasks. It is this: Those who follow her for many years to come will benefit—perhaps unwittingly, yet benefit they will—in their contacts with Swedenborgiana in a way that would have been impossible if someone like Beryl had not done what she did.

We regret some things that happen that bring changes—but Beryl was one of us who felt that a change that would initiate younger people into the work of the Association would contribute to the perpetuation of its uses.

5. OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

At the spring meeting of the board in 1959 I suggested that steps be taken to see that younger people be brought into active uses in the Association. As president for some fourteen years I considered it time to pass this office on to someone else. Again during the past year I said I would not run for the office at this time. At the last regular meeting of the board it was assumed, by myself at least, that this would be the way it would be this evening.

At an informal meeting held two weeks ago the active members of the board residing in Bryn Athyn considered several suggestions for nominations, but concluded by asking me that I permit my name to go again before the membership for President this year.

In all honesty I can state my position very simply. The task of being president is not burdensome. For the most part it is a pleasure. But the situation is this: for the good of any organization anywhere, anytime, there must come a time when responsibilities are passed on to others.

If elected president, both for the good of the Association and also to remove from my own mind the responsibility of trying to handle this somewhat personal problem, I promise to appoint at the beginning of our new year, which begins this evening, a committee specifically charged with the problem of making recommendations for officers to the nominating committee for the annual meeting in May, 1962.

EDWARD F. ALLEN