

THE NEW PHILOSOPHY

VOL. LXVI

JULY-SEPTEMBER, 1963

No. 3

TRANSACTIONS OF THE SIXTY-SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SWEDENBERG SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATION

The Sixty-sixth Annual Meeting of the Swedenborg Scientific Association was held at Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania, on Wednesday, May 15, 1963. 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, 1962.

The Chairman appointed Miss Lyris Hyatt a Committee on the Roll. Miss Hyatt later reported an attendance of 115, of whom 54 were members.

The Chairman announced the appointment of Mr. Alfred Acton II and Mr. Daniel Goodenough as Judges of Election, and of Mr. Charles S. Cole and Mr. E. Bruce Glenn as the Nominating Committee.

Mr. Glenn presented the following report of the Nominating Committee:

Professor Edward F. Allen having declared his desire not to stand again for the presidency of this association, a number of potential candidates were considered and interviewed. These were confined to those actively engaged in the work of the association throughout the year as those most qualified for nomination by virtue of continuing interest and experience. From this group the committee proposes for nomination to the presidency Mr. Donald C. Fitzpatrick, Jr.

Mr. Fitzpatrick, while not professionally engaged in any of the fields of science or related philosophy, is characterized by an inquiring and philosophic viewpoint, in his work as a teacher of English in the Academy of the New

Church, as a student of the liberal arts, and as a New Church man seeking to discover and apply doctrinal and philosophic principles within these fields of interest. More specifically, he has served for the past two years on the editorial board of the *NEW PHILOSOPHY*. Finally, he has in a number of ways shown organizational and administrative capacity. It is with confidence that the Nominating Committee presents Mr. Fitzpatrick's name for the presidency.

For election to the Board of Directors it has become traditional to nominate ten names for the nine places to be filled annually. The committee regards this tradition as sound in that it demands reflection on the part of members present as to the qualifications of those who will administer the association's affairs. We offer in nomination the following names:

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|---------------------|-----------------|
| Lennart O. Alfelt | Morna Hyatt |
| Edward F. Allen | Hugo Lj. Odhner |
| E. Boyd Asplundh | Joel Pitcairn |
| Charles S. Cole | Kenneth Rose |
| W. Cairns Henderson | Tomas H. Spiers |

We would take this opportunity to comment on two of the names on this list. Dr. Hugo Odhner embodies—in the work of the General Church and the Academy, as well as in the association—that rare combination of dedication to the authority of doctrine and the spirit of open inquiry that characterizes the true student of philosophy. Mr. Tomas Spiers sits among us as a member of the General Convention, and by his active participation in the association makes clear that its purposes and interests transcend the doctrinal or personal differences which exist among New Church men. The committee feels that the loss of either of these men to the Board would ill serve the association.

We would also note, that, under the bylaws of the association, the positions of secretary, treasurer, and editor of the *NEW PHILOSOPHY* may be filled by persons not elected to the Board of Directors. While all of these functions are presently performed by Board members, their continuance in these functions does not depend on their re-election.

Charles S. Cole, E. Bruce Glenn

There being no further nominations for the office of president, Mr. Fitzpatrick was elected by acclamation. There being no further nominations for members of the Board of Directors, ballots were distributed. Mr. Fitzpatrick later announced the election of the following:

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|---------------------|-----------------|
| Lennart O. Alfelt | Hugo Lj. Odhner |
| Edward F. Allen | Joel Pitcairn |
| Charles S. Cole | Kenneth Rose |
| W. Cairns Henderson | Tomas H. Spiers |
| Morna Hyatt | |

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

The Report of the Treasurer was distributed, commented on by the Treasurer, and accepted.

Mr. Allen gave a report as Editor and retiring President.

A Report from the Glenview Chapter was read, and Mr. Allen gave a brief account of the organizing of a sister body, the Swedenborg Wetenschappelijke Vereniging, by General Church members in the Hague under the Reverend Frank S. Rose.

Mr. Alfelt read the Report of the Committee on Translations.

Mr. Allen then turned over the chair to the new President, who pointed out that Mr. Allen was not retiring from the uses of the Association. His spirit of determination and love for the work of the association will continue to spark the rest of the members.

Mr. Allen then delivered an address entitled "Chance in Modern Science and Its Relation to New Church Philosophy." Following the address there were comments and questions by Mr. Fitzpatrick, Dr. Odhner, Mr. Cole, and Mr. Kurt Nemitz.

Respectfully submitted,

MORNA HYATT, *Secretary*

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1962-63

Since the last annual meeting, four meetings of the Board have been held, on the following dates: May 16 and November 13, 1962, and March 19 and May 15, 1963.

At the meeting of May 16, 1962, the following officers were elected:

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|-------------------------|--|
| <i>Vice-President:</i> | Mr. Charles S. Cole |
| <i>Editor:</i> | Mr. Edward F. Allen |
| <i>Editorial Board:</i> | Mr. Donald C. Fitzpatrick, Jr. Rev. W. Cairns Henderson Mr. Kenneth Rose |
| <i>Treasurer:</i> | Mr. E. Boyd Asplundh |
| <i>Secretary:</i> | Miss Morna Hyatt |

At other meetings the following matters were considered:

Reports from the Committee on Translations, which is overseeing the preliminary studies being carried out by Mr. Bruce Rogers in preparation for translating *The Brain*.

Republication of other works now out of print.

Work being done by Mr. Alfelt in continuing the translation of the *Daedalus Hyperboreus*.

Material for the NEW PHILOSOPHY. It is hoped to include a color print of the portrait of Swedenborg hanging in the Gripsholm Museum if the royalty is not too high. Publication dates for the NEW PHILOSOPHY have been late because of the occupation of Academy people with other matters.

Authorization for expenditure of funds.

A proposal to change the name of the organization, since the word "Scientific" does not seem to apply.

Routine business. We are pleased to report that one matter that had appeared regularly on the docket has been taken care of this year. The unbound volumes which were deteriorating under the Library steps have now been collated and wrapped, thus eliminating the danger that the whole lot would be ruined by the loss of one page.

Beside matters of business, the meetings were occupied with discussion of topics related to Swedenborg's philosophy and modern thought and various items of Swedenborgiana uncovered by the researches of Mr. Alfelt and others.

Respectfully submitted,

MORNA HYATT, *Secretary*

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING APRIL 30, 1963

This year I have again shown two accounts. It should be noted that—in the absence of specific instructions from donors—contributions have again been divided between the two accounts on the basis of their size. Thus contributions going to the General Account ranged from \$1 to \$200, and the larger ones went to the Publication Account.

Because of our generous contributors, the total balance of \$8312 compares favorably with last year's total of \$8314—despite greater expenditures.

Four issues of the NEW PHILOSOPHY were published at an average cost of \$350 each.

The work on *The Brain* will be the subject of another report.

Members will be pleased to learn that the sale of our entire stock of 500 bound copies of the *Rational Psychology* has made it necessary to bind additional copies. 1500 copies were printed in 1950. In addition to binding 500, we sent 100 sets of sheets to the Swedenborg Society for binding in England. It was considered best to bind all remaining sheets at this time, even though 900 copies would appear to be a 25-year supply.

Other items in the report should need no further explanation.

Respectfully submitted,

E. BOYD ASPLUNDH, *Treasurer*

MEMBERSHIP

17 New Members—a net gain of 2. New Total Membership 285
6 New Subscribers—a net gain of 4. New Total Subscribers 34

BOOK SALES

| | |
|--|----------|
| The Animal Kingdom | 5 Sets |
| Camina Borea | 1 |
| Dock & Dam | 2 |
| The Fibre | 2 |
| Generation | 1 |
| Letters & Memorials | 1 Set |
| Mechanical Inventions | 3 |
| Ontology | 4 |
| Philosopher's Notebook | 2 |
| Principia | 3 Sets |
| Prologue to Animal Kingdom | 1 |
| Psychologica | 4 |
| Psychological Transactions | 7 |
| Rational Psychology | 10 |
| Concordance | 3 |
| Retardation of the Earth | 2 |
| The Senses | 6 |
| Tremulation | 3 |
| Economy of the Animal Kingdom | 10½ Sets |
| The Infinite & Final Cause of Creation | 2 |
| Scientific & Philosophical Treatises | 1 |
| Swedenborg as a Physical Scientist | 1 |
| Swedenborg as a Geologist | 1 |
| Swedenborg as an Anatomist | 2 |
| NEW PHILOSOPHY, individual copies | 67 |
| NEW PHILOSOPHY, one bound set 1900 to date | |

GENERAL ACCOUNT

Receipts

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Dues | \$787.81 | | |
| Subscriptions | 70.90 | | |
| | | \$858.71 | |
| Contributions to Gen. Account | 454.18 | | |
| | | | \$1312.89 |
| Old Balance, April 30, 1962 | | 2121.39 | |
| | | | \$3434.28 |

Expenditures

| | | | |
|--|-----------|--|------------------|
| Preparation and mailing 4 issues of Magazine .. | \$1407.67 | | |
| Miscellaneous Office Expense | 79.86 | | |
| | | | \$1487.53 |
| Balance in General Account, April 30, 1963 | | | <u>\$1946.75</u> |

PUBLICATION ACCOUNT

Receipts

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Net Proceeds from Book Sales | \$ 403.49 | | |
| Contributions to Pub. Account | 2000.00 | | |
| Interest (Fed. Savings & Loan) .. | 236.57 | | |
| | | \$2640.06 | |
| Old Balance, April 30, 1962 | | 6193.44 | |
| | | | \$8833.50 |

Expenditures

| | | | |
|--|-----------|--|------------------|
| Preliminary work—translation of <i>The Brain</i> .. | \$1098.00 | | |
| Binding 897 copies of <i>Rational Psychology</i> ... | 1023.70 | | |
| Binding 3 complete sets of the <i>New Philosophy</i> | 346.50 | | |
| | | | \$2468.20 |
| Balance in Publication Account, April 30, 1963 | | | <u>\$6365.30</u> |

REPORT OF PRESIDENT AND EDITOR

I have been expressing the belief for some time that it would be an orderly thing if the Association would elect a new president. When it seemed that I should take over the Editorship of the *NEW PHILOSOPHY*, this thought became more pointed—especially since I have served as president now for seventeen years.

While I have been tempted to write a retirement statement for this evening I realized that this would be out of place as I am by no means retiring from the uses of the Association. It is true that on going out of the office of president, I might take advantage of a certain freedom. And yet there is little else to say than what I have said in the past with respect to the work of the Association.

When I tell you that when I was first elected to the Board in 1938, Dr. Tafel was President, and Alfred Acton, Ezra Hyde Alden, Gideon Boericke, C. E. Doering, Wilfred Howard, Harold F. Pitcairn and Raymond H. Synnestvedt were the other members, you will see that I could also tell you something of the history of the Association. In these last 25 years we have had a complete turnover, and many people have served with us for varying periods of time as officers and members of the board and on the *NEW PHILOSOPHY* staff. And so my temptations could be supported by a considerable background of information about our history.

The thing I feel most strongly, however, is that beyond the mechanics of publishing, running meetings and the like, the important work, that which will determine whether or not the Association will grow, is the scholarship of its members.

I have always felt that the loyalty of New Church men and women is sufficient that even if they do not always understand what a New Church organization is trying to do—and sometimes even if they are not much in sympathy with its special uses—they will support it. Thus I have believed that we could easily have conducted campaigns that would substantially increase our membership and hence our material income.

But we have done very little of this under my leadership because what abilities I have had along organizational lines have gone into maintaining interest in written studies.

Therefore during the last 10 years my energy has been spent more and more on the *NEW PHILOSOPHY*, and it has become in-

creasingly evident to me that this use should receive more attention.

It is necessary that someone put effort into this use because right now people have little natural impetus to produce the sort of thing that ought to go into the *NEW PHILOSOPHY*. At one time the journal was used as a means of printing new translations. Also in former years there was among the Academy staff a certain competitive spirit in philosophical studies, more than there appears to be now.

My own feeling is that at the present time there is a wonderful area in the philosophy of science that should offer a considerable challenge to the best minds. I had hoped, and I still hope, that some of the staccato remarks in the *Philosophical Notes*, which have been appearing now for ten years, might irritate some people into response along these lines.

During the last year, not only because my own time was so divided among many problems other than those of scholarly work, but since the same seemed to be true with my friends who are of so much help in producing the *NEW PHILOSOPHY*, it has been rather awkward to keep the thing going.

As of now the January issue is in the press and will be mailed to members in a week or so. And copy for the April issue has been sent to press a few days ago.

I wish to express special thanks to Mr. Kenneth Rose and Mr. Donald Fitzpatrick, who although fully engaged in many duties in the Academy, robbed themselves of enough time to do all of the copy marking and proofreading. Also to Miss Morna Hyatt, to Mr. Cairns Henderson, Mr. Lennart Alfelt, Mr. Bruce Glenn, and Mr. Charles S. Cole I owe thanks not only for material presented in some cases but also for critical guidance in the preparation of copy.

EDWARD F. ALLEN

CHAPTER REPORT

The Glenview Chapter sends greetings and good wishes to the Sixty-sixth Annual Meeting of the Swedenborg Scientific Association. We have continued to meet on the Thursdays of most of the months of the year. A few meetings have been cancelled because of conflict with special events.

We have given careful consideration to the issues of the New PHILOSOPHY, as in the past. Our principal text has continued to be the *Word Explained*. We have come near to finishing the treatment of the books of Genesis and Exodus, which constitutes a major part of the work. The treatment in the last three volumes is, for the most part, not such a verse-by-verse explanation.

Since Pastor Acton, who has been the leader of our group, will not be with us after this summer, it remains to be seen whether there will be a change in our reading material and in our meetings. Mr. Acton was the one who was the most interested in searching for light on the character of Swedenborg's preparation and inspiration from this study of the *Word Explained*, but the rest of us have also been interested in this search.

VICTOR J. GLADISH

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSLATIONS

During the summer of 1962 Mr. N. Bruce Rogers started work on the translation of Swedenborg's manuscript Codex 55 or *De Cerebro*. Besides the translation work itself, this task required some study of anatomical literature, both modern and such as is available in Room 17. The translation has progressed satisfactorily but has not yet been completed or revised. Mr. Rogers will continue the translation work next summer.

Mr. Michael Odhner was engaged part-time in compiling an index of subject matter from the new translation.

It became evident that certain rules ought to be established as a guide in making the translation. In order to formulate these rules the Committee on Translations was enlarged and comprises now, besides its original members, Dr. Hugo Lj. Odhner and Lennart O. Alfelt, in addition Messrs. Edward F. Allen, E. Boyd Asplundh, and Charles S. Cole. At a meeting last January 8 the Committee decided on certain temporary rules which later were communicated to Mr. Rogers.

The Board of Directors of the Association decided at its meeting on March 19 to give further attention to the question of principles to follow in translating Swedenborg's pre-theological works. The Committee on Translations was advised to study the matter and to submit a draft of rules. To that end the Committee has contacted

the Swedenborg Society, which has long experience in translation work.

Among the works of Swedenborg which have not yet been translated and published completely in English is *Daedalus Hyperboreus*, the first technological journal of Sweden. The Rev. Emil Cronlund and Professor C. T. Odhner made a translation of large parts of *Daedalus Hyperboreus* many years ago but the translations have not been finished. Dr. Alfred Acton translated and published some of the articles from *Daedalus Hyperboreus* in *The Mechanical Inventions of Swedenborg*. Recently a revision of the Cronlund-Odhner translations was started by the present speaker with a view to publication. The assistance of experts on the technological language and on the development of science in general in Swedenborg's time has been secured.

Respectfully submitted,

LENNART O. ALFELT

for the Committee on Translations.

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

At a meeting of the Board of Directors following the Annual Meeting on May 15, 1963, the following officers were elected:

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|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>Vice-President:</i> | Mr. Charles S. Cole |
| <i>Secretary:</i> | Miss Morna Hyatt |
| <i>Treasurer:</i> | Mr. E. Boyd Asplundh |
| <i>Editor:</i> | Mr. Edward F. Allen |
| <i>Editorial Board:</i> | Rev. W. Cairns Henderson |
| | Mr. Kenneth Rose |
| | Mr. Donald C. Fitzpatrick, Jr. |

Mr. Fitzpatrick, as incoming President, asked all committees to continue active.

MORNA HYATT, *Secretary*