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SWEDENBORG'S I.Q.

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Recently I tracked down a large, dusty tome in our public library called, *Genetic Studies of Genius*, Vol. II, Edited by Lewis M. Terman, Stanford University Press, 1926, 842 pp. Needless to say, I have not the training nor disposition to have read the work entirely. But . . .

The study was undertaken to try to see from historical and biographical data whether and to what extent genius is evidenced in childhood. Three "competent" authors selected pertinent psychological data from selected biographies of 300 "recognized" geniuses. This digested data was then submitted to Dr. Catherine Cox, Dr. Maude Merrill, and Dr. Lewis Terman, who estimated the I.Q.'s of the individuals involved. They are quick to point out that their estimate is not the I.Q. of the subject, but the I.Q. that would most reasonably account for the recorded facts.

Of course what piqued my interest was that Swedenborg was one of the "recognized geniuses" studied. It goes without saying that there are many pitfalls in the methods used by this team of psychologists in estimating the I.Q.'s of these historical figures. However, I might list a few names from their charts.

I.Q.'S OF EMINENT MEN

John Stuart Mill	190
G. W. Leibnitz	185
J. Q. Adams	165
Martin Luther	115
Em. Swedenborg	115
John Bunyan	105

Of course a look at the full chart is interesting, but the point is that, according to this study, Swedenborg had a fine I.Q. but not an exceptionally high one. The above estimate is based on development to age 17. On development from age 17 to 26 the estimate of his I.Q. is 145, with a relative coefficient of data of .53 (see p. 279). However, Swedenborg's I.Q. is corrected by a very complicated process and then ranges from 145 to 165 (chart opposite p. 60). Mill, for example, is corrected to a range from 180 to 200, so Swedenborg is still by no means at the top. It might be of further interest to note that the biographies used in getting data for this study were Benjamin Worcester, *The Life and Mission of Emanuel Swedenborg*, Boston, Little, 1907; and Martin Ramstrom, *Emanuel Swedenborg*, University of Upsala, 1910. All biographies were chosen on the basis of their supposed lack of subjective content.

While we may question the validity of this study, I understand that it is fairly well accepted in psychological circles. Our claims then that Swedenborg is a recognized genius, according to them, are valid. Their idea, however, that his I.Q. was, shall we say, just the average for geniuses, is not a problem to us. Actually, it becomes just one further confirmation that the Writings are not his doctrines, but that he did not receive "anything whatever pertaining to the doctrines of (the New Church) from any angel, but from the Lord alone while (he) read the Word." (TCR 779).