

TRANSACTIONS OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND FIRST ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SWEDENBORG SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATION

The dinner-meeting held at Cairnwood Village, Bryn Athyn, on April 15, 1998, was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by President Gregory Baker. Forty-eight people were present.

This program commemorated 100 years of existence for the SSA. A trilogy of presentations followed, with Dr. Dan Synnestvedt speaking on "The Past," Dr. Baker on "The Present," and Dr. Allen Bedford on "The Future" of the association.

THE PAST

Dr. Dan Synnestvedt reported that the SSA was born on May 27, 1898, in New York, Rev. Frank Sewall presiding. His remarks at the inaugural meeting identified the mission of the SSA to be preserving, translating, and publishing Swedenborg's Pre-theological Works, and the promotion of the principles of these in the "modern era." Synnestvedt gave the audience an entertaining review of *The New Philosophy* over its first fifty years (1898–1948), with highlights from selected articles and the minutes of annual meetings.

THE PRESENT

Combining his remarks with his annual report to the Association, Dr. Greg Baker described an SSA in a period of transition and reevaluation. We are in better financial health than in the recent past, he reported, poised to publish two new books, and searching (yet again) for book storage space in the Academy. Changes in place for this year: The Charles S. Cole Endowment Fund is operating nicely, an SSA newsletter, edited by Dr. Kristin King, has appeared on the scene, and at last we have a publisher, in Dr. Erland Brock. Baker gave special mention to the following individuals for their service to the SSA over the past year:

Allen Bedford, for his service as treasurer
Erland Brock, for his leadership in publishing and marketing
Grant Doering, for his invaluable help as the vice-president
Kirsten Gyllenhaal, for a variety of duties in many areas

His remarks ended with an optimistic view of the SSA mission and future.

THE FUTURE

Dr. Allen Bedford said that it is a proper thing to look back at our past. The SSA has had some hard times. At one point not so long ago, he recalled, he had reported as treasurer that the SSA was officially out of money, and all publishing operations would have to cease. This “crisis” brought about a new sense of stewardship to the SSA Board, as “the sole publisher of Swedenborg’s pre-theological works.” What resulted from this “crisis” is our present sound fiscal condition and commitment to publishing.

But our mission statement goes far beyond just publishing. We are also committed to promoting the philosophical message of those books—the idea of scientific discovery in harmony with a search for spiritual causes. This could lead us into new uses:

1. A “living library” of individuals dedicated to science, the Writings, and the pre-theological works, ready to respond to the needs of future scholars.
2. The generation of “new knowledge,” based on the principles of discovery found in Swedenborg’s works of all kinds, applied to current ethical issues of vital importance.
3. An increased presence of *The New Philosophy* as a progressive journal of science and religion.

Dr. Bedford’s talk left the audience with the image of stewardship found in the Parable of the Talents: What are we to do with this gift of Swedenborg’s philosophy, not only to preserve it, but to increase it abundantly?

After the dinner that followed this program, Linda Simonetti Odhner read a poem she had recently written, entitled *Emanuel Swedenborg*.

The Treasurer's report followed, as printed in this issue. Mrs. Aubrey Odhner reported for the nominating committee that Dr. Gregory Baker had been nominated for another term as president of the SSA. Mr. Ned Asplundh was nominated to the association's board to replace Mr. Edward Gyllenhaal, who has recently resigned. There was a unanimous vote of approval for these candidates.

The last order of business was the unanimous approval of a motion from the floor by Mrs. Cynthia Walker, that "a note of approval be sent to Professor Charles Cole in remembrance of his many years of vital service to the SSA, recognized this night on which we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Swedenborg Scientific Association."

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Dr. Reuben P. Bell, *Secretary*

TREASURER'S REPORT

for year ending December 31, 1997

OPERATING FUND

BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 1996 \$10,335.75

Plus Receipts

| | | |
|-----------------------------|----|---------------|
| Annual Appeal | \$ | 8,597.98 |
| Book Sales | | 2,579.93 |
| Dues | | 2,899.93 |
| Contributions | | 1,042.83 |
| 1996 Computer Upgrade | | 2,325.00 |
| Special Events | | <u>514.00</u> |

Total \$ 17,959.67

Less Expenses

| | | |
|--------------------------------|----|--------------|
| <i>New Philosophy</i> | \$ | 4,185.29 |
| Transfer to Publication Fund . | | 4,000.00 |
| Wages | | 1,940.83 |
| Editorial Expenses | | 2,800.00 |
| Office Expenses | | 766.08 |
| Accounting | | 387.50 |
| Special Events | | 350.00 |
| Annual Appeal | | 321.35 |
| Newsletter | | 263.30 |
| State Registration Fee | | 200.00 |
| Postage | | 214.88 |
| Computer | | 120.00 |
| Marketing | | 107.83 |
| Book Publishing | | <u>85.05</u> |

Total \$ 15,742.11

BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 1997 \$12,553.31

ENDOWMENT FUND

| | | |
|---------------------------------|----|------------------|
| BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 1996 | | \$140,687.68 |
| Plus Receipts | | |
| Endowment Appeal | \$ | 35,093.12 |
| Reinvested Dividend | | 8,693.17 |
| Fund Price Gain | | <u>32,608.07</u> |
| Total | \$ | 76,394.36 |
| Less Expenses | | |
| Payout to Publication Fund | \$ | 12,922.43 |
| Transaction Fee | | <u>24.31</u> |
| Total | \$ | 12,946.74 |
| BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 1997 | | \$204,135.30 |

ENDOWMENT FUND ALLOCATION

Vanguard Group Investment Accounts

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| Fund 9—Index Growth | \$53,493.36 |
| Fund 40—Index 500 | \$52,569.36 |
| Fund 59—PrimeCap | \$49,472.08 |
| Fund 114—Horizon Aggressive Growth | \$48,600.51 |

PUBLICATION FUND

BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 1996 \$0.00

Plus Receipts

| | | |
|------------------------------|----|---------------|
| Payout from Endowment | \$ | 12,922.43 |
| Payout from Operating Fund . | | 4,000.00 |
| Reinvested Dividend | | <u>977.93</u> |

Total \$ 17,900.36

Less Expenses

| | | |
|------------------------|----|-------------|
| Book Publication | \$ | 0.00 |
| Research | | <u>0.00</u> |

Total \$ 0.00

BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 1997 \$17,900.36

PUBLICATION FUND ALLOCATION

Vanguard Group Investment Accounts

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Fund 21—Wellington | \$15,772.01 |
| Fund 33—Federal Portfolio | \$2,128.35 |

Respectfully Submitted,
Allen J. Bedford, *Treasurer*