

EDITORIAL REMARKS

In This Issue

This issue begins with a remembrance of our dear friend and colleague Dr. James L. Pendleton.

As is customary with the July–December issue, the transactions and reports of the Annual Meeting are included, the one hundred and tenth this year, 2007. The Annual Address was published in the January–June issue.

We are delighted to have freelance writer Mr. Karl Birjukov contribute to the ongoing discussion of religion and science in this journal in an essay titled “Science and Spirituality.” Predominantly reflective, it is a blend of history, philosophy, and Swedenborgian thought, and brings to the discussion new perspectives on age-old questions concerning the secular and theological views of the world.

Swedenborg’s life has been under scrutiny since before his passing in 1772, much of it in the form of biographies. Needless to say, there have been a variety of interpretations of his life. Some of these need to be challenged and subjected to critical analysis. One example is the long-argued topic of Swedenborg’s mental state. The January–June 1998 issue of *The New Philosophy* was devoted to this under the editorship of Dr. Kurt Simons. Other questions about Swedenborg are found in the portrayal of him found in the publications of Dr. Marsha Keith Schuchard. In both these cases, Rev. Brian Talbot made exhaustive critical analysis of published material, and to these our attention was directed by Dr. Simons. The article “Schuchard’s Swedenborg” is “an updated and expanded version” of an analysis first published in *The New-Church Magazine* No. 34 (March 2001) and No. 35 (April 2001); see footnote on p. 163.

Dr. Al Gabay is known in New Church circles for his historical studies that relate directly or indirectly to Swedenborg. In “The Stockholm Exegetic and Philanthropic Society and Spiritism” he provides a detailed account of some of the historic context of the early New Church and of developments of currents of thought and practice derived from Swedenborg.