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## Translator's Corner

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J. Durban Odhner, Editor

We present here rather extensive excerpts from an annual report written by the Rev. N. Bruce Rogers as chairman of the General Church Translation Committee. The report refers mainly to work done in 1979. In coming issues we hope to be able to publish similar information of work done in other parts of the Church.

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### NEW LATIN EDITIONS IN PREPARATION

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N. Bruce Rogers

...“*De Telluribus in Universo three versions*. This project, known informally as ‘the Earths in the Universe project,’ was finally completed. Edited by Miss Lisa Hyatt, with Dr. J. Durban Odhner as consultant, it presents a detailed comparison and alignment of the Latin text of *The Earths in the Universe* with similar material published in *Arcana Coelestia* and their forerunners in the *Spiritual Diary*. This work was sent out for preview to representatives of sister organizations of the Church in February, and on the basis of their critical comments and suggestions, Miss Hyatt made her final emendations in September in preparation for publication. Miss Hyatt notes that she received her fullest response from Dr. George F. Dole of Convention, who made a number of useful suggestions.<sup>1</sup>...

“*New Latin edition of Spiritual Diary*. Dr. J. Durban Odhner continued as editor of this work, with Miss Lisa Hyatt as his consultant. Having largely completed work on what was planned as the first volume (up to No. 1789) in 1978, in January, Dr. Odhner began the editing of what they then supposed would be the second

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<sup>1</sup> *De Telluribus in Universo* has since been published in mimeographed form by the Academy of the New Church Press and is available at the General Church Book Center, Bryn Athyn, PA 19009, for \$10.00. (Ed.)

volume of this new edition of the *Diary*, Nos. 1790 to 3427, or the rest of Tome I of the autograph. This was completed in June.

"In July, however, while studying the total project in preparation for writing the preface, Dr. Odhner came to the realization that many experiences contained in the text of *The Word Explained* should probably also be included in the *Diary* text, as Swedenborg included them as well in his index to the *Diary*. This realization in turn led to the discovery of other evidence supporting two conclusions: first, that the indented paragraphs of *The Word Explained* were intended as an integral part of the *Diary*; and second, that Swedenborg had in mind a title for this work and actually referred to it as such in the expression, 'Experientiae Spirituales.' (The title *Diarium Spirituale* or *Spiritual Diary* was an invention of Dr. J. F. I. Tafel, who was unable to find or failed to recognize Swedenborg's own way of referring to the work. The title page, if there was a title page, is missing, along with Nos. 1-148.)

"This new view of the *Diary* materials brought with it an alteration of plans. Rather than having completed the first and second volumes of the new edition, it now appeared that Dr. Odhner and Miss Hyatt had in fact completed the second and third, with the first still ahead of them. Moreover, the title would have to be changed. Instead of proceeding to publication, therefore, Dr. Odhner directed his efforts from August on to editing and assembling the material that would now make up the first volume of what would now be called *Experientiae Spirituales* or *Spiritual Experiences*. As planned, this first volume will include:

1. A preface to the new Latin edition as a whole.
2. A preface to the first volume.
3. The indented paragraphs from the four Tomes of *Explicatio in Verbum Veteris Testamenti* (*The Word Explained*).
4. A Reconstruction, from Swedenborg's index, of the missing numbers, 1-148.
5. The 'Bath Fragment', considered to be part of the missing numbers 28 and 29.
6. Three statements from the beginning of Swedenborg's *Bible Index of Isaiah and Jeremiah*.

"In order to speed work on this first volume, in the summer months Dr. Odhner was given the assistance of Mr. B. Erikson Odhner, who devoted most of this time to locating and extracting from Swedenborg's index all references to the missing numbers, 1-

148, and to locating and listing the indented paragraphs in *Explicatio*. Mr. Odhner's painstaking work enabled Dr. Odhner to move at a still faster rate.

"As a result, at the end of the year, Dr. Odhner and Miss Hyatt had almost ready for preview by other language scholars of the Church a package containing most of the items listed above, with the indented paragraphs of *Explicatio*, vols. II-IV, edited but as yet not revised in presentable form. Work on the last should be completed by the middle of 1980....

"*New Latin edition of De Verbo*. This work, begun in 1978, was very nearly completed by the end of the summer under the continuing editorship of the Rev. N. Bruce Rogers, with Miss Lisa Hyatt and Dr. J. Durban Odhner as consultants. It is mainly the preface that still has to be finished before it can be offered for preview and publication.

"*New Latin edition of The Last Judgment (posthumous)*. Mr. Prescott A. Rogers continued as editor of this work during the summer months, and about 70% of the text is now ready for the consultant, still to be appointed. Like the other works in progress, this new edition is also being prepared with full critical apparatus.

"One problem in preparing editions of this work has been the ordering of the pages of the autograph. The pages of Codex 12, containing *De Verbo*, *De Ultimo Judicio* and *De Praeceptis Decalogi* were originally found unbound—indeed, they probably were originally loose leaf sheets—and Swedenborg's pagination of them has never been in proper order. In preparing to write his preface to *De Verbo* this past summer, the Rev. N. Bruce Rogers, assisted by Mr. Prescott Rogers, discovered the key to the pagination of these sheets, and their proper order is consequently now known. This in turn is going to require a modification in the traditional order of some or the *De Ultimo Judicio* material.

"*The Old and New Testaments in Latin according to the Writings*. In the latter half of the last century, Messrs. Stephanus Le Boys des Guays and Augustus Harle began publishing the Word of the Old and New Testaments in Latin according to Scriptural quotations found in the Writings, together with additions from Schmidius and explanations of the spiritual sense. Called *Scriptura Sacra seu Verbum Domini*, this work was cut short by the death of M. Le Boys des Guays. M. Harle continued for a time on his own, but in the end they had covered only the prophets, Psalms, and Gospels, leaving Leviticus through II Kings as yet undone (Genesis, Exodus, and the Apocalypse being

considered to have been already produced by Swedenborg himself in *Arcana Coelestia* and the two works on the *Apocalypse*.

"One reason Messrs. Le Boys des Guays and Harle produced their compilation was to serve as an aid to translators. For the same purpose a committee of the General Convention undertook to continue the work in the early part of this century, and though their aim was never brought to completion, their labors did result in a large collection of Scriptural quotations from the Writings recorded on slips of paper filling many file boxes. Some of these boxes were subsequently misplaced and lost, but the majority of them remain.

"Because interest in translations of the Old and New Testaments has been recently growing in the General Church, in May Miss Lisa Hyatt was commissioned to investigate the Convention collection, preserved in the library of the Swedenborg School of Religion in Newton, Massachusetts. As a result of her report, we requested and were graciously granted permission to borrow this collection on indefinite loan under specific but very generous terms, and in June the collection was transferred to the Academy's Swedenborgiana Library. Mr. Timothy Rose was then employed during the summer to begin work on studying the collection and doing what might be necessary to complete it. Using A. H. Searle's *General Index* and its precursor compiled by Le Boys des Guays, Mr. Rose worked his way through the *Apocalypse* and a large part of Matthew, adding missing references and filling in missing notes on variant readings. We hope to be able to continue this work in coming years until we may arrive at a complete collection of these Scriptural passages as they are rendered in the Latin of the Writings. It should prove a valuable aid not only to future translators, but also to other New Church students of the Old and New Testaments as well.

"*Coronis and Invitation to the New Church*. Preliminary study of the Latin texts of these works was begun in 1978. Nothing more has been done since, due to the lack of an available editor. The manuscripts of these posthumously published works present a peculiar problem inasmuch as neither is in Swedenborg's own hand, but are copies made by others. We plan to continue with this project as soon as an editor can be made available.

"*Parallel passages to Spiritual Diary numbers*. Development of a list of these passages was continued in the summer months by Miss Marcia Smith, assisted by Miss Cathy Cole and Miss Cara Simonetti. So far the work has progressed through No. 4544. Special thanks are due the Rev. Norbert H. Rogers for having checked the list for accuracy, and for acting as consultant in general

on the work. The list has been typed by Mrs. Luina Carswell, and is now in process of a final revision before submission for publication....

"Other activities. Besides the projects reported above, several members of the Translation Committee have entered into other related activities as well. The Rev. N. Bruce Rogers has accepted the Chairmanship of the new General Church Committee for Revision of the Word (KJV), and Mr. Prescott A. Rogers will serve on that committee also. Dr. J. Durban Odhner has had several articles on the subject of translation published in several New Church periodicals. Miss Lisa Hyatt has agreed to act as consultant to Dr. George F. Dole, in his new translation of *Divine Love and Wisdom*; and she reports having contributed a number of items to Dr. John Chadwick of Great Britain for use in the preparation of his *Lexicon to the Latin Text of The Theological Writings of Emanuel Swedenborg* (in process of publication by The Swedenborg Society).... ■

## NEO-LATIN STUDY

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John Elliott

A few notes on *Companion to Neo-Latin Studies* by Jozef Ijsewijn of the University of Louvain, published in 1977 by North-Holland Publishing Company, Amsterdam-New York-Oxford.

In the Preface we are told:

By 'Neo-Latin' I mean all writings in Latin since the beginnings of Italian Humanism in about 1300: this definition was adopted by the Second International Congress of Neo-Latin Studies (Amsterdam, 1937) and the statutes of the International Association for Neo-Latin Studies.

And in the main body of the book where the development of Neo-Latin in every part of Europe is discussed (and indeed in countries outside of Europe) the years 1400-1800 are considered to be the great epoch of Neo-Latin. Sweden and Finland are dealt with together on pp. 184-187, the following being said of Swedenborg:

1) Later, during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, Latin poetry remained popular among Swedish scholars. Worshipers of the Muses were, among others, the celebrated theosopher Emmanuel Swedenborg (1688-1772).... The amount of Latin poetry in Sweden can be estimated by the fact that Samuel Alf of Linköping collected a *Thesaurus poeticus sive Carmina Suecarum Posterum Latina* in thirty-eight volumes.

2) Latin in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries was also of paramount importance in scientific literature.... Somewhere between this

Chapter 5 (pp. 237-248) entitled "Language and Style" begins: "The study of the Neo-Latin language—if we are allowed to speak in such comprehensive terms—is still in its beginning stages."

And on the same page:

To date there is no Neo-Latin dictionary; there is not even a complete index on any important Neo-Latin author. Since 1973 HL<sup>1</sup> contains an *Instrumentum Lexicographicum*, a list of terms occurring in each volume and not yet registered elsewhere in classical or medieval Latin dictionaries. A card index of such words, compiled by Professor Paul Blackford as a preliminary work for a Neo-Latin dictionary, is located at the Department of English, Western Illinois University at Macomb.

Clearly, work akin to what Dr. Chadwick is doing for the Swedenborg Society in the production of a Lexicon is going on for other Latin authors.

Chapter 5 also lists a number of Medieval Latin dictionaries, of which the following are possibly of use to us:

- a) *Dictionnaire Latin-Français des Auteurs du Moyen-Age* by A. Blaire (1975).
- b) The Swedish equivalent of R. E. Latham's *Revised Medieval Latin Word List—From British and Irish Sources*<sup>2</sup>, only the editor's names are given (Ulla Westerbergh and Eva Odelman, since 1968).
- c) *Botanical Latin* W. T. Stearn, second ed. 1967.

As regards syntax Ijsewijn writes:

In matters of syntax Neo-Latin authors do not, generally speaking, depart fundamentally from classical Latin. There are, of course, noticeable individual differences. The most striking features are perhaps a certain looseness in the use of the indicative and subjunctive in subordinate clauses and an outspoken tendency in many writers towards a more analytical phrase structure.

And on the question of whether authors' native tongues affected their Latin styles:

A problem which requires further study is the influence of the vernacular on Neo-Latin. My impression is that, among the mature humanists, an author's native tongue did not have very much influence on his Latin. These men were steeped in Latin from a very tender age and they knew their classics by heart. Therefore in most cases it was Latin which acted upon the vernacular rather than vice versa.

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<sup>1</sup>*Humanistica Lovaniensia* - a Journal of Neo-Latin Studies.

<sup>2</sup>Published in 1965 for the British Academy by the Oxford University Press, Ltd.