

## REVIEW

**An Appendix to Arcana Caelestia.** A supplementary volume to the third Latin edition of the *Arcana Caelestia* (1949–1973). Edited by the Rev. John E. Elliott. Published by the Swedenborg Society, London, 1973. 59 pages. 3 plates. Cloth. Price £1.00.

It is with apologies for tardiness that I should begin this review, and they are hereby extended, both to the editor and publisher of the *Appendix* and to the readers of THE NEW PHILOSOPHY. This little book has been available now for about two years—it has, in fact, been sitting on my desk since the spring of 1974—and attention ought to have been called to it long ago. Though perhaps not of practical use except to the scholar, it could be of interest to many and by some might even be considered a collector's item.

The earliest mention of an appendix is made in the preface to the first volume of the third Latin edition of the *Arcana Caelestia* (also published by the Swedenborg Society), in which we are promised a list of the modernized spellings employed in that edition together with the form or forms used by Swedenborg. Then, in several footnotes to Volume II and all but one of the succeeding volumes, we are again referred to an "Appendix Volume," primarily for variant and often deleted readings found in Swedenborg's first draft of the *Arcana* ("the Autograph") but not included in his printed version, which would have been too lengthy to be put into the footnotes themselves.

The result is the present *An Appendix to Arcana Caelestia*. Attractively bound in bright red (no doubt to distinguish it from the green color of the third Latin edition itself), it contains not only the things promised but several further items as well. There is not only the list of spellings and the matters referred to in footnotes, but also "two additional notes" presenting still other variant passages found only in the Autograph; facsimiles of the title pages to the volumes of the first edition of the *Arcana* (which Swedenborg himself had printed and published), followed by a list of variations in these where they occur in the Autograph; "additional matters found in the Autograph," consisting of transcriptions made by the Rev. Dennis Duckworth of various unnumbered and hitherto unpublished sections, some of which are primary drafts or alternate versions of other passages, but most of

which have no such parallel; and finally statistical notes concerning the Autograph and the first and second Latin editions, together with a brief history of four sets of the first edition. In addition, there are inserted in a pocket at the back of the book three reproductions of pages of the Autograph, each selected to represent some special feature (for which see p. 55); one, interestingly, contains a few lines in English, though not a part of the *Arcana* text.

There are, therefore, a number of things packed into this little book, and even the general reader should find it worth browsing through. Of interest, for example, are the specimens of Swedenborg's handwriting, the few lines in English already mentioned and some extraneous numerical calculations, the fact that there are six title pages to Volume II of the first Latin edition (showing that it was, as noted in the Editor's Preface, published chapter by chapter), the title pages themselves with their old-fashioned type-face, and, for the linguistically minded, Swedenborg's renaissance and sometimes medieval spelling of Latin words, besides other things,

As I regard it, however, the chief value of this *Appendix* lies in its publication of material in the Autograph which has not previously been readily available. It has, of course, always existed in the Autograph itself and in reproductions of it, reproductions which are extant in several New Church libraries and perhaps also in some private collections. But no one before this has gone through and pulled these passages out so as to make them handy for ready reference. What we probably need now is an English translation in order to make them more widely accessible for study, and I presume that someone will get around to doing this some day. Still this volume will stand as the convenient reference for the Latin student, and it will not be superseded for a long time, if ever. It represents yet one more step in the development of our knowledge, both as to the contents of Swedenborg's manuscripts and as to his method of working.

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