

## EDITORIAL REMARKS

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### In This Issue

We continue catching up with this issue of *The New Philosophy* with Volumes CXX–CXXI, for 2017. By next year we should have worked ourselves out of the past and into future volumes.

With the passing of Karl Birjukov (1951–2017) into the spiritual world we have lost a valued contributor to *The New Philosophy*. Discovering Swedenborg in mid-life, Karl wasted no time in immersing himself in the seminal ideas he found there. Working seamlessly from the philosophical and scientific works through the theological Writings, Karl showed an appreciation for the intellectual and spiritual depth in this corpus. He never tired of sharing his discoveries with everyone he knew. His *Correspondences: Light and Hunger* is not just an exposition of how correspondences occur and operate; it also demonstrates how effortlessly this can be done by a person who is aware of these correspondences and puts them to use in their world view. In the *True Christian Religion* § 508:3, Emanuel Swedenborg relates a truth of the New Revelation: “Now it is permitted to enter with the understanding into the mysteries of faith.” What Karl Birjukov gives us here is proof that this is more than just a platitude. Correspondences are real and operating continually in all things, and the better we understand this system the better we will live. For people like Karl, the ideas found in Swedenborg’s works—scientific through theological—are not just for articles in journals. They are tools for abundant living.

The remainder of this issue of *The New Philosophy* is devoted to the final sections of *Intelligent Default: Emanuel Swedenborg’s Theistic Science as Model and Method for Solving Contemporary Problems in Natural Philosophy*. The premise of this thesis is that the various “doctrines” discovered by Swedenborg in his scientific works, and amplified in his theological Writings can serve as foundational axioms for a new model for the natural sciences. If the evolution of organic forms is a scientific fact, then, just as Karl Birjukov explains in *Correspondences: Light and Hunger*, we can interpret this fact in one of two ways. The scientific materialism of our day (naturalism, in Swedenborg’s terminology) is based on “factual knowledge with no spiritual content.” That will take as far, as the science of the Neo-Darwinian Synthesis

is elegant indeed. But for a complete understanding of the natural processes visible to our eyes, we must look deeper, into the spiritual origin of natural things, produced by the action of correspondences at work, beneath those visible processes. As we are reminded in *Divine Love and Wisdom* § 46, “Thought from the eye closes the understanding, but thought from the understanding opens the eye.” This, as I am sure Karl would remind us, is “what factual knowledge would look like that has spiritual content.” And that is The New Philosophy.

Respectfully submitted,  
Reuben P. Bell  
Editor

**Theistic Science Symposium**, October 12, 2019, Bryn Athyn College

*Please note:* The Swedenborg Scientific Association is hosting a *Theistic Science Symposium* at the Bryn Athyn College, Oct. 12, 2019. (*Please note date change from last correspondence.*) It will surely be an interesting day with a number of speakers on this very relevant topic. Save the date and look on <http://swedenborg-philosophy.org> for an agenda, future updates, and registration. The symposium is free, lodging at the Bryn Athyn College is available for a charge. Please contact [SwedSciAssoc@gmail.com](mailto:SwedSciAssoc@gmail.com) for any questions. We look forward to seeing you there. This is open to the public but we kindly request registration.