

## EDITORIAL REMARKS

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### In This Issue

This single issue for the year 2015 begins with Ed Gyllenhaal's "Swedenborg in Lincoln Park: Adolf Jonsson's 1924 bust of Emanuel Swedenborg and its Sculptural Antecedents" in which we find details of the stories relating to busts of the Swedish seer, dating back to 1805 and ending in 2013. This fascinating history includes facets of the history of the New Church and the influence of Swedenborgian thought.

In April 2015, Bryn Athyn College hosted a Book Expo which—in the words of its prime mover Lisa Childs, the SSA's marketer,—was "to celebrate and explore science, spirituality, and Swedenborgian thought in general." Accompanying the book display, a series of one-hour sessions, that included a speaker, provided opportunities for discussion of topics presented. Details of the event are given in Lisa's "Book Expo: New Church Associated Publishers."

It is customary to include the SSA's Treasurer's Annual Report in the July–December issue of *The New Philosophy*, so it is included in this single issue for 2015.

In the July–December, 2012 of this journal we began a consideration of the topic of "influx" with my own article "Some Preliminary Thoughts on Swedenborg's Concept of Influx" followed in the same issue by Karl Birjukov's first article on the subject, "Influx"; then followed, in the July–December 2013, Karl's "Influx" Part II.

In this issue are two more articles on the subject. The first is Dr. David Lister's "The Neurological Basis of Influx" which opens with "Following on from Karl Birjukov's article on 'Influx,' I have divided this contribution . . . into several parts, depending on the relevant part of the nervous system involved; I am using a modification of the same system as Norman Berridge used in his book *The Natural Basis of Spiritual Reality*, that is, how different parts of the physical brain provide a framework for, or correspond to, spiritual influx."

The second is Karl Birjukov's third article in this series titled "Relativity Reviewed." In this he considers a variety of related topics, especially ontology and epistemology, topics that address questions about what is

actually real and how this is framed as knowledge. Fundamental to these is the recognition that the Only Reality is in fact God, and that the physical plane, though essential in the whole scheme of things as the ultimate receptacle of the Divine influx, is the least real, though from a naturalistic perspective it is the only reality.

The authors both draw heavily on Swedenborg's works to provide enlightenment for their considerations.

Dr. Dan Synnestvedt's article "Unmasking Naturalism, the 'Science Wars,' and Freeing the Spirit" provides a contrast to such a perspective, and gives us the intellectual background that developed out of the Enlightenment and that is in stark contrast to the dualism of Swedenborgian philosophy, and brought about the demise of ideas about influx.