

EDITORIAL REMARKS

In This Issue

Two articles focus on different aspects of Swedenborg's private life. The first, by Rev. Olle Hjern, is about his outer life when living in Stockholm, while the second, by Rev. Dr. George Dole, is about his inner mental life following his turning from science and philosophy to theology after his call.

In the opening paragraph of his article "Swedenborg in Stockholm," Olle Hjern says,

We know that Emanuel Swedenborg spent a large portion of his time traveling through countries outside Sweden and that he passed the last part of his life in England. However, it is quite clear that the place where he worked the most and where he returned again and again was Stockholm, the place of his birth.

He then goes on to give us details about various aspects of the environment of Swedenborg's life in Stockholm.

George Dole's article "A Missing Chapter" opens, "Between April 1745, when his open experiences of the spiritual world started, and December 1748, when he started writing *Secrets of Heaven*, Swedenborg wrote some 5,000 folio pages of material that he never published." Working with *The Word Explained* drawn from these pages, we are treated to the author's first effort to tell, in broad outline, the story of how it was "that Swedenborg summed up late in *True Christianity* (§ 779), as follows: '. . . from the first day of that call I have not received anything whatever pertaining to the doctrines of that church from any angel, but from the Lord alone while I was reading the Word.' Now we can watch this happen" (p. 238). I think of this story as being of how from being a devout Lutheran Swedenborg became a New Churchman.

Ed Sylvia's article "Proving God" is based on his talk at the SSA Annual Meeting in April, 2011. In its Abstract, he says: "This article . . . attempts to briefly explore the radical idea that today's scientists must still catch up to Swedenborg's models of reality. The implications of this are

brought to light by pointing out that Swedenborg's theology and multi-level interpretation of the Bible were saturated with universal scientific principles that embrace the wide-ranging concepts of gravity, quantum non-locality, poly-dimensional space, process theory, creation, and evolutionary theory and neuroscience." Further elaboration of this can be found in his book *Proving God. Swedenborg's Remarkable Quest for the Quantum Fingerprints of Love* (Troy, IL: Staircase Press, 2009, 2010), 421pp.

This issue closes with the Book Reviews; Received for Review; and News, Notes, and Comments. Our sister organizations, The Swedenborg Society and Swedenborg Foundation, have been particularly active in producing new books during 2011 and 2012, and an attempt is made in these three departments to give our readers an idea about at least some of these very fine books. On its part, the SSA's new book by Dr. B. David Fuller titled *Swedenborg and Osteopathy* has gone to press. See the advertisement for it in this issue on page 236.