

## TRANSACTIONS OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING

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The Annual Meeting of the Swedenborg Scientific Association was held on Saturday, September 29, 2012. President Rev. Dr. Reuben P. Bell opened the meeting at 7:30 PM held in the Pendleton Hall auditorium at the Bryn Athyn College. In addition to board members and officers, there were six members present.

Dr. Bell opened the meeting by welcoming those present reminding them that the purpose of it was to answer the question: "How are we to reconfigure the association for the next 115 years, the year 2012 being the 115th year since the beginning of the work of the SSA in 1898. Following a short business meeting, the format of the meeting included talks from a panel: Reuben Bell speaking on the grand cultural shift we are all in; Erland Brock giving a historical perspective; Oliver and Rachel Odhner speaking to the cultural shift to come in science; and Joanna Hill commenting on publishing and marketing in the new stage. This was followed by open discussion and remarks from the floor.

### BUSINESS MEETING

**Election to the board:** Reuben Bell said there was the need to reappoint Oliver and Rachel Odhner to the board as one member, and to elect David Fuller to full membership following his service as secretary. After calling for a vote, these nominees were elected unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** Les Alden spoke to the meeting after distributing a balance sheet report for 2011. He noted that Swedenborg Publishers International (whose accounts the SSA handles) had a good year with income of \$25,000, and low costs involving only two newsletters. He also notes that while during the recession the endowment lost \$225,000, since that it has regained \$340,000.

The report was accepted with applause, and an expression of gratitude from Reuben Bell for the fine work the treasure does on our behalf.

## PANEL PRESENTATIONS

Reuben Bell opened with comment regarding the SSA's work from its mission: to keep Swedenborg's scientific and scientific works in print and to encourage scholarship therein. He noted that we have accomplished this by keeping the works in print, now by means of Print-on-Demand, and have regularly over the years published the journal, and in addition books that reflect the encouragement of scholarship, most recently in the *Mentics* by Oliver and Rachel Odhner, and *Swedenborg and Osteopathy* by David Fuller.

What is the "cultural change" we are witnessing? Firstly, he noted that Swedenborg's science is essential to the evolution of sciences, not so much the science per se, but his philosophic outlook in the business of understanding the physical plane. The cultural shift began in quantum physics recognizing the existence of "force carriers" that come in and out of existence, of a level of existence below the senses. Also, that there is indeterminism in both the physical and biological realms. It's no good telling people that in Swedenborg you will find ideas that address this condition: they need to find them themselves.

Another factor in the change is in people; they don't come out as they did in the past. He recalled his first SSA Annual Meeting he experienced in 1990 under Charles Cole's presidency, attended by a good crowd. But this is not the pattern now. So we need to take the SSA to where people are.

He also wondered what will the board look like in the future? What will the new forms the SSA take look like? The Charter does say what to do, but not how to do it. This is our challenge; people's minds don't work the way they used to. We need to adjust to this, and it is the point of this meeting to consider how this can be done.

Reuben Bell then introduced Erland Brock who spoke on the historical perspective, speaking to his outline of the history of the association as drawn from C.E. Doering's account of it published first in the 1930s then recently republished in the journal. The text of this talk is printed below, including some supplemental material accounts of the very beginning of the association with special note of the role of John Whitehead and Frank Sewall in this.

He also noted that science starts from a belief that truth about the world can be gained through the examination of it through the senses with the use of the faculties of imagination and reason. We are believers that as human beings, we live in two worlds at once, as our seer proclaims: the physical world of our bodies and the spiritual world of the mind, the world of thoughts and affections that have their source in the higher plane. We can with equal justification start from our beliefs, as reflected in Norman Berridge's book, *The Natural Basis of Spiritual Reality*, Vance Genzlinger's work published in the journal, and Ian Thompson's in his book *Starting Science from God*.

After introducing Rachel and Oliver Odhner, Rachel spoke to the shift that is taking place in modern science, and her address is also published below

Reuben Bell then asked Joanna Hill to comment on the expectations she has for publication and marketing in the new stage. She said it is up to the association to find ways to keep Swedenborg's works and ideas accessible to the public mind, including current articles in the journal. In addition, the association should consider making titles available as ebooks, have up-to-date catalogs, and perhaps target historians of science, medicine, and religion in marketing.

Reuben Bell opened the meeting for discussion:

Stephen Cole spoke to the need to use the internet, and emphasized that we need to be prepared to spend funds which we have to get things done: for example, having an online newsletter, but someone has to do this; or the use of Facebook, can't just sit there, needs to be active. Ideas need to be available, with summaries for example and pictures. Let's pay to do it.

Reuben Bell responded with gratitude.

Erland Brock noted that web master Louis Woofenden had submitted a proposal a couple of months ago, to the board for an update of the website. The board was very positive. Subsequently, Louis's changing graduate school circumstances have prevented him from being able to continue this work. He is currently seeking a new web master, and at the moment things are on hold. Louis has worked for us ever since we were online some ten years ago, posting the journal and SPI and handling our online book orders, and we thank him for all he has done.

Erland Brock noted that the journal pdfs back to 1990 are online. In addition, Marvin Clymer is including the journal on the Swedenborg Library digital collection. He noted also that the SPI Newsletter is posted on the SSA site, available there in color—not B/W that is mailed to members. Finally, he said that it is a great idea to use the internet to market the SSA and agreed that we must be prepared to pay for it.

In closing the discussion, Reuben Bell noted that a group mind is more powerful than a single one. We are planting trees here. We need to talk about how to implement these ideas. At 9PM he then moved adjournment to refreshment where discussion can continue. Motion passed with applause.

Editorial note: The following two items are the presentations made by Erland Brock and Rachel Odhner.

## HISTORICAL REVIEW

Erland Brock's historical review was based on the selected material below. In his commentary he drew attention to important ideas given in it.

**Extracts from C.E. Doering "A History of the SSA" *The New Philosophy* 35 (July 1932): 82–96.**

1. "In the *New Jerusalem Journal*, 1792, page 401, is an article signed "Omicron" in which the writer advises New Church people to study the science and philosophy of Swedenborg as a preparation of their minds to understand more fully the teachings of the Writings, even as the investigation and study of natural truth prepared the mind of Swedenborg to receive and give the Revelation to the world; and he proposed that the *Economy of the Animal Kingdom* and *The Animal Kingdom* be translated for the English reader. But he received no response or encouragement; yet, between then and 1828, three of the smaller philosophical works—*The Infinite*, the \_\_\_\_\_ and the *Worship and Love of God*, Parts I and II—were translated and published. In 1828, Dr. Atlee translated *The Principia*, but his effort to have it published failed. Between the years 1827 and 1837, favorable

comments on some of the physiological works appeared in the public prints.

“Then, from 1840 to 1852, there was great activity, in translating and publishing, by a group of men connected with the Swedenborg Society of London. The works translated and published by them were: *The Animal Kingdom* (1843–4), *Economy of the Animal Kingdom* (1845), *The Principia* (1846), *Posthumous Tracts* (1847), *Chemistry* (1847), *Heiroglyphic Key* (1847), *The Infinite* (1847), *Generation* (1852). The number of translated pages amounted to 3,820.”

2. *The New Philosophy* came into being following a revival in the church of interest in Swedenborg’s pre-theological works expressed, among other things, in the publishing in March 1898, “by the Rev. John Whitehead, of a magazine called ‘*The New Philosophy*, — A journal devoted to the exposition of the philosophy presented in the scientific, philosophical and theological works of Emanuel Swedenborg.’”
3. “This interest and revival at once brought out the fact that many of Swedenborg’s scientific works had never been translated, that some which had been published and translated were out of print, and that many of them were still lying in MSS; so that, it was seen that if these works were to be studied, they would have to be made accessible. In a communication published in various New Church magazines in April, 1898, the Rev. Frank Sewall, D.D., says in part:

Recognizing the fact that it is unworthy of a true appreciation of Swedenborg’s teachings to allow his great philosophic and scientific writings to remain unpublished or to pass out of print, a number of persons, both of the ministry and laity, including scientific scholars and professors, and connected with both the Academy of the New Church and the General Convention, have expressed a wish that there might be organized, independently of nationality or of any of the existing ecclesiastical bodies of the Church, a “Swedenborg Scientific Association,” having for its object, “the translation and publication of the scientific and philosophic writings of Swedenborg, and the study and discussion of the principles laid down therein.” It is thought that upon the broad basis of this important use, many would gladly unite in cordial cooperation, who

have for various reasons acted apart in their ecclesiastical affiliations; that our brethren in England will respond, and that the Church in every section will feel the benefit of this reunion and will rejoice in the work it may be enabled to perform. (*New Church Messenger* April 1898)

***The New Philosophy* 1:1 1898**

**Opening statement**

*"The New Philosophy* is intended as a medium for bringing before the public the Philosophic System of Emanuel Swedenborg. This system in its full extent embraces three divisions, namely, (1) a knowledge of the inanimate world based on observation, and on reasoning from the facts gained thereby; (2) a knowledge of living forms gained by observation and rational deduction; and (3) a knowledge of the soul and life of these living forms, and of the interior spiritual substances from which all the natural substances derive their origin, which knowledge is gained by revelation from the Lord. These three are one like soul, rational mind, and body; nor can they be divided without injury to the system. (p. 1 para. 1)

"Editor & Publisher Rev. John Whitehead, 506 S main St., Urbana, Ohio. Publication office, The Urbana Times Citizen office."

***The New Philosophy* 1:5 1898**

The following two items, reproduced verbatim, were selected from this 1898 issue to show the historical background to the formation of the Swedenborg Scientific Association.

**The Use of Swedenborg's Science and Philosophy.**

We give most of our space in this number to the proceedings of the meeting to organize, The Swedenborg Scientific Association. The organization of this body will be a great benefit to the organized New Church, if it succeeds in stimulating a love for and a knowledge of the science and philosophy contained in the scientific and philosophical works of Swedenborg. This organization also promises to perform a great use by

making these works accessible to scientists and others, and by imparting to them a knowledge of their importance and value in solving many of the most important problems of the day.

Nature is the product of God in which are ultimated His nature and quality. The very forms, laws, and operations, the substances and organisms of nature, not only embody and show forth the laws of order in nature, but they also are correspondences of the wisdom and love of God Himself. Hence, we may see that a true knowledge of the facts embodied in nature is the foundation on which all higher wisdom rests. The understanding of the causes which enter into and govern these facts makes rational science and philosophy. This, again, is the foundation on which a true theology must rest. God, as the origin and sustainer of all things, bears an indissoluble and intimate relationship with each and everything of His creation, by which He continually preserves it in its order, form and use. Carefully observed facts, rationally and systematically arranged, by which causes are deduced, indeed make a foundation and basis for higher principles, and, in doing this kind of work, Swedenborg manifested a remarkable genius, never excelled, and rarely, if ever, equaled. Nevertheless, it is impossible to produce a complete and true philosophy based solely on facts and human reasoning thereon. The science of today manifests this in its attempts to solve many of the problems dealing with the origin of life, of force, and of nature. Swedenborg, in his scientific works, whilst acknowledging the Divine Being and Power in everything, by reasoning alone was unable to evolve some principles necessary to complete and perfect his philosophical system. Wonderful as was his genius in the perception of interior causes in nature, by natural genius alone he could not ascend to the perception of the origin of life and of force itself. A new element in his philosophy was still needed, which, when supplied, modifies, qualifies and perfects all his previous productions; and this element is nothing less than the Divine Revelation of the Spiritual World and of the Divine Being Himself, together with their connection and relation to human souls and lives, and to nature itself. Without the knowledge thus obtained by revelation, he says that "no one can obtain for himself a just idea concerning the creation of the universe," "for, without them the human mind, from mere ignorance concerning them, may easily fall into the idea of the creation of the universe by nature, and say, only

from the authority of the church, that nature was created by God; but, because it knows not how, if it inquires into it more interiorly, it falls headlong into naturalism, which denies God," T. C. R. 75.

The science of the present day is beset with this danger of falling into naturalism, because it investigates the origin of life, of force, and of the forms in nature merely from the side of nature. The old theology does not possess the knowledge necessary to elevate the mind to see interior spiritual and divine causes. In fact, there is no source whence this knowledge may be derived, except in the theological writings given to the world through Swedenborg. Whilst these writings are theological, they are philosophical and scientific, in that they give the interior view of the causes of all natural forces and phenomena.

It is well that the Swedenborg Scientific Association, whilst applying itself to the publication of Swedenborg's scientific works, also includes in its purpose the study of the theological works in their bearing on the discussion of questions of science and philosophy. The principles contained therein will be found to embrace the very soul and life of all questions that enter deeply in philosophical and scientific investigation, and this Association, by following the course it has mapped out, will develop principles which will eventually revolutionize the ideas of the world on these important subjects.

**Transactions of a Meeting Held to Organize the Swedenborg  
Scientific Association.**

[Held in the City of New York, Friday, May 27th, and Saturday, May 28th, 1898.]

FIRST SESSION.

FRIDAY, MAY 27TH, 11 A. M.

1. Agreeably to a call issued by the Rev. Frank Sewall, of Washington, a meeting was held on May 27th, 1898, in the City of New York, and at the rooms of The American Swedenborg Printing and Publishing Society, Bancroft building, No. 3 West Twenty-ninth street, for the purpose of organizing a Swedenborg Scientific Association "for the further transla-

tion, publication, distribution and study of the scientific and philosophical works of Emanuel Swedenborg."

2. The following persons were present at this meeting:

Boston, Mass. ,	Rev. Samuel M. Warren.
Brooklyn, N. Y. ,	Rev. J. C. Ager.
	Dr. L. C. Ager, M. D.
	Rev. Andrew Czerny, M.A.
	Mrs. A. M. Miller.
	Miss M. K. Walker.
Chicago, Ill. ,	Rev. L. P. Mercer.
Detroit, Mich.,	Rev. E. J. E. Schreck, M.A.
Erie, Pa.,	Mr. Arthur Cranch.
Huntingdon Valley, Pa.,	Mr. C. H. Asplundh.
	Mr. S. H. Hicks.
	Prof. C. Th. Odhner, M.A.
	Mr. John Pitcairn.
	Rev. J. F. Potts, A. B.
	Rev. G. G. Starkey, A. B.
	Mr. Alfred Stroh.
	Rev. H. Synnestvedt, A. B.
Newark, N. J.,	Mr. A. J. Auchterlonie.
New York City,	Mr. B. C. Brown.
	Mrs. George Chase.
	Mr. George W. Colton.
	Mr. W. E. Curtis.
	Mr. J. R. Hunter.
	Mr. George V. Nash.
	Mr. C. C. Parsons.
	Mrs. T. G. Robinson.
	Rev. S. S. Seward.
	Dr. J. W. Thomson, M.D.
Orange, N. J.,	Rev. C. H. Mann.
Philadelphia, Pa.,	Prof. Alfred Acton, A. B.
	Dr. F. A. Boericke, M. D.
	Dr. Harvey Farrington, M. D., A. B.
	Mr. Ernest Farrington.

St. Petersburg, Russia, Madame Anna Povolni.  
Vineland, N. J. , Rev. Adolph Roeder.  
Washington, D. C., Rev. Frank Sewall, M. A.  
Yonkers, N. Y. , Mr. Walter C. Childs.

Total number present, 36.

3. The meeting opened at 11 A.M. Prof. Odhner was chosen temporary secretary, and Rev. Frank Sewall , temporary chairman.

4. The chairman called the meeting to order, and then delivered the inaugural address.

The address was followed by a brief prayer for the Divine guidance and blessing, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer, in which all joined. (See p. 34)

5. The chairman appointed the Rev. C. H. Mann and Mr. Alfred Stroh a committee to ascertain the names of the persons present at the meeting.

6. The secretary read communications from the following gentlemen, all expressing interest and sympathy with the objects of the present meeting: Mr. L. P. Ford, of Shortlands, Kent, England; Rev. W. H. Acton, Colchester, England; Rev. J. E. Bowers, of Toronto, Ontario, Canada; Dr. E. R. Ellis, of Detroit, Michigan; Prof. Thomas French, of Cincinnati, Ohio; Mr. Riborg Mann, of Chicago, Illinois; Mr. E. Nicholson, of Lake-wood, Ohio; Mr. William Niles, of La Porte, Indiana; Mr. E. F. Robinson, of Toronto, Canada; Mr. John R. Swanton, of Roxbury, Massachusetts; Mr. Percy Werner, Secretary of the Swedenborg Club, St. Louis, Missouri; Rev. John Whitehead, Urbana, Ohio; Rev. J. E. Werren, Boston, Massachusetts.

The secretary also read a communication on “Swedenborg’s Scientific Works” signed “E. M.” of Maidstone, Kent, England, and published in the *Morning Light*, of London.

7. The Rev. L. P. Mercer reported a most encouraging interest evinced by persons in Chicago in the recent scientific revival. At a meeting lately held in that city, it became apparent that the proposed Scientific Association could count upon the active cooperation of from forty to fifty persons, including six or seven experts who are especially fitted by scientific training.

8. The committee on the roll having presented their report, Mr. C. C. Parsons offered the following resolution: “*Resolved*, That an organization be now effected to carry out the purposes of this meeting.” The resolution was unanimously adopted.

9. The Rev. L. P. Mercer moved that a committee of three be appointed to consider the form of organization for this association, said committee to report at the afternoon session of the present day. The motion was unanimously carried, and the chairman, together with Rev. S. M. Warren, Dr. F. A. Boericke and Rev. L. P. Mercer, were constituted a committee on organization.

10. The chairman appointed a committee on program, consisting of the temporary secretary, together with Dr. L. C. Ager and Mr. George V. Nash.

11. The meeting took a recess until 1:30 P. M.

#### SECOND SESSION.

FRIDAY, MAY 27TH, 1 : 30 P. M.

12. The meeting was called to order by the chairman.

13. The committee on program presented their report.

14. The Rev. S. M. Warren distributed a number of copies of a leaflet published by Mr. John R. Swanton, and containing a transcription of Swedenborg's MSS. outline of *Philosophia Corj5us-cularis* [sic].

15. Rev. L. P. Mercer read a paper by Mr. Riborg Mann, Assistant in Physics in the University of Chicago, on "The Value of Swedenborg's Chemistry," written expressly for the meeting.

16. Dr. Boericke presented the report of the committee on organization.

17. The meeting unanimously adopted the following as the first article of the constitution of the Association:

#### "ARTICLE I—NAME.

This organization shall be called the "Swedenborg Scientific Association."

18. The article expressing the "Objects of the Association" was discussed at length by Messrs. Potts, Auchterlonie, Mercer, Warren, Odhner, Thomson, Acton, Boericke, J. C. Ager, Schreck, Hunter, Sewall, Parsons, Starkey and Synnestvedt, and the following was finally adopted as the second article of the constitution:

“ARTICLE 11—OBJECTS.

The objects of this Association shall be: 1. To preserve, translate, publish and distribute the Scientific and Philosophical works of Emanuel Swedenborg; and 2. To promote the principles taught in those works, having in view, likewise, their relation to the Science and Philosophy of the present day.”

19. The following was adopted as the third article of the constitution

“ARTICLE III—MEMBERSHIP.

Any person desiring to cooperate in promoting the objects of this Association may become a member by written application to the secretary and by the payment of an annual fee of two dollars.”

20. The following were adopted as the fourth and fifth articles of the constitution

“ARTICLE IV—OFFICERS.

The officers of this body shall be a president, a recording secretary, a corresponding secretary, a treasurer, and a board of directors consisting of these officers and eight additional members, all to be elected by ballot at the annual meeting of the body. It shall be the duty of the board of directors to devise ways and means to carry out the objects of the association, both by the procuring of the necessary funds and by the proper classification and organization of the work to be done.”

“ARTICLE V—MEETINGS.

This Association shall meet annually, at such time and place as the board of directors shall determine. The board of directors shall have power to call special meetings as may be required.”

21. The following was adopted as the sixth and last article of the constitution:

“ARTICLE VI—AMENDMENTS.

Any article of the constitution of this association may be changed on the recommendation of the board of directors at any annual meeting by a two-thirds vote of the members present.”

22. A motion to appoint a committee on nominations was lost, and it was resolved that all nominations for officers or members of the board of directors be made in open meeting.

23. The Rev. L. P. Mercer, in nominating Rev. Frank Sewall for the office of president, emphasized the desirability of nominating, as far as possible, professional scientists and laymen as officers of the association.

24. Mr. Odhner, in seconding the nomination of Mr. Sewall for the presidency, dwelt on the undesirability of making any distinction whatever be tween laymen and clergymen as members of this association.

25. The Rev. Frank Sewall spoke of the importance of having a scientifically qualified layman at the head of the body, and expressed an earnest. desire that such might be the choice of the association.

26. The meeting took a recess until 8 P. M.

THIRD SESSION.

FRIDAY, MAY 27TH, 8 P. M.

27. The meeting was called to order by the chairman.

28. The chairman appointed tellers for the election of officers and members of the board of directors.

29. The Association proceeded to the election of officers

The Rev. Frank Sewall was elected president.

Mr. John R. Swanton, recording secretary.

Mr. Riborg Mann, corresponding secretary.

Mr. Edmond Congar Brown, treasurer.

30. The following gentlemen were elected ad ditional members of the board of directors:

Dr. F. A. Boericke, of Philadelphia.

Rev. John Whitehead, of Urbana, Ohio.

Dr. J. B. S. King, of Chicago.

Dr. Edward Cranch, of Erie, Pa.

Rev. E. J. E. Schreck, of Detroit, Mich.

Rev. L. F. Hite, of Boston.

Dr. L. C. Ager, of Brooklyn.

Dr. Harvey Farrington, of Philadelphia.

31. It was resolved that the board of directors shall have power to fill any vacancies occurring in their number during the present year.

32. The question of publishing a journal containing the proceedings of this meeting was referred to the board of directors, together with the temporary secretary.

33. The meeting adjourned until Saturday, May 28th, at 9 A. M.

#### FOURTH SESSION.

SATURDAY, MAY 28TH, 9 A. M.

34. The meeting was called to order by the chairman.

35. A paper by Prof. Odhner, on "The Study of Swedenborg's Science, an Historical Sketch," was read by the author, and was briefly discussed by Messrs. Starkey, Potts, Odhner, Czerny and Acton.

36. The Secretary read extracts from a lengthy paper by Rev. Samuel Beswick, on "Swedenborg as a Scientist." The paper was referred to the board of directors for further consideration.

37. Rev. George G. Starkey read a paper by Mr. John R. Swanton, on "Methods of Study in the New Dispensation."

38. The following by-laws for the association were presented by Mr. Edmond Congar Brown, and were unanimously adopted:

"1. Five members of the board of directors and a majority of the members of any committee of this association shall constitute a quorum thereof respectively.

"2. The board of directors and all committees of this association may act either at a meeting at which a quorum is present, or without meeting, by correspondence between the members, but in the latter case no decision, shall be arrived at without the acquiescence of a majority of the members of the board of directors or committee, as the case may be, communicated in writing to the chairman of such board or committee.

“3. The annual dues of each member shall become payable on the first day of the month following his reception as a member, and annually thereafter.

“4. These by-laws or any of them may be amended at any time by a majority vote of the association, or a two-thirds vote of the board of directors.”

39. The Rev. Adolph Roeder offered the following resolution, which was adopted: “Resolved, That a committee be appointed by the president of this association, to which may be referred questions arising from scientific statements made by Swedenborg in his theological writings.”

40. The Rev. Alfred Acton offered the following resolution, which was adopted: “Resolved, That the president of this association be empowered to draw up a memorial to the General Convention of the New Jerusalem, setting forth the information of this association and the uses it has adopted, and offering its services in any work having relation to said uses.”

41. The association adopted a vote of thanks to the American Swedenborg Printing and Publishing Society, and to its general manager for the use of the rooms of the society for this meeting, and for numerous courtesies extended.

42. The president appointed the following committee on the scientific statements of Swedenborg in the theological works: Rev. Adolph Roeder, Rev. J. F. Potts, Rev. T. F. Wright, Prof. C. Th. Odhner, Dr. Edward Cranch, Dr. Kent and Dr. J. B. S. King.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 P. M., subject to the call of the president and the board of directors.

FRANK SEWALL, President of the Swedenborg Scientific Association.

C. TH. ODHNER, Temporary Secretary.

The General Convention of the New Church, at its recent meeting in Cleveland, heartily responded to the offer of the Swedenborg Scientific Association to co-operate with it in the publication of the Principia. The Convention unanimously voted to turn over the whole of this work to the newly formed association, recognizing the fact that this work belonged more properly to a scientific organization than to one formed distinctly for religious purposes. The work of securing subscriptions and proceeding

with the publication will now be taken up by the Swedenborg Scientific Association, and subscriptions may be made directly to them. We understand that subscriptions for over two hundred copies have already been received. No price has yet been fixed for the work.

**Current issue of *The New Philosophy*  
Inside front cover**

This Association was organized on May 27th, 1898, for the preservation, translation, publication & distribution of the Scientific & Philosophical works of Emanuel Swedenborg and the promotion of the principles taught in these works, having in view likewise their relation to the science & philosophy of the present day.

**Notice to Authors**

The New Philosophy publishes articles addressing philosophical questions and topics that bear on the works of Emanuel Swedenborg. Articles that endeavor to contribute to the growing body of philosophical thought based on the theological works of Swedenborg are of particular interest. Philosophical commentary that reflects Swedenborgian or New Church thought on the natural sciences, the social sciences, and the humanities is also welcome. Articles are examined by two referees.

**Some items from perusal of *The New Philosophy* from 1898 to 1980**

Paper read before The Principia Club of Philadelphia: “The scientific works of Swedenborg and the Writings.” Quote: “All New Churchmen know that the works of Swedenborg classed as philosophic or scientific cannot be placed in the same category with the Writings” (W.F. Pendleton).

**On membership.**

1901	150
1903	180

1913	220
1938	194
1940	231
1964	301
2000–2010	140 (average)

*The New Philosophy*: Current. 184 paying member-subscribers; 90 free to libraries and universities.

Note: Clearly, the attendance at this 2012 is not a reflection of the actual number of subscribing members.

### Sundry items:

1902. C.E. Doering report on Bryn Athyn Principia Club (formerly Principia Club of Phila.) Objects:

- I. The study of science and philosophy; in particular the scientific and philosophic works of Emanuel Swedenborg in the light of the New Church.
- II. To foster interest in the uses of the SSA.

Rt. Rev. A. Acton editor in 1909–1953

Rev. Sewall president until death in 1915

Editorial note: The following text by Oliver and Rachel Odhner was read by Rachel

### LADDER FROM BODY TO MIND

Arithmetic is a ladder science used to climb from physical laboratory experience to general laws of natural order. Without the discipline of mathematics to specify concrete data, we would find it quite hard to formulate general laws from nature. Swedenborg used that method frequently, but found it inadequate for modeling mental, highly abstract concepts. He tried as a scientist to develop what the philosophers of his day called a “universal mathesis,” but such an advanced mathematics

never took hold. Swedenborg said that he did not have the universal concepts that he needed for developing a universal mathesis as a scientific tool. Then he was assigned by the Lord to reveal universal truths, and had to spend the rest of his life explaining the heavenly doctrines to the general public.

Mentics is a ladder we have developed to climb farther into the abstract mental realm from concrete experience in order to study and formulate not only the laws of nature, but also the laws of mental reality. By expressing in specific terminology mental data that we drew from our introspection and meditation, and by borrowing Swedenborg's universal principles expressed from his book, *Divine Love and Wisdom*, we have formulated a mathematical discipline that we think is actually the very universal mathesis that Swedenborg was looking for.

Now the Swedenborg Scientific Association sees a problem. Our market is those interested in Swedenborg's scientific works, which includes a lot of neurology and psychology. These fields of study have dug themselves a hole in the mud of materialism in recent years and fallen into it. They know they are trapped, but don't know how to get out. We must come and help them.

Climbing out of the hole dug by atheists for over two centuries is slow work. We need to lower the ladder down into that hole and show them how to climb out rung by rung. The Lord showed Swedenborg that technique. But with Jehovah at the top we must be angels that climb down so we can show science how to climb up.

We think of the hole as materialism, but the ladder as mental. We cannot climb out merely by scaling the *matter of fact* mud walls that trap us. We must use the rungs of thought by combining our induction with our deduction. That is our view of how to teach scientists and of how the SSA can lead psychologists to escape from the mud hole they know they are in. Implementing Swedenborg's universal principles in precise, logical terminology such as mentics, we see as a necessary ladder modern science needs to be willing to climb.

We think the SSA *must* provide this ladder for science to climb from matter to spirit! Do you agree with us? □