

EDITORIAL REMARKS

In November 1994 several scholars from Europe, Japan and the United States presented papers in Moscow at a conference titled "Swedenborg in Russia" organized by the Institute of Man of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Among the contributors was Horand K. Gutfeldt, the author of the opening article in this issue. His special perspective comes from his own life-experiences on the European stage during the past sixty years or so.

Several years ago people in the West received expressions of a desire to form a society from some readers of Swedenborg in the former Soviet Union. Active encouragement was given for this, particularly when Western scholars attended conferences in Russia from 1991 on. It was therefore with great pleasure that we learned that the Russian Swedenborg Society was officially registered in Moscow on 15 February 1995. We include in this issue a short introduction to the new society, and look forward to working with it in the future.

Linda Simonetti Odhner is well-known to our readers, both as a scholar and a scientific illustrator. In "Comparative Embryology and the Story of the Flood" she analyzes fetal development from the perspective of Swedenborg's doctrine of correspondences.

Alfred Acton's article on the debate on the nature of spiritual substance provides more than a history of that issue; it draws our attention to questions surrounding the nature of both Swedenborg's scientific and philosophical works, and the Theological ones that followed them. These questions are not dated. Serious students of Swedenborg must face them sooner or later, and Mr. Acton's article can serve either as an introduction to such questions, or as further food for thought on them.

Renewed interest in Swedenborg is manifesting itself in various parts of continental Europe (Czech Republic, Germany, Poland, Rumania, Russia, Ukraine for example). It is timely, therefore, to have the history of Swedenborg's reception there placed before us. This Karl-Erik Sjöden is doing with the continuing publication of his "Swedenborg in France."

In Translator's Corner editor J. Durban Odhner brings us another chapter of Gottlieb Florschütz's "Swedenborg's Hidden Influence on Kant" wherein the author argues that without the admission of occult phenomena (extrasensory experiences of the kind Swedenborg experienced), Kant's whole cognitive system would collapse.

Swedish scholar Anders Hallengren is also know to our readers. In Book Reviews, Robert W. Gladish gives reactions to his reading of Anders Hallengren's latest book, *The Code of concord: Emerson's Search for Universal Laws* published in 1994 by Almquist & Wiksell International, Stockholm.