EDITORIAL REMARKS

The articles in this issue reflect the broad range of Swedenborg's interests and contributions; indeed, they trace his life's work, reflecting his early scientific period, the middle philosophic one, and the concluding role as revelator.

In *Translator's Corner*, Editor J. Durban Odhner brings us the final installment of the translation of the work *On Common Salt*. By way of introduction to it, the Reverend Dr. Odhner includes his translation of Alfred Acton's "Editor's Preface" that appears in the Latin edition published by the Swedenborg Scientific Association in 1910. Acton gives the background to the 1910 edition and places the work in the context of Swedenborg's life. We speculate that Swedenborg's studies on salt contributed to his seminal, theoretical work in the science of crystallography that is found in his *Miscellaneous Observations*.

Swedenborg's *The Infinite and Final Cause of Creation* marks a turning point in his life. As the Reverend Erik Sandstrom, Sr. says: "I think it can be fairly said that the first part looks back to and sums up what has gone before, and that the second part foreshadows what is yet to come, namely, a study of the human kingdom for the sake of which the Creator produced the universe." Thus Swedenborg embarks on the middle or philosophic period.

Concern over materialism is something that has been with humankind for a long time! Certainly Swedenborg was concerned about it and directly addressed the issue many times. And yet to him sensation in the world is the very foundation of the human mind; and as well, his philosophy is firmly rooted in the material plane of existence. In his timely article "Domains of Materialism, Past and Present…," the Reverend Dr. Horand Gutfeldt discusses the subject in the context of our day.

Swedenborg is most widely known for his treatment of the spiritual world with which he became so familiar in the third stage of his life. The Reverend Erik E. Sandstrom's article "An Analysis of the Life-after-death Phenomenon," places Swedenborg's thought in the context of consideration of the subject from earlier times and other cultural perspectives.