

## TRANSACTIONS OF THE NINETY-NINTH ANNUAL MEETING

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President Charles S. Cole, Jr. convened the meeting at 8:00 pm in Pendleton Hall Auditorium, Academy of the New Church. Thirty six members were present.

The Transactions of the previous meeting on April 24, 1995 were approved as circulated in the *New Philosophy*.

Mr. Allen Bedford, Treasurer, reported that the assets of the Association were \$11,035 in the Operating Fund and \$22,403 in the Endowment Fund; an additional \$116,959 has been pledged for the Endowment Fund. He expects to receive about \$16,400 this year for the operating fund and that expenses will amount to about \$17,500 resulting in a deficit of \$1,100 this year. He stressed the necessity to bring expenses into line with receipts and observed that the Association is still dependent upon its Annual Appeal.

Dr. Gregory Baker, Vice President, discussed some further possibilities for fund raising, and stated that it was necessary to raise the annual membership fee to \$25; he added that members benefits would include a discount of 10% on the price of Association publications and, of course, the subscription to *The New Philosophy*.

Dr. Baker also discussed the display which the Association would mount at the General Assembly and asked members to volunteer to man the booth with the Committee which had been appointed.

The Reverend Alfred Acton, acting for the Nominating Committee, announced that Charles S. Cole had retired as President of the Association. Mr. Acton gave a brief review of the many years which Professor Cole had served the Association, and the members rose to give him an ovation in appreciation. Mr. Acton presented the nominations for office; there were no other nominations from the floor, and the following persons were elected:

Gregory Baker	President
Grant Doering	Vice President
Franklin Mitchell	Secretary
Allen Bedford	Treasurer

Dr. Baker, assuming the Chair, announced that Stephen H. Smith, M. D., had tendered his resignation from the Board of Directors of the Association and thanked him for the service he had given. He then called upon Mrs. Sanfrid Odhner to propose a Resolution recognizing the services of Professor Cole. The resolution was read; the members voted their approval, and a framed copy of the resolution was presented to Professor Cole by President Baker. The assembled members then sang Here's to Our Friend to President Emeritus Cole.

President Baker then introduced Mr. Dan Synnestvedt, Assistant Professor of Philosophy at the ANCC. Mr. Synnestvedt presented a paper entitled "Publish and Perish? A Founding Father and the Fate of the SSA." His paper reviewed the work of the first president of the Swedenborg Scientific Association, the Reverend Frank Sewall. Dr. Sewall was born in 1837, served as President of Urbana College, and later as Pastor of the Church of the Holy City, Washington, D. C. He described Dr. Sewall's efforts to unite the efforts of several philosophical clubs and discussion groups at the turn of the century, what needs were to be met, and how to accomplish these purposes. During the discussion following the paper the Reverend Dr. William Woofenden commented that indeed there are still significant works of Swedenborg remaining to be translated and published.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Franklin Mitchell, *Secretary*

## **EDITOR'S REPORT**

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### **Remarks on roles of the associations's journal**

Philosophy can serve as a defender of religious faith as indeed it does in the New Church. *The New Philosophy* provides a vehicle for articles that serve this role either explicitly or by implication. The publication of the series on the hidden influence of Swedenborg on Kant can be seen in this context, in that it provides a defense of Swedenborg's spiritual experiences against arguments that challenge their credibility.

For Swedenborg well before his theological period the starting point for philosophy is the acknowledgement of the Divine. This is developed in his *Principia* in the first chapter titled "On the means which conduce to true philosophy, and on the true philosopher." Many articles in the journal illustrate this, as, for example those that explore the correspondence of natural with spiritual things.

The publication of papers submitted in the association's first Essay Contest represents the effort to encourage Swedenborgiana scholarship with students. This began in 1995 and will continue through 1996, and no doubt beyond then.

During this time of active effort to engage in dialog with expositors of other philosophies, the journal contributes to this in the publication of articles of a comparative nature. This cannot but enrich our appreciation of both Swedenborg's philosophy and the rich fabric of the global panorama of philosophic thought.

Recent articles have also shown Swedenborg's presence in other countries, such as France, Germany, and Russia. This will continue in 1996. My hope is that these, together with the wealth of scholarship along this line available elsewhere, will form the source for a published series on "Swedenborg in..."

Finally, we are reminded that one aspect of the mission of the association is to explore Swedenborg's philosophic doctrines themselves, and we find examples of articles published in 1995 that do this; and furthermore, we have more along this line in preparation for 1996.

In conclusion I wish to thank Kirsten Gyllenhaal, Administrative Assistant, for all she continues to do to sustain the various aspects of the association's work: book marketing, journal publication, inventory supervision, banking, and many other things that enable us to continue to fulfill our mission.

Respectfully submitted,  
Erland J. Brock, *Editor*

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

for year ending December 31, 1995

BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 1994 ..... \$7,815.31

Plus Receipts 1995

Annual Appeal .....	\$	11,453.00
Endowment Appeal .....		6,952.00
Book Sales .....		4,669.46
Dues .....		1,760.66
Interest .....		445.72
Contributions .....		416.00
Miscellaneous .....		<u>1,827.63</u>

Total \$ 27,524.47

Less Expenses 1995

New Philosophy .....	\$	5,592.74
Wages .....		3,580.35
Editorial Expenses .....		2,800.00
Office Expenses .....		1,040.20
Postage .....		897.88
Marketing .....		336.60
Travel .....		300.00
Annual Appeal .....		266.53
Book Publishing .....		92.50
Miscellaneous .....		<u>238.85</u>

Total \$ 15,145.65

BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 1995 ..... \$20,194.13

Respectfully submitted,  
Allen J. Bedford, *Treasurer*