

EDITORIAL REMARKS

In this Issue

This issue being the Annual Number for 2004 includes Transactions of the 107th Annual Meeting, reports of the Treasurer and Editor/Publisher, and the Annual Address, this year presented by the President, Rev. Dr. Reuben Bell. In his address titled “Scientist to Revelator: Two Swedenborgs, or End,Cause, and Effect?” Dr. Bell analyses Swedenborg’s life’s work. The relationship of his scientific and philosophical works to his later theological writings has long attracted the attention of Swedenborgian scholars. Individually, we make up our own minds when considering where science and philosophy ends and theology begins. Dr.Bell’s treatment of the question opens up new avenues of thought on the subject.

Rev. Frank Rose’s article “Where was Swedenborg?” opens with this:

As one long interested in his theological works and his life, I have wondered just where Swedenborg’s travels took him. Where was he at certain key times in his life? What other countries did he visit and for how long? ... There is a great wealth of facts about Swedenborg and his life, but no simple outline for easy reference. Information is available, but it is scattered here and there, and some of it is inaccurate. This is why it seemed worthwhile to gather as much data as possible in order to create a more accurate chronology . . .

We are honored to bring to our readers the results of this inquiry. In addition to providing details about Swedenborg’s whereabouts from 1688 to 1772, the article opens with introductory comments that provide the context of his life and closes with supplemental notes and a bibliography.

“Swedenborg’s Contemporary Reviewers” continues with a focus on *Principia* and the following two metallurgical works, *De Ferro* and *De Cupro et Orichalco*. In the closing parts of this installment are remarks from John Christian Cuno who says, “In the whole history of philosophy, I have learned to bring him into comparison with none of the learned except the great physician and chemist Theophrastus Paracelsus.” This comment would be worth examining in placing Swedenborg in the context of his time.

Finally, we draw attention to the Call for Papers for the conference to be held October 26–28, 2005, in Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania, titled “Swedenborg’s Science and Philosophy: ‘Putting Forth to Sea.’”