

EDITORIAL REMARKS

In This Issue

Articles in this issue address topics of particular relevance to society at large: happiness and extraterrestrial life. In “Happiness Through the Ages: A Sketch,” Dr. Dan Synnestvedt surveys the history of thought about what happiness is, stimulating our own reflection on the subject. Its significance was considered great enough for the founders of the American republic to include its pursuit among the rights listed in the Declaration of Independence. And we all on a daily basis—either consciously or unconsciously—engage in thought and activity that we believe will give us contentment, if not happiness.

In “Planets and Perspectives: New Church Theology and the Plurality of Worlds Debate,” Dr. Allen Bedford provides historical context for consideration of questions regarding the possibility of extraterrestrial life and places Swedenborgian thought in that context. As he notes, New Churchmen for whom Swedenborg’s theological works constitute a new revelation have been troubled in modern times by the scientific details that space exploration has provided, for what Swedenborg has to say is contradicted by what scientific exploration reveals. Dr. Bedford examines the whole question from a variety of perspectives providing us with a basis for our own reflection and conclusions.

Noted Swedenborg scholar Jane Williams-Hogan has reviewed for us the latest Swedenborg biography, *Swedenborg’s Secret* by Lars Bergquist. The work has a distinctly different character from the many biographies published in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and adds new texture to the fabric of thought regarding Swedenborg.

We continue the reprinting of “Swedenborg’s Scientific Reviewers.” Due to an error in selection, the installment in this issue belongs chronologically before the one last published in 2004. We regret the confusion that this may have caused, and draw attention to the footnote that places the installments in correct sequence.