

## **TRANSACTIONS OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING**

---

The meeting was held in the Cairnwood Village dining room, Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania on May 13, 2001.

In his welcome address, President Reuben Bell spoke of the positive year that the Swedenborg Scientific Society has had. Norman Newton's *The Listening Threads* puts Swedenborg's cosmology in context in the history of science. *Rational Psychology*, an important bridge between science and theology, is back in print. We have a joint project with the Swedenborg Society in London to publish translations of Swedenborg's two works: the 1880 Taffel translation of *The Brain*; and Acton's 1938 translation of *The Cerebrum*. There is a rising interest into how spirituality fits with science and medicine. The SSA's mission is to support general interest in science and religion in Swedenborg's works.

The minutes of the board meeting held 22 January, 2001, were approved.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Dr. Allen Bedford thanked Mrs. Kirsten Gyllenhaal, administrative assistant, and Mrs. Lisa Synnestvedt, assistant treasurer, for their invaluable work. Full report elsewhere in the journal.

### **Publication Committee Report**

Dr. Erland Brock gave the report. He thanked Mrs. Kirsten Gyllenhaal, administrative assistant; Rev. Kurt Nemitz for his work on our web site; and Mr. Ned Asplundh for his dust jacket design work. Full report elsewhere in the journal.

### **Nomination Committee Report**

Aubrey Odhner proposed a change from a one-year term to a three-year term for the presidency of the SSA. Since our by-laws require a written notice to all members of at least two weeks prior to the annual

meeting, the proposal cannot be implemented until our annual meeting in 2002.

Dr. Dan Synnestvedt, vice-president, called for a motion to re-elect Dr. Reuben Bell as president of the SSA for a term of one year. The motion was approved unanimously. The motion called for by President Reuben Bell to elect Rev. Eric E. Sandstrom, Mr. Ned Asplundh, and Ms. Susan Poole to the SSA Board for a term of three years, was also approved unanimously.

### **Resolution of Appreciation**

Dr. Bell read the following resolution of appreciation for Rev. Dr. William R. Woofenden's years of valuable service to the SSA. Upon his recent resignation from the Board of Directors of the Swedenborg Scientific Association, it is proper that a resolution of respect and gratitude be read into the minutes of the 104rd Annual Meeting of the SSA.

William Ross Wooffenden leaves the Board of Directors of the Swedenborg Scientific Association after twenty years of service having been elected in 1980. He became the first chairman of the newly formed Publication Committee in 1992, and under his expert direction the uses of that committee have assumed their current form. He has done much to help us achieve our mission, the first element of which is "to publish the pre-theological works of Emanuel Swedenborg." His impressive knowledge of and devotion to these works have inspired many with the vision of the SSA, and will continue to inspire us for a long time to come to measure up to his example of service to the New Church in this important use. Best wishes to a good friend.

### **Program**

An informative, illustrated presentation on the brain titled "Memory and the Brain: Some thoughts about the Neurobiology of Regeneration" by Dr. David Lister from England, gave historical perspective to Swedenborg's ideas of brain structure and function in light of more recent scientific knowledge. The presentation was followed by questions from the floor with responses from the speaker.

Dr. Bell expressed appreciation to Dr. Lister for his address.

### **Board meeting**

Present: Rev. Dr. Reuben Bell, Mr. Ned Asplundh, Dr. Allen Bedford, Dr. Erland Brock, Mrs. Aubrey C. Odhner, Rev. Stephen Cole, Mrs. Rae Friesen, Rev. Kurt Nemitz, Dr. James Pendleton, Ms. Susan Poole, Rev. Eric E. Sandstrom, Dr. Dan Synnestvedt.

It was moved and seconded that Dr. Allen Bedford be elected as treasurer, Dr. Dan Synnestvedt as vice-president, and Mrs. Rae Friesen as secretary for a term of one year. The motion was approved unanimously.

Dr. Bedford noted that the SSA could lose its tax-exempt status, 501, C(3), for organizations that receive public contributions. We must be able to show that 30% of our total income comes from public support. We are allowed to fall below that for two years, but by the 3rd year we must comply. We are currently meeting this requirement. If our current pattern continues, however, we may be in danger of non-compliance within two years.

It was moved, seconded, and approved that the SSA give Rev. Kurt Nemitz \$400.00 for expenses for his upcoming trip to The Convention of German Speaking Swedenborgians in Horath, Germany. He will also do research on the link between Wolff and Swedenborg at the Württemberg Regional Library in Stuttgart, at the University of Marburg, and at the University of Halle.

It was suggested that we try to schedule our annual meeting in late April next year to avoid the end-of-the-year rush.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rae C. Friesen, *Secretary*

## **PUBLISHER/EDITOR'S REPORT**

---

The part-time work force of the SSA is increasing: Mrs. Kirsten Gyllenhaal, at the forefront as administrative assistant, has the primary role of formatting the journal and books and seeing them through the press. Mrs. Lisa Synnestvedt, assistant treasurer, takes on increasing responsibility. She is also relieving Mrs. Gyllenhaal of more administrative work on membership and other things. Rev. Kurt Nemitz takes care of scanning, Mr. Stephen Simons is webmaster, and Mr. Ned Asplundh continues to serve in dust jacket design and formatting.

In terms of its primary role as publisher of Swedenborg's pre-theological works, the SSA is, in a sense, at a crossroads: how should it proceed in this era of the Internet, improving print-on-demand technology, and CD roms?

Among the questions the board needs to address are:

1. Is new scholarship proceeding in preparation for publishing new editions of the books?
2. Is offset lithography passé?
3. Should we provide the works in digital form on CDs?
4. Has print-on-demand technology improved well enough for us to use this method exclusively in book production?
5. Are we fully exploiting available means for advertizing and selling our books through avenues such as Amazon.com?

Let me address each of these questions.

1. Dr. Reuben Bell is working with other scholars in preparation for a new edition of Swedenborg's work on the brain—as reported this evening. But that is it, to the best of my knowledge. More and continuing work needs to be done, building on the basis of what our forebears have achieved as given in the front matter of extant editions of all Swedenborg's pre-theological works.
2. On offset lithography: Passé? Maybe. Storage of stocks is still a problem, though a solution is on the horizon through the provision of space in Cairncrest, Bryn Athyn. This however is limited. But in

addition, for good quality library editions, nothing can yet beat this method in my view.

3. On CDs: The short answer is "Yes." However, before this means is available lots of work must be done in cleaning up scanned texts, reformatting, and preferably providing new front matter for them. But even without the last, this would seem to be a useful alternative way to make the works available, though not exclusively.
4. "Print-on-demand" means high speed photocopying from a computer disk or camera-ready copy, perfect binding (glued, not sewn), and paper cover (usually) or hardback. This is, in effect, the way we have had the journal produced for sometime.

Is it worthwhile? For the pre-theological works with low demand as at present, this would seem a logical way to go. It saves the expenditure of up-front cost in offset printing, and avoids storage problems. Since the books must be formatted whichever method is used, so long as we have them on file we can use this option when suitable.

5. On advertising: The answer now is "No." However, Mr. Stephen Simons will explore options for us on Amazon.com. Even now, we regularly receive orders from Amazon from the Swedenborg list given there. Likewise we could use Barnes & Noble—from whom also we get regular, though low volume, orders.

Also, once our website is posted we can anticipate orders through that means. We could also do more in the way of paper-advertising through church lists; but direct mail advertising outside the church is in my view now a waste of time and money.

Finally, I wish to express gratitude to all those who contribute to the work of the association, particularly to the above-mentioned part-time team without whose work the association could not accomplish its mission.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,  
Erland Brock, *Publisher/Editor*

## TREASURER'S REPORT

for year ending December 31, 2000

### OPERATING FUND

BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 1999 ..... \$17,021.29

Plus Receipts

Annual Appeal ..... 4,624.75  
Dues ..... 3,508.54  
Book Sales ..... 2,575.15  
Contributions ..... 977.78  
Special Events ..... 487.15  
Interest ..... 474.89

Total ..... 12,648.26

Less Expenses

*New Philosophy* ..... 5,064.03  
Wages ..... 5,745.80  
Editorial Expenses ..... 2,800.00  
Computer ..... 1,202.50  
Office Expenses ..... 1,073.14  
Special Events ..... 858.46  
Travel ..... 631.53  
Postage ..... 274.95  
Annual Appeal ..... 625.89  
Marketing ..... 433.20  
IRS Filing Fee ..... 300.00  
Book Publishing ..... 196.55  
Account Fee ..... 58.00  
State Registration Fee ..... 15.00

Total ..... 19,279.05

TREASURER'S REPORT

BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2000 ..... \$10,390.50

OPERATING FUND ALLOCATION

First Union Checking Account ..... \$2,363.29

Vanguard Fund #30—Prime Money Market ..... \$8,027.21

**PUBLICATION FUND**

BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 1999 ..... \$28,232.63

Plus Receipts

Income Dividend ..... 923.03

Capital Gains ..... 496.09

Price Gain ..... 33.30

Total ..... 1,452.42

Less Expenses

Book Publishing ..... 5,005.36

Wages ..... 3,666.28

Computer Equipment ..... 77.92

Total ..... 8,749.56

BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2000 ..... \$20,935.49

PUBLICATION FUND ALLOCATION

Vanguard Group Investments

Fund 21—Wellington ..... \$10,064.28

Fund 33—Federal Portfolio ..... \$9,249.54

First Union Checking Account ..... \$1,621.67

**ENDOWMENT FUND**

BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 1999 ..... \$278,818.29

Plus Receipts

Income Dividends ..... 5,382.41

Capital Gains ..... 10,887.13

Total ..... 16,269.54

Less Expenses

Price Loss ..... 22,595.91

Total ..... 22,595.91

BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2000 ..... \$272,491.92

ENDOWMENT FUND ALLOCATION

Vanguard Group Investments

Fund 9—Index Growth ..... \$51,118.27

Fund 29—High-Yield Corp. Bond ..... \$22,921.22

Fund 40—Index 500 ..... \$60,006.30

Fund 52—Health Care ..... \$19,212.92

Fund 59—PrimeCap ..... \$69,417.68

Fund 84—Total Bond Market ..... \$23,477.65

Fund 114—Strategic Equity ..... \$26,337.88

Respectfully submitted  
Allen J. Bedford, *Treasurer*