

Description of the Items on Exhibit from the  
SWEDENBORGIANA DOCUMENT COLLECTION

BERYL G. BRISCOE

1. *Academy Collection of Swedenborg Documents* (ACSD), vol. VI: no. 779 (= Marginal Notes in *Arcana Coelestia*), plus photostat of this item from the *Photostat File*.

This collection, emanating from the work begun by Mr. Alfred H. Stroh and Mrs. Cyriel O. Sigstedt, consists of all the known documents, letters, memorials, etc., relating to the life of Emanuel Swedenborg, arranged in chronological order, stating the original source, and indicating the existence of a photostat of such document if one exists in our Photostat File. It now consists of 10 volumes plus an Appendix, as compared with the original 6 (formerly known as the "Green Books") collected by Dr. Acton up to the time of his death in 1956. The increase is chiefly due to the addition of many documents which had not then been entered, plus many more transcripts of the photostats relating thereto.

2. Revised edition of *Depositories of Swedenborg's MSS*. This is a listing of the places, throughout Europe and elsewhere, where the original Swedenborg Documents are to be found. This List was first prepared by Dr. Acton in 1929. The revised edition is, however, twice the size of the original, due to the great number of documents added to our collection since 1929.

3. Dr. Acton's copy of the *Catalogue of Swedenborg's Library*. This catalogue was published by Swedenborg's heirs after his death, and reproduced in a facsimile phototype edition by Mr. Alfred H. Stroh in 1907. Our collection of Swedenborg's Library is based on this catalogue. Dr. Acton's copy is of particular value on account of the marginal notes he has added showing the results of his research in regard to the various editions, and his lead pencil record on the title page that in "Jan/28 ANC has  $\frac{1}{2}$ ." To date, we now have over  $\frac{3}{4}$ .

4. Rearrangement in alphabetical order of the above-mentioned *Catalogue*—the published works being arranged according to the sizes of the books involved, *i.e.*, Quartos, Folios, etc. This copy also includes a transcript of the notes found in Dr. Acton's copy, as stated above.

5. Dr. Acton's copy of *Selectae Sententiae*—not the original edition but Tafel's edition of 1841. This work, published by Emanuel Swedberg in 1709, was required to be submitted for disputation before the conclusion of his studies in Uppsala University.

This particular copy is especially interesting on account of Dr. Acton's marginal notes (mostly in lead pencil) consisting of the references to the classics mentioned in this work; and also—as showing further the great pains he took in studying this thesis—on account of the handwritten *Index of Authors* now pasted in the back of the book.

6. Two copies of Dr. Acton's translation of *Selectae Sententiae*, as follows:

a) The original typed copy, the beginning being typed by Dr. Acton himself, with corrections.

b) Edited copy with the insertion of all the references, including those in the Latin edition, as above. Although Dr. Acton is not here, finally to approve or disapprove of this revised copy, in view of the fact that this work has not as yet appeared as a whole in English translation, it was decided that an unpolished version was better than none. This translation, therefore, is to appear in print in the pages of the NEW PHILOSOPHY.

7. *De cultu et amore Dei* (Codex 51)—Transcript of the unprinted part of this work, at the end of Part 3. This codex contains the pageproofs of the first part of this third section which Swedenborg had printed, leaving the rest in manuscript, Part 3 not having been published by him.

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## THE DIVISIONS OF SWEDENBORGIANA

LOIS E. STEBBING

From its very foundation, the Academy has had as one of its foremost aims the collection of a complete library of the literature of the Church. This was a tremendous undertaking and has involved a great deal of the time, effort and money of both scholars and laymen (if I may use the term that way). In the early

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development of the library, the acquisition of our present treasures was almost a hit-or-miss matter, the librarian of the times announcing with pride each item or series of items that would be of inestimable value to future historians and scholars of the Church. Gradually there began to emerge a pattern for the types of items required and a plan for the acquisition of such items.

The Academy Archives and the collection of New Church Collateral Literature, while comprising important sections of the whole literature and history of the Church, remain in the regular library building and will not be shown to you this evening; the collections in Pitcairn Hall are our chief concern now. They gradually evolved into their present groups from tentative arrangements.

1. First, the Original Editions of Swedenborg's Works—published during his lifetime and posthumously. Near this collection are the photolithographed, phototyped, and photostated copies of Swedenborg's manuscripts invaluable for consultation and study by future editors and translators.

The photolithographs were begun in 1869–70 under the direction of Dr. Rudolph L. Tafel, appointed in 1868 by a General Convention committee to undertake this work. Eleven volumes were completed by 1875. Money ran out and nothing further was done about continuing the photographing of the manuscripts until 1895 when the Academy took up the work. This was when the phototyping was done. That process, though more expensive, made better prints than the former process. The bulk of this work after 1902 was done under the supervision of Alfred H. Stroh, other bodies as well as the Academy helping to defray the costs.

While in Sweden, chiefly for this phototyping work, Mr. Stroh came across the famous "Catalogus" (*Catalogus Bibliothecae Emanuelis Swedenborgii*), a catalogue made for the purpose of auctioning books that had been in Swedenborg's personal library. This catalogue has been of tremendous assistance in amassing the treasures in our second important collection.

2. Swedenborg's Library. This is a collection of titles known to have been owned by Swedenborg. If possible a copy of the same edition was acquired. Otherwise a copy from an edition as near to his own as could be found was added. To Bishop Acton must go the credit for locating the bulk of this collection, as well as for the books in the next class.

3. This consists of books quoted from or referred to by Swedenborg. Other scientific and philosophical works by his contemporaries, which throw light on the intellectual, cultural and physical climate in which he flourished, were also added.

During the course of his intensive researches into the life and work of Swedenborg, Bishop Acton compiled a desiderata list of books which properly belong in this collection. Both by his careful perusal of book dealers' catalogues from all over Europe and elsewhere, and by his personal search in Europe, Bishop Acton was instrumental in securing for the Library most of the books in this collection. The money to purchase these books came from generous gifts, sometimes from Mr. H. F. Pitcairn, sometimes from the Rev. Theodore Pitcairn, sometimes from library appropriations, and year after year, from Bishop Acton himself.

For some time these two collections were referred to as "The Swedenborg Library." Then, for the sake of convenience, the librarians fell into the practice of saying "Room 17" collection (from the number of the room in the library where the collection was kept) and "Swedenborg's Library."

4. The last but largest of our special collections is known as The Star Collection. In July, 1914, Mr. L. E. Gyllenhaal says in his first report as librarian: "We are about to carry out a plan contemplated by Emil F. Stroh. We are going to keep on reserve one copy of each edition of Swedenborg's work which the Library possesses, so that there will be no danger of loss through circulation of any volumes of the historical collection."

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## PHILOSOPHICAL NOTES

THINK! This was printed in large letters on a sign over each of the machines in a shop course I once took. In this case "Think" is an admonition; it means "Think about your body before turning on the motor!" This is only one way of thinking. The mathematician, the scientist, the creative artist—each develops his special way of thinking. While these ways are distinctive, the mind is such a marvelous reality that they are not exclusive—except perhaps in time. The same mind is capable of thinking in each of these ways. It can, however, think constructively only if it is free to concentrate on one way at a time.

Introspection, or thinking about thought itself, or causing the