

THE NEW PHILOSOPHY

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TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

SEVENTY-SECOND ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

SWEDENBORG SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATION

The Seventy-Second Annual Meeting of the Swedenborg Scientific Association was held in the auditorium of Pendleton Hall, Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania, on Monday, May 12, 1969. The meeting was called to order at 8:15 p.m. by the President, Mr. Donald C. Fitzpatrick, Jr.

The minutes of the last annual meeting were read and approved.

Mr. E. Boyd Asplundh presented the following report of the Nominating Committee:

The By-Laws of this Association provide for the election at the annual meeting of a president and nine directors, the president to be ex-officio a member of the Board of Directors.

Mr. Donald C. Fitzpatrick, Jr. has consented to run again for the office of President. In addition the nominating committee recommends the following nine gentlemen for Board Membership:

Rt. Rev. Elmo C. Acton
Lennart O. Alfelt
Edward F. Allen
Erland J. Brock
Charles S. Cole, Jr.

Rev. W. Cairns Henderson
Dr. Hugo Lj. Odhner
Joel Pitcairn
Tomas H. Spiers

There being no further nominations, those named by the committee were declared elected.

The Treasurer distributed his report and expressed appreciation for the generous gifts received.

The Editor presented his report.

The Report of the Glenview Chapter was read.

The President called Miss Beryl G. Briscoe to the platform and presented her with a copy of Swedenborg's *Selected Sentences* specially bound in red morocco with an inscription on the fly leaf:

This copy of *Selected Sentences* is presented to Miss Beryl G. Briscoe by the Swedenborg Scientific Association in affectionate recognition of her devoted and productive labors in the field of Swedenborgiana. May 12, 1969.

Mr. Fitzpatrick spoke of Miss Briscoe's long association with this organization, the skill with which she performed invaluable services as secretary to Dr. Alfred Acton, and the work she had carried on after his death, an example of which was her revising, editing, and preparing for publication his translation of *Selected Sentences*.

Professor Edward F. Allen then took the chair and introduced the program, which was designed as a tribute to Dr. Hugo Lj. Odhner. During his introduction Professor Allen displayed a row of notebooks and published works as an indication of the scope and depth of Dr. Odhner's studies.

After short speeches by Bishop George de Charms, Rev. W. Cairns Henderson, and Rev. Erik Sandstrom, President Fitzpatrick expressed his delight in the program, which had emphasized the unity of the vision of creation that characterizes Dr. Odhner's studies. He recalled from his student days that Dr. Odhner had impressed him with this unity, and that all Dr. Odhner's teaching led to a vision of the unity of creation. The beauty of this vision, once seen, is never lost. Mr. Fitzpatrick then presented to Dr. Odhner a gift of a check and a bowl of red and white flowers.

Dr. Odhner responded with appreciation for what he called a "very nice but embarrassing" program. He spoke of the Writings as a vast storehouse that gives a vision of what man really is and what the world really is. He called on the Academy to impart this vision in its education, to show us how to live in both worlds. The Academy, he believes, is the only organization that can set the stage for the progress the church needs. He thanked the Association for the gifts, which included also a corsage for his wife, who, he said, has supported him in every sense of the word from the beginning.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

MORNA HYATT, *Secretary*

REPORT OF THE EDITOR

The publishing of THE NEW PHILOSOPHY continues behind schedule. For a reason beyond the control of the Editor, material for the July 1968 issue was not available until January, 1969. In the meantime plans were made to publish other material in the July issue, but the Editor was advised to keep to the usual practice of devoting the July issue to the Annual Meeting.

The October issue for 1968 will be devoted to a special set of Philosophical Notes on Analysis and Synthesis. The terms "analysis" and "synthesis" as used in the Philosophical Works of Swedenborg and in *The Words for the New Church*, an early publication of the Academy of the New Church, have given many readers trouble. By comparing with usages contemporary with Swedenborg, I hope that I have been able to eliminate some of this trouble. I plan in a future set of notes on Analysis and Synthesis to deal with some of the principal philosophies that bracket in time the period during which Swedenborg wrote.

The January issue for this year will be devoted to some topics dealing with books associated with Swedenborg. The lead article is written by Mr. Lennart O. Alfelt, who is the Curator of Swedenborgiana at the Academy.

Although THE NEW PHILOSOPHY continues to be behind in publication, I personally feel that its continuation is a considerable challenge to scholars of Swedenborg. As Editor of THE NEW PHILOSOPHY, and for the last two years the instructor of the two philosophy courses in the College of the Academy, I have become increasingly aware of a number of specific problems that need study.

The ferment that has developed in schools of higher learning in recent years has emphasized the way staff members in those institutions have been separated from the educational program because of excessive emphasis on research. But the trend in the Academy has been quite the other way. All the work of THE NEW PHILOSOPHY must be done as in the past by its writers and editorial staff during school holidays and weekends. There is little in our contemporary society, either on the campus or off, that contributes to developing a serious atmosphere of scholarship.

It is hoped that in the not too distant future there might be a reversal of this negative trend and a growing realization of the real opportunity that lies in the publication uses of the Swedenborg Scientific Association, which are backed up by sixty-eight years of tradition and of dedication to a wide variety of studies related to all of Swedenborg's works.

Recently I had occasion to reread remarks by several students of Swedenborg published during this century. I was struck by an amazing agreement among those men who have served as President of the Academy about the need of *relating* spiritual and natural truth.

Thanks to the work of the Swedenborg Scientific Association during the first half of this century, now virtually all of Swedenborg's scientific and philosophical works are available in print. What remains to be done by the Swedenborg Scientific Association beyond republication or re-editing? Very little, unless the students of our time come to realize the importance of using these works in the creative development of relations among science, philosophy, and religion.

In the program planned for our annual meeting this evening, some emphasis will be placed upon this question. It will be noted that the Rev. N. D. Pendleton, before he became Bishop and President of the Academy, laid special stress on the need for the men of the Church to have natural ideas from science that would aid in bridging the distance between the letter of the Word and spiritual truth.

Since N. D. Pendleton made his statement in 1911, pragmatism has become a practice not only in life but in education about us. Instead of materialism we now have something called naturalism. Reaction against classical philosophy has brought existentialism. Political theories now sometimes pretend to be scientific. And in science we have the impacts of relativity, of atomic quantum theory, of a variety of nuclear theories, and of an array of naturalistic theories in the biological sciences. And of course the movement begun by Darwin has generated its own series of theories. Are these anything more than names to the man of the Church, and does he realize that he often practices their teachings in the conduct of his life?

When we look back at the period of time just preceding and including that of Swedenborg, we see that thought in his day was

in a tremendous activity under the influence of rationalism, empiricism, and the Galilean-Newtonian science, not to mention the enormous anatomical and terrestrial studies going on. Much of this affected the works of Swedenborg.

Surely what I said earlier indicates that we too have our share of tumultuous activity in our time. What does it mean to us? Is this activity an upheaval only? Or does it represent a clear indication that the scene is being laid for a synthesis that will bring our view of creation back again to a unity? What will constitute that unity? And what will be the source of the elements that will define that unity?

EDWARD F. ALLEN

REPORT OF GLENVIEW PHILOSOPHY GROUP

Our group has continued to meet weekly except during the summer season. At the time of the last annual meeting of the Swedenborg Scientific Association we had begun to read Swedenborg's *Infinite and Final Cause of Creation*. This we completed April 1, 1969, and have since read and discussed articles in the NEW PHILOSOPHY not previously taken up. At the beginning of the autumn season we plan to take up another of Swedenborg's philosophical works.

At one time we used to put aside the work we were considering when an issue of the NEW PHILOSOPHY was received, and read it cover to cover. In the past few years we have interrupted our continued subject only for some articles that especially drew our attention. Now we are catching up on the other material in recent issues between now and the summer break. Even if the members have read the issues *individually* as they came out, the selected material is worthy of a group discussion.

The Rev. Alfred Acton has continued as leader of our group, but duties as Glenview Assistant Pastor, with principal responsibility for day to day administration of the Immanuel Church School, elementary and secondary, made it impossible for him to be available every week. Therefore he arranged for the Rev. V. Gladish to take charge of the meetings on several occasions. Sometimes this involved discussing a portion of *The Infinite* and sometimes a reading from the NEW PHILOSOPHY, as when we read the

Rev. Dan Goodenough's address on *The Infinite* (1966) and the Rev. Cairns Henderson's critique of the same work written 15 or more years ago.

Recently we changed our meeting day from Thursday to Tuesday, as equally suitable to our small but faithful group, and leaving Thursday to the Board of Trustees.

VICTOR J. GLADISH

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Since the last Annual Meeting, the Board of Directors has held four meetings: on May 27 and October 15, 1968, and on March 11 and May 12, 1969.

At the meeting on May 27, 1968, the following officers were elected:

<i>Vice President:</i>	Mr. Charles S. Cole, Jr.
<i>Secretary:</i>	Miss Morna Hyatt
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Mr. E. Boyd Asplundh
<i>Editor:</i>	Mr. Edward F. Allen

Other meetings were devoted to matters associated with the NEW PHILOSOPHY, the Annual Meeting, publishing Dr. Odhner's revised and expanded work on the Human Mind, storage of material, and support of studies in Swedenborg's philosophy and in New Church philosophy. The Board is pleased to have been assigned a room in Cairncrest where our stock can all be stored in an orderly manner.

The Association sponsored a talk by Dr. Wilson Van Dusen on September 21, 1968. This was well attended and aroused considerable interest. The Board discussed the possibility of supporting further work by Dr. Van Dusen on the relation between modern findings in psychology and the teachings of the Writings about the association of spirits with men.

Mr. Nori Nakagawa has been employed to index the NEW PHILOSOPHY from 1950 to the present (volumes up to 1950 having previously been indexed by student workers under the direction of Professor Eldric Klein).

Respectfully submitted,

MORNA HYATT, *Secretary*