

THE NEW PHILOSOPHY

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JULY-SEPTEMBER, 1970

No. 3

TRANSACTIONS
OF THE
SEVENTY-THIRD ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
SWEDENBORG SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATION

The Seventy-Third Annual Meeting of the Swedenborg Scientific Association was held in the auditorium of Pendleton Hall, Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania, on Wednesday, May 6, 1970. 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 approved as printed in the NEW PHILOSOPHY for July-September, 1969. The President announced that Mr. Kenneth Rose had been appointed committee on the roll. Mr. Rose later reported an attendance of 47 members and 24 guests.

The report of the Nominating Committee was read by Mr. Erland J. Brock:

The association is required to elect a president and nine directors, the president being ex-officio a member of the board.

Mr. Donald C. Fitzpatrick, Jr. has consented to stand again for the office of President. In addition, the nominating committee recommends the present directors for Board Membership. These gentlemen are:

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

The nominating committee received no additional nominations.

There being no further nominations the incumbents were declared elected.

The Treasurer's report, which had been distributed, was accepted.

The Secretary read the report of the Board of Directors.

The Editor presented his report.

President Fitzpatrick announced the publication of a new book by Dr. Hugo Lj. Odhner, *The Human Mind*, a revised and enlarged version of the series of articles published in the NEW PHILOSOPHY in the 1950's under this title. Mr. Fitzpatrick expressed his pleasure at bringing out this very important work, showing the whole range of Swedenborg's teachings on the human mind in the pre-theological works and in the Writings. The book will be sold through the General Church Book Center.

Mr. Fitzpatrick then introduced the speaker, Rev. William R. Woofenden, pastor of the Church of the Open Word in St. Louis. Mr. Woofenden is involved in the study of Swedenborg's philosophy at the graduate level. His master's thesis was on the ethics of Swedenborg. He is now at work on his doctoral dissertation on Swedenborg's concept of causality. His studies have been well received at the Catholic university in which he is doing his work.

Mr. Woofenden delivered his address entitled "Swedenborg and the Philosophy of Time."

Mr. Fitzpatrick thanked Mr. Woofenden for his stimulating review and perspective on this subject.

Professor Edward F. Allen made some remarks expressing wonder at the large number of ways in which time enters philosophy. He noted three examples showing how time can be used to distinguish between things. Whether things change in time or are permanent in time is a question that began the dialogue between Heraclitus and Parmenides, which continues to our own time. Swedenborg in the *Rational Psychology* uses time to explain the difference between memory and imagination. The memory of a house is built up in the mind as one goes from room to room and makes a mental image of one part after another. This takes time. The imagination, however, constructs an image of the house all at once, so to speak. A third example was from the fine arts. We appreciate a symphony only by listening to it through time. A picture, however, may be taken in in a very brief instant by a sweep of the eyes. As he developed these remarks, Professor Allen introduced a second feature of time, namely the relation of time to change of state. The memory upon receiving a new image changes its state. This idea of change of state enables us to extend our horizon beyond the natural into

the spiritual. Time is of the natural world. State is of the mind and appears to some extent even in the natural mind, namely in the memory. As one enters more and more into thought, time becomes of less importance and state becomes more important. Nevertheless while on earth one can not be aware of spiritual change of state. After death, however, time becomes a mere appearance and change of state becomes the reality. There is a kind of mutual exclusiveness between time and change of state, time being a reality of the natural world and change of state a reality of the spiritual world.

Mr. Fitzpatrick closed the meeting with further thanks to the speaker, saying that the audience would look forward to seeing the address printed and perhaps discussing it at a future time.

The meeting adjourned at 10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

MORNA HYATT, *Secretary*

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

At a meeting of the Board of Directors following the annual meeting on May 6, 1970, the following officers were re-elected.

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

MORNA HYATT, *Secretary*

TREASURER'S REPORT

for year ending April 30, 1970

BALANCE April 30, 1969 \$12,122.10

Plus Receipts 1969/70

Dues	\$ 610.52
Subscription Fees	58.00
Contributions	1,756.00
Book Sales	844.85*
Dividends	1,351.00
Interest	375.68
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	4,996.05

Less Expenses 1969/70

NEW PHILOSOPHY (5 issues)	\$2,252.61
Editorial Expense	4,083.33**
Misc. Office Expense	161.27
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	6,497.21

BALANCE April 30, 1970 \$10,620.94

BOOK SALES

Animal Kingdom	8 Sets
Dock & Dam	6
Economy of the Animal Kingdom	9 Sets
Economy of the Animal Kingdom, Vol. II	1
Generation	6
Letters & Memorials	5 Sets
Psychologica	2
Psychological Transactions	1
Rational Psychology & Concordance	12 Sets
Rational Psychology	65

* Of this amount, \$220.15 represents books sold for our account by the General Church Book Center during fiscal 1968/69.

** Of this amount, \$3,883.33 represents reimbursement to the Academy of the New Church for salary paid to Mr. Nakagawa.

Retardation of the Earth	7
Senses	17
Scientific & Philosophical Treatises	1 Set
Swedenborg as a Physical Scientist	1
Swedenborg, Anatomist & Physiologist	1
Human Mind	57
Principles of the New Philosophy	6

REPORT OF THE EDITOR

For the record, I wish to announce the reappointment by the Editor *às* of May 1969 of Messrs. Lennart O. Alfelt, Donald C. Fitzpatrick, Jr., and Kenneth Rose to the Editorial Board of the *NEW PHILOSOPHY* for the past year. I shall comment on their excellent work at the end of this report.

The publication of the *NEW PHILOSOPHY* continues behind schedule. All involved in its work are busy with many tasks that have first priority on their time. Progress report is as follows:

The October 1969 and the January 1970 issues have copy on hand and this is being prepared for the printer. The April issue for 1970 is planned and expected to be ready for editing by the time these two issues are sent to the printer. The July issue for 1970 will be devoted to the transactions of and the address to this meeting. One half of the copy for October 1970 is at hand and the rest is in the process of being planned for.

I believe that what is published in the *NEW PHILOSOPHY* continues to come up to the high standards set in the long history of that journal. But increasing pressures on the external levels of efficiency in our academic lives seem to reduce our creative possibilities.

One who has followed the activities of the Swedenborg Scientific Association over the years ought to be able to see that its work is possible only because certain individuals have dedicated their time and other resources to this work. All of this time is, in the case of each person, over and above some other dedication to New Church education.

Further, what is most important, the people who *are* so dedicated *have* elected to take a view of the *use* of knowing the man

Swedenborg within a perspective that is broader than ordinary views. This perspective includes three areas of concern:

1. The preparation of Swedenborg in the science and philosophy of his day. This viewpoint requires an intention of the mind *along* the philosophical line. Each of these intentions *requires* an affirmative understanding of these two areas within the 18th century.
2. The perspective requires an affirmative intention to understand the new contributions of Swedenborg himself on the natural plane of science and philosophy up to about the year 1745.
3. And finally the perspective requires an affirmative intention to understand the relation of these contributions to those manifest appearances of the philosophical in the Writings.

Such a perspective receives little encouragement from the society in which we live. In our days a premium is set upon specialization. This attitude is coupled with another that regards *any* effort to relate the natural with the spiritual or, to put it another way, *any* concern with the transcendental, as a "metaphysical activity" regarded in a pejorative manner. Surely our workers do their work in a worldly sphere that is largely inimical to their efforts. One of the sad sidelights of this is that today one does not have to go outside of the church's physical environment to sense something of this worldly influence.

Because those who contribute to the work of the Swedenborg Scientific Association try to maintain the broad perspective referred to above, I believe they are performing an important use to the Church at large.

In addition to those who have contributed content to the journal I wish to thank the Editorial Board, Messrs. Lennart O. Alfelt, Donald C. Fitzpatrick, Jr. and Kenneth Rose, who relieve the Editor of all the burdens of seeing copy through the press. And I am sure that both Mr. Fitzpatrick and Mr. Rose will join with me in offering special thanks to Lennart Alfelt who is our special "checker-upper" on all of us—to see that each of us does his task as soon as physical time permits. Not only that, it is a real delight to talk with him about our work because he always displays a real love of its uses through his affirmative reactions and constructive ideas—which is like a breath of fresh air in this world which at the present so often seems filled with negativity—especially with regard to efforts in constructive thinking.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Since the last Annual Meeting, the Board of Directors has held four meetings: on May 12 and October 14, 1969, and on March 24 and May 6, 1970.

At the meeting of May 12, 1969, 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 discussing material for the NEW PHILOSOPHY, indexing the NEW PHILOSOPHY, the publishing of Dr. Odhner's book on the *Human Mind*, Mr. Nakagawa's work on Codex 55, Program for the Annual Meeting, and business matters.

Respectfully submitted,

MORNA HYATT, *Secretary*

EMANUEL SWEDENBORG AND THE PHILOSOPHY OF TIME

WILLIAM R. WOOFENDEN

In their entertaining and informative book called *The Discovery of Time*,¹ the third volume of their history of science, the erudite husband-wife team, Stephen Toulmin and June Goodfield, state:

Science began in Ionia with the search for permanent elements behind the flux of events. From the beginning, philosophers like Herakleitos declared that no unchanging elements were to be found, outside the creations of our own minds—that everything in the natural world was in flux, while certainty and eternity belonged to the world of the intellect. . . . it is beginning to appear that Herakleitos may have been right.²

In a world, the history of which has been largely characterized by man's search for permanence, we now find ourselves trying to

¹ Stephen Toulmin & June Goodfield, *The Discovery of Time*, New York, Harper Torchbook, 1966.

² *Op. cit.*, p. 271.