

EDITORIAL REMARKS

In This Issue

A thread that runs both implicitly and explicitly through this issue concerns revelation—its nature and use.

In the Editorial Remarks introducing Mr. Goerwitz's article on extraterrestrial life in the last issue (vol. 88 no. 1; concluded in this one), we stated that it would contribute to our "appreciation of the historical background to the eighteenth century and the men who fashioned it" (p. 416). In regard to Swedenborg, this is an understatement, for not only did he contribute, like others, to the fashioning of that century, but in addition he was the instrument of revelation as others were not.

Seen in this context, Mr. Goerwitz's article takes on a richer significance, for he is providing details about the climate of thought in which Swedenborg lived and worked, thereby increasing our awareness of the mind of the human instrument that the infinite God, our Lord, used to reveal Himself to His creatures.

In Translator's Corner Dr. Odhner addresses the topic of human instruments in revelation. He thereby provides a translator's insight into the character of the literal Word, and leads us to reflect on the question of the nature of revelation and the means whereby the Lord has used the minds of special men through the ages to disclose the Word that was in the beginning and "was God" (John 1:1). Dr. Odhner also includes a reply to Dr. Guttfeldt's article on the translation of Revelation 3:19 (*The New Philosophy*, Oct.-Dec. 1983) from Mr. Brian M. Talbot of Beecroft, New South Wales, Australia.

Mrs. Odhner's article continued from the last issue (vol. 88 no. 1) illustrates one use of the Word—that of enabling us to see beyond the material clothing to the essential spiritual substance of man within. And we note the parallel between the interior spirit of the Word—the Divine Love and Wisdom—and its clothing, the literal Word; and the interior spirit of man and its material clothing, the body.

With these thoughts in mind we see this issue having an internal coherence not often attained.

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