

## TRANSACTIONS OF THE NINETY-FIRST ANNUAL MEETING

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The Ninety-First Annual Meeting of the Swedenborg Scientific Association was called to order by President Charles S. Cole, Jr. on Monday, April 25, 1988, at 8: 00 p. m. in the Pendleton Hall Auditorium of the Academy of the New Church, Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania. Approximately eighty members and guests were in attendance.

In introducing the program the President noted that in commemoration of the 300th anniversary of Swedenborg's birth, the SSA was publishing (1) Swedenborg's second great treatise on The Brain and (2) his *Daedalus Hyperboreus*. Swedenborg's manuscript on The Brain was partially published by Dr. R. L. Tafel a century after it was written. The significance of this work would be discussed by a panel including James L. Pendleton, M. D., psychiatrist, Stephen H. Smith, M. D., surgeon, and Mr. Martin Echols, neurophysiologist. The significance of *Daedalus Hyperboreus* would be discussed by President Cole.

Dr. Pendleton was the first speaker and directed his remarks to diseases and derangements of the brain. He presented some of Swedenborg's ideas and conclusions and then compared them to modern thought in both psychology and psychiatry.

Returning to the business portion of the meeting, the Transactions of the prior meeting on April 27, 1987, were accepted as published in *The New Philosophy*, Vol. 90, No. 3, page 336.

The Nominating Committee placed the following names before the membership as indicated, and their election was duly affirmed: *President*, Charles S. Cole, Jr., *Board of Directors*, Gregory L. Baker, Grant R. Doering, Daniel W. Goodenough, Andrew J. Heilman, Willard L. D. Heinrichs, James L. Pendleton, Donald L. Rose, Stephen H. Smith, William R. Woofenden.

The Secretary reported on current activities being handled by the Board of Directors of the SSA.

Dr. Erland J. Brock, in the capacity of Editor of *The New Philosophy*, gave his customary fine report concerning the state of the journal.

Dr. Smith's subject was the Spinal Medulla, noting observations made by Swedenborg which are only becoming recognized at the present time. He concluded that Swedenborg not only had the gift of intuition, but placed great value on the truth.

Mr. Echols focused on the cortical glands which are composed of millions of single fibers. Present-day photos resemble Swedenborg's drawings. Swedenborg's observations on loss of memory resulting from disrupted fibers parallel today's findings on Alzheimers disease.

President Cole concluded with comments on Sweden's first scientific journal, *Daedalus Hyperboreus* (the Northern Inventor), which was edited by Swedenborg.

The meeting concluded at approximately 9:44 p.m. following a question and answer period.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jerome V. Sellner, Secretary

## **EDITORS REPORT**

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Mr. President, Members of the Board, and friends of the Association.

It is with a sense of excitement that I give this report this evening. This sense arises from what we all cannot fail to feel and see—the growing awareness in the world at large of Swedenborg, and of the special mission he performed in bringing to mankind the truths that are for the healing of the nations. This association has a special role in extending this awareness, not only in assuming primary responsibility for the translation and publication of the seer's scientific and philosophical works, but also in encouraging and supporting scholarship in them and those to which they tend—the Writings themselves.

There are three things I want to report on: *The New Philosophy*, publishing, and marketing. In regard to the first, advertising the journal at the June 1987 Assembly, in *New Church Life*, and at the February Swedenborg '88 Symposium, resulted in an increase of more than 100 subscribers, bringing our circulation to about 450. We are exploring other ways to increase this number, particularly by extending our direct mail advertising.

In regard to the journal itself, we express our thanks to our regular contributors; and we note that each passing year of late has

brought new authors, and this is particularly nice for us all. The first number for this year is in galleys and has been proofread and should be mailed in May. Beyond this, we have copy for all of 1988 and beyond, and hope to get the journal back on schedule during the summer.

Publishing new works, helping in the preparation of newly translated material for publication, and reprinting, is fascinating work in which I have had the privilege of being engaged over the past few years. It is with great pleasure that we can report that Dr. Woofenden's important book *Swedenborg Researcher's Manual* is close to being ready for the printer, and we are hoping for its availability in June. We are particularly grateful to Miss Lelia Howard for preparing the index, to which she and Dr. Woofenden put the finishing touches today. The work will be ready for display and sale at several upcoming events: the American Convention and British Conference gatherings, as well as the Foundation Seminar; and we have access to direct mailing lists that include 36,000 names with already established Swedenborg and New Church connections, and have the prospect of several thousand more with library and university affiliation. So we can be confident that the work will find ready sale.

Respecting sales, I draw your attention to the 1987 sales list of SSA volumes. The sale of 757 items that includes 594 hardbound books is impressive for an organization that advertises only in its own journal and *New Church Life*, and relies on the General Church Book Center and other bookstores affiliated with the New Church to distribute them. We have also distributed our books directly to bookstores and individuals as the list shows. In addition, placing our works in *Books in Print* through Bowker of New York has resulted in additional sales.

But most of this is directed to a New Church clientele, and as I pointed out last year, there are 5 billion other human beings for whose well-being the Lord is equally concerned. It is beholden upon us to make known the things that can provide the means for Providence to touch the lives of men in new ways. It is, therefore, with gratitude that we are able to report that the SSA Board is embarking on a direct marketing program beyond the confines of our established clientele. And I believe that we can be cautiously optimistic that the program will prove its worth, and that some such program can be continued into the future. Any contributions you would like to make to support this new venture would be most gratefully received.

In conclusion I want to express sincere gratitude to all who help in the editorial and publishing work: members of the editorial board, Dr. Durban Odhner as editor of Translator's Corner, our referees and proofreaders, the General Church Press personnel, and our business manager and his helper, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Gyllenhaal who attend to many details and keep the operation running smoothly. The SSA Board, too, deserves special thanks for its support, encouragement, and trust, and for its willingness to go beyond the usual and show courage and imagination in supporting new ways to extend the usefulness of the association's work.

Respectfully submitted,  
Erland J. Brock, Editor

## **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Following is a summary of matters pending before the Board of Directors of the Swedenborg Scientific Association at the present time:

### **Research Grant Program**

1. Completion of a preface to the translation from Latin to English of Swedenborg's *De Sale Communi* by Michael V. David.
2. Continuing translation from French to English of the personal letters of René Descartes by Paul Funk and assistants. Three volumes are completed and ready for publication.

### **The Natural Basis for Spiritual Reality**

Illustrations involving the intricate anatomical and physiological matters involved are being improved in order to complement this work by Norman J. Berridge.

### **Swedenborg Researcher's Manual**

This endeavor by William R. Woofenden goes to press in the next several weeks and will be in published form within the next few months.

### **Codex 55, The Brain**

Swedenborg's second work on The Brain will be published in connection with the tricentenary of Swedenborg's birth.

**Daedalus Hyperboreus**

This work, also known as the Northern Inventor, developed into Sweden's first scientific journal. Swedenborg edited and published it as a young man. It is being translated and will be published in connection with the tricentenary.

**Summary of the Principia**

This work was translated by Alfred H. Stroh but is now out of print. The SSA is undertaking to have it reprinted.

**Minor Principia**

Out of print and in need of a new translation, the SSA is taking appropriate measures to return this work to the inventory.

**Swedish Money**

**Inoffensive Thoughts on Swedish Money**

This work by Swedenborg deals with rates of exchange and valuation of money. The SSA intends to have it translated into English and published.

**Marketing**

The SSA's effort in the marketing area involves identifying potential markets for the distribution of Swedenborg's scientific works.

**Proceeding of the Swedenborg Symposium**

The SSA has agreed to lend some financial support to the publishing of the proceedings of the recent Swedenborg Symposium.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jerome V. Sellner, Secretary

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

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**for year ending April 30, 1988**

BALANCE APRIL 30, 1987 .....	\$ 39,728.42
<i>Plus Receipts 1987/88</i>	
Dues .....	\$ 923.00
Subscriptions .....	156.00
Contributions.....	26,967.50
Book sales.....	3,248.46
Interest.....	<u>2,103.35</u>
	\$ 33,398.31

*The New Philosophy, July-September 1988*

*less Expenses 1987/88*

New Philosophy (4 issues) .....	\$ 8,962.42
Postage.....	829.08
Editorial Expenses .....	3,915.85
Book Publishing .....	6,905.64
Research .....	4,355.00
Misc. Office Expenses .....	1,762.79
Travel .....	<u>539.00</u>
	\$ 27,269.78
 BALANCE APRIL 30, 1988 .....	 \$ 45,856.95

Respectfully submitted,  
E. Boyd Asplundh, *Treasurer*