

Translator's Corner

J. Durban Odhner, Editor

The year 1988 marks the tricentennial of the birth of Emanuel Swedenborg. Many events will be remembered and recorded for posterity in connection with this anniversary. I had the honor to lay a wreath on January 29th, on behalf of the Academy of the New Church, alongside of others laid by the Scandinavian Swedenborg Society, the Swedenborg family, and the New Church in Sweden (conjointly), at the sarcophagus of Swedenborg in Uppsala Cathedral. On this occasion Professor Dr. Harry Lenhammar presented an address, and a hymn from Bishop Swedberg's hymnbook was sung.

After this ceremony, a large number of people gathered at the Carolina Redeviva (University of Uppsala library) to hear a talk by Prof. Dr. Inge Jonsson, Vice President (now President) of the Stockholm University.

That afternoon in the House of Nobles, at the celebration of the three hundredth anniversary of Swedenborg's birth, the Swedish Royal Couple were present, and received 1) from Rev. Björn Boyesen copies of his recently published new translations of several theological works; 2) from the Swedish author and ambassador to the People's Republic of China, Mr. Lars Bergquist, a copy of his book about Swedenborg's *Journal of Dreams*; 3) from Mr. Henry Söderberg, retired Vice President of Scandinavian Airlines and researcher on aviation history, a copy of his book on Swedenborg's flying machine; and finally 4) from myself in the name of the Chancellor of the Academy of the New Church, a copy of the book on the Cathedral by Prof. E. Bruce Glenn.

Subsequently in this tricentennial year, we will remember the great "Swedenborg Symposium" in early February, sponsored by the Academy of the New Church on the initiatives of Dr. Jane Williams-Hogan and her able committee. This was probably the first of many such worldwide scholarly meetings yet to come—unless one would count the "Swedenborg Congress" of 1910 as its antecedent.

Then there was the visit of Sweden's Queen Silvia to Bryn Athyn to inaugurate the new Swedenborg Library. Of course, this library

had already received a priestly dedication, devoting it to the service of the Lord in His New Church. What did the inauguration by Royalty add to this? Just that element that lies within its sphere, to underscore the importance of Emanuel Swedenborg in worldwide context and recognize that his mission has received and is receiving wide attention.

This was not the end. In May there was a most significant gathering of scholars in Wolfenbüttel, Germany, sponsored jointly by the Federal Republic and Sweden, and hosted by the Herzog August Bibliothek. It was my privilege to represent the Academy of the New Church and witness a symposium that reflected penetrating study. Here, some familiar people were actively involved: Prof. Dr. Inge Jonsson, Amb. Lars Bergquist, Prof. Dr. Harry Lenhammar, Docent Dr. Hans Helander, Rev. Olle Hjern, *inter alios*.

Another highlight of the year 1988 was the "Swedenborgs Sweden" tour privately organized by Miss Martha Gyllenhaal, my wife, and myself, which took in points of interest in Göteborg, Skara, Varnhem, Brunnsbo, Falun, Sveden, Stjärnsund, Starbo, Lake Siljan, Uppsala, Stockholm, and Linköping. (The visit to Starbo is recorded in an article published in this issue of *The New Philosophy*.) The trip was so much appreciated by all participants, including several very helpful Swedish friends, that we are planning a similar trip next summer (Aug. 2 to 14), for which a few people have already signed up.

The Academy sponsored a talk by Prof. Dr. Lenhammar in the Swedenborg Library on the 21st of August, which turned out to be a most interesting account of the life and confrontations of the man Tybeck. This is being published in the present issue of *The New Philosophy*.

Then there were events in Australia, Canada, England, Tarrytown, New York, and many more, too numerous to go beyond mentioning here. But in August, one important activity added to the total thrust of the Swedenborg tricentennial: a conference that even to date doesn't really have a title—but we could call it "The Translators' Conference." Some translators of Swedenborg's Latin thought it might be sensible to get together and discuss the subject. We intend to publish papers given on that occasion in "Translator's Corner," beginning this issue with those of Mr. Ulf Fornander and yours truly.

Also in this issue, we continue with the next two chapters of *On Common Salt*, translated by Mr. Michael David and myself. The illus-