

SAA

Swedenborg Association of Australia Ltd.

A.C.N. 056 529 769

Secretariat & Registered Office

The Swedenborg Centre

1 Avon Road, North Ryde, 2113

Tel. (02) 888 1066

Free to Members Cost \$2.00

January 1993

Issue 1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We hope that this Newsletter will grow into a useful and meaningful channel of communication between all our wonderful members who have joined and supported the Association in its embryonic stages.

We are now a legal company as referred to in the report of the Inaugural General Meeting (page 6). Every effort is being made by your Directors to mould the Association as an effective instrument to serve the needs of all members in your individual and collective searches for Truth and Spiritual Growth.

Initial efforts are being directed towards Object (d) of the rules of the new organisation, i.e.

Establishing, operating and supporting branches and centres of the Company in Australia.

To this end we are particularly keen to facilitate the formation of groups throughout the country and to support their ongoing activities. I am personally keen to get involved in the facilitative process in order to help in reaping the enormous potential of studying Swedenborg's work and in the spiritual growth and awareness of all of us. See Group News for further details (page 5).

We look forward to serving your needs, to hearing from you and seeing you at our future meetings.

With Love and Light,

Kevin B. Attwater

LOGO SEARCH

Foundation members of SAA will be well aware of the quest to find a fitting LOGO. Quite a number of designs were submitted as a result of our earlier appeal. The SAA Directors decided that the LOGO decision should involve the membership as a whole because it is a very important detail which will be part of the organisation for many years. So the quest has been turned into a competition, the modest prize of a \$50 book voucher to be awarded to the winning design. If you have not already done so, please get your thoughts and design onto paper as soon as possible. The closing date is 28th February, 1993 at which time a leaflet of all designs submitted will be prepared and sent to members so that preferences can be indicated. Send your design to:

Mrs. Ruth Duckworth
4 Shirley Road
ROSEVILLE. NSW. 2069

BY 28TH FEBRUARY, 1993

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Swedenborg: Source of the New Age

by Terry Schnarr.

Dr. Martin A. Larson, in his book titled New Thought: a Modern Religious Approach (Philosophical Library, New York, ISBN 8022-2464-4), describes Swedenborg as the fountainhead of the New Thought Movement, saying Swedenborg "has exercised enormous influence, direct and indirect, upon the moral, religious, and intellectual development of the Western world. More than anyone else, he was the catalyst who shattered the age-old creeds and dogmas of Medieval and Reformation Christianity and thereby ushered into being, not only the potent ideology known as New Thought, but also many of the elements which have become increasingly conspicuous in various large and powerful denominations." (p.1)

After saying the intensity and extent of Swedenborgian influence upon individuals, churches, movements, and general thinking are impossible to accurately estimate, he speaks of Helen Keller, Henry James, Thomas Carlyle, and Samuel Coleridge as being people thoroughly drenched in Swedenborgianism. According to Dr. Larson, "Such men as Tennyson, Patmore, Ruskin, Drummond, Oliver W. Holmes, Thoreau, Goethe, Heine, and others of comparable stature absorbed in large measure the Swedenborgian teachings and served as a means of transmission by which these have become an integral element in Western culture and ideology." (p.3)

He documents that "Swedenborg's ideas made deep inroads into American culture through the medium of the socialist-liberal-Unitarian coalition which established the communal experiment known as Brook Farm." (p.3)

Larson asserts that "Swedenborg's ethics and metaphysics have permeated and profoundly modified the thinking of millions who have never even heard his name." (p.4) Swedenborg "is the grand fountainhead of a variety of deviationist religious movements; and specifically, the grandfather of New Thought What Pythagoras did for ancient religion in the Western world, Marx for socialism, Darwin for the theory of evolution, and Freud for psychoanalysis, Emanuel Swedenborg did for the various modern religious movements, but especially for the metaphysical system known as New Thought, the religion of health, happiness, and prosperity." (p.6)

Tracing the origins of the New Thought Movement and Theology, Dr. Larson begins with the Shakers who came to America in 1774. He demonstrates that the Shakers were full of Swedenborgianism, their prophetess, Ann Lee, receiving the impetus for the Shaker movement from Swedenborgian ideas, calling him the "John the Baptist" of the Shaker movement.

An American named Phineas Quimby, on finding Swedenborg's teachings in 1843, served as a transmission belt between the Shakers and Mary Baker Eddy, the founder of Christian Science. (p.108) "Quimby was the principal creator on American soil of what we may call the Religion of Health, success, Prosperity, and Happiness." (p.117)

Warren Felt Evans, first a Methodist minister, then a minister in the Church of the New Jerusalem (a Swedenborgian Church), and finally a psychotherapist and writer after a healing by Dr. Quimby in 1863, was one of the most influential transmitters of Swedenborgian thought into the New Age movement.

In 1881 Evans wrote: "In Emanuel Swedenborg, we see a man in whom science and religion were so wedded as to render even a temporary divorce an impossibility The system of spiritual science which is unfolded in his

voluminous writings and exemplified in his remarkable experiences, is having a silent but powerful influence in moulding and modifying the religious beliefs and changing the thoughts of men, throughout Christendom." (p. 120) Evan's books on Science and Health and Mental Medicine "were reprinted in quantity again and again, distributed all over the country, sold without an organisation to promote them, and," according to Dr. Larson, "exercised direct and indirect influence upon all New Thought writers and organisations". His psychoanalytical formulations based on Swedenborg's descriptions of the levels of mind lead directly to Freud, who would call them the Id, the Ego, and the Superego. (p.127) Larson says, "Emanuel Swedenborg was the fountainhead and Warren Felt Evans the supreme American Prophet of the New Christianity." (p.142)

Mary Baker Eddy, the founder of Christian Science, also had a spiritual awakening in the hands of a Dr. Quimby healing in 1862. At first she adopted wholeheartedly Quimby's philosophy and teaching which was thoroughly filled with Swedenborgian concepts and ideas. (p.155, 191) Later, when she declared herself the second coming of God - as a woman this time - she announced all her teaching was from herself. Dr. Larson, however, demonstrates her heavy borrowing from the Shaker, doctrines, heavily influenced by Swedenborgianism, and also demonstrates that from 1880 onwards she increasingly borrowed directly from Swedenborg's works themselves.

Distinct from Swedenborgian Churches which adopt Swedenborg's teachings in full, the New Age movement is selective. For example, Swedenborg teaches Jesus is both Divine and Human, He is God and His human was glorified, or made Divine. The New Age movement denies the divinity of Jesus' human, the same as the Gnostics, saying that all people have the Christ in them and Jesus merely exhibited it more than anyone else. Some of the principles, adopted in some measure from Swedenborg, which form the basis of the New Age movement include the following:

1. God is a great, central, and impersonal force and energy in the universe as a whole and in every portion thereof.
2. That the universe is governed by immutable laws; actually, God constitutes all substance.
3. Prayer is highly beneficial.
4. A stream of influx flows into, or is available to, every human being from this source of energy which gives life to all that lives.
5. The orthodox doctrine of salvation or redemption through the sacrifice of Christ on the cross is entirely erroneous.
6. Every person is responsible for his own actions; and personal salvation is the result of right living among our fellow-men.
7. Christ is a universal power of illumination available to all human beings.
8. Death is merely a transition to another, similar, but more spiritualized life.
9. Heaven and hell are not places, but simply conditions of the mind and emotions.
10. Physical and mental health is and should be one of the prime objectives of religion.

11. The human psyche exists on three levels.
12. Physical health can be achieved by mental science, which consists in cleansing the mind of evil, negativity, etc.
13. The Bible is a vast storehouse of wisdom, not to be taken literally, but seen through correspondences.
14. Organised churches should be rejected because they lead to formalism and loss of freedom.

Dr. Larson summarizes by saying, "Virtually all of these principles were fully enunciated by Swedenborg, who was the guiding light of the Shaker theoretician Frederick William Evans; the "John the Baptist" for Ann Lee, foundress of the Shaker movement; the mentor of Warren Felt Evans, the great New Thought innovator; a personal guide for both Phineas Quimby and Mary Baker Eddy, foundress of the Christian Science Church. Horatio Dresser and Henry Drummond were ordained Swedenborgian ministers; and the Unitarians who founded Brook Farm later became full-fledged Swedenborgians, as was the elder Henry James. Almost every New Thought writer or teacher exhibits a direct or indirect, but pervasive, Swedenborgian influence." (p.215)

When we consider the principles as outlined by Dr. Larson we can see the indirect influence of Swedenborg through the New Thought movement on many of the New Age disciplines and approaches. In the psychoanalysis field we observe many of these principles in the self help groups and organisations, and the development and progress of the small group movement, EST and other positive thinking based seminars and institutions which focus on taking responsibility for your own life. We also see the direct, as well as indirect, influence of Swedenborgianism on the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous, and the 130 or so other 12 step programs for overeaters, narcotics, and other obsessive behaviours.

Another book documenting Swedenborg as a major source of the New Age movement is Marilyn Ferguson's The Aquarian Conspiracy, a book about the developing consciousness and awareness of the human race evidenced in so many various fields of life.

Max Lerner, in his forward to her book writes: "Marilyn Ferguson is the best reporter today on the farther reaches of investigation into the life and human sciences. She represents a new kind of investigative journalist - not a sleuth after the corruptions of a politician but one tracking the spoor of a new research idea in all its windings; following it to its sources."

Borrowing loosely from her book, (pages 46ff) particularly the chapter concerning the origins of the New Age Movement which she has called the Aquarian Conspiracy, I will relate what she reports concerning Swedenborg's influence in the New Age.

"The "New Age Movement" has its roots in the myths, prophecy, underground secret societies, and poetry of the past. Throughout history there have been lone individuals, or small groups on the fringes of science and religion, who believed that people would some day transcend narrow, parochial, "normal" consciousness and reverse the brutality and alienation of the human condition. These far sighted people believed that some day a minority would be yeast enough to leaven a whole society, a whole world."

"These courageous few were like history's radar, a Distant Early Warning System for the planet. Their message was the same: only through a new mind can humanity remake itself Although they themselves

moved beyond the dominant ideas of their day, they carried few of their contemporaries with them. Most often they were misunderstood, lonely, even ostracized."

"At first these 'off the beaten path' traditions were transmitted intimately, by alchemists, Gnostics, cabalists, and hermetics. With the printing press these ideas became available to the literate few, and even then were often suppressed by church or state."

"Among the bold and isolated voices were Meister Eckhart, the German churchman and mystic of the fourteenth century; Giovanni Pico della Mirandola in the fifteenth; Jacob Boehme, a German, in the sixteenth and seventeenth; Emanuel Swedenborg in the seventeenth and eighteenth."

These people and underground ancient traditions are the sources, the wells, from which spring the ideas the New Age Movement proposes to the world today. "We are spiritually free, they said, the stewards of our own evolution. Humankind has a choice. We can awaken to our true nature. Drawing fully from our inner resources we can achieve a new dimension of mind; we can see more".

"I see through the eye, not with it". said poet-engraver William Blake," arguably a Swedenborgian believer. This echoes the statement of Swedenborg that "*thought from the eye closes the understanding, whereas thought from the understanding opens the eye.*"

"In 1836, nine years after Blake's death, a handful of American intellectuals at Harvard discovered their mutual interest in and excitement about new philosophical trends and formed the nucleus of what is known as the Transcendentalist Movement."

Among this group were Ralph Waldo Emerson, who in his book, Representative Men, devotes one of five chapters to Swedenborg.

Ferguson writes: "Just as Boehme influenced Swedenborg who influenced Blake, so all three influenced the Transcendentalists." The transcendentalists sought understanding and inspiration from many sources, including historian Thomas Carlyle and poet Samuel Coleridge who stated their indebtedness to Swedenborg.

Ferguson also points to the insights of Eastern Religions as a source of the New Age Movement, citing a book by Richard Bucke in 1901, Cosmic Consciousness, concerning the Kundalini experience, as one of the seeds for the New Age movement. Bucke's book also includes a chapter on Swedenborg.

She sights William James, called by some 'The Father of American Psychology' as another source. His father, Henry James, and the whole family were ardent Swedenborgian's. She also sights as sources for the New Age Carl Jung, Aldus Huxley, and C.S. Lewis, all of whom acknowledge Swedenborgian influence.

Indeed, Swedenborg's influence in today's world is pervasive. There is not time to develop this further now, but I would propose that the New Age movement of today is not something brand new. I believe its wisdom has existed for ages, at least from the Ancient Church. Many of these principles elucidated in Swedenborg's writings were known to the ancients and lost, except in underground secret societies, such as Free Masonry, Cabalism, Gnosticism and the like. I believe God used Swedenborg in His Providential care of the human race to bring these ancient sciences and wisdom to light through Swedenborg's writings, opening the door for these secrets of angelic wisdom to come out in the open and be known to many, so that

the human race as a whole can now enter with understanding into the mysteries of life. What is fascinating to me is that there is growing evidence that Swedenborg himself was involved and participated in many of these secret treasure chests of wisdom, such as Free Masonry, alchemy, and gnosticism, prior to being introduced to the spiritual world where he received revelations from the Lord.

I hope this presentation will encourage us to strengthen our commitment to the Swedenborg Association of Australia, the purpose of which is to promote the awareness and study of Swedenborg's ideas and concepts with complete freedom. How people will use them, and how they will influence others, is not in our hands. Let us trust the Lord that He will control and protect the spread of these heavenly doctrines for the benefit of the whole human race. Let us each take the vow, first made by William Blake: "I will not cease from Mental Fight till we have built Jerusalem."

Terry Schnarr, a Director of SAA, lives in Hurstville, NSW, and is a Minister of the Church of the New Jerusalem (Swedenborgian). In the late 1980's he was centrally involved in the establishment of Information Swedenborg Inc. in Canada.



CELEBRATION OF SPRING

(reprinted with permission from the December 1992/January 1993 "The New Age")

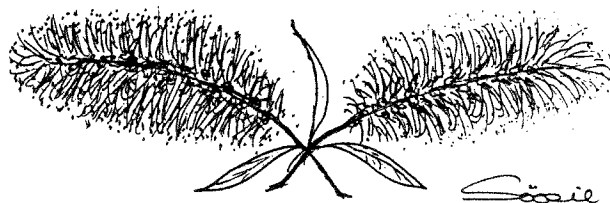
One of the first functions to be held by the newly incorporated Swedenborg Association of Australia was the **Celebration of Spring** held on 26th September last with an art exhibition continuing for a further month. It is very pleasing to report that The Swedenborg Centre was packed with an estimated 140 people to enjoy a varied programme of events on opening day including poetry readings, indian dancing, a classical music interlude with a string quartet of young musicians (and a didgeridoo), and several talks on the theme of Spring.

The event was officially opened by the well known musician "Angry" Anderson, currently appearing in the musical Jesus Christ Superstar and also well known for his television appearances on the Ray Martin Show, who gave a very moving speech straight from the heart explaining the stabilising influence discovering Swedenborg has had on his life in recent years.

Light refreshments of a very superior standard indeed and opportunity to view the more than 40 art works on display, all based on the theme of Spring, completed a very enjoyable afternoon.

Thanks to the artist, Michael Wright, for providing the initial idea and much of the co-ordination to bring this enjoyable event into being, to Russell White and Laraine Forbes for the outstanding catering, and to Kevin Attwater, Neville Jarvis, and Jack Benson for all the "behind the scenes" work. Do we hear a whisper that if interest in Swedenborg continues at the current rate, it will be necessary to hire the Sydney Opera House or the Showground for events such as this in a few years time?

Peter J. Black



OPENING DAY

26th September 1992

PROGRAMME

4.30 pm to 7.00 pm

WELCOME	Kevin Attwater, President of Swedenborg Association of Aust. Ltd.
OFFICIAL OPENING	Angry Anderson
TALK on SPRING	Stephen Leeder
SERENADE for STRINGS in G K. 525 - Mozart	Amici Quartet
-- INTERLUDE --	
SUFI POETRY	Lyn Heir
THE SWAGATAM an Indian dance	Russell White & Laraine Forbes
-- ANOTHER INTERLUDE --	
POEMS from SWEDENBORG	Katy Wild accompanied by Lachlan Hinds on Didgeridoo

We also have a 3 hour video (VHS) covering most of the Celebration of Spring activities. If you would like to borrow this video, write to The Swedenborg Centre and enclose \$4.00 for postage. Copies of the programme giving details of the various items, activities and of the works of art on display are still available for \$2.00 including postage.

GROUPS NEWS

All our members and others interested in the writings of Emanuel Swedenborg cannot meet at the North Ryde Swedenborg Centre for discussions on a regular basis because of distance and time constraints. Top priority is therefore being given to the formation and support of branches and discussion groups across the country.

You will find that discussing the Philosophy of Emanuel Swedenborg with others on a regular basis will give you a wonderful base for your own spiritual growth. You will enhance your understanding of the Swedenborg philosophy; your understanding of your own philosophy; your understanding of your own needs and even risk forming some wonderful friendships with others seeking spiritual truth and enlightenment.

So please ring or write to us to discuss how we can help you to become a regular discussion group member or even a group convenor.

A number of potential convenors are making plans. In Sydney, one group has already started meeting at Mona Vale. On Friday 29th November 1992, twelve people met together at Balwyn (Victoria) Public Library to begin a group in Melbourne. The paper "Swedenborg: Source of the New Age" was read and discussed, followed by a meditation session led by Gordon Dobbs, an SAA member, including an introduction to Swedenborg's own meditational techniques.

A draft package of material to form the basis of regular discussion meetings is now available to assist you.

Please contact us if you wish to discuss this material, or any other relevant issues.

Kevin B. Attwater

EXPERIENCES OF ETERNITY:

SWEDENBORG AND TODAY

a Swedenborg Birthday talk by Professor John Wren-Lewis on the Near Death Experience phenomenon and relating it to the spiritual explorations of Emanuel Swedenborg.

Friday 29th January 1993 at 7.45 pm.

The Swedenborg Centre, North Ryde.

Members admission price \$3.00 includes refreshments.

Tape recordings will be available to members for \$5 including postage so let us know if you would like one.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

All those of you who pledged your commitment to the establishment of the Swedenborg Association and subsequently became Foundation members have your names listed in the Memorandum and Articles of Association document registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission. A copy of this document is being sent to you for your own keeping.

Additional copies of this document are available for anyone wishing to have one, the cost being \$3.00.

Subsequent to incorporation of the Company, we have been delighted to receive membership applications from the following people:

Jacqueline Campbell, Mosman, NSW
Chris Catsanis, Robertson, NSW
Max Clark, Wagga, NSW
Sioban Miriam Cruise, McMahons Point, NSW
Michael Delbridge, Adelaide, SA
Gordon Dobbs, Melbourne, VIC
Chris Dorman, Canberra, ACT
Shirley Darby, Beverley Park, NSW
Janet Fairlie Cuninghame, Pymble, NSW
Chris Frangoff, Robertson, NSW
Tracey Lee Glendenning, Castle Hill, NSW
Norma Graham, Glenniffer, NSW
Stella Green, Roseville, NSW
Philip Groves, Balgowlah, NSW
Remon Kizana, McMahons Point, NSW
George Kizana, Auburn, NSW
Jackie Love, Sydney, NSW
Carl Marchant, Canberra, ACT
Glenn Murray, Lindfield, NSW
Leslie Sheppard, Kenmore, QLD
Tammy Stoneham, Pymble, NSW
Gloria Strazzabosco, Geelong, VIC
Joe Van Der Meer, Harbord, NSW
James Williams, Hong Kong, HK
Jan Wynne, Ermington, NSW

Welcome Aboard!!

That brings our total membership to 109 as at 31st December 1992.



READERS RESPONSE

We would be delighted to hear from you with:

- a letter commenting on something you have read in this issue;
- an article (generally up to 500 words) highlighting some aspect of the teachings in Swedenborg's writings related to your own life;
- suggesting useful ways to promote the Swedenborgian philosophy for individuals and groups.

INAUGURAL GENERAL MEETING

This historic meeting, held at The Swedenborg Centre, 1 Avon Road, North Ryde on 22nd August, 1992, was called by the promoters of the "S.A.A." in order to -

1. *inaugurate the company*
2. *elect officers and directors*
3. *decide upon a course of action in pursuance of the objectives of the SAA.*

There were 19 members present as well as 8 visitors. Apologies were tabled from 25 members unable to be present due to distance and other commitments.

The President, Kevin Attwater, opened the meeting. He gave an historical background to the Swedenborg movement in Australia and outlined the reasons for the establishment of an independent Swedenborg Association.

Greetings received from sister organisations in the U.K. and U.S.A. as well as personal messages from country and interstate members, were read out.

The Secretary, Neville Jarvis, reported on matters in relation to the incorporation of the company and announced that the membership at incorporation stood at 87. He also recorded that two enthusiastic supporters of the Swedenborg Association formation, Gordon Donovan and Hector Haine, both from Queensland had passed into the spiritual world just a short time prior to its incorporation.

In expressing his delight and satisfaction that the organisation was now 'up and running', Mr. Jarvis called upon all members to actively support the Swedenborg Association in order to ensure that it grows into a useful and effective movement to promote the study of Emanuel Swedenborg and his tremendous contribution to an understanding of what life is all about.

Then a lively discussion was held on the subject of an Association logo. The subject was introduced by one of the Directors, Ruth Duckworth, who presented the meeting with a number of designs submitted so far. It was decided to invite more designs and the winning entrant would receive a book voucher of \$50.00.

The Treasurer, Mr. Jack Benson, reported on the financial position of the SAA. The legal costs of the incorporation had been largely met by a generous allocation of \$2,000.00 from The Sydney Society of The New Church. Other donations had been gratefully received as well as sponsorship fees. There were some administrative expenses and at the date of incorporation the Swedenborg Association had \$3,778.00 in the bank.

The matter of membership fees was discussed. Although it was felt that sufficient funds should be generated to allow the SAA to run its activities, the

fees should be set at such a level that everyone interested could afford to join. The 1993 subscription fee was set at \$20.00 with a concession rate of \$10.00. In view of the very low fees set, the Treasurer made an appeal to all for an extra donation wherever possible.

The President introduced a general discussion on the direction the SAA should take and what specific activities it should engage in. It was decided that as a first focus the SAA should be involved in the setting up of groups. These groups would bring together members living in close proximity and other interested people to have discussions, lectures, films etc. The Directors will organise and promote the forming of these groups and prepare study material for them.

Also the meeting found it essential that a newsletter was published regularly, say twice or three times a year. There is a vacancy for a volunteer Editor!

A program of talks and events would be put together to be held in Sydney. For those unable to attend, audiotapes and/or video tapes will be made available.

The following persons were elected as officers and Directors for the next 12 months:

<i>President:</i>	Kevin Attwater
<i>Secretary:</i>	Neville Jarvis
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Jack Benson
<i>Directors:</i>	Ruth Duckworth
	Barry Hora
	Brian O'Neill
	Terry Schnarr
	Eric Sharpe
	Bernard Willmott

After the elections the meeting was addressed by the Revd. Terry Schnarr with a talk titled: "Swedenborg, Source of the New Age" in which an outline was given of the great influence Swedenborgian philosophy had on the mainly American New Thought movement in the late 19th and early 20th centuries (page 2). The address was very appreciatively received.

The meeting was closed by the Chairman after a vote of thanks for his very effective conduct of the agenda.

So the Swedenborg Association of Australia was launched; may it travel with God's speed.

Jack Benson

If you would like to listen to a recording of this meeting or see some highlights on video (VHS), you can do so by writing to The Swedenborg Centre at North Ryde to borrow a cassette (\$2 postage) and/or the video (\$4 postage) - for both only send \$4.

BOOK REVIEWS

One of the benefits of SAA membership is a 20% discount on the regular price of all books, cassettes and tapes purchased through the various Swedenborg Book Centres around Australia. All you have to do when ordering in person, by phone or mail is to refer to your SAA membership. If you have not got a book catalogue and price list, you can get one from The Swedenborg Centre, North Ryde. Below are a few titles which should be of interest.

The Country of Spirit

SELECTED WRITINGS

by Wilson Van Dusen

The Country of Spirit

selected writings by Wilson van Dusen. J. Appleseed & Co., San Francisco, 1992. 133 pp. paper. Members price \$5.00 plus postage.

In this collection of essays, Dr. van Dusen emphasises personal spiritual experience in the light of his studies of Swedenborg. A self-defined mystic, his areas of expertise embrace psychology, religion, science and poetry. Topics of essays include dreams, meditation, and self-reflection, as well as the previously published works, "Reincarnation: The Universal Return," and "Uses: A Way of Personal and Spiritual Growth".

Journey of Life

by Thomas Kline. 1989, 99 pages, paper. Members price \$6.50 plus postage.

Approaching the story of the Israelites' Exodus from Egypt as a Divine allegory of spiritual growth, Kline brings out the personal and spiritual meaning of this beloved story. An excellent introduction to Swedenborgian studies of the Old Testament, in an easy-to-read and relevant book on life and marriage.

I AM

by Ian Arnold, 50 pp, paper. Members price \$3.00 plus postage.

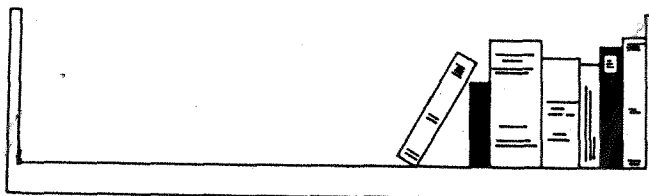
In Swedenborg's writings, a common theme in unfolding scripture is that of "series". A clean example is the seven days of creation as a symbol of the stages of spiritual growth. Ian Arnold has observed that the Lord made seven significant statements beginning with the words "I am": the bread of life; the light of the world; the door; the good shepherd; the resurrection and the life; the way, the truth and the life; and the true vine. These also seem to teach about the stages of spiritual growth or rebirth. This booklet contains a set of talks given by Rev. Arnold developing this significant idea.

Unlocking Your Spiritual Potential
by Grant R. Schnarr, 110 pp, paper.
Members price \$5.50 plus postage.



Grant Schnarr is co-founder, along with Michael Cowley, of the Twelve Steps Fellowship for Spiritual Growth. He is also Pastor and Founder of the Chicago New Church.

His book is a back to basics approach to personal spiritual development. Based on the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous and the teachings of Emanuel Swedenborg, this is a nonsectarian program of reflections and tasks. By working through these steps, you can find a new freedom from the destructive power of guilt, fear, anger, want, and resentment. Living by the insights the program awakens, you can discover a new relationship with God, self, and others - a relationship that is knowing, loving, heartfelt, and free.



IS SWEDENBORG IN YOUR LIBRARY?

... a challenge!!

For over 30 years, The Swedenborg Lending Library and Enquiry Centre has been distributing Swedenborg-based books to public and institutional Libraries around Australia.

If you haven't been to your local Library lately to find out what they hold, why not make a visit your top priority? If you cannot find anything in the catalogue or on the shelves, ask at the desk. Find out whether they would like to have a few titles donated and then contact the Manager of the Swedenborg Lending Library & Enquiry Centre (1 Avon Road, North Ryde).

If you do find some Swedenborg titles on the shelves, borrow them. Even if you have read them previously, the simple act of borrowing them keeps them in circulation enhancing the chances of them not ending up in the Library stack where they cannot be seen.

Thank you.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

As well as the Inaugural General Meeting, the Celebration of Spring, and the Group meetings in Mona Vale and Melbourne reported on in this newsletter, SAA also sponsored an evening lecture at The Swedenborg Centre in North Ryde by Dr. Philip Groves in January, 1992. Dr. Groves' enthralling talk "*The Mote in the Brother's Eye*" given to a full house of 80 people, was taped and copies are available for purchase from The Swedenborg Centre for \$5.00 including postage (SAA members price).

The Swedenborg Lending Library and Enquiry Centre, funded from the estate of the late Dr. William Moore, a homoeopathic practitioner, and The New Church in Roseville (NSW), has continued to actively promote Emanuel Swedenborg and the teachings in his theological writings during 1992. Participation in the Sydney and Melbourne Festivals for Mind, Body, Spirit in November enabled many people to become acquainted with Swedenborg and provided an excellent opportunity for people who had already read some Swedenborg material or come across references to him in other literature, to talk about their interest. Some 5000 leaflets were distributed and 750 Swedenborg-based books were sold over just 9 days. Advertising in a range of publications - national, state and local - throughout the year has introduced another 1200 people to Swedenborg. Talks to various interested organisations and to several groups of people who meet regularly are other activities which generate and continue interest in the spiritual philosophy within Swedenborg's writings. The Swedenborg Lending Library & Enquiry Centre also has a free monthly mailing service sending out talks on a wide range of subjects, which draw on Swedenborg's theological writings; you can join that service simply by mailing your request to The Swedenborg Centre at North Ryde.

"Dreams: the Forgotten Language" was the subject of a presentation to a packed house at The Swedenborg Centre on Friday, 4th December by Brian O'Neill, a psychologist from Wollongong and a Director of SAA. Brian's thorough knowledge of this subject, integrating Swedenborgian concepts into wider understandings, together with his warm and infectious style of presentation was greatly appreciated by all. If you would like the tape recording of this talk, send \$5.00, includes postage, (SAA members price) to The Swedenborg Centre, North Ryde.

Coming up in Sydney during January 1993 are two talks on Swedenborg. The first is at Nature Care College in Frederick Street, Artarmon, on Thursday 21st January as part of its Summer School program. Dr. Philip Groves will speak on Swedenborg - Life, Death, Eternity commencing at 7 pm. The cost is \$15 and more information can be obtained by ringing 02 439 8844. It is hoped that this talk will be taped. The second talk will be at The Swedenborg Centre in North Ryde on Friday 29th January - the 305th anniversary of Swedenborg's birth on 29th January 1688. Details of this meeting, to be addressed by Professor John Wren-Lewis, are to be found on page 5.

Neville Jarvis

OBJECTS OF THE SWEDENBORG ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA LTD, a non-profit autonomous company

Promoting Emanuel Swedenborg as a scientist, philosopher and religious visionary through personal contact, advertising, meetings, lectures, and other functions

Establishing, operating and supporting Swedenborg Association branches around Australia

Making available literature in the written and electronic forms encompassing a broad range of topics, drawing on Swedenborg's own contribution, to stimulate interest and discussion

Providing material on Swedenborg and Swedenborgian thought for the purpose of maintaining local libraries

Membership is available to everyone wishing to subscribe to these objects. There is an annual subscription of \$20.00 and a once off joining fee of \$10.00.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP include:

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| + | Ready access to pursuing areas of interest in Swedenborg through the availability of books, tapes, videos and films to members and a network of individuals with expertise in particular issues | + | A free newsletter that will give not only the latest information on all organised activities, book releases, new translations, etc. but also quality articles on life-related subjects with a philosophical insight |
| + | Participating, at minimal cost, in lectures, seminars, workshops and specific events which will be taped or video filmed for those living at a distance | + | A 20% discount on all items purchased from the various Australian Swedenborg book distribution centres |
| + | Joining together with other members living in close proximity as a group providing an opportunity to discuss matters of mutual interest bringing personal development and new friends | + | Once a year, a Swedenborgian based book, tape or video will be sent free of charge to each member |

If you are interested in joining the Swedenborg Association of Australia Ltd., contact the Secretary at the Registered Office: The Swedenborg Centre, 1 Avon Road, North Ryde, 2113 (02 - 888 1066) to obtain a membership leaflet.