

# S A A

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

June 1993

Issue 2

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to our second Newsletter; we hope you and your friends enjoy reading it as much or more than the first edition.

The inaugural year for our fledgling Association is fast drawing to a close as our Annual General Meeting in August approaches. Arrangements for a great AGM are in hand (see page 6). You should all have your copy of *Swedenborg: Life and Teaching* by or at the AGM (see page 5). This is great reading and we ask that you pass it around as much as possible.

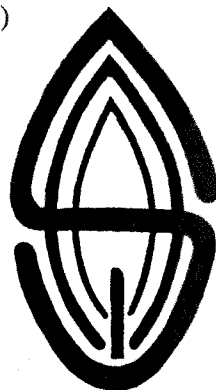
The Michael Stanley lecture tour (page 8) will provide an excellent opportunity for you to advance your spiritual and Swedenborgian awareness. A lot of work has gone into this program to ensure its success. For this we sincerely thank The Swedenborg Centre. You will need to be quick to participate as inquiries have been heavy.

There are three groups now meeting regularly in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth which is an excellent start. Thank you to those people who have initiated and supported these groups. However with our membership now over 150, we would like to see more groups starting up (see Group News on page 5).

With Love and Light,



Kevin B. Attwater



## LOGO SEARCH

We are sure that everyone enjoyed the excitement of the recent Logo Competition and judging by the number of entries, it generated a lot of interest. The eighteen submissions provided a high level of artistic ability and creativity. The variety of original designs shows just how much Swedenborgian philosophy can be portrayed in so many different ways.

It is crucial to have a good logo which will express everything we stand for at a glance, and communicate our ideas. The winning logo does this most admirably.

We would like to congratulate Joe Van der Meer who submitted the winning entry which was based on a candle flame neatly incorporating the initials of the Swedenborg Association of Australia. Joe will receive his prize at the forthcoming Annual Meeting.

Being in charge of all the vote counting and receiving the entries and votes was thoroughly enjoyable. There was a very good response with well over half of the whole membership voting. Thank you to everyone who put in an entry. We will certainly be making good use of the designs in our future S.A.A. literature.

Ruth Duckworth.

### *What's Inside:*

World Parliament of Religions 1893/1993	p.2
Quotation to Contemplate	p.3
Letters	p.4
Celebration - a poem	p.4
Director's Meetings	p.4
Group News	p.5
Membership News	p.5
"Experiences of Eternity"	p.6
Book Reviews	p.7
What's happening	p.8

## World Parliament of Religions 1893/1993

Ian A. Arnold

In her book, *The New Church in the New World*, Marguerite Block quotes an eye-witness account of the final night of the Parliament in 1893 when its chief organiser, the prominent Chicago New-Churchman Charles Carroll Bonney was "hailed and cheered by the vast audience rising to their feet and waving their handkerchiefs, so that it was long before he could utter his words of humble and sincere acknowledgment and gratitude." We are reminded that there have been these occasions when Swedenborg's writings have had an undisputed impact on people's thinking. Professor Eric Sharpe, Department of Religious Studies at Sydney University, described the Parliament as "an event of the utmost importance in the religious history of the modern world."

The man who started the movement towards a centennial parliament to be held next year, 1993, Swami Sarveshananda is determined that there shall be a prominent Swedenborgian involvement "because we owe you so much." During the past 200 years there have been brilliant initiatives in education and religious tolerance based on Swedenborg but they have fizzled out or been hi-jacked by others. Swedenborg taught that all can be saved, whatever their religion. Had this never been heard before - was it a unique insight?

---

### All the faiths of mankind

---

A hundred years ago the United States was preparing for the four hundredth anniversary of the 'discovery' of America. The centre-piece was the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago and the World Parliament of Religions was closely associated with it. The USA was well into pluralism as compared with Europe.

The size of the Parliament was mind-blowing - a General Schwartzkof was needed to organise it. Christian orthodoxy is said to have been mistrustful, yet it sent some of its leading scholars. There were 400 representatives - "cardinals, archbishops, bishops, priests and scholars of all the faiths of mankind." It opened on September 11th, 1893, and ran for 17 days. Attendances between 4000 and 7000 were recorded, 150 papers were presented and many brief addresses. Taken together with some concurrent denominational expositions, it is said that 6000 speakers at 12000 sessions addressed audiences which aggregated three-quarters of a million.

---

### Charles Carroll Bonney

---

How did Charles Bonney carry it off? Did he play down the Swedenborg bit and sail under another flag? Ideas need to come at the right time and in the USA they took it up with gusto. But an idea from a Swedenborgian! Bonney possessed an unusual personality attracting affection and respect. He was a prominent lawyer, a social reformer, and in 1882 Vice-President of the American Bar Association. L.P. Mercer wrote of him "he had the ability to untangle and high-light the truth which lay behind every error and to lead people to see the simple universal truths which, when it comes to it, all religions are about."

In his opening address Bonney defined religion as "the love and worship of God, and the love and service of man." He possessed "gentleness, zeal, personal consideration, consummate tact and Christian politeness - ever ready to adopt the good and useful in an opposing suggestion."

---

### The starting point

---

"It is of the Lord's divine providence that every nation has some form of religion, and the primary essential of every religion is the acknowledgment that there is a God." (Divine Providence paragraph 322). A beautiful picture of the Lord is encapsulated here. As the prophesy of Isaiah has it, "His arm is not shortened that it cannot save." He is not thwarted by all the diversity. With people of every culture something spiritual can be received. If people can resist being taken over by the self-serving side of their natures they can enjoy the blessing of heavenly life.

---

### Universalism

---

How did Swedenborg get this idea? By revelation, we may say, but revelation tends not to be what I would call a 'bolt out of the blue' as if it had never been heard before: a climate develops beforehand. Universalism is discoverable from the early centuries of the Christian era. Origen (185-254 AD) believed that God is such that he is bound to save all. Look at the Roman Catholics: in 1302 the Pope declared "there is one holy, catholic, and apostolic church ... outside it there is neither salvation nor remission of sins." But at the Second Vatican Council, 1962-65 it was agreed that salvation is attainable by those who "through no fault of their own do not know the Gospel of Christ or his church, yet sincerely seek God and strive to do his will." You would not be blamed if you concluded that this was from Swedenborg.

John Hick, in his book *God and the Universe of Faiths* (1973), suggests that different religions represent different approaches by the one God reaching out to people of different circumstances - "we see how revelations took different forms related to the different mentalities of the peoples to whom they came, and developed ... into the world religions." This comes close to what Swedenborg wrote of Mohammedanism - a religion "adapted to the genius of the Orientals ... which should teach that the Lord came into the world and that he was a very great prophet, the wisest of all men, and the son of God."

To claim for Swedenborg an exclusive 'one-off' revelation is to ignore the humanism of the Renaissance which "espoused free enquiry and was sometimes tolerant of tentative gropings after truth even beyond the Christian fold." (*The Reformation in the 16th century* by Roland Bainton). We too easily see theological doom and gloom and an unbroken slide into falsity and darkness before Swedenborg. But examination reveals shafts of light, sanity and tolerance. An Italian refugee named Curio, a follower of the great humanist Erasmus, wrote that salvation could never be a matter of creeds, but of deeds; not dogma, but behaviour.

Swedenborg was in touch with such thinking, despite European tensions between tolerance and intolerance. He published in London and Amsterdam because of greater liberty there, and was himself a victim of bigotry. Despite some awful narrowness of thinking among Protestants and Roman Catholics, a liberal approach to the salvation of non-Christians persisted, of which Swedenborg was aware and by which he was influenced. What was revealed to Swedenborg required his warm endorsement.

---

## What of 1993?

---

Under the heading **Chicago Plans a Centennial**, C. Rothwell Polk wrote as follows - "*The legacy of the 1893 Parliament was a spirit of mutual respect and a commitment to inter-faith dialogue; but more than that, the mothers and fathers of the first Parliament left our age with an unfinished agenda: the unity of religions, the true one-ness of humankind, the emancipation of women, the harmony of science and religion, economic justice, planetary stewardship, and world peace; an agenda on whose resolution may well depend the survival of the human race.*"

Anything which opens up these issues is to be warmly applauded. There is to be some Swedenborgian involvement next year; we intend more. Let us see if we can come up with an approach suitable to our times.

---

## A matter of interpretation

---

Perhaps we interpret Swedenborg too narrowly. We of the west read Swedenborg in a fairly predictable way. For example we are nervous about mystical experiences since we are products of a Protestant-dominated environment. Christianity is bigger than that. As interpreters of Swedenborg according to western theological traditions we have sometimes obscured the very things to which others might eagerly have responded.

Swedenborg leaves room for the visionary dimension and that is what has so appealed to eastern people who have not been prepared to set too narrow limits to what is, and what is not, rational.

Can we reclaim this visionary dimension, let go our orthodox definitions and stop labouring what is undoubtedly 'rational' and 'logical'? The situation is similar in eastern Europe with its long tradition of mysticism. Might it be possible, to mark the centennial, for us to publish in Hindi a new booklet about Swedenborg's visionary aspect for circulation in countries such as India?

---

## The legacy

---

Bonney's 1893 World Parliament of Religions aimed at reconciliation, and concentrated on the essentials. We need such a vision today. Instead of fundamentalist certainty we need the humility that sees but one part of a large picture, and the affirmation that God works through different world faiths. Emanuel Swedenborg saw people in heaven from all religions united in their acknowledgment of the Lord and in service to one another. The thinking which influenced him in this world was confirmed by what he saw in the other. His writings brought it all into focus, and his followers from all over the religious world came "*not to sink their differences but to share their treasures.*" (Eric Sharpe)

*Ian Arnold, born in Melbourne Australia, is currently Principal of the Swedenborg Theological Training College in Manchester U.K. The above article has been "lifted" with permission from OUTLOOK (No. 2, 1992), the newsletter of the Swedenborg Movement in the U.K. The article was savagely condensed from an address delivered to the Swedenborg Society in January 1992.*

The 1993 Parliament of the World's Religions will be held in Chicago this coming August/September over eight days. Several Swedenborgian Organisations in U.S.A. are co-sponsoring the events. The Swedenborg Movement in the U.K. is organising celebrations in that Country during October. It is to be hoped that this important occasion will be marked in Australia also.

For more information about the Chicago Programme, please contact the Hon. Secretary of SAA.

o o o o o o o

## QUOTATION TO CONTEMPLATE

*Em: Swedenborg*

For anyone who reads Swedenborg, it is a common experience to frequently be inspired by a recognition of Truths which present themselves in the text and which find a ready acceptance with the reader.

This column is set aside for our members to share with others these Truths which impressed the reader so much and hence would more than likely have similar effects on others.

To start off this column, I was reading a couple of weeks ago volume 5 of the Arcana Caelestia par. 3854 (2) and (3) and I am still having my thoughts on it.

*"The Lord saw from eternity what the human race was going to be like in the future and what every member of it was going to be like, and that evil was going to increase all the time, so that at length man, of himself, would rush headlong into hell.*

*That being so, the Lord has provided not only the means by which He makes it possible for him to be diverted from hell and led towards heaven, but also does in His providence divert and lead him all the time.*

*The Lord also foresaw that it would be impossible for any good to take root in man except in freedom, for that which does not take root in freedom is dispelled at the first sign of evil and of temptation ....*

*But if man would allow himself to be led in freedom towards good then he could be diverted towards heaven.*

*From this it may be seen how far someone errs who believes that the Lord has not foreseen and does not see the smallest individual thing with man, or that within the smallest individual thing He does not foresee and lead, when in fact the Lord's foresight and providence are present within the tiniest details of all the smallest individual things with him, and in details so tiny that it is impossible to comprehend in any manner of thought one in many millions of them.*

*For every smallest fraction of a moment of a person's life entails a chain of consequences extending into eternity.*

*Indeed everyone is like a new beginning to those that follow, and so every single moment of the life both of his understanding and of his will is a new beginning.*

*And since the Lord foresaw from eternity what man was going to be like in the future and even into eternity it is clear that Providence is present in the smallest individual things".*

Submitted by Jack Benson.

N.B. Please send your contemplative quote for publication in subsequent issue. Thank you.

## LETTERS FROM MEMBERS

The very interesting and informative article published in the first of the SAA Newsletter and written by Terry Schnarr was enjoyed and appreciated by this reader. 13 of the 14 principles presented by Dr. Martin Larson as basic statements of New Age Thought also were appreciated but the first statement as quoted here "God is a great, central, and impersonal force and energy in the universe as a whole and in every portion thereof" was not to my thinking quite adequate. .... To me, it seems that God is Life, Potency, Consciousness and according to the size and nature of the physical anatomical machine enlivened with this Life so, and only, are Life's qualities manifested and apparent. .... As we issue entirely from our Maker, and we are substance of His substance in every way, the best of our qualities come from Him and are Him in manifestation. .... Everything of an impersonal merciful quality in us must stem from this Source who spawned us forth. .... God is Life, Light, Wisdom, and could be referred to as a Source rather than a force. If we feel love and mercy, He must be the very Fountain of it.

Extracted from a very thoughtful letter by Valda Parkinson of Randwick. Regrettably, space prevents us from publishing the long letter in its entirety.

o o o o o o o

The knowledge I have gained (since reading Swedenborg) and the change it has made to my life are forever entering my consciousness. It has given me greater Belief that the human race is progressing towards unity and good will by recognising and worshipping the Universal God - and will become one in spirit and mind, fulfilling a Divine Hope, a wish unwished..... Everlasting Peace on Earth by surrendering to a higher power outside and within us. To commit no wrong is the only meaning of life.

I feel Swedenborg shows us the way. One unique person in our time, one of the greatest minds among the Greats so close to my own lifetime.

W.H. - Bondi

o o o o o o o

I have been acquainted with the writings of Emanuel Swedenborg for almost a year now. In that time I have managed to purchase almost every spiritual-theological work he published..... My life has been profoundly enriched by the truth which Swedenborg has revealed and everyday its truth is confirmed by such experience. Two of my friends have been given **Heaven and Hell**, and I believe it already is affecting them with its precious value.

J.M. - Sunny Bank Hills.

## LETTERS IN THE PRESS

From time to time individuals have managed to get letters published in local and national newspapers and magazines referring to some aspect of Swedenborg. Editorials, articles, letters from other readers, etc. often provide opportunities to express a thought promoting Swedenborg either directly or indirectly. One of the problems is writing a meaningful letter quickly.

To aid this task, and hopefully encourage members to utilise every such opportunity, a booklet is being put together of letters which have already been published. The ideas in these letters, and the way they are expressed, will be able to be adapted to meet the particular circumstances being currently addressed.

If any reader has had a letter, or knows of a letter, published referring to Swedenborg or a Swedenborgian principle, please send a copy to the SAA Secretary.

## Celebration

Celebrate with me! for I have found my soul.  
Delights of love in life, and more.  
The key to the heavenly door, as I unlocked.

Sing with me! - all the people of the world, for there is hope, and light reaching out to our hands, like the branches of the fruitful tree with an abundance - that is real!

Come along and sing with me to announce what happiness is to those who yet do not see, or feel....

Let the sound of music spark the flame burning in the void field with dust.

The flame of Passion, which mustn't ever be confused with lust - for it's not lasting.

Yvonne Mackay, Wollstonecraft, Sydney.



**DUPLICATING VHS VIDEO'S - HELP NEEDED**  
If you have, or know of, facilities for duplicating VHS video's, please would you let the SAA Secretary know as soon as possible.

Thank you.

## DIRECTOR'S MEETINGS

Meetings of the Director's are essentially open for every member to be present - and speak through the Chair. The next meeting will be held on:-

Tuesday 13th July at 7.30 pm

Two meetings have been held since the AGM last August, the main decisions being:

1. The Swedenborg Association of Australia Ltd. is a forum where differing points of view and interpretations of Swedenborg's philosophy are free to be expressed.
2. Membership Card adopted.
3. LOGO Competition commenced and finalised with Joe Van der Meer's design being declared the winner. Bromide of LOGO to be prepared and stationery to be professionally designed.
4. Newsletter instituted.
5. Free Books for 1993 and 1994 selected.
6. Listing of Members (name and State) to be issued with Annual Report each year.
7. Panel of three Directors - Kevin Attwater, Terry Schnarr and Brian O'Neill to follow through interest with people willing to lead Groups.
8. At 25th April 1993, there was a balance of funds at the Bank totalling \$7,977.

Neville Jarvis. Hon. Secretary

## GROUP NEWS

Quite a number of members have indicated that they would like to join a group but are not able for various reasons to actually form or help form a group. As explained in the last Newsletter it is our hope that the groups will become the life and backbone of the Association.

There is help available as three of the Directors are willing to act as facilitators in whatever way you require - whether it be training in group dynamics, physical and moral support in networking group supporters, locating a venue, discussion subjects, content, etc.. However we cannot thrust this help upon you; you need to ask so that we know when, where and how the help is required. Note that this could result in a workshop for Group Co-ordinators if enough interest is shown.

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.

The Perth group is meeting monthly at the home of Allan Uren (thank you Allan). They have had lively discussions on The Swedenborg Lending Library & Enquiry Centre Radio Talk No. 39 (Emanuel Swedenborg - a Summary) and on the chapter "Swedenborg - a Problem" from Spalding's *Introduction to Swedenborg's Religious Thought*.

As result of a recent series of talks by the Reverend Julian Duckworth for The Swedenborg Lending Library & Enquiry Centre which were recorded on audio cassette, another excellent selection of material for the groups is now available (see Books Review section). This material is highly recommended so please let us know if you would like a set for your group.

Chris Skinner has now run three meetings in Melbourne at the Balwyn and Ashburton Libraries. Thanks Chris for leading this group. Friday evening hasn't suited many people as yet but the keenness is there to keep things going. A regular participant in the Melbourne group has been SAA member, Gordon Dobbs, and he will be visiting Sydney early in July to give a talk on "Reflective Meditation" (see notice in this issue). If you can it will be worthwhile getting along to the Swedenborg Centre to hear Gordon's talk and maybe pick up some clues for your own group.

I look forward to your Group News for our next Newsletter.

Kevin B. Attwater

## MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS - FREE BOOK

The Directors are very pleased to announce that the 1993 book to be issued to all paid up members as at 31st May 1993 will be:-

**Swedenborg: Life and Teaching** by George Trobridge  
(as revised by Richard Tafel)

This new edition has been recently released by the Swedenborg Foundation Inc. and is a very readable biography and statement of Swedenborg's spiritual philosophy. The SAA Director's are very appreciative of the financial support given by the Swedenborg Foundation Inc. to make it possible for this book to be chosen - an excellent introduction. **The real purpose is**

**not to be simply a collector's item but for members to either lend out, or give, to other family members, friends, contacts, etc. or present to a library, so that others benefit in some way. You can always buy another copy for your own use - see Books section.**

Members copies are available now. You can pick up your copy at The Swedenborg Centre, North Ryde, or from your Group leader. Copies not distributed by the August AGM will be posted.

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We are delighted to report that virtually all the Foundation members renewed their subscription for the current year - a magnificent result which should delight everyone. Subsequent to the last issue of our Newsletter in January, the Directors have been pleased to approve membership applications from the following 46 persons:-

Ronald Adams, Port Macquarie, NSW  
Elizabeth Alderton, East Lindfield, NSW  
Alison Alrich, Mylestom, NSW  
John Bayot, Dee Why, NSW  
The Margaret Belshaw Brown Institute,  
Thornleigh, NSW  
Gabriella Bona, Milsons Point, NSW  
Alexander Coull, Erina, NSW  
Jacqueline Coull, Erina, NSW  
Ann Course, Mackay, QLD  
Michele Darmanin, Dee Why, NSW  
Marie Fawcett, Merrylands, NSW  
Neil Gillard, Carlingford, NSW  
Andrew Gwynne, Perth, WA  
Wolfgang Hackenberg, Bondi Junction, NSW  
Maryanne Heslop, Bellingen, NSW  
Lachlan Hinds, Collaroy, NSW  
Patricia Holmes, Crookwell, NSW  
Ruth Hupert, Chatswood, NSW  
Elaine Johnson, Kingswood, NSW  
Lynn Jones, Pt. Lookout, QLD  
Caroline McArthur, Leura, NSW  
Peter Marjot, Greenwich, NSW  
Elizabeth Medgyes, Ormond, VIC  
Justin Morgan, Sunny Bank Hills, QLD  
Elva Murray, Ballarat, VIC  
Glen Murray, Lindfield, NSW  
William Paul J.P., Bulleen, VIC  
Susan Pelly, Gardenvale, VIC  
Martin Pennington, Banksia Park, SA  
Leon Rhodes, Bryn Athyn, USA  
Trudy Sajowitz, Bellingen, NSW  
Michele Salter, Geringong, NSW  
John Sandow, Killarney Vale, NSW  
Marian Scarlett, Dee Why, NSW  
Jeanne Shein, Red Hill, ACT  
Leon Simpson, Forster, NSW  
Heather Sved, Lindfield, NSW  
Allan Graham Uren, Bayswater, WA  
Mary Uren, Bayswater, WA  
John Valsamakis, Petersham, NSW  
Elsa Van Baaren, Shelley, WA  
Philip Van Baaren, Shelley, WA  
Victor Vickland, East Ryde, NSW  
Margaret Wallis, Miranda, NSW  
Gail Woodley-Page, Randwick, NSW  
Helen Zenmaier, Londonderry, NSW

Welcome aboard!! Our total membership now stands at 152. **Can we make it 200 before the end of 1993?**  
*Please pass on the membership form, which will be sent out with a spare copy of this Newsletter to you, along with the spare Newsletter to someone who you would be able to encourage to join - or at least who would give it some thought.*

Neville Jarvis, Hon. Secretary.

## ***Experiences of Eternity: Swedenborg and today.***

As a celebration of Swedenborg's birthday on 29th January the Swedenborg Association of Australia Ltd. presented this talk by Professor John Wren Lewis on "Near Death Experiences" at The Swedenborg Centre, North Ryde to an audience of about 100 members and friends.

Professor John Wren Lewis, who was for 25 years a senior research scientist in Britain and later became a professor of religious studies in the U.S.A. now lives in Sydney in "retirement".

Since 1983, when he went through his own near death experience (NDE), John has been actively involved in NDE research. He lectures regularly and has had a number of articles published in a range of journals and magazines.

In his talk John presented the view that the study of NDE is really a study of the interaction of religion and science and that Swedenborg was the first scientist to be engaged in such studies without being persecuted to death in the process.

Of course the study of the world beyond the grave is people who have faced death (e.g. in war) can be correlated with NDE.

In 1980 a Galup poll in the U.S.A. found that 15% of the adult population had come back from the brink of death and 30% of that group reported to have had a very special experience.

As near-death is not death and thus the brain is still functioning, these experiences were dismissed by both the churches and academia as hallucinations being the after effects of anaesthetics, drugs or accident trauma.

A number of books have been written on the subject, just to name a few: **Life after Life** by Dr. Raymond Moody, **Life at Death** by Prof. Kenneth Ring (who will be in Sydney for a few days during August), **Transformed by the Light** by Dr. Sherrie Sutherland.

John dealt in detail with the role that our imagination plays in these experiences making them highly individual and unique.

However there are 3 experiences common to all persons having had a NDE:

1. The experience is beyond description, a happiness and peace never experienced before.
2. A change of focus on life afterwards, a marked loss of anxiety particularly an absence of any fear of death.
3. Spiritual insights are increased and rigid or fundamentalist beliefs are no longer held.

In closing John gave a detailed account of his own NDE and in order to appreciate the depth of his experience as well as to obtain a good insight in the subject of NDE the purchase of an audio-tape of John's talk is recommended. (Available from The Swedenborg Centre, 1 Avon Road, North Ryde NSW 2113, members \$5.00, non-members \$8.00 plus postage.)

Jack Benson.



SWEDENBORG ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA Ltd.  
(ACN 056 529 769)

Presents an Evening Talk

"REFLECTIVE MEDITATION"



Gordon Dobbs of Melbourne

FRIDAY 9th JULY commencing 8.00pm

at

The Swedenborg Centre  
(recently enlarged premises)  
1 Avon Road, NORTH RYDE, 2113

COST: \$8.00; Members \$5.00

Gordon Dobbs has run meditational groups for many years now in Melbourne. For this evening's talk, Gordon will explore meditation as a technique to:

- + assist anyone on the spiritual pathway
- + allow a person to use it in a very practical way
- + be a medium of introduction to spiritual realms

There will be an opportunity to experience this kind of process during the evening. The basis for Swedenborg's own meditational processes will also be covered.

*Refreshments will be provided.*

It is suggested that you book early by sending your name, address and the fee as soon as possible to the Swedenborg Association of Australia Ltd., The Swedenborg Centre, 1 Avon Road, North Ryde, NSW 2113. Seats will be allocated on receipt of booking including fee.

## **NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION**

The SAA Newsletter is quite a combined effort! **Neville Jarvis** has taken responsibility for collecting articles and organising the production; **Alexis Jarvis** types most of the material into the word processor when it is not provided on disk; **Jack Benson** organised the printing and distribution of the first issue; **Stella Green** collated, stapled and folded the 400 copies (a time-consuming labour of love so especial thanks to Stella); and Australia Post did its usual efficient job in getting it to members (this service was not a donated one, though!). So many thanks are extended to all those individuals.

Kevin Attwater, President

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Saturday 14th August 1993 commencing 2.30 pm**

at our Registered Office, The Swedenborg Centre,  
1 Avon Road, NORTH RYDE

There will be the usual presentation of reports, general discussion on the policy and directions, election of Directors, refreshments and one or two surprises.

The Directors are delighted to announce:-

**Guest Speaker: Michael Stanley, M.Sc., Ph.D.**  
from U.K.

**Certainly a meeting not to be missed if it is at all possible to attend.**

The Notice of Meeting, detailed Agenda, Proxy Forms and Director's Nomination Forms will be sent to all members in due course. **Please write to the Hon. Secretary prior to 10th July if you have any matters you wish placed on the Agenda.**

## 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.

### *Eve: The Bone of Contention*

by Michael Stanley. Seminar Books. 1992. 92 pp, paper  
Members Price \$10.50 plus postage.

Will Schutz, who developed the now famous Encounter group therapy of the 1960's, has talked about a concept he termed "*profound simplicity*". The view is that as we approach something for the first time it may seem at first quite simple. This is the initial type of simplicity, a sort of naive simplicity wherein we are operating more from an intellectual understanding rather than a more complete experience. An example I'd give is of when I first went to learn to play squash. I read a book by a squash master on the twelve easy steps to playing squash which was what seemed very basic instructions like "*keep to the centre of the court, keep the ball low, keep the ball along the wall etc., etc.*" Well, that's pretty simple, I thought. Until I tried to actually play squash and become involved in the whole process. I quickly entered into what is the second stage of this process of understanding - things ain't quite as simple as they first seem! At this stage we experience the struggle and chaos of coming to grips with trying to actually *do* that which intellectually *looked* simple. However if we prevail and keep going we eventually reach a third stage of understanding built upon experience where we come out of the chaos and look and see that things are in fact simple - but now they are *profoundly simple!*

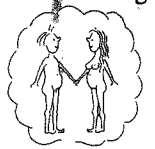
Now the reason I've taken this little digression on the way to a review of the book by Michael Stanley titled *Eve: The Bone of Contention* is that perhaps the most complimentary thing I can say about this book is that I find it to be profoundly simple. I was initially given this book as a gift with another that I was meant to review. I've ended up offering to review this book instead and haven't finished the other yet but found I've read and re-read this little book many times since!

In this book Michael Stanley presents a clear, simple interpretation of the story of Adam and Eve from a Swedenborgian perspective. He has integrated this perspective with current spiritual psychological theory and terminology, particularly the work of the Italian psychiatrist Roberto Assagioli. Added to this profoundly simple and moving interpretation of the Genesis story are beautifully simple and at times very humorous drawings and diagrams (I'll not digress to explain "beautiful" simplicity, but if you substitute art and music for "squash" and the heart for the head, then I think you'll get the feeling). My favourite diagram is the one which presents a pictorial representation of the ego busily enjoying it's new found intelligence. I found myself laughing spontaneously at the truth and humour therein!

At times I've tended, like us all, to judge a book by its cover and I must warn you that this book is most definitely one which contains much more than it first seems - it's a bit like a *Doctor Who* Tardis of books - there's a lot more on the inside than you'd think from the outside. (Those of you who've never watched *Dr. Who* will need to know that he is a time traveller whose time machine was a British Telephone Box on the outside and a cavernous world inside). In fact to continue the time machine analogy further, this book transcends time and space in it's use of modern language to interpret what may at first seem to be a more ancient story at the beginning of humanity so that the reader feels what is being dealt with is very much a part of here and now - and so very relevant.

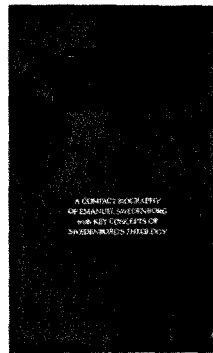
Well I've told you more *about* the book than what's actually *in* the book and that's in order that I don't take away the pleasure of reading this book for yourself. After all nobody likes to be told the ending to a good book!

(Review by Brian O'Neill of Wollongong).



### *A Scientist Explores Spirit*

by Drs. Robert H. Kirven and George F. Dole. The Swedenborg Foundation, 100 pages, paper.  
Member's price \$16.00 plus postage.



This is a new compact biography of Emanuel Swedenborg. Conceived to fill a need for an accessible introduction to Swedenborg's life and key concepts, this slim volume more than fulfills its purpose, providing new insights into Swedenborg's philosophical development, placed against the vivid background of 18th century Europe.

Dr. Gustaf Arrhenius, oceanographer, calls *A Scientist Explores Spirit* "an admirable presentation of the key concepts of Swedenborg's philosophy" noting that "despite its compact form, the historical account brings out illuminating details that are new, while relations to contemporary political, scientific, and philosophical developments are presented with professional skill and insight." Readers of Swedenborg as well as those who are new to his ideas will find this book an excellent resource.



*Emanuel Swedenborg: Essential Readings* (1993 Edition)  
by Dr. Michael Stanley. The Swedenborg Lending Library and Enquiry Centre, Sydney. 176 pp., paper.  
Members price \$8.00 plus postage.

This most valuable anthology of Swedenborg's spiritual thought is once again back in print - an Australian reprint with a new foreword by Dr. Philip Groves of Sydney. A "Must" for every bookshelf or bedside table.  
Available after 6th July 1993.



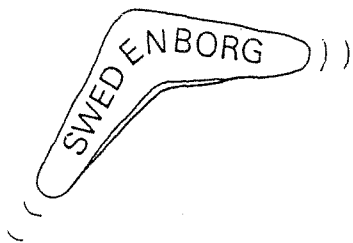
### *Swedenborg: Life and Teaching*

by George Trobridge revised by Richard Tafel.  
Swedenborg Foundation 1992 162 pp, paper and cloth  
Members price - Paper \$12.00; Cloth \$16.00 plus postage.

This classic biography is once again available but in a revised and modern format. It is the SAA members "*Book of the Year*" but why not buy extra copies to benefit others?



## WHAT'S HAPPENING

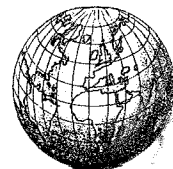


For Group activities, contact your nearest Group Convenor - Sydney Northern Beaches (Barry Hora on 997 8010); Melbourne (Chris Skinner on 435 8599); and Perth (Allan Uren on 271 0226). We know of individuals who have indicated a willingness to facilitate Groups in the Blue Mountains, Wollongong, Sydney's Western and Southern Suburbs, and Adelaide. We have been somewhat slow in responding to these people (overwork and underpay!!) but will make arrangements shortly. Any enquiries regarding these other areas, please contact Kevin Attwater (634 7808). There is also a group studying Swedenborg's Arcana Caelestia in Port Macquarie (NSW) and details can be obtained through the SAA Secretary (02 - 888 1066).

SAA activities at The Swedenborg Centre, North Ryde, include a **Ye Olde Coffee Shop** every Saturday between 12 noon and 3pm. Everyone is welcome. What's old about it? Not the premises, not the current participants, certainly not the coffee and biscuits; just the truths being sought through lively discussion in a modern approach. A small donation is requested to cover kitchen supplies. More details from Barry Hora on 997 8010. The next main meeting in the newly expanded meeting room will be on **FRIDAY 9th JULY at 8.00 pm** when **Gordon Dobbs** of Melbourne will be leading a fascinating evening entitled **Reflective Meditation** - see notice on page 6. We suggest you book seats early. Future evening meetings on a monthly basis are being planned. We also look forward to the **1993 Celebration of Spring** to be held on **Saturday 23rd October**. Make a note of this now in your diary. Another super event! More details later. The Swedenborg Lending Library and Enquiry Centre will be holding a one day **Dream Workshop**, led by Brian O'Neill of Wollongong, on **Saturday 11th September** - yet another fascinating event to attend!

July and August will be full of activities in connection with the Dr. Michael Stanley (UK) visit to Australia. SAA Members in NSW, ACT and Melbourne have already been sent information on events. Should anyone from interstate wish to get details, please advise the Hon. Secretary. Michael will speaking at our AGM on **Saturday 14th August**. The big **Science and Spirituality Symposium** (involving workshops) at Macquarie University on **Saturday 31st July** involving Dr. Stanley, Dr. Philip Groves and several other presenters, should be a great day so book early. **The five July Friday evening meetings of the Blavatsky Lodge of the Sydney Theosophical Society** in the City (484 Kent Street) will all be on Swedenborg. Everyone is welcome. A leaflet about these evenings giving topics and speakers will be sent to members. Never before has Swedenborg had such a high profile in Australia in such a concentrated way. Even if you can't be directly involved through distance, make use of the collective energy within our continent by sharing what material you have available with others.

It was our intention to include details in this issue about **Happening's Overseas** - and there is a lot going on. UK, North America and Africa, the traditional parts of the globe for promoting Swedenborg, have been matched by Eastern and Western Europe (Russia, Poland, Holland and Germany), Iceland, South America, Korea and Japan. We have been particularly grateful to recently receive Dutch, Icelandic, and Japanese translations of Swedenborg. Russian and Polish translations are en route for Australia. More information next time.



32. Hieraan zal ik een zekere hemelse verborghenheid toevoegen, die weliswaar in het werk "Hemel en Hel" is aangehaald, maar nog niet beschreven is geworden. Iedereen is na de dood verbonden met een of ander gezelschap en is daarmee verbonden zodra hij in de geestelijke wereld komt. (zie "Hemel en Hel" n. 427-497)

til mikils gagns við það að mynda sér skoðun um snilligáfu þá sem Swedenborg var gæddur. Hverskyns ágallar sem verá kunna á minni eigin dómgreind að því er hann varðar, geta þannig augljóslega ekki rakist til minnar líkamlegu fötlunar. Að mati þeirra, sem eru lærdómsmenn sjálfir, og

すかでのちとなにつ  
ぎで生ここのちなにつ  
ないここで、がみ、け  
こ、あ役加え  
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
- 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
- Establishing, operating and supporting Swedenborg Association branches around Australia
- 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:**

- + 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.