



Free to Members Cost \$2.00

Swedenborg Association of Australia Ltd.

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Secretariat & Registered Office

The Swedenborg Centre

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Issue 3

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to our third Newsletter, the first for 1994; we hope that you enjoy this edition and that you are able to pass it around to others for their enjoyment. As with previous Issues, we are providing each member with a second copy specifically for handing on to someone else.

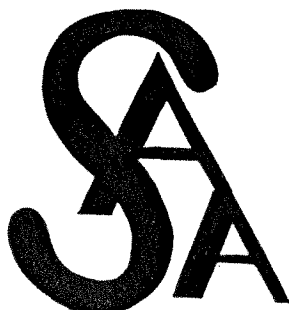
Our Annual General Meeting last August was a small but great meeting (see page 4 for details). One of the many positive suggestions that came out of the AGM was that Members be requested to consider gifting an annual subscription to another person. Particularly with the annual dilemma of selecting Christmas and Birthday gifts, this is a wonderful suggestion that we ask each Member to consider very carefully. Not only does this solve your dilemma and help the SAA at the same time, it might just help another person to take a further positive step along their spiritual pathway.

The SAA Survey that you all received with the Minutes of the AGM is intended to help you to communicate with your Directors so that we can try harder to give you what you need. If you have not already done so, please complete the survey carefully and return it quickly. The results of the survey will serve as a useful guide in planning our activities for 1994.

May you all have a spiritually uplifting and wonderful 1994.

With Love and Light,

Kevin B. Attwater



SWEDENBORG BIRTHDAY MEETING

Friday 28th January 1994

at

The Swedenborg Centre

Avon Road, North Ryde

"SWEDENBORG - A JOURNEY"

A talk by **Joe Vandermeer**, a Director of the Swedenborg Association of Australia Ltd. who has been studying Swedenborg over many years. He will review Swedenborg's dynamic approach to life in early years and during the period of deeper exploration of the spiritual world.

An exhibition of art by **Michael Wright**, also a Director of SAA, entitled **A Journey** will open at The Swedenborg Centre the same evening.

Commences at 7.30pm

Cost (at door): SAA Members \$5 Refreshments
Non Members \$8

This talk will be recorded on audio cassette and will be available to members at \$5 including postage shortly after 28th. Please send your order and payment to:

The Swedenborg Centre,
1 Avon Road, North Ryde, 2113

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REFLECTIONS WITHIN SPRINGTIME

by Stephen Leeder

One has to work very hard to find 'meaning'; it takes such WILL - the 'will' of the salmon in swimming upstream, or the 'will' of a new-born fawn fighting to gain its feet, or of a seed's movement towards the light and warmth of the sun.

When we begin to see, perhaps feel, meaning in 'correspondences' for example, something similar occurs in us, something connected with this WILL. When meaning, in this sense, begins to stir within us, it can be likened to the coming of the natural Spring - this is the essence of my brief talk today. Through 'meaning' the Divine communicates with us 'individually', and draws us, through its light and warmth, truth and good, towards itself just as the natural 'sun' draws the seed towards itself.

Experiencing of Joy

In the language of 'Christian Esotericists', Hydrogen 12 is associated with "a sense of awe when we comprehend creation, when we feel the 'joy' of experiencing the flow of life". It is also connected with WILL.

When the English poet of the last century, Gerard Manly-Hopkins, wrote of spring, his perceptions 'hover' near the spiritual - for beneath the glorious activity of the new season, in our hearts, he suggests, lies JOY.

SPRING

Nothing is so beautiful as Spring.

When weeds, in wheels, shoot long and lovely and lush.

Thrushes eggs look like low heaven's and thrush,

Through the echoing timber does so rinse and wring

The ear, it strikes like lightnings to hear him sing.

The glassy pear tree leaves and bloom, they brush the descending blue; 'that blue is all in a rush with richness'; the 'racing lambs' too have fair their fling. What is all this juice and all this joy?

Gerard Manly-Hopkins

So with the warmth comes activity, lush new life, beauty and with this JOY. The joy, we should note, isn't in nature - it's in us. This positive emotion, as we've seen, can connect us, as Hydrogen 12, to the spiritual - to higher life. At any rate there is inferred here, at the very least, a beautiful mystery - a web of interaction - of interconnection - between Heaven and Earth. Central to this is the already mentioned 'correspondences'.

Correspondences

In Heaven and Hell, Swedenborg tells us that: "Heaven has a correspondence with everything on Earth"; animals -- **with our affections** -- things of the vegetable kingdom with **intelligence** (trees, specifically, with perceptions - for example). In short, he tells us that all things occurring in nature, from the smallest to the greatest, are 'correspondences'. There is a 'correspondence' then with the moon and stars and, centrally, the sun.

Heaven's sun, Swedenborg tells us, is the Lord. Heaven's light is Divine Truth, it's warmth Divine Good, issuing from the Lord as if from a sun. This is the source, furthermore, of all things that emerge or appear in the heavens. The reason the Lord is seen as

a sun in Heaven is that he is Divine Love, the source from which all spiritual things emerge and - via the world's sun - all natural things. That love is what shines like a sun.

Significant to us, here, is that all things correspond which ...

"... stem from the sun, from its presence or its absence, like light and shade, heat and cold

Things that depend on these phenomena, like the seasons of the year, called spring, summer, fall, and winter ..."
...."It is from the world's warmth, combined with light, that everything on earth comes to life and blooms. They are combined in spring and summer time. But from light without warmth, nothing comes to life and blooms - everything becomes sluggish and dies. They are not combined in winter time. Then warmth is gone, while light continues. This correspondence is the basis of heaven being called 'a paradise, since there what is true is combined with what is good - or faith with love -- like light with warmth in springtime on earth.

'Our' Inner World

This occurs also within man. Swedenborg also tells us that "since man is both Heaven and earth in smallest form, on the model of the greatest, he has a spiritual and a natural world within him." We can begin to understand here the **good ground and the rocky ground** of the Gospels, in which the seed grows according to the quality of different men's earth, but whom all receive, equally, 'life' from the 'Sun'. Man's inner world is the earth on which the Spiritual Sun acts.

With this in mind then let me read a description of the activity (from a Northern Hemisphere natural Spring), taken from a child's nature book. Note the beautifully graphic and simple images -- for example - the 'sun bullets acting on the world setting off a billion tiny events'. Let's try to imagine these 'billion tiny events' occurring in 'our' inner world, and their meaning to us:

In Spring the sun crosses the sky higher each day. It sprays its tiny energy bullets against the earth more and more directly, closer and closer together. The increasing sun bullets strike trees, lakes, rock and earth and set off a billion tiny events. Grains of ice and snow fade away, and trickles of water grow noisier in the woodlands. Crystal fingers of frost melt in the soil and leave it tunnelled, damp and airy-ready for green heads of seeds to thrust through from below. Sun bullets hitting buds start the chemical magic by which air, water and minerals become leaves, tree trunks and flowers.

The sun bullets strike hard. The tiniest particles of gases that make up our air get battered into swifter motion. The tiniest particles that make up water, rock and soil also move faster. --- 'Earth' becomes warm'. Plants now send out new roots and spread their leaves to begin taking in chemical foods. Animals that have slept through the winter wake up to join the hustle, and those that have hungered during the lean months begin to eat well. Birds announce their arrival from the South, eggs hatch and wet butterflies crawl forth.

The land and its inhabitants are now in full activity.

If we begin here to make connections, to see and feel parallels - to feel a stirring of 'meaning' - (stirring feelings and perceptions like 'the bear and oak' of the natural Spring) - then there is reason for JOY - greater joy than before because of the coming of 'light and warmth' from a greater Sun'. Communication with Heaven is given through 'correspondences' and this is the source of this JOY - this connection should be inspirational and affect our will. As we begin to perceive and, importantly, feel these meaningful parallels, an 'inner light and warmth' can begin to touch something within us. Swedenborg significantly tells us in this regard that, "*The angels very life comes from warmth*". We may conclude that it is the same with spiritual man.

Preparing for Spiritual Rebirth

However, whilst we are highlighting the correspondence of natural Spring with man's 'potential spiritual re-birth' (when the Divine Sun leads him or her towards 'life' with its corresponding new 'feelings' and new 'ideas' and 'truths') it is important to note that there is a vital element of preparation involved - just as there is in our gardens and farms in Spring to ensure the maximum 'richness and fruitfulness' of the season. 'Work on Ourselves' corresponds to this preparation of the natural earth.

Significantly, Swedenborg tells us that the reason Heaven has been called 'Paradise' is related to a work of combining what is good and true - of faith with love - like light with warmth in Springtime. This relationship is central to this 'work on ourselves' and at its heart stands the extraordinarily potent symbol of the androgynous, Jesus Christ - androgynous as an expression of the need for union of these 'male and female' elements within us - as the 'way' to GOD.

Dr. Evans-Wentz in his preface to **The Tibetan Book Of the Dead** reinforces this connection. He talks of the new-born and the resurrection of Christ, paralleling it with the fresh and glistening greenery of renescent leaves and the fragrance of blossoms and the joy of Spring. He continues: "*It is, truly, the ever recurrent Resurrection, the coming forth of new life of things that had died; and in like manner, are those who have fallen asleep in the Christos to be empowered to rise from their tombs. Over the bosom of mother earth, in pulsating vibrations, radiant and energising flows the perennial stream of Life; and whosoever has the power of right-seeing sees that for unemancipated beings death is but the necessary prelude to birth.*"

Swedenborg has told us already that in Winter everything is sluggish and dies. Winter is a time when there is light, but no warmth. Activity, then, can still continue, but without the flow of life that comes with warmth; there is, however, activity - it is just hidden, restricted and in 'secret' places. I want to suggest a parallel here with 'inner' preparation - with work on ourselves. We see this in a description of natural Winter taken from the same previously quoted text by Dr. Evans-Wentz. Relate it again to your 'inner' world: "*In Winter the land and its creatures rest. Wrapped in cold and snow, animals sleep, and plant life waits for the warmth and sunshine of another Spring.*"

It is only a slowing down for those plants and animals -- oak and bear and all the rest that will stir and hustle again when the sun rides higher.

It is only a phase for those short lived individuals that will die when the world freezes, but have left parts of themselves -- seeds and eggs and buried larvae -- to begin new lives when the earth warms again. It is as if they knew that even in Winter the earth, in all its secret places, under the rocks and ice and leaves and snow, will be making ready."

From this we can see that Springtime exists, in a sense, within Winter - in death and preparation - as a prelude to the explosion of growth, just as our re-birth exists in 'work on ourselves'. There is no Spring, then, without Winter and there is no re-birth without preparation.

Dark Night of the Soul

St. John of the Cross, in **The Dark Night of The Soul**, relates to us the 'secret and hidden' way in which the soul is worked on by the Lord and drawn towards 'Life'. We may see, then, a similar process in the dark and cold of our 'inner' Winter which is, as in the natural world, a necessary 'prelude' to Spring.

In conclusion, those of us, then, who 'outwardly' see the Spring, but who are 'inwardly' in Winter, should reflect that 'inner work' in the dark and cold is a necessary 'phase'.

In this state when we feel isolated, forgotten - perhaps unloved, we should try and remember that this phase is but a prelude to re-birth. This phase, we should reflect, is a time, potentially, of dogged and persistent work - of preparation - but which leads to a time of plenty, when beauty, truth and love will begin to slowly form and gently lead us and, as we begin to bare the light and warmth, become more and more central to our lives.

As we reflect on these things, as we strive to understand the 'meaning' of correspondences and as we look at nature and feel 'a sense of awe' and the 'joy of experiencing the flow of life', we will gain WILL, and in this be sustained and motivated as we move towards 'LIFE'. This is how the Lord helps us on our journey. We need only look at the images I mentioned at the beginning of my talk - the salmon fighting upstream or the tiny new-born fawn fighting to gain its footing - to see a parallel with our own spiritual journey. When we touch, even briefly, the wonder of this parallel - when we begin to feel the **Oneness** - the **connectedness** of all of this - then the poet's joy of natural Spring - glorious though it is - is, by comparison, **measured small**.



Stephen Leeder lives in Sydney, and holds a Masters degree in Australian History. He is an Actor and lectures in Psychotherapy at Nature Care College of Naturopathic & Traditional Medicine, Artarmon.

The above is the transcript of the talk Stephen presented at the inaugural **Celebration of Spring** at The Swedenborg Centre in September 1992.

QUOTATION TO CONTEMPLATE

Em. Swedenborg

In our present scientific and technological age, we are constantly reminded by new research findings how profound nature's order is. Entrenched paradigms about the notion of "chaos" and of the erratic "Big Bang" are being revisited by scientists (see Book Reviews on page 7) and astronomers, in search for previously overlooked signs of order. We are not the first to recognise creation's lawfulness, since the Greeks already called the universe "Cosmos", meaning order, in an attempt to express the harmony, unity and orderliness of what they saw. The Egyptians, in earlier times, also recognised the inescapable order of all worlds, and personified this Divine provision as the female deity of "Maat", meaning truth, order, lawfulness, and righteousness.

We cannot escape the effects of gravity, stop the seasons, or turn back the tide. English history provides us with an account of King Canute, who illustrated the futility of defying the laws of nature. He placed his throne at the ocean's edge in apparent defiance of the tide, then waited for the sea's response. Instead of the rising tide respecting his authority and retreating, he got his feet thoroughly wet. He then removed his crown, and reminded those present that no matter what a person's worldly status might be, one needs to respect higher laws. In the conventional sense, law and order are enforced in our society to maintain peace and harmony in the lives of its citizens. In this way the ideal of a peaceful, harmonious, and the enjoyment of life for all is preserved. This reflects the functions of creation's laws instituted by the Divine, providing a large enough environment in which our will can operate freely, whilst at the same time providing protection from a destruction of the good available to all living beings, a destruction that could result from a totally negative and ego-centric applications of that same free will.

As Swedenborg writes in **The True Christian Religion**, paragraph 500 :-

"The idea that God without giving people free will in spiritual matters could bring everyone throughout the world in the course of a single day to believe in Himself, is a consequence of failing to understand God's omnipotence. Those who misunderstand God's omnipotence may think either that there is no such thing as order, or that God can act just as much against order as in accordance with it. Yet in fact without order no creation would have been possible.

"The primary end of order is that man should be an image of God; consequently he should become more and more an image of God. God is continually working to produce this result in man; but without free will in spiritual matters, which enables a person to turn towards God and link himself in turn with Him, it would be a labour in vain, since it would be impossible. For it is order from which and according to which the whole world with every single thing in it was created. Because all creation derives from order and is in accordance with order, God is called order itself. It is therefore the same thing whether you speak of acting contrary to Divine order or acting contrary to God. In fact, God Himself cannot act contrary to His Divine order, if it is really acting contrary to Himself. He therefore guides every person in accordance with Himself as order, and those who have strayed and fallen away He guides to it, and those who resist towards it."

Submitted by Joe Vandermeer

OUR 2nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday afternoon of 14th August, 1993 came upon us soon enough after having been operational as an Association for one year. Twenty Members and five guests gathered at The Swedenborg Centre, North Ryde for this second Annual General Meeting.

Bon homie and enthusiasm was high as everybody was welcomed to the meeting which was especially graced by the presence of Rev. Dr. Michael and Mrs. Barbara Stanley visiting from Burnley in the U.K.

Apologies were received from 17 Members who were with us in thought if not in body. Hopefully in the future we will be able to get together with these members to personally share their enthusiasm.

The minutes of our 1992 Inaugural General Meeting were quickly adopted and then we went through the Annual Report of the Directors in some detail. There was meaningful discussion on a number of issues raised in the Report and several positive suggestions were made by the Members. These suggestions were referred to the Board of Directors for further consideration.

Treasurer, Jack Benson, presented the financial statements which highlighted some wonderful donations and showed that the SAA has a solid financial base for meaningful growth over the next few years.

Ruth Duckworth spoke on how we "found" a logo for our Association. Ruth presented Joe Vandermeer with his prize of a \$50 book voucher for his wonderful winning design. The Members adopted Joe's design as the Logo of the SAA; and then, one of the highlights of the meeting, Alexis Jarvis presented a beautiful banner featuring our new logo. Be sure you have a look at Alexis' lovely piece of needlework whenever you get the opportunity at our SAA meetings in Sydney.

Revised subscription rates for 1994 (\$25 annual subscription with a \$10 concession for those holding social security pensioner and full-time student cards) were quickly adopted. Then the elections to the new Board of Directors were held. Neville Jarvis, in stepping down as Secretary, was thanked for all his work in getting the Swedenborg Association established. Following a ballot, Mrs Alexis Jarvis was appointed to the Secretarial job. Brian O'Neill and Professor Eric Sharpe also stood down as Directors. **Wayne Kasmar, Joe Vandermeer and Michael Wright** were elected to the new Board. It was great to see four "new faces" elected, providing a lovely balance between the continuity of re-elected Members and the "fresh blood".

A Discussion Paper "Where do we go from here?" was presented and again a good response and discussion ensued. Some more positive suggestions came out of the discussion and these were again referred to the Directors for consideration.

The meeting was formally closed and then the highlight arrived when Dr. Michael Stanley addressed us on practical aspects and impressions from his recent tour of Australia. This most useful information was very well received and provoked lively discussion that continued on through the refreshments at the end of the day.

Kevin B. Attwater.

A RETROSPECTIVE ON THE 1993 CELEBRATION OF SPRING

- incorporating the **INAUGURAL SWEDENBORG PRIZE FOR RELIGIOUS ART**

The effect of being present in a room where works of symbolic art reach out and draw you into their manifold perspectives is an experience in itself. Combine with this 140 people who have come to share in the vibrancy of the exhibits, and the theme of **The Dynamics of Ancient Sacred Symbols** really comes to life.

The atmosphere of the evening at The Swedenborg Centre, North Ryde, expressed more than a hundred pages of writing could even begin to. Angry Anderson's gift of expressing what is in his heart shone through to open the event - the words appreciated by study of this man's tattooed arms reveals a mass of symbolism befitting the title of the evening, the warmth shared from him brings the core meaning of this special gathering to manifestation.

Joe Vandermeer's talk on the Dynamics of Ancient Sacred Symbols introduced many to a new way of appreciating symbolism presented in art form - it's purpose, it's meaning. Joe's great effort in preparing this talk allowed a thorough explanation of a vast subject to be presented most clearly in limited time - always a challenge when dealing with what is timeless, eternal. Joe, Danielle Frances, Ngaire Worbois and Jim Scanlan then gave a performance of harmonic singing which left many with their mouth somewhat agape (but no sound coming out!) at the beauty of quality expressed by these gifted people - one can easily appreciate why the people of Tura (Mongolia) incorporated this form of singing into their prayer.

Laraine Forbes provided a flowing Javanese Mask Dance which was entralling, her delicate fingers providing an acute focus of symbolism through their fine gestures. Laraine's graceful movements depicting the story line in a manner of symbolism so lacking in much of our "modern" dance.

It is with great thanks to the colourful country of India that The Swedenborg Centre vibrated to the intricate rhythms of Jabla player Mr. Pindit Raam Chandra Suman, his bright face befitting the liveliness of his incredible dexterity on the Tabla drums, finely accompanied by Laxhmi Ray on the Vina. One of the audience was very familiar with Tabla playing and expressed his opinion that Mr. Suman is one of the most gifted Tabla players to be heard anywhere - including India!

A physically refreshing and nourishing interval brought the wandering of a cultural journey from Mongolia to Java to India to the musical resonances of Tibet, with the first public performance of Chris Catsanis' group, **Bells and Bowls**. This four-man group brought sounds from some of the world's highest and most remote monasteries to become part of the entourage to the Celebration of Spring. From Colin Gin's deft interspersal of windchimes, to the technique of 'bowing' the bowls, to Chris' deep throated chanting accompanied by Lachlan Hinds on didgeridoo - this was a performance of musical diversity, blended to bring a special flavour to the evening.

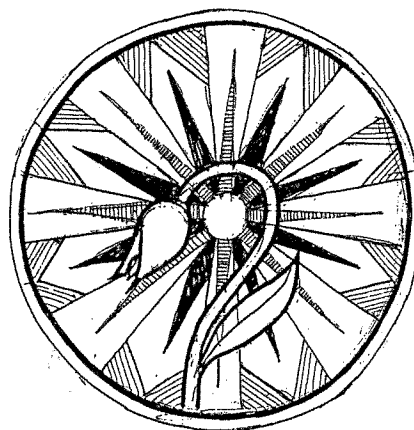
The inaugural Swedenborg Prize for Religious Art was awarded to Heather Sved for her work entitled **Spring**. Heather commented on the inspiration for her fine

piece of symbolism: "*The fantastic orderly pattern running through creation. The idea came suddenly in a quiet moment at work. I sketched it down whilst answering the phone.*" One of the themes that Heather emphasises is behind her piece is the way each 'part' relates to each other 'part' - "*Like an orchestra and the great conductor is the Divine.*" Heather states her work's purpose is an effort to attune to the energies of both the colours and the shapes, that there is structure behind everything, and to heighten our awareness to attune ourselves with the colours and shapes of Spring that present themselves as we try to further attune to the present moment. Emanuel Swedenborg's father derived the family surname of Svedberg from the ancestral homestead, a picturesque little country place near Fahlun called "Sveden" (from **The Swedenborg Epic**, page 3). In the light of this, it is more than interesting that as the recipient of the Inaugural Swedenborg Prize for Religious Art, Heather's surname is Sved.

To close the evening, Mr. Suman and Laxhmi delighted all with their skilled playing - the most complex rhythms explained to the audience with simple beat counts. A gifted entertainer, Mr. Suman related well with the children present, who bring a special quality of the freshness and vigour of life to events such as the Celebration of Spring. The first time ever performance of didgeridoo and Tabla drums was quite an experience for all concerned. The harmonious interaction between these instruments of ancient cultures reflecting the unity of purpose in the bringing together of symbols seen as coming from varied sources, yet they come from the one source.

As Mr. Suman and Laxhmi played their final notes of music, the last sounds of this wonder-filled evening were created by one of the deepest symbols in the universe - that of Male and Female in harmonious interaction.

Lachlan Hinds



1994 MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

These are now due and members are asked to forward their remittance to the Hon. Treasurer, Jack Benson, as soon as possible.

Except for those members who have already paid for 1994, a Notice will be included with this Newsletter giving full details of the amount due. As Subscription rates are set at minimum levels to allow everyone interested to participate, members who are able to do so are requested to consider including an extra amount by way of donation to the uses of SAA. Thank you.

MYTHS, SYMBOLS AND PARABLES

On Friday, 17th September 1993, at The Swedenborg Centre, we were privileged to hear another excellent talk by SAA member Dr. Philip Groves. Dr. Groves entitled his talk "Myths, Symbols and Parables."

The title may make a person who did not know better think that it would be a discussion on a dry and dusty topic, anthropology perhaps or something similar. As with all Dr. Groves' talks, nothing could be further from the truth. What we heard was something so closely connected to life that you couldn't get any closer. There was great exhortation to all to get up and do something, to get going and not just lay around in a stupor, uninterested and uninvolved in the finer things that are happening in the world. Swedenborg confirms that we all have a tendency to be spiritually torpid and Dr. Groves' message is that it is most important that we attempt to wake up and become inwardly, as well as outwardly, alive and active.

His message is encouraging when he explains that the whole world is provided to help us in our spiritual progress. Amongst the most important of these things with which we have been provided are parables, symbols and myths. Far from being curious relics of a more superstitious, less enlightened time, they are powerful tools for instructing the outer, more external levels of our minds in the realities of spiritual truth. This instruction facilitates the great progress forward which leads to the heavenly state that Swedenborg describes in his writings.

Consequently it is most wise to become familiar with, and to understand, parables, symbols and myths. Dr. Groves recounted myths from the Australian Aboriginal and Inuit (Eskimo) cultures, parables from the Bible and the Koran, and discussed various symbols arising out of dreams and specific mystical and creative experiences. The power of the symbolism discussed and its relevance to our modern day lives was clearly evident as Dr. Groves explained many of the meanings in detail.

The wide ranging examples and liberal use of the science of correspondences left one in no doubt that there is meaning of a deeper nature at whatever point one wishes to look at the world around oneself. And the invitation is inherent, and clearly verbalised by Dr. Groves, that we do in fact need to make such investigations. To decline the invitation is to lose out on so much. Until we begin to learn about the world and thereby receive reflections of the world within us, we are never going to be truly alive. And until we look at the parables and myths and symbols that are available to us we aren't ever going to be able to understand what drives us and makes us say and think the things we do.

The integrated understanding and vast knowledge that Dr. Groves makes available in his talk is extremely valuable considering how greatly times have changed since Swedenborg's day. So many restrictions have been loosened so that Western people know about so many new things from all over time and space. Much work is necessary to integrate all this into the great master plan that is laid out in Swedenborg's writings. Dr. Groves is undoubtedly a pioneer in this work.

Wayne Kasmar.

An audio tape recording of this lecture is available from The Swedenborg Lending Library & Enquiry Centre at the special members price of \$5 incl. postage.

GROUP NEWS

With exception of the continuing two groups, one in Melbourne and one in Perth, there is very little to add to what has already been said in this column in the first two Newsletters.

I continue to believe in the need/desirability of groups but the logistics of setting up and maintaining such groups appears to be a bit beyond us at this stage of our development. This will not change unless many more Members come forward for this task and/or the necessary resources become available.

Hopefully the responses to the SAA Survey will guide the Directors in terms of the energies and resources that should be directed towards the groups.

The discussion paper at the AGM highlighted the particular problems with resources in terms of trying to facilitate the groups and other activities. If you do not have your copy of this paper, please ring or write to the SAA Secretary for your copy.

I would be pleased to hear from anybody with Group News and/or any thoughts or ideas on this matter.

Kevin B. Attwater



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We welcome the following people who have become members since the last Newsletter was issued:

Zoran Bulic, Green Valley, NSW
Margaret Coster, Randwick, NSW
David Delaney, Roseville, NSW
Yvonne Lollback, Warrimoo, NSW
Margrit Mathews, Mosman, NSW
Yvonne McKay, Wollstonecraft, NSW
Sandra Moriarty, Berkeley, NSW
Hermann Muehlberger, Villawood, NSW
Brett Swaddling, Landsdale, WA

Gift of a Lifetime!

Do you find membership of the SAA rewarding and stimulating? Would you like your friends to share this experience? Then give them the gift of a lifetime. Birthdays, Christmas, Easter, or any time you want to show you care, give them an annual subscription to SAA. **Attractive Gift Vouchers** are now available. Just write to the Hon. Secretary, Alexis Jarvis, at 1 Avon Road enclosing your cheque for \$25 (\$35 if your friend is not currently a member to cover Joining Fee of \$10 also) and stating the name and address of the recipient.

Alexis Jarvis
Hon. Secretary



BOOK REVIEWS

One of the benefits of SAA membership is a 20% discount on the regular price of all books (excepting large sets), 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 titles which should be of interest.

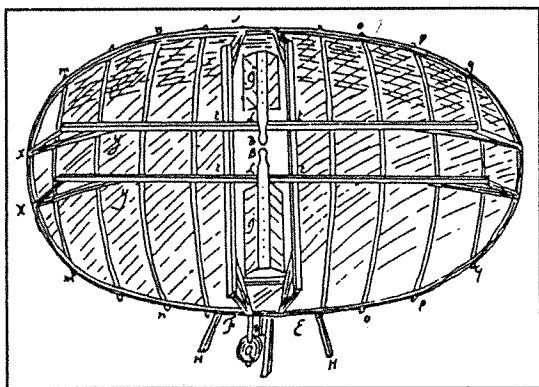
Essays on Spiritual Psychology

by Carolyn Blackmer. Swedenborg Foundation. 1991. 62 pages, paper. SAA Members Price \$20.00 plus postage.

Over a century before psychology was even an established discipline, Emanuel Swedenborg was writing on psychological subjects. But although this is one of the most fascinating dimensions of his thought, it is not always easy to extract the psychological essence from the theological concepts. The late Carolyn Blackmer was well versed in both modern psychology and Swedenborg's thought. She was also an inspired teacher and educator. These two essays - *Journal of Dreams and The Spiritual Diary and Swedenborg, Psychologist Extraordinaire* - provide a lucid distillate of Swedenborg's psychological concepts and an accessible and concise account of how they emerged from his own profound process of personal spiritual transformation.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that Emanuel Swedenborg (1688-1772) is now credited with being the first to invent the airplane as he designed a vehicle to fly in the air as opposed to Leonardo da Vinci's invention for human flight as a bird?



IT'S TRUE!

Read *Swedenborg's 1714 Airplane; a Machine to Fly in the Air*.
by Henry Soderberg. Swedenborg Foundation.
90 pages. Hardback. **Special price for SAA Members - \$5.00** plus postage.

This is a highly readable account showing Swedenborg's design for a heavier-than-air flying machine is the first fixed-wing design with aerodynamically functional wing-to-size ratio, lacking only a modern engine to make it fly. The book is more than simply a meticulously researched history for it is filled with fact and anecdotes of man's relentless early efforts to fly.

Three new translations of Swedenborg's of Swedenborg's theological writings are on their way to Australia - *Arcana Coelestia Vol. 9, The Heavenly City (New Jerusalem and its Heavenly Doctrine)* and *Neighborliness (Charity)*. Full details next Issue of this Newsletter.

Religion and Science: From Swedenborg to Chaotic Dynamics

by Gregory L. Baker. Solomon Press. 1992. 165 pages, paper. SAA Members price \$20.00 plus postage.

Conventional wisdom suggests that science and religion are unrelated and often in conflict. Yet, both areas contribute to the totality of human knowledge. In this book, the author, Dr. Gregory Baker whose Doctorate is in Physics, examines this relationship from both his own scientific experience and his religious faith, based on the spiritual teachings of Swedenborg. The bulk of the 165 pages is an interweaving of religious and scientific thought in such a way as to preserve the integrity of both fields, with topics ranging from the "big bang" to "chaotic dynamics".



The Shorter Heaven and Hell

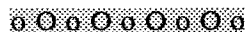
Seminar Books. 1993. 158 pages. paper. SAA Members price \$10.00 plus postage.

This volume is an abridgment, by Swedenborg Association of Australia Ltd. members Julian Duckworth and Trevor Moffat, of Swedenborg's best-known work *Heaven, and its wonders, and Hell, from things heard and seen*. It provides an easy introduction to the full text through the presentation of what these two committed and well-read students of Swedenborg consider to be the main essentials contained in the original. A very readable book about one sixth of the complete work.

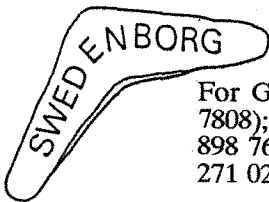
Channels of Spiritual Strength

by John Clowes. Published by New Church Collateral Publishing. 1990. 178 pages. paper. SAA Members price \$8.50 plus postage.

Originally written in 1813 by Rev. J. Clowes, M.A., Rector of St. John's Church, Manchester, and Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, in England, under the title "On Mediums". This edition was edited and rewritten by Dr. William R. Woofenden and published by the Brisbane organisation run by SAA member Les Sheppard. Sub-titled "How they help promote regeneration", this volume provides a very helpful analysis of what is meant by the term 'Spiritual Channel', and the nature and use of the various types including the written Word of God, prayer, baptism, human free will, rationality, etc. There is also a very helpful chapter on how these channels relate to the purpose of creation.



POSTAGE - for mail orders, please include \$2.50 per book to a maximum of \$7.50.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

For Group activities, contact your nearest Group facilitator - Sydney region (Kevin Attwater on 634 7808); Melbourne which meets at regular intervals (Chris Skinner on 435 8599 or Gordon Dobbs on 898 7601); and Perth which meets in the evening on the third Sunday of every month (Allan Uren on 271 0226). Every effort will be made this coming year of 1994 to establish additional viable Groups.

Director's Meetings

Since the last AGM in August the Director's have met twice - 21st September and 30th November 1993. The Agendas for these meetings have been very full with a whole range of business matters to deal with. Matters raised at the 1993 AGM involving such items as groups, advertised activities, the Newsletter, members questionnaire and the short guide and introduction to the writings of Swedenborg have been given top priority. Dates for 1994 Directors meetings (in the evening at The Swedenborg Centre, North Ryde) are:

1st February, 26th April, 26th July and 25th August. 1994 AGM to be on Saturday 13th August. Please remember that every member can attend, and be warmly welcomed at, each Board meeting so, if it is possible, do come along.

Friday Evening Meetings at The Swedenborg Centre - Please diary now!

Over the first half of 1994, meetings will be held on:-

28th January (Joe Vandermeer) - "Swedenborg - A Journey" (see notice on the first page of this Issue.

25th February (Rev. Julian Duckworth) - "A Swedenborg Road Map".

25th March (Dr. Philip Groves) - "Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphic Symbols of Transformation"

29th April (Rev. Terry Schnarr); 27th May and 24th June.

All these talks will be recorded and made available to the whole membership (to borrow or buy).

"The Coffee Shop"

This weekly gathering at The Swedenborg Centre, North Ryde, on Saturdays is now well established. Usually there are 4 to 6 people who have coffee or tea and biscuits while enjoying themselves in happy discussions on all topics of interest. Naturally Swedenborg's philosophy comes up regularly as do the issues of Eastern vs. Western thought.

There is a book exchange: \$2 to purchase a book and \$1 refund for its return, the idea being that after reading, the books are recycled. As can be imagined this system works quite well and books are constantly coming and going. We can always do with more books so if you have some to spare, please let Jack Benson know (451 3776). **And, of course, a very warm welcome to all who like to come along and participate from time to time; you'll enjoy it.**

Circle Dance Group

Inspired by the workshops conducted by Mrs. Barbara Stanley during her visit last year with her husband, Dr. Michael Stanley, a Circle Dance Group now meets on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month from 7 pm to 9 pm at The Swedenborg Centre in North Ryde. Circle dancing is a collection of dances - folk, traditional and classical - from countries and cultures throughout the world. The dances can be fast and fun or slow and meditative. It is pleasant, gentle exercise and the benefit is not only physical, but emotional and spiritual as well. There is no need for a partner. **Come along and join us whenever you can. Enquiries contact Alexis Jarvis on (02) 871 1904.**

OBJECTS OF THE SWEDENBORG ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA, 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 \$25.00 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 financial 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 (or telephone 02 - 871 1904) to obtain a membership leaflet.