



Candela

Newsletter of the
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Swedenborg Association of Australia has started 1995 with full optimism that we will continue to grow to meet the requirements of our many members around Australia.

We hope that all our members had a most joyful, spiritual and relaxing Christmas and New Year break. We hope that you were able to take many opportunities to reflect on what you have understood so far from the writings of Emanuel Swedenborg; that you were able to build upon your spiritual growth; and that you were even able to think about your commitment to the Swedenborg Association. With that in mind we hope that all members will renew their subscriptions as soon as possible and that you will even encourage a friend to join us.

Individually and through our Association we recognise that Emanuel Swedenborg was a great philosopher, engineer, scientist, Father of the New Age, etc. I feel that a fundamental basis for his powerful concentration and inspired writings was his mastery of the art of meditation. Meditation groups have been widespread around the New Age philosophies but not so widely encouraged within the Swedenborg movements. Our Sydney group has now inaugurated a monthly meditation group. We sincerely hope that this will encourage more members and friends to consciously link their external selves to their inner selves and so allow Divine truths as explained by Swedenborg to more positively influence their lives' delights.

Meetings in Melbourne, Perth and Sydney are being held monthly (see later in Newsletter for more details). The Directors ask all those members living in these places to directly support these meetings whenever possible. Tape recordings of the Sydney meetings are usually available for your personal use.

With Love and Light,

Kevin B. Attwater

NEW FORMAT

In order to save on production costs, this issue of CANDELA is presented on a smaller size of paper. The "bonus" is that you have 12 pages to read instead of eight!

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EXPRESSIONS OF ORDER IN NATURE AND THE ARTS

Joe Vandermeer

(A synopsis of a talk given at the February 1995 Swedenborg Association meeting at The Swedenborg Centre, North Ryde. During this talk, Joe introduced many magnificent slides of expressions of art forms throughout history, from earliest times to modern, and from all parts of the world.)

This topic covers an enormous field! From simply looking at what art in itself is, how that relates to nature, how it derives from nature, and how order is expressed in both nature and the arts, enquiry is limitless.

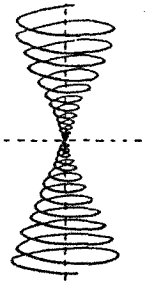
When we speak of **Order** in the common sense of the word, the Macquarie Dictionary definition states that it is "a condition in which everything is in its proper place with reference to other things and to its purpose; methodical or harmonious arrangement". So we are talking of things which have a relationship to each other and that relationship has everything to do with the central reference or "**common measure**" as it is often called. In early days, relatively speaking, **Marcus Vitruvius** - a first century B.C. architect and engineer in Rome, well-known amongst architectural historians for his reference treatise **On Architecture** - wrote "Common harmony, symmetry and unity arise from a common measure being used to construct the parts"; i.e. there must be a single unifying principle that connects the parts.

Man the Measure

In the case of a lot of ancient works of architecture, we find the form of man, as in mankind, a completed man, is used as the measure that the various body parts relate to the dimensions of the parts of the temple or the building under construction. We find this theme recurring over and over again and clearly used in relatively recent times by the **Bauhaus Movement**, a school founded in 1919 by **Walter Gropius** - an architect who, in many ways, was the father of modern office-block architecture. He liked to base all the proportions of building structures on which he worked - from office-blocks to kitchen cupboards - using the measure of man and reference to its parts as the measuring stick. It is a precious theme, also in expressing architectural structures and in other visual arts. In looking for order, we are looking for a single unifying principle that connects the parts.

We live in the natural universe, which has always been seen, since ancient times, as a harmonious, unified structure. The term "**Universe**" comes from the Latin "**Uni**" meaning **One** and "**versum**" meaning to

turn. In this name, the principle of what the ancients observed is expressed, being an entire structure that turns as one. The Greeks referred to it as "**Cosmos**" which, of course, means **Order**, again expressing what they observed. When we examine nature, we find patterns, recurring themes, everywhere; in forms of symmetry, repetitions, spirals, circles, curves; in processes such as cyclical events, planetary motions; in interlocking functions; in physical laws (discovered through their reputability); in behaviours (whether in the various kingdoms or in our own world) involving mutual co-operation and repeated patterns. So we find that in nature there are lots of orderly structures to be explored, many still unknown; it is a matter of connecting this with various other principles that can be looked at.



The reason we can study a law or pattern is because it is regular. We study the regularity of a pattern so it can be understood. Understanding brings various powers of potential control. Yet, there is a paradox that a pattern is repetition and on the other hand everything is individually unique e.g. palm leaves are structured with a general pattern of commonality but if we get out the measuring stick and take a close look, we find that each leaf is different in its own right. **The Paradox** - we can be infinitely delighted by every unique and individual expression of nature and also recognise regularity of pattern and commonality of structure and form. **Patterns** express a principle in common; general characteristics we can abstract and describe, and this is the unifying principle of **Form**.

Unity of Nature

In our **inner world** we also find patterns e.g. thought - hence our word "**idea**" from the Greek εἶδος, which means **pattern**. Turning to **Emanuel Swedenborg**, we find that he has much to say about the unity of nature. In his very rational words, in the **True Christian Religion**, paragraph 13, he says the following:

"The reason the oneness of God can be deduced from the creation of the universe is that the universe is a single system coherently organised from beginning to end, and dependent on God as the body is on the soul. The universe was so created that God could be omnipresent, and keep all its particulars under His guidance, and keep it perpetually together as a **Unit**, and so preserve it. This too is why Jehovah God says that He is the **First and the Last, the Beginning and the End, the Alpha and the Omega**, and elsewhere that he does everything, spreads out the heavens, and stretches out the earth, of Himself. This mighty system which is called the universe is a single unit coherently organised from beginning to end, because God had one **End** in view in creating it, to create from the human race a heaven of angels. The means to this end are all the things of which the world is composed; for he who wills the **End**, wills also the **Means**.

The man therefore who contemplates the world as a piece of work containing the means to that end can contemplate the created universe as a single coherent unit, and he can see that the world is an assemblage of services structured for the benefit of the human race, to form a heaven of angels. The Divine Love cannot have any other end in view than from His Divine make human beings eternally blessed; and His Divine Wisdom cannot produce anything but services designed to fulfil that end. By considering the world from this **Universal** point of view, every wise man can grasp that the Creator of the Universe is **One**, and that His essence is Love and Wisdom. Consequently, there is no detail in it which does not conceal services either nearly or distantly designed to benefit human beings. Their food is provided by the fruits of the earth and also by animals, their clothing from the same sources."

One Stupendous Whole

Something similar is expressed in poetic form by Alexander Pope:-

"All are but part of the one stupendous whole,
whose body nature is, and God the soul".

"Here then we rest: "The Universal Cause
Acts to one end, but acts by various laws"".

"Look around our World; behold the chain of Love
Combining all below and all above".

"See the sole bliss Heaven could on all bestow!
Which who but feels can taste, but thinks can know:
Yet poor with fortune, and with learning blind;
The bad must miss; the good, untaught, will find;
Slave to no sect, who takes no private road,
But looks through nature up to nature's God;
Pursues that chain which links the immense design,
Joins heaven and earth, and mortal and divine;
Sees, that no being any bliss can know,
But touches some above, and some below;
Learns, from this union of the rising Whole,
The first, last purpose of the human soul;
And knows, where Faith, Law, Morals, all began,
All end, in Love of God, and Love of Man".

"**Essay on Man**"

The Expression of Beauty

What are we looking for by the term **The Arts**?

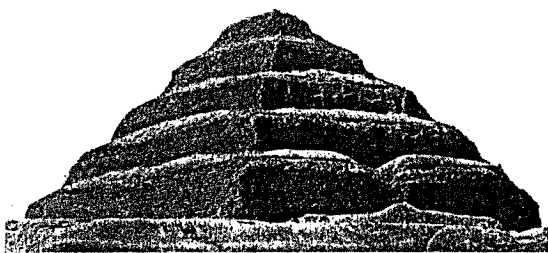
According to the Macquarie Dictionary, **Art** is the production or expression of what is beautiful (esp. visually appealing), or of more than ordinary significance. Power is provided by something having meaning beyond the ordinary - the **Power of Art**. The term "**Art**" comes from the Latin "**Artem**" meaning **Skill** and a lot could be made of that on its own! It is impossible to cover all of the arts comprehensively in just one evening but aspects which apply to one can, by analogy, be extended to all "Arts". i.e. to all products of creativity and "skill" such as **music, drama, literature and poetry, visual arts, dance, story-telling, myth-making**, etc.

To understand the arising of artistic expression through the vehicle of humankind, we need to look at the history of our species. According to mainstream archaeology:

- ◆ About 8 million years ago (y.a.) the Human Lineage separated from the Animals - the start of the line of **Australopithecines**.
- ◆ 1.8 million y.a., another change when early **Homo Habilis** species lived in Tanzania.
- ◆ 1.5 million to 500,000 y.a. **Homo Erectus** (smaller brain, larger teeth) reigned in Africa, Asia and Europe.
- ◆ It was not until 350,000 y.a. that our present species **Homo Sapiens** ("wise Man") arose, descended from **Homo Erectus** with a larger brain. **Homo Sapiens** are the only living species of **Hominid Family** (i.e. Family of Man).

We have virtually no trace of the life styles of those in the human lineage for most of the first 6 million years. There was some form of change about 2.4 million y.a. enabling man to create very simple tools out of stone and from then on there is an increasing number of artefacts for investigation.

- Earliest use of **fire** in caves - 1 million y.a.
- First known **ornament** (mammoth Tooth Amulet) - 100,000 B.C.
- Australia settled 60,000 y.a.
- First **musical instruments** (bones as percussion and wind instruments) and earliest **Cave Paintings** - 25,000 B.C.
- Artefacts with **Geometric designs** - 25,000 B.C.
- Major **Visual Arts** in Europe (Lascaux) - 20,000 y.a.
- Clay **Counting Tokens** (Mesopotamia) - 8,000 y.a.
- Earliest Pre-Dynastic **Hieroglyphics** (Egypt) - 3,500 B.C.
- Major **Architectural** development - in 2,980 - 2,950 B.C.
(**Imhotep**, Egyptian Physician and Architect built **Zoser's Stepped Pyramid**).



THE STEP-PYRAMID OF SAKKARAH

Why was there such a long period of human lineage with no remains? The ancients were content with living from day-to-day from the provisions they knew would be available to meet their needs from their vast experience and intuition of their surroundings (there were few shortcomings so far as food and other necessities were concerned). *What drove the creative developments?* Man's desire to know the patterns of the natural cycles was not simple curiosity, but rather to leverage them to his advantage; predicability provides control.

Dating back to about 25,000 B.C. we have the following findings:-

- notches on bones which made calendars to count days between cyclical events such as lunar cycles, floods, ripening of crops, etc.
- clay tokens to count traded goods followed later by marks in clay tablets which developed into cuneiform writing.

Whilst astronomical observations went on a long, long time before, the appearance of

these particular artefacts indicates an entering into the time-movement recording phase, starting a significant trend - recording the present, which becomes the record of the past, and an aid for predicting the future, thus bringing an element of control. This interest in **Order** is considered by historians as a huge leap forward in man's intellect. **Emanuel Swedenborg** has another view - the neglecting of the Divine as the source for everything needed - "*the fall*", a looking for advantages from knowing the natural world on their own account. The focus of living totally in the present shifted from spiritual harmony and direct influx from the Divine to an excitement over discovery of patterns of nature bringing with it the possibility of new applications for the "benefit" of man. This could be seen as a spiritual decline, a trading of the Most Ancient mode of existence for the Ancient mode of life.

Loss of the Spiritual State

Ancient art expressed things that eventually became lost through a concentration on outer living; the art remained as an expression of the people's development at that time, recording processes and states of spiritual well-being. Certain people recognised the decline that was taking place, or perhaps they were simply inspired by the Divine to do what they did, but much of the early art forms that we now have, e.g. at Lascaux, are very hard to explain unless it can be sensed that they are an expression of a personal or general spiritual state recorded for posterity - a reminder for those who do not have this knowledge but work on these processes of how to live spiritually and in spiritual harmony. Interestingly, these expressions in art forms, attempting to re-inspire mankind to become reconnected with the spiritual aspect of living, are repeated with similar characteristics throughout the various isolated parts of the inhabited world e.g. pyramid building, all forms of religious art, etc.

The term "**Religion**" in itself says a lot because the Latin **Re-Ligere** ("**Re**" = **Back** and "**Ligere**" to **Bind**) means *to bind back to the source from whence we came*. The religious function in art is recording spiritual development for reference because it was no longer man's only occupation and concern. Structures were built which codify the knowledge of spiritual development, then relegated to representative people such as kings and priests who had certain functions to perform in keeping this knowledge alive and who were expected to live it, i.e. the King was the representative of a perfected or transformed man, the priest the instructor of spiritual issues (originally these two functions rested in the same person).

Throughout history we also find the arising of sacred law, which is passed on by word of mouth and in family/tribe traditions, being the sacred knowledge which the people retained for as long as possible, on how one is to work upon oneself in order to become transformed to reinstate the original paradise within. Later, this developed into sacred literature, into myths of restoration of order from chaos such as the story of the flood (signifying an emotional corruption and how to recover from such situations), tales containing correspondences, architectural structures for religious uses/worship such as temples, churches and cathedrals which served both as an inspirational device and as a reminder recording both natural and spiritual knowledge of the time when built - the Pyramids/Stonehenge.

Spiritual Transformation

The highest function in art, in all its varied forms, is to awaken modern man to aspire to re-orient himself or herself to the inner world through the process of spiritual transformation. We can make great use of art from a careful analysis of the principles underlying the artistic expression to make our own lives a work of art, and fulfil our primary function within creation to restore spiritual order.

"Since man is the principal end in view in creation, it follows that everything was created on his account; so every detail of order was made applicable to him and concentrated on him, in order that by means of him God could perform primary services. Love and wisdom without their third partner, service, can be equated with the sun's heat and light, which would be empty principles unless they worked on men, animals and plants; but they become real by irradiating them and working on them. End, cause and effect are a trio with a fixed sequence. . . ."

True Christian Religion para. 67.

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Joe Vandermeer is a Director of the S.A.A. who has been studying the spiritual writings of Swedenborg over many years. He is a talented musician.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

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

- Tanya Bailey, Pymble NSW
- Brenda Cruickshank, Mirra Booka NSW
- Norman Heldon, Roselands NSW
- Karin Jaku, Prospect NSW
- Michelle Kemp, Kulnura NSW
- Guy Patching, Balgowlah NSW

We are again sending each member an extra copy of this Newsletter with a request to pass it on to someone who you think might be interested in its contents - or at least who would give them some thought. So please do pass it on or leave in a Library/Waiting Room in readiness for than currently unsuspecting individual who might be helped by seeing it.

1995 Annual Subscriptions have been coming in since the **Renewal Form** was sent out at the beginning of the year. We appreciate the quick response by so many. For those who have overlooked or mislaid the renewal form, another one is being sent in the package with this Newsletter.

Directors have met twice in the past three months. One of these occasions was devoted entirely to pursuing the suggestions which came forward at the 1994 AGM **Brainstorming Session**. Several ideas are being worked on currently which should be helpful to furthering the aims of our Association. One new innovation in connection with the **1995 Celebration of Spring** is the establishment of a **Swedenborg Research Prize - Literary**. An information sheet will accompany this issue of the newsletter. It is hoped that this initiative will be enthusiastically received.

Alexis Jarvis, Hon. Secretary.

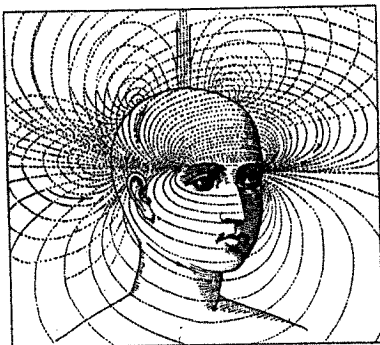
PRAYERS

One of the suggestions made during the **Brainstorming** session at the 1994 AGM was to ask Members to remember the Swedenborg Association of Australia in their prayers.

Let's all act on the suggestion now. The collective power of prayer can work wonders.

GROUPS NEWS

The Sydney group has had an excellent start to the year with a talk entitled **The Five Ages of Mankind: A God and Religion for All People in Every Age** with Patrick Johnson. Patrick is from U.K. and we were so very fortunate that his family visit to New Zealand, with a stopover in Sydney, coincided with the special **1995 Swedenborg Birthday Meeting** on the fourth Friday of January - the normal meeting night. Currently, Patrick is Editor of **Lifeline**, the official magazine of the New Church (Swedenborgian) in U.K. and he is a past President of **The Swedenborg Society in London**. A more detailed report of this meeting appears on page 7 of this Newsletter. Copies of the audio tape of this talk, together with eight of Patrick's charts are available for \$8.00 (plus \$1.00) from **The Swedenborg Centre**, 1 Avon Road, North Ryde, 2113. Alternatively, it can be freely borrowed on request.



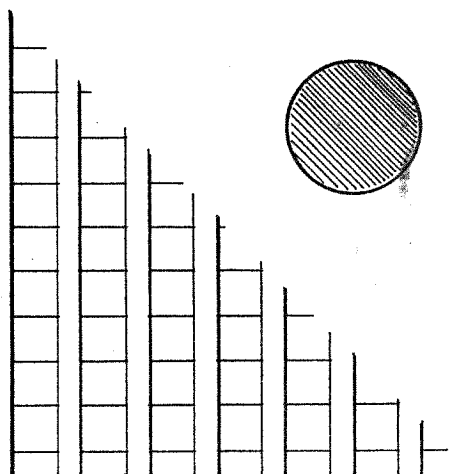
A Meditation Group has commenced in Sydney with a most promising start. The small group randomly selected a passage from **Heaven and Hell**, discussed how this impacted on their thoughts or otherwise affected them, and then through a guided visualisation process meditated on the passage. Some very powerful imagery and personal experiences occurred which delighted the group and gave great encouragement to continue with the concept during 1995. Other groups are encouraged to follow suit so please feel free to contact me or the Sydney office for any assistance on this matter.

The Melbourne and Perth Groups both reported to the Board that they had a successful 1994. We continue to support those groups with information through **The Swedenborg Lending Library and Enquiry Centre** and wish them well for an even better 1995. A report of a special meeting held in Perth in December 1994 is given on page 7 of the Newsletter.

Kevin Attwater

JACOB'S LADDER -

*an Art Installation
at The Swedenborg Centre*



By Michael Wright

Michael Wright's installation of "*Jacob's Ladder*" approaches a subject, to which many intellectual approaches have been taken, from the feeling side of objective art. Whether one relates better to the 3-dimensional effect of objects or the 2-dimensional form of artwork which is able to present things beyond the laws of space and gravity, both are presented here simultaneously, creating a most unusual effect - more appropriately termed as a "shock". The leap faced by the observer here comes in translating the feelings generated by the art into an understanding of the depicted process, without losing the feelings. Objective art finds its greatest use with a truly conscious observer. This is the challenge presented to us when observing objectively created works - how much can we "snap" ourselves out of our waking "sleep state" and view and interact and understand and feel for what is presented before us with the greatest possible intensity. *Jacob's Ladder* presents us with a theme dealing with the movement and flow of energies through many levels simultaneously - in viewing it in an objectively presented format - how well can we relate to its theme and how well can we apply the ideas presented to our own struggles?

Lachlan Hinds

"The Angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as he said"."

Matthew 28:5,6.

SWEDENBORG AND MODERN PSYCHOLOGY

A talk given in Perth, December 1994

About a dozen or so people turned up to Allan and Ester Uren's home for a special meeting of the Perth SAA Group just before the onslaught of Santa Claus. After a lovely dinner organised by the group, visiting SAA Director, **Joe Vandermeer**, gave an interesting talk linking Swedenborg's ideas presented in **Rational Psychology** (using the book as a guide) to the development of modern psychology. The talk covered a broad spectrum of Swedenborg's ideas, and compared the orderly unfolding of the work **Rational Psychology** to the orderly maturing and spiritualisation of his insights and writings. Swedenborg's experience of his own transformation and his description of the processes of reformation and regeneration were discussed with reference to his **Journal of Dreams** and **The True Christian Religion**. Joe also mentioned the work of several leading psychologists influenced by Swedenborg, including Carl Jung, Maurice Nicoll, and Wilson van Dusen. In all, it was a pleasant and stimulating evening of shared insights and warm hospitality.

Danielle Frances



*- A God and Religion for All People
in Every Age.*

Thirty-eight members and friends attended the first of the series of monthly talks planned in Sydney for this year by the Swedenborg Association. **Patrick Johnson**, the Editor of "*Lifeline*" magazine (UK) and a former President of **The Swedenborg Society** with headquarters in London, drew upon his obvious love of history, the classics and architecture to graphically illustrate some of the parallels between the myths and histories of various cultures and religions to show us the overall pattern of recorded history. This started of course with the universally harmonious period of the Golden Age depicted in the Bible as the Garden of Eden. Swedenborg referred to this as the period of "*the Most Ancient Church*". The end of this age of innocence is recorded in many ancient allegorical sources and has

been followed by subsequent ages with their own distinct characteristics until the dawn of the present industrial and technological age, which began in the second half of the 18th Century. Swedenborg was present at the beginning of this age, which he associated with "**the New Church**".

And what a remarkable transformation there has been so far in this new age! Initially marked in the physical world by political revolution, exploration and the sometimes dubious benefits of colonialism, the tempo of the age is at present marked by an astounding increase in population and urbanisation, and changes in commerce and technology unprecedented in history.

While the pace of change gives rise to some apprehension, it is also a wonderful opportunity to improve both the physical and the spiritual wellbeing of millions of people. It is useful and comforting to look at the present apparently turbulent times and see that they are not the outcome of a random process of the survival of the fittest but are in fact wonderfully structured by the operation of loving and directed forces.

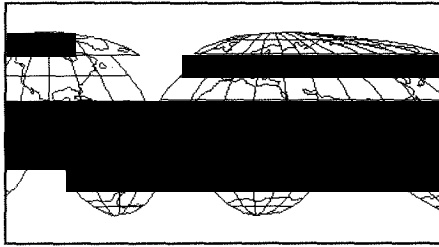
In the final part of his talk, Patrick briefly referred to the process of our own development as individuals, which mirrors that of our collective history. We ourselves start as innocent infants and ideally proceed through various stages of awareness towards our own internal New Age. Once again the process, as painful as it often is, can be seen in retrospect to be guided by loving forces.

Thanks Patrick, for a wonderful talk. If you would like to hear this talk it is available on cassette tape from the Swedenborg Centre. And keep in mind that there are talks on fascinating and diverse subjects planned each month throughout the whole of this year, usually on the fourth Friday of the month.

Peter Black

SWEDENBORG ON COMPUTER

Over the past few years in the USA, the various books comprising **Swedenborg's theological writings** have been progressively scanned onto computer disk. **The Swedenborg Lending Library and Enquiry Centre** will shortly be stocking this very valuable program **NEWSEARCH** in both **Windows** and **Macintosh** versions. For about \$100 you will be able to have Swedenborg's writings available "at your finger tips!". The versions are fully integrated with the popular word processing programs and very versatile. More details from **The Swedenborg Centre**.



AROUND THE GLOBE

For a quite small world-wide movement, there is a remarkable amount of Swedenborg publishing and promoting activities happening. We really have room here for just a taste but if any reader would like to receive more details on particular items please contact The Swedenborg Centre in North Ryde. Most of the information given below has been extracted from the regular bulletins issued by the Swedenborg Publishers International, an umbrella organisation begun in 1990 for bodies within the global Swedenborg Movement engaged in publishing.

EASTERN EUROPE

The demolition of the Iron Curtain has seen an "explosion" of activity throughout all the old Communist Block countries, nearly all of it initiated by readers of Swedenborg (individuals and small groups) living in these countries. Some have connections going back to pre-communist times with underground copies of Swedenborg's works and even meeting together. At this time it is hard to get any sort of overall picture of what is happening. Much financial, equipment and manpower help is being given from Swedenborg organisations in Sweden, Netherlands, U.S.A. and U.K. to assist projects.

In Moscow in 1991, 10,000 copies of **The New Jerusalem** were printed and distributed. In the same year several Swedenborg scholars from the west were involved in a Russian Philosophical Conference in Leningrad. 100,000 copies of **Heaven & Hell** in Russian were printed in Kiev in 1993 and quickly sold out. A further 10,000 copies together with introductory material have now been printed in Moscow, where an **Association for the Study of Swedenborg's Spiritual Legacy** has been formed. This Association in conjunction with the **Institute of Man of the Russian Academy of Sciences** sponsored a Conference "**Swedenborg and Russia**" in November 1994. About 30 scholars from Moscow, St. Petersburg, Kiev, Riga and

other places participated together with several Swedenborgian speakers from America and Western Europe, including Dr. Michael Stanley who toured Eastern Australia for two months in 1993. There were 13 presentations. One of the American visitors reported: "*It is very evident that the Russians are unusually open to belief in the reality of the spiritual world*". All very exciting!

In Ukraine a new Swedenborg Group was established at L'vov in 1992. "The Dawn" publishing company in Warsaw (Poland) have printed 5,000 copies of **Heaven & Hell**, incorporating in the preface material from Trobridge's biography of Swedenborg, in Polish. And 3,000 pamphlets containing selections from Swedenborg's works were printed in Budapest (Hungary) in 1992. This distribution resulted in many orders for tape recordings of **Menny Es Pokol** (Heaven & Hell). 5,000 copies of the Serbo-Croatian **Nebo I Pakao** (Heaven & Hell) were sold out shortly after being printed in Yugoslavia (1992). **My Religion** is also available in Serbo-Croatian.

The interest that has come into the daylight in Czechoslovakia goes back many decades to the time when a New Church Society flourished there. **The International Psychologists Association** held a "**Science & Spirituality**" Conference in Prague in the summer of 1992 and a booth exhibiting Swedenborgian thought was well appreciated. Understandably, there is a tremendous thirst for religious literature; fortunately printing costs are still relatively low. Swedenborg's **Doctrine of Life** has been published in Czech, and now more is expected using a desk top publishing system provided by Britain together with an old fashioned photocopier. Visitors to Czechoslovakia have reported the enthusiasm of those involved in the Swedenborg movement there. Two relatively young family men have recently completed training courses at the Swedenborg Theological Colleges in Britain and USA and are now working in their native land to spread the awareness of the truths to be found in Swedenborg's writings.

Björn Sjövall **DEN
KOSMISKA
MÄNNISKAN**

Att leva
kosmiskt
med
Emanuel
Swedenborg



NORTHERN EUROPE

In Sweden, the Swedenborg Association there has published **Swedenborg in South Stockholm** (an historical account with new documents), **The Word from Experience**, **Four Doctrines** and **The White Horse**. Mr Lars Berquist, a former Swedish Ambassador, has received a Government grant to write a new Swedish biography of Swedenborg. A lot of activity is happening in the Netherlands through Swedenborg Genootschap (Swedenborg Society), which publishes a comprehensive journal **Swedenborgiana** quarterly. The first Dutch Symposium was very successfully held in Amsterdam in March 1994 with lectures, screening of the Swedenborg film, an art display and demonstration of the Swedenborg computer program.

During October, there was a Swedenborg stand at the world's foremost Book Fair in Frankfurt, Germany. And in the Arctic regions, three books **Heaven & Hell**, **My Religion** and **Presence of Other Worlds** have all been published and distributed throughout Iceland by a very enthusiastic reader working on his own.



From Japanese Heaven & Hell

THE ORIENT

The Arcana Press in Tokyo has been a very prolific publisher over the past eight years with modern Japanese editions of **Divine Providence**, **Heaven & Hell**, **True Christian Religion**, **Conjugal Love**, **The New Jerusalem** plus several smaller items. Sales have been very brisk and some copies have been distributed to public libraries. Another group, the Japan Kyobun Sha also in Tokyo, published Odhner's **The Human Mind** in Japanese in the early 1990's. Yet another publishing group in Tokyo - **Tama Publishing Company** - has printed one of

Brian Kingslake's books, Bruce Henderson's **Window to Eternity**, and **Journal of Dreams** in Japanese.

In Beijing, a young lady who was introduced to Swedenborg by Mr. Lars Berquist when he was Ambassador there, is working towards producing in Chinese some material on **Marriage Love**.

SOUTH AMERICA

Another continent where publishing activities are happening. Earlier this century, Spanish editions of Swedenborg's writings were available to those in the Spanish-speaking countries of the world. Now there are few but this is beginning to be put right. A Spanish translation of **Heaven & Hell** has now been published in Buenos Aires adding to **The Essential Swedenborg** published there several years ago. A Portuguese translation of **Heaven & Hell** has also been printed in Brazil and the publisher is now looking towards the production of **Arcana Caelestia** and **Earths in the Universe**.

Neville Jarvis



"Swedenborg joins the SUPERHIGHWAY!"

There is now a growing group of people all over the world who are discussing Swedenborg and Spirituality through their computer terminals. Apparently the "conversations" cover just about any topic you can imagine - *God's commands versus expediency, masculine and feminine, ordination of women, evil and hell, the Bible in Klingon, etc. etc.*

So, if you have access to a computer with windows and a modem, you can try this wonderful new way of joining a community of active seekers of truths. The E-mail numbers to get started are:

USA - Internet: david@hslc.org
Compuserve: 73657,424
(Michael David)

OZ -
OzEmail: slandec@ozemail.com.au
(Neville Jarvis)
OzEmail: ilgonis@ozemail.com.au
(Waldis Jirgens)

PUBLICATIONS REVIEW

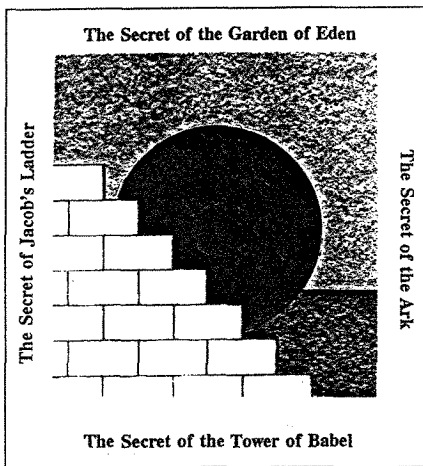
One of the benefits of SAA membership is a 20% discount on the regular price of nearly all books (excepting large sets), cassettes and tapes purchased through the various Swedenborg Book Centres around Australia. All you have to do when ordering in person, by phone or mail is to refer to your SAA membership. 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.

Heavenly Secrets

by **Michael Stanley**. Published by The Swedenborg Lending Library & Enquiry Centre in 1995.

A presentation boxed set of four 90 minute audio tapes.

Price \$18.00 plus postage. (No discounts).



The Celestial Sense of the Word
by Michael Wright, Sydney 1994

During his visit to Australia in 1993, **Dr. Michael Stanley** conducted a series of four classes at The Swedenborg Centre in North Ryde introducing the psychospiritual meaning within Biblical stories in the *Book of Genesis* drawing on the teachings found in the work *Arcana Caelestia* by **Emanuel Swedenborg**.

Dr. Stanley focussed on four central images - **The Garden of Eden, The Ark, The Tower of Babel, and Jacob's Ladder**. These audio tapes are the live recordings of these talks.

These same sessions are also available on VHS Video Tapes at a cost of \$25 each or \$90 for the set of 4.

Apocalypse Revealed

by **Emanuel Swedenborg**. Swedenborg Foundation Inc. 1,168 pages, paper.
SAA Member's Price \$12.50 plus postage.

Henry James Snr. described Swedenborg's *Apocalypse Revealed* as "the most heavenly reading I know". No part of Sacred Scripture has been the subject of such a deep and constant study as the *Book of Revelation*, and none has received so many and various interpretations. This may be accounted for by the nature of the book itself. The vision given to John was a manifestation of a world not seen by our natural eyes. Swedenborg, using the ancient **Science of Correspondences**, uncovers the inner meaning of this prophetic book in terms of the decline and rebirth of true spirituality in the Christian Church itself, and how the symbolic Holy City, New Jerusalem, is now beginning to descend into the world, to commence the New Age.

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Science and Spirituality Symposium

Four hour VHS Video recording of several sessions presented at this **Swedenborg Symposium**, held at **Macquarie University, Sydney** in 1993. The Swedenborg Lending Library & Enquiry Centre.

Price \$25.00 plus postage (No discounts).

This day conference was devoted to exploring how the apparently opposing disciples of Science and Spirituality, both directed towards discovering ultimate truth, can be harmonised to reveal two complementary viewpoints on life whose true relationship is again being recognised, albeit in a radically new and deeper way.

The Presenters are **Dr. Michael Stanley** (*The Heart of Science and Religion*), **Dr. Philip Groves** (*Spiritual Dimensions of Biology*), **Kevin Attwater** (*Crystals, Minerals and Spiritual Growth*), and **Shirley Darby** (*Colour and Swedenborg*).

To obtain these publications, simply write to the Swedenborg Centre, 1 Avon Road, NORTH RYDE, 2113 with your request referring to your SAA membership. Do not send any money; you will be billed. Or phone your order on 02 888 1066.





QUOTATION TO CONTEMPLATE

Em. Swedenborg

Some days ago while looking for a particular quotation I came across the following passages in *Heaven and Hell* (paragraph 414) which, although I had read them before, again filled me with awe and delight. It is a true pleasure to share this experience with you:

"People who are in Heaven progress steadily toward the springtime of life, and the more thousands of years they live, the more pleasant and happy the springtime. This goes on forever, with the increase keeping pace with the growth and level of their love, charity and faith.

As the years go by, women who have died aged, debilitated by age, who have lived in faith in the Lord, charity toward the neighbour, and happy true marriage love with their husbands, come more and more into the flower of youth and young womanhood - into a beauty that outstrips every concept of beauty that sight can possibly conceive.

It is goodness and charity that provide this form and present this image of themselves, making the pleasant and beautiful content of charity so radiate from the smallest details of the face that those women are actual forms of charity. Some people have seen them, and have been stunned.

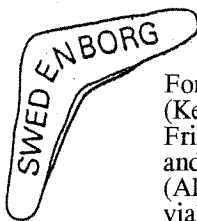
Charity has this kind of form, vividly evident in Heaven, because charity itself is what is depicting itself and being depicted. This holds true to the point that the whole angel, especially his face, is virtually charity appearing and perceived openly. When this form is seen, there is an indescribably beauty that moves the deepest life of the mind with charity.

In a word, growing old in Heaven is growing young.

People who have lived in love for the Lord and in charity toward the neighbour become such forms, or such beauties, in the other life. All angels are such forms, with a variety beyond counting. They constitute Heaven.

Submitted by Jack Benson.

WHAT'S HAPPENING



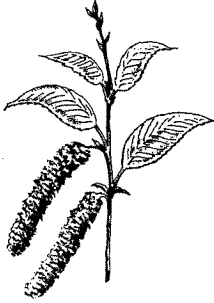
For Group activities, contact your nearest Group facilitator - Sydney region (Kevin Attwater on 634 7808); Melbourne which meets monthly on the fourth Friday evening (Chris Skinner on 435 8599 or Gordon Dobbs on 898 7601); and Perth which meets in the evening on the third Sunday of every month (Allan Uren on 271 0226). Efforts continue to be made to establish additional viable Groups in new areas. If you can help, do get in touch with Kevin Attwater.

FORTHCOMING SAA MEETINGS

MELBOURNE Friday Evenings at The New Church Hall, 426 High Street Road, Mt. Waverley - at 8 pm.
24th March when Chris Skinner will address, and lead a discussion on, the topic - *Is Life Fair?*
28th April with a talk by SAA Director Rev. Terry Schnarr of Hurstville, Sydney.

WHAT'S HAPPENING (contd)

SYDNEY



Friday Evenings at The Swedenborg Centre, North Ryde, 7.45 pm.
24th March - Claire Dunne, prominent author, speaker and media presenter
Irish and Aboriginal Cultures as Pointers to a Universal Dreamtime.
28th April with Dr. Philip Groves speaking on *Fantasy and Reality.*
26th May "*Handwriting Revelation and Swedenborg*", Shirley Darby.
23rd June - Bring a Friend Introductory Evening with Julian Duckworth.

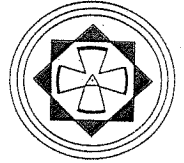
Every 2nd Friday Evening at The Swedenborg Centre, North Ryde, 7.45.
"*Meditation with a Swedenborg Connection*" led by Shirley Darby.

Saturday 8th April at The Swedenborg Centre commencing 2 pm.

THE SACRED MANDALA. An afternoon with Lama Choedak and the Bells and Bowls Group plus a Mandala Installation by Michael Wright. (\$20.00 entry fee).



Easter Saturday, 15th April at The New Church, Shirley Road, Roseville, commencing at 7pm. An evening of sacred music, both original compositions and drawn from the religious, classical and folk musical traditions from around the world.



NEW AGE FESTIVALS.

The Swedenborg Lending Library and Enquiry Centre will be participating in the following festivals:-

Melbourne, March 30th to April 2nd. Mind, Body, Spirit Festival at The Exhibition Building, Melbourne.

Wodonga, April 8th and 9th at the Civic Centre.

Chatswood, Sydney, 22nd and 23rd July at the Willoughby Town Hall.

OBJECTS OF THE SWEDENBORG ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

a non-profit autonomous company:

- Promoting Emanuel Swedenborg as a scientist, philosopher and religious visionary through meetings, lectures, and other functions
- Making available information on topical subjects drawing on Swedenborg's own contribution to stimulate interest and discussion
- Establishing, operating and supporting branches around Australia
- Providing material for the purpose of maintaining local libraries

Everyone wishing to subscribe to these objects can take up membership. There is a once off joining fee of \$10.00 and an annual subscription of \$25.00 (concession rate of \$15.00).

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP include:

- + Ready access to pursuing areas of interest in Swedenborg through the availability of books, tapes, videos and films.
- + A free newsletter.
- + Participating in lectures, seminars, workshops and specific events.
- + A 20% discount at Australian Swedenborg book distribution centres.
- + Joining together as a group with other members living in close proximity.
- + A Swedenborgian based book, tape or video is sent to each financial member each year.

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.