




Issue Theme ~ *"Coincidences - Mystical Links"*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

 We all know what coincidences are. Or do we? In any case, how do we respond when something coincidental happens to us, like "I was just thinking of so-and-so when she rang me on the phone." Do we dismiss it as just being a glitch arising from the randomness of events or normal probability of things? Do we feel it is nothing significant because we suspect it commonly happens to everybody? Or do we perhaps listen out for them, letting them draw our attention, looking for meaning as we might in the symbols of our dreams, asking ourselves what it may be trying to highlight or comment upon?

The term *coincidence* is derived from the Latin *co-* meaning "in", "with", or "together" and *incidere* meaning "to fall on." Things which fall (occur) together. "Coincidence" can be used to describe an experience that appears accidental but seems to be purposefully arranged because of its uncommon, unusual nature. An unexpected meeting of things at the same time and place.

Such events could range from the seemingly trivial - the radio starts playing a song called "Popcorn" just when you've reached for a packet of popcorn in the cupboard, or it might be the unexpected meeting of a

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Two copies of this Newsletter are being sent to members as usual, the second for giving away.

person who answers a crucial problem that caused great pain at that particular time in your life. The event's unlikeliness and its infrequent or unexpected nature is what draws our attention to it. It therefore serves as a focal point, a highlight. In a sense, it awakens us a little. If it is significant enough it may even make us weep with awe or delight (yes, such things have been known to make me cry).

*** continued on page 9 ***

Next Issue

September 2009

Theme: ***Healing, Health and Wholeness***

The heavenly state is not just to be viewed as a future event but a state of spiritual health for living now. We need to attend to any dis-ease preventing this true wellness, which will involve contemplation and exercises or action to 'Put ourself back together' and 'Restore our Soul'.

Can you make a contribution on this topic for the benefit of everyone who reads this newsletter? The Newsletter Co-ordinator will gratefully receive submissions, either your own or something you have seen that strikes a chord with you. However, contributions don't have to be on the theme; anything which is spiritually-based will be welcomed. **The deadline for the issue is 1st September.** Please direct material by mail, fax or email to the registered office (page 2).

And why not start thinking now about the **December 2009** issue which will have as its subject

Angels (with Christmas in mind)



Letters

This segment provides readers - yourselves - with a direct voice and input into your newsletter. Why not:

- ▶ comment on something in a previous issue - appreciation, offering another view, open up the topic further, etc.
 - ▶ ask a question which other readers can grapple with and provide their answers
 - ▶ suggest things which the Swedenborg Association can tackle to be more relevant to members and the wider community
 - ▶ say something about an SAA meeting attended
- Contributions should be kept as succinct as possible (a target maximum should be 750 words).

So write to us at **Candela**, Swedenborg Centre, 1 Avon Road, North Ryde, NSW 2113 or email saa@swedenborg.com.au

Included last issue was an email from Queensland SAA member, Ken Cross on the subject of Swedenborg's 'Science of Correspondences'. The following response has been received from Wayne Kasmar:

Just a note of warning about dictionaries of correspondences. I once acquired a small dictionary of this kind and found it to be a disappointing thing to peruse. It gave minimal information and its 'this-equals-that' approach give a false impression that correspondences make for a rather dull, mechanical and ultimately limited system. To learn, for instance, that trees correspond to "perceptions" isn't the most thrilling revelation you're ever likely to come across.

If you can get hold of William Worcester's "The Language of Parable"¹ (a surprisingly fresh read for a book first published in 1892) you'll get a much better idea of the liveliness of correspondences. It does a good job of comprehensively surveying the basics of the subject and leaves the reader wanting to know more. And it achieves this by giving the impression that all of natural creation is reflecting the world we experience within us.

Then, when we look at a tree, we see much more than just a single idea. We see a whole theme. We see the tree is large and tall. That it has great masses of foliage made up of thousands and thousands of individual leaves. That it has a branching structure of wood which is strong, yet flexible. That it provides many creatures with a home, and us with shelter from wind, rain and sun. That it has a secret life deep below the ground. And that it provides us with beauty, food and timber.

SWEDENBORG ASSOCIATION of Australia Inc

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Please Note: The views expressed in this Newsletter are those of each contributor and do not necessarily reflect any particular position of the Swedenborg Association of Australia or its Committee.

Membership of the Swedenborg Association of Australia Inc. is open to anyone who wishes to pursue an interest in Swedenborg, the man, his science and his spiritual teachings.
For details on how to join, please refer to page 12.

In short, when we look at a tree we see it is wonderful in many, many ways. And different people may seize on different aspects of a tree's wonderfulness, and so naturally the correspondence relating to a particular characteristic can easily become the most salient thing in a person's mind on the subject. Since this correspondence reflects the reality of how the tree relates to the rest of creation, in this sense, it is perfectly valid. But no matter what that aspect is, it will inevitably relate in a meaningful way to the general correspondence of a tree, which, as a member of the plant kingdom, is to do with the life of human understanding.

¹ Refer page 6 for new publications on biblical correspondences.

For another letter, see page 4



Nothing Unconnected Ever Happens

by Julian Duckworth

One of the strangest phenomena in life is when two apparently unrelated events come together in some way, either out there in life or, perhaps more often, in us. An example of the first, say, could be that you switch on the radio and listen to a classical music program and they play a Chopin waltz. You know it so well that you go to the other music program and they're playing the same piece! It's a coincidence, and the likelihood of it happening is remarkably small. An example of the second kind which directly involves you as the one making the connection could be, say, that yesterday for some reason you were thinking about life as something that needs foundations. This impinged on your thinking and you came up with the thought that beliefs and actions are kinds of good foundations. Then today you get a call from the Council saying that they are checking the foundations of buildings as a safety measure including your house. And you think that this is a strange coincidence, the two coming together like that. If it had been the other way round - the Council call first and you reflecting on life's foundations afterwards, it wouldn't be a coincidence. But only you will be putting the two together.

When you begin looking for or noticing life's threads and connections, it is remarkable that more will begin to appear. Not seem to, but will. It's as if you are at the threshold of seeing life in a way that you never saw it before. Previously, it felt to you that most things in life, both out there and for you, were simply random events. If two things ever met up, it was still seen as random or chance happenings. But now, with more interest in it, you are starting to notice that many things in life seem to be connected. It feels intriguing and very different. You can't really explain it but more connections are coming your way.

At first it feels like the number of connected events has just increased a lot. They are still separate but there are more of them. And as you look and realise, they show themselves to you. That's the first threshold - realising them. But there is a second threshold which changes everything

completely: you begin to see that nothing unconnected ever happens. These bizarre tie-ups you've been getting are not isolated events even though that was how it seemed; they are tips of the iceberg. You are now much more open to the thought that the whole of life is connected or amazingly timed and meaningful, or however you put it. The whole of life! You have certainly made a major shift.

At times, this idea of everything being in connection is just a view of life that you have. At other times it seems to work out exactly like that. So, if we do accept that nothing unconnected ever happens and the whole of life is in a genuine flow, what would we say about those earlier peculiar pop-ups that made their presence felt so dramatically? It now seems strange to single them out, but perhaps they were catalysts to get you seeing things in a new way. Perhaps we people, caught up in such dense stuff as time, space and illusion, we need something dramatic to break through our impressions. Perhaps we also need humbling a little bit so that when a coincidence happens it's as though a higher and wiser source of life is saying, "You think you know so much, well, try and explain this!"

The spiritual part of life is very attuned to the idea that everything in life is connected. The greatest mystical experience human beings can have is to realise and feel that all is one. We have this deep idea in our sense of God being one, whatever we feel God is. This is the level of unity which provides a helpful balance to our experience of diversity. I suggest that we need to have both of these life experiences and move easily between the two.

If then nothing unconnected ever happens, we can begin to make a positive use of this. Without becoming fatalistic, we can accept that in the whole design of life, what comes and then what comes next has an intended part in our spiritual development. One thing that is fairly obvious about human life, unless we fight not to let it happen or dismiss everything, is that we change and become different than we once were. We learn to be more patient, more respectful, more sensitive to other



peoples' feelings. This doesn't just happen automatically because we arrive at middle age. It's the outcome of many things that have been working in us and on us even without us realising it. If we believe in God we will probably say that God has been carefully guiding us or that this is the work of Divine Providence. Some higher wiser truer energy knows what it is doing and works with us over years to bring us to become who we are. It might have felt that we were working on it, but it is truer to say that all the time it has been working on us with amazingly good timing.

And the beauty about this is that we don't have to change anything we do or need to get on with. We can still live active lives, be useful, live for and with others, make plans, choose and decide as if we're the ones deciding all this. The connection of everything becomes a mindset or backcloth against which we continue, but now we are aware that bit more why things unfold in the way they do. It explains so much of life and we are comfortable being in it. You could accurately say that coming into this realisation isn't about learning something new, it is appreciating how it has always been.

Swedenborg's terminology for this is the word 'providence'. It helps us to appreciate that the source of life is always providing for everything and is even managing our mistakes and doubts. One of the best statements Swedenborg makes about providence is that those who trust in it are being safely carried along by it as though they are in its stream, and they will experience a happiness in life in spite of what comes to pass, because they live in this trust and faith. It sounds like a good kind of view of life to be in, and of course, as with all streams, whether watery or otherwise, everything is working together for the overall flow of wellbeing, and nothing unconnected ever happens.

Julian Duckworth is on the Committee of the Swedenborg Association and regularly gives talks at Association meetings. He trained as a music teacher in the UK and ministers to a New Church (Swedenborgian) congregation in Sydney.

Dear Editor,
Living in the bush on the Darling Downs is a difficult task for meeting with others who share an interest in Emanuel Swedenborg. I am a bachelor (64) and would like to correspond with other singles (age immaterial). Interest besides Swedenborg's teachings are: gardening (more a plant-man than a gardener), current affairs, overseas news, travel, cooking, handcrafts (knitting), 'good' science fiction (Dune series; Peter J. Hamilton, Greg Bear, Clive Barker), biographies of English and Russian royalty, people & places, pets (dogs), the dry bush or wet tropics, and English history. Prefer those residing in Brisbane, northern Queensland and/or Sydney region.
"Plantsman", Millmerran, Qld.

Anyone wishing to take up this request should send their contact details to the Hon. Secretary at the registered office. "Plantsman" is a member of the Swedenborg Association and well-known to the staff members of the Swedenborg Centre.

They (the angels in heaven) went on to say that all things, in fact the smallest of all things, and even the smallest of the small, are under the direction of the Divine's universal management, down to the very steps taken by the feet . . . They also substantiated the assertion that there is no such thing as mere chance and that what seems to be haphazard, or fortune, is the Divine universal management at work in the last and lowest degree of order, in which all things are comparatively inconstant.

Swedenborg: Secrets of Heaven 6493

Letters (Continued from page 2)



ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

It is with much delight that we welcome into membership:

Anita Long (NSW)
Peter Nunn (QLD)
Jan Primrose (NSW)

Equally delightful is to welcome Ruth Blom (QLD) back as a member. The Committee trusts that you all find involvement with the SAA to be beneficial.

Our last Committee meeting in May took another step along the marketing pathway for the SAA. Committee members agreed to undertake 'random' and low-key research with individuals they meet not involved with the Swedenborg movement to determine concerns they have about life in the modern era. By engaging with others in this way will provide information for focussing future projects. If any member would like to join in this exercise, please contact me via the Registered Office (see page 2) and I will be pleased to provide more details about the process.

Two years ago, the well-regarded *New Scientist* tackled eight of what it considered to be the deepest challenges faced by science. Articles were published by leading professionals in their fields under the following topics:

- ▶ *What is reality?*
- ▶ *What is life?*
- ▶ *Do we have free will?*
- ▶ *Is the universe deterministic?*
- ▶ *What is consciousness?*
- ▶ *Will we ever have a theory of everything?*
- ▶ *What happens after you die?*
- ▶ *What comes after humans?*

The Committee members are in the process of providing short answers to these important questions drawing on Swedenborg's spiritual teachings. The answers will be aimed at the general public rather than academia so that meaningful information can be distributed in leaflet form and the same information placed on our website.

At the same time, the Committee is looking to provide helpful and well produced material for special needs organisations. More on this later.

Blessings,

Walter Mason Hon. Secretary

Neville Jarvis to Retire



After 27 years as Executive Manager of the Swedenborg Centre, Neville has advised his decision to retire at the end of this year. He has given himself to all the work and outreach activity of the Centre with an amazing dedication and skill that is known to many, not only in Sydney and New South Wales but across Australia and overseas. Neville's wife, Alexis, currently works at the Centre and will also be retiring at the same time.

Neville will also be relinquishing the equivalent position in the Swedenborg Association of Australia in accordance with the agreement between the Swedenborg Centre and the SAA. He was instrumental in establishing the Swedenborg Association in 1992 and much of its routine administration has become an equally busy and responsible part of Neville's work.

More details of Neville's retirement will be provided in due course but see Notice on Page 7.

Walter Mason, Hon. Secretary



GROUP'S NEWS

Melbourne:

Andrew Rooke spoke on the part that *Music* of all types plays in assisting people on their spiritual journey and as a means of touching the soul at our February meeting. He is from the Theosophical Society and gave very good illustrations and excerpts from some forms of music to aid his talk. It was very well received with a total of fifteen people present.

Fourteen people were present when **Chris Skinner** led the session in March speaking on the topic *The Bible, Theology and Spirituality down the Ages*. The talk looked at Swedenborg's major work called *Secrets of Heaven* or *Arcana Caelestia* and provided insights together with a summary of how this twelve-volume work links the Bible to the development of spirituality over the millennia and to our own spiritual growth.

In April our speaker was regular presenter and group member, **Geoff Forster**. His talk was entitled *Time & Eternity* in which he looked at various authors and Swedenborg's teachings to explore this concept. Regrettably there were just six present including one new attendee. There were



several away at the time which caused the lower numbers but those present gained many insights from this presentation.

Chris Skinner



North Ryde, Sydney:

A talk titled '**Towards an interpretation of reality: Laws of Life and the Language of Nature**' was presented by Anders Hallengren Ph.D in early February. In his presentation he described a mystical experience that Arthur Koestler wrote about, and the effect this experience had for the rest of his life as he tried to read between the lines of the book of nature. Anders went on to describe how correspondences helped Swedenborg see everything as a reflection of the spiritual world. I don't know if Arthur Koestler came across Swedenborg's writings and his insights relating to how the spiritual and natural worlds are interconnected via correspondences. If he did they would be an invaluable resource in his efforts to understand the book of nature. This talk encourages us to delve more deeply into the language of correspondences.

The presentation '**Reflections Through Glass**' by Laura Riddell on the 27th of February, followed on beautifully as Laura provided a chapter on 'reading the book of nature' by looking at glass. It was wonderful to hear the lessons that glass work had taught her, as well as learning about the process of glass sculpture. An excellent presentation well worth viewing for those interested in appreciating the journey of an artist and the messages of life that came to her through her artistic endeavours. The DVD includes the wonderful display of her glass work that was provided on the night.

In March, Julian Duckworth gave a wonderful talk '**How do we feel God?**'. Julian chose a very important topic and he made it very interesting. One tremendous thought presented is that we are all experiencing God all the time but don't realise it. I enjoyed very much hearing the experiences of Simone Weil as she recited the Lord's prayer. It reminded me of the practice of the Jesus Prayer that is so much a part of the Eastern Orthodox Tradition. We should challenge ourselves with big questions such as this topic. Those present were very appreciative of his efforts in reflecting on this area and clarifying how we connect to the Divine Presence.

In April, David Millar gave another highly appreciated talk on '**Navigating our Spiritual Development. Part 2**'. This is an excellent presentation on the stages we go through after the

death of the body by using the insights of Swedenborg described in paragraphs 491-520 from *Heaven and Hell*. Ideally we need to go through these stages during our terrestrial existence and David was very helpful in facilitating this process. His passion to utilise the Writings to aid people in their spiritual journey comes through very clearly. This is a very practical presentation with lots of helpful ideas.

DVDs of all four talks are available for free borrowing or sale from the Swedenborg Centre (contact details on page 2)

Michael Chester



RECENTLY RELEASED PUBLICATIONS

Correspondences of the Bible



Animals



Plants



Human Body

From the opening page of his first published spiritual work, Swedenborg engages readers in his doctrine of correspondences - the idea that certain words and names in scripture represent, or correspond to, deep spiritual truths.

In this three-volume series, John Worcester (1834-1900) presents the correspondences for animals, plants, and our own bodies, incorporating Biblical verses, Swedenborg's writings, and the science of his time. Originally written in the late nineteenth century, these books remain classics of Swedenborgian studies.

Each volume is paperback consisting of 224, 232, and 320 pages respectively for *Animals*, *Plants* and *The Human Body* and will be initially priced at \$25.00 (SAA members discount applies) plus postage.

Copies are expected to arrive in Australia in July. Contact the Swedenborg Centre (see page 2 for details) to place your order.



EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST INVITED

DIRECTOR OF THE SWEDENBORG CENTRE, SYDNEY

The mission of the Swedenborg Centre is *to foster an affirmative interest in the spiritual message disclosed by Emanuel Swedenborg through making available his spiritual writings and other material advancing the life and principles they advocate, across Australia.*

Neville Jarvis, who has managed the Centre for 28 years, will be retiring in December, and the Sydney Society of the New Church (SSNC - Swedenborgian), of which the Centre is an integral part, invites expressions of interest from people interested in the position.

The Centre has a lending library; publishes, purchases and sells books; produces and distributes leaflets, brochures, and increasingly, electronic material; produces a newsletter; maintains a website; responds to personal inquiries; and organises talks and meetings. Its programs and administration are integrated with those of the Swedenborg Association of Australia Inc (SAA) under a Memorandum of Understanding between the SAA and the SSNC. The Centre operates from leased premises, where there is a part-time assistant, and through representatives in other parts of Australia.

The Centre has a budget and a strategic plan approved by the SSNC Committee, to whom the Director will be responsible. It has been in existence for almost 50 years, initially under the management of the incumbent Minister, and then of Mr. Jarvis. The Centre's programs and organisation have continually adapted to changes in society and technology over that time and will need to continue to do so. The Committee has carried out an initial review of the activity and has enthusiastically resolved to continue it. We want to work with the new Director to review the Centre's location, in particular, and to develop the program for the coming years.

The appointee will

- have a firm belief in and a good knowledge of Swedenborg's spiritual writings,
- appreciate the many strands of Australian culture and attitudes to spiritual things,
- be able to communicate effectively with individual enquirers about spiritual things and generally, and about the Swedenborg's spiritual writings,
- understand the opportunities and limitations of communicating in person and through written, electronic and broadcast media,
- be a good organiser, and
- be able to work within a budget.

Specific skills in such fields as public presentation, information technology, finance and management would be an advantage, although support and/or training could be provided.

Remuneration and the initial contract period will be negotiable.

This is a wonderful opportunity for someone who believes in the truths found in Swedenborg's spiritual writings to promote them throughout the wider community. If you feel you may be that person, please obtain an information package from Mr Graham Hall, Hon. Secretary, SSNC, 263 Trafalgar Street, Annandale NSW 2038. Please feel free to discuss the position in strict confidence with him on 02 9692 0941 and/or Rev Julian Duckworth on 02 9416 7032.

Expressions of interest for the position in writing or email to hallct@ozemail.com.au must reach the Hon. Secretary by Monday, 13 July, 2009.



Correspondences Column ~ Part 14

... reflecting on

Snow



SNOW . . . What is your reaction to the stuff? As with Mists with which we dealt in last issue, snow is somewhat foreign to the majority of Australians. But magazines, television and movies often show it in all its beautiful, gleaming whiteness, blanketing the earth in a dazzling covering of pure white. There is another side, though. The freezing, treacherous mush, bringing traffic to a standstill and confining people to their homes, huddled over fires and radiators? One might look a long way to find a more perfectly ambivalent symbol - gleaming purity or freezing mess!

Personally, I'm on the side of 'gleaming purity'. So, I can feel with the psalmist who wrote of the Lord, *He spreads the snow like wool* (Ps.147:16). And with John who stood in awe before the powerfully radiant vision of the risen Lord, describing his head with hair as "white as snow" (Revelation 1:14).

Is there snow ever to be seen in heaven?

A good question, since snow although beautiful, particularly when reflecting golden sunshine off mountain peaks, is cold - very cold - and cannot continue to exist once there is any real warmth.

In other words, can it ever be cold in heaven? If the answer were 'NO', what a great deal of beauty would be missing from the heavenly scene!

Does snow, then, correspond to heaven or hell within the human spirit?

Is there a place for 'cold beauty' within the spirit as we feel there certainly is in Nature outside?

I certainly believe so, as one who has experienced the wonderful 'cold beauty' of mathematics, beautifully symbolised in the intricate hexagonal forms of the snowflake. I have responded to, and been delighted with, beautifully structured and patterned presentations of truths (Swedenborg's own teachings providing a marvellous example), even though sometimes I may not have been feeling the warmth of love in my heart. Yet, much as I have now experienced the overriding importance of personal love for truly spiritual happiness and joy, I still love winter scenes and patterned truth just as dearly, and know that despite their coldness, they are still a part of God's heaven and can express something very wonderful about the Divine.

But, winter alone cannot make or express heaven as a whole. To remain only in the appreciation of 'cold truth' would be to 'freeze' - and be turned into a spiritual block of ice.

God says to the snow, 'Fall on the earth' (Job

37:6); yet thankfully, in his love for me, he also *sends his Word and melts it* (Ps.147:18). So my heart melts as my love for 'beautiful pictures and patterns' 'melts' into the love of warm human relationships - and a new Spring is born.

Written by Rev. Dr. Michael Stanley for the newsletter of the Swedenborg Movement (UK)



Audio Talks of Philip W. Groves

The December 2008 issue of *Candela* (page 8) advised of the issue of four Sets of Talks by Dr. Groves professionally remastered onto audio CD by Triam Press, publisher of material by Philip Groves. We are now pleased to report that two more double CD Sets are available in this series particularly focussed on the process of transformation. Examples of this process are drawn from plant and human biology, chemistry, physics, sacred scriptures of the world and myths - in order to enliven the universal nature of transformation within each of us. The spiritual writings of Swedenborg and works of G. I. Gurdjieff are referred to constantly.

There are two talks in each set.

Set 5 *Vibrations, Music & Science and Origins*

Set 6 *The Search for Perception and Instrumentality*

Each Set retails for \$30.00. Postage \$2 (SAA membership discounts apply). Contact the Swedenborg Centre (see page 2 for details) to obtain further information or to place your order.

Free Promotional Item

Each year, Swedenborg Association members receive a free item for the express purpose of being passed on to a friend, contact or organisation that the member considers might benefit from its receipt. Of course, the item can be read before passing it on!

This year there will be two! The Committee has decided to provide the following booklets containing extracts from Swedenborg's *Heaven & Hell*:

- ★ *What Lifestyle is the Best Preparation for Heaven?* - some very helpful thoughts, and
- ★ *What Happens to Children When They Die?* - very relevant when considering the aftermath of natural disasters as well as personal events.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (contd)

The other frequent use of the term "coincidence" is in maths or physics to describe an overlap point, a shared point along two paths through space at one point in time. Let's explore that briefly. This coming together at a meeting point occurs more often than we may realise. For example, think how rays of light are reflected off objects in our visual field. As they enter our eye they come to a point, coinciding in the centre of the eye's lens. Indeed, it is the function of the lens to facilitate incoming rays of light into focus so we can make sense of what we are looking at. Similarly, we can make more noticeable coincidences occurring in our life become focal points for directing our life, although only if we allow them. But we're unlikely to allow them unless we experience such coincidences as meaningful. I suggest beginning by looking out for them. When you start looking, you'll see lots more than before, just like seeing more and more stars in the night sky the longer you look. Then try to notice what they may be telling or showing you. This is the start of seeking to make meaningful use of life's events, even small ones.

The Divine appears to have put a veil between Creator and creation. This veil allows the freedom for us to act, think and feel everything at all times as if from ourselves, allowing us to exercise the power of choice, a power lovingly extended to us. But the Divine does need opportunities to act in this world. Divine guidance is certainly present in sacred scripture, but it also manifests in our dreams and in the turn of events appearing to act through the tiniest causes. "God does not play dice with the universe" (claimed the physicist Albert Einstein). An interesting physics experiment tried to map very accurately the starting point of a swinging pendulum against several evenly spaced magnets on the platform under the pendulum. These magnets acted as possible end (resting) points for the pendulum as it's swing dissipated. They found that no matter how detailed the mapping of the pendulum's start location, the outcome could not be predicted and remained always chaotic (random). I suspect it may be unpredictability present at sub-microscopic instants of time or space which allows higher forces to act on this world without it appearing obvious as intervention (hmmmm, that's bound to generate some letters to the editor, sorry Ed). We seem to have no other scientific and factual explanation for what caused the 'pendulum' of the events interacting with our life to sway this way or that, either meeting the need of the moment or alternately opposing it as a way to highlight something new to us. The Egyptians used to say God acts from the perpendicular, meaning from the least expected angle.

The psychologist Carl Jung once recounted how the cookware in his kitchen started to behave willfully, a kettle fell to the floor and other pots and pans started falling. He talked to the implements telling them how

distracting their behaviour was and told them to settle down, which they did from then on.

Swedenborg was favoured among seamen as an ideal passenger due to the apparent favourable sailing weather in his presence. As one captain remarked of him "If Swedenborg chooses he can always have a free passage with me for during the whole of my experience at sea I have never sailed better." (*The Swedenborg Epic*, chapter 35). Coincidence?

So, coincidences which are meaningful to us (in which we search for meaning) can become little or big catalysts for changes in our everyday lives. Carl Jung gave such coincidences a new name: synchronicity (Greek, *syn-* meaning 'together' and *chronos* 'time,' thus together in time). It reminds me of a sort of resonance between two seemingly unrelated events – just as two sounds might reinforce each other, so we can allow synchronicity to resonate more in us.

Happy reading.

Joe Vandermeer



Wedgwood Tricentenary Plate

Produced in 1988 by the Swedenborg Centre, Sydney, as a collectible on the occasion of the 300th anniversary of the birth of Emanuel Swedenborg. A limited edition of 500 making it a collectible item, this 6.5" plate was sold around the world.

The ribbon under the bust of Swedenborg contains the inscription "EMANUEL SWEDENBORG 1688 - 1772". Above the bust in gold lettering is written "300TH ANNIVERSARY". The reverse side of the plate are the words:

This plate was commissioned to commemorate the 300th Anniversary of the birth of Emanuel Swedenborg the 18th century scientist, philosopher and theologian - 29th January 1688

Each plate is in a traditional Wedgwood card box plus a leaflet about the history of Wedgwood - *a living tradition*.

A small number of plates are still available at \$30 each plus postage. If you would like to acquire one, refer to the Order Form on page 11.

There is an interesting connection between the founder of the Wedgwood company and the Swedenborg movement. Renowned sculptor and ardent promoter of Swedenborg's teachings, John Flaxman, worked with Josiah Wedgwood for many years.



Chance Readings on Three Continents?

Following a friend's recommendation to study it, a 30 year-old purchased a copy of Swedenborg's *Vera Christian Religio* (later translated from the Latin as *True Christian Religion*). He glanced through its pages on arrival but on finding the contents not easy to digest nor in line with his beliefs, he laid it aside essentially unread. Yet, unbeknown to him, one phrase - just one phrase in that massive book - had impinged itself on his mind: the phrase '**Divinum Humanum**' or 'Divine Human'. Sometime later, while visiting other friends in another county, he had a profound spiritual experience. A feeling of deep peace came to him in the night, and also, as it seemed, a vision of brightness and glory encompassing the phrase 'Divinum Humanum'. The experience persisted for a number of days increasing in intensity. He then remembered where he had seen those words before - in the neglected book at home. He cut short his stay, hurrying home to read the book from cover to cover - it was a revelation to him. It changed his whole understanding of theology and the divine nature of Christ, something of a problem for him being Rector of St. John's in Manchester, an important posting within the Church of England. Yet he stayed in this position for the next 40 years preaching and disseminating Swedenborg's teachings to full congregations and large groups of readers in surrounding villages and towns. Just two years after Swedenborg's death, Rev John Clowes became one of the earliest advocates of the spiritual teachings in Swedenborg's works at the beginning of a movement which has lasted 240 years. His story is well documented.

In 1868, an Indian gentleman - a Hindu and government official - was walking through Bombay and decided to step into an auction room in which there were a lot of old books. One title stood out from the rest - *Heaven and Hell* - a worn out copy packed up with some dozen or so other old books. His request to glance through the book was refused by the auctioneer and his option to do so was to outbid anyone else interested in the package as the title was very alluring with the other titles being 'mere trash'. On securing the package and satisfying his curiosity by looking through the Table of Contents, he hurried home to 'devour' it chapter by chapter as greedily as a hungry person would his favourite dish. This was his first acquaintance with Emanuel Swedenborg. Over and over again he read it, finding much in common in the philosophical and religious books of the Hindus which he had studied. Seeing the book had been published by The Swedenborg Society in London, he obtained *Conjugal Love, Divine Love & Wisdom, The New Jerusalem* and *True Christian Religion* amongst other publications through the good offices of a friend who visited London soon afterwards. He found so much he could identify with from his Hindu background but also these teachings made clear many Christian doctrines, especially the Trinity, the Atonement and the nature of the Bible, which as a schoolboy he had failed to comprehend. Ten of the papers Padoba Pandurung wrote to The Swedenborg Society about his introduction to Swedenborg and the opening up of his understanding to these new concepts are documented in the book *A Hindu Gentleman's Reflections Respecting the Works of Swedenborg and the Doctrines of the New Jerusalem Church*, available on the Web.

This time in Krugersdorp, South Africa - the year 1909 - the title of a second-hand book in a dusty corner of a little furniture shop caught the eye of a rummager. It was *The True Christian Religion* by Swedenborg. Despite only a cursory look without the remotest idea of its real character and significance, it was bought. At home, he read the formidable volume with diligence and thoroughness in a very short time and on reaching the end found himself powerfully convinced of its veracity. He was also very impressed by what was described in the book about Africans in the Spiritual World. Over the next two years he talked to others about what he had discovered gradually seeing growing interest despite his ministry in The African Holy Catholic Church. A split in that Church enabled him to draw together those who shared his new beliefs and form their own organisation. After several more years, contact was made with the Swedenborg movement in UK which offered much needed help. In 2009, the organisation that Rev. David Mooki started holds its centenary. And it can 'boast' the largest number of adherents to Swedenborg's spiritual teachings of any country. Another well-documented story.

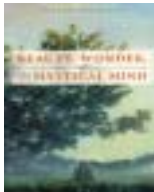
Nothing unconnected ever occurs for anything unconnected would instantly perish. Even the smallest moment of our lives involves a series of consequences extending to eternity. Each moment is like a new beginning to those that follow and so it is with each and every one of the moments in our lives.

Swedenborg: *Secrets of Heaven* 3854³

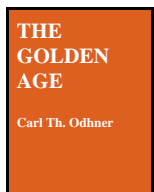


Discounted Items for the Quarter

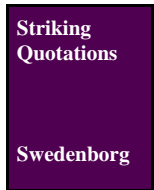
As a reader of **Candela**, if you order the following titles in the July to September 2009 Quarter, you will receive approx. 25% off the retail price (while stocks last).
 (see the discounted price and postage on the form below)
 Complete the Order Form (you can copy it) and return it to the Swedenborg Centre or phone on 02 9888 1066 and mention this notice.



Beauty, Wonder and the Mystical Mind by **Wilson Van Dusen** **RRP \$25.00**
 (197 pages, paperback)
 A rich picture of the spiritual realm by a mystic from a Swedenborgian point of view. He explains how religion fits within the context of culture and how mysticism fits - or does not - within the context of religion. A useful chapter introduces a simple, effective meditative practice.



The Golden Age by **Carl Th. Odhner** **RRP \$15.00**
 (230 pages, hardback)
 A fascinating account of the peoples of the most ancient times and the subsequent successive spiritual eras as presented by Swedenborg. The origin of the human species is considered along with the spiritual interpretation of the early Genesis 'dreamtime' stories which are mirrored in other cultures. The physiological characteristics of primeval people and the life in paradise are described.



Striking Quotations. Selected from Swedenborg's Works **RRP \$2.00**
 (50 pages paperback, pocket-size)
 Short, pithy quotes taken from Swedenborg's spiritual writings arranged under subject headings from 'Angels' to 'Worship' and forty others in between. A very useful booklet to carry around and dip into to create those necessary quiet meditative moments in busy lives.

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I wish to buy the following items, inserting Total cost of item plus Postage (but see Note 1 below):-

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<i>The Golden Age</i>	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$
<i>Striking Quotations</i>	\$1.50	\$1.00	\$
<i>Wedgwood Tricentenary Plate</i> - see page 9	\$30.00	\$6.00	
Total Payable by Cheque/Money Order/Credit Card #			\$

Cheques/Money Orders payable to "Swedenborg Centre"

¹ For orders of more than one item, actual cost will be charged where less (maximum cost will be \$10).

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Signature: Name on Card Telephone No. (.....)

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

For Group activities, contact your nearest Group Convenor

- Brisbane (Ian Arnold on (07) 33690054)
- Gold Coast (Kevin Attwater on (07) 55452401 and Jack Benson on (07) 55454115);
- Melbourne (Chris Skinner on (03) 94320322; email: cskinner9@optusnet.com.au);
- Perth (Trevor Moffat on (08) 96416147; email: trevormoffat@bordnet.com.au);
- Sydney region (Michael Chester on (02) 99440497; email: mchester@accsoft.com.au);



It would be good to establish Groups in other areas. If you can help, please contact Michael Chester.

Details of programmes will be advised by leaflet as soon as they are known. Our website is updated when new information comes available - www.swedenborg.com.au

Brisbane: New Church Hall, 21 Agars Street, Rosalie.

Melbourne: New Church Hall, 426 High Street Road, Mount Waverley. Last Fridays commencing 8pm.

26th June ~ *How do we feel God?* Speaker: **Julian Duckworth**, Sydney

30th July ~ Subject and Speaker to be advised

28th August ~ Subject and Speaker to be advised

Sydney: Swedenborg Centre, 1 Avon Road, North Ryde commencing 7.45pm.

26th June ~ *God and His Creation* Speaker: **Wayne Kasmar**

23rd July ~ *Jewish Spiritual Practices* Speaker: **Edmond Beniagar**

28th August ~ *Staying Spiritual in a Sterile World* Panel of Speakers

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: 28th August at Swedenborg Centre, 1 Avon Road, North Ryde, 2113.

The short business meeting will be preceded by the panel discussion on

Staying Spiritual in a Sterile World

WHY A SWEDENBORG ASSOCIATION?

To promote Emanuel Swedenborg, the man and his message, throughout Australia by personal contact, meetings, etc.

Having active Groups for those with common interests.

Providing information on topical subjects by drawing on Swedenborg's contributions.

Ensuring Swedenborg's writings are kept before the community's awareness.

WHY JOIN?

To share with others what has been of help to you in your quest for truth.

Pursuing areas of interest in Swedenborg through access to material and events.

A Free Newsletter every 3 months

20% discount on books, etc. other than sets of 3 or more books when a reduced discount applies

Free Swedenborgian-based book, CD, DVD, etc. each year enabling you to introduce others.

Membership Application Form (for use of New Memberships only)

I wish to apply for membership of the **SWEDENBORG ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA Inc** and agree to be bound by the Rules of Association (copy available on request).

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Given Name Family Name **n.b. only one person per application**

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Subscription: \$35 (One year regular)

\$90 (Three year regular)

\$25 (One year Concession - Students and Pensioners holding a Social Security Card)

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(Please note: An additional 5% service charge will be added for payments by credit card)

I am willing to have my name and telephone number provided to other members in my locality Yes / No (please circle)