

***Afterlife: A Guided Tour of Heaven and its Wonders*** Emanuel Swedenborg. Donald Rose, editor (Swedenborg Foundation, 2006. Paperback)

A new book has just been published. All of its contents are taken directly from *Heaven and Hell*. But there has been selection to make a much shorter book.

The idea of presenting parts of the Writings a little at a time goes back in history—yes, back before Johnny Appleseed handed out sections of *Heaven and Hell*. Actually, we go back to what Swedenborg himself did with the second volume of the Writings.

Swedenborg's publisher, John Lewis of London, issued an advertisement which referred to the first volume of *Arcana Coelestia*, and then said, "And now the second volume is printing, both in Latin and English; to be published in cheap

numbers, that the public may have it in an easier manner than in whole volumes” (Tafel’s *Documents II* p. 492).

In June of 1999, Edward Cranch described for *New Church Life* this marketing effort by Swedenborg. “Swedenborg was perhaps looking for ways to make this precious gift from the Lord available to more people while still leaving them in freedom.” Mr. Cranch ends his interesting article by saying, “We must continue in every possible way to make them available to those who have faith.” (p. 259).

Dr. David Gladish, in the same spirit, produced a booklet called *Seeing Is Believing*. It is a rendition of the work *The Doctrine of Faith*, but not all of it. People found this a particularly useful booklet and, in 1992, a revised version of it was published by the General Church Book Center including selected passages from three other works of the Writings.

Having worked for some time on this new effort, I am delighted to see it in print and hope that it will bring teachings of the Writings to a wider readership.

Donald Rose

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