Believe It or Not

Emanuel Swedenborg

No single individual in the world's history ever encompassed in himself so great a variety of useful knowledge — he was a psychologist, philosopher, mathematician, geologist, inventor, metallurgist, mineralogist, botanist, chemist, aurist, physicist, zoologist, aeronautical engineer, assayer, musician, author, traveler, crystallographer, instrument maker, machinist, cabinet maker, legislator, mining engineer, economist, editor, cosmologist, theologian, lens-grinder, psychic, clockmaker, poet, linguist, biographer, reformer, astronomer, bookbinder, physiologist, hydrographer.

Swedenborg was born in Stockholm, January 29, 1688, son of the Royal Chaplain. He died in London, March 29, 1772, and his remains now lie in the national cathedral at Upsala, Sweden.

The Man Who Was Master of Many Trades

Ripley Explains
The Living Encyclopedia

Emmanuel Swedenborg up to his fifty-sixth year led a life largely devoted to scientific studies covering practically the whole field of science. His researches took him to several foreign countries. He published many volumes on mathematics, geology, chemistry, physics, mineralogy, astronomy, anatomy, etc., in which there are the germ of numerous brilliant discoveries later credited to other investigators.

He sketched out the plans for a machine gun, submarine, piano, airplane (flying carriage) etc., greatly in advance of his time. He is the father of a decimal system of coinage, and of crystallography. He originated the nebular hypothesis of the solar system, and explained the nature of the milky way. He produced an ear trumpet, made important discoveries on the composition and circulation of the blood, as well as on the true office of the lungs.

At the age of 56 he gave up the study of worldly science and became a seer and theological revelator. The last 28 years of his life were devoted to giving to the world a new religious philosophy which gave rise to the founding of the New Jerusalem Church in London in 1787, now established throughout the world.

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In his carefully ordered garden, Swedenborg cultivated many different plants from all over the world.
FORMATION OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM
1734

Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.

Swedenborg Library, Bryn Athyn College
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