

CHAPTER X

The Swedenborg Phenomenon

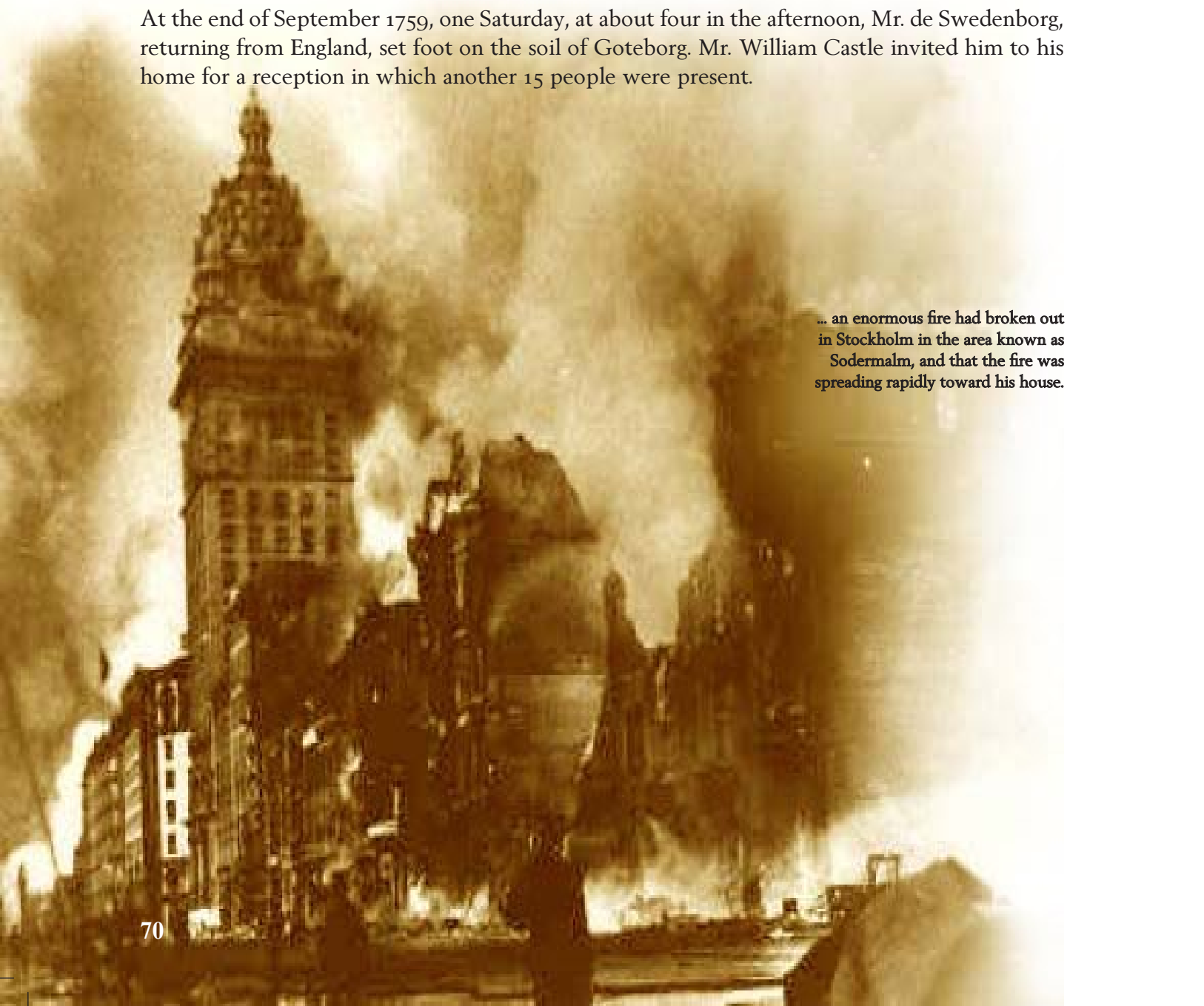
The Swedenborg phenomenon is likewise a significant incident that is reported about perhaps the greatest visionary of modern times, Swedenborg.

Swedenborg, known in the 18th century for his “second sight”, was able to see the great fire of Stockholm from a distance of 30 leagues.

The philosopher Kant investigated the event in depth in collaboration with a friend of his in Stockholm, where the incident took place, and he writes characteristically to a friend of his:

“The event I am writing to you about, I believe has significant evidentiary force, and does not permit of any doubt whatever.”

At the end of September 1759, one Saturday, at about four in the afternoon, Mr. de Swedenborg, returning from England, set foot on the soil of Goteborg. Mr. William Castle invited him to his home for a reception in which another 15 people were present.



... an enormous fire had broken out in Stockholm in the area known as Sodermalm, and that the fire was spreading rapidly toward his house.



Emanuel Swedenborg



William Castle

At about 6pm in the afternoon, de Swedenborg, who had gone out to the gardens of the house, returned to the salon pale and shaken and announced that in a steady voice that an enormous fire had broken out in Stockholm in the area known as Sodermalm, and that the fire was spreading rapidly toward his house.

Swedenborg described that the house of a friend of his had been burned to a crisp and that his own house was now in danger. Swedenborg went out again to the gardens to recover from his distress, and when he returned, he said relieved, "Praise be to God. The fire extinguished three doors before my house."

That same night the governor of the city received the notification that indeed the fire had taken place. The next morning a messenger reached Goteborg from Stockholm, carrying messages from merchants.

In a letter that he gave to the recipients, the description of the fire was exactly the same as that made by Swedenborg the same day and the same hour that it occurred.

The Swedenborg phenomenon was examined with particular zeal by investigators and psychologists of the scientific community in all of Europe.



Ecstasy

Ecstasy is the isolation of desire and thought from the influences of the natural world and with a participation in the spiritual world in itself.

Ecstasy says: 'I am outside myself' and refers to the highest degree of communication of the ecstatic person with the supersensible world.

Pythia Pheonoe, the oracle of Delphi, chewed daphne leaves and in front of a tripod that issued fumes, in the sanctuary of the temple of Apollo, "was in ecstasy" and revealing events that have occurred or will occur, and were impossible for the human mind to capture in its natural state.

The problem raised by ecstasy for philosophy is: "How do space and time operate for a person in ecstasy.

How can an event that will happen in the future be "seen" by a medium intoxicated now, at this time.

Ecstasy, for the science of physics, is a capable advisor for investigating the definition of the concept of time and the time gap between two events.

