

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear, because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

1 John, Ch. 4, 18



Axell Nordell

a famous Swedish sculptor (1914–1997)



I first met Axel in 1985 while I was organizing the International Congress of ISPPM in Badgastein, Austria. Since then, Axel has become, not only my dear, personal friend, but also a faithful ISPPM supporter.

Prior to the congress, I had been trying to find a suitable logo for our society. As was my habit, I took my dog, Chico, for a walk in the park and on this particular day he discovered something new had been added to the landscape. It was a monumental bronze sculpture, beautiful in its harmony and awesome in its simplicity. It captured my attention and touched me deeply. When I looked closer, I realized it was the replication of an embryo and I also realized I had found the ISPPM logo.

I called the artist, Axel Nordell, and he was delighted with my proposal to use his sculpture as the symbol for our society. We bought the copyright for “The Embryo” and at the same time I invited him to attend the congress in Austria where he was asked to show his other works. Since then, Axel attended all of our congresses and we had the pleasure of viewing works of art.

Now that I have told you how Axel Nordell became part of the ISPPM, I would like to summarize his art in a few words. It speaks of Love, Wholeness and Harmony and of a deeply entrenched Christian belief which has never waned.

Though he has gone through times of doubt, sorrow and pain, his unselfish faith and love have triumphed. He believed that creation does not require suffering and pain, but that one must be free from fear and open to love in order to create. For Axel, love is mankind’s greatest gift. A gift so powerful that it can move mountains and at the same time it can be fragile and subtle. He considered himself a tool in the hands of God.

Axel’s life has spanned continents and his art has spoken to many people. While still a child, he dreamed of the warmth of California and eventually emigrated to San Francisco where he worked and exhibited. He also lived in Venice, Italy. He has made more than 50 outdoor sculptures, but when asked which was his favorite, he answered “The Embryo” because it depicts the whole life cycle. The embryo is the source of all life, and “The Embryo” is the culmination of his life’s work.

Peter G. Fedor-Freybergh
Editor-in-Chief