

EDITORIAL

These are exciting times in Quaker studies. This is the twelfth year of the joint Woodbrooke/University of Birmingham Centre for Postgraduate Quaker Studies (CPQS) and the sixteenth for this journal. QSRA is eighteen!

In January Betty Hagglund joined the CPQS staff as Project Development Worker both to increase the diversity of outputs and knowledge transfer arising out of the academic work supervised by the Centre and to raise the profile of CPQS as it works with other parts of the academy. Betty is working with a number of Quaker studies scholars on books and articles and running skills courses in writing and presentation skills. She represented CPQS at the Saumur celebration of William Penn's time there and presented a paper as part of the proceedings. The next issue of the journal will be dedicated to Saumur and Betty will be editing it. At the same time, she is in conversation with Birmingham museums and art galleries and Birmingham Archives and Heritage over presenting Quaker perspectives in forthcoming events to mark World War One, potential PhD studentships, and with other partners including the University Special Collections a nascent west Midlands Quaker History and Heritage Project.

As this journal is mailed out, Rosemary Moore will be presenting her analysis of the second period of Quakerism in the 2011 George Richardson Lecture, a piece of work which some of us hope may give rise to a volume on the second period more broadly. At the same time, an Oxford University Press Handbook of Quaker Studies is in preparation. Quaker Historians and Archivists are set to meet in Canada in 2012, in the USA in 2014, and we hope in the UK in 2016. Research Summer Schools will take place at Woodbrooke in 2013 and 2016, and maybe in Norway in 2018.

Hayley Glayholt has successfully persuaded the American Academy of Religion to give Quaker studies a wildcard session at this November's meeting and we hope it may then become a provisional panel for the next three years. This November, Hayley, Jon Kershner, Elizabeth Todd, David Johns and Stephen Angell will present papers under the theme of *Quakerism beyond Borders: Community and Harmony in the Lives of Friends*. Margaret Benefiel will chair. This is in addition to the meeting of the Quaker theological Discussion Group.

Research continues and the profile of Quaker studies as an area of scholarship increases.

This issue of the journal begins with the publication of Alice Southern's M.Phil thesis on the Rowntree History Series and the way it was used by J.W. Rowntree, Rufus Jones, and W.C. Braithwaite to construct Liberal Quaker identity

through affirming key aspects of the tradition whilst justifying innovation. This important work is based in part on an analysis of the Rufus Jones archive at Haverford, allowing us to systematically understand the ways in which devotional motives generated the shape and content of what has become a highly influential history series.

Richard Bailey presents his work on Quaker–Muggletonian debates over the nature of Christ, an extended version of his QSRA Conference presentation last year. As Richard argues, ‘By focusing on the debates between Quakers and adversaries such as the Muggletonians it becomes apparent that the controversy created by differing ideas of what constituted “divine eternal unchangeable substance” was both fundamental and irreconcilable’.

Sheila Wright’s work focuses on single women in the Religious Society of Friends in Britain between 1780 and 1860. There were proportionately more single women within the Religious Society than in the general population and Sheila argues that, contrary to received wisdom of the undesirability of remaining single, not marrying was considered a positive choice. It was also a choice that allowed these Quakers to construct and preserve significant degrees of autonomy and involvement in a wide range of activities. Their vocation as ministers added purpose and rationale for this choice. Fitting with earlier scholarship such as Elizabeth O’Donnell’s on women in the north-east of England, this paper is particularly of interest because of its broad time period cutting across as it does the received theological periodization of British Quakerism.

T. Vail Palmer’s focus, like that of Richard Bailey, is also Christological. Vail outlines a Quaker theory of atonement linking Fox’s theology and those of his coreligionists to more recent scholarship on the atonement, in particular Aulen’s and Weaver’s ideas of *Christus victor* and Larry Shelton’s idea of covenantal atonement.

Helen Smith considers the way family archives, in this case that of Elizabeth Taylor Cadbury (1858–1951), are constructed to transmit particular interpretations of religious identity and service. They reveal both patterns of kinship but also patterns of personal devotion and how Taylor Cadbury related to her Quaker heritage.

The issue ends as usual with a selection of book reviews.

Ben’ Pink Dandelion