

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the Autumn 2012 issue of *Quaker Studies*. This is an unusual issue in some ways but continues our desire to nurture and disseminate the leading thinking in Quaker studies in all its disciplinary and inter-disciplinary areas of research. This is at a time when Quaker studies will again have its own panel at the American Academy of Religion, when nine postgraduates are finishing their research degrees at the Centre for Postgraduate Studies with an equal number enrolling, and when the work of the Centre and Quaker studies elsewhere seems to be thriving. New books on George Fox and John Woolman by Hilary Hinds and Geoffrey Plank respectively and a forthcoming volume on Quakers and anti-slavery rhetoric by Brycchan Carey all signal the health of an expanding field. As this issue comes out, Stephen W. Angell of the Earlham School of Religion in Indiana and myself will be finalising our co-edited Oxford University Press *Handbook of Quaker Studies*, some 37 chapters offering an overview of Quaker history, theology, and expression.

This issue begins with the 2011 George Richardson Lecture by Rosemary Moore, heralding another publishing project, an update to William Braithwaite's *The Second Period of Quakerism* (1919). This was highlighted as a need by Sylvia Stevens in the 2008 joint QSRA/Quaker Historians and Archivists Conference at Woodbrooke and now Rosemary and Richard Bailey are taking it forward. Rosemary is of course best known for her meticulous overview of the theology of the early Quakers between 1647 and 1666. Braithwaite's book covers the period from 1666 to the early eighteenth century and this Lecture overviews the scholarship since 1919, the present need, and some of the contents Moore and Bailey hope to include. Work is proceeding on this project.

Judith Roads's work on Corpus Linguistics is a new area for Quaker studies and for this journal. This method of analysis relies on running bodies of text through Corpus Linguistics software programmes to analyse narrative flow and style. Judith has compiled her own Quaker corpus from seventeenth-century texts and this article looks solely at the broadsides, an understudied area of Quaker publishing. Thanks to the existence of other corpora of seventeenth-century writing, it is possible to compare Quaker narrative with that of other groups. Her results are fascinating, in some ways confirming existing scholarship, but bringing a sharp and nuanced level of analysis through the ability to work comparatively. This ability to look beyond the Quaker fold needs to be developed more widely as our body of knowledge about Quakerism increases.

Peter Coutts is a retired academic who has turned to Quaker studies. While based in Australia, his research is into the demographics and family history of extended Quaker dynasties associated with Newgarden/Carlow Friends Meeting in Ireland. The full article is being published in two parts with the second in the next issue. This part focuses in particular on his methodology and the analysis of marriage, including the spatial relations between couples and the age differences, family sizes and birth management, and ends with some analysis of mortality among his case study.

The discussion of modern Quaker poetry, like Corpus Linguistics, has never featured in this journal. Thanks to Editorial Board Member Professor Roger Homan, who adds a preface to the piece, we are very pleased to publish a conversation between two Professors of Poetry, Philip Gross from Glamorgan and Laurence Lerner of Sussex, talking about how their Quakerism and their poetry intersect. In some ways, this represents primary material for those of us who study Quakerism to reflect on, but their academic training and insights also offer readers far more than a view into Quakerism or Quaker poetry. This is a rare conversation to be able to sit in on.

The issue ends, as usual, with a series of book reviews. My thanks to Betty Hagglund and Helen Smith who edit that section.

'Ben' Pink Dandelion