

SOX, David, *Quaker Plant Hunters* (York: Sessions Book Trust, 2004), pp. 139. ISBN 1-8507-2306-0, Paper £15.00.

In the author's words, this book is partly 'about that extraordinary Quaker connection in botany', but concentrates on three particular Friends of the eighteenth century: American plant hunter John Bartram; his son William Bartram, plant hunter and artist; and Sydney Parkinson, artist on Cook's *Endeavour* voyage. It also includes introductory notes on Thomas Lawson, Peter Collinson, John Fothergill and the Swedish naturalist, Carl Linnaeus, and an epilogue that makes brief reference to later botanical Friends, Daniel Oliver (referred to as 'David Oliver' in the Contents), James Backhouse and Sarah Martha Baker.

It is written in a readable popular style, and assumes little or no knowledge of botanical science or natural history. Each major section is split informally into untitled sub-sections. This is very much a biographical introduction to the subject but contains endnotes and references mostly to twentieth-century published sources. The text is enlivened by well-chosen quotations from contemporary journals and letters. The book is attractively illustrated with photographic reproductions of pictures by William Bartram and Parkinson, as well as maps and portraits.

Geoffrey Morries  
University of Birmingham, England

BESSE, Joseph, *Sufferings of Early Quakers: Southwest England, 1654 to 1690*, facsimile of part of the 1753 edition with new introduction and new index of people and places by Michael Gandy (York: Sessions, 2004), pp. viii + 186. ISBN 1-85072-320-6. Paper, £12.00.

Quaker historians frequently draw on Joseph Besse's monumental account of the sufferings of Quakers throughout England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, New England and the West Indies from 1650, when Quakers 'were first distinguished by that name', to approximately 1689, when the Act of Toleration gave some protection to dissenters. Over a twenty-six-year period from 1727 to 1753, Joseph Besse collected together what he considered to be the most interesting or indicative