

NOTES AND QUERIES

Meeting Houses

John Hall set up a website about British Quaker meeting houses about five years ago. This (www.flickr.com/photos/qnih) is almost complete and will carry photographs of over 500 current and former meeting houses as well as other relevant information.

The images are also being made available in an excellent series of 28 page colour illustrated pamphlets. These are produced in the USA to keep costs down and can be obtained via <http://dangerfield.magcloud.com> where each issue can be viewed, digital files can be purchased or print copies ordered. John Hall is also prepared to supply print copies himself though this is more expensive than ordering them from the USA. He can be contacted at hall1885@btinternet.com or 99 Wittonwood Road, Frinton on Sea, Essex C013 9LD. At the time of writing there are seven issues with the eighth imminent. Each covers a group of counties with a supplementary essay - e.g. number 4 is Cheshire and Lancashire with an essay on architectural styles in relation to Quaker belief.

For those discovering Friends through historic meeting houses the supplementary essays and the bibliographies enabling themes to be followed up in depth will be particularly valuable.

Quaker Writings: An Anthology 1650-1920. Edited by Thomas D. Hamm. London: Penguin Books. 2010. xxvii,370 pp. £12.99. ISBN 978-0-14-310631-9

After a thirteen page introduction and suggestions for further reading Thomas Hamm's anthology contains writings from more than 30 individuals as well as a few Quaker bodies, eg. the Balby Elders and finally the 1920 World Conference of Friends restating the peace testimony. The texts are arranged in six groups, five of them chronological with a final group covering peace from the 1661 declaration and including passages on the American Revolution and Civil War. Well-known authors, both British and North American are well-represented as are women. The origins to 1690 takes up 152 pages, the long Quaker eighteenth century (1690-1820) 42 pages and the remaining century 116.

John Bunyan and Friends

In *Bunyan Studies* no. 14, 2010, (ISSN 0954-0970) pp.34-55 Vera J. Camden contributes 'The Unbearable Inner Light: John Bunyan's Controversy with the Quakers'. She explains that Bunyan's first two published works in 1656 and 1657 were the result of a controversy

with the Quaker Edward Burrough. This led to an ongoing enmity described as a 'lifelong expressive contempt for the Quakers' which the author argues is 'rooted as much in his psychology as his theology'.

A Book of Quaker Poems chosen by Simon Webb. Edited by Simon Webb. Durham: The Langley Press. 2010. 52pp. Illustrated. £3.99. ISBN 978-0-9564551-3-0

Simon Webb's all too brief anthology contains seventeen poems or extracts from poems. Six of these are by Whittier, two of them amounting to thirteen pages. Webb says that 'Whittier must take the laurel for commitment, volume of output, quality and learning'. There are also poems by Bernard Barton, Thomas Ellwood and William Howitt. Equally interesting are the poems or extracts relating to Friends by better and better known non-Quaker poets including Byron, Dryden, Pope and Tennyson. The pamphlet includes a short introduction by Webb and four pages of helpful notes.

Only a Thought Away. A personal story of bereavement and communication beyond death. By Angela Howard. York: Quacks Books. 2010. x +246pp. 8 colour plates. £8.50 ISBN 978-1-904446-28-6

The main content of *Only a Thought Away* is an account of Angela Howard's time with her husband Martin and her continuing communication with him after his death. She also recounts the related experience of two other couples. In later chapters she looks at spiritualism and psychic experience in a Quaker context. The limited historical elements of the book are a brief account of the beginnings of spiritualism and a few pages about related early Quaker beliefs. Angela and Martin Howard were among the founding members of the Quaker Fellowship for Afterlife Studies whose beginnings and work are described towards the end of the book.

EVENT

The Revd Professor Alan P F Sell has drawn to my attention that the FRIENDS OF THE CONGREGATIONAL LIBRARY have organised a Summer Event to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the Great Ejectment of 1662. A day conference will take place, with a book launch, at Dr. Williams's Library, 14 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0AR, on Saturday 9th June 2012 between 10.30 am and 5.00 pm. Thanks to the generosity of the sponsor, Congregational and General Insurance plc, lunch and tea will be provided, and there will be no charge for the day. Places are limited, on a first come, first served basis. If you wish to attend, please write to the Director at the

above address, or email conference@DWLib.co.uk, or telephone 020 7387 3727.

Howard F Gregg