

NOTES AND QUERIES

ARTHUR RAISTRICK

Hugh S Torrens has drawn attention to: J.E.A. Marshall, *Arthur Raistrick: Britain's premier palynologist* published in HISTORY OF PALAEOBOTANY: SELECTED ESSAYS edited by A.J. Bowden, C.V. Burek and R. Wilding, pp. 161-179. The Essays are published by the Geological Society, London - Geological Society Special Publication No. 241 (2005). The essay contains a valuable biographical account of Arthur Raisrick as well as the specific area of concern in the title.

David Sox: THE ROYAL STUART SOCIETY EVENT.

Unusual invitations sometimes come to the Religious Society of Friends and the Friends Historical Society. I was involved with a rather odd event on the 14th October 2005.

Our Recording Clerk was asked by the Royal Stuart Society to have representation at a ceremony at the statue of James II outside the National Gallery in Trafalgar Square at 11.00 on the 14th to commemorate the birthday of James II.

The invitation was passed on to FHS, and always enjoying the atypical I attended. As Friends know William Penn received land grants in America in lieu of a cash payment covering crown debts owed his father, Admiral Penn who died 1670.

As Frederick Tolles put it: 'As the Admiral's heir, William Penn decided for reasons not clearly specified to ask for territory in America in lieu of a cash payment.' It turned out to be a very wise move for the future of Quakerism as well as religious toleration in the colonies.

The grant was made in 1681 by Charles II and became the Pennsylvania we know. Both Charles II and the Duke of York, his brother (the future James II) favoured Penn's request. As a personal friend of the Duke of York who became king in 1685, Penn helped draw up the two Declarations of Indulgence which gave religious toleration to Catholics Quakers and Jews as well as other Dissenters outside an Anglican state established Church.

Penn remained loyal to James II after the Glorious Revolution, but eventually abandoned the Jacobite cause. Interestingly with the accession of Protestant William and Mary there was no general

religious toleration: in a sense it was a step backward from Penn and James II's ideals.

Of course, James II has always had a 'bad press', and as Eric Delderfield has strongly said: 'James committed every stupid error that was possible and for his intrigue with the French King, his packing of Parliament with his supporters, he became hated.'

But on the 14th October we celebrated James II's attempt at a fuller religious toleration; something worth remembering. The speakers at the birthday event stressed this. Father Nicholas Scofield, archivist for the Archdiocese of Westminster spoke to this point eloquently, and reminded the audience that though Catholics and Quakers differ considerably in doctrine, both groups in Britain need to be reminded of early efforts to bring us to a better understanding of each other.

After all this I was asked to say a few words as a Quaker. I concluded: 'In the spirit of religious freedom and toleration so necessary in our own day, Quakers can honour this occasion as one step in bringing about one of the cornerstones of what it means to be British.'

David Sox