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# THE JOURNAL OF THE FRIENDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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## EDITORIAL

The Editor apologises to contributors and readers for the delayed appearance of this issue.

Volume 60, No 2 begins with John Punshon's stimulating Presidential Address, exploring the nature of historical inquiry and historical writing, with specific emphasis on Quaker history, and some challenging insights in his text.

Diana Morrison-Smith launches an occasional series in which annotation and commentary will accompany the text of a Quaker historical document. Her choice of document enables us to share the moving spiritual journey of Elizabeth Walmsley and the part played in it by Isaac Penington.

Information of a new selection of Isaac Penington's writings, manuscript transcriptions by Diana Morrison-Smith, is included with this issue.

Following the fire of March 2005 Sue Smithson and Hilary Pinder remind us of the place of Jordans Meeting House in Quaker history.

With the Presidential Address in mind, W Raymond Powell's CHARLOTTE FELL SMITH explores a remarkable contribution to historical research and writing, both Quaker and other.

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends Historical Society will take place before the Presidential Address at Britain Yearly Meeting at York, on Tuesday, 2 August, in a Lecture Theatre in the Exhibition

Centre between 7.00 and 7.30 p.m. Sir Christopher Booth's Address on THE QUAKERS OF COUNTERSETT AND THEIR LEGACY will be given at 7.45 p.m., with John Punshon on the chair.

The Executive Committee hopes to arrange, if there is a sufficiently positive response, a short visit to the 1652 Country during the autumn of 2006. The suggestion will be put to members at the Annual General Meeting on 2 August at York.

A meeting will be held on Saturday, 26 November 2005, at Friends House, London, to mark the centenary of the death of Joseph Bevan Braithwaite. The main speaker will be Edward H Milligan. There will be a morning and an afternoon session. Further details will be available in the autumn Newsletter.

Further to Faith Rodger's and Margret Lawson's article on the QUAKER TAPESTRY in Volume 59, Number 3, pages 204-210, the appeal has raised sufficient funds to allow a two-year 'breathing space' to determine future initiatives for the Tapestry. Meeting for Sufferings is to receive a report in the autumn following the consultation held earlier this year.

This issue brings the backlog of issues to an end. Volume 60, Number 3 should appear in late autumn 2005.

The Editor welcomes articles or short items for consideration for inclusion in future Journals. Contributors are advised to use the MHRA (Modern Humanities Research Association) STYLE GUIDE in the preparation of material. This is available from Subscriptions Department, Maney Publishing, Hudson Road, Leeds LS9 7DL (e-mail: [maney@maney.co.uk](mailto:maney@maney.co.uk)) or online at the MHRA's website ([www.mhra.org.uk](http://www.mhra.org.uk)). The Editor's decision is final as regards publication or revision.

*Howard F Gregg*