

# YORKSHIRE QUAKER HERITAGE PROJECT

This exciting new project, based at the University of Hull Brynmor Jones Library, has been funded for three years by the Higher Education Funding Councils under the Research Support Libraries Programme. Its aim is to increase awareness of and broaden access to Quaker archives and printed collections held in Yorkshire and beyond. Within the region, the creation and preservation of Quaker records has been as careful and systematic as historians have come to expect from the Society of Friends; however over the years the transfer of records from the direct custody of Quaker Meetings has resulted in their dispersal amongst regional universities, libraries and record offices. Their location and scope can therefore be confusing for researchers.

A project archivist, Helen Roberts, was appointed as of 1 August 1999. She will work in collaboration with two partner institutions, the University of Leeds Brotherton Library and the University of York Borthwick Institute of Historical Research, to create the following resources for researchers: a central web site with links to other relevant electronic finding aids; an online database covering collections held by the participating libraries and elsewhere; name indexes to the Quaker archives held by the Brynmor Jones Library; and a research guide to Quaker source material held throughout Yorkshire. The main collections to be covered by the project include: records of Pickering and Hull Monthly Meeting and associated bodies, 1669 to 1993; research papers of Fred Fletcher (a former custodian of Quaker records); records of Yorkshire General meeting and six Monthly Meetings, namely Brighouse, Knaresborough, Leeds, Settle, Thirsk and York, 17th to 20th centuries; the Birkbeck Library, Leeds Friends Old Library and Society of Friends Library; papers of successive generations of the Tuke family, late 18th to late 19th centuries; archives of The Retreat Asylum, York, 1790s to 1939; papers and social survey material of Seebohm Rowntree (1871-1954); and company archives of Rowntree and Mackintosh, 1862-1969. Research will also be undertaken into the collections held by the Library of the Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends in Britain and the East Riding of Yorkshire Archives Service, and a comprehensive survey of material in other locations will be carried out. It is hoped that the project may establish a model of what may be achieved on a regional basis which other parts of the country may wish to follow.

## Contact

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*Helen Roberts*