

THE JOURNAL
OF THE
FRIENDS' HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Editorial

THIS issue of the *Journal*, the sole number for 1959 and somewhat delayed in appearance, is the first to see the light since John Nickalls ceased to be editor at the end of 1958. The Society's Minute recording its appreciation of all the work which John Nickalls has put into the *Journal* over the past three decades is reproduced at the end of this Editorial Note. We are fortunate too, to have a review of—John Nickalls: *Some Quaker Portraits* (the illustrated Supplement to the *Journal* which reproduces the Presidential Address which he delivered in 1957) by Mr. Charles Kingsley Adams, the Director of the National Portrait Gallery.

The first long article on Elizabeth Bevan Tonjoroff, missionary and relief worker in Bulgaria at the end of the 19th century, is a quite thrilling story written by Ormerod Greenwood, from Friends' mission records and Tonjoroff family documents and reminiscences. Alfred Braithwaite contributes a study of 17th century legal methods "*Errors in the Indictment*" and *Pardons*, based on the case of Theophilus Green, a Thames waterman, praemunired in 1671. Andrew and Helen Brink discuss what is thought to be an 18th-century manuscript version of Ellwood's *Davideis*. A paper by H. Rossiter Smith is concerned with Mary Dawson Fisher, one of William Wordsworth's servants, who was born and bred a Quaker. Richard T. Vann of Harvard University, produces material connecting Gerrard Winstanley the Digger with Friends, and David Swift of Wesleyan University, Connecticut, deals with the part Joseph John Gurney played in Norwich politics.

We shall resume half-yearly publication, and in the next issue we hope to print the Presidential Address for 1959, delivered by Richenda Scott.

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THE following is the minute of the Friends' Historical Society adopted on 5th March, 1959 with regard to the retirement of John Nickalls from the Editorship of this Journal.

Since Norman Penney's name ceased to appear on the title-page of the *Journal* with the issue for 1932, and the first long editorship of the publications of the Friends' Historical Society ended, John Nickalls has edited for the Society twenty-nine volumes of the *Journal* and a complement of Supplements. This is not the place to note his editorial work in other fields which has brought no little honour to the Historical Society, but we should mention the gain the Society has experienced through his wide acquaintance, kept up to date and extended constantly by his position as Librarian at Friends House. This has enabled him to make the *Journal* in the past three decades more broadly based and happily circumstanced with a steady flow of material, widely varying in topic and treatment. Of course, not all material submitted is in form or content suitable for publication, or quite within the field in which the *Journal* has to specialize, and it has to be the lot of the editor to advise an author how to place his material for publication, or to suggest alterations which might bring the material into a form acceptable for printing in the *Journal*. For the way in which this difficult, unobtrusive and sometimes thankless task has been carried out we have to thank John Nickalls. We believe that as editor he can retire with much goodwill on that score.

During his tenure of the office of editor, John Nickalls has maintained a high level of critical work. This is remarkable, and is a tribute to his workmanship and his ability to obtain the co-operation of persons working in the field of Quaker history. The workers and writers on historical subjects among Friends are few. The number of Quaker historians has never been more than limited, and the majority are members of this Historical Society and known to one another. This is a strong reason for maintaining the standards in historical work at a high level. Objective, intelligent and thoughtful scholarship, making use of all modern techniques for research into the varied fields of Quaker history needs to be brought to bear upon the questions which arise, when we indulge our natural enthusiasm for inquiring into the past of the Society of Friends of which we form a part. The editorial chair which John Nickalls vacates has become more than the seat of the proof-reader for an antiquarian magazine.

We look forward with confidence to a continuance of the same high standard of scholarship and readability which John Nickalls has maintained during his tenure of office.