

## Portraiture of George Fox

HENRY J. CADBURY has called attention to a passage in William Tallack's *George Fox, the Friends and the early Baptists*, 1868, p. 148, which, if correct, would indicate the existence of a portrait of George Fox made in the seventeenth century. Tallack stated, regarding the frontispiece of his book, that the portrait "was first published in a separate form by Thomas Stackhouse, a Quaker bookseller of Bell Alley, London, who copied it from a plate in an old volume of the 17th century. That plate contained six portraits of eminent Non-conformists, as Baxter, Bunyan, and others. Five of these portraits were known to be faithful likenesses of their subjects, whence there is reason to conclude that the remaining one, that of Fox, is also a correct delineation."

Henry Cadbury asks whether the 17th-century volume can be found, and if so whether the authenticity of the other five portraits can be upheld. So far no such 17th-century work has been identified, but Geoffrey Nuttall has pointed out two works which have some similarities to the work Tallack describes. These works both contain a plate of several portraits of religious leaders, including Baxter. *A Sketch of the several denominations of the Christian world*, by John Evans, went into some eighteen editions between 1795 and 1841. At least eight editions of it between 1802 and 1839 contain as frontispiece a plate of nine small portraits (in one case eight). Baxter figures among these, but not apparently Bunyan. In some editions one of the portraits is Penn, but in none of the eight editions seen does Fox or any other Friend than Penn occur.

Evans acknowledges his indebtedness for portraits to Erasmus Middleton's *Biographia Evangelica*, 4 vols., 1779-86; but no George Fox is to be found in that work. The portrait in Tallack's book, however, is engraved after a portrait by Samuel Chinn.<sup>1</sup>

If we try to verify other points in Tallack's statement by reference to the extensive portrait collection at Friends House, we find that the first engraved publication known there of Chinn's portrait of Fox was by S. Allen in 1838. The portrait published by T. Stackhouse was not the Chinn portrait, as stated by Tallack, but one done after Thomas Fairland's lithograph and published by Stackhouse in 1824; and Stackhouse was not its first publisher. It had previously been issued by W. Darton in 1822 and possibly earlier, though undated, by T. Rodd, engraved by Sawyer.

Though not conclusive, these evidences do suggest that William Tallack may not have been accurate in his remarks about Fox's portrait, quoted above.

Can anyone trace a 17th-century work with a plate of six portraits including Baxter, Bunyan, and Fox?

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<sup>1</sup> See J. Nickalls, *Some Quaker Portraits* (Supp. 29 to *J.F.H.S.*), 1958, p. 8 and plate 8.