

Recent Publications

Isaac Hicks: New York Merchant and Quaker, 1767-1820. By Robert A. Davidson (No. 22 of Harvard Studies in Business History). Harvard University Press (Oxford University Press), 1964. pp. xiii, 217; 5 plates.

Unlike his cousin and contemporary Elias Hicks, Isaac Hicks is not a Friend prominent in Quaker annals. But the fortunate survival of a large collection of letters and business records relating to this New York merchant has enabled a very interesting biography of him to be written, which, besides describing his business activities, discusses in some detail the way in which his Quakerism influenced his business career. The close links existing between Friends in commerce at the beginning of the 19th Century are well brought out.

The Quakers in Puritan England. By Hugh Barbour. Yale University Press, 1964. pp. xviii, 272. 45s.

Some Quaker historians in the past have appeared to have little knowledge of the Puritan background in which Quakerism came to life. This was excusable, as there was no compendious treatment of Puritanism, in its relation to Quakerism, readily available. It will be less excusable now; for this book is a mine of information on the subject, dealing not only with the theological aspects, but also with such matters as the Quaker testimonies, behaviour, and way of life.

It is part of the author's thesis that the elements of "newness" in the Quaker 17th century movement should "neither be exaggerated nor undervalued," to use the phrase in Roland Bainton's foreword. The steering of the correct middle course between these is one of the most difficult tasks of the historian of early Quakerism. This cannot be accomplished simply by an analysis of similarities and differences, as they appear to us 300 years later; it is necessary also to assess, with as much historical insight as we can attain to, how important they appeared in the eyes of contemporaries, both Friends themselves and their opponents. In endeavouring to make such assessments the material in this book will be of great value.

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Among the collections noticed in an article in *Archives*, vol. 6, no. 30, Michaelmas 1963, p. 95-107, entitled "Collections of English historical manuscripts in the Huntington Library," by Jean Preston, may be noticed the papers and letters of Thomas Clarkson (dealing with anti-slavery movements), and the correspondence and papers of Richard Shackleton (1728-92), the master of the school of Ballitore [purchased at Sotheby's on 22 June 1953].