

THE JOURNAL
OF THE
FRIENDS' HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Publishing Office: Friends House, Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ

Communications should be addressed to the Editors at
Friends House

Editorial

THE Society's Presidential Address for 1973 by Stephen S. Wilson will be published separately.

This issue of the *Journal* opens with two articles from across the Atlantic. Andrew W. Brink studies aspects of Milton's connection with Friends in his paper entitled "*Paradise Lost* and James Nayler's Fall". Kenneth L. Carroll presents a study of Henry Fell, a First Publisher of whom comparatively little is known. Jean Mortimer surveys Mary Mollineux's work—the poems of a Lancashire Friend and sufferer, which went through six editions before the end of the eighteenth century, and none afterwards.

As London Yearly Meeting is to meet in 1974 in York it is perhaps appropriate that we include a description of the Birkbeck Library, a comprehensive collection of early Friends' works formed by Morris Birkbeck the bibliographer and by him bequeathed to Yorkshire Quarterly Meeting.

A. Day Bradley, member of the Records committee of New York Yearly Meeting, brings to light records concerning two Cumberland Friends who were pressed into British naval service in 1781 in "Friends in Admiral Rodney's Squadron". Melanie Barber enumerates items of interest to Friends in the records preserved in Lambeth Palace Library.

The issue includes the usual features, and (in particular) a Query concerning papers of Amelia Opie, and a brief note concerning the *Narrative Papers of George Fox*, the latest in

the long line of contributions to scholarship from Henry J. Cadbury.

The 1973 Spring meeting of the Society was held on 4 May, when Edwin B. Bronner, of Haverford College, delivered an address on "The Evolution of a Yearly Meeting—Philadelphia Yearly Meeting before the crisis of 1755". Edwin Bronner is one of three American historians currently engaged in re-writing the story of American Quakerism during the colonial period, and his address, based on his "work in progress", gave his audience a foretaste of the new light that the forthcoming volumes will shed on this period of history.

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Narrative Papers of George Fox, unpublished or uncollected. Edited from the manuscripts, with introductions and notes by Henry J. Cadbury. Richmond, Indiana, Friends United Press, 1972. pp. xii, 249. (Available at Friends Book Centre, Friends House. £3.50).

This welcome volume deals with, and reproduces some of the preserved or recoverable manuscript material which preceded the three folio volumes of George Fox's works published in the two decades following his death—namely, the *Journal*, 1694, the *Epistles*, 1698, and the *Doctrinals (Gospel-truth demonstrated)* 1706. No one else could have attempted, much less carried this work so successfully though, and it falls naturally into place after Henry Cadbury's other works on *The Annual Catalogue of George Fox's Papers*, 1939, and *George Fox's Book of Miracles*, 1948.

By its nature this is not an easy book, but it is one which it is good to have available, and which will not be ignored. Henry Cadbury has arranged his material under nine chapter headings: The rise of Friends and Truth, Fragmentary Journal sources, The Great Journal, Letters to Margaret Fell (later Fox), Letters concerning passages, Lives of Friends in the ministry, Sufferings, Examples of judgments upon persecutors, Visions. Each chapter brings to light eligible material which earlier editors of George Fox had decided to reject.

This volume reminds me of the descriptive title of Richard Samble's Works (1684) *A handful after the Harvest-Man*, for this is truly a collection illustrating the work of Henry J. Cadbury who has long been occupied with various manuscript sources on the early history of Friends closely linked with George Fox, and many in Fox's own hand.

R.S.M.