

THE JOURNAL  
OF THE  
FRIENDS' HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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### Editorial

ONE tale which appears, or should appear, in every Quaker child's story book is that of Thomas Lurting, the "fighting sailor, turned peaceable Christian", whose quick wit enabled him and his shipmates to turn the tables on their captors when they and their ship fell into the hands of an Algerine corsair. They disarmed the pirate crew peaceably and put them ashore on the coast of their own country before continuing their voyage.

Thomas Lurting's story provides a happy ending. He was but one among a considerable number of Friends who, in their travels and trading, had cause to fear the Barbary pirates.

Kenneth Carroll's article on the "Quaker slaves in Algiers, 1679-1688" is the main item in this issue of the *Journal*, and it throws light on dark shadows in the experience of Friends who fell into servitude in towns in what is now Algeria and Morocco. The main evidence in the article comes from Meeting for Sufferings records which illustrate the efforts which Friends from both sides of the Atlantic made to secure early release for their unfortunate brethren.

Not all printers get it right, although it is unusual for a Quaker book (and a volume of obituaries of Friends, to boot) to earn the tag "2nd edition before publication". However, so it was with the 1760 *Collection of Testimonies concerning several Ministers of the Gospel amongst the people called Quakers, deceased*, and David Hall produces an extended

note based on an examination of the two printings and on the minutes of Meeting for Sufferings, 1758–60, showing how a late surge of demand coming after the type for the original edition had been distributed forced Friends' printer to set the book up again, and to maintain the price at 2s. 6d.

This issue, the final number in volume 54, includes Reports on Archives, Notes and Queries, and the title-page and index to the volume, covering the years 1976–82.

We welcome the appearance this year of the second volume in the magisterial edition of *The Papers of William Penn* from the University of Pennsylvania Press. Editors and publishers are to be congratulated that this work is going on so well. The first volume was noticed in a previous issue (vol. 54, pp. 258–59). This second volume is largely concerned with the founding and early settlement of Pennsylvania, and it includes major documents concerned with events in 1680–1684 and extensive lists of First Purchasers.

In the eighty years since the *Journal* first appeared, the price per issue has increased from the original 2s. [10p], but the Historical Society still holds to the object of its Rule, stated at the inception:

“As funds will allow, but not more frequently than four times a year, a Journal shall be issued in the interests of the Society, and sent free to all members.”

For many years now ‘four times a year’ has never been in sight, but with continued interest in Quaker history, an increasing flow of submissions for publication, and cash to support the work, there is an assured future for continuing research in Quaker studies.