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Front Matter -- Quaker Religious Thought, no. 118

Howard R. Macy

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May 2012

QUAKER RELIGIOUS THOUGHT

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Sponsored by the Quaker Theological Discussion Group

(Websites: New: <http://qtdg.wordpress.com/>;

Old: <http://theo-discuss.quaker.org/>)

The purpose of the Quaker Theological Discussion Group is to explore the meaning and implications of our Quaker faith and religious experience through discussion and publication. This search for unity in the claim of truth upon us concerns both the content and application of our faith.

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ABOUT THIS ISSUE

This issue marks the beginning of my service as editor of *Quaker Religious Thought*. I thank the participants in the Quaker Theological Discussion Group for entrusting me with this service and I will work to care for it faithfully. It has been a delight to know most of the previous editors as both mentors and friends, most recently Paul Anderson, a colleague at George Fox University, who has, with the others, set a high standard for this service. We are all grateful for what they've done.

The long history of *Quaker Religious Thought* witnesses to its continuing usefulness among Friends. Here we have an opportunity not only to reflect on key theological insights of Friends but also to consider how they intersect with contemporary issues in an emerging culture. Much of the journal's content has its root in papers and vigorous discussions at meetings of the Quaker Theological Discussion Group. Some of the articles and reviews come from material submitted to or invited by the editorial group. My goal as editor is to collaborate with the QTDG community in nurturing our conversation. I will seek the guidance of the associate editors and others as we develop the journal's content, and I welcome suggestions and submissions to consider for publication. The front matter in this issue will remind you of the good folks who help with the work and give you the current web address to follow QTDG and *QRT*.

The articles in this issue, *QRT* #118, rise out of the meetings of QTDG last November, preceding the professional meetings of the American Academy of Religion and the Society of Bible Literature in San Francisco, California. The theme is theism and nontheism among Friends. Paul Anderson has contributed an essay that introduces, gives context for, and speaks of the importance of this issue. Articles by Jeffrey Dudiak and David Boulton explore the issue from different perspectives, and responses by Shannon Craigo-Snell and Patrick Nugent help fill out the conversation.

Reviews of new publications of journals and autobiographies of Elias Hicks and Jay Allen, both prominent nineteenth century leaders were also offered at the last meetings of QTDG. These reviews will be prominent parts of *QRT* #119, which is scheduled to appear this fall.

The next meetings of QTDG will be November 16, 2012 in Chicago, Illinois. More information about those meetings will be forthcoming. We hope that Friends and others who live within reach of Chicago will plan to join us in those sessions.

—*Howard R. Macy*

Editor