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Front Matter – Quaker Religious Thought, no. 93

Arthur O. Roberts

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QUAKER RELIGIOUS THOUGHT

Cumulative Number 93

Volume 29, No. 3

July 1999

Sponsored by the Quaker Theological Discussion Group

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 the application of our faith.

Arthur O. Roberts, *Editor*

E-mail, arobert@pioneer.net

Paul Anderson, *Associate Editor*

E-mail, panderson@georgefox.edu

Gayle Beebe, *Associate Editor*

E-mail, gbeebe@msmail.apu.edu

Advisory Council: Max Carter,

David Johns, Howard Macy,

Ruth Pitman, John Punshon

Address editorial correspondence only to:

Arthur O. Roberts, P.O. Box 215, Yachats, OR 97498

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ABOUT THIS ISSUE

The lead article in this issue is a paper first presented at the Quaker Theological group that met in November 1998 at Orlando, Florida, in connection with the annual gathering of the American Academy of Religion (AAR) and the Society for Biblical Literature (SBL). The paper, “A Quaker Understanding of Jesus Christ,” written by the editor, provides a theological base for subsequent articles that apply Christian insights to pressing social problems.

Two medical scientists, Kent Thornburg and Miles Edwards, deal with the ethical problems posed by gene therapy in biomedicine. An ethics professor, Phil Smith, adds comment to their paper. On another important moral issue, James Hannon, a sociologist, confronts the demonic nature of capital punishment, on theological rather than pragmatic grounds.

A Friends pastor, John Beck, challenges some of T. Vail Palmer’s assertions about ministry among early Quakers, in the previous issue (#92) in the article “Some Issues from Nineteenth-Century Quakerism.”

Paul Buckley, a member of 57th Street Meeting, in Chicago, corrects an omission in the review of *festschriften*, in the previous issue, by adding a review of the volume in honor of Edwin Bronner.

This issue includes a report of the Quaker Theological Discussion Group meeting last November and an announcement of the forthcoming November meeting in Boston. Book reviews by Nancy Thomas and Ron Mock and a few book notes by the editor complete the issue.

—Arthur O. Roberts
Editor