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Front Matter -- Quaker Religious Thought, no. 92

Arthur O. Roberts

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QUAKER RELIGIOUS THOUGHT

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Cumulative No. 92

Volume 29, No. 2

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January 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.

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ABOUT THIS ISSUE

The major article in this issue is by T. Vail Palmer, Jr., "Some Issues from Nineteenth-Century Quakerism." Palmer believes that today's orthodox, pastoral, Quakers represent a greater departure from early Quakerism than many Gurneyite proponents have asserted. His assessment of the impact of the holiness movement upon Friends differs somewhat from that of Carole Spencer presented in "The American Holiness Movement: Why Did It Captivate Nineteenth-Century Quakers?" (issue #90).

In a short piece, a new contributor, Keith Maddock, adds to our understanding of Thomas Kelly by drawing parallels with Thomas Merton, in respect to prayer and contemplation. Maddock believes both men were visionaries for spiritual renewal in times of transition.

In addition to standard reviews of significant books by Lon Fendall and Irv Brendlinger, two Earlham School of Religion students, Susan Jeffers and Paul Buckley, provide readers of this issue of *Quaker Religious Thought* with a verbal tour of recent *festscriften* honoring various Quaker leaders, under the catchy title "Better than a Plaque."

QUAKER THEOLOGICAL DISCUSSION GROUP SCHEDULED FOR 1999

The QUAKER THEOLOGICAL DISCUSSION GROUP plans to meet in tandem with Friends United Meeting triennial sessions, to be held July 14-18, 1999, on the campus of the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia. The group will meet a full day earlier and will have two or three sessions overlapping FUM workshops. In keeping with the general FUM emphasis, QTDG will focus upon the theme of Friends' ministry. Persons interested in participating should contact *QRT* associate editors, Gayle Beebe or Paul Anderson, or members of the Advisory Council.

As announced in a previous issue, a session of QTDG occurred November 21 in connection with the annual meeting of the AAR/SBL, in Orlando, Florida. About two dozen academic Friends participated, as well as other scholars. Arthur O. Roberts, of George Fox University, read a paper, “Early Quaker Christology,” and Grace Jantzen, of the University of Manchester, England, read a paper, “Margaret Fell and Early Quaker Women.” In a more ecumenical session, New Testament scholars discussed Paul Anderson’s seminal work, “The Christology of the Fourth Gospel.”

—*Arthur O. Roberts*
Editor