

2013

Front Matter -- Quaker Religious Thought, no. 121

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Recommended Citation

Macy, Howard R. (2013) "Front Matter -- Quaker Religious Thought, no. 121," *Quaker Religious Thought*: Vol. 121, Article 1.
Available at: <http://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/qrt/vol121/iss1/1>

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October 2013

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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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Quaker Religious Thought is published two times each year; the Volume numbers were discontinued after Vol. 30 in 2002, continuing with the issue # system only since 2003, beginning with #s 99 & 100.

Send all business and subscription matters to:

Quaker Religious Thought

c/o Phil Smith, Religion Department,

George Fox University, Newberg, OR 97132

Subscription rates:

Individuals/meetings — per year \$16, two years \$30

Students — per year \$12; Institutional libraries — per year \$20

Lifetime subscription \$300-500

European distribution:

Friends Book Centre

Euston Road, London, NW1 2BJ, England

International Standard Serial Number 0033-5088

ABOUT THIS ISSUE

The papers in this issue come from the QTDG session (November, 2012) entitled “Creation Care in the 21st Century.” The question of how to respond to environmental issues becomes increasingly urgent, and it requires us to grow in self-awareness and in effective action. Thinking carefully about it necessarily draws in perspectives from many disciplines – scientific, historical, theological, and more. The four articles here show some of that range.

Corey Beals article is philosophical, exploring the roots and effects of the “disease” of dualism and how it separates us from the world. Dan Brunner’s reflection on the theology of the cross suggests ways to take the ecological crisis seriously, to understand God’s presence as joining the finite and the infinite, and to find the root of engaged hope. Roger Nam’s exegetical paper carefully examines Genesis 1:26-28, looking in detail at the difficult words “have dominion” and “subdue.” Finally, Carole Spencer’s identifies both the roots of Gnosticism and “anti-Gnosticizing” forms of Christian spirituality that can lead to an incarnational spirituality that values and embraces creation.

Jay Miller’s review of a recent book about John Woolman reminds us that Woolman tried to live and witness in a wholistic way, deeply aware of creation as well as of societal structures. Miller’s article, “Nature’s Piercing Voice...,” noted more fully on the Contributors page, explores those themes clearly and more fully.

The last QRT issue that explored these themes was QRT 24:4 #74 (1990), and it is well worth revisiting.

Two upcoming events will interest QRT readers. Both will occur in Baltimore, Maryland the weekend of the national meetings of the Society of Biblical Literature and the American Academy of Religion. The first is a meeting of the Quaker Theological Discussion Group on Friday evening, November 22, 7:00-9:00 p.m. The evening will feature a paper by Ben Pink Dandelion on “The British Quaker Survey 2013: Believing and Belonging within Secularizing Society” and reviews of Paul Anderson’s new book, *Following Jesus: The Heart of Faith and Practice*. We invite all Friends and interested persons to join us for this session. It does not require a professional membership to attend. The meeting will be at the Chesapeake Room at the Marriott Inner Harbor. (For members of SBL/AAR, this is session number M22-2 in the program book.)

The second event is a session on the AAR program entitled “Book Review Session on *The Oxford Handbook of Quaker Studies* (2013)” (program book number A24-204). This will feature reviews and discussion of the substantial new volume about Quakers, edited by Stephen Angell and Ben Pink Dandelion. Many of the participants in this session also actively engage in the work of QTDG. This session will meet on Sunday, 1:00-2:30 p.m., in Baltimore Convention Center 342 (1 West Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD 21201).

Given their significance, we plan to publish the papers from both of these sessions, believing that they will serve our readers well. But, again, for those who can attend in person, these promise to be rewarding opportunities.

— *Howard R. Macy*
Editor