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Front Matter, Quaker Religious Thoughts #128

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QUAKER RELIGIOUS THOUGHT

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Stephen Angell and Pink Dandelion, editors

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Cumulative No. 128

March 2017

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

In recent years, Stephen Angell and “Ben” Pink Dandelion have been collaborating to edit books that will engage Quaker readers and stimulate new research about the Friends movement. As two of our leading teachers and scholars of Quakerism, they created the landmark *Oxford Handbook of Quaker Studies*, which we reviewed in QRT 122 (2014). [This volume and the whole archive of *Quaker Religious Thought* can be found and searched at digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/qrt.] Now through Cambridge University Press they have recently completed *Early Quakers and Their Theological Thought, 1647-1723* (2015). This issue features four reviews of this fine volume, which were presented at the meetings of the Quaker Theological Discussion group in San Antonio, Texas on November 18, 2016, and the editors’ response.

Sometimes QRT includes book reviews to let our readers know about Quaker books they might find valuable. In this issue, Carole Spencer reviews Marcelle Martin’s *Our Life Is Love: The Quaker Spiritual Journey* (San Francisco: Inner Light Books, 2016). I’ve been glad to read this book myself and have found it refreshing, prompting lots of moments to pause and ponder. It’s a keeper at a time when I’m trying to unload groaning shelves of books I might no longer use or read.

In the months since our last issue and the last meetings of the QTDG, Arthur O. Roberts has passed away and we are including a tribute to him here. Arthur was one of the founders and leading contributors to QTDG and QRT, and Paul Anderson rightly points to his enormous contributions among Friends at large. I continue to feel this loss personally, for Arthur was my teacher, mentor, encourager, and friend from my freshman year at George Fox University and in all the years to follow. I am deeply grateful and, through my memories and his writings, I continue to learn from him.

As we were going to press with this issue, we were also deeply saddened to learn that John Punshon, dearly loved British Friend, passed away on March 10, 2017. John has served Friends magnificently far and wide through his teaching, writing, and itinerant ministry.

Jon Kershner has been collaborating with me in editing this and the next issue of QRT. He’s already known to many of our readers as a fine young Quaker scholar and teacher, and I’m grateful for his service.

The next meetings of the Quaker Theological Discussion Group will be on Friday, November 17, 2017, in Boston, Massachusetts, just before the annual meetings of the Society of Biblical Literature and the American Academy of Religion. All interested Friends and others who live in that area are welcome to be a part of those sessions. Further details will be announced in our fall issue.

— *Howard R. Macy*

Editor