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QUAKER RELIGIOUS THOUGHT

Reviews of *Reframing the House: Constructive Feminist
Global Ecclesiology for the Western Evangelical Church*
by Jennifer Buck

<i>Cherice Bock</i>	5
<i>Grace Ji-Sun Kim</i>	12
Response from Author	17
<i>Jennifer Buck</i>	

Reviews of *John Woolman and the Government of Christ:
A Colonial Quaker's Vision for the British Atlantic World*
by Jon R. Kershner

<i>Stephen W. Angell</i>	20
<i>Michael Birkel</i>	26
Response from Author	31
<i>Jon R. Kershner</i>	

Review of *The Cambridge Companion to Quakerism*
by Stephen Angell & Pink Dandelion, eds.

<i>Julie Peyton</i>	37
---------------------------	----

Review of *New Critical Studies of Early Quaker Women,
1650-1800* by Michele Lise Tarter & Catie Gill, eds.

<i>Jay Miller</i>	39
-------------------------	----

Review of *Warner Mifflin: Unflinching Quaker Abolitionist*
by Gary Nash

<i>Mike Heller</i>	45
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Cumulative No. 132
March 2019

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

Some have described the scholarship on Quakers being produced over the last decade or so as a virtual renaissance in Quaker studies. The description is fitting. A wealth of research and reflection have helped to bring the study of Quakerism to academic prominence. At the same time, the increased availability of scholarship on Friends has made it easier for Quakers most anywhere in the world to reflect on the Quaker tradition, and, so, enrich Friends' thought and practice.

I am pleased that *Quaker Religious Thought* plays an important role in this renaissance. Given the active scholarship on subjects of interest to Quakers, the Quaker Theological Discussion Group set aside one of its sessions at its 2018 meeting in Denver, Colorado, for book review panels on two recent books: Jennifer Buck's *Reframing the House: Constructive Feminist Global Ecclesiology for the Western Evangelical Church* (Pickwick Publications, 2016), and my own book, *John Woolman and the Government of Christ: A Colonial Quaker's Vision for the British Atlantic World* (Oxford University Press, 2018). Each book was reviewed by two reviewers and then the author followed with a response. Cherice Bock and Grace Ji-Sun Kim reviewed Buck's *Reframing the House*; Stephen Angell and Michael Birkel reviewed Kershner's *John Woolman and the Government of Christ*. The dialogue represented in those reviews and responses form the bulk of this issue.

But there is more! In addition to these two book review panels, this issue of *Quaker Religious Thought* also features three book reviews on recently released volumes that promise to impact the way Quakers understand their tradition for years to come. Julie Peyton reviewed *The Cambridge Companion to Quakerism* (Cambridge University Press, 2018), Jay Miller reviewed the *New Critical Studies on Early Quaker Women, 1650-1800* (Oxford University Press, 2018), and Michael Heller reviewed Gary Nash's *Warner Mifflin: Unflinching Quaker Abolitionist* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2017).

The five volumes examined in this issue highlight neglected figures and themes in Quaker history; they question previous interpretations of Quakerism, and they represent the energies of many scholars and Friends who are expanding our horizons. I hope you enjoy this issue and, perhaps, these reviews will whet your appetite to learn more.

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— *Jon R. Kershner*

Editor