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Richard Bailey

Maurice Creasey on Worship and Sacrament ..........................  20
Howard R. Macy

Laborers Together with God: Maurice Creasey and the Community of Friends  ...  27
Sally Bruyneel

A Leader with Few Followers: Maurice Creasey and his Theological Vision for the Future of Quakerism ......  35
Jon R. Kershner

Response to Creasey Papers  ............  47
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ABOUT THIS ISSUE

This issue focuses on the theological writings of Maurice Creasey, now available to us through David Johns’ able work of gathering and editing the *Collected Essays of Maurice Creasey* (Edwin Mellen Press, 2011). This volume contains material Creasey wrote for a wide variety of publications, many of them not readily accessible to *Quaker Religious Thought* readers of his time or ours. In effect, then, this issue will introduce Maurice Creasey to many of our readers for the first time.

Maurice Creasey (1912-2004) was a British Friend, and a convinced Friend, who served as Director of Studies at Woodbrooke Quaker Study Center in Birmingham, England from 1953 until his retirement in 1977. As with many convinced Friends, he found the energy and witness of early Friends compelling, and their voices shape his writing. At the same time, Creasey thought Friends should be in conversation with contemporary theological and biblical thinking. This shows both in his study of modern scholarship and in his active participation in the Christian ecumenical dialogue of his time. He wanted Friends’ self-understanding and witness to be fresh and thoughtful. Even though the current environment for theological conversation has changed since Creasey wrote, David Johns has rightly served his conviction that Creasey’s work can continue to inform and challenge our thinking today.

The articles in this issue come from the Quaker Theological Discussion Group meetings in Chicago on November 16, 2012. We plan that the next issue will offer another set of fine papers from that meeting. QTDG advisors are planning for another gathering on Friday afternoon and evening, November 22, 2013, in Baltimore, Maryland (just preceding the annual meetings of the American Academy of Religion and the Society of Biblical Literature). We will announce further details of the QTDG gathering in our next issue and make them available at the QTDG website. All Friends are invited and welcome.

— Howard R. Macy
Editor