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Roberts' "Researching Yorkshire Quaker History: a guide to sources" - Book Review

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ate issues of choice of affiliation and transformation. In some cases, in the collection, ethical dilemmas are not properly encountered. Although a valuable piece of ethnography, the damage inflicted by 'alternative' forms of worship in Sheffield is not faced in Guest's otherwise insightful account of their use and significance. As an outsider, he seems to go too much with the flow of time, and pays too little attention to its ebbing. Elizabet Arweck supplies the only really hard nosed critical approach to the insider/outside debate by setting it well in the context of the politics of representation where distinctions do need to be made. She deals with the critical representation of texts and documentation associated with new religious movements in ways that point to difficulties of contexts of reading, where critical stances are required that do beg questions about the status of the sociologists so involved in their scrutiny. In her account, a critical awareness does generate questions of choice over the status of the accounts, over whether one is to settle for the inside version, or whether the critical distance of the outsider is required.

Issues of ethics and rights representation are sensitively explored in the contributions of Waterhouse and Pearson. Both are concerned with clarifying forms of attachment to the belief systems in question. Pearson clarifies well the ethics of coming as outsider and pretending to be a believer for the purposes of research as against the accounts supplied from the inside by those who do believe. 'Coming out' as an outsider relates to issues of commitment, conversation and transformation and these are well covered in her contribution. There is a bit of bite to her account of reflexivity that gives it a critical edge.

The two Quaker essays come from Collin and Nesbitt. Collins supplies a beautifully written account of the insider/outside in relation to his status as a Quaker. It is written in a way that takes the sting out of the dichotomy. This is the encounter of an ethnographer gone native with few qualms. His account uses ritual in a metaphorical sense and underlines well why Quaker meetings pose particular difficulties of sociological characterisation. His essay complements the efforts of Nesbitt to find a Quaker ethnography. This involves linking the personal religion of the ethnographer to the account supplied. She seeks to clarify what a Quaker belief brings to fieldwork. For her the practice of silence and listening provides an opportunity to open avenues to the typical of a ground that is soft focus, a sense of stridency to clarify their own role in the way use for the way

Highly recommended is a digest of the sources identified by the project, summarising the details available online at http://www.hull.ac.uk/lib/archives/quaker/ by choosing the 'Online databases' option.

The guide covers two major groups of sources: first, the archives of the Religious Society of Friends in Yorkshire, wherever they are deposited; and second other collections held by the three project partners, the universities of Hull, Leeds and York. The survey of the archives of the Religious Society of Friends in Yorkshire is extensive and forms the principal content of the book. Classed under six headings (the records of quarterly, monthly and preparative meetings; First Day and adult schools; other local Quaker organisations; and Friends schools), information about each collection is provided systematically under a standard set of headings. These include the factual information required by anyone wishing to use a particular collection: details of the repository and the collection's reference number, the extent of the collection and the dates it covers. It also includes a digest of the records held in the libraries of the three partner universities, which highlights how extensive and rich those collections are. The volume is rounded off by a list of relevant online databases, lists and indexes, a brief bibliography of standard works on Quaker history, contact details for each of the repositories holding collections covered in the survey, and (of vital importance) a full place and name index.

The book's great value is that it enables researchers interested in any aspect of Yorkshire's Quaker history to identify quickly the scope, content and location of records in which they might be interested. Flicking through the book one is struck not only by the number of Quaker communities in Yorkshire (the records...
of 89 separate preparative meetings are listed) but also by the variety of local Quaker organsiations, particularly during the nineteenth century: essay societies and book clubs, peace associations and branches of the Missionary Helpers' Union and the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavour, for example.

It is not, of course, a full guide to every record concerning Yorkshire Quakers. Records generated by Friends at national level are excluded and only the personal, family and business papers held by the three partner universities are included. Business and personal papers in local record offices and in private hands are not covered. Nevertheless, this is an extremely valuable addition to the literature on Quaker sources, and is a model of succinct and user-friendly guidance. Oh that similar research guides might be compiled for other regions!

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Quaker Heritage Press

The publication of the transcript of the 1678 edition of Barclay's *Apology* by Quaker Heritage Press (QHP) finally brought home to me the immense value of the work of Licia and Larry Kuenning in their commitment to producing affordable and accurate editions of these critically important early Quaker works. Postgraduates and other scholars now have easy access to reliable sources. In particular, the QHP edition of the Apology helps us all avoid using the heavily edited and 'translated' work by Dean Freiday which had become so popular with the Press' description of each. All are hardbound except the Press' description of each. All are hardbound except the

Quakerism today does not know where it came from: most Friends are uninformed or misinformed about what their predecessors believed and practiced. Historians try to explain the past but often color it with their interpretations. Believing that there is no substitute for primary sources, we try to restore some of the vast heritage of Quaker writings of the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries in which modern Friends are illiterate. Our resources permit us to publish only a small portion of these writings; we hope others will take up the challenge to republish other texts.

Below is a list of the works printed by Quaker Heritage Press, complete with the Press' description of each. All are hardbound except the

- Robert Barclay's *Apology for the True Christian Divinity* (original text of 1678, not the 'modern English' edition that has been the only version in print for many years). QHP edition (with Peter D. Sippel) 2002. viii + 536 pp. $24.00.
- *Works of James Nayler*, vol. 1. This is the first of a planned four volumes, the first complete edition of the works of this early Quaker who was second only to

- *The Old Discipline: nineteenth-century Friends' Disciplines in America*. The classic Quaker book of discipline varied little from the end of the eighteenth century until, in some cases, the early twentieth. This volume reprints disciplines of the eight oldest yearly meetings in America and tracks their changes through separations and revisions. QHP edition 1999. iv + 476 pp. $20.00.
- *Works of Isaac Penington*, vol. 1. This republication of Penington's collected works improves on the last edition (1863) by giving dates for most articles, and including a few items that were not in earlier collections. Volume 1 contains Penington's writings from 1658 to about 1660. Also includes J. Benan's 1830 review of Penington's writings, and a paper written by Penington before he became a Quaker ('A Touchstone or Trial of Faith', 1648). QHP edition 1995. vi + 538 pp. $21.00.
- Robert Barclay, *An Epistle of Love and Friendly Advice to the Ambassadors Met at Nimisuien for the Cause of the Present War... and the... Means for... Peace*. QHP edition (with Peter Sippel) 2003. ii + 14 pp. $1.50.

The Kuenning also manage an e-mail forum, Q-Text, for consultation among people engaged in republishing old Quaker texts, either in print or online.

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