

THE JOURNAL OF THE FRIENDS' HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Communications should be addressed to the Editor of the *Journal*
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EDITORIAL

Although this number of the *Journal* is not devoted to the commemoration of the tercentenary of George Fox's death, it is satisfying to have in it two articles bearing on the life of the founder of the Religious Society of Friends. The Friends Historical Society has played some part in the numerous events that have linked the year 1991 with 1691.

Preliminary research showed that Friends in 1891 took little notice of the bicentenary and some members of the Society were sceptical as to any commemoration in 1991. However, in 1987 an *ad hoc* committee was formed, upon which the executive committee of the Friends Historical Society was represented, to consider what appropriate steps might be taken to commemorate Fox's death. At first, enthusiasm generally was not overwhelming but gradually throughout the world-wide family of Quakers the conviction grew that "something should be done".

We cannot here detail the many events that have taken place or will take place throughout this year but members of the Historical Society may wish to be informed of some of the principal occasions.

Christopher Hill delivered lectures on 'George Fox and Millenarianism' at Friends House and in Norwich and also took part in an international Conference held at Lancaster University 25-28 March to mark the tercentenary of George Fox's death and to consider aspects of the history of the Society of Friends. Speakers from USA and USSR as well

as from Great Britain read papers to the Lancaster meeting. Five lectures at Friends House in June and early July deal with Fox and the development of the Society of Friends. David Blamires organized an exhibition 'Quakerism and its Manchester connexions' held in the John Rylands Library from 6 February to 23 May and Leicester Preparative Meeting is arranging a visit to Fenny Drayton. Yearly Meeting and the Summer Gathering at Bradford together with meetings organized by FWCC in the Netherlands, Honduras and Kenya this year expect to make some reference to George Fox's life and work.

In Volume 55, Number 5 of the *Journal* we referred to the number of centenaries (p.129) between 1989 and 1991. The executive committee was able to give some help through the Library to enquirers about the Toleration Act. Hugh Pyper delivered a lecture at Friends House on 5 October 1990 to mark the tercentenary of the death of Robert Barclay. This lecture was also given to Friends in Scotland and we hope that arrangements can be made for its publication.

The death of Dr Arthur Raistrick has deprived the Society of Friends and the Historical Society, of which he was President in 1937, of a respected and well-loved member. He was a pioneer in the study of industrial archaeology and industrial history with an international reputation and the preservation of Ironbridge owes much to his energy and wise guidance in the 1950s and '60s. Dying at the advanced age of 94 he was active almost to the end of his long life.