

## Selected Readings on Quakers and Quakerism \*



### Overview—Who Are Quakers?

Brinton, Howard. *Friends for 350 Years* (2002). This revision of *Friends for 300 Years* is a bit dated, but still a classic explanation of who Quakers are and how we function.

Cooper, Wilmer. *A Living Faith: An Historical and Comparative Study of Quaker Beliefs* (1990). A readable, theological and historical exploration of Quaker beliefs over the full spectrum of contemporary Quakerism.

Cope-Robinson, Lynn. *The Little Quaker Sociology Book* (1995). All the major branches of the Religious Society of Friends are reflected in this lively, intelligent introduction to Quakerism.

Hamm, Thomas. *Quakers in America* (2003). A concise history of the Religious Society of Friends, an introduction to Quaker beliefs and practices, and a vivid picture of the culture and controversies of Friends today.

### Guides for Entry into the Quaker World

Birkel, Michael. *Silence and Witness: The Quaker Tradition* (2004). An introduction to Quaker thought, practice, and spiritual life.

FGC Religious Education Committee. *The Quaker Way* (1998). An easy-to-read faith and practice handbook.

New York Yearly Meeting. *Faith and Practice* (1998). The basic text describing spiritual beliefs and process in New York Yearly Meeting.

Peck, George. *What is Quakerism? A Primer* (1988) A 48-page pamphlet for beginners.

Punshon, John. *Encounter with Silence: Reflections from the Quaker Tradition* (1987). A small, rich, readable book on Quaker worship.

Pym, Jim. *Listening to the Light: How to Bring Quaker Simplicity and Integrity into Our Lives* (1999). An accessible, contemporary introduction to Quakerism by a well-known British Friend.

Smith, Robert Lawrence. *A Quaker Book of Wisdom: Life Lessons in Simplicity, Service and Common Sense* (1998). Personal reflections by a lifelong Friend who came of age in the World War II generation, looking back on his roots in a Quaker family and community.

Willcuts, Jack. *Why Friends Are Friends: Some Core Quaker Convictions* (1984). A helpful introduction to Quaker faith dedicated to young pastors and new Friends.

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\* This list combines recommendations from *QuakerBooks* of FGC (Philadelphia), *Quaker Hill Bookstore* (Richmond, Indiana), and *Quaker Information Center* (Philadelphia), and includes authors affiliated with unprogrammed and pastoral branches of Quakerism. Books not found in local libraries may be obtained from **QuakerBooks of FGC**, Friends General Conference, 1216 Arch Street, 2B, Philadelphia, PA 19107, 1-800-966-4556, [www.QuakerBooks.org](http://www.QuakerBooks.org); or **Quaker Hill Bookstore**, Friends United Meeting, 101 Quaker Hill Drive, Richmond, IN 47374, 1-800-537-8838, [www.QuakerHillBooks.org](http://www.QuakerHillBooks.org).

## Inspirational

- Ambler, Rex, ed. *Truth of the Heart—An Anthology of Selections from George Fox* (2001). Brief selections, arranged by subject, from a man called the founder of Quakerism.
- Birkel, Michael. *A Near Sympathy: The Timeless Quaker Wisdom of John Woolman* (2003). A study of the spiritual practices of a man whose patient non-violence changed the world.
- Bill, J. Brent. *Holy Silence: The Gift of Quaker Spirituality* (2005). A reflection on Quaker use of silence in and beyond worship, written primarily for a non-Quaker audience.
- Kelly, Thomas. *A Testament of Devotion* (1941). A short book of devotional essays, still widely read among Friends.
- Moulton, Phillips, ed. *Journal and Major Essays of John Woolman* (1989). An 18th century Friend records his efforts to follow his Quaker faith, a classic of American and Quaker literature.
- Steere, Douglas. *Prayer and Worship* (1988). A discussion of private and corporate prayer and devotional reading.
- Trueblood, D. Elton. *The People Called Quakers* (1985). An introduction to Quakerism with a lively historical summary, including chapters that depict the Quaker experiment in radical Christianity as a life option for contemporary men and women.
- West, Jessamyn, ed. *Quaker Reader* (1990). Selections from writings of well-known early Friends.

## History

- Bacon, Margaret Hope. *The Quiet Rebels: The Story of Quakers in America* (1985). Light, readable.
- Newman, Daisy. *A Procession of Friends* (1972). Quaker history and principles related as a series of short narratives.
- Punshon, John. *Portrait in Grey: A Short History* (1984). More scholarly than the other two, but still very readable.

## Practice

- Brinton, Howard. *Guide to Quaker Practice* (1955). A classic pamphlet on worship, structure, business, committees, traveling ministry, queries, teaching, social testimonies, and advices, which places practice in the context of belief.
- Sheeran, Michael J. *Beyond Majority Rule* (1996). Also a classic. A Jesuit priest's study of voteless decisions in the Religious Society of Friends.

## Periodicals

- Friends Journal*. 1216 Arch Street, 2A, Philadelphia, PA 19107, (215) 568-1377, [www.FriendsJournal.org](http://www.FriendsJournal.org). Published monthly. Includes a wide array of articles on Quakerism with emphasis on the unprogrammed branch.
- Quaker Life*, 101 Quaker Hill Drive, Richmond IN 47374-1980, (765) 962-7573, [www.fum.org/QL](http://www.fum.org/QL). Published ten times a year by the pastoral branch of Quakerism. Includes articles on Quakerism around the world.