

From the Editor –

Dear *ACSQ* Readers,

Summer's long gone. It ain't July and I know it. You know it. The American people know it. But hey, we're doin' what we can over here at the Couper Press editorial suite. At long last we're **PROUD** to present you with this communal information feast, now with a Germanic twist—and—*the first ever ACSQ CENTERFOLD! Yes, that's right!*

Our issue starts off chastely enough with a truly exciting article by Jeff Bach, former Director of the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies. Back in June of 2010 the Young Center hosted a conference focused on the 1748 *Blutige Schauplatz*, or *Martyr's Mirror*, printed at the Ephrata Cloister and recognized as the largest book published in colonial America. The purpose of the conference was to compare a large number of copies at once and look for printing variations. At the conference it was revealed that a *second* engraved title page for the *Martyr's Mirror* had been produced, but was apparently abandoned. Only two surviving copies are known. Jeff Bach tantalized the audience with a picture of its highly symbolic design. Ever since then I have been hounding Jeff mercilessly to write an article on this important, but virtually unknown, piece of American communal history. We are so thrilled that he has chosen to publish it in our pages. Special thanks to Amos Hoover of the Muddy Creek Farm Library and photographer Gretchen Simmons for making this happen!

The second feature of this issue is the aforementioned **centerfold**. The circumstances of its inclusion are detailed in the text that precedes it. Honestly, subscription rates to periodicals featuring historical intentional communities are in serious decline, so we have chosen to go the centerfold route. We'll see how it pans out. . . Thanks to Ariel Godwin for this!

Thirdly, we're very proud to publish Philip Chivilly's paper on a brewing brouhaha among the Benedictines in mid-nineteenth century America. This was Chivilly's final paper for a history seminar taught at Hamilton College by yours truly and Professor Douglas Ambrose. It vibrantly recounts a fight for the right to party (or at least brew beer) in a Pennsylvania Archabbey.

Lastly, Ohio-based Shaker scholar Richard Spence digs up the dirt on the tragic tale of the cemetery at Watervliet, Ohio.

The October issue is in layout!!! *I promise!*

– Christian Goodwillie