

From the Editor –

This issue features an article on how Shakers dealt with mental illness in their midst, a discussion of developments in contemporary Christian communities, and extensive illustrations of new acquisitions to the communal societies collection at Hamilton College.

Tom Sakmyster returns to the pages of *ACSQ* with an article titled “Lunacy and Dissent Among the Shakers.” He is Walter Langsam Professor of History, Emeritus, at the University of Cincinnati. He is co-editor and contributor to a forthcoming book from the Richard W. Couper Press titled *White Water Village, Ohio: A Shaker Experience, 1823-1916*. He also authored “The Tribulations of the White Water Shakers: The Child Molestation Trial of 1840,” which appeared in the October 2011 issue of *ACSQ*, and *Red Conspirator: J. Peters and the American Communist Party Underground* (2011).

Margie DeWeese-Boyd describes the development of the Nurturing Communities Project among evangelical Christian communitarians. She is an associate professor and coordinator of the sustainable development minor in the department of sociology and social work at Gordon College. She earned an M.A. and Ph.D. in political science from the University of Missouri, St. Louis, among other degrees. She is a life-long student of community, an associate member of the Iona Community, and for the last fourteen years has taught a course called “Community & Sustainability,” in which she takes her students to visit and experience a Bruderhof community.

Hamilton College continues to acquire new materials for its communal societies collection. Some highlights are given in the “Home Notes” section, including a significant gift of Koreshan Unity periodicals.