

From the Editor —

In this issue we present articles on “Black Shaker” minstrels by Robert P. Emlen, and on the medical practice at Harvard Shaker Village by Merry B. Post.

Emlen is well known to Shaker scholars for his writing on Shaker architecture, prints, letters, and furniture; and most recently, about the landscape of Shaker villages. He is particularly renowned for his stunning and groundbreaking work, *Shaker Village Views* (1987). He is university curator and senior lecturer in the department of American civilization at Brown University. He also holds an appointment as lecturer in the history of art and visual culture at the Rhode Island School of Design. His current research examines pictorial representations of Shaker life in the popular illustrated press of nineteenth-century America before the era of photography.

Post holds a masters degree in museum studies from Harvard University. She is a curriculum developer for Fruitlands Museum, where for twelve years she has been an educator on the history of the Shakers and of the Fruitlands commune. She curated an exhibit for the museum called “Wood Matters.” As content developer for an online exhibit, Post helped make primary sources about the history of poor relief in Boston available to Massachusetts high school students. She has over twenty-five years’ experience editing scholarly, college, and medical texts.

Additionally, in this issue we present abstracts of the papers given at the Shaker Seminar, held at Hancock Shaker Village in July 2010. The seminar, which has been co-sponsored by Hancock Shaker Village and Hamilton College Library, will continue under the sole sponsorship of Hancock Shaker Village. Goodwillie’s heavy responsibilities at Hamilton College preclude him from continuing in his role of organizing the seminar. It has been a delight for me personally to have had an active role in the seminar the past four years and meet so many Shaker enthusiasts.

In previous issues of the *Quarterly*, either Christian Goodwillie or I have authored the descriptions of our new acquisitions. For this issue, M. Stephen Miller and Scott De Wolfe have contributed short pieces providing the background on two items the Library recently acquired.

Finally, the second part of Christian Goodwillie’s article, “The Shakers in Eighteenth-Century Newspapers” will be included in a future issue. We needed more time to acquire permissions to publish some images to accompany the text of his article.