

From the Editor —

The lead article in this issue of *ACSQ* is the keynote address Don Pitzer delivered at the Harmony Society Family (Descendants) Reunion at Old Economy Village, Ambridge, Pennsylvania on June 28, 2008. Pitzer is professor emeritus of history and director emeritus of the Center for Communal Studies at the University of Southern Indiana in Evansville, Indiana. For more than forty years he has made the historic Harmonist and Owenite communities of nearby New Harmony the primary focus of his research in communal utopias. He is a founder and first president of the Communal Studies Association and International Communal Studies Association. Pitzer has taught, lectured and published worldwide on New Harmony, communal history, and his theory of developmental communalism. His history of New Harmony is to be published by Indiana University Press as *New Harmony Then and Now* in the summer of 2011.

Darryl Thompson tells the story of how his father recorded the words and notes of a spirit song from Brother Ricardo Beldon. Thompson holds two degrees in American history from the University of New Hampshire. In his younger years he and his family lived with the Canterbury Shakers and this experience profoundly impacted his life. Darryl and his father Bud Thompson were among the consultants used by Ken Burns in his documentary film *The Shakers: Hands to Work. Hearts to God* (Walpole, N.H.: Florentine Films, 1984).

The engraved title page of the *Martyrs Mirror*, printed at Ephrata, is described and interpreted by Jeff Bach, director of the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies at Elizabethtown College. Bach earned his Ph.D. in religion from Duke University with a focus on history of Christianity, specializing in the Anabaptist and Pietist movements. He holds an M.Div. from Bethany Theological Seminary and a B.A. from McPherson College in Kansas. He has studied the Ephrata Cloister extensively as well as other topics in Brethren history.

Finally, on a personal note, I will be retiring from my position at Hamilton College at the end of June. I leave special collections, and particularly the communal societies collection, in the capable hands of Christian Goodwillie. I am pleased to say that I will continue serving as editor of the Richard W. Couper Press and as editor of the *American Communal Societies Quarterly*. I look forward to continuing to work in this capacity with scholars in communal studies.