

From the Editor –

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *American Communal Societies Quarterly*. The ACSQ is published by the newly founded Richard W. Couper Press of the Hamilton College Library. The mission of this quarterly is to publish articles of interest in communal studies and highlight noteworthy items from Hamilton College Library's Communal Societies Collection.

Each issue will contain one to three scholarly articles, along with a reprint of a historical document (usually from the Hamilton College collection) and commentary. There will also be occasional reviews of books, conferences, and events of interest; information about the Communal Societies Collection at Hamilton, including recent acquisitions and unique holdings; and information about publications of the Couper Press.

With this new journal we hope to fill the vacuum left when the *Shaker Quarterly* ceased publication, although our scope is broader than that of the *Shaker Quarterly*. While Shakerism will be a major presence in these pages, we also intend to include material on the whole range of communities reflecting the collections at Hamilton College – Amana, Ephrata, Harmony, House of David, Icaria, Koreshan Unity, Oneida, and other communities.

I hope you will support this new venture by subscribing or requesting that your library subscribe, and by submitting articles for publication.

To obtain information, make comments, or submit manuscripts, contact:

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This issue features articles by David D. Newell and Walter A. Brumm. Newell provides an introduction to William Scales, a shadowy Shaker figure, and reprints an article by Scales published in 1789. Newell is the proprietor of "David D. Newell - Shaker Literature" which specializes in printed and manuscript works by and about the American Shakers and other communal societies.

Brumm reports on an exhibit at Old Economy Village and on two recent Shaker field trips to Ohio and Indiana. Brumm was professor of sociology, California University of Pennsylvania and is now retired. We welcome reports from others on such exhibits, field trips, or conferences.