

## From the Editor –

Welcome to a special expanded issue of *ACSQ* devoted to Spiritualism and the Shakers. The relationship of the Shakers with the Spiritualist Movement of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries is complex and defies definitive treatment in a single issue of *ACSQ*. New insights into the interchange between these groups have, however, been uncovered in the course of research conducted for the larger Shaker bibliography project described in the last issue of *ACSQ* by Randy Ericson. Herein we present a comprehensive (for the moment) bibliography of Shaker-authored and Shaker-related contributions to Spiritualist periodicals compiled by David Newell and Cass Nawrocki. This dynamic duo from Ashfield, Massachusetts, uncovered a veritable treasure trove of material, much of it in the IAPSOP on-line database. This remarkable resource, a project of the International Association for the Preservation of Spiritualist and Occult Periodicals, is the brainchild of Marc Demarest, John Patrick Deveney, and John Buescher. An interview with Demarest about the IAPSOP project precedes the bibliography.

This issue also contains Elizabeth Lowry's article about Amanda Theodosia Jones and her navigation through nineteenth-century America as a female inventor and Spiritualist. Lowry's research sheds fascinating new light on this relatively unknown figure and her ghostly male mentors. We conclude the issue with my own article about the Shakers and their relations with the Eddy brothers and their extended family of Vermont mediums. Examining the Shakers and the Eddys, indeed as only one avenue of the Shaker/Spiritualist experience, elicits as many questions as it answers. The tale, however, is a rollicking adventure that engendered strife with Shaker societies, yet also provided many Shakers with affirmation of the cause to which they consecrated their lives.

Finally, a special thanks to Hamilton College students Yoshi Hill and Lyndsay LaBarge for their help with this issue, and to Department of Special Collections coordinator Mark Tillson for scanning images.

– Christian Goodwillie, guest editor