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From the Editor

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From the Editor –

The 2008 Shaker Seminar, co-sponsored by Hancock Shaker Village and Hamilton College, will be held July 23-27 at Hamilton College in Clinton, N.Y. Speakers will include Mario S. De Pillis, Peter Hoehnle, Glendyne Wergland, Carol Medlicott, Stephen Paterwic, Walter Brumm, Giles Wayland Smith, Jose M. Kozan, and Christian Goodwillie. The Seminar will include side trips to Sodus Bay and the Oneida Community. I will provide an update on the digitization of Shaker material at Hamilton. For information and registration, go to www.hancockshakervillage.org and click on “Program and Events” and then “Shaker Seminar.”

In this issue of *ACSQ* Stephen Paterwic discusses the 1905 peace conference held at New Lebanon. Paterwic is a graduate of Iona College and New York University, and teaches mathematics. He has been studying the Shakers since 1967. A familiar speaker at Shaker events and the author of many articles, he has also consulted for exhibits and a number of books. He contributed chapters to *Shaker Medicinal Herbs* (1998) and *From Shaker Lands and Shaker Hands* (2007). His revision of *The Historical Dictionary of the Shakers* (Scarecrow Press) is scheduled to be published in August 2008. Paterwic is an overseer at Hancock Shaker Village and a corporator and trustee of Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village. Of all his Shaker achievements, however, he most cherishes his friendship with the Shakers at Sabbathday Lake.

Shannon McRae examines the place of earthly pleasure in the context of House of David theology and American culture of that era. She is an associate professor of English at SUNY Fredonia. She grew up in Benton Harbor, Michigan and was always fascinated by the House of David as both a historical reality and source of popular local legends. Her research interests include the modernist movement, mythological reconstructions, non-orthodox spirituality and the relationship between literary and popular culture. This article was originally presented in a slightly different form in October 2007 at the Modernist Studies Association Conference in Long Beach, California for a seminar on the relationship between tourism and desire. It represents a section of her current book project on the convergence of spirituality and tourism in small American towns at the beginning of the twentieth century.

Walter Brumm reports on his visit to Reba Place Fellowship and Jesus People USA in his latest installment of “News and Notes.”