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From the Editor

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From the Editor –

The Shakers not only suffered their share of ridicule from “the world,” but on a number of occasions they were also victims of mob violence. In this issue we reprint an early propaganda piece which accuses the Shakers of acting on behalf of King George III and encourages mob action against them. David D. Newell, of Ashfield, Mass., provides an illuminating introduction in which he discusses the important role this overlooked document played in provoking the hostility the Shakers faced in Harvard, Massachusetts.

Hedwig T. Durnbaugh writes about the 1827 hymnal of the Harmony Society, *Harmonisches Gesangbuch*. A native of Austria, Durnbaugh was educated in Austria and the U.S. She is a member of the Communal Studies Association, the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada, and the Internationale Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Hymnologie. She has published on German hymnody (*The German Hymnody of the Brethren 1720-1903*, from *The Brethren Encyclopedia*, 1986) and translated Scandinavian hymns (found in *Praises Resound: The Hymns of Svein Ellingsen*).

Cathie Winans, the former executive director of The Shaker Historical Society in Shaker Heights, Ohio, writes about the beginning and end of the North Union Shaker community. Winans has been a frequent speaker on the history of Shakerism, the North Union Shakers, the Van Sweringen Brothers, and Shaker Heights. She has spoken at the Shaker Seminar as well as many organizations in northern Ohio. In her article she focuses on Ralph and Laura Russell, who were the founders of North Union, and John and Maria Pilot, whose family typified developments that brought about the community’s closure.

I also want to add a word about the stereoview shown on the front cover and fully described on pages 149-50. In order to include this wonderful image in *ACSQ* I wanted to be able to identify the people and the building depicted, as well as to date it. I turned to Stephen Paterwic and David Newell for assistance and found myself witnessing a fascinating scholarly exchange as the two shared ideas, scoured sources, and came to agreement about the identity of the building and the date of the photograph. Steve was responsible for identifying the people in the image. I am grateful to both Steve and David for their help, and delighted to be able to share the image together with well-researched information about it.