



THE
Wesley Fellowship
Bulletin



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THE WESLEY FELLOWSHIP WAS FOUNDED IN 1985
by Herbert McGonigle & William Parkes
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Rev. Dr Arthur Skevington Wood (1986-1993) & Rev. John Lawson (2000-2003)
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EDITORIAL NOTES & IMPORTANT NEWS

It was very good to be able to report in the last issue of the *Bulletin* on how much the Wesley Fellowship residential holiday/conference, held last autumn at Llandudno, north Wales, had been enjoyed and appreciated by all those members and friends who had been fortunate enough to be there. Beth Eden Christian Guest House had provided comfortable accommodation and kindly helpful staff - the only problem being that it was not

big enough to accommodate all those who would have liked to have been there. The beautiful seaside location and mainly dry and sunny weather – plus the uplifting ministry, challenging preaching and teaching, the acts of worship, inspiring singing and music, and the warm fellowship – all contributed to a much enjoyed and memorable week. Indeed, it is known that a number of persons who arrived at the conference feeling spiritually jaded have found, through God’s grace, beginning with blessings received during the week, that their Christian lives since have been transformed by a closer walk with the Lord. This is the Lord’s doing – and we give Him the praise and glory!

With such a good story to tell, it may seem hard to understand why the WF Executive (after prayer and much deliberation) have concluded that they need to report to members – somewhat reluctantly – that they have made no plans for another residential conference. **Indeed, at the time of writing, apart from the WF regular autumn meeting planned for Saturday 14 September 2013 in Birmingham (details below), the WF Executive have made no arrangements for any further regular or residential Wesley Fellowship meetings.** There are several factors that have brought them to this decision, but the fundamental reason is simply that there appear to be no other persons attending meetings who are available and able to carry on organising this work - and the health issues and age related infirmity facing various Executive members have made it clear that, as a group of leaders, they cannot continue indefinitely to plan and arrange events of the same high quality as has been the custom over the years since the WF was first established more than a quarter of a century ago. The lower numbers attending recent regular meetings has also made it seem unfair to invite speakers to travel long distances to speak at what have tended to be enthusiastic but numerically small gatherings. After the September 2013 regular meeting in Birmingham, the WF Executive will meet to discuss future arrangements; in the meantime, we would value your prayers! If you want to comment on this situation to members of the

Executive, please feel free to do so - ideally by attending our meeting in September!

NEXT MEETING OF THE WESLEY FELLOWSHIP

The next planned meeting of The Wesley Fellowship will be (DV) on **Saturday 14 September 2013 at Zion Church of the Nazarene, Brearley Street, Handsworth, Birmingham, B21 0JJ.**

PROGRAMME

MORNING SESSION (CHAIR: BILL GRAHAM):

1. Main Paper: Presented by Rev Dr Herbert McGonigle, Title: 'John Wesley's Doctrine of the Death of Christ'

AFTERNOON SESSION (CHAIR MR JOHN GIBBY):

2. Shorter Paper: Presented by Rev Tony Tamburello, Title: 'The Wesleys in Wales'
3. Sermon: Preacher, Rev Alan Longworth

Doors open from 10.30 am, ready for a prompt start at 11.00am; lunch break approximately 12.30-1.15pm (drinks will be available at the beginning of the day and at lunch time – but please bring your own food). The meeting should end by 3.30pm. **Please put this date in your diary, invite friends, and plan to be there!** Everyone is welcome and the WF Executive committee hope that the attendance will be bigger than at recent regular meetings.

NOTICE FROM WF TREASURER MR ALISTAIR BARCLAY

The annual membership renewal date for the Wesley Fellowship is normally on April 1st each year. However, due to the unusual circumstances this year regarding uncertainties about membership of the WF, it has been decided that, as long as a member was "fully paid-up" to the 1st April 2013 (for the year 2012-2013), no extra membership fee will be requested this year. If you are not sure if you are "fully paid-up" please contact the WF Treasurer (using the contact details on the front of this *Bulletin*). If you find that you need to "top up" your membership subscription, please use the enclosed membership renewal slip.

NEW & FUTURE WF PUBLICATIONS

It had been hoped to enclose with this mailing of the Summer 2013 *Wesley Fellowship Bulletin* a copy of the newly published Wesley

Fellowship Occasional Paper No. 22 (issued for the year 2013-2014), entitled “*Sent by my Lord, On you I call*”: *Reflections on the Genesis of John Wesley’s Preaching* by William T. Graham, which is based on a paper that was delivered at the 2009 WF residential conference ‘The Wesleys the Word and the Spirit’ held at The Hayes, Swanwick, Derbyshire. Unfortunately, this has been delayed at the printers and, so as not to delay the sending out of this copy of the *Bulletin* any further, it will be distributed free to all fully paid-up members of the WF who attend the WF meeting on 14 September 2013 in Birmingham, and hopefully distributed by post to other “fully paid-up” members with a later edition of the *Bulletin*. In addition, a further WF publication, namely: *William Sangster: Heir of John Wesley?* by Andrew J. Cheatle (which was delivered as a lecture to the WF residential conference held at Llandudno in October 2012) is also at the printers and due to be published later in August 2013; copies of this should also be available for collection free of charge by all “fully paid-up” members at the WF meeting in Birmingham on Saturday 14 September 2013.

In due course (if WF funds permit), it is hoped to publish a number of further manuscripts (generally of papers delivered at previous meetings, or texts received from other sources), and to make these available to “paid-up members” (and others for sale) as “limited editions” during the next year or so. These possible further publications may include some (or all) of the following papers: (a) Paul Taylor: ‘John Wesley’s Influence on William Booth’; (b) Paul Smith: ‘Hester Ann Rogers: A Witness to Revival’; (c) David A. Hull: ‘Wrestling for a Blessing: Personal Experience in the Hymns of Charles Wesley’; (d) Herbert McGonigle: ‘Dr Adam Clarke’s Understanding of Christian Holiness’; and (e) Herbert McGonigle: ‘John Wesley and Scripture’; ‘John Wesley and Salvation’; ‘John Wesley and Christian Holiness’; and ‘John Wesley and Evangelism’. Naturally, the reserve funds of the Wesley Fellowship are not unlimited and so, if you would want to support this WF publishing venture you are invited to do so, perhaps by sending a donation to the Treasurer (which will be noted and used as a guide to who should be sent these later publications or, at least, sent further information if/when funds run low). If you do (or do not) send a donation you might wish to indicate, by using the enclosed “tick list”, which of the proposed papers you would most like to see published. If the consensus turns out to support printing most (or all) of the texts on the list, it might be possible for the WF to publish these selected papers

as a single compendium volume. One thing is certain, the more copies of a given item that are ordered and printed in one go, the less expensive the cost of a single volume of a given size will prove to be to produce. An alternative would be to publish as e-books any texts that are not selected to be printed, and/or simply place them on the Wesley Fellowship website. These are matters that the WF Executive will need to determine in due course after the regular meeting of the Fellowship in Birmingham on Saturday 14 September 2013.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST

1. ‘The Canterbury Dictionary of Hymnology’ Launch Conference, taking place in Bristol at: (a) the New Room (John Wesley's chapel founded 1739, at The Horsefair, Bristol BS1 3JE) on Saturday 19th October, and (b) the Victoria Rooms, University of Bristol on Sunday 20th October 2013, will celebrate the publication of the new *Canterbury Dictionary of Hymnology*, set to be published on-line by Canterbury Press in October 2013. This dictionary has been edited by J.R. Watson (Professor Emeritus, University of Durham) and Emma Hornby (Senior Lecturer in Music, University of Bristol). Its celebrated precursor, *A Dictionary of Hymnology, Setting Forth the Origin and History of Christian Hymns of All Ages and Nations . . . Together with Biographical and Critical Notices of Their Authors and Translators . . .* &c. edited by John Julian was first published in London in 1892, and is still a standard historical reference for early Christian hymns, with more than 40,000 entries. So the new publication will be a significant achievement as the first successful completion of such a comprehensive new Dictionary of Hymnology for over a hundred years. For details see <http://www.bris.ac.uk/arts/birtha/events/hymnology/> ; or for registration contact Sam.Barlow@bristol.ac.uk (Tel: 0117 3317879).

2. The 2014 Manchester Wesley Research Centre annual lecture (tenth in the series) will be given by Professor Emerita Morna D Hooker, at 5pm Tuesday 17 June 2014, Maclagan Chapel, Nazarene Theological College, Dene Road, Didsbury, Manchester, M20 2GU.

3. ‘George Whitefield at 300’: An International Tercentenary Conference at Pembroke College, Oxford, from Wednesday to Friday 25-27 June 2014, to mark the tercentenary of the birth of George Whitefield (1714-1770. For a time in the middle decades of the eighteenth century, George Whitefield was probably the ‘most famous

person in the English speaking world', when as an Anglican clergyman, his itinerant preaching ministry fuelled revival movements on both sides of the Atlantic. He was one of the fathers of Methodism, and a founder of Calvinistic Methodism. However, that celebrity and reputation may have distorted later understandings of him and his writings. This tercentenary presents an opportunity for a major reassessment of Whitefield's life and context. Keynote speakers include: William Gibson on Whitefield and the Church of England; David Ceri Jones on Whitefield and the evangelical revival; Mark Noll on Whitefield's spirituality; and Boyd S. Schlenker on Whitefield's personal life. For more details see www.mwrc.ac.uk/whitefield-conference , or contact Jo Middleton at jmiddleton@brookes.ac.uk

FILM & BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS

David B. McEwan. *Wesley as a Pastoral Theologian: Theological Methodology in John Wesley's Doctrine of Christian Perfection* (Paternoster: Milton Keynes, 2009. pp. xviii. + 251. Paperback, £24.99. ISBN 978-1-84227-621-1).

Starting with the pioneer work of Dr Albert Outler in the 1960s, when he began to investigate the sources behind John Wesley's theology, there has been a growing interest in how Wesley integrated his theological system. This has led to the emergence of what has become known as 'Wesley's quadrilateral', best represented as 'SCRIPTURE, tradition, reason, and experience'. Although this geometric figure has limitations in its usefulness, it does indicate that Wesley read and studied Scripture through the interpretive lens of the other three hermeneutic mediums. Now Dr David McEwan's book focusses attention on Wesley's theological method by analysing his explication of the doctrine of Christian holiness. The choice of this doctrine for examination is well made. Wesley himself declared it was 'the grand depositum' of Methodism and that the movement was raised up by God 'to reform the Church and the nation and to spread scriptural holiness over the land'. Some earlier studies of this doctrine have been landmark works in both biblical and theological analysis, particularly William Sangster's *The Path to Perfection* (1943), and Harald Lindström's *Wesley and Sanctification* (1946). Now Dr McEwan's study, working from what he calls 'the Methodist ethos', looks at Wesley's sanctification teaching in terms of how he used it among his Methodist people. Among other strengths that this investigation has is the way that it demonstrates so clearly, above all else, John Wesley was a pastoral, a *practical*, theologian. He cared about how the Christian life was lived – and in sixty years of ministry he never wavered in his deep conviction that Christians are both called of God, and enabled by God, to live lives of 'inner and outer holiness'; namely:

holiness of heart and life. It was this conviction that led John Wesley to establish the Methodist Societies and encourage the people to join the class meetings, the band meetings, the love feasts, and the like. This book is particularly well researched in the evidence it collects from Wesley's many publications that demonstrate his concern with encouraging the Methodists to live lives of daily holiness and usefulness, and the author argues convincingly that John Wesley's pastoral concern for promoting scriptural holiness grew more emphatic as his ministry progressed. While this involved theological constructions and some particular distinctions and definitions that continue to raise serious questions, Wesley's concern was much more than merely advocating propositional arguments. Wesley preached, taught, published, promoted and defended an understanding of Christian holiness that always focussed on our Lord's Great Commandment: 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart . . . and your neighbour as yourself'. I warmly commend this book for its biblical emphases and particularly for the significant contribution it makes to the current interest in John Wesley's pastoral theology.

Herbert McGonigle¹

Herbert Boyd McGonigle. *Christianity or Deism? : John Wesley's Response to John Taylor's Denial of the Doctrine of Original Sin* (Sheffield: The Wesley Fellowship, 2012. pp. vi. + 34. Illus. Paperback, £4.99. ISBN 13: 978-0-86071-665-5).

Once again we are the beneficiaries of the scholarship and research of Dr Herbert McGonigle. Originally delivered as a paper in June 2005 at the Tyndale Fellowship for Biblical and Theological Research, at Tyndale House, Cambridge, this 34-page booklet has been prepared for publication by William T. Graham. Thanks are expressed to him, and to Paul S. Taylor who gave oversight to the printing process.

Many of us have gaps in our knowledge of Church History and of the discussions and controversies that have arisen over the centuries that have made a significant contribution to the development and understanding of theology. This well researched and readable paper with helpful footnotes (footnotes that not only identify every name mentioned in the text but are also full of links and suggestions for further study) fills such a gap. Far from being dry polemics, *Christianity or Deism?* is about people as well as doctrine - and the illustrations of people and churches, are a welcome addition to the text.

Christianity or Deism? not only traces the arguments between John Wesley and John Taylor, it gives us an insight into the background of Unitarianism. And although the main focus of the paper is Original Sin, many other great themes are introduced - such as: Redemption and Regeneration, the

¹ Editorial note: This review is adapted from a Foreword to this book that Dr McGonigle first wrote in July 2008.

Doctrine of Man, Doctrines of Grace, and the distinction between guilt and sinfulness. But the importance of this publication is for a contemporary reason. In a day when the Church is promoting ministries to the poor, the marginalised, and calling for social justice and compassion – which are certainly Kingdom ministries – *Christianity or Deism?* reminds us that the central and core doctrine of the Faith is Salvation from Sin. This publication, concerning an eighteenth century controversy, is a challenge to us today to take seriously the reality of sin (physical and spiritual) and that a Biblical understanding of the Person of Christ (His humanity and divinity) is central to the atonement.

Colin H. Wood²

John Wood. *A Highway Shall Be There* (Dovercourt, 2012. Privately published by the author, and obtainable from him at 2 Musgrave Close, Dovercourt, Essex, CO12 3UJ. Paperback, Illus., pp. i +13).

The author of this delightful and uplifting little booklet uses a quotation from Isaiah 35:8³ for its title, and informs us that it has been written ‘to honour the memory of [his late friend, and fellow WF member, the] Rev Dr Peter Gentry, whose doctoral thesis was entitled: “A Basis for the Harmonisation of the Wesleyan and Reformed Doctrines of Sanctification”’. However, the Rev. John Wood does more than just that, because, with succinct and carefully arranged quotations (of Jesus, Paul and John from Scripture, and the writings of John and Charles Wesley, together with a sprinkling of apt and helpful anecdotes from a range of persons such as D.L. Moody, John Fletcher, and a ‘Principal at Cliff College’), his book both honours the Lord Jesus Christ whilst explaining in a clear and inviting way the Wesleys’ understanding of holiness and the Doctrine of Christian Perfection. Altogether, a commendable little volume – despite one or two minor typographical blemishes.

***Wesley and Methodist Studies. Volume 5* [eds. William Gibson and Geordan Hammond] (Toronto: [Manchester Wesley Research Centre & Oxford**

² Editor’s note: we are grateful to Revd Colin H. Wood, ThB, MA, LTCL, for taking time to write this perceptive review. Until his retirement in 2011, he had for many years been Pastor (and latterly Associate Pastor) of the Sharpe Memorial Church of the Nazarene, Parkhead, Glasgow, as well as the District Superintendent of the British Isles North District of the Church of the Nazarene, and Chair of the Board of Governors of Nazarene Theological College, Manchester; of late he has been active in other ways, including some part-time lecturing at NTC, as well as co-editing the *Together* magazine, published by the British Isles North & South Districts of the Church of the Nazarene <<http://www.nazarene.org.uk/77-nazarene/72-together-magazine>>

³ ‘And a highway shall be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness ...’.

Centre for Methodism and Church History in association with] Clements Academic, 2013. Pbk. pp. viii + 189. £9.00. ISBN: 978-1-926798-14-1).

The first volume of this excellent annual series was published in 2009. Since then much has changed, and although the 2013 volume, just like the first, contains at its core: five scholarly articles - this latest edition has expanded to become more than twice the size of the first, and now contains a very welcome thirty or so pages devoted to around fifteen in-depth book reviews (contributed by an impressive range of international scholars under the review editorship of Martin Wellings). Amongst the 120 pages devoted to the five scholarly papers is a meticulously researched article 'John Wesley and Overseas Missions: Principles and Practice' by Henry D. Rack (specially revised to mark celebrations this year of the bicentenary of the Methodist Missionary Society, 1813-2013). Other valuable papers for 2013 include: a version of last year's MWRC lecture by David Ceri Jones: "'So much idolized by some, and railed at by others": Towards Understanding George Whitefield'; and 'Martyn Lloyd-Jones and Methodist Spirituality' by Ian Randall. A fascinating 29-page account by David Stark, 'Beyond Perfection: A Redemptive Reading of Retracted Holiness Testimony in John Walsh's Letter to Charles Wesley, 15 August 1762' is a most interesting addition to this 2013 volume. It contains Dr Stark's illuminating annotated transcription of this particularly complex letter (lodged in the Methodist Archives at the John Rylands Library of the University of Manchester). In it Stark argues⁴ that some events in the period 1758 to 1763 became 'decisive for the development of early Methodism', and ultimately helped to shape John Wesley's 'grand depositum' to make it the 'distinguishing soteriological ideal of evangelical Christian perfection'. The only complaint this present reviewer has of this valuable publication is the long frustrating months one had to wait, having pre-paid for a copy online, before it was eventually received in England, presumably from Canada.

'A Heart Set Free: The Life, Ministry and Lyrics of Charles Wesley'; DVD film, colour 101-minutes. (Produced and Directed by T.N. Mohan of Lathika International Film & Entertainments Inc., for the Media Group of Samford University, Birmingham, Alabama, USA. Distributed by Vision Video, Worcester, Pennsylvania, 2007. [NTSC, Region 1 Format, requires a multi-region DVD player]. Prices at Amazon, UK, from around £10.00).

This is an attractive feature-length documentary film biography of Charles Wesley, made on location in Britain and America by the veteran and award winning film maker, T.N. Mohan. It includes attractive views of places

⁴ Dr Stark defends his thesis in more detail in: D.T. Stark, "'The Peculiar Doctrine Committed to Our Trust": Ideal and Identity in the First Wesleyan Holiness Revival, 1758-1763', unpublished PhD dissertation, University of Manchester (Nazarene Theological College), 2011.

connected with the life of Charles, including Epworth, Oxford, Bristol and London - as well as glimpses of Savannah, where Wesley worked during 1736 as secretary to James Oglethorpe, founder of the British colony of Georgia. The detailed and carefully-researched narration recounting Charles Wesley's long life is beautifully illustrated at appropriate points with a splendid range of images from rare printed books, archival manuscript letters, diaries, and journals, as well as a sumptuous selection of portraits, paintings and other pictures. In addition, there are a number of musical renditions accompanying verses from Wesley's hymns, as well as some informative interviews with a range of experts - such as Drs Paul A. Richardson (Assistant Dean of Music Samford University), Andrew Wilson-Dickson (Head of Early Music, Royal Welsh College of Music, Cardiff), Timothy Dudley-Smith (bishop & hymn writer), John R. Tyson (Prof. of Theology Houghton University), and J.R. Watson (Emeritus Prof. of English, University of Durham). This notable DVD was clearly compiled in 2007 to celebrate the tercentenary of Charles Wesley's birth at Epworth in December 1707. If - like me - you somehow managed to miss hearing about this DVD's publication in 2007, I cannot recommend it too highly for anyone (expert or beginner) who has an interest in Charles and his Wesley family contemporaries. I obtained my copy recently from Amazon.

T.A. Noble. *Holy Trinity: Holy People. The Historic Doctrine of Christian Perfecting. Didsbury Lectures Series, 2012 (Eugene, Oregon: Cascade Books, 2013. pp. xvi+242. Paperback. £22.00. ISBN 978-1-62032-720-3).*

John Wesley informs us that, from at least as early as 1729, both he and his brother Charles saw from 'study of the Bible' the 'indispensable necessity' of a life of holiness, and after 1737 they began to see that holiness comes by faith, and realised that men are justified before they are sanctified. John Wesley came to believe that the people called Methodists had been 'chiefly' raised up by God to propagate this doctrine of Scriptural holiness. However, Wesley and his followers and friends found from the beginning a continuing difficulty in trying to adequately define the doctrine (for what seemed to be a 'perfection' that was imperfect) in a way that would avoid any misunderstanding. No one familiar with church history right up to the present day, let alone the history of Methodism, can doubt the continuing interest in this distinctive and important, but often misunderstood holiness doctrine developed and promoted by Wesley. And so the appearance in 2013 of a much needed fresh examination of 'the historic doctrine of Christian perfecting' in a book written by an internationally recognised theologian accomplished in the Wesleyan theological tradition is to be warmly welcomed. With its painstakingly crafted text the book marks a significant milestone in Wesleyan scholarship. The author tells us that through teaching and lectures he has been addressing this topic since at least the 1980s, and the fruit of this long engagement with the subject can be seen in a refined, lively and attractive text which is systematic and scholarly, and yet still

readable and understandable to an interested lay person. Dr Noble is to be congratulated for taking on the challenges inherent for any conservative evangelical theologian prepared to address the sensitive issues of what he describes as the ‘difficult doctrine of Christian “perfection” which [John] Wesley inherited from the church Fathers’. The author points out that ‘it was the warm *fellowship* of what were significantly called Methodist “Societies” that were the matrix of holy love which produced genuine Methodist saints’ - and it is this kind of arresting analysis, and emphasis on the importance of ‘*hagia koinōnia*’ (‘holy communion’), rather than the sometimes ‘individualistic focus’ of much traditional preaching, that makes this book essential reading for anyone seriously interested in understanding what this key Wesleyan doctrine can mean today for Christians, and the ultimate purpose of all mission. A trifling quibble, perhaps, but a *general* index (in addition to just an ‘Index of Names’) would have been helpful, particularly as following a name in the provided ‘Index of Names’ sometimes takes a reader to no more than a tantalisingly brief bibliographical footnote rather than a textual comment. Nevertheless, this is a stimulating book, and we are indebted to Dr Noble for his invigorating and balanced *Trinitarian* theology of holiness that sympathetically develops John Wesley’s classic doctrine of Christian holiness, as set out in his various writings, particularly *A Plain Account*⁵, into a penetrating and approachable critical assessment for today.

Kenneth G.C. Newport and Gareth Lloyd. *The Letters of Charles Wesley: A Critical Edition, with Introduction and Notes. Volume I, 1728-1756* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013. Pp. xxxvi + 472. Illus. Hardback. £140.00. ISBN: 978-0-19-925996-0).

This is the first of two projected volumes that will attempt for the first time to publish a critical edition of all of the surviving letters (excluding ‘journal letters’⁶) from the pen of Charles Wesley (1707-1788), together with editorial notes to enable a reader to place each letter in its historical and literary context and, as far as possible, indicate its original source, provenance and present location. This project when completed will more than double the number of

⁵ First edition *A Plain Account of Christian Perfection, as Believed and Taught by The Rev. Mr John Wesley, from the year 1725 to the year 1765* (Bristol, 1766); rev. & repr. in: J. Wesley, *Works* (ed., Jackson, 1872), xi: 366-446.

⁶ In addition to the personal letters dealt with in the current project being edited by Newport & Lloyd, nearly forty more ‘journal letters’ survive (generally devoted to Charles Wesley’s activities, and usually sent by him to his wife or brother John), and these are currently being worked on by Richard P. Heitzenrater with a view to ‘soon’ being published - see: S.T. Kimbrough, Jr. & K.G.C. Newport, eds., *The Manuscript Journal of the Reverend Charles Wesley, M.A.* (2 vols., Nashville: Kingswood Books, 2007-8), I: xx.

letters of Charles that have hitherto been published – and, more importantly, provide them all, unexpurgated, in a critically and researched form (which only a few of the letters have ever received before), so as to provide a more accurate and intimate glimpse into the world of early Methodism and Charles' own struggles and triumphs as a central figure within it. Unfortunately, Dr Lloyd has informed the present reviewer that there is 'still much work to be done' before we will see the second volume in print (covering the period 1757-1788). Even so, anyone with an interest in Charles Wesley, or his family and the world of early Methodism, or the wider eighteenth-century world in which Wesley lived and worked, is already greatly indebted to the editors for the meticulous and time consuming work they have done in order to get this landmark first volume ready for publication. No student working in the general area of early Methodism can afford to ignore the availability of this indispensable research tool: unfortunately, the hefty purchase price will mean that many will need to resort to a substantial academic library in order to do so. The volume provides readable transcriptions of all the letters included – together with a scholarly apparatus of symbols which enables a reader to interpret with relative ease the complex idiosyncrasies of many of the original manuscripts involved. Although a separate full bibliography would have been of interest, the editors have chosen instead to simply provide a single page of abbreviations of commonly referred to sources, and then supply, alongside each letter in turn, abbreviations of sources referred to, plus a full bibliographical reference of any other text cited for that particular letter. In addition this first volume contains an invaluable 24-page appendix containing brief biographies of people named in the letters, together with three useful separate indexes to pages where are to be found either people, places, or Scriptures mentioned in letters. The editors began their own work on this formidable task in 1995 when they set out to trace world-wide all extant manuscripts of Charles Wesley's letters – although they acknowledge the significant debt they owe to the scholarship, industry and indefatigable archival work of the late Dr Frank Baker who in the 1940s had first conceived and initiated work 'to publish [a] collected edition of Charles Wesley's letters'.⁷ The urgent need for the project is shown by the editors' report that at least ten of the letters they have been able to include were only available to them in transcripts that Baker had the foresight to make at some time during his life when he saw manuscripts that are now probably lost - or, at least, Prof. Newport and Dr Lloyd have not been able to locate, despite an extensive search for them, and any other letters of Charles Wesley, that might be found around the globe in libraries, archives or private collections.

Bill Graham

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⁷ See: Frank Baker, *Charles Wesley As Revealed by His Letters* (The Wesley Historical Society Lectures No. 14. London: The Epworth Press, 1948), iv.