

From scattered to gathered: a message from the library committee

Friends, our library committee (Judith Appleby, Linda Scheiber, James Turner) are trying the concept of a “scattered” library for our Meeting, where the core Quaker texts we have will reside on the shelves at Providence Farm, and other books will be in the homes of individuals.

The catalogue we are now setting up will gather all these in a single list, on LibraryThing, a web resource. You can see what we have so far by visiting <www.librarything.com/catalog/CVQuakers>.

If you are willing to share any of your own books with readers from our Meeting, please let us know so we can include them in the catalogue. We are using the “Comments” column in LibraryThing to tell you where to get the book. There you will see “shelves at Providence Farm” for the books that are on the shelves there, and “ask [firstname lastname]” for books in private home collections. Note that we will include only your name, not your contact information, because the catalogue is publicly available. Borrowers will have to get your contact information from the Meeting. There is a sign-out book available at Providence Farm for loans from the shelves there, and loans from individuals will be by mutual agreement about borrowing, returning, and time length of the loan.

How to list your books in the catalogue

List only the books you are willing to lend. Library committee members will review your list to compare the titles with our collection policy. If any titles are refused, we will let you know why.

Use any *one* of these methods to communicate your list to us, whichever is most convenient for you. Alternately, you can use one method for some books, another for other books, if that’s helpful. One way or another, we just need you to communicate the information to us and we can take it from there:

Method 1: Take a photo of the front cover of each book, clear enough so the information can be used for cataloguing but it doesn’t have to be the best quality. Send the photos to <james.turner@umontreal.ca> (James is managing the catalogue).

Method 2: Make a list including for each book: author, title, publisher, date of publication. Send the list to James.

Method 3: Make a list of the ISBNs (International Standard Book Number), often found on top of a bar code on the outside back cover, often beginning with 978. Sometimes the ISBN is found on the verso of the title page. Older books won’t have one at all. Send the list to James.

The library committee thank you in advance for your help!