

2009 PRIZE ESSAY

“The future of the Religious Society of Friends in Britain”

First prize £1,000 – Second prize £500

What can you say today that will guide Quakerism in Britain over the coming decades?

In 1859, John Stephenson Rowntree won a prize put up by an anonymous donor for his essay on Quakerism past and present. His analysis made a real difference to Quakerism in Britain, setting in motion the process which led to the Manchester Conference in 1895 and the spiritual and practical renewal of the Religious Society. One hundred and fifty years later, *The Friends Quarterly* hopes to open the way to a similar opportunity. To commemorate the 150th anniversary, it is launching a competition to invite Friends and others to set out their analysis of the present state of the Religious Society, and to look forward to its future, in a contemporary version of an essay. The competition is generously supported by the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (JRCT).

The competition is open to all those with informed views about Quakers and Quakerism. We will particularly welcome entries from those aged 35 or under and at least one of the prizes will be awarded to such an entry, provided it meets the threshold to be set by the review panel. Entries may interpret the essay according to modern styles, and will judge the content not the form of each entry. *The Friends Quarterly* will wish to publish the winning entries in an appropriate form.

Full details are on the entry form. The closing date for entries is 30 November 2009. The review panel will be Jennifer Barraclough, (director, Woodbrooke Quaker Studies Centre), Imran Tyabji (JRCT trustee), David Olver (chair of trustees, the Friend Publications Limited) and Tony Stoller (editor, *The Friends Quarterly*). Winning and other significant entrants will be invited to participate, with other Friends, in a seminar at Woodbrooke Quaker Studies Centre, in the summer of 2010.

THE FRIENDS QUARTERLY

What should the entry be about?

The competition is for an analysis of the subject “the future of the Religious Society of Friends in Britain”. Entrants are free within that general topic to range as widely as they wish about the present state of Quakerism, the historical background, and what they think may and should happen in the future. The panel will be looking for a prophetic voice, and a compelling analysis of wide relevance to Quakerism in Britain.

What form may the entries take?

Entries may be in whatever form entrants wish, ranging from formal essays typically of between 5,000 and 10,000 words long, to DVDs, websites or other contemporary media (although no benefit will be gained from novelty of form). They should be sent, together with a completed application form, by post to:

The Friends Quarterly Essay competition, The Friend Publications Limited, Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ.

If entries are submitted as written documents, where it may help the panel the organisers may subsequently request soft copies of entries by email. If the winning entry or entries are submitted in non-printable form, it will be the responsibility of the entrant to provide a core of the entry for suitable publication in *The Friends Quarterly*.

Entries will be judged anonymously, so where possible personal details should be set out only on the application form, which should be attached to the entry.

Who may enter?

The competition is open to all those who have an interest in Quakers and Quakerism. Those who are members of the Religious Society of Friends, or are attenders in good standing, are particularly encouraged to offer their own understanding and insight.

The panel does not assume that an entry will be the product of only one author.

In keeping with the historical background (John Stephenson Rowntree was 25 in 1859), *The Friends Quarterly* is particularly keen to encourage younger essayists. At least one of the two prizes will be awarded to an entrant aged 35 or under, provided that – in the opinion of the panel – there is an entry which reaches their acceptable minimum standards.

What is the closing date?

All entries must be received by the end of the day on Monday 30 November 2009. The panel hopes to announce the result early in 2010. The winning entries will be published in the *The Friends Quarterly*.

How can I find out more information?

The competition will be launched at *The Friends Quarterly* event at Britain Yearly Meeting Gathering in York, where there will be further information available and the opportunity to ask questions. Further queries can be sent to the editor at tony.stoller@thefriend.org

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ENTRY FORM

The Friends Quarterly Essay competition

Name of entrant

Title of entry

Address

Email

Contact telephone number

Local or Area Meeting (where relevant)

Date of birth (if the essay is to be considered in the younger entrants' category)

For office use only

Date received _____

Date acknowledged _____

Reference number _____

Additional soft copies of this form are available from
tony.stoller@thefriend.org

THE FRIENDS QUARTERLY

Rules for *The Friends Quarterly* Essay Competition

1. *The Friends Quarterly* essay competition (“the competition”) is operated under the auspices of The Friends Publications Limited. It is run by *The Friends Quarterly* (FQ).

2. The competition is open to anyone with an interest in Quakers and Quakerism, except trustees, employees, and contractors of the Friends Publications Limited, or their immediate families.

3. Entries must be received by the organisers by the end of Monday 30 November 2009. They should be sent to The Friends Quarterly Essay Competition, The Friend Publications Limited, Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ.

4. Entries should not include the name of the entrant or any other personal identifier. Each entry should be accompanied by one completed application form. If entries are in the form of written documents, soft copies as Word readable documents must be available to the organisers on request. All entries received will be acknowledged by email.

5. Entries may be accompanied by supporting or illustrative material, either as hard copy or in electronic form, but to be fair to all entrants the review panel will only be guided by the main material.

6. Collaborative entries are not excluded, but the review panel will be seeking a single piece of work with its own unity.

7. At their absolute discretion, the panel will consider awarding a first prize of £1,000 and a second prize of £500, or any variation of prizes they may so decide. If possible, at least one prize will be awarded to an entrant who is aged 35 or under at the closing date of the competition, unless the panel at their absolute discretion decide that there is no qualifying entry of a suitable standard.

8. All entries become the copyright of FQ which shall be free to publish them, or not, as it wishes. Any requests for publication elsewhere shall require advance consent of the editor of the FQ, but such consent will not be unreasonably refused.

9. Any questions relating to the competition should be sent to the editor, *The Friends Quarterly*, The Friend Publications Limited, Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ.

10. The decision of the trustees of The Friend Publications Ltd is final on all matters relating to the competition.