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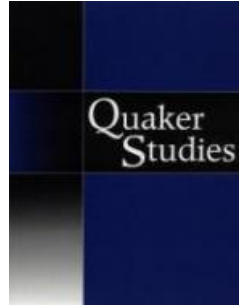
 

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## Reading a Quaker's Book: Elizabeth Ashbridge's Testimony of Quaker Literary Theory

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### Abstract

Elizabeth Ash bridge offers one of the most striking transatlantic spiritual autobiographies of the eighteenth century. While historians and scholars alike have given careful attention to this now-canonical text, no one to date has yet positioned this narrative in the context of the transatlantic Friends' unique literary traditions. Turning to the first generation of Friends, who also cal led themselves 'The Publishers of Truth' , this essay explores the Quakers' mystical relationship to language, prophecy and writing, and their subsequent creation of a New Word. I trace how the Friends created their own literary theory, locating the written word as the site of divine opening. They consequently created a religious print culture, perceiving their literature as a spiritual and political force which had the power to convince, to heal, and to usher in the apocalyptic world. Elizabeth Ashbridge's spiritual autobiography upholds and reflects this tradition in the eighteenth century: framed around her pivotal moment of reading a Quakers' Book, hers is ultimately a text about spiritual literacy and the act of reading - the sacred act which transforms lives. Placing her work in relation to other Quaker women diarists, Spiritual Mothers and Traveling Ministers, I consider how Ashbridge's narrative represents the transatlantic religious reading culture among Friends which intentionally fostered and influenced succeeding generations of readers and writers.

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View Quaker Studies Research Papers on Academia.edu for free. This book examines the nearly 400-year tradition of Quaker engagements with mystical ideas and sources. It provides a fresh assessment of the way tradition and social context can shape a religious community while interplaying with more. The thinkers engaged in this globally-focused, interdisciplinary volume include George Fox, James Nayler, Robert Barclay, Elizabeth Ashbridge, John Woolman, Hannah Whitall Smith, Rufus Jones, Inazo Nitobe, Howard Thurman, and Gideon W. H. Mweresa, among others. Save to Library. by Jon R. Kershner. For early Quakers, a "Testimony" was the result of a comprehensive transformation of one's whole self. Quaker Testimony is one of those mysteries that seems more about what the people do and feel than about the crime and its solution. It reads smoothly enough, with the exception of several lines and thoughts that are repeated too often, and the crime is human enough. Unlike much mystery fiction today, this one has a minimum of blood and gore. The characters are likable, if somewhat dispassionate. Given one or two other reviews by other Quakers, one has to wonder how much of the detail about the life of Friends is depicted accurately in this book. There are bound to be some differences, of course. Read unlimited\* books and audiobooks on the web, iPad, iPhone and Android. Gale Researcher Guide for: Elizabeth Ashbridge and the Quaker Voice of a Colonial Woman. Author Todd. Quaker Runes. Secondly, as a testimony for that despised people, that God has in his great mercy gathered and united by his own blessed Spirit in the holy profession of it; whose fellowship I value above all worldly greatness. Thirdly, in love and honour to the memory of that worthy servant of God, George Fox, the first instrument thereof, and therefore styled by me—The great and blessed apostle of our day. Elizabeth Ashbridge (née Sampson; 1713 – May 16, 1755) was an 18th-century New England Quaker minister and autobiographer born in Cheshire, England. Elizabeth Sampson was born in 1713 to Thomas, a ship surgeon, and Mary Sampson of Middlewich in Cheshire, England. Mary Sampson was a devout member of the Church of England, and raised her daughter and Thomas' two children from a previous marriage in adherence to her faith. Few details are known about Elizabeth's family or her early life, however, her Holy Silence: A Gift of Quaker Spirituality. Holy Silence: A Gift of Quaker Spirituality - Kindle edition by Bill, J. Brent. Download it once and read it on your Kindle device, PC, phones or tablets. A Quaker Book of Wisdom: Life Lessons in Simplicity, Service, and Common Sense by Robert Lawrence Smith My Rating: \*\*\*\*\* 5/5 Stars Why Did I Read? I just finished reading this book for the 2nd time this year (I read VERY few books more than once, so to be deserving of a 2nd read The Quaker testimony on equality began in worship, and it began with the experience that women were called by the Spirit of God to speak in the ministry. Fri Quaker Beliefs True Quotes Best Quotes The Valiant The Good Shepherd Seasons Of Life Going Out Of Business Faith Prayer Badass Women.