

BENJAMIN FURLY 1646-1714: A QUAKER MERCHANT AND HIS MILIEU

EDITED BY
SARAH HUTTON

Benjamin Furly (1636-1714) was a remarkable individual, whose interests and activities are not captured by the designations 'Quaker' and 'merchant'. The proud owner of one of the largest private libraries of the late seventeenth century, Furly played a key role as facilitator in the intellectual and political life of his time. His antipathy to authoritarianism in all its forms underpinned his staunch advocacy of religious freedom and support for radical political causes. The visitors to Furly's house in Rotterdam make an impressive list of religious, philosophical and political names. His network friends and acquaintances included John Locke, Pierre Bayle, William Penn, Jean LeClerc, Pierre Bayle, John Toland, Anthony Ashley Cooper, first Earl of Shaftesbury. This collection of articles by a group of distinguished scholars brings together the diverse facets of Furly's activities: the merchant, the Quaker, the supporter of radical religious and political causes, the book collector. The volume also includes a number of documents relating to the Quaker controversy about 'hat honour', in which Furly defended the radical Quaker leader, John Perrot. Edited by Stefan Villani, most of these are published here for the first time, and shed light on the European dimension of seventeenth-century Quakerism.

La miscellanea prende in esame i molteplici interessi e le attività del mercante quacchero Benjamin Furly (1636-1714). Collezionista di libri, difensore della libertà religiosa, politico radicale, Furly fu al centro di una rete di relazioni che includeva John Locke, Anthony Ashley Cooper, Pierre Bayle, William Penn e John Toland. Sono inoltre pubblicati, per la prima volta, alcuni testi relativi alla celebre «hat controversy» in cui Furly prese le difese del quacchero radicale John Perrot.

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