

Quakers and Science

Are religion and science inherently incompatible? On the contrary, some historians argue that Quaker attitudes toward the natural world as a divine creation has led to a disproportionate number of Quakers in the scientific community. Scientists such as Arthur Stanley Eddington and John Dalton acknowledged the connection between their Quakerism and their science. Kathleen Lonsdale and Victor Paschkis have not only contributed to scientific study but have been activists, recognizing that scientists have a responsibility to society.

FHL holds the papers of Graceanna Lewis, a natural scientist and social reformer living in Media, Pa.; publications by Eddington and Lonsdale; and papers by many Friends who were involved in observing and writing about our planet.



If you are interested in reading more about Quakerism and science, as well as individual Quaker scientists, please see our bibliography on the topic: bit.ly/32qQWyn

Photo: Arthur Stanley Eddington, solar eclipse (detail), May 29, 1919

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