

AN ILLUSTRATED QUARTERLY  
**BLAKE**

Q U E R Y

## A Projected New Edition of the Gilchrist-Todd Life of Blake

Ruthven Todd

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It is probable that the person who did the drawings also mounted them in the album, or at least that this was done at much the same time. Evidence for this lies in the second drawing for The Little Black Boy which has been cut rather close (bottom left) and extended in matching water-colour on the mount itself. Incidentally Thomas Butts commissioned Blake to make water-colour Biblical illustrations and someone in the Butts family mounted these, wrote appropriate texts underneath, drew frames around the pictures, and in some cases extended the painted surface to touch the frames.

Mr. Butlin gave it as his opinion that this album is 'absolutely fascinating' and calls for a considerable amount of research. He suggested, as a line to follow, that the various copies of the twin edition of Songs of Innocence and Experience are bound up in different orders and the colouring varies. Is it possible to locate an original copy which interlocks with the order and colouring of the drawings in this album, and if so, does it, perhaps, stem from the Linnell or Butts families?

## 2. A PROJECTED NEW EDITION OF THE GILCHRIST-TODD LIFE OF BLAKE

Mr. Ruthven Todd writes that he is planning to revise and augment his edition of Gilchrist's Life, originally published by Everyman's Library in 1942. The extensive notes to this edition are, even after 25 years, invaluable, and now Mr. Todd proposes to bring them up-to-date. He writes:

What I would like to do is produce, at first, a hard cover edition which could then be reproduced for cheaper sale. I have also come to an agreement with J.M. Dent so that I can buy the electrotypes of the Virgil woodcuts which, by a private wangle between myself and the Linnell family, were made directly from the blocks in the BM, so that they are not reproductions, but as near to the originals as one can get. Then, too, only Keynes and myself have the right to ask for electrotypes of the Songs which I rediscovered and which are in the BM. I think that these, printed on decent paper, should almost in themselves attract a hard-cover public.

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I quite realize that I, unaided, cannot hope to make the book as good as it should be, but I am quite sure that there must be many scholars who have thought of extra notes and corrections, and who, in return for being given full credit, would be willing to help me produce a book which would not again need revising for many years. I would welcome all notes, corrections, and so on, and in every case the donor would receive full credit for his/her help. I would like, for instance, not only to acknowledge all corrections, but also, in the case of new notes, to sign them by the names of the contributors.

Mr. Todd's address is: Ca'n Bielo, Galilea, Mallorca, Spain.