N E W S

Golgonooza

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Bronze life masks of Blake, cast by Aethelred Eldridge, are hung in the Church. These and plaster casts are available by commission on request.

1976 MLA Blake Seminar

Plans have changed for the 1976 seminar, scheduled for New York in December. Irene Tayler, of the City University of New York, will lead a discussion of Blake's Laocoon. Brief papers may be sent to Prof. Tayler at the Graduate School and University Center, City University of New York, Ph.D. Program in English, 33 West 42 Street, New York, N.Y. 10036. Papers might consider Blake's drawing, the engraving, or Blake's relationship to the larger Romantic interest in the Laocoon.

Santa Barbara Conference

The conference on Blake in the Art of His Time was held at the Miramar Hotel in Santa Barbara, California, 2-5 March 1976, led by Donald Pearce of the English Department of the University of California, Santa Barbara, and Corlette Walker of the Art Department. The conference was sponsored by the University. Abstracts of papers presented at the conference will be printed in the fall issue of the Newsletter.

Everett Frost's Island on KPFK

A cast of singers and musicians assembled recently to do Everett Frost's radio adaptation of Blake's Island in the Moon, produced and directed by Frost, with music, including twenty-one songs, by Edward Cansino, and broadcast by KPFK-FM of Los Angeles. Frost, on leave from teaching English at California State at Fresno, was assisted by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Golgonooza

Aethelred and Alexandra Eldridge of Golgonooza, Primal Church of the Blake Revival, The Spiritual Fourfold London; In America; Near the Ohio; At the foot of Mount Nebo--the asylum for the redemption of Art--sent us a couple of packages recently, with this note:

We have begun work on a large half-timber building, a Scriptorium on the grounds of Golgonooza: Church & School of Wm. Blake. This will house a bindery and printery for the production of original works inspired by Wm. Blake. Ten volunteers have spent months gathering stone and tearing down a 3-story barn for use of its beams & boards. The foundation has at last been started. All the hand labour has thus far been voluntary. But building materials are expensive. We are in great need of contributions, no matter how small. Being a non-profit organization, all gifts will be tax deductible. We "labour incessant . . . ," renewing the lost Arts of the ancients.

Golgonooza
R. R. #1
Millfield, Ohio 45761
A wall on the grounds of Golgonooza is graced by winged plaster masks of Blake.

Golgonooza, the Church & School of Wm. Blake, was founded in 1969 at the foot of Mt. Nebo, in Athens, Ohio, by Aetheired & Alexandra Eldridge. Meetings were held in their home until 30 acres and a derelict log cabin were purchased for this purpose in 1973.
Some of the members, all of whom are artists in the recognition of the supremacy of the Imagination, gather after the Sunday morning oration.

Sunday morning services begin with the recitation of the works of Wm. Blake and from there, Aethelred Eldridge begins his unique & poetic renderings of the prophecies of Wm. Blake.

A newly built half-timber out-house adds to the old world atmosphere at the foot of Mt. Nebo. Acres of sweeping green fields provide space for outdoor theatrical events and much lawn mowing.

Inside the Church of Wm. Blake embroidered banners, paintings on doors and beams add a richness to the rustic simplicity of the brick floor and log walls. This past spring paintings, weavings, stained glass, handmade furniture, stone & wood sculptures, made by members of the Church, were displayed in the Church for Golgonooza's first Art Exhibition.
Aethelred Eldridge, Tongue of the Church and master builder, has nearly completed the restoration of the 130-year-old cabin. Doors, steps, porches & window frames have all been artfully rebuilt.

Another historic log cabin, moved from 20 miles away, goes up on the grounds of Golgonooza.

Golgonooza's version of the Liberty Bell to "ring in the fiery Son of Man" is an historic bronze bell that was floated down the Ohio River from a seminary in Pittsburgh, Pa. It is rung during pageants, orations, baptisms, and weddings held on the Church's grassy fields.