Fitzwilliam Withdraws Blake

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NEWSLETTER

MARK SCHORER 1908-1977

Contributions in memory of Mark Schorer, who died 12 August, may be made to The School of American Ballet, 144 West 66 Street, New York NY.

BLAKE AT THE TATE

After a prospect of further delays owing to yet another hold-up over the Tate Gallery's new extension, it has been decided to hold the long-promised Blake exhibition in the old exhibition galleries next spring. The tentative dates are 8 March to 21 May 1978. Very roughly 250 works will be exhibited, selected less for scholarly interest than to stress Blake's achievement in the visual arts.

MARTIN BUTLIN, KEEPER OF THE BRITISH COLLECTION, TATE GALLERY, LONDON.

"WARRING ANGELS"

The drawing titled "Warring Angels," reported on by Frances Carey in this issue, pp. 116-19, has been acquired by the Bolton Art Gallery in Lancashire.

MRS. BLAKE & FAERIE QUEENE

The May issue of Apollo—a special issue on Petworth—reported the discovery among the archives of a letter from Mrs. Blake discussing the coloring of The Characters of Spenser's Faerie Queene.

BLAKE ON THAMES TV

Thames Television has announced plans for "a celebration of the poetry and painting of Blake to mark the 150th anniversary of his death," according to Lester Clark, of their division of Features in Education & Religion.

CORRECTION

In Blake 41 we summarized the contents of an article from the Times Literary Supplement, "A Blake Discovery," outlining the new Blake acquisitions made by the Pierpont Morgan Library of New York. On 11 March 1977 TLS ran a correction as follows: "The article ... was written by Thomas V. Lange and Charles Ryskamp. Mr Lange is Assistant Curator of Printed Books at the Pierpont Morgan Library, New York, of which Mr Ryskamp is Director. ..."

THE SONG OF MILOS

Alan Rowlands, of Newport, England, has sent us a copy of his illustrated booklet titled The Song of Milos, consisting of halftone reproductions of twelve drawings and line shots of lithographs with illustrations accompanying poetry. The booklet is available for £1.65 from C. M. Rowlands, Salters Hall Cottage, Salters Lane, Newport, SALOP, England. The reproductions are also available as lithographs in various combinations and in a range of prices. Rowlands states that "the influences which motivated Blake have, in a very much more minor key, influenced my own work. At this point I regret the similarity ends as my admiration for Blake far exceeds my own aspirations and my abilities likewise are of a diminutive quality. However, it may be encouraging to see that tradition in this area still prevails and, although freely adapted in 'The Song of Milos,' I firmly believe myth and symbol is still its best vehicle."

THE SONG OF MILOS

by

Alan Rowlands

FITZWILLIAM WITHDRAWNS BLAKE

P. Woudhuysen, Keeper, Department of Manuscripts & Printed Books at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, has written an appeal to Blake readers as follows:

FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM

Cambridge CB2 1RF England

I wonder whether I might address, through your Blake Quarterly, an appeal for financial help to all Blake scholars who may, or who may not as yet, have studied and enjoyed the large and important Blake collection in my Department in the Museum.

All of our original Blake material, and many of the early facsimiles like Muir's, are now, after many years of constant use, in an extremely fragile and sorry condition. The bindings are very worn, the gatherings are loose, the paper torn, dirty, and extremely acid. They are all in urgent need of repair and conservation.

At present, however reluctant a decision this was to make, all the originals have been withdrawn from use and will remain so until we can find the funds to have them repaired.
The estimated cost for rebinding, paper repair, deacidification, etc., is ca. £1500 ($2500), which is totally beyond the Museum's means and resources in the present difficult financial climate.

I should be grateful if you would consider publishing this letter... about our problem... in the hope that the combined generosity of all Blake scholars and lovers of his work will enable us to have our collection restored to its former glory, and once again available to scholars and the general public.

The address of the Fitzwilliam Museum is Cambridge CB2 1RB England.

WORKS BY & ABOUT BLAKE

Edwin C. Epps, Jr., has issued a second list of "A Fine Group of Works by and about William Blake, Poet, Printer, Prophet," dated 16 May 1977, and including ten items for sale. Address Epps at Antiquarian Books and Prints, P.O. Box 6444, Columbia, South Carolina 29260.

GOLGONOOGAA BESTIARY

Animal Forms of Wisdom: A William Blake Bestiary is available for $50 from Alexandra Eldridge, Golgonooza, R.R. #1, Millfield, Ohio 45761. The edition is limited to 35 copies, handbound in quarter calf and Nideggen paper. There are 25 pages, silk-screen on rag paper, illuminated and hand-colored by the author.

PROSE STUDIES 1800-1900

Under the auspices of the Victorian Studies Centre at the University of Leicester, Philip Dodd and J. C. Hillson will soon be editing a new journal devoted to the study of non-fictional prose between 1800 and 1900, under the title *Prose Studies* (PS). According to the editors, their journal will "provide a much-needed forum for genuinely interdisciplinary discourse," with one major aim being "to evolve, through the elucidation and discussion of individual works... a distinctive critical vocabulary for the analysis of non-fictional prose..." There will also be a yearly annotated bibliography and reviews of current work in the field. There are forthcoming articles by David DeLaura on Matthew Arnold; Elizabeth Strode on William Morris' lectures; and A. W. Bellringer on Pater.

The journal will appear three times a year, with the first number to be published probably in September 1977 in conjunction with a Ruskin conference in Leicester. Subscription rates are as follows: individuals, £2.50 or $4.50 per year; institutions, £3.50 or $6.50. Address the editors, Department of English, University of Leicester, Leicester LE1 7RH England.