NEWS

Gunnar Harding

Blake/An Illustrated Quarterly, Volume 12, Issue 2, Fall 1978, p. 159
Christine Gallant, "Blake's Presence as First-Person Voice in Jerusalem"  
Blake is concerned with the unification of the Self—a Self that includes the unconscious, or Chaos—and he explores the unconscious throughout his poetry. He strongly desires his reader to understand this hidden part of the Self as well, as he leads the reader of Jerusalem through day-by-day experiences of "the Chaos of Satan." We can see this in Blake's use of the first-person voice, an unusual tense for him (save in Milton). Jung helps to understand the use of this tense as he analyzes the authoritative voice appearing in dreams, a voice seeming to come from outside the dream's context. He says that such a voice may be either a spokesman of the unconscious for the dreamer or (very rarely) a messenger from "the supraordinate Self." The first-person voice functions in Jerusalem as does this dream-voice. Blake's use of this tense reveals that in these passages he saw himself as such a spokesman, both for the unconscious and for the unified center of the total personality which is the Self.

John H. Sutherland, "Some Blake Self-Images in Milton and Jerusalem"  
The term "self-images" is used to refer to pictures in which Blake reveals fairly directly something of his own inward state. Five plates from Milton (I, 32, 37, 40, 47) and three plates from Jerusalem (I, 6, 100) are discussed (plates numbered here as in The Illuminated Blake). It is argued that some of these are pictures connected with peak experiences in Blake's life. A pattern of spiritual autobiography is suggested, and the question is raised as to whether this pattern directly reflects Blake's perception of his own life, or whether the pattern is a partial fiction designed to enhance the structures of his two works. Particular attention is given to I, 100, which is taken as an interesting vision, by Blake, of his own spiritual state late in life.

MLA BLAKE SEMINAR 1979  
W. J. T. Mitchell of the University of Chicago will be discussion leader for the 1979 Special Session on Blake at the MLA Annual Meeting. The topic will be "Blake on Language and Writing." Those interested in being on a panel should send Mitchell a paper of not more than fifteen pages by 30 March 1979 at the latest, sooner if possible. (This Blake session should not be confused with the one scheduled for MLA December 1978.)

GUNNAR HARDING  
"Song of Innocence" and "An Evening at Home with William Blake" (poems published in the summer 1978 issue) originally appeared in Balladeer by Gunnar Harding, published by Wahlstrom & Widstrand (Stockholm, 1975); the poems were published in Blake with the kind permission of the author and publisher.