

AN ILLUSTRATED QUARTERLY
BLAKE

N E W S

Blake Purchase

Martin Butlin

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NEWSLETTER

BLAKE IN NEW YORK

Skidmore and Union Colleges will co-host a conference, "With Corroding Fires: William Blake as Poet, Printmaker, and Painter," to be held 9 and 10 May 1980. The conference will emphasize Blake's great range of techniques, interests, and accomplishments as poet, printmaker, illustrator, book designer, and painter. The four major speakers will be Robert Gleckner, Jean Hagstrum, Karl Kroeber, and Robert Rosenblum. Their major talks will be followed by panel discussions conducted by students, faculty and visiting scholars. In addition there will be an ambitious slide presentation, a public program, "William Blake: Poet and Singer," which will include dance, speaking voice, soloist and choral interpretations of selections from the illuminated books, a panel discussion on the problems of "Teaching Art and Poetry and Blake," and a demonstration and workshops on printmaking given by Joseph Viscomi. An exhibition that will include a full representative selection of original prints, paintings and drawings will accompany the symposium.

BLAKE PURCHASE

The Tate Gallery has recently purchased Blake's late tempera painting on a panel of "Winter." This is one of the pair of pictures illustrating William Cowper's poem *The Task* that were painted for Cowper's cousin, the Rev. John Johnson, to be set each side of his fireplace. A third painting, a landscape of "Olney Bridge," ran across the top, but has been destroyed. These pictures were almost certainly painted in the early 1820s, following the rebuilding of Johnson's rectory at Yaxham, Norfolk, in 1820-21, and remained in the possession of Johnson's descendants until their recent sale, having been on loan to the Tate Gallery for the last few years. When sold at Sotheby's on 18 July 1979, "Winter" fetched £30,000 while the companion "Evening" fetched £21,000. Both were bought by Thos. Agnew & Sons, Ltd., the first for the Tate Gallery, the second for a private American collector.

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

Winter, c. 1820-25. Tempera on pine, 90.2 x 29.7 cm.
The Tate Gallery.

