

AN ILLUSTRATED QUARTERLY
BLAKE

N E W S

Prose Studies

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MILTON AND THE ROMANTICS

The English Department of Northeastern University is pleased to announce renewed publication of the journal *Milton and the Romantics*. The journal, originally under the editorship of Luther Scales at Georgia Southern College, will resume publication under the editorship of Stuart Peterfreund and Arthur J. Weitzman. The appearance of Volume Four is scheduled for January 1980. Thereafter both title and format will be changed.

Some of the changes in format will be evident in the first issue. These include consolidating the previous editorial and advisory boards to one editorial board, expanded from seven to eight members. In addition, content will be expanded to 32 pages with hopes of doubling that in future volumes. The first number will be issued on an annual basis and thereafter twice a year.

The scope of future volumes will be broadened to include all aspects of the Romantic sense of the past. The first issue will mark a transition from the relationship of the Romantics to Milton to the relationship of Romanticism to the idea of the past generally. After the January 1980 issue, the journal will expand its focus to include the psychological and linguistic as well as the historical past. In keeping with plans to broaden the scope of the journal, the attention to English Romanticism will be expanded to encompass European Romanticism.

The subscription cost for *Milton and the Romantics* is \$2.00 per issue.

PROSE STUDIES

Prose Studies, a journal devoted to the study of the non-fiction of all periods, is planning a special issue on travel literature. Articles and notes are welcome on individual works, on the travel literature of a particular period, on the historical determinants of such writing, and on the forms and conventions of the genre. Early suggestions about topics are welcome. The special number will be subsequently bound in book form and published by Frank Cass & Co. Ltd. Contributions should be sent by 3 November 1981 to The Editor, *Prose Studies*, Department of English, University of Leicester, Leicester, LE1 7RH, England.

BLAKE AT LIU

The theme of the Writers Conference at Long Island University (Brooklyn Center) 8-10 January 1981 will be "Visionary Literature," with the discussion focusing chiefly on contemporary American writing. But there will be a panel discussion of "The New Jerusalem: Blake & Prophecy." Morris Eaves, University of New Mexico, and David V. Erdman, SUNY Stony Brook, are among those who will serve on the panel.

BLAKE AT MLA 1981

Anyone interested in participating in a proposed MLA Special Session (1981, New York) on "Blake and the Art of His Time" is invited to send a proposal to Stephen C. Behrendt, Dept. of English, University of Nebraska, 330 Andrews Hall, Lincoln, NE, 68588. Complete papers will have to arrive by 1 March 1981, but proposals, abstracts or drafts will be welcome at any time.

The idea for such a session is based on a sense that many Blakeans are still more immediately familiar with Blake's poetry than with his pictures and their relation to an artistic tradition and milieu with which Blake had much more than just a nodding acquaintance. Therefore, the session's tentative focus will be the manner in which Blake's verbal and visual work reflects, employs, or comments upon the styles, techniques, and materials particularly of Blake's contemporaries. Possible topics might include real or apparent "borrowings," the relation of commercial book illustration to Blake's work, and new assessments of Blake's place within the art of his time.

REVIEW EDITOR FOR BLAKE

We are proud to announce the appointment of a Review Editor for *Blake*: Nelson Hilton, Ph.D., University of California, Santa Cruz, 1979, wrote his dissertation on "Revelation in the Litteral Expression: Blake's Polysemous Words," and he is now Assistant Professor of English at the University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602.

BLAKE SLIDES

A selection of slides of Blake's work from the Blake exhibition at the Tate Gallery, London, in 1978, is available from Miniature Gallery, 60 Rushett Close, Long Ditton, Surrey KT7 0UT, England. The slides are keyed to the exhibition catalogue. The price as of March 1979 was £30 (+ VAT for British purchasers) or \$64 (+ postage).

ABEL PRODUCTION

The Edinburgh Festival Fringe Programme, included the premiere of William Blake's *The Ghost of Abel*. The half-hour production ran three shows a day from 25-30 August 1980. The play was performed by Marlborough College. The announcement declares that "*The Ghost of Abel, A Revelation in the Visions of Jehovah Seen by WILLIAM BLAKE*, is Blake's only known complete drama. It is his last illuminated work, created in 1822. Apparently, it has never been performed. He wrote this brief, intense play about forgiveness in reply to Byron's *Cain: A Mystery*. Part of that drama will be included in this half-hour programme, with extracts from Genesis 4 and Coleridge's *The Wanderings of Cain*."