Blake Docudrama

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NEWSLETTER

BLAKE SYMPOSIUM

The McMaster Association for 18th Century Studies is holding a one-day symposium on "William Blake and Revolutionary Europe" on 14 October 1983. The speakers will be David V. Erdman, David Irwin, Jean Hagstrum, James K. Hopkins, Karen Mulhollem and Alicia Ostriker. The conference will evaluate Blake's response to the various "revolutions" which took place during the last part of the eighteenth century. The participants will discuss Blake and politics, women, sexuality, millenarianism and war. Information about the conference may be obtained from Professor J. King, Department of English, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8S 4L9.

MORGAN LIBRARY EXHIBITION

Twenty-one watercolor illustrations of The Book of Job, the Pickering Manuscript, twelve original designs for Milton's L'Allegro and Il Penseroso, and illuminated books such as Songs of Innocence and of Experience, America, The First Book of Urizen, and Europe were among the works by Blake on view at the Pierpont Morgan Library from 18 February through 31 March 1983.

BLAKE DOCUDRAMA

Global Concepts/The Media Group, Inc. has produced a half-hour television docudrama on Blake: The Marriage of Heaven and Hell for the Swedenborg Foundation of New York. According to a press release from Global Concepts, "the final script is set in 1827, during Blake's last days, painting his final version of the engraving of Urizen spanning the heavens with a giant compass. From the microcosm of the simple rooms shared by William and Catherine Blake, the action expands into a series of visions of what Catherine is reported to have deemed their 'children with bright fiery wings.'" Blake is played by George Rose, Catherine by Anne Baxter, Urizen by Joseph C. Davies, and the Devil by Captain Haggerty.

The film is available free on loan from the Swedenborg Foundation, which has also sponsored other films that might interest Blake readers. For information and a catalogue, write Darrell Ruhl, Executive Director, Swedenborg Foundation, 139 E. 23rd St., New York, NY 10010.