A Checklist of Blake Publications, June ’67 to May ’68

Morton D. Paley, Karen Walowit

Blake/An Illustrated Quarterly, Volume 2, Issue 1, June 1, 1968, pp. 6-8, 14
the "mighty hunter," Death, on Page 70 and of the Thunderer on Page 80; the heavy, wavy eyebrows span the brow of the figure of the Sun on Page 95; and throughout the illustrations, the sickle consistently symbolizes the destructions of Time. Perhaps this drawing was intended to illustrate a passage from Young, possibly the passage in Night III in which even the Sun, seeing the dying Narcissa, "(As if the sun could envy) check'd his beam, Denied his wonted succour," and cruelly helped Death seize her. Certainly, the size of this drawing would make it more suitable for the Night Thoughts edition than for Jerusalem. Blake's drawing measures 12 5/16" x 9 7/8"; the Jerusalem full-plate pages measure only 6 5/8" x 8 3/4" (and this drawing could only have been a half-plate); while the Night Thoughts pages measure 12 1/4" x 21 1/2". Blake's drawing would fit the top of a Night Thoughts page almost perfectly. Since this drawing, both in style and content, so closely resembles the Night Thoughts illustrations (both the sketches in the British Museum and the published engravings), I would hesitate to accept a date as late as Cummings' "c. 1815-1818." A much earlier date, perhaps c. 1795-1797 when Blake was illustrating Young's poem, seems more probable.

**********************

A Checklist of Blake Publications, June '67 to May '68

Readers are invited to send in any items we missed for inclusion next issue. Annotations, unless otherwise indicated, are by the editor. The checklist was compiled with the assistance of Karen Walowit.

A. Bibliography

1. MLA International Bibliography, 1966. PMLA, LXXII (June 1967), items 5418 through 5449; see also items 5267, 7343, 8180, 10956, 13066.

2. English Literature: A Current Bibliography. PQ, XLVI (July 1967), 327-331. (John E. Grant)


Each of these has some listings not in the others. The MLA bibliography is the longest, but it is not annotated; PQ and ELN describe some items and review some others. Some of the ELN reviews are by Martin K. Nurmi. We might add that although the June '67 Newsletter missed some articles included in one or more of these lists, it also includes some not found in any of them.

B. Articles and Reviews


2. Baine, Rodney M., "Blake's 'Tyger': The Nature of the Beast," PQ, XLVI (October 1967), 486-496. "A reading of 'The Tyger in the context of Songs of Innocence and of its analogues or sources reveals it as the shocked and fascinated reaction of an observer imaginatively visualizing the creation of brutal cruelty in nature and in man, as symbolized by the Tyger." Very little is added to previous discussions of the poem, and what remains is questionable -- how relevant, for example, is "Goldsmith's selection of the tiger as the most cruel and bloodthirsty of all the wild animals"?
Suggests that Blake's association of the Ohio River with freedom stems from material in A Topographical Description of the Western Territory of North America by Gilbert Imlay (London, 1792).


Bibliography includes the late Mr. Povey's writings about Blake in Sussex.

See review in this Newsletter.

Suggests that a poem in Needler's Familiar Letters (Works, 1724) "is evidently the covert target of Blake's." The "verbal pre-figurings" are indeed interesting.


Described by the author as "a brief contribution to a discussion of this poem, following the article by J.B. Thompson (Theoria 24) and the letter by E.H. Paterson (Theoria 28)."


The influence of Blake is discussed.

Described by John E. Grant as "an item which is of no intrinsic importance but is symptomatic and has pretty pictures."

Ostensibly a review of the Erdman Poetry and Prose and the Keynes Complete Writings. "The difficulty with the prophetic books is not that they are obscure, but that the writing in them becomes fanatical and dull."


22. Ure, Peter, Review of Blake's Contrary States, RES, NS XIX (February 1968), 83-85. Discusses both the virtues and limitations of the book. "Dr. Gillham does come to terms with Blake, and the feeling may be that in doing so he tames and sururbanizes him."


C. Books

[Some of these have not been seen and should perhaps be considered "forthcoming." "F" means that our only source is Blackwell's catalogue.]


5. ___•. Tiriel, ed. G.E. Bentley, Jr. Facsimile and transcript of the MS, reproductions of the drawings (9 full-page ills.), and commentary. Oxford: Clarendon. about 42/-


(continued on p. 14)
illuminated the latter; among those artists who, working with the sublimest materials, prove that Christian art may rival, indeed surpass, that of the ancients. Still more important is the fact that the reviewer points to Blake in a passage discussing the emergence of a new Christian art imbued with an iconoclastic spirit.

**QUERIES**

In our item about the Songs facsimile last issue, one measurement was left out. The album measures 13 3/8 by 9 1/4 inches.

Ruthven Todd suggests: "The early facsimile of the Songs seems to be to be the work of one of the Linnell boys, unless, and this is pure guessing, it was made by Tatham for his own use. He is the only one of the Ancients who would fit in, and, on second thoughts, the Linnells were much more competent. Tommy Butts was out of the picture by 1821. In addition, the engraving of the old man's head on the verso of the fragment of America copper-plate suggests that Tommy was just a little more competent than the description would suggest. My only other suggestion would be to look into the Wilkinson family. Did he have daughters? He was enough of an enthusiast to have set a member of his family to work. As for the date of the paper, 1821, that doesn't matter except as a date showing the work to have been done later."

Do any readers know of other contemporary or near-contemporary Blake facsimiles?

Does anyone know whether the MS of Christopher Smart's Jubilate Agnus was in Hayley's possession during Blake's residence at Felpham? W.H. Bond, in the introduction to his edition of the poem, mentions that the MS came into Hayley's possession, but no dates are provided.

Warren Stevenson
28 Carpenters Wood Drive
Chorleywood, Herts,
England

(continued from p. 8)