

AN ILLUSTRATED QUARTERLY  
**BLAKE**

N E W S

## E.P. Thompson lecture on Blake's background in artisan, radical dissent

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The Brown University Alumni Monthly for April 1968 has a delightful two-page article, "Damon's 2-Day Do," by Garrett D. Byrnes, reprinted from the Providence Journal. Los, a magazine of verse published at Brown, has dedicated its April issue to Foster; the poems include two from the Birthday Garland and "For Mr. Nomad," previously unpublished, by Alvin Rosenfeld.

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Professor John E. Grant of the University of Iowa has been awarded an ACLS fellowship "to prepare a definitive edition of Blake's illustrations for Young's Night Thoughts," in collaboration with E.J. Rose and Michael J. Tolley.

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"Blake's Day" was recently celebrated at the University of Iowa, as reported in an article by Gail Marshall in Middle Earth (I, 6), an underground newspaper. (Professor Grant has kindly sent a xerox copy.) The events included readings, "a dance ballet based on The Mental Traveller" and "a three-piece slide show of Blake's paintings of saints and serpents flanked by modern photos of screaming Negroes, machine-gun-shooting Black Berets, and pastoral childhood scenes . . . accompanied by a tape montage of voices (both adult and child) reading from Songs of Innocence and Experience, Jerusalem, etc." Groovy!

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As a postscript to his item in Newsletter 3 concerning the transformation of no. 17 South Molton Street to a betting shop, Robert P. Kolker notes that the Guardian editorialized on the subject in its issue of 25 January 1968. The editorial concludes: "Not that a decision on the licensing appeal one way or the other can diminish the words Blake wrote or the pictures he painted. Whether it can diminish us is another matter."

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Fred A. Whitehead reports that in March E.P. Thompson lectured at Columbia University, mainly on "Blake's background in the sub-culture of artisan, radical dissent." The lecture was sponsored by the Project for Radical Literary Studies of Students for a Democratic Society.

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Four critical items on the Songs have appeared over the past three years in Theoria, a journal published by the Department of English, University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg, Republic of South-Africa.

J.B. Thompson. "Blake's 'My Pretty Rose-Tree' -- An Interpretation," Number 25 (June 1965), 33-37.

Pechey, G.K. "Blake's Tyger," Number 26 (June 1966), 81-92.

Pechey, G.K. "Blake's 'My Pretty Rose-Tree,'" Number 27 (October 1966), 55-60.

Paterson, E.H. Letter headed "Simple thoughts on William Blake," continuing discussion of "My Pretty Rose Tree," Number 28 (May 1967), 63-65.