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N E W S

Criticism in Theoria on Blake's Songs

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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 Birthdays Garland and "For Mr. Nomad," previously unpublished, by Alvin Rosenfeld.

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.

"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!

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."

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.

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.