William Blake 1794/1994 Conference

NEWSLETTER

BLAKE AT THE HUNTINGTON, FALL 1994

Over the last few years, the Huntington Library in San Marino, California, has disbanded its superb collection of Blake's illuminated books. This procedure, required for purposes of long-term conservation, has the happy consequence of permitting the display of individual plates from the Huntington's copies of All Religions are One, Songs of Innocence, The Book of Thel, Visions of the Daughters of Albion, America, Songs of Experience, The Song of Los, and Milton. An exhibition of these works will be held in the Huntington Art Gallery from 27 September 1994 to 15 January 1995. "William Blake's Illuminated Books: Images and Texts," curated by Robert N. Essick, will also include three of Blake's 1795 color prints: Lamech and His Two Wives, the magnificent impression of Satan Exulting over Eve on loan from the J. Paul Getty Museum, and the recently cleaned Huntington impression of Hecate.

In conjunction with this major exhibition, the Huntington will host a symposium, "William Blake's Illuminated Books: Images and Texts," on Saturday, 29 October 1994. W. J. T. Mitchell will deliver the keynote address; the other speakers will be David Bindman, Anne K. Mellor, Tilottama Rajan, and Joseph Viscomi. The presentations will be published in the Huntington Library Quarterly; a special printing of the issue will be available for purchase from the Huntington.

Harry N. Abrams, Inc., will publish Blake at the Huntington in fall 1994. This paperback volume features 64 full-color reproductions of works by Blake in the Library and Art Gallery collections, including a generous selection of plates from the illuminated books and the complete series of water-color illustrations to Milton's Comus, Nottynity Ode, and Paradise Lost. Robert Essick has written an introduction and plate-by-plate commentary for this volume.

WILLIAM BLAKE 1794/1994 CONFERENCE

Wednesday, 13 July-Friday, 15 July 1994
St. Mary's College, Strawberry Hills

The occasion of the conference is the anniversary of the Songs, Europe, and Urizen, but papers will be welcome on other areas of concern to Blake's time and ours. Speakers likely to appear include Nelson Hilton, Morton D. Paley, and Joseph Viscomi.

The conference will be held at Horace Walpole's gothic villa at Strawberry Hill close to the Thames river. The organizers hope that a limited number of bursaries will be available to students and to the unwaged. The conference invites contributions from scholars at the beginning of their careers. The last conference produced a collections of papers entitled Historicizing Blake (Macmillan), which will be launched at this event.

Inquiries and outlines of papers should be sent to:
David Worrall and Steve Clark
English Department
St. Mary's College
Waldegrave Road
Strawberry Hill
Twickenham TW1 4SX England

tel: 081-892-0051
fax: 081-744-2080

Blake, The Song of Los, plate 8, copy E. Color printed in 1795 from a copper-plate, probably unincised, 23.5 x 17.5 cm. Huntington Library. To be included in the Huntington's exhibition, "Blake's Illuminated Prints," fall and winter 1994.