“States of the Human Soul: William Blake’s Songs of Innocence and Experience”

"STATES OF THE HUMAN SOUL: WILLIAM BLAKE'S SONGS OF INNOCENCE AND OF EXPERIENCE"

Dr. Eugenie R. Freed, of the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, has prepared a half-hour video on "States of the Human Soul: William Blake's Songs of Innocence and of Experience." Taped, edited, and dubbed by Laura Cloete, the video features a host of Blake's images with a dash of Hogarth and medieval illumination while professional voice-over artists and Freed read from the Songs and offer analysis of the verbal and visual texts. A selection of background music completes this labor of love and expertise.

Through the courtesy of Dr. Freed, the tape was previewed by the 15 participants in the 1993 NEH Summer Seminar of "Blake: Innocence and Experience" (Athens GA). The group agreed in finding the tape accomplished, traditionally-oriented (as in the considerable reference to Milton and Blake's illustrations to Milton), and eminently useful both in itself and for the questions it can raise. It is an attractive addition to audio-visual resources for Blake.

Dr. Freed has permission to produce copies for schools and other educational institutions on a non-profit basis and would be pleased to hear from anyone interested in obtaining a copy. She may be reached at the Department of English, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, P.O. Wits, South Africa, or (more efficiently) by fax at 27-11-622-3460 (marked "for attention E. Isserow").

THE 1993 BLAKE CUMULATIVE INDEX

Most subscribers know that Blake publishes an annual index of its contents. Longtime subscribers know that we published a cumulative index of volumes 1-11 in 1978. All subscribers, young and old, with imperfect memories now have Patricia Neill, our managing editor, to thank for the new cumulative index of all 25 volumes of Blake since its inception in 1967. It arrived with your fall 1993 issue. We hope you will keep it handy for future reference.

CORRECTION

My apologies to both David Bindman and Andrew Lincoln. In the Contributor's Notes in the fall issue (volume 27, #2), I inadvertently cited Andrew Lincoln as the general editor of the Blake Trust editions of Blake's illuminated books. David Bindman is the general editor, and Andrew Lincoln is the editor of the Blake Trust edition of Songs of Innocence and of Experience. Thanks to Robert Essick for calling this mistake to my attention.

- Patricia Neill

Rethinking Blake’s Textuality

Molly Anne Rothenberg

In this provocative reassessment of Blake’s textuality, Rothenberg seeks to bridge the gap between critics who read Blake's poems as fixed "works" with one meaning and those who read them as indeterminate "texts." Rothenberg explores the connections and interferences among Blake’s unusual textual practice, his subversion of authority, and his conception of subjectivity.

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