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Morton D. Paley

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# Blake Newsletter

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## NEWSLETTER BUSINESS

During the coming academic year, I'll be editing the *Newsletter* from England, with the assistance of two colleagues in Berkeley, Andrew Griffin and Donald Ault. During the summer, mail will be (slowly) forwarded to me from Berkeley; people corresponding on *Newsletter* matters may prefer to write to Professors Griffin and Ault. Once I have an address in London, I'll have it published in the Fall *Newsletter*. It goes without saying that I'd enjoy hearing from and meeting Blake scholars in England.

A word on practical matters. For the coming year, we have so far secured no financial assistance from the University; though we do have the indispensable help of the English Department office staff in producing the *Newsletter*. With the help of some kind volunteers, we may survive as a publication; but it should be understood that our present status is marginal. We cannot for example meet requests for xeroxes of back issues -- and there have been many requests. Nor have we been able to think realistically about going into an offset edition. We may solve these and related problems, as we'd surely like to, but at present it seems that 1969-70 will be a lean year. [cont. on page 18]

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burning bright might have, at one time or another, occupied the Brooke's menagerie (?).

Gardner is probably correct in asserting that Blake's "golden builders" allude to the extensive building over of the Marylebone Park Vicinity, where were located the Jew's Harp House, the Green Man and Willan's Farm. Gardner, in error I believe, though some scholastic logic is on his side, rejects Blake's idyllic lines about Willan's Farm, et al, and he recalls that all places north of London laid Blake up for several days. To this Gardner also adds the negative element of the Foundling Hospital, to the east in Lamb's Conduit Fields, where one was exposed to the burial grounds in passing. "Clearly something is wrong with the notion that these [Willan's, etc] are evocative recollections of the poet's youth," says Gardner. Blake, presumably, did look upon the extension of Regent's Park as an architectural building up of Jerusalem, but I do not think this unequivocally demands rejection of the traditional nostalgia that has been assigned Willan's Farm and the Marylebone pleasure haunts, and a pointing of the text, so to speak, will at least avoid a categorical, though provocative, assessment such as Gardner's.

Insofar as the genus of introductory books is concerned, Gardner fulfills his purpose without cant or humbug, and the interesting material on London assists in orienting the 18th-century environs to which Blake was exposed.

Paul Miner

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On another subject -- reviews. When we began the *Newsletter*, we published no reviews, on the assumption that Blake books were amply and expeditiously reviewed elsewhere. We soon discovered that this was often not the case and that, besides, there existed a need for reviews aimed at a more specialized audience. Our policy is to give reviewers complete freedom, both as to length and as to opinion: there is no editorial policy concerning "rightness" of views, and the editor is of course not responsible for the views of contributors. In addition, our pages are open for disagreement in form of discussion articles. We would like to have a wide variety of reviews and reviewers, and we invite readers who have published on Blake to correspond with us if they are interested in reviewing.

This June issue contains once more the annual checklist of Blake scholarship. Its chief virtue, as we have said before, is timeliness rather than completeness. It would, however, be more complete had more of you sent offprints.

-- MDP

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CORRECTION

Sir Geoffrey Keynes wishes to point out that the second edition of *Blake's Letters* contains four letters not included in the first edition, and not one, as was stated in the Spring *Newsletter*. In addition to the brief letter to Mrs. Aders, there are two complete letters to Hayley and one to Linnell. Furthermore, the inverted commas in the poem sent to Butts are not editorial, but form part of Blake's original letter.