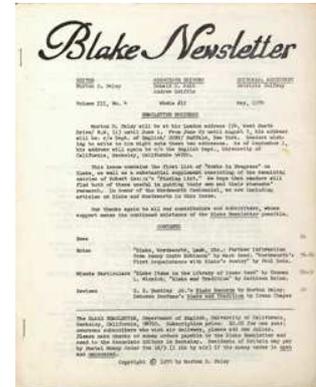


AN ILLUSTRATED QUARTERLY
BLAKE

N E W S

Three Catalogues

Blake/An Illustrated Quarterly, Volume 3, Issue 4, May, 1970, pp. 74-75



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NEWS

Recent Publications

The Erdman-Bloom Poetry and Prose is now available as a Doubleday Anchor Book at \$6.95. This is the fourth printing; it includes some new changes, which are noted on p. xxiv.

TLS for 25 December 1969 (pp. 1461-63) featured a leading review article on Blake. The principal subject was Blake and Tradition by Kathleen Raine; William Blake, ed. Alvin Rosenfeld and Blake in the Nineteenth Century by Deborah Dorfman were also discussed. A letter from Miss Raine followed in the issue of 2 January 1970, p. 34, with a reply from the reviewer. On 22 January appeared a short letter (p. 85) by Mr. Edgar Foxhall. Also on 22 January, the Blake Trust edition of Europe is reviewed (p. 74).

Micro Methods Ltd. announces publication of a complete colour microfilm of the 537 Night Thoughts illustrations. Publication is scheduled for the end of March; price £50 sterling. (MM address is: East Ardsley, Wakefield, Yorks.

G. E. Bentley, Jr. "John Flaxman and Thomas Taylor," Notes and Queries, September, 1969, pp. 354-355.

Three Catalogues

The Westminster City Libraries have published a handsomely printed Catalogue of the Preston Blake Library (1969), with a foreword by Kerrison Preston and a preface by K. C. Harrison. 700 items are listed and described, and there is an extensive index. From the National Library of Scotland comes a catalogue of its 1969 loan exhibition: William Blake: Illuminated Books and Engravings, 34 pp. / cover and tailpiece ill. Note by William Beattie, "The Blake Trust" by Sir Geoffrey Keynes, Introduction by Isabel Henderson, and annotated list of 121 items. Last, and not yet seen by us: William Blake: Engraver/ A Descriptive Catalogue of an Exhibition by Charles Ryskamp with an

Introductory Essay by Sir Geoffrey Keynes. Princeton University Library, 1969/ exhibition held December 1969 - February 1970/ 61 pp. / pp. i-ix. Preface by Charles Ryskamp.

From The Times, January 9, 1970, p. 12:

A set of Blake's "Illustrations to the Book of Job," not of outstanding quality, made £1,100 (Western Australian Art Gallery) but a set of engravings by his follower, Edward Calvert, underlined even more forcibly the present interest in Blake and his circle. Comprising 11 tiny engravings of mysterious charm, the set was sold for £680 (Folio Fine Art Society); the price was particularly remarkable since the set was a reprint of 1904.

The Independent Shavian vol. VIII, No. 2 (Winter 1969-70), p. 31, reports a talk by Barbara Newsom - "Tracing the Origins of Heartbreak House: William Blake's Influence on Shaw":

In her talk, Mrs. Newsom pointed out the strong parallels between the characters and the atmosphere of Heartbreak House and Blake's Four Zoas. Not only were both works written during similar periods of crisis in the authors' lives, but Shaw seems, according to Mrs. Newsom, to have drawn his themes and even the title for Heartbreak House directly from the Four Zoas. Captain Shotover has his watery, delusive counterpart in Blake's Tharmas; Hesione Hushabye follows the seductive pattern of Blake's daughters of Beulah; and the labyrinthine figure that is so common in Blake's myth provides the clue to Shaw's own choice of Ariadne for the name of the Heartbreak House heroine who leads Hector out of that "palace of evil enchantment."

It was Mrs. Newsom's contention that passage after passage in Heartbreak House has been translated from The Four Zoas into what Shaw once referred to as the dialect of his own time. Shaw's title itself has its origin, according to Mrs. Newsom, in Blake's repeated reference to Enitharmon's "broken Gates" of her "poor broken heart," "her heart gates broken down," "the broken heart Gate of Enitharmon."

Mrs. Newsom concluded that a study of Blake's work is crucial to an understanding of Heartbreak House and that Blake was an important source of inspiration for Shaw. To discover that Shaw drew so obviously on the work of a poet like Blake, she said, indicates that it is time for serious Shaw critics to go beyond psychic, sexual, and political dissection to the more rewarding study connecting Shaw to the "whole mythopoeic content of English art."