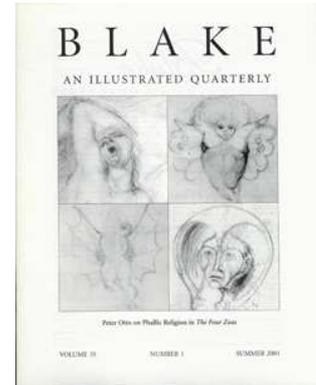


AN ILLUSTRATED QUARTERLY BLAKE

N E W S

Blake's Managing Editors, 1986-

Blake/An Illustrated Quarterly, Volume 35, Issue 1, Summer 2001, p. 31



Read: With the addition of punctuation and two minor changes, in the first stanza, line two, 'summer' to 'summers,' and, line four, 'Hath' to 'Has,' the text as composed on the page was relief etched and printed as 'THE FLY' in the first issue of *Songs of Experience*.

p. 99: First column, first full paragraph, second sentence:

For: Using a long pin or etching needle, a small hole was pierced through the upper left corner of the paper and into the sheet of paper or pasteboard underneath.

Read: Using a long pin or etching needle, a small hole was pierced through the upper right corner of the paper and into the sheet of paper or pasteboard underneath.

p. 105: Fig. 35, First Issue of *Songs of Experience*, under Copy H, "NURSES Song," colour of monochrome printing ink:

For: golden ochre

Read: blue

Plate 59: Caption for "NURSES Song," *Songs of Experience*, Songs, Copy H:

For: Printed monochrome golden yellow ochre, colour-printed, finished in watercolour.

Read: Printed monochrome blue, colour-printed, finished in watercolour.

A correction of another kind is needed with regard to the claim that Gilbert Imlay's *A Topographical Description of the Western Territory of North America* was first advertised for sale in the *Public Advertiser* on 12 December 1792, reproduced in Fig. 23 and discussed on pages 45-7 and 111.

I have since found that advertisements for *A Topographical Description* first appeared six months earlier in the *Public Advertiser*, on 16 June 1792, followed by a review published in the *Monthly Review* in August. This makes clear that copies of Imlay's account were available prior to Debrett's announcements beginning 12 December. Blake could have seen a copy that summer and in response to read-

ing Imlay's account amended "Why should I care for the men of Thames" on N. 113, altering the penultimate line from "I spurnd his waters away from me" to "The Ohio shall wash his stains from me." However, with regard to dating *Songs of Experience*, this does not affect the examination of the continuity of the drafts in the *Manuscript Notebook*, as discussed, in particular, on pages 73 and 86 to 89.

Publication of *A Topographical Description* in June 1792 is confirmed by the records of the Stationers Company, where before publication copies are deposited by the owner to secure their right to the title. The manuscript volume of "Records of the Worshipful Company of Stationers register of Entries of Copies 1786 to 1792" shows that nine copies of *A Topographical Description of the Western Territory of North America* were deposited by the publisher, the "Property [of] I. Debrett," under the date "1792 May 21." The first series of advertisements of *A Topographical Description* immediately followed, in June 1792.

Six months later, beginning 12 December 1792, Debrett launched what can only be described as a second and more vigorous advertising campaign to publicize Imlay's account of the Ohio Valley and its attractions for prospective emigrants. The reasons for this second sales campaign bear directly upon Blake's amendment to "Why should I care for the men of Thames." On 20 November, John Reeves founded the Association for the Preservation of Liberty and Property against Republicans and Levellers. By 12 December, the loyalist movement and reactionary fervor had swept the country. Hirelings were abroad and those who had supported the democratic movement in Britain, shrank with fear. On 18 December, the trial and conviction of Tom Paine *in absentia* confirmed an end to freedom of speech and freedom of the press. That winter, and during the following spring and summer, for many, America became a refuge. Debrett had seized the moment to readvertise; the same moment epitomized in Blake's alteration. A full account will be given in my biography of Blake in Lambeth during the anti-Jacobin Terror.

N E W S L E T T E R

BLAKE'S MANAGING EDITORS, 1986-

Blake has always been lucky in its managing editors. Since 1986, when the journal moved to the University of Rochester, Patricia Neill has been its only managing editor. You who have dealt with her over those years will understand why we lamented her decision to abandon Rochester for the hills and valleys of southern Indiana last year. Patty's exceptional editorial and personal skills were captured by United Way in Bloomington, where she is Communications Director. Back at home, our new managing editor is Sarah Jones, a native of New Zealand. The last issue that Patty Neill supervised was spring 2001, and Sarah Jones's first issue is in your hands. Patty took us through

the transition from old-style camera-ready copy to electronic layout; we're counting on Sarah to take us the next step, where electronic layout meets the Web. Many thanks and a very fond farewell to Patty, and a hearty welcome to Sarah.

www.rochester.edu/college/eng/blake

We began drafting a Web site for *Blake* at least five years ago. But other more urgent matters such as the summer, fall, winter, and spring issues kept getting in our way. Now, at last, we have our Web site. You should take a look at it, even in its present skeletal and rudimentary form, because it already offers useful resources (such as a complete index of *Blake* from the beginning to the present), and many more are in the works. We're determined to make the site more than symbolic. Stay tuned.