

AN ILLUSTRATED QUARTERLY
BLAKE

C O N T E N T S

Blake/An Illustrated Quarterly, Volume 4, Issue 1, August 1970, pp. 1-2

Blake Newsletter

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Volume IV, No. 1 Issue # 15 August 1970

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The Blake Newsletter was able to continue for the past several years because of the assistance of James Griffin and David Hall, who even with the pressure of their time and other duties, wrote articles, edited the pages of the Newsletter, and acted as an advisory editor. We are pleased to have Dr. Richard Phillips of the University of Edinburgh take on as an advisory editor.

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Blake Newsletter

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August 1970

NEWSLETTER BUSINESS

The Blake Newsletter was able to continue for the past academic year only because of the assistance of Andrew Griffin and Donald Ault, who gave very generously of their time and energy during a trying period. Although the future of BNL is still far from certain, we owe thanks to Messrs. Griffin and Ault for its survival into a fourth year. Beginning with this issue, Dr. Michael Phillips of the University of Edinburgh joins us as an associate editor.

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BLAKE NEWSLETTER, c/o M. D. Paley, Department of English, University of California, Berkeley, Calif. 94720. Subscription price: three dollars for one year; invoiced subscriptions four dollars; overseas by air, four dollars. Checks or money orders must be payable to Blake Newsletter. The Blake Newsletter is not a publication of the University of California.

NEWSLETTER BUSINESS (continued)

Some mail sent to Morton Paley in London seems to have been lost in forwarding this past June. If you wrote at that time and received no answer, please write again (to Berkeley).

With this issue, we raise our subscription rates by one dollar per year. The Blake Newsletter is probably the only thing in America that has not increased in price since 1967; we are sure that our readers will understand the necessity.

The Autumn Newsletter will include a checklist of publications on Blake for the academic year 1969-1970. Offprints of articles and news of out-of-the-way items would be very much appreciated.

NEWS

MLA Seminar

There will again be a seminar on Blake at this year's MLA meeting in New York. The subject will be "Some Problems in Interpreting Blake's Designs for L'Allegro and Il Penseroso." John E. Grant will initiate the discussion; the chairman will be Morton Paley. Participants will find it convenient to bring with them a copy of Blake; The Mystic Genius by Adrian Van Sinderen (Syracuse, 1949), or John Milton, Poems in English, ed. Geoffrey Keynes (Bentley-Nurmi no. 314). The former has color reproductions of the pictures, the latter black-and-white ones. The pictures are also reproduced, much diminished, in E.J. Rose, "Blake's Illustrations for Paradise Lost, L'Allegro, and Il Penseroso: A Thematic Reading," Hartford Studies in Literature, II, 1 (Spring 1970), 40-67.

Some background reading which may also be of interest:

Marcia M. Pointon, Milton and English Art (Manchester, 1970).
John E. Grant, "The Haunted Stream at Sun-Set," Blake's Visionary Forms Dramatic, eds. Erdman and Grant (Princeton, 1970); also briefer remarks by E.J. Rose in the concluding article of the same volume [forthcoming in November].
Geoffrey Keynes, ed., The Engravings of William Blake; The Separate Plates (Dublin, 1956), for the two engraved states of the first design for L'Allegro.

The precise time and place of the seminar are not yet known; it will probably be held on the morning of December 28th or 29th. Those wishing to participate should write directly to Morton Paley, c/o the English Department at Berkeley, who will send out a notice giving the necessary information.