

AN ILLUSTRATED QUARTERLY BLAKE

N E W S

The Newsletter and the University of New Mexico

Morton D. Paley

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NEWS AND WORKS IN PROGRESS

Our first news item concerns the *Blake Newsletter* itself. As our readers know all too well by now, the *Newsletter* has suffered from uncertainty about its future since its inception in 1967, fourteen issues ago. Now our problems seem to have been solved by the English Department of the University of New Mexico, which has generously agreed to meet part of the costs of publication. At the same time we welcome as co-editor Morris Eaves, a member of that department. This new arrangement enables us to produce an off-set-printed issue, to double our run of copies to 500, and to publish illustrations. The result should be to make possible a better *Newsletter* as well as a more secure one. We are also now able to make plans to publish a reprint edition of early issues; more on this next time.

From now on, the *Newsletter* will be printed and mailed in Albuquerque; all correspondence relating to subscriptions should be sent there. Manuscripts for submission or correspondence in relation to editorial matters may be sent either to Berkeley or to Albuquerque. (MDP)

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

From Mr. Arnold Fawcus, Director of the Trianon Press:

All Religions Are One. Published by the Trianon Press for the William Blake Trust, July 1970. Distributed throughout the world by Bernard Quaritch Ltd., *new address* 5-8 Lower John Street, Golden Square, London W1V 6AB. Description and bibliographical statement by Sir Geoffrey Keynes.

For a variety of reasons Blake's early tractate, *All Religions Are One*, is of the greatest interest. There is only one known copy of the work in existence, the title-page coming to light only recently; this facsimile is therefore the first publication of this delightful and important little book. It consists of ten small etched plates, all printed in shades of green, touched here and there with brown or grey, averaging in size only 5.5 x 4 cm.: the frontispiece, depicting John the Baptist, a title-page, an "Argument" and seven "Principles." In these Principles Blake formulates some of the ideas to which he returned in *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell*. Blake identifies the Poetic Genius, that is God, with "Divine Humanity." Man is therefore uniform, yet with infinite variety in the individuals. All men, thus derived from a universal Poetic Genius, have but one religion, though each nation has its different beliefs according to its needs.

Technically the background to the plates is most intriguing. They were almost certainly etched soon after the death, in 1787, of Blake's brother, Robert, and just before those of the first illuminated book, *Songs of Innocence*, dated 1789. It was during this period that Blake was in doubt about the technique he should use for his "illuminated" printing and he received "instruction in a vision" from the spirit of his brother, Robert. These plates are therefore the first ones done by the illuminated-printing technique Blake perfected in the great prophetic books.

The reproduction in the facsimile is by two- and three-colour collotype, with the occasional addition, by hand, of water-colour washes through stencils. For all the