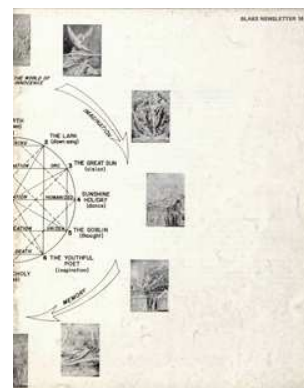


AN ILLUSTRATED QUARTERLY
BLAKE

N E W S

Recent Blake Sales

Blake/An Illustrated Quarterly, Volume 4, Issue 4, Spring 1971, p. 112



NEWS AND WORKS IN PROGRESS

RECENT BLAKE SALES

Warren Howell of John Howell--Books, San Francisco, writes that his firm recently secured copy P of the *Songs* for a private collector in the East. The Howell firm paid £12,000 for the copy.

Mr. Howell also says that copy C of *Urizen* (see the last issue of the *Newsletter* [#15], pp. 69-70) was sold at Sotheby's on 29 March 1971 for £24,000 (£27,000 according to *The Times*: see "British Blake News" below). The Howell firm was the underbidder. *Poetical Sketches* sold for £3800 to John Fleming of New York on behalf of The Pierpont Morgan Library.

On June 15 the Blake-Varley Sketchbook was broken and sold page by page at Christie's, with "Ghost of a Flea" most likely to win high-price honors. The drawings seem to have sold at about the prices expected. Robert Essick bought the "Head of the Dying King Harold Pierced by an Arrow" for \$4065.60. Zeitlin & Ver Brugge bought the standing archer.

On June 24 Sotheby's sold the pencil, sepia, and watercolor preliminary drawing for "Joseph Ordering Simeon to Be Bound" (in the Fitzwilliam Museum). The drawing was formerly in the possession of Mrs. B. Clarke. It measures 13 1/4 x 19 inches and is reproduced in the sale catalogue. The sale price of the drawing was \$6720, considerably below the estimates.

Our thanks to Robert Essick for the last two items.

For more on copy C of *Urizen* and on the breaking and selling of the Blake-Varley Sketchbook, see "British Blake News" just below. For more on the Britwell Court Library copy of *Poetical Sketches*, see "Blake's Corrections in *Poetical Sketches*: A Supplement" by Michael Phillips, below in MINUTE PARTICULARS.

BRITISH BLAKE NEWS

From Michael Phillips, our Associate Editor at the University of Edinburgh:

On 15 June 1971 the Blake-Varley Sketchbook is to be broken up and sold at auction at Christie's. And Jeudwine, the purchaser of copy C of *The First Book of Urizen* at the Britwell Court Library sale at Sotheby's 29 March 1971 (see above, and see the last issue of the *Newsletter* [#15], pp. 69-70), is also threatening to break up that work in order to enhance its re-sale value. The following account appeared in *The Times* Wednesday, 19 May 1971:

Scholars and art historians are becoming disturbed by the growing practice among dealers and owners of dismembering works of art for which they cannot find