

goods, which were to have been sold the next day, had not this good Lady saved him the trouble of doing so.⁴

“Mr CLAY of Hercules Buildings” can be identified as the Blakes’ predecessor as ratepayer and resident at 13 Hercules Buildings, William Clay.⁵ The short article in the *Evening Mail* indicates that Clay’s housekeeper and his furniture still occupied 13 Hercules Buildings during the last week of January 1791. If William and Catherine Blake were unable to move into the house until the end of January, their move from 28 Poland Street to 13 Hercules Buildings can be dated between 24 January 1791, the earliest date we can assume Clay vacated the premises after being robbed by his housekeeper,⁶ and 9 March 1791, when Blake is first recorded as ratepayer for the property.⁷

4. *Evening Mail* 26 Jan. 1791: 2, col. b. The article was reprinted verbatim in the “News in Brief” section of the *Times* on Friday 28 Jan. (3, col. c).

5. “W^m Clay” is recorded as ratepayer for 13 Hercules Buildings in rate book entries for the second, third, and fourth quarters of 1790 (see BR[2] 744fn). No other Clay is listed among the ratepayers for the twenty-three other residences in Hercules Buildings in 1790.

6. I.e., “a few days” before the report appeared in the *Evening Mail*.

7. The fact that, according to the *Evening Mail*, Clay’s furniture was “to have been sold the next day” suggests that about 24 Jan. Clay was in the process of vacating 13 Hercules Buildings in anticipation of the Blakes’ moving in.

N E W S L E T T E R

Blake Goes Online Only

Last year at this time we announced that our content would be online in order to optimize the many advantages of publishing on the web—illustrations in color and more of them, looser restrictions on the length of issues, searchability, and greater sustainability due to lower production and mailing costs. After one transitional year of publishing online and printed issues in parallel, we are now phasing out the printed version.

Thus this spring issue is the last that will appear in print. With the upcoming summer 2012 issue (vol. 46, no. 1) *Blake* will be published online only. We are investigating the possibilities for print on demand, whereby copies of an issue or an article would be produced as needed by a third-party vendor, from whom you would order directly rather than as part of your subscription. If print on demand proves feasible, we’ll let you know.

Individual subscribers will receive renewal reminders for vol. 46 as usual.

Back issues of the quarterly beginning with the first issue (1967) will gradually appear as part of the *William Blake Archive* <<http://www.blakearchive.org>> and be freely available there. Preparation is well under way for a first installment. The most recent volumes of the quarterly from the last five years, however, will continue to be available only to subscribers on the *Blake* site <<http://www.blakequarterly.org>>.

denouement

BY PAUL MINER

mr. wily blake
you blue-eyed devil
you knew all along
that the tyger
washes itself
in the blood of the lamb