

Pp. 41-42, Lavater, *Essays on Physiognomy*. In the original issue of the work in parts, Blake's pl. 1 was included in part 5, dated July 1788 on the printed back wrapper. The pl. is listed on the front wrapper as "7. AGED FIGURES, GARDENING." Blake's pl. 2 was issued in part 3, dated May 1788, and is listed on the front wrapper as "7. DEMOCRITUS, FINISHED."

Pp. 45-49, Darwin, *Botanic Garden*, 1st ed. of Part 1, 1791. For a copy that includes Blake's pl. 6 of 1795, see the final entry on Darwin under Letterpress Books with Engravings by and after Blake, above.

P. 101, Flaxman, *Compositions from the Works Days and Theogony of Hesiod*, 1817. The complete set of prepublication proofs at the Bodleian Library, unseen at the time of writing, has now been listed on the Bodleian's online cat. (<<http://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk>>, accessed 1 Nov. 2011). These are described as "37 proofs, of which 27 are before letters," call number Arch. AA b.15, Aleph system number 013996444.

Corrigendum

In my 2010 review I noted "a Small Etching" attributed to Blake, "representing Sampson destroying the Lion," offered by A. E. Evans and Son in an 1845 cat. (*Blake* 44.4 [spring 2011]: 129). This is almost certainly the impression of "Samson and the Lion," an etching by Welby Sherman, inscribed "WS / 1827" and acquired by the British Museum in 1847, accession no. 1847,0318.122. According to Campbell Dodgson, "The Engravings of George Richmond, R.A., and Welby Sherman," *Print Collector's Quarterly* 17.4 (Oct. 1930): 361, the museum's impression was "bought as 'an etching by Blake.'" Dodgson was keeper of prints and drawings at the British Museum, 1912-32.

MINUTE PARTICULAR

"Mr CLAY of Hercules Buildings"

BY ANGUS WHITEHEAD

IN his manuscript "Life of Blake" (c. 1832), Frederick Tatham writes that during the 1790s William and Catherine Blake

resided in Hercules Buildings in a pretty clean House of 8 or 10 Rooms & at first kept a servant, but finding (as M.^{rs} Blake declared & as every one else knows) the more service the more Inconvenience, she like all sensible women, who are possessed of industry & health & only moderate means, relinquished this incessant Tax upon domestic comfort, did all the Work herself, kept the House clean, & herself tidy, besides printing all Blakes numerous Engravings, which was a Task alone sufficient for any industrious Woman, but however as there is no state, or scheme, or plan, without its accompanying Evil Blake had reason to regret his having left no one in possession of his House during his & M.^{rs} Blakes absense for one day paying some friendly visit, some Thieves entered it & carried away Plate to the Value of 60 Pounds & clothes to the amount of 40 more.¹

However, as this note will demonstrate, by the end of January 1791 William and Catherine may have been all too aware that leaving a servant in charge of 13 Hercules Buildings was no sure security against burglary.

Rate book entries for 13 Hercules Buildings, Lambeth, reveal that by early March 1791 the Blakes had moved from their former residence at 28 Poland Street, Soho, to their new house.² In the second edition of *Blake Records* (2004), G. E. Bentley, Jr., suggests that the Blakes may have moved to 13 Hercules Buildings as early as "the autumn of 1790" or at least "before the end of 1790."³ A short paragraph that appeared in the *Evening Mail* on Wednesday 26 January 1791 suggests a slightly later date for the move. The *Evening Mail* reports:

A few days since the house of Mr CLAY of Hercules Buildings, Lambeth, was stripped of every article of furniture in it during his absence. His house-keeper who had lived with him three years is the thief and had hired a cart to remove the

1. Quoted in G. E. Bentley, Jr., *Blake Records*, 2nd ed. (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2004) [hereafter *BR*(2)] 676. Bentley suggests a date of Sept. 1795 for the robbery (676fn). On the night of 7 June 1793 Blake's neighbor Philip Astley "of the Royal Saloon, in Hercules Buildings" was burgled and robbed of "cash, plate, watches, &c. &c. to the amount of 800 l." (*World* 2 Sept. 1793: 3, col. c).

2. Blake is first recorded as payer of the poor rates for 13 Hercules Buildings on 9 Mar. 1791 (see *BR*[2] 744fn).

3. *BR*(2) 744 and fn (see also 742-43fn).

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