

AN ILLUSTRATED QUARTERLY
BLAKE

N E W S

Blake Seminar, MLA Chicago 1971

Blake/An Illustrated Quarterly, Volume 5, Issue 3, Winter, 1971-72, p. 163



NEWS

RECENT BLAKE SALES--See Robert Essick's essay "Blake at Auction 1971" below, Notes.

BLAKE IN THE GALLERIES

The Tate Gallery, London, announces that "following the very successful exhibition of William Blake's illustrations to the poems of Thomas Gray, organized by the William Blake Trust in association with the Tate Gallery, the Tate's own collection of works by Blake has been re-hung in Gallery 29. Some additional works normally in store have been added to the display but more exciting are two important loans, "Winter" and "Evening," lent by the Trustees of the Rev. B. T. Vaughan Johnson. These were painted by Blake to flank a fireplace at his friend The Rev. John Johnson's Rectory at Yaxham, Norfolk, which was rebuilt in about 1820-21; they have remained in the possession of the family ever since. Unfortunately, a third painting, a frieze showing Olney Bridge, which ran across the top of the fireplace, seems to have been destroyed early this century."

The Pierpont Morgan Library, New York, exhibited the Blake collection of Mrs. Landon K. Thorne from 19 November to 22 January. The collection of books, manuscripts, drawings, and engravings had never been seen before as a unit in public exhibition. At the same time the Library showed Blake's watercolors for Milton and the Library's recently purchased copy of *Poetical Sketches*. A catalogue of the exhibition, *The Blake Collection of Mrs. Landon K. Thorne* (60 pp. of text, 30 pls.) by G. E. Bentley, Jr., has been published.

The Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, New York, in late 1971 exhibited its copy of Blake's Job engravings and of the seven Dante engravings, both proof copies. They were purchased by the Gallery in 1943, but have never been shown there as a unit, and have been shown only once outside the Gallery, at Buffalo's 20th Century Club in 1951. (Our thanks to Professor Thomas Connolly for calling our attention to the Albright-Knox exhibit. Eds.)

Paris, early 1972, will see Blake well represented in a major exhibition of British Romantic painting. The catalogue entries for the Blake pictures have been written by David Bindman (Lecturer in the History of Art, Westfield College, London). There are likely to be twelve items shown: *The Adoration of the Kings* (Brighton Art Gallery); *The Head of Voltaire* (Manchester Art Gallery); *The Ancient of Days*, colored print (Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester); *The House of Death*, monotype (Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge); *Death on a Pale Horse* (Fitzwilliam); *Pity*, monotype (Tate Gallery); *Newton*, monotype (Tate); *Beatrice on the Car*, watercolor (British Museum); *The Circle of the Lustful*, watercolor (Birmingham City Art Gallery); *Thornton's Virgil*, wood engravings (Victoria and Albert Museum);

Songs of Innocence and of Experience (Kings College, Cambridge); *Small Book of Designs*, four plates (British Museum).

BLAKE FACSIMILES

A limited number of single-plate "overs" (prices £2.25, £1.50, 45p) from the hand-colored facsimiles and the offset Handbook produced by the Trianon Press, Paris, for the William Blake Trust which were on sale at the Blake Exhibition in the National Library of Scotland in 1969 are available for purchase, along with greeting cards (price 5p) of seven subjects from *Songs of Innocence and of Experience*. Inquiries to the Publications Officer, National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 1EW, Scotland.

BLAKE SEMINAR, MLA CHICAGO 1971

The 1971 Blake Seminar, a gathering of about twenty dedicated travelers, met on 28 December at the Newberry Library in Chicago. Morris Eaves (University of New Mexico) led a discussion of *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell*. As the announcement of the Seminar had warned, the discussion roamed freely from text to illustration to text with little guidance other than literary free-association, though it showed a tendency to focus repeatedly on plates 4 and 10 and the plates most closely related to them in *The Marriage*.

BLAKE SEMINAR, MLA NEW YORK 1972

Joseph A. Wittreich, Jr. (University of Wisconsin) has announced that Blake and Tradition is the topic for the 1972 Blake Seminar, which will meet during the Annual MLA Meeting in New York. The papers that will provide the basis of the discussion will appear in the Fall 1972 issue of *Blake Studies*.

A NEW BLAKE VIDEOTAPE

A videotape interpretation of Blake's *Visions of the Daughters of Albion*, produced at York University and intended for use in the classroom, was shown on 29 December to about thirty people at the MLA Annual Meeting in Chicago. After the showing there was a discussion led by the director, Bob Wallace (York University), and by the writers of the script, Janet Warner (York University) and John Sutherland (Colby College). The fifty-minute videotape was made in October 1971. It includes a dramatic reading of the poem and interpretive commentary, and it uses graphics from Blake, Stedman's *Surinam*, and a variety of other sources.

Shown here are three samples of graphics used in the videotape, plates from Capt. J. G. Stedman's *Narrative of a five years' expedition, against the Revolted Negroes of Surinam . . .*, 2 vols., 80 pls. (London: J. Johnson & J. Edwards, 1796). Stedman drew all the illustrations for his book, and Blake engraved about sixteen of them, including the three shown here.