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BLAKE

N E W S

Mary Wollstonecraft Newsletter

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The skinning of the Heema Snake, shot by Capt. Anderson.



Anguillation of a Female, Junior Slave.



A. Surinam Blake in his Morning Dress.

Graphics from the York University videotape of *Visions of the Daughters of Albion: Stedman's Narrative*, plates XIX, XXV, XLIX. Reproduced by permission of the Colby College Library.

American distribution for the videotape is now being arranged.

BLAKE AND GINSBERG ON ABC-TV'S "DIRECTIONS"

Two films, both produced and directed by Aram Boyajian, were shown 16 and 23 January on ABC-TV's *Directions*. Allen Ginsberg sings and reads from Blake's works in illuminated printing as plates from those works are shown. A facsimile was used in the preparation of the films for shots of *Jerusalem* only; otherwise the photography is of originals.

The subject of the first film, *William Blake: Innocence and Experience*, is *There is No Natural Religion* and the *Songs*. Ginsberg talks about the influence Blake has had on his own poetry, sings "Ah! Sun-Flower", and reads several other songs. Besides plates from the *Songs*, there are shots of Westminster Abbey and of the high-rise building now on the site of Blake's birthplace. *William Blake: Prophet*, the second film, includes shots of the cottage at Felpham. Ginsberg talks on camera about the feeling of "going mad" when he heard a voice speaking Blake's poems, and he sings "The Sick Rose." He reads as selected pictures from *The Book of Urizen*, *Milton*, *Jerusalem*, the watercolor *Job* series, and the Dante series are shown.

ROSE LECTURES ON BLAKE

E. J. Rose, Chairman of the Department of English at the University of Alberta, delivered the Edmund Kemper Broadus Lectures at the University 24-27 January. All the lectures were on Blake: "Blake's Los," 24 January; "Blake's Orc," 25 January; "Blake's Woman Figure," 26 January; and "The Shape of Blake's Vision," 27 January.

THE SONGS ONSTAGE IN NEW YORK

In January the Dance and Drama Theatre of New York City presented *Three Pieces in Multi Media*. The third of the three was "Blake's Songs of Innocence and of Experience" directed by Michael Fischetti.

W. H. STEVENSON AT STUDIES IN ROMANTICISM

The well-known Blake scholar W. H. Stevenson is now editor of *Studies in Romanticism* (published quarterly by Boston University Graduate School at 236 Bay State Road, Boston, Mass. 02215). Although founded in the Department of English, the journal publishes articles on all aspects of Romanticism--its literature (in any language), art, music, history, philosophy, and science--and thus it is of interest to anyone with a specialized or general interest in the period. There have been articles on Blake at different times by such scholars as G. E. Bentley, Jr., Robert F. Gleckner, John E. Grant, Martin K. Nurmi, Morton D. Paley, and Edward J. Rose (who also has an article in the Winter 1972 issue). The fourth number of each volume is usually devoted to one author or topic within the field of Romantic studies. Subscriptions are \$6.50 for one year; \$12 for two years; \$16 for three years. A cumulative index is available for the first ten volumes, 1961-1971, price \$1.

MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT NEWSLETTER

The *Mary Wollstonecraft Newsletter* will be published twice a year beginning in May 1972. Its subject will be women writers of the late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth centuries, and women in the literature of the period. Short articles of fewer than 3000 words, notes, and reviews are welcomed from

subscribers. Manuscripts--accompanied by a stamped and addressed envelope for return--and subscriptions (\$4) may be addressed to Janet Todd / Department of English / University of Florida / Gainesville, Florida 32601.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Hoover, Suzanne (Sudbury, Mass.): a group of essays on unexplored aspects of Blake's reputation in the nineteenth century. Mrs. Hoover will be in England as an NEH Fellow for the academic year 1972-73 to study British art and literature with particular reference to Blake.

Mills, A. C. (Newnham College, Cambridge): a detailed study of the illustrations to *Jerusalem*, their imagery and their relation to the text and to other of Blake's works.

Paley, Morton D. (University of California, Berkeley): a book on *Jerusalem*. Paley has been named a Guggenheim Fellow for the academic year 1972-73 in order to enable him to complete his book.

Peterson, Jane E. (Dallas, Texas): a Ph.D. dissertation, "William Blake: Experimentation in Form and Structure in the Works of 1788-95, Excluding the Manuscript Poems," directed by T. C. Duncan Eaves at the University of Arkansas.

AULT LEAVES NEWSLETTER

After this issue, Donald Ault leaves our editorial board in order to devote more time to his own work. We are grateful for the help he has given us as Assistant Editor during the past two and a half years.

NOTES

JOHN BEER: PETERHOUSE, CAMBRIDGE

Blake's "Donald the Hammerer"

In *Blake Newsletter* 15 (Winter 1971, pp. 75-77) Robert Essick describes the pencil-and-ink drawing known as "Donald the Hammerer" in the UCLA Library, and states that he has been unable to trace its subject, though he thinks that Blake might be illustrating a scene in a book.

I think that Donald himself is to be identified with a character mentioned very briefly in Scott's *The Abbot* (1820), ch. xxxiv. Roland Graeme, explaining how he comes to have the skills of a metal worker, says,

My patron the Knight of Avenel used to compel the youth educated in his household to learn the use of axe and hammer, and working in wood and iron--he used to speak of old northern champions, who forged their own weapons, and of the Highland Captain, Donald nan Ord, or Donald of the Hammer, whom he himself knew, and who used to work at the anvil with a sledge-hammer in each hand. Some said he praised this art, because he was himself of churl's blood. . . .

The appearance of two hammers in Blake's design reinforces the identification with "Donald of the Hammer."

What was not at first clear to me was whether Scott had here created a character for his own purposes or was adding a touch of veracity to his narrative by referring to an actual historical figure. Reference to Scottish records failed to solve the mystery. In the end, however, I consulted Dr. James Corson, Honorary Librarian of Abbotsford and an authority on Scott, to whom I am most grateful for looking into the matter and discovering that Donald the Hammerer was in fact a real person. I quote from his letter to me:

Donald nan Nord was Donald Stewart of the Invernahyle family, a younger branch of the Stewarts of Appin.

In 1817 Joseph Train presented to Scott a manuscript called "An authentic account of the Stewarts of Invernahyle." The manuscript is still at Abbotsford. In 1818 Gale and Fenner, the London publishers, asked Scott to edit a new edition of Edward Burt's "Letters from a gentleman in the north of Scotland." This book was one of Scott's great favourites and he used it extensively in *The Lady of the Lake* and in *Waverley*. He declined, however, to edit it and passed the task on to Robert Jamieson. This edition was called the 5th and was issued in 1818 and also in 1822 when it was still called the 5th. To this edition