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N E W S

S. Foster Damon Collection at Brown University

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News

Sir Geoffrey Keynes

A dinner was held on Saturday, 14 July 1973, at Peterhouse, Cambridge, to mark the contribution to Blake studies of Sir Geoffrey Keynes and the publication of *William Blake, Essays in Honour of Sir Geoffrey Keynes*, by the Clarendon Press, Oxford, edited by Michael Phillips and Morton D. Paley. Those present included Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Keynes and their son Gregory, Mr. and Mrs. George Goyder, Mr. and Mrs. David Piper, Dr. and Mrs. A. L. N. Munby, Dr. and Mrs. John Beer, Professor and Mrs. David V. Erdman, Professor and Mrs. G. E. Bentley, Jr., Professor Janet Warner, Professor Robert Essick, Mr. and Mrs. Suzanne Hoover, Professor Irene Tayler, Mr. and Mrs. John Nicoll, Dr. and Mrs. Michael Phillips, and Professor Morton D. Paley.

William Blake, Essays in Honour of Sir Geoffrey Keynes, is to be published 23 August and includes essays by Michael Phillips, David Bindman, Robert N. Essick, F. R. Leavis, Josephine Miles, Michael J. Tolley, Jean H. Hagstrum, G. Wilson Knight, David V. Erdman, Janet Warner, Morris Eaves, John Beer, Morton D. Paley, Martin Butlin, Raymond Lister, and Suzanne R. Hoover, together with a checklist of Sir Geoffrey Keynes's writings on Blake by G. E. Bentley, Jr. The volume is 390 pages and includes 82 plates.

Damon Collection

Foster Damon had a fine Blake collection of some 300 items (not including manuscripts). Besides copies of most secondary works on Blake, standard and non-standard editions, and Trianon, Dent, Muir, and other facsimiles, the collection contains original editions of some of Blake's source materials and of his own works, including several early editions of Blair's *The Grave*, Hayley's *Ballads*, and works by Flaxman and Cumberland on which Blake collaborated. There are also such items as an excellent collection of sheet music for Blake's poems, a wide variety of prints, a Blake Bible, and so forth.

The collection also has value as "Damoniana," including as it does many books bearing Damon's marginalia, his notebooks, a good deal of correspondence, and some unpublished manuscripts.

Damon was associated with the John Hay Library at Brown University for some years, and at his death

in 1971 the collection (in its entirety, as far as I have been able to determine) passed to the library, where it presently awaits cataloguing. The library intends to keep the collection together (a very reassuring decision), and is building it up through such acquisitions as the Trianon facsimile of the Gray illustrations. (*Our thanks to John Kuper-Smith for this item. He is now preparing for the Newsletter an account of the history and principal contents of the Damon collection. Eds.*)

1974 Blake Symposium—Edinburgh

A symposium on the writings of William Blake is to be held at the Institute For Advanced Studies at the University of Edinburgh on 1, 2, and 3 May 1974. The symposium will comprise six to eight discussion seminars for which papers are invited. The seminars will be complemented by a public lecture and a dramatic presentation--of either one of Blake's prophetic books or an aspect of his biography--given in the University Theatre, George Square. Scottish collections of Blake originals will be available on exhibition for members of the symposium.

The emphasis of the symposium will be on close analysis of individual poems and works informed by historical, literary historical, textual, or linguistic findings. Papers which conform to this approach should be submitted for consideration not later than 1 March 1974. A selection of the papers will be published in book form and manuscripts should be prepared with this end in view.

Papers should be submitted to Michael Phillips, Department of English Literature, David Hume Tower, George Square, Edinburgh, from whom further particulars are available.

Some Auctions

Christie's on 12 June 1973 auctioned George Richmond's "Samson slaying the Philistines with the jaw-bone of an ass" with figure studies on the reverse (pen and brown ink, 6 x 5 1/2 ins.), and Samuel Palmer's "Ruined castle at sunset" (water-color heightened with white and gold, 13 1/2 x 10 1/4 ins.). Both works are reproduced in black and white in *Christie's* advertisement in *Apollo*, June 1973, p. 46.