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The illustrations across the page and on the cover: "Mary Magdalen at the Sepulchre" (pen and black ink and watercolor; 16 3/4 x 12 in., 426 x 305 mm.) was sold at auction by Christie, Manson & Woods on 5 June 1973 to Agnew for £23,100—a record price for a single drawing by Blake at auction. According to the Christie's catalogue the provenance is as follows: painted for Thomas Butts; sold by Thomas Butts, Jr., at Sotheby's 26 March 1852 (lot 155) to F. J. Palgrave for £3 11s.; given by Palgrave to Lady Beatrice Maud Cecil (d. 1950) on her marriage to the second Earl of Selborne, 1883.

The catalogue entry reads in part as follows: "Martin Butlin dates the watercolour ca. 1805. It is one of over eighty works painted by Blake for Thomas Butts. As David Bindman has pointed out, there appears to be a distinct group within the series, all of subjects connected with the Crucifixion and the Resurrection: they are of similar size, near symmetrical composition, near monochromatic colouring, and all of upright format; 'Mary Magdalen at the Sepulchre' is part of this set."

At the same sale Blake's "The Mourners" (pencil, pen and grey ink, grey wash; 7 x 9 1/4 in., 176 x 235 mm.) was auctioned. The drawing is dated by David Bindman c. 1785.

Both pictures are reproduced in monochrome in the catalogue, Highly Important English Drawings and Watercolours, 40 pls., 41, available from Christie's, 8 King St., St. James's, London SW1Y 6QT.

Our thanks to David Bindman, Thomas Hinnick, and Ruthven Todd for information and photographs. Reproduced by permission.