

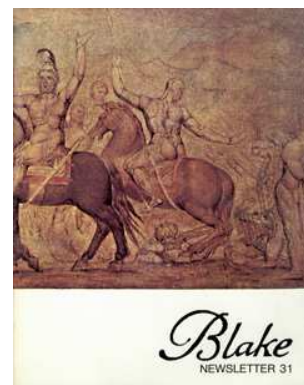
AN ILLUSTRATED QUARTERLY

BLAKE

N E W S

Druid Celebration

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selection of Blake's visual art has been compiled from a wide range of collections in England, Scotland, America, and Australia, including substantial loans from the Fitzwilliam and the Tate. The new National Gallery of Art in Canberra, Australia, has promised to send its recently acquired *Jerusalem* proof plates, and there is a strong possibility of borrowing some of the Melbourne Dantes. The exhibition is the first major showing of Blake in Germany. Hamburg's associations with Blake, through Henry Crabb Robinson's article in the *Vaterlandisches Museum* of 1810, make it an especially suitable location.



London, Taurus Press

Blakes in Glasgow

The copies of *Visions of the Daughters of Albion* (Keynes and Wolf, copy C) and *Europe* (Keynes and Wolf, copy B) from the collection of Lord Cunliffe are now on deposit at the Glasgow University Library, together with a copy of the *Descriptive Catalogue* and its unique advertisement.

Druid Celebration

Blake's name was invoked in a somewhat perverse context on 22 September 1974 during the Druid celebration of the autumn equinox on Parliament Hill Fields in North London. The hyperborean revivalists in question belong to the Order of Bards, Ovates and Druids, a splinter group of the British Circle of the Universal Bond, which claims descent from a meeting of British Druids supposedly organized at Primrose Hill in 1717 by John Toland. More surprisingly, the Order accords Blake a place on the roll of honor for its departed chieftains, alongside John Aubrey, William Stukeley and Bulwer Lytton. A desire to appease conventional religious opinion has robbed the ceremony of much of its pagan flavor, to the point where even the four archangels are enlisted in the Druid cause. However, the fruits of the earth were duly presented to the Chief Druid, who then returned them to the soil (or rather to the hands of onlooking children who disliked the idea of waste); "Excalibur" was unsheathed for the pronouncement of peace on the four corners of the earth; two new posthumants were accepted into the Order; a poetry reading was given and, finally, after a comprehensive blessing, the Druid banner, bearing a trilithon surmounted by a wheatsheaf, made its way down the hill to the changing-rooms.



Holy Thursday, Taurus Press