Blake in the Marketplace, 2008

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## CONTENTS

### Articles

- **Blake in the Marketplace, 2008**
  *By Robert N. Essick*
  116

- **William Blake's Miniature Portraits of the Butts Family**
  *By M. Crosby*
  147

### Minute Particulars

- **The Man Who Married the Blakes**
  *By Morton D. Paley*
  153

- **The American Blake Foundation**
  *By G. E. Bentley, Jr.*
  155

### Newsletter

- **Blake's Grave; Martin K. Nurmi, 1920–2008**
  158

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INFORMATION

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Cover: Postcard photograph, 8.8 x 13.7 cm., showing the south aspect of Blake's cottage in Felpham (see p. 131). Essick collection.
STEADY STREAM of significant works by Blake and his circle continued to flow through the marketplace in 2008. A clipping of the design only from the second plate of "Spring" (Songs of Innocence pl. 23) changed hands twice. A tempera painting, The Flight into Egypt (illus. 4), three drawings, and Blake's rare "Enoch" lithograph made their way through the auction rooms. Two watercolors, a pencil sketch (one of the auctioned drawings), a monochrome wash drawing, and a manuscript were offered by dealers. Only the lithograph attracted much interest, as described below. The poor condition of The Flight into Egypt, typical of Blake's early temperas, and multiple layers of restoration undermined its chances at auction. John Windle, acting on my behalf, was probably the only bidder. The painting, with an estimate of £100,000-200,000, achieved £95,000 (£115,250 with the buyer's premium), presumably against the reserve. To put this price in proper perspective, the lot immediately preceding, Jean-Antoine Watteau's La Surprise, a painting about the same size as Blake's, fetched £12,361,250 on an estimate of £3-5 million.

Libby Howie, the London art dealer who in 2002 acquired nineteen of Blake's watercolors illustrating Robert Blair's The Grave on behalf of Marburg Ltd., told Windle on 1 May that The Gambols of Ghosts According with Their Affections Previous to the Final Judgment, one of the designs that had failed to sell at auction in New York on 2 May 2006, was "no longer available."1 I assume that this means it has been sold, probably to a private collector. I acquired another of the Grave watercolors from the unsold group, The Death of the Good Old Man, in June (illus. 1-2). Marburg, headquartered in Tortola, British Virgin Islands, retains legal title to three of the Grave watercolors: Whilst Surfeited upon Thy Damask Cheek, The Descent of Man into the Vale of Death, and The Counsellor, King, Warrior, Mother and Child, in the Tomb. These remain in London with Howie under "bond"—meaning that they are physically in Britain but have not been officially imported into the country after their attempted sale in New York. This means that an external purchaser does not need to go through the UK's fine-arts export procedure, with its potential for a temporary hold and a matching offer from a British resident or institution. Color reproductions of the Grave watercolors are available in the William Blake Archive <http://www.blakearchive.org>.

Windle, in association with Henry Sotheran Ltd., offered a selling exhibition of Blake materials at Sotheran's handsome bookshop on Sackville Street, London, in June. The opening on 3 June included a presentation by the novelist Tracy Chevalier. The catalogue, William Blake: An Exhibition of Prints, Books and Facsimiles, appeared online and in letterpress, with all entries illustrated (at least in part) in color in both versions. Some of the items on offer had appeared in Windle's earlier catalogues, but all the original works are listed below under the designation "Windle/Sotheran" for the sake of completeness. Highlights included a pencil sketch, Paolo and Francesca, and the impression of the design from the second plate of "Spring."

Larkhall Fine Art of Bath held a selling exhibition from 11 July to 13 September entitled Samuel Palmer: His Friends and His Influence. No catalogue was issued; only a bare-bones list of prints without prices appeared on Larkhall's web site <http://www.larkhall.com>. The works on display are briefly noted in the lists below.

In mid-October Windle acquired for stock the Blake reference library assembled by Roger and Kay Easson that at one time belonged to the American Blake Foundation. The most important work, now in the Victoria University Library, was a copy of Bray's Life of Stothard extra-illustrated and extended to ten volumes quarto. A small group of Blake's commercial book illustrations, removed from their bibliographic contexts, came from the same source. Windle intends to issue a sale catalogue of the collection in 2009.

On 15 October Windle received a letter from Richard Lloyd, head of the print department at Christie's London. Lloyd stated that he would offer at auction "a rare Blake" on 2 December, invited Windle to view this treasure on display in New York in late October, and did not identify the object further. Windle called Christie's on 16 October and learned from Lloyd that his letter was referring to the impression of the "Enoch" lithograph in Raymond Lister's collection from 1972 to 1985. Interest in this print extends beyond the small band of major Blake collectors because it is among the rarest "incunabula" in the history of lithography. Condition problems with the impression on offer may have been the reason that no lithography specialists ventured beyond the low estimate of £40,000. Subsequent bidding was a contest between Windle, acting on my behalf, and the Chicago husband and wife who

have assembled the finest private collection of Blake’s illuminated books. “Enoch” was knocked down to Windle at a hammer bid of £80,000 (£97,250 with the buyer’s premium). I suspect that this is a record for a British lithograph. In the same auction of Old Master prints, an exceptionally fine impression of Rembrandt’s engraving and drypoint, “Christ Crucified between Two Thieves,” sold for £421,250.

The Blake market has yet to register the full effects of the rolling financial crises that began in September 2008. History suggests that the art and book market is a trailing indicator in such circumstances, with a lag time of six to twelve months. As prices fall and lots fail at auction, the supply of materials begins to dry up as potential sellers wait for better times and better prices. There may be fewer important works on offer in 2009 than in 2008—unless forced onto the market by what auctioneers call “the three Ds” (death, divorce, debt).

I have subscribed to all relevant auction catalogues issued by Bloomsbury, Christie’s, Sotheby’s, and Swann for many years. These printed catalogues have become increasingly expensive; at the same time, the searchable online versions have become timely, detailed, and thoroughly illustrated. In summer 2008 I began to end my subscriptions and to rely on the online versions. The 2009 sales review will be based on internet catalogues for all auctions.

The year of all sales and catalogues in the following lists is 2008 unless indicated otherwise. Dates for online dealers’ catalogues are the dates accessed, not the dates of publication. Works offered online and previously listed in either of the last two sales reviews are not repeated here. All listings on EB are illustrated in color unless noted otherwise. Most of the auction houses add their purchaser’s surcharge to the hammer price in their price lists. These net amounts are given here, following the official price lists. The value-added tax levied against the buyer’s surcharge in Britain is not included. Late 2008 sales will be covered in the 2009 review. I am grateful for help in compiling this review to G. E. Bentley, Jr., David Bindman, Martin Butlin, Harriet Drummond, Jessica Gormley, Robin Hamlyn, Alan Jutzi, Jenijoy La Belle, Richard Lloyd, Nicholas Lott, Christopher Mendez, Morton Paley, Anthony Payne, John Sutherland, Robert Tear, David Weinglass, and John Windle. My special thanks go to Alexander Gourlay for his generosity in keeping me abreast of internet auctions. Once again, Sarah Jones’s editorial expertise and John Sullivan’s electronic imaging have been invaluable.

Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BH</td>
<td>Bonhams, auctioneers, London</td>
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<tr>
<td>BL</td>
<td>Bloomsbury Auctions, London</td>
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<tr>
<td>BNY</td>
<td>Bloomsbury Auctions, New York</td>
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<tr>
<td>cat.</td>
<td>catalogue or sales list issued by a dealer (usually followed by a number or letter designation)</td>
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<tr>
<td>CL</td>
<td>Christie’s, London</td>
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<td>CNY</td>
<td>Christie’s, New York</td>
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<td>CSK</td>
<td>Christie’s, South Kensington</td>
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<td>EB</td>
<td>eBay online auctions</td>
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<tr>
<td>GL</td>
<td>Gorringes, auctioneers, Lewes, Sussex</td>
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<tr>
<td>illus.</td>
<td>the item or part thereof is reproduced in the catalogue</td>
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<tr>
<td>PBA</td>
<td>Pacific Book Auction Galleries, San Francisco</td>
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<td>pl(s).</td>
<td>plate(s)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SL</td>
<td>Sotheby’s, London</td>
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<tr>
<td>SNY</td>
<td>Sotheby’s, New York</td>
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<td>st(s).</td>
<td>state(s) of an engraving, etching, or lithograph</td>
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<td>Swann</td>
<td>Swann, auctioneers, New York</td>
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<td>#</td>
<td>auction lot or catalogue item number</td>
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Illuminated Books

“Spring,” 2nd pl. (pl. 23 from Songs of Innocence), trimmed to the design below the text, 2.8 x 7.5 cm. Color printed with hand coloring. Windle/Sotheran, June cat., #54, on consignment from Roger and Kay Easson (£60,500). Acquired from the Eassons by Windle in Sept. for stock and sold in Oct. to the Victoria University Library, Toronto. Previously offered by Windle in his Nov. 2006 cat., 42, #76, on consignment, illus. color (price on request). For illus. and comments, see Blake 40.4 (spring 2007): 119.

Drawings and Paintings

Cumaean Sibyl, a copy, attributed to Blake, of Michelangelo’s fresco of the Cumean Sibyl in the Sistine Chapel. Watercolor, 17.0 x 12.0 cm., study of 1 of Michelangelo’s ignudi on the verso. Arader Galleries, May online cat., dating the work to "1773," recto illus. color ($90,000). Not discovered until 2002 and thus not in Butlin. Previously offered SL, 28 Nov. 2002, #236, dated to "circa 1773," recto illus. color (£14,340). For illus. and discussion, see Blake 36.4 (spring 2003): front cover, 116-17, 119, 120.
The Death of the Good Old Man. Pen and ink and watercolor over traces of pencil, 20.1 x 25.8 cm. Datable to 1805. Acquired June by Essick from Marburg Ltd., Libby Howie (for Marburg) and John Windle (for Essick) acting as agents. Previously offered SNY, 2 May 2006, #14 (bought in at $420,000; estimate $550,000-700,000). Not discovered until 2001 and thus not in Butlin. See comments on the Grave watercolors in the prefatory essay, above, and illus. 1-3.

The Flight into Egypt. Tempera on canvas, 27.2 x 38.3 cm., inscribed “inv / WB 179[?]” lower right. Butlin #404. CL, 8 July, #22, from the collection of the late George Goyder, illus. color (£115,250 to John Windle acting for Essick). See comments in the prefatory essay, above, and illus. 4.

The Gambols of Ghosts According with Their Affections Previous to the Final Judgment. Watercolor, 26.9 x 20.7 cm. Apparently sold no later than April by Marburg Ltd., probably to a private collector. Previously offered SNY, 2 May 2006, #12 (bought in at $520,000; estimate $700,000-1,000,000). Not discovered until 2001 and thus not in Butlin. See comments on the Grave watercolors in the prefatory essay, above; for illus., see Blake 35.3 (winter 2001-02): 69.

Paolo and Francesca(?). Pencil, approx. 19.0 x 11.0 cm. on leaf 21.3 x 37.4 cm. Butlin #816, dating the drawing to c. 1824-27. BH, 11 March, #26, illus. color (£8880 to John Windle for stock; estimate £6000-9000). Windle/Sotheran, June cat., #55 (£38,000). Sold Sept. by Windle to Maurice Sendak, Connecticut. For illus. and comments, see Blake 41.4 (spring 2008): front cover, 140, 147, 148.


2. (facing page) The Death of the Good Old Man. The digital image has been electronically manipulated in Adobe Photoshop by John Sullivan of the Huntington Library to erase accidental
blemishes. The most prominent of these, visible in illus. 1, are the light coffee-colored stain descending vertically (lower right) across the midpoint of the dead man’s lower legs, a similar but much smaller stain about 4 cm. to the left, and another coffee-colored vertical line running across the midpoint of the man’s forearm. A few small flaws, probably the result of aging rather than spillage, have also been removed.

A comparison of illus. 1 and 2 demonstrates how digital imaging can assist in making decisions about the cleaning or conservation of a work of art. The drawing appears to be stable, with little if any accretion of problems emerging from the backing mat. Thus, the major considerations are aesthetic. Would the watercolor look better if successfully cleaned? Certainly it would, but would the improvement be worth the effort? There are always risks involved in cleaning a delicate watercolor. The drawing could not be treated without removal from the backing mat; the safest way to do this would be to peel away the mat, layer by layer. The original mat and its framing lines are, however, significant historical documents that should be preserved. Thus, the drawing and its mat would require immersion in water to float them apart. All things considered, I decided not to take any action at this point. To my eyes, illus. 2 does not show sufficient visual improvement to justify an attempt to clean the original. Other collectors or curators might come to a different conclusion.

3. (following page) “The Death of the Good Old Man.” Etching/engraving by Louis Schiavonetti after Blake. Second published state as printed for the 1808 quarto issue of Robert Blair, The Grave. Image 20.3 x 26.0 cm., platemark 23.9 x 27.6 cm. Essick collection. A comparison of this print with Blake’s watercolor (illus. 1-2) shows how faithfully Schiavonetti followed his model, particularly if one allows for the intrinsic differences between the two media. In the watercolor, Blake makes a telling difference between the lined, perhaps shrunken, right hand of the old man’s material body in the lower half of the composition and the more youthful hands of the spiritual body guided heavenward by angels. Schiavonetti renders this distinction, with only partial success, by executing hatching strokes over the material hand while leaving the right hand unshaded in the figure above.
The Flight into Egypt. Tempera on canvas, 27.2 x 38.3 cm., inscribed "inv / WB 179[9?]" lower right. Essick collection. Butlin #404. The picture takes its subject from Matthew 2.13-14. Although the painting is now darkened with age, Blake executed the design as a night scene, as specified in the Bible and indicated in the picture by the crescent moon above and to the left of the Virgin's head. Motifs are illuminated principally by the light emanating from the Christ child in anticipation of what he would later say of himself, "I am the light of the world" (John 9.5). Joseph stands on the left, partly behind the donkey's head, and looks back at his wife and child. The family is attended by six putti arrayed around the Virgin and three winged angels, two on the right and one left of Joseph. An "angel of the Lord" appears to Joseph in a dream and tells him to "flee into Egypt" (Matthew 2.13), but there is no indication in the Bible that the family is accompanied by angels during its journey. Sky-borne putti and large guardian or guiding angels are, however, traditional in portrayals of the scene—see, for example, the etchings and engravings based on designs by Cherubino Alberti, Sébastien Bourdon, Jacob Jordaens, J. B. van Loo (engraved by Laurent Cars), Claude Lorrain, Richard van Orley, Martin Schongauer, G. D. Tiepolo, and Marten de Vos. Hendrik Goudt's famous engraving, "The Flight into Egypt" (1613), based on a painting by Adam Elsheimer, is a very dark night scene illuminated by a full moon. An avid print collector in his youth, Blake was very probably familiar with these or similar works from the fifteenth through the eighteenth centuries.

Roger E. Fry describes this tempera as follows: The Flight into Egypt will at once recall Giotto's treatment of the subject in the Arena chapel at Padua; but the likeness is, in a sense, deceptive, for Giotto was working away from Byzantine as fast as Blake was working towards it, and the two pass one another on the road. For there is here but little of Giotto's tender human feeling, less still of his robust rationalism; what they have in common, what Blake rediscovered and Giotto inherited, is the sentiment of supernatural dignity, the hieratic solemnity and superhuman purposefulness of the gestures. Even more than in Giotto's version, the Virgin here sits on the
ass as though enthroned in monumental state, her limbs fixed in the rigid symmetry which oriental art has used to express complete withdrawal from the world of sense. No less perfect in its expressiveness of the strange and exalted mood is the movement, repeated with such impressive monotony, in the figures of Joseph and the archangel. It is absurd, we think, to deny to the man who discovered the lines of these figures the power of draughtsmanship. Since Giotto's day scarcely any one has drawn thus—simplification has been possible only as the last effort of consummate science refining away the superfluous; but here the simplification of the forms is the result of an instinctive passionate reaching out for the direct symbol of the idea. ... Of this language of symbolic form in which the spirit communicates its most secret and indefinable impulses Blake was an eloquent and persuasive master. He could use it, too, to the most diverse ends; and though the sublimity which is based upon dread came most readily to his mind, he could express, as we have seen in the Flight into Egypt, the sublimity of divine introspection. ("Three Pictures in Tempera by William Blake," Burlington Magazine 4 [1904]: supplement 205-06, reprinted in Fry, Vision and Design [London: Chatto & Windus, 1920] 142-43)

Few art historians today would deploy rhetoric like Fry's; his comments, however, successfully place the painting's style in a grand historical context to highlight important dimensions of the sensibility Blake expresses through his biblical paintings and drawings.

The tempera was restored between 1863 and 1880 and again between 1904, when W. Graham Robertson acquired it, and 1907. Stanley William Littlejohn of the British Museum probably undertook this second restoration. The painting was restored for a third time by Johann Hell c. 1950 after George Goyder acquired it at the auction of Robertson's collection on 22 July 1949. The illustration accompanying Fry's essay in Burlington Magazine and several later reproductions show a large crack, above and to the right of the Virgin's head, now no longer visible. In spite of these efforts, The Flight into Egypt retains many of the condition problems, including cracking and "cupping" (depressions in the paint with surrounding ridges), common to Blake's temperas of 1799-1800. Further conservation may be necessary; the paint surface lower right is unstable.
The Resurrection or The Last Trumpet (recto), with studies of eyes, the head of an eagle, a human face, and a lion (verso). Recto datable to c. 1780-85; some of the verso sketches related to Blake's 1802 Designs to a Series of Ballads by William Hayley. Pen and gray ink, gray wash over pencil (recto), pencil (verso), recto image and sheet 20.5 x 21.2 cm. Butlin #617 (listed as untraced since 1922). W/S Fine Art, July cat., British Works on Paper, #10, illus. color (£220,000). Previously sold SL, 4 July 2002, #183 (£144,150 to Agnew's); offered several times since by Agnew's and W/S Fine Art. For illus. and comments, see Martin Butlin, "A Blake Drawing Rediscovered and Redated," Blake 34.1 (summer 2000): cover and 22-24; and Blake 36.4 (spring 2003): 121 (misidentified as Butlin #610). For a preliminary study, see The Resurrection of the Dead, next entry below.


St. Augustine Converting King Ethelbert of Kent. Watercolor, 13.3 x 18.4 cm., datable to c. 1779. Butlin #57. Acquired in 1978 from Colnaghi's, London, by Neil Phillips, Montreal (and later Montpelier, Virginia); by inheritance c. 2007 to a private owner; on consignment with the New York dealer David Tunick by Jan. 2008 ($135,000). See illus. 5.

Two Studies of a Baby's Head. Pencil, with touches of watercolor on the lower head, leaf 37.4 x 26.2 cm. Butlin #788, dating the drawing to c. 1820. BH, 11 March, #27, illus. color (£10,800; estimate £10,000-15,000). Acquired by a private collector, London. For illus. and comments, see Blake 41.4 (spring 2008): 140, 147, 149.

Manuscripts

Letter of 18 Jan. 1808 to Ozias Humphry, 4 pp. describing Blake's Last Judgment design. Returned to the dealer Roy Davids by a private customer who acquired the manuscript from Davids in late 2002; offered by Davids to John Windle in Oct. (£55,000; Windle declined). Previously offered Davids, March 2000 cat. for “The Artist as a Portrait” exhibition and sale.
Separate Plates and Plates in Series

"Chaucers Canterbury Pilgrims." Skinner auction, Boston, 7 March, #2028, 5th st., probably a Sessler impression, "laid down, loss to corner u[pper] r[ight], toning and staining," illus. color online ($2700). Swann, 1 May, #286, 5th st., laid India, very probably a Colnaghi impression, "wide (full?) margins," illus. color ($5400). Windle/Sotheran, June cat., #1, 5th st., Colnaghi impression on laid India "mounted on heavy wove" ($15,500).

Dante engravings. Swann, 1 May, #291, pl. 5 only, laid India, illus. color ($5400). Windle/Sotheran, June cat., #21-25, pls. 1, 2, 4-6 offered individually, laid India ($10,500 for pl. 1, others £4500-9000 each); #67, complete set, laid India, original label, later morocco case (£37,500). CNY, 31 July, #1, pi. 6, wove " (£15,500).

5. St. Augustine Converting King Ethelbert of Kent. Watercolor, 13.5 x 18.4 cm., datable to c. 1779. Butlin #57. Ethelbert sits on the left holding a book (of laws?); an attendant holding keys (to the kingdom?) stands behind him. St. Augustine is probably the tonsured ecclesiastical far right, the index finger of his left hand pointing upward to indicate heavenly matters in his conversation with the king, whose left index finger points toward Augustine and slightly downward (to worldly matters?).

According to the early accounts, Ethelbert insisted that the meeting be held outdoors (see Bede's Historia ecclesiastica gentis Anglorum, very probably the source for later historians such as Milton, Rapin de Thoyras, and Hume). The background drapery and pole (the latter above and to the left of the king's head) suggest that Blake has placed the event inside a tent—unless this is simply a background curtain like the one in the second plate of "A Cradle Song" in Songs of Innocence. A much larger pencil sketch of the same subject is in the Rosenwald Collection, National Gallery of Art, Washington (Butlin #58, dating the drawing to c. 1793).

This is one of Blake's nine small watercolors (eight traced) of c. 1779 picturing major events in English history. These may have been the basis for "The History of England, a small book of Engravings" Blake listed in his advertisement "To the Public" of October 1793 (E 693). No copy of that book, or any engraving from it, has ever been found. In the design reproduced here, three figures gesture prominently with their left hands. If Blake had copied the composition onto a copperplate without reversing it, impressions would show right-hand gestures. Photo courtesy of David Tunick.

Spring 2009

Blake/An Illustrated Quarterly 123
contemporary calf rebacked (£30,000); same copy, Feb. Los Angeles Book Fair ($60,000); same copy, Feb. cat. 1364, #17, illus. color (£30,000); same copy, March cat. for the New York Book Fair, #12 ($60,000). Swann, 1 May, 4 pls. offered individually, all on laid India, the 1st lot probably the 1874 printing, the others published "Proof" impressions of 1826, all illus. color: #287, pl. numbered 4 ($1500); #288, pl. numbered 6 ($3600); #289, pl. numbered 11 ($4400); #290, pl. numbered 21 ($1800). Windle/Sotheran, June cat., 1874 printing on laid India, pls. offered individually as follows: #2-18, title p. and pls. numbered 1, 3-10, 12, 13, 16-20 (£1200-1800 each); #19, pl. numbered 5, 1826 "Proof" printing on so-called "French" paper (£1700); #20, pl. numbered 19, 1826 "Proof" printing on "French" paper (£2300); #62, complete set, 1826 "Proof" impressions on laid India, the pls. "appear to have been professionally cleaned," later full morocco (£38,500; acquired by the book dealer Colin Franklin). Larkhall Fine Art, July-Sept. exhibit, pl. numbered 21 only (price on request). Aspire Auctions, Cleveland, 11 Sept., #117, pl. numbered 21 only, no description of the printing or paper but apparently an impression on Whatman paper after the removal of the "Proof" inscription, illus. color online ($1408.75). Swann, 18 Sept., #1, complete set, 1826 printing on Whatman paper after removal of the "Proof" inscription, "paper wrappers with the publisher's label pasted on the front cover," 8 pls. illus. color ($40,800 to Sims Reed for stock). GL, 23 Oct., #1091, pl. numbered 15 only, "Proof" printing on laid India, illus. color online (£700).

"Rev. John Caspar Lavater." EB, May-June, 3rd st., apparently trimmed within the platemark to 35.6 x 27.9 cm., tear in margin top left (no bids on a required minimum bid of $499.99).

Letterpress Books with Engravings by and after Blake, Including Prints Extracted from Such Books


Allen, Roman History, 1798. Windle/Sotheran, June cat., #56, later 19th-century cloth worn (£650).

Archaeologia. See under Basire in Blake's Circle and Followers, below.


Blair, The Grave. BL, 29 Feb., #889, 1808 quarto, browned and foxed, later morocco worn (not sold; estimate £400-600). EB, May, portrait frontpiece of Blake only, imprint trimmed off, light stains and 1 tear in lower margin, framed (offered at the "buy it now" price of £750 or "best offer"). Windle/Sotheran, June cat., #57, 1808 quarto, slight browning or soiling, 2 pls. with marginal repairs, later morocco (£1450); #58, 1808 quarto, slight scattered foxing, original boards rebacked, cover label (£5000); #59, "1813" (actually 1870) folio, scattered foxing, quarter calf (£1420). BL, 11 June, #423, described as a quarto of "1813" but probably the 1870 folio because in "original blind-stamped cloth" rebacked, rubbed and stained (not sold; estimate £300-400). Manhattan Rare Book Co., June online cat., 1808 quarto, scattered foxing, contemporary half morocco worn, illus. color ($2700). EB, June, frontpiece portrait only, 1813 imprint, margins foxed (£117—probably a record price for a published st.). Quaker Hill Books, July online cat., 1808 quarto, marginal damp staining, three-quarter morocco (£1760). Waverley Books, July online cat., 1808 quarto, light foxing, "half leather" (£2000.50). Krown & Spellman, July online cat., "1813" (but actually 1870) folio, publisher's cloth repaired (£1850). Anthony Laywood, July online cat., 1808 "small folio" (probably the quarto), modern half calf (£1100). George Robert Minkoff, July online cat., 1808 "quarto" (but probably the folio, since the frontispiece is on laid India), "large paper with the plates in early states" (i.e., the folio sts.), foxed, "contemporary leather-backed boards, in damaged slipcase" (£5000). Peter L. Stern, July online cat., 1813 quarto, foxed, contemporary half morocco worn (£1750). Resource Books, July online cat., 1813 quarto, lacking pl. 3, three-quarter calf very worn, covers detached (£950). BL, 4 Sept., #433, 1813 quarto, light soiling and spotting, "last plate a little water-stained," later half calf worn (£320). Hermitage Bookshop, Oct. online cat., 1808 quarto, scattered browning and marginal foxing, later calf rebacked (£3000). Scrivener's Books, Oct. online cat., [1870] portfolio of the pls. only, slight foxing, original cloth folder repaired, cover illus. color (£1100). Houle Rare Books, Oct. online cat., 1808 "small folio" (probably the quarto), modern three-quarter morocco (£3750). Black Swan Books, Oct. online cat., [1870] portfolio of pls. only, lacking pl. 3, some tears, original cloth folder worn (£825). BL, 10 Nov., #24, 1808 quarto, browned and foxed, later morocco very worn (offered at £400 in a "fixed price" auction).

Boydell's Graphic Illustrations of ... Shakespeare, c. 1803. Charles Avgett, July online cat., scattered foxing, contemporary half calf worn, covers detached (£3500). H. M. Fletcher, July online cat., lacking the portraits, title p., and 2 unidentified pls., foxed, contemporary half calf (£1500).


Cumberland, *Outlines from the Antients*, 1829. Windle/Sotheran, June cat., #83, foxed or browned throughout, 19th-century quarter morocco (£500).


Flaxman, *Odyssey* designs, 1805. EB, Jan., considerable foxing on some pls., original boards worn and rebacked with cloth, cover label (£112.11); Aug.-Sept., bound with the *Odyssey* designs, 1805, late 19th-century morocco by Zaehnsdorf, both covers detached, "crummy slipcase" (no bids on a required minimum bid of £350).

Hayley, *Ballads*, 1805. BNY, 12 Dec. 2007, #134, 1st st. of the pls., some foxing, contemporary half morocco worn, illus. color (not sold; estimate $1800-2400); same copy, 17 Sept., #245, illus. color ($1000). Windle/Sotheran, June cat., #87, 2nd st. of pls. 1-3, later calf (£2950).


Hayley, *Life of Romney*, 1809. Windle/Sotheran, June cat., #53, Blake's pl. only, apparently trimmed to the image and oddly dated to "1791" (£280); #89, "large-paper copy," modern half morocco (£2950). BL, 11 June, #148, contemporary calf, with Gray, *Poems and Letters*, 1863 (not sold; estimate £280-320). Howes Bookshop, Nov. cat. 329, #15, "large paper copy" described as having an "1808" watermark (probably an error for 1807—see appendix 1, below), uncut in original boards, printed spine label, binding worn, upper cover detached (£550).

Hayley, *Triumphs of Temper*, 1803. Windle/Sotheran, June cat., #88, apparently the small-paper issue, scattered foxing, contemporary calf rebacked (£410). EB, July, lacking pl. 3, small-paper issue, contemporary half calf worn (no bids on a required minimum bid of £95); same copy, Oct. (£109.77). James Fenning, Nov. cat. 243, #102, contemporary calf, "both boards eaten but binding sound and strong" (£450). A voracious reader?


Hoare, *Inquiry*, 1806. Sotheran's, July online cat., contemporary half calf worn (£198).


Josephus, *Works*. EB, Dec. 2007, Blake's pl. 3 only, 3rd st., marginal stains ($38); May, probably an issue between BB issues A and B, lacking "Whole" in the 1st line of the title (as in A) but with the reference to Kimpton (as in B), contemporary calf very worn, front cover detached (£201). Krown & Spellman, July online cat., BB issue D or E, some leaves torn, "old cloth" (£850). Vinyl UK, July online cat., BB issue B or later, contemporary calf worn, covers loose (£757.80).


Malkin, *Father's Memoirs of His Child*, 1806. Swann, 7 April, #21, John Quinn’s copy (sold at auction in 1923 for $18), contemporary calf very worn, front cover detached ($550). Windle/Sotheran, June cat., #91, contemporary morocco ($960). James Cummins, July online cat., uncut in original boards rebacked, new endpapers ($1500).

Mora, *Meditaciones poéticas*, 1826. BL, 15 May, #360, engraved title folded at foot, 1 pi. damp stained, contemporary calf worn, modern folding box, illus. color (not rebacked, new endpapers ($1500).


*Novelist’s Magazine.* EB, May, vol. 8, 1782 ed., lacking the general title p., contemporary calf very worn, covers amateurishly reattached with tape (£102). Windle/Sotheran, June cat., #26-33, Blake’s pls. only, vol. 8, pl. 2 in the 2nd st., all others 1st st., offered individually as follows: vol. 8, pl. 2; vol. 9, pls. 1-3; vol. 10, pls. 1-3; another impression of vol. 10, pl. 3 trimmed to the central image (£60 for the last, £70 each for all others). Best Buy Books, July online cat., vol. 8, apparently lacking the general title p. and with the specific title p. dated “1795” according to the vendor (thus a previously unrecorded issue?), later morocco worn, front cover loose ($350); same copy, Vinyl UK, July online cat. (£383.74). EB, Oct., vol. 8, 1782 ed., contemporary calf worn (offered at the “buy it now” price of $575 or “best offer”). J & S Wilbraham, Nov. online cat. 78, #164, vols. 10-11, 1783 (vol. 10) and 1793 (vol. 11) eds., contemporary calf (£75).


Rees, *The Cyclopedia*, 1820. BL, 3 April, #381, pls. vols. 2-6 only (presumably including Blake’s pls. 2-7), scattered foxing, contemporary half calf very worn, some covers lacking (£420). EB, June, Blake’s pl. 1 with 3 pls. not by Blake, marginal foxing ($9.99); another lot of 4 pls. including Blake’s pl. 1, slight browning ($31); another lot of 6 pls. including Blake’s pls. 4-7, marginal browning ($24.99); July, pls. vol. 2 only (presumably including Blake’s pl. 2), light foxing, “hardback,” covers loose ($114.49).

Ritson, *Select Collection of English Songs*, 1783. Windle/Sotheran, June cat., #34-36, Blake’s pls. 2, 4, 6 only ($60 each).


Scott, *Poetical Works*, 1782. EB, Jan., contemporary calf (no bids on a required minimum bid of $499); same copy, Feb., same result on a required minimum bid of $399. Windle/Sotheran, June cat., #37-38, Blake’s pls. 1 and 3 only (£70 each). Ed Buryn, July online cat., “marbled leather boards” (i.e., mottled calf?) worn ($395).


Stedman, *Narrative*, colored copies. CSK, 24 Sept., #235, 35 (of 80) pls. only, including at least Blake’s pl. 10, loose in a box. Blake’s pl. 10 illus. color (£875; estimate £400-600). The coloring of pl. 10 accords with hand-colored impressions in the 1796 ed.


half calf, some covers detached ($6000); same copy, Gonn.*
June, #255, 1762-94, 3 vols., some foxing, early 19th-century same copy, Sims Reed, July online cat. (£35,000). Swann, 19th-century Russia rebacked, vol. 5 quarter morocco ($30,000); Tuer, Follies and Fashions of Our Grandfathers, 1886-87. BL, Tuer, 1886-87. BL, June, #466, large-paper issue, publisher's boards, and another book, Victorian Illustrated, not dated (£100). Includes a restrike of Blake's pl. 3 from Hayley's Essay on Sculpture, 1800.
Virgil, Pastoralis, 1821. Windle/Sotheran, June cat., #94, vol. 1 only, original sheep (£23,100); same copy, and 2 separate cuts by Blake, Larkhall Fine Art, July-Sept. exhibit (prices on request). See also Essick, A Troubled Paradise, 1999, under Interesting Blakeana, below.
Wit's Magazine, 1784. EB, Feb., Blake's pl. 4 only, with signatures and title, no mention of the imprint (no bids on a required minimum bid of $299). Possibly the same impression offered EB, Nov. 2007 (not sold). Windle/Sotheran, June cat., #51-52, Blake's pls. 4 and 5 only (£250 each).
Young, Night Thoughts, 1797, uncolored copies. SNY, 11 Dec. 2007, #72, with the "Explanation" leaf, pls. 5 and 26 before imprints, fore-edge and tail uncut, leaves 43.2 x 33.3 cm., later morocco, illus. color (£6875); same copy, John Windle, Oct. online cat. (£25,000). BL, 29 Feb., #888, lacking the "Explanation" leaf, damp stained at lower edges, contemporary morocco rebacked, illus. color (£4200). Bauman Rare Books, May online cat., with the "Explanation" leaf, uncut, 19th-century cloth rebacked in morocco, illus. color (£16,000). BL, 15 May, #254, with the "Explanation" leaf, contemporary morocco, illus. color (£6500); same copy, Bernard Shapero, June cat. of "50 Favourites," #50, illus. color (£12,500), and Oct. cat. of "50 Fine Books," #3, illus. color (£13,500).

Interesting Blakeana
J. Boehme, Works, the so-called "Law edition," 1764-81. Ursus Books, May cat. 274, #7, 4 vols., with marginalia by "Dr. Charles A. Muses, founder of the Jacob Boehme Society of America," modern calf, illus. color (£25,000). The ed. of Boehme known to Blake and perhaps owned by him—see his comment to Henry Crabb Robinson on the beauty of the "figures" (i.e., the illus.) in "Law's transl." (BR(2) 423).
J. Meyer, portrait miniatures of the Hayley family, c. 1770. SL, 16 April, #19, Mrs. William Hayley (née Elizabeth Ball), William Hayley's 1st wife, 6.9 x 5.7 cm. oval, framed, illus. color (not sold; estimate £6000-8000); #20, Mrs. Thomas Hayley (née Mary Yates), William Hayley's mother, 7.1 x 5.9 cm. oval, framed, illus. color (not sold; estimate £4000-6000).
Monthly Magazine, and British Register, vol. 1, part 1, 1801. Givens Books, July online cat., "leather" worn (£45). The April issue states that Thomas Macklin paid Blake £80 to engrave "The Fall of Rosamond" after Stothard (BB #987).
J. Hassell, Memoirs of ... George Morland, 1806. Quaritch, Feb. cat. 1363, #58, some browning, contemporary half calf worn (£275). Hassell describes Blake's prints after Morland, "The Idle Laundress" and "Industrious Cottager" (78), and lists "Blake" as their engraver in the "Catalogue of the Works of Morland" (170).
Monthly Magazine, and British Register, vol. 26, part 2, 1808. Broad Street Book Centre, July online cat., half calf very worn (£40). The 1 Dec. issue contains a brief anonymous review (BB #951) of Blake's illus. in the 1808 ed. of Blair's Grave. The review is generally positive, but the author points out that the spiritual "conceptions" pictured in some of the designs "admit of no just graphic representation." Blake responded to this type of criticism in his Descriptive Catalogue of 1809: "The connoisseurs and artists who have made objections to Mr. B's mode of representing spirits with real bodies, would do well to consider that the Venus, the Minerva, the Jupiter, the Apollo, which they admire in Greek statues, are all of them representations of spiritual existences of God's immortal, to the mortal perishing organ of sight; and yet they are embodied and organized in solid marble. Mr. B. requires the same latitude and all is well" (E 541). See BR(2) 276 for the complete text of the review.
W. Carey, Critical Description of the Procession of Chaucer's Pilgrims ... Painted by Thomas Stothard, 1808, 1818. EB, March, 1818 ed., stains, "boards detached" (£25.99). James Burmester, April cat. 71, #12, "1809" (probably an error for
1808) ed., bound with Carey, Letter to F. A., 1809, contemporary half roan worn (£200). Both eds. include brief references to Blake's designs for Blair's Grave.

Vaterländisches Museum, vol. 1, nos. 1-6, 1810, and vol. [2], no. 1, 1811. Hamburger Antiquariat, Jan. online cat., contemporary quarter calf ($1099). The Jan. 1811 issue includes Henry Crabb Robinson's essay on Blake. BB #2538 locates the essay in vol. "I" but BR(2) correctly places it in vol. "II" (573). For the complete German text and an English translation, see BR(2) 573-603. Apparently rare; the only copy I have ever seen on the market.


W. Blake, The Marriage of Heaven and Hell, Camden Hotten facsimile, 1868. PBA, 26 June. #2028, some foxing as usual, slightly later quarter cloth over boards, illus. color online (£800).


W. Blake, Songs of Innocence and Songs of Experience, William Muir facsimiles, 1884-85. Windle/Sotheran, June cat., #73, 2 vols., Innocence copy no. 30 and Experience no. 13, the latter signed by Muir, quarter vellum, original wrappers bound in (£6450).

W. Blake, Songs of Experience, William Muir facsimile datable to c. 1885 on paper with an "Antique Note" watermark, 27 pls. with coloring based on the "Experience" pls. in Songs of Innocence and of Experience copy T (in the British Museum since 1856). With a lithographic (?) "Index" of the pls. and a reproduction of "A Divine Image" (from posthumous copy?) inserted as the 16th pl. (this pl. not in copy T). Publisher's blue wrappers without inscriptions. Offered Aug. for $6000 Canadian by a private collector, Toronto, to John Windle, who declined. This is probably the unique (?) copy noted by Muir in a letter of 18 July 1916 to Kerrison Preston: "In addition to these [facsimiles] I have one copy of the Songs of Experience coloured from the Brit Mus copy. £5.5.0" (quoted in Keri Davies, "William Muir and the Blake Press at Edmonton on 16 April 1918; see the records printed in G. E. Bentley, Jr., "Blake...Had No Quaritch": The Sale of William Muir's Blake...
6. Front cover of Richard Garnett, *William Blake Painter and Poet* (London: Seeley and Co., 1895). Full cover 27.3 x 18.0 cm., gilt-stamped lettering and design 15.3 x 10.0 cm. Essick collection. Garnett's eighty-page essay was published in at least three forms: as an issue of a journal, *Portfolio*, no. 22 (Oct. 1895), bound in light blue-gray paper wrappers; as part of the 1895 annual volume of *Portfolio* with two other essays, bound in maroon sand-grain cloth; as a separate pamphlet, lacking any reference to *Portfolio*, bound in maroon rib-grain cloth. The cover of this last issue, decorated with a modified version (11.1 x 6.3 cm.) of Blake's design for "Infant Joy" from *Songs of Innocence*, is reproduced here. The cover's designer has added extra flourishes to the tips of the open blossom on its left side, flattened the leftward arc of the flower's stem, and moved the pendant bloom under the open one to create a more compact, teardrop design. These last two changes were made possible by the elimination of Blake's text. The binding shows the compatibility between some of Blake's most famous images and the taste for the art-nouveau style in the decorative arts of the late nineteenth century. For a discussion of how "Art Nouveau ornament was born in Blake's work," see Robert Schmutzler, *Art Nouveau* (New York: Abrams, 1962) 35-53 (quotation from 47).

Facsimiles," *Blake* 27.1 (summer 1993): 9. I have not inspected the facsimile itself, but digital images of the frontispiece and title p. suggest that the work has a lithographic base, but not the same one used by Muir for his 1885 facsimile with hand coloring based on the "Experience" section of copy U of the combined Songs.

W. Blake, *There is No Natural Religion*, William Muir facsimile, 1886. Windle/Sothenan, June cat., #77, copy no. 26, signed by Muir, full morocco, original wrappers bound in (£2320).

*Century Guild Hobby Horse*, 1886-87. Leonard Roberts, Feb. online cat., issue no. 6 (April 1887), with references to Blake by Ruskin (see appendix 2), publisher's wrappers (£385 Canadian). Windle/Sothenan, June cat., #66, issue no. 4 (Oct. 1886), containing Muir's facsimile of *Little Tom the Sailor* cut in half, publisher's wrappers (£395).


W. B. Yeats, *Ideas of Good and Evil*, 1903. SL, 13 Dec. 2007, #167, presentation inscription by Yeats to his uncle, George Pollexfen, publisher's boards and cloth spine, some spotting, presentation inscription illus. color (£7500); #168, another copy, presentation inscription by Yeats to his literary agent, Alexander Pollock Watt, publisher's binding, some spot-
William Blake: Ausgewählte Dichtungen, translated by Adolf Knoblauch, Berlin, 1907 (BB #361). Buchantiquariat Heinz Tessin, Dec. 2007 online cat., vol. 2 (of 2) only, 1 of 670 copies, publisher's wrappers (€32). EB, Sept., 2 vols., publisher's wrappers worn, front cover of vol. 1 loose (€13.21). One of the earliest translations of Blake's writings, to my knowledge preceded only by brief selections in essays and books about Blake (e.g., Henry Crabb Robinson's 1811 essay [see entry above] and Helene Richter's William Blake of 1906 [BB #2538, 2520], both in German), a 1900 French translation of The Marriage of Heaven and Hell, and a 1906 Italian translation of "The Tyger" (BB #110, 343). See the next entry for another German translation of Blake's selected works published in 1907.


Poems by William Blake, ed. Alice Meynell, Red Letter Library series, London: Blackie and Son, 1911 (BB #289A). EB, Aug., publisher's limp calf worn, front cover detached (£16.01). In Blake 39.4 (spring 2006): 169, I incorrectly reported that an undated issue of this ed., sold on EB in May 2005, might be the 1911 issue. That undated issue may be 1 of at least 2 variant undated issues, 1 of which is dated to "[1927]" in BB #289B.

William Blake's Illustrations to Thornton's Pastoral of Virgil, platinotypes by Frederick Evans, 1912. Paul Hertzmann/Margolis & Moss, Aug. online cat., #61, no. 3 of 25 copies, signed and dated by Evans, limp "leather" rebacked, illus. (£7500).


A souvenir letter card, c. 1925, with a color reproduction, 9.5 x 29.8 cm., of a colored (?) impression of Blake's engraving, "Chaucer's Canterbury Pilgrims," probably 3rd st. EB, May ($4.99). A curious object, published by "J. G. Charlton, Photogapher, Canterbury." The vendor on EB cites a 1925 advertisement by Charlton that lists "reproductions, in original and smaller sizes, of Blake's and Stothard's celebrated picture of 'Chaucer's Canterbury Pilgrims.'" Some of the coloring accords with the hand-colored impression of the 2nd st. now in the Keynes Collection, Fitzwilliam Museum (SP XVI impression 2B), but there are many exceptions (e.g., the Host wears a blue rather than brown jump suit with brown rather than blue belt and boots). Another coloring scheme, closer to the Keynes impression, is represented in a photo-lithographic reproduction of the 3rd st., 21.1 x 60.1 cm., published at an unknown time by the "Agnes Press." Perhaps these coloring schemes bear no direct relation to any original. The single recorded colored impression of Blake's 3rd st. is SP impression 3P (now Morgan Library and Museum), tinted only with flesh tones on exposed skin.

W. Blake, Songs of Innocence, 1927, William Muir facsimile of pls. 2-27, 53-54 of Songs of Innocence and of Experience copy A. EB, April, copy no. 29, bookplate of Joseph Holland, rebound in cloth, worn, endpapers detached, original wrappers bound in ($910).

Photographic postcards of Blake's cottage in Felpham, 1930s? EB, Jan.-Feb., 3 cards in sepia tones offered individually: south aspect from the southeast; a slightly more distant view showing the south and east aspects from the southeast; the road in front of the house from the south, the south aspect of the house, and the Fox Inn in the distance, with postmark dated 24 Aug. 1933 (75 pence each for the 1st, £1.99 for the 3rd). EB, July, 1 card showing the south aspect with a long thatch canopy over the ground-floor windows (as in W. Graham Robertson's drawing of 1904), a field (of cabbages?) and low wall between the camera and the house (£3.70) (see cover illus.). These postcards, produced for the tourist trade in Bognor Regis near Felpham, have some scholarly value as representations of the cottage before the render was removed and other modifications were undertaken. The locations of windows, doors, and chimneys are helpful in understanding how Blake and his wife Catherine lived and worked in Felpham. For a fine essay on this topic, see M. Crosby, "'The sweetest spot on earth': Reconstructing Blake's Cottage at Felpham, Sussex," British Art Journal 7.3 (winter 2006-07): 46-53.

The Piper by William Blake [the "Introduction" to Songs of Innocence], illus. Roberta F. C. Waudby, London: Medici Society, n.d. EB, Sept., publisher's printed wrappers (25 pence). Datable to the 1930s when Waudby was active. BBS 160 dates this pamphlet to "c. 1980," either in error or in reference to a later issue.
Lister, hand tinted with watercolors, publisher's cloth ($99 to John Windle for stock). Returned March by Windle because of spilled watercolors on the final pl. not described by the vendor. The hand coloring is too amateurish to be by Raymond Lister (1919-2001), an accomplished miniature painter and president of the Royal Society of Miniature Painters from 1970 to 1980. The coloring may be based on a copy colored by Blake, but I have not been able to identify any such.


Songs of Innocence and of Experience, Manchester Etching Workshop facsimile, 1983. Bonhams, Los Angeles and New York, 15 Oct., #1061, colored issue (no. 8 of 40) and uncolored issue (no. 8 of 35), 2 vols., publisher's morocco (colored issue) and loose in paper mounts (uncolored issue), clamshell boxes, illus. color ($2400).

R. N. Essick, A Troubled Paradise, afterword by J. Windle, 1999. Windle/Sothenan, June cat., #85, "de-luxe" issue with an original impression of Blake's 6th Virgil wood engraving (stormy night with tree and moon), not the "fifth" engraving as noted in the cat., publisher's wrappers and quarter-cloth box (£1800).

BARRY, JAMES

"Venus Anadyomene," mezzotint by Valentine Green. CSK, 12 March, #109, "good impression with margins" (£1500; estimate £500-700).

BASIRE, JAMES

Archaeologia: or, Miscellaneous Tracts Relating to Antiquity, vol. 3, 1775 or 1776. Barnaby Rudge Bookseller, Dec. 2007 online cat., title p. misdated "MDCCLXXXVI," modern cloth, binding illus. color ($294). Includes 19 pls. signed by Basire as the engraver; the 8 unsigned pls. were probably also executed in Basire's shop. Blake may have participated in the production of some of these pls. while an apprentice to Basire (see CB 116 and BBS 191).

BUTTS, THOMAS, Father and Son

"Man on a Drinking Horse," etching, 1806. EB, Feb., sheet 11.4 x 15.2 cm., browned ($75). For illus. and information about this print, see Alexander S. Gourlay, "Man on a Drinking Horse: A Print by Thomas Butts, Jr.," Blake 37.1 (summer 2003): 35-36.

CALVERT, EDWARD


"The Lady with the Rooks," wood engraving. Larkhall Fine Art, July-Sept. exhibit, from the 1904 Carfax portfolio (price on request).

"The Ploughman," wood engraving. Larkhall Fine Art, April online cat., 1904 Carfax printing on laid India, from the collection of Raymond Lister, illus. color (£2800); same impression, and another from the Memoir, July-Sept. exhibit (prices on request).

Blake's Circle and Followers

Works are listed under artists' names in the following order: paintings and drawings sold in groups, single paintings and drawings, letters and manuscripts, separate plates, books by (or with plates by or after) the artist.

132 Blake/An Illustrated Quarterly
"The Return Home," wood engraving. Larkhall Fine Art, April online cat., 1904 Carfax printing on laid India, from the collection of Raymond Lister, illus. color (£1350); July-Sept. exhibit, impression from the Memoir (price on request).

CROMEK, ROBERT

"Important collection of papers relating to the engraver and literary entrepreneur Robert Hartley Cromek and his son, the painter Thomas Hartley Cromek." SL, 17 July, #9, illus. color (£20,000; estimate £5000-7000). This archive, for many years in the possession of the Warrington family (descendants of both Cromeks through the female line), includes a copy of R. Cromek's long letter to Blake of May 1807 rejecting his design for the dedication to the queen in Cromek's ed. of Blair's Grave (BR(2) 241-44); a copy of R. Cromek's letter to Thomas Bewick of 13 Aug. 1808 mentioning Cromek's ed. of The Grave (BR(2) 262); T. Cromek's transcription of Frederick Tatham's letter of 1 April 1829 written on behalf of Blake's widow Catherine (BR(2) 495-96); and (according to the auction cat.) "extracts from Gilchrist's Life of William Blake with T. H.'s critical comments on 'Many slanderous assertions' ('... here again, assertions are not proofs ...','... In defense of my father, I must, though unwillingly, relate my anecdote ...', etc.)"

R. H. Cromek, ed., Reliques of Robert Burns, 1808. EB, May, pp. 389-402 badly stained, contemporary half calf worn (no bids on a required minimum bid of $100); same copy, June-July (no bids on a required minimum bid of $75). Includes an advertisement for Cromek's 1808 ed. of Blair's Grave illustrated by Blake.

FLAXMAN, JOHN

Thirty-seven pencil and gray ink drawings, possibly the preliminary drawings for the Hesiod designs engraved by Blake and published in 1817, or possibly a set created by Flaxman independent of the production of the engravings. 22.7 x 30.5 cm. and slightly smaller, 5 leaves with 1809 and 1815 watermarks, bound in a 19th-century morocco album. Maggs, June private offer, on consignment from the estate of H. D. Lyon ($125,000). Previously offered CL, 7 June 2001, #78, illus. color (not sold; estimate £80,000-120,000).

Six pencil sketches, some for a pediment for Buckingham Palace, each approx. 12.5 x 17.5 cm. BH, 11 March, #14, sketch of a standing woman illus. color (not sold; estimate £700-900).

The Holy Family. Watercolor, 72.0 x 51.0 cm. BH, 11 March, #43, illus. color (£960).

The Misses Harrison, Sharpe and Rogers and Mrs. Sharpe at Samuel Rogers's Party, 1800. Pen and ink, 22.7 x 16.0 cm. W/S Fine Art, Nov. online cat., illus. color (not priced).

Scene from Medieval History. Pen and ink, gray wash, 47.0 x 62.0 cm. W. M. Brady & Co., New York, advertisement in Burlington Magazine 150 (Jan. 2008): [10], illus. color (not priced). Similar in size and style to The Massacre of the Britons by Hengist's Party at Stonehenge and St. Ethelburga with Her Chaplain St. Paulinus of Rochester Bringing Christianity to Northumbria (both Fitzwilliam Museum), and thus datable to c. 1783.

Study of a Seated Male. Pencil, 29.5 x 23.5 cm., signed and inscribed by another hand, "I sat behind Flaxman at the R. A. and saw him draw this C.H.S." BH, 11 March, #25, illus. color (withdrawn for unstated reasons; estimate £1500-2000).

A collection of letters by Thomas Hope to Flaxman, c. 1792-1808. BH, 26 Nov., #143, bound, illus. color (£3360; estimate £800-1200).

Acts of Mercy, etchings with aquatint by Lewis, 1831. EB, Dec. 2007, small-paper issue, most pls. foxed, contemporary quarter calf ($68); Feb., 8 pls. in 2 lots, lacking only the engraved title p., oddly attributed to Sir Thomas Lawrence as the "designer" and Flaxman as the "artist" (no bids on a required minimum bid of £15.99 for each lot).

Aeschylus designs, 1795. Galerie Bassenge auction, Berlin, 11 April, #1189, some browning and spotting, recent cloth (£130). EB, July-Aug., scattered foxing, 19th-century half calf worn (£276).

Dante designs. EB, Jan., engraved by Piroli, Milan, 1823, probably a reprint of the 1822 ed., scattered foxing, contemporary calf (£156); May, 1867 ed. with revised sts. of Piroli's 1807 pls., publisher's cloth (offered at the "buy it now" price of $200); another copy of the 1867 ed., modern cloth (offered at the "buy it now" price of £149.95 or "best offer"); 1802 ed., bound as extra-illus. in a copy of Dante's Divina Commedia, Rome, 1815, 3 vols., contemporary vellum worn (£796). Ken Spelman, Nov. cat. 65, #138, engraved by Piroli, Milan, 1823, minor foxing, original wrappers worn (£280).

Flaxman, Anatomical Studies, 1833. EB, July, original boards stained, "crudely" rebacked with cloth, leaves coming loose from spine (£23.03); Aug., modern cloth (£73.12).

Hesiod designs, engraved by Réveil, Paris, 1844. EB, Aug., original wrappers worn (no bids on a required minimum bid of $225); same copy, Sept., same result. See also the album of 37 Hesiod drawings, above, and Flaxman, Hesiod designs, under Letterpress Books with Engravings by and after Blake, above.
Iliad designs. EB, Jan., 1793 ed., light water stains and foxing on a few pls., original wrappers ($385.02); Feb., Iliad d'Homere gravée par Thomas Piroli d'apres les desseins composés par Jean Flaxman, Rome, n.d. (c. 1818?), marginal losses on final pl., contemporary quarter vellum very worn ($142.50). BL, 17 July, #65, with the Odyssey and Hesiod designs, eds. with inscriptions in French, n.d. (c. 1818?), foxed, marginal damage. 2 vols., half morocco very worn (not sold; estimate £300-500). See also Flaxman, Iliad designs, under Letterpress Books with Engravings by and after Blake, above.


Œuvres de John Flaxman sculpteur anglais ... [with] Les tragédies de Sophocle par Giacomelli, Paris: A. Morel et C., n.d. EB, April, dated to 1860 by the vendor, 19th-century quarter calf (no bids on a required minimum bid of €150).

FUSELI, HENRY

Joseph Interpreting the Dreams of Pharaoh's Baker and Butler. Oil, 86.6 x 65.1 cm., dateable to c. 1768. CL, 2 Dec., #28, possibly Fuseli's 1st painting, illus. color (not sold; estimate €120,000-180,000).


Salome with the Head of John the Baptist, attributed to Fuseli. Wash drawing on cream laid paper with a 1795 watermark, 31.1 x 21.8 cm. Skinner auction, Boston, 12 Sept., #405, framed, illus. color online ($1007). Possibly a preliminary drawing by Thomas Holloway for his engraving of the design, dated 1798 in the imprint and published in Lavater, Essays on Physiognomy, vol. 2, or an early copy after the pl.

The Vision of the Deluge. Oil, 254.0 x 210.0 cm., painted in the 1790s for Fuseli's Milton Gallery. CL, 9 June, #209, illus. color (£505,250; estimate £80,000-120,000).

"The Death of Oedipus," mezzotint by Ward. CSK, 18 March, #530, with 3 pls. after Fuseli from Boydell, Collection of Prints ... Illustrating ... Shakspeare, 2 for A Midsummer Night's Dream and 1 for The Tempest (£875). Apparently rare; the only impression I've ever seen on the market.

Portrait of Fuseli, designed and engraved by J. H. Lips, 1779. EB, June (€18.03).

"Queen Katherine's Dream," engraved by Bartolozzi. EB, April, marginal stains (no bids on a required minimum bid of €55). An important print, published by Macklin in 1788 for his "British Poets" series, that may have influenced Blake's versions of the subject (Butlin #247, 547.3, 548-49).

"The Witches" from Macbeth, engraved by Tomkins. EB, Jan., trimmed close to the image with inscriptions (except for the signatures) trimmed off, minor foxing (£47.78).

Bible, Macklin ed., 1800. Michael Sharpe, Dec. 2007 cat. 2, #14, 6 vols., Richard Westmacott's copy, contemporary morocco, illus. ($20,000). Swann, 7 April, #17, 6 vols., considerable damp staining, 19th-century morocco very worn, some covers detached ($1500). EB, April, 6 vols. in 7, contemporary calf, 3 vols. rebacked (no bids on a required minimum bid of £9999); same copy, May (§5001). Phillip Pirages, Nov. cat. 56, #478, 7 vols. (including vol. 7, The Apocrypha, 1816), pls. before letters, lacking 1 leaf of text in vol. 7, sumptuous contemporary morocco, binding illus. color ($85,000—a record asking price, probably based on the binding). The single pl. after Fuseli is in vol. 6.

Boydell, The American Edition of Boydell's Illustrations of the Dramatic Works of Shakespeare, 1852. EB, April, 2 vols., some damp staining in vol. 2, recent half morocco ($1425). The pls. in this work are the original British pls., "restored."

Boydell, Collection of Prints ... Illustrating ... Shakspeare, c. 1803. SNY, 11 Dec. 2007, #108, 2 vols., 96 pls., lacking the portraits, some marginal stains and tears, 19th-century half morocco worn, illus. color ($5000). BL, 31 Jan., #169, "a few plates proofs before letters," light browning on some pls., contemporary morocco worn, illus. color (£2800); 21 Feb., #132, 1 pl. only, "King Lear," engraved by Earlam, marginal stains, with 2 other pls. from Boydell's Shakespeare series, the Fuseli illus. color (£100); #135, 1 pl. only, "Hamlet," engraved by Thew, marginal stains, with a pl. for "Hamlet" by Legat after West, the Fuseli illus. color (£140). EB, May, 1 pl. only, "King Henry the Fourth," engraved by Leney, lower margin stained, framed ($99.90). EB, Oct., 1 pl. only, "King Lear," engraved by Earlam (offered at the "buy it now" price of $325); 1 pl. only,
"King Henry the Fourth," engraved by Leney (offered at the "buy it now" price of $225); Nov., 1 pl. only, "King Henry the Fifth," engraved by Thew (£23). Bauman Rare Books, Dec. online cat., 2 vols., 19th-century half morocco rebacked and repaired ($280,000).

Boyde's Graphic Illustrations of ... Shakspeare, c. 1803. See under Letterpress Books with Engravings by and after Blake, above.

Cowper, Poems, 1806. Thornton's Bookshop, June online cat., 2 vols., foxed, contemporary calf very worn, vol. 2 rebacked (£75).


Darwin, Temple of Nature, 1803. Bauman Rare Books, June online cat., "period-style full ... calf" ($2600).


Homer, Iliad and Odyssey, published by Du Roveray, 1805-06. PBA, 26 June, #2127, 12 vols. in 6, occasional foxing, later 19th-century calf, binding illus. color online ($550).


Lavater, Aphorisms on Man. See under Letterpress Books with Engravings by and after Blake, above.


Shakespeare, Dramatic Works, 1802. See under Letterpress Books with Engravings by and after Blake, above.

Shakespeare, Plays, Basil, 1800. EB, Feb., 1 pl. only, "Prospero, Miranda, Caliban and Ariel," engraved by Wolf, marginal tears and soiling (no bids on a required minimum bid of $9, but "the seller ended this listing early because the item" was "no longer available for sale").

Shakespeare, Plays, London, 1811. See under Letterpress Books with Engravings by and after Blake, above.


Tatler, published by Sharpe, 1803-04. EB, Jan.-Feb., vol. 3 (of 1804) only, with "Tiresias Appearing to Odysseus in the Underworld," engraved by Bromley after Fuseli, and 1 pl. by Parker after Thomson, contemporary calf worn, part of spine missing ($34).


Young, Catalogue of the ... Collection ... of ... Angerstein, 1823. EB, July, light marginal staining, fancy contemporary morocco ($310).

Young, Catalogue of Pictures by British Artists, in the Possession of Sir John Fleming Leicester, 1821. Quaritch, Nov. online cat., #12, uncut in contemporary half morocco worn (£250).
LINNELL, JOHN

Three drawings in a folio. See the 1st entry under Richmond, below.

An Afternoon Fishing, attributed to Linnell. Oil, 25.5 x 30.0 cm. BH, 9 Sept., #284, illus. color (£3360). I suspect that this painting might be by William Linnell, John Linnell's son.

An Area of Cleared Ground with a Mound of Earth at Bayswater. Watercolor, 10.0 x 13.5 cm., signed and dated "Bayswater 1812." CSK, 11 Nov., #509, illus. color (£6250; estimate £600-800).

The Boar Hunt in Olden Times. Oil, 30.0 x 47.0 cm., signed. SL, 19 Nov., #51, illus. color (£3750).

A Distant View of Lancing College. Watercolor, 22.8 x 40.6 cm. CSK, 12 March, #22, illus. color (not sold; estimate £3000-5000).

Evening. Oil, 38.1 x 55.9 cm., signed and dated 1849. CNY, 8 April, #81, illus. color (£11,250).


An Extensive Landscape, Possibly the Weald of Kent. Pen and ink and watercolor over pencil, 27.0 x 37.0 cm., datable to c. 1813-16. BH, 11 March, #31, illus. color (£50,400; estimate £4000-6000). See illus. 7.

The Farmer's Boy. Oil, 61.0 x 44.0 cm., signed and dated 1830. Fine Art Society and Lowell Libson, April cat., Power and Poetry: The Art of John Linnell, #4, illus. color (price on request). For earlier sales and cat. listings, see Blake 40.4 (spring 2007): 140. Possibly related in subject to Blake's "Introduction" to Songs of Innocence; see also The Farmer's Boy, above.

The Harvest Field. Oil and watercolor, 22.0 x 30.0 cm., signed and dated 1851. SL, 19 Nov., #53, illus. color (£3750).

Harvest Time in Sussex. Oil, 63.2 x 101.6 cm., signed. SNY, 18 April, #111, illus. color (not sold; estimate £60,000-80,000).

Hastings Beach, attributed to Linnell. Oil, 26.0 x 18.0 cm. EB, Oct. (offered at the "buy it now" price of $2495 or "best offer").

Haymakers. Oil, 30.5 x 48.0 cm. SL, 19 Nov., #52, illus. color (£2500).

Heathland. Oil, 22.9 x 30.5 cm., signed. GL, 23 Oct., #1138, illus. color online (£950). Previously sold GL, 25 April 2007, #1256 (£1200). I am a little uneasy about the attribution to Linnell.

The Isle of Wight from Lymington Quay. Oil, 28.6 x 40.0 cm., signed and dated 1825. Fine Art Society and Lowell Libson, April cat., Power and Poetry: The Art of John Linnell, #3, illus. color (price on request). For earlier cat. listings, see Blake 40.4 (spring 2007): 140.

Midday Rest. Oil, 71.0 x 92.0 cm., signed and dated 1852. BH, 29 Oct., #103, illus. color (£6600).

An Old Mill near Redhill, Surrey, circle of John Linnell. Watercolor, 33.0 x 46.0 cm., signed. BH, 11 March, #29, illus. color (£1560). The printed cat. attributes this work to Linnell, but this was amended at the beginning of the auction to "Circle of John Linnell." This may be a drawing by one of Linnell's sons.

Piping down the Valley Wild. Oil, 56.0 x 68.7 cm., signed. CSK, 12 March, #24, illus. color (£5250). The title, which may not be Linnell's own, suggests a relationship with Blake's "Introduction" to Songs of Innocence. See also The Farmer's Boy, above.

Portrait of Mrs. Nasmyth. Pencil, colored chalks, and watercolor, 56.1 x 40.5 cm., signed and dated 1836. W/S Fine Art, July cat., British Works on Paper, #38, illus. color (£10,000).

Portrait of Professor Mylne. Oil, 41.5 x 34.5 cm., signed. BH, 8 April, #62, illus. color (£1680).

Road to the Village of Sudfield, Sussex. Oil, 50.8 x 81.3 cm., signed. CSK, 12 March, #25, illus. color (£3500).

St. John the Baptist Preaching in the Wilderness. Oil, 98.0 x 136.0 cm., signed and dated 1828-33. BH, 29 Oct., #102, illus. color (not sold; estimate £6000-8000).

Sky Study. Black and white chalk, 15.5 x 23.3 cm., signed. Guy Peppiatt Fine Art, winter 2008-09 cat., #19, illus. color (£400).

The Storm in Harvest Time. Oil, 45.7 x 61.0 cm., signed and dated 1856. Fine Art Society and Lowell Libson, April cat., Power and Poetry: The Art of John Linnell, #9, illus. color (price on request).

Studies of Children. Pencil and chalk on blue paper, 27.0 x 25.5 cm., signed and dated 1811. BL, 23 Oct., #153, illus. color (£220).

7. John Linnell (or Samuel Palmer?). *An Extensive Landscape, Possibly the Weald of Kent.* Pen and ink and watercolor over pencil, 27.0 x 37.0 cm., datable to c. 1813-16. Sold BH, 11 March, #31, firmly attributed to "John Linnell," for £50,400 on an estimate of only £4000-6000. John Windle tells me that the surprising price resulted from speculations, on the part of several leading London dealers, that this drawing is by Palmer. As the auction catalogue points out, this watercolor is stylistically similar to Linnell's landscapes *North Wales, Dolbadern,* and *River Kennet, near Newbury* (both signed by Linnell); for illustrations, see *John Linnell: A Centennial Exhibition,* ed. Katharine Crouan, Fitzwilliam Museum and Yale Center for British Art (1982-83), nos. 26, 35. These works, however, lack the strong, sharp outlining of forms in pen and ink exemplified by the landscape reproduced here. In this regard, *An Extensive Landscape is closer to Palmer's work of a later date—see, for example, Study of a Garden at Tintern of 1835* (Raymond Lister, *Catalogue Raisonné of the Works of Samuel Palmer* [Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1988], no. 232). Both artists drew landscapes of the Weald of Kent. I suspect that further evidence, such as provenance records, will be needed before a definite attribution can be proposed. Photo courtesy of Bonhams.

*Woodcutters and Shepherds.* Oil, 71.1 x 91.4 cm., datable to the 1850s. Bill Hood & Sons auction, Delray Beach, Florida, 25 Nov., #202, illus. color online ($4400).


"Sheep at Noon" or "Midday," etching, 1818. Larkhall Fine Art, July-Sept. exhibit (price on request).


**MORTIMER, JOHN HAMILTON**

*Three Gentlemen in a Landscape.* Oil, 75.0 x 63.0 cm., probably dating from the mid-1760s. SL, 5 June, #49, illus. color (£34,850).

"An Academy," engraved by Ravenet, 1771. EB, Jan., stains in lower margin (offered at the "buy it now" price of £90); same impression?, March (£37).
“King John Delivering Magna Charta to the Barons,” engraved in stipple by Ryland, 1783. St. Charles Gallery auction, New Orleans, 8 Dec. 2007, #261, color printed and with touches of hand coloring, matted and framed close to the image, illus. (£125).


“Shylock,” etching, 1776. EB, Sept., hand colored (no bids on a required minimum bid of $50).

PALMER, SAMUEL

Beddgelert Bridge, North Wales. Watercolor, 25.0 x 36.0 cm., datable to 1837. SL, 4 Dec., #158, illus. color (£7500).

Bright Cloud, Shepherd and Windmill. Brown wash, 8.5 x 11.0 cm., datable to 1832-33. BH, 11 March, #28, illus. color (not sold; estimate £15,000-20,000).

Children Gleaning in a Cornfield. Watercolor, 18.7 x 40.0 cm., signed and datable to 1846. CL, 4 June, #92, illus. color (not sold; estimate £15,000-20,000). Previously sold SL, 10 Nov. 1994, #181 (£9200).


An Extensive Landscape, Possibly the Weald of Kent. See under Linnell, above, and illus. 7.


A Road past a Farm. Watercolor, 6.7 x 13.0 cm., possibly dating from the early 1830s. W/S Fine Art, July cat., British Works on Paper, #41, illus. color (£8500); SL, 4 Dec., #157, illus. color (not sold; estimate £4000-6000). Previously sold CL, 22 March 1966, #59, with another watercolor by Palmer, illus. (to Anthony Reed Gallery, London, no price record), and CL, 19 Nov. 1985, #207, both watercolors, illus. (£3240).

The Vintage. Pencil and brown wash, 13.6 x 7.7 cm., an illus. to Dickens, Pictures from Italy, 1846. Larkhall Fine Art, July-Sept. exhibit (price on request).

Edmund Spenser, The Workes (1679), and Abraham Cowley, The Works (1688), both with a few annotations by Palmer. Quaritch, winter 2008-09 cat. 2008/20, #52, from the collection of Raymond Lister, both vols. contemporary calf re-backed (£8500).

“The Bellman,” etching. Larkhall Fine Art, July-Sept. exhibit, “proof in the published state” (price on request). Hindman auction, Chicago, 7 Sept., #306, described as a “working proof” but the illus. suggests 4th st. (possibly with some hand touching), small repair in image, mat burn, some discoloration and foxing, illus. color online (£11,000; estimate £3000-5000).

“Christmas,” or “Folding the Last Sheep,” etching. Larkhall Fine Art, Dec. 2007 online cat., 4th st. from the Memoir, 1882, illus. color (£3250); July-Sept. exhibit, “fine early proof” (price on request).


“The Early Ploughman,” etching. EB, March, 5th st. from Hamerton, Etching and Etchers, 1868, scattered foxing ($295); another impression, 5th st. from Hamerton, 1868 (no bids on a required minimum bid of $699.99); April, another impression, probably 5th st., pencil signature, framed ($698). Larkhall Fine Art, July-Sept. exhibit, 4 impressions, “fine fourth state proof,” “fine sixth state proof,” “fine seventh state proof,” and “final [9th] state printed by Griggs” (prices on request). EB, July, 5th st. (no bids on a required minimum bid of $899.99); same impression, Oct. (offered at the “buy it now” price of $999.99).


“Opening the Fold,” etching. EB, Oct., 8th st. (offered at the “buy it now” price of $1599.99 or "best offer").


"The Willow," etching. Larkhall Fine Art, April online cat., 2nd st., illus. color (£1650); July-Sept. exhibit, "early first state proof" and "final [3rd] state printed by Griggs or Short" (price on request).

Dickens, Pictures from Italy, 1846. CNY, 2 April, #125, 1st ed., publisher's cloth, "unrecorded variant issue binding," title p. illus. color ($438).


A. H. Palmer, Life and Letters of Samuel Palmer, 1892. BL, 19 Dec. 2007, #398, lightly foxed, later half morocco worn (£110); 29 Feb., #894, publisher's cloth rebacked and worn, with Dickens, Pictures from Italy, 1846, with an "amateur fore-edge painting," apparently publisher's cloth very worn (£160). EB, Aug., publisher's cloth (offered at the "buy it now" price of $425 or "best offer"). Life and Letters includes Palmer's etching, "The Willow," 2nd st.


PARKER, JAMES

Akenside, Pleasures of the Imagination, 1795. J & S Wilbraham, July online cat. 75, #1, contemporary calf (£35). Includes 1 pl. by Parker after Stothard.

Falconer, Shipwreck, 1806. EB, April, contemporary calf worn (no bids on a required minimum bid of $999.99). Includes 3 pls. by Parker after Stothard dated 1795 in their imprints.


Johnson, Rasselas, 1796. EB, Feb., contemporary calf (£19.87). Includes 4 pls. by Parker after Stothard.


Tatler, published by Sharpe, 1803-04. See under Fuseli, above.

RICHMOND, GEORGE

Three drawings by Richmond, and 3 by John Linnell, in a folio. Pencil, pen and ink, 32.7 x 44.2 cm. and smaller. SL, 4 Dec., #121, including a self-portrait of Richmond dated 1871 and a drawing of the New Road, Paddington, by Linnell dated 1811, the self-portrait illus. color (not sold; estimate £4000-6000). The self-portrait previously sold SL, 27 Nov. 1975, #33 (£320).

A Figure Weeping over a Grave. Pen and brown ink, brown wash, 8.0 x 12.7 cm., signed and dated Jan. 1827 on a sheet attached to the backboard. SL, 4 Dec., #124, illus. color (£17,500; estimate £4000-6000). A record auction price for a drawing by Richmond. Previously sold SL, 16 March 1978, #55, illus. (£550 to Agnew's).

Isaac Going Forth to Meditate. Oil, 51.0 x 30.5 cm. SL, 5 June, #88, illus. color (not sold; estimate £20,000-30,000); 28 Oct., #148, illus. color (not sold; estimate £3000-5000). Previously sold SL, 30 Jan. 1985, #94 (£1430 to Agnew's acting for a private collector, Philadelphia).

Portrait of Henry Walter. Pencil with touches of pen and brown ink, 22.0 x 16.4 cm., initialed and dated 28 Dec. 1827. SL, 19 Nov., #22, illus. color (£6250). Henry Walter (1799-1849) was among the circle of young artists who gathered around Blake in his final years.

St. John at Patmos. Oil, 47.0 x 29.0 cm. SL, 5 June, #89, illus. color (not sold; estimate £10,000-15,000); 28 Oct., #147,
Romney, George

Crouched and Huddled Figures. Pencil, 65.0 x 140.0 cm, datable to c. 1790. BL, 23 Oct., #80, illus. color (£360). Possibly a study for John Howard visiting a lazaretto.

The Infant Shakespeare. Pen and ink, 11.0 x 18.7 cm. W/S Fine Art, Master Drawings exhibit at Dickinson, New York, 14-26 Jan., #21, illus. color (price on request).


Macbeth Discovering Banquo’s Ghost. Pen and gray ink, gray wash, 32.7 x 49.2 cm. SL, 5 June, #159, illus. color (not sold; estimate £3000-4000).

A Standing Figure. Pen and brown ink, 18.1 x 7.4 cm. SL, 5 June, #160, illus. color (£4000).

Study for the Head of a Sailor (Act 1 of Shakespeare’s The Tempest). Oil, 44.0 x 35.0 cm, datable to c. 1787. SL, 5 June, #57, illus. color (£51,650).

Study of a Gentleman. Pencil and brown wash, 42.0 x 28.0 cm. W/S Fine Art, Master Drawings exhibit at Dickinson, New York, 14-26 Jan., #22, illus. color online (price on request).

A Study of Elizabeth Warren, Later Viscountess Bulkeley, as Hebe. Pen and brown ink, brown wash, 16.9 x 9.1 cm. SL, 5 June, #161, illus. color (£10,000).

Thelasie, the French Dancer. Pen and sepia ink, 10.2 x 17.8 cm. Abbott and Holder, March “Selected Six,” online cat. 387 (£1750). Previously offered Agnew’s, Feb. 1998 cat., #1, illus. color (£2750); previously sold under the title Studies of Thelasie, the French Dancer, Reclining, CL, 21 Nov. 2007, #13, illus. (£875).

Runciman, Alexander


Sherman, Welby


Stothard, Thomas


Fifteen pen and ink and wash drawings, dating from the late 1770s to the late 1820s, ranging in size between 3.8 x 3.8 cm and 22.9 x 17.8 cm. Abbott and Holder, June online cat., #1-15 of the “Select Group,” sold individually, illus. color (£275-425 each).

Five monochrome wash drawings datable to the early 1780s, each approx. 13.5 x 8.5 cm., 4 for Novelist’s Magazine (Tales of the Genii, Arabian Nights [2], and Chinese Tales) and 1 for Johnson’s Rasselas (“Achmet and Selima”) in Lady’s Magazine. EB, May-June, offered at “buy it now” prices of £150-190 each.

Three monochrome wash drawings, each approx. 9.0 x 7.0 cm., for Mackenzie’s The Man of Feeling, 1800. GL, 12 June, #2313, framed, illus. color (£240).
The Dancers. Pencil, leaf 6.4 x 11.4 cm., probably executed in the 1780s. EB, March-April (£21).

Measure for Measure, attributed to Stothard. Oil, 8.3 x 8.3 cm. CSK, 11 Nov., #534, illus. color (£138; estimate £300-500). Possibly by Stothard, but this might be a copy to size of the engraving of the design by Charles Warren, published in The Plays of William Shakespeare, ed. Manley Wood (London: G. Kearsley, 1806) 2: facing 293.

A Sheet of Figural and Animal Studies, attributed to Stothard. Pencil, pen and ink, 19.1 x 24.2 cm. CSK, 11 Nov., #562, illus. color (not sold; estimate £600-800). The attribution seems solid to me.

Sylvia and the Outlaws: A Scene from Shakespeare's "Two Gentlemen of Verona." Oil, 69.9 x 52.4 cm., indistinctly signed. CSK, 3 Sept., #183, illus. color (not sold; estimate £8000-12,000). Very probably painted for Boydell's Shakespeare Gallery, engraved by John Ogborne and published in Boydell's edition of the Dramatic Works (1802) and Boydell's Graphic Illustrations of Shakespeare (c. 1803).

The Tempest. Oil, 101.5 x 127.0 cm. SL, 30 Oct., #198, illus. color (not sold; estimate £3000-5000). I am uneasy about the attribution to Stothard.

"Charlotte's Visit to the Vicar," engraved by Ogborne, 1785. EB, April, foxed and stained (£9.16). A separate pl. illustrating Goethe's Sorrows of Young Werther. Not in Coxhead or Bennett, but listed in Poetic Description of Choice and Valuable Prints, Published by Mr. Macklin (1794) 64.

"The Evening Prayer" and "The Morning Lesson," a pair engraved by Nutter, 1792. EB, April, slight foxing. framed (no bids on a required minimum bid of £99). Apparently separate pls., but possibly removed from a book; not in Coxhead or Bennett.

"Joseph Interpreting the Dream of Pharaoh's Chief," mezzotint by Young, 1798. EB, April, laid paper, water stain on verso (£21).

"Joseph's Brethren Presenting His Bloody Coat to Jacob Their Father," mezzotint by Young, 1798. EB, May, laid paper (no bids on a required minimum bid of £12.99); same impression, Aug. (£11.50).

"Pilgrimage to Canterbury," engraved by Schiavonetti and Heath, 1817. Cheffins auction, Cambridge, 10 July, #297, framed, illus. color online (£150). EB, Sept., framed (no bids on an aggressive minimum bid of £499.99); same impression, Sept.-Oct. (offered at the "buy it now" price of £595 or "best offer").


"Shakespeare's Seven Ages of Man Illustrated," engraved by Bromley. BNY, 5 April, #97, a series of 7 color-printed and hand-colored prints, 19th-century morocco, illus. color ($3000). EB, Sept., uncolored set, 19th-century half calf very worn, front cover detached ($177.50).

Bray, Life of Stothard, 1851, extra-illus. copies only. Donald Heald, Oct. online cat., #6120, extended to 10 vols. quarto, 19th-century morocco by Riviere, binding illus. color ($28,500). The copy that failed to sell at BNY, 24 Oct. 2007, #118 (estimate $20,000-30,000). For details, including a list of the pls. engraved by Blake, see Blake 41.4 (spring 2008): 162. John Windle, Nov. private offer, extended to 10 vols. quarto, extra-illus. with 10 autograph manuscripts, 69 drawings, and 759 prints (including a proof of Blake's engraving for Chaucer's Poetical Works, 1782—see appendix 1), 19th-century half morocco worn, some covers detached (acquired by Victoria University Library, Toronto).


Mary Holland, The Modern Family Receipt Book, London: Thomas Tegg, 1825. EB, Sept., uncut in original printed boards worn ($175). Includes a frontispiece, divided into 3 vignettes, based on Stothard's designs. Listed in Coxhead 217-18 only as a "Cookery Book" without author or title; see also Bennett 86. The book has very little to do with cooking but is concerned with a wide variety of domestic tasks, including "Brewing," "Bleaching," "Perfumes and Cosmetics," and "Destroying Vermin."


VON HOLST, THEODOR

A Man with a Club. Pencil, 16.5 x 14.0 cm., signed and dated 1844. BH, 11 March, #24, illus. color (not sold; estimate £1500-2000).
Appendix 1: New Information on Blake's Engravings

Listed below are substantive additions or corrections to Essick, The Separate Plates of William Blake: A Catalogue (1983), and Essick, William Blake's Commercial Book Illustrations (1991). Abbreviations and citation styles follow the respective volumes. Newly discovered impressions of previously recorded published states of Blake's engravings are listed for only the rarer separate plates.

The Separate Plates of William Blake: A Catalogue

"Job," pp. 17-20. A previously unrecorded impression on laid paper, 41.1 x 59.0 cm., was on exhibit at Tate Britain, 3 Nov. 2007 through 22 June 2008, on loan from a private collection. It is reported to be a proof before letters, or at least before the signature immediately below the design, but with the image the same as in the first state. The only recorded impression of the first state is in the Keynes Family Trust, on deposit at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge. I have not seen this newly discovered impression; the information given here is based on Martin Butlin and Robin Hamlyn, "Tate Britain Reveals Nine New Blakes and Thirteen New Lines of Verse," Blake 42.2 (fall 2008): 52-54, illus. The print, framed, was "acquired by the present owner at a south London market" (52). See the important Butlin and Hamlyn essay for further information.

"Enoch," p. 56. For the sale of impression 1D, see the preface essay and Separate Plates and Plates in Series, above.

"George Cumberland's Card," pp. 111-22. For a previously unrecorded impression printed in brown, see under Separate Plates and Plates in Series, above.

"The Fall of Rosamond," pp. 134-38. For a previously unrecorded impression, see under Separate Plates and Plates in Series, above.

William Blake's Commercial Book Illustrations

Chaucer, Poetical Works, 1782, pp. 29-30. A proof before all letters of Blake's single pl. is included in an extra-illus. copy of A. E. Bray, Life of Thomas Stothard (1851), now in the Victoria University Library, Toronto.

Hayley, Life of George Romney, 1809, pp. 94-95. Text leaves of large-paper copies show an "1807" watermark. Small-paper copies are watermarked "Rye Mill / 1807."

Appendix 2: Ruskin on Blake

John Ruskin (1819–1900) made numerous references to Blake in his many books, essays, and letters. Those written (but not necessarily published) before 1863 (i.e., before the publication of Gilchrist's Life of Blake) are listed in BB #1400, 2592-95. There are, however, many other comments by Ruskin on Blake and his works, including quotations from or allusions to his writings, outside the purview of BB because brief and post-1863. Given Ruskin's prominence as Britain's most important art critic of the Victorian era, all these passages (both listed and not listed in BB) are worthy of citation and brief quotation in the journal of record for Blake studies. Most of the texts quoted below are printed (some for the first time) in The Works of John Ruskin, ed. E. T. Cook and Alexander Wedderburn, 39 vols. (London: G. Allen; New York: Longmans, Green, and Co., 1903-12), cited hereafter as Works. Passages are arranged in chronological order to show Ruskin's changing attitudes toward Blake's life and art. There may be other references to Blake haunting Ruskin's vast oeuvres, but these are all I have been able to find.

Letter to George Richmond, dated in Works 36:32 to "[1843?]." First printed in Works 36: 32-33, from which the entire letter is quoted here. BB #2593.

My Dear Richmond,—Since I last saw you I have been looking very carefully over the portfolio of Blake's drawings, and I have got nervous about showing them to my father when he comes home, in the mass. He has been very good to me—lately—with respect to some efforts which I desired to make under the idea that Turner would not long be able to work—and these efforts he has made under my frequent assurances that I should never be so captivated by any other man. Now I am under great fear that when he hears of my present purchase, it will make him lose confidence in me, and cause him discomfort which I wish I could avoid. If, therefore, I could diminish the quantity, and retain a few only of the most characteristic, I should be glad.

Now I feel the ungraciousness of saying this to you, but yet the purchase was so thoroughly of my own seeking and determination, in spite of all you could say, that I trust you will not see the smallest ground for finding fault with any one but me. I thought also that I should have hurt your feelings, if I had treated directly with Hogarth [the dealer Joseph Hogarth]—otherwise I would have wished not to trouble you on the subject; but I find the nervousness increasing upon me—not that I think less of the drawings than I did, but that several circumstances have since taken place, which you shall know of hereafter, which make me feel unwilling to ask my father for this sum at present to be so spent. Now, if I may treat with Hogarth, pray do not give one further thought to the affair—the purchase was entirely and is completely mine, and but for you I should probably have paid 150 [pounds?] instead of 100; but if you would rather that I should not speak directly to Hogarth, I wish you would see for me on what terms he would either receive back the portfolio, and also let me retain four of the Larger Drawings,—the Horse, the owls, the Newton, and the Nebuchadnezzar—or five including the Satan and Eve, and the Goblin Huntsman, and Search for the Body of Harold. Forgive me this. I do assure you I love the memory of your friend, and I shall love these drawings and never part with them, but I am afraid of giving pain to my Father. My hope is that you will leave it to ME to treat
with Hogarth at once—but I thought you would have felt it unkind. I think it would have been wrong—taking your feelings towards Blake into consideration—to have done so without telling you.—Remember me most faithfully to Mrs. Richmond, and believe me, my dear Richmond, ever most affectionately yours, J. Ruskin.

The works Ruskin mentions are probably either God Judging Adam or Pity ("the Horse," Butlin #295, Metropolitan Museum of Art; 312, Yale Center for British Art), Hecate or The Night of Enitharmon's Joy ("the owls," Butlin #318, Huntington Library), Newton (Butlin #307, Lutheran Church in America, on deposit at the Philadelphia Museum of Art), Nebuchadnezzar (Butlin #304, untraced since 1887), Satan Exulting over Eve (Butlin #292, J. Paul Getty Museum), and The Search for the Body of Harold (Butlin #61, untraced since Ruskin's letter). The editors of Works add in a footnote (36:33) the following "subsequent note" showing "that the matter was arranged":

Dear Richmond.—Best thanks for your kind note. I have spoken to Hogarth, who says he will think over it, and arrange it to my satisfaction. After I hear his proposals I will make mine. Remember me to Mrs. Richmond, Mary, and Julia [two of Richmond's daughters].—Ever most affectionately yours, J. Ruskin.

Among the works Ruskin names as those he wished to "retain," only Nimrod is recorded by Butlin as once in Ruskin's collection. He may have acquired some of the others and kept them for a few years, but there is no record of his ownership. Newton, Nebuchadnezzar, and Satan Exulting were sold at auction in 1854; Pity and Hecate were acquired by Arthur Burgess c. 1878-80; Mrs. Gilchrist owned God Judging Adam by 1863. See the diary entry for 22 Feb. 1878, below, for another of Blake's large color prints Ruskin apparently owned at that time. Most of the first letter is reprinted in Raymond Lister, George Richmond: A Critical Biography (London: Robin Garton, 1981) 64; the Blake references are quoted in Butlin 1: 157. See also Century Guild Hobby Horse (1887), below, for another description of the same episode.

The manuscript of The Seven Lamps of Architecture (1st ed., 1849), a passage first printed in Works 8: 256, from which quoted here. BB #2595.

We have had two [men of genius] in the present century, two magnificent and mighty—William Blake and J. M. W. Turner. ... two men who if they had been given to us in a time of law, and of recognized discipline, if they had had either teaching in their youth, or reverence in their manhood, might have placed our age on a level with the proudest periods of creative art. But what have they done for us? The influence of the one [Blake] is felt as much as the weight of last winter's snow: and that of the other [Turner] has been so shortened by our other affectation, and love of surprising people. But it seems to be natural to you, and to some of the Germans. You and [Gottfried Augustus] Bürger [German poet, 1748-94] would have trumped each other's best tricks to some purpose. We have had one grand man of the same school—William Blake—whose "Book of Job" fail not to possess yourself of—if it comes in your way; but there is a deep morality in his horror—as in Dante's; in yours there is little but desperation. Reprinted in Works 36: 109-10 (with some differences in wording and punctuation).

Modern Painters, vol. 3, part 4 (London: Smith, Elder, 1856) 103, 259nl. BB #2594A.

Blake, perfectly powerful in the etched grotesque of the book of Job, fails always more or less as soon as he adds colour; not merely for want of power (his eye for colour being naturally good), but because his subjects seem, in a sort, insusceptible of completion: ... (103)

Blake was sincere, but full of wild creeds, and somewhat diseased in brain. (259n1)


The "Book of Job," engraved by himself, is of the highest rank in certain characters of imagination and expression; in the mode of obtaining certain effects of light it will also be a very useful example to you. In expressing conditions of glaring and flickering light, Blake is greater than Rembrandt. Reprinted in Works 15: 223.


... one who might have been among the best of them, the last we heard of, finding refuge for an entirely honest heart from a world which declares honesty to be impossible, only in a madness nearly as sorrowful as its own;—the religious madness which makes a beautiful soul ludicrous and ineffectual; and so passes away, bequeathing for our inheritance from its true and strong life, a pretty song about a tiger, another about a bird-cage, two or three golden couplets, which no one will ever take the trouble to understand,—the spiritual portrait of the ghost of a flea,—and the critical opinion that "the unorganised blots of Rubens and Titian are not Art." Reprinted in Works 19: 56. Ruskin alludes to three identifiable texts by Blake, "The Tyger" (E 24-25), "Auguries of Inno-
cence" (E 490, "A Robin Red breast in a Cage / Puts all Heaven in a Rage"), and "A Public Address" (E 576, "The unorganized Blots & Blurs of Rubens & Titian are not Art ..."). The "two or three golden couplets" may be other lines from "Auguries of Innocence," such as those Ruskin quotes elsewhere in his writings (see below). For another reference to Blake's criticism of Titian, see the diary entries for 22 Feb. 1878, below. Ruskin probably learned of the engraving of Blake's "Ghost of a Flea" in John Varley's Zodiacal Physiognomy (1828) from the description and reproduction in Alexander Gilchrist, Life of William Blake (London: Macmillan, 1863) 1: 254-55. Gilchrist 2: 148 is probably the source for Ruskin's quotation from "A Public Address"; Gilchrist also prints "Auguries of Innocence" (2: 94-97). The "editorship" of these selections from Blake's writings was "performed by Mr. Dante Gabriel Rossetti" (Anne Gilchrist's preface, 1: v-vi).


Our imagination is slower and clumsier than the French—rarer also, by far, in the average English mind. The only man of power equal to [Paul Gustave] Dore's [French artist, 1832-83] whom we have had lately among us, was William Blake, whose temper fortuitously took another turn.


These are the opposite effects of Law and of Liberty on men of the highest powers. In the case of inferiors the contrast is still more fatal.... But the inferiors under a system of license for the most part perish in miserable effort; a few struggle into pernicious eminence—harmful alike to themselves and to all who admire them; many die of starvation; many insane, either in weakness of insolent egotism, like [Benjamin Robert] Haydon [English artist, 1786-1846], or in a conscientious agony of ignorant purpose and warped power, like Blake.


The few who have sense and strength to assert their own place and supremacy, are driven into discouraged disease by their isolation, like Turner and Blake; the one abandoning the design of his "Liber Studiorum" after imperfectly and sadly, against total public neglect, carrying it forward to what it is,—monumental, nevertheless, in landscape engraving; the other producing, with one only majestic series of designs from the book of Job, nothing for his life's work but coarsely iridescent sketches of enigmatic dream.


The Poems of William Blake, volume was...
than ked you at once for the precious little book, of which you must have thought me so careless. But, as I now glance through it, I am a little pained by what, I suppose, is its truth of text, but is nevertheless not satisfactory after Rossetti's emendations. You do not, I think, make clear enough in your preface the authority for your readings. In the tiger, for instance, Rossetti's "What dread hand made thy dread feet?" is far more striking (to me) than your "What hand and what," etc., which is forced and unintelligible.

Will you kindly tell me more clearly the relations of your text to Rossetti's in such particulars? and believe me already, very faithfully yours,

J. Ruskin.

Shepherd's version of the line from "The Tyger" follows Blake's relief-etched text, except for the change of "&" to "and" (E 24). Ruskin misquotes D. G. Rossetti's version, which reads "What dread hand formed thy dread feet?" (Gilchrist 2: 59). Rossetti's reading accords with a pen and ink emendation, probably written by Blake, in copy P of Songs of Innocence and of Experience ("Form'd thy"). Rossetti may have seen copy P or one of the two early facsimiles made from it, although the provenances of these works offer no direct link to the Pre-Raphaelite or Gilchrist circles.


Religion, without love of man, becomes madness; love of man, without tenderness to the lower creature, becomes insolence; and as

"The bat that flits at close of eve
Has left the brain that won't believe."

["Auguries of Innocence," E 490]

so also Religion, without love of man,—is that possible?


Finally, here are four of the grandest lines of an English prophet, sincere as [Vittore] Carpaccio [Venetian painter, c. 1460-1525], which you will please remember:

"The bat that flits at close of eve
Hath left the brain that won't believe."

"Hurt not the moth, nor butterfly,
For the Last Judgment draweth nigh."

Reprinted in Works 29: 36. The couplets are quoted from "Auguries of Innocence" (E 490-91). Blake wrote "Has" at the beginning of the second line in the first quotation and "Kill" at the beginning of the first line in the second quotation. Neither variant appears in Gilchrist 2: 95 (see "Cestus," 1 Jan. 1865, above) nor in the Pickering and Rossetti editions of 1874.


Even his feet have reigned over the works of Thy hands. God makes the worm, and moth, and the wild beast; and we tread on them, or subdue. Compare Blake, of the tiger:

"And what shoulder, and what art,
Could twist the sinews of thy heart."

["The Tyger," E 24]

Quoted from Works 31: 158.

Compare Blake, of "ill meaning sound [Sidney, psalm 17],"

"A truth that's told with bad intent
Beats all the lies you can invent."

["Auguries of Innocence," E 494]

Quoted from Works 31: 187.


But you may tell her I should be very sorry if my eyes were no better than eagles! "Doth the eagle know what is in the pit?" I do.

The quotation is from The Book of Thel (E 3), with the first word changed from "Does." See also The Eagle's Nest, 1872, above.


—And on my chimney piece, Turners Jerusalem—and Blake's Ruth. Left there also ....

I have not looked back, nor took my hand from the Jason plough.

And when Gold and Gems adorn the plough!

Oh—you dear Blake—and so mad too—

Do you know what Titians good for now you stupid thing?

Ruskin owned Turner's watercolor, Jerusalem—The Pool of Bethesda, at this time; see Notes by Mr. Ruskin on His Collection of Drawings by the Late J. M. W. Turner, R A. Exhibited at the Fine Art Society's Galleries (London: Fine Art Society, 1878) 47, #51. He apparently also owned "Blake's Ruth"—possibly the large color print Naomi Entreatig Ruth and Orpah to Return to the Land of Moab (Butlin #300, Keynes Collection, Fitzwilliam Museum). Butlin gives no provenance record for this work prior to 1901, when J. W. Pease bequeathed it to Miss S. H. Pease. J. W. Pease did not acquire two of his other Blake color prints, Pity and Hecate (or The Night of Eriahmon's Joy), until 1887 at the earliest (Butlin #312, 318). Both Pity and Hecate were among the works by Blake Ruskin purchased, or at least came close to purchasing, from the dealer Joseph Hogarth; see the letter to Richmond of c. 1843, above. Perhaps Naomi Entreatig Ruth came from the same source.

In the second diary entry, Ruskin alludes to lines from Blake's "Auguries of Innocence": "When Gold & Gems adorn
the Plow / To peaceful Arts shall Envy Bow” (E 495). The reference to Titian alludes to Blake’s criticism of his art—see “The Cestus of Aglaia: Prefatory,” 1 Jan. 1865, above.


... still the fifth sweet leaf unfold for the Rose, and the sixth spring for the Lily; and yet the wolf rave tameless round the folds of the pastoral mountains, and yet the tiger flame through the forests of the night!

“Wolf rave” and “round the folds” allude to Blake’s “Night”: “When wolves and tygers howl for prey” and “... walking round the fold” (E 14). The allusion at the end of the sentence is to the opening lines of Blake’s “The Tyger”: “Tyger Tyger, burning bright, / In the forests of the night” (E 24). See also letter 27 of 1873 in Fors Clavigera, above.


... the doctors know really nothing about the conditions of insanity which attack men like Blake or Turner or me ... The Doctors enraged me more and more the longer I live.


... a course of saintly studies for Amiens, which I fancy the Devil objected to;—but I'm getting quietly into work again, for all that, and hope he'll get the worst of it, at last—nor even now has he done me much harm, in teaching me what kind of temper Blake worked in—and one or two more in old days—leaving me, now, just as practical and rational a person as ever I was!


You must, however, always carefully distinguish these states of gloomy fantasy, natural, though too often fatal, to men of real imagination,—the spectra which appear, whether they desire it or not,—to men like Orcagna [Florentine painter, 1308-68], Durer [Albrecht Dürer], Blake, and Alfred Rethel [German painter, 1816-59],—and dwelt upon by them, in the hope of producing some moral impression of salutary awe by their record—as in Blake's Book of Job, in Durer's Apocalypse, in Rethel's Death the Avenger and Death the Friend, ... Reprinted in Works 33: 334-35.


The dark blossom ... is an entirely innocent and pleasant flower, the white variety of it so full of honey, that children, as well as bees, enjoy it: whence Proserpina's name for it, "Melitta dulcissima"; called "Archangel" in old English—by some corruption of Latin, I fancy, but my wisely fanciful botanical friend writes: "The blossoms do seem to stand in solemn order like Blake's angels in the Book of Job."


How many wiser folk than I go mad for good and all, or bad and all, like poor Turner at the last, Blake always, [Walter] Scott in his pride, [Edward] Irving [preacher, 1792-1834] in his faith, and [Thomas] Carlyle, because of the poultry next door.


He [Burgess] was again in London ... and possessed himself of some of Blake's larger drawings—known to me many and many a year before. George Richmond had shown them to me—with others—I suppose about 1840,—original studies for the illustrations to Young's Night Thoughts—and some connected with the more terrific subjects etched for the Book of Job. I bought the whole series of them at once—carried it home triumphantly—and made myself unhappy over it—and George Richmond again delivered me from thraldom of their possession.

They were the larger and more terrific of these which poor Arthur had now again fallen in with—especially the Nebuchadnezzar [Butlin #304, untraced since 1887]—and a wonderful witch with attendant owls and grandly hovering birds of night unknown to ornithology [Hecate or The Night of Enitharmon's Joy, Butlin #318, Huntington Library]. No one at the time was, so far as I know, aware of the symptoms of illness which had been haunting me for some days before, and I only verify their dates by diary entries,—imaginative, then beyond my wont, and proving that before the Blake drawings came, my thoughts were all wandering in their sorrowful direction,—with mingled corruptions [sic] of opposing fancy, too bright to last.

Reprinted in Works 14: 354-55 and quoted in part in Butlin 1: 157. Burgess, who died in 1887, was a wood engraver and friend of Ruskin's. In addition to the two works by Blake to which Ruskin refers, Burgess may have owned a third large color print, Pity (Butlin #312, Yale Center for British Art). Butlin dates Burgess's acquisition of these works to c. 1878-80. See also the letter of c. 1843, above, for more information on Ruskin's attempted purchase of works by Blake.
William Blake's Miniature Portraits of the Butts Family

BY M. CROSBY

IN EARLY 1801 William Blake painted a number of miniature portraits for his Sussex patron, William Hayley, including two of the poet William Cowper (illus. 1-2), one of which was sent to Cowper's cousin, Lady Hesketh. There is also an extant miniature of Cowper's relative, John Johnson, executed in 1802 (illus. 3). These three miniatures are watercolor on card and use a stippling technique to render facial features, while opaque linear strokes are used to delineate the clothing. Blake was initially enthusiastic about painting miniature portraits. In a letter to his London patron, Thomas Butts, of 10 May 1801 he exclaims, "my present engagements are in Miniature Painting Miniature is become a Goddess in my Eyes & my Friends in Sussex say that I Excell in the pursuit. I have a great many orders & they Multiply." In August 1803 he states that the soldier who had accused him of, among other things, uttering seditious expressions had also identified him as a "Military Painter," adding "I suppose mistaking the Words Miniature Painter, which he might have heard me called" (E 735). Private John Scolfield's misidentification was corrected in his official complaint to "Miniature painter," which indicates that Blake was known locally as a miniaturist. There are references to ten miniatures by Blake, but only six have so far been identified. These six fall into two periods: those executed at Felpham from 1800 to 1803, and two that are dated 1809. The extant miniatures that have been attributed to the Felpham period comprise the two of Cowper, executed for Hayley, the Johnson portrait, and one of Thomas (by profession an Engraver) who lives in a little Cottage very near me to paint in miniature—accept this little specimen of his Talent as a mark of Kind Remembrance" (all quoted from BR(2) 107-08). See also Geoffrey Keynes, "Blake's Miniatures," Blake Studies, 2nd ed. (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1971) 111-12, and Butlin, The Paintings and Drawings of William Blake (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1981) [hereafter B] #346, 348. Butlin does not record Marsh's reference to Blake's miniature of Hayley.

My argument for a redating of the Thomas Butts senior miniature was first put forward in a paper presented at the Blake and Conflict conference, University College, Oxford, 22-23 September 2006. I would like to thank Martin Butlin for reading and commenting on an earlier draft.

1. Morton D. Paley discusses the various portraits of Cowper that Blake executed in Felpham, including the two miniatures ("Cowper as Blake's Spectre," Eighteenth-Century Studies 1.3 [spring 1968]: 236-52).


4. In Hayley's letters and the journal of Hayley's friend, the composer John Marsh, there are references to miniatures of Hayley, his first wife, Eliza, and two of George Romney. In a letter to Romney of 21 April 1801 Hayley claims to have taught Blake miniature painting using "the two infinitely best Resemblances of yrself, that I am so happy as to possess.—one ... He will copy exactly,—the Head from the large unfinish'd sketch He shall reduce to the same size as its companion." In his journal entry for 9 May 1801 Marsh recalls seeing "a striking Miniature of M. Hayley" by Blake, and in a letter to Daniel Parker Coke of 13 May 1801 Hayley refers to a miniature of his wife Eliza that his son, Thomas Alphonso, was planning to execute, but which Blake appears to have painted: "My dear Tom intended to execute for you such a Resemblance of Mrs H—His own calamitous Illness & Death precluded Him from that pleasure—I have recently formed a new artist for this purpose by teaching a worthy creature to paint, and I have presented him with a splendid specimen of his Talent as a mark of Kind Remembrance."
Buts senior. The two from 1809 are of Butts’s wife, Elizabeth, and his son, Thomas Butts junior. Unlike the Cowper and Johnson miniatures, the three depicting the Butts family are watercolors on oval ivory supports. This note examines the Butts family miniatures held in the Department of Prints and Drawings at the British Museum and proposes a redating of the Butts senior portrait based on stylistic correspondences, epistolary references, and contemporary fashion trends.

In his “Descriptive Catalogue” of Blake’s works, published as an appendix to the first edition of Alexander Gilchrist’s biography of 1863, William Rossetti dates the miniature of Butts senior to 1801. In a manuscript annotation to the 1863 edition, Rossetti amends the dating to 1802. This date is retained in the 1880 edition. Butlin also tentatively dates this miniature to the Felpham period, c. 1801.

Butlin bases his dating on Blake’s letter to Butts of 11 September 1801. Writing from Felpham, Blake states, “by my Sister hands I transmit to Mrs. Butts an attempt at your likeness which I hope She who is the best judge will think like” (E 716). Blake does not directly identify this “likeness” as a miniature portrait; indeed, he tells Butts about “painting Miniatures” only after a long apology for not sending any of the Bible commissions. In a postscript, he describes portraiture as a “minute operation,” which may be a reference to the miniature portraits he was working on at the time. It is also possible that the “likeness” of Butts sent to London on 11 September is related to the unfinished portrait that Blake mentioned a year earlier.

In a letter to Butts of 2 October 1800, Blake reassures his London patron that he will continue work on the Bible paintings as well as on an unspecified portrait: “Mrs. Butts will I hope Excuse my not having finishd the Portrait. I wait for less hurried moments” (E 713). Again, there is no evidence in the letter to indicate the format of this portrait or indeed its subject, although, like that mentioned in the letter of September 1801, it was intended for Mrs. Butts, which suggests that it was of her husband.

As Blake did not begin miniature painting until early 1801, it seems unlikely that the portrait mentioned in the letter of October 1800 was a miniature. Furthermore, this portrait was not complete in late 1800 because, as he intimates, other projects were occupying his time. We know that Hayley provided Blake with a number of commissions shortly after he arrived in Felpham, such as the library portraits. It seems that during the first two years of his stay in Sussex, Blake attended to his commissions from Hayley as a matter of priority. For example, in the letter to Butts of October 1800, Blake reassures his London patron that he will continue work on the Bible paintings and on the unspecified portrait:

Butlin, A. E. Briggs briefly discusses the three Butts miniatures in the context of Butts senior’s friendship with Blake (“Mr. Butts, the Friend and Patron of Blake,” Connoisseur vol. 19, no. 74 (October 1907): 92-96).

7. Cited in B #376.


9. B #376.
nember 1802, which suggests that the portrait sent to London in September 1801 was probably not a miniature. In the letter to Butts of 22 November, Blake claims that he needs the subject before him in order to execute a miniature portrait. This is a claim that, as we shall see, he reiterates in 1803.

The extant miniature of Thomas Butts senior is an undated watercolor on an oval ivory support, 8.5 x 6.3 cm., set in a gilt oval frame (illus. 4). Blake depicts Butts with close-cropped, disheveled hair, known as the Brutus style, dressed in a blue uniform with a gold epaulette. Butts was chief clerk in the office of the muster-master general, and the uniform he is wearing may be related to that office, although, as Bentley points out, he "was never either an artillery officer or Muster-Master General." He does not appear to have undertaken any regular military training, and his duties in the office of the muster-master general were, according to a contemporary account, entirely administrative. There is no conclusive evidence to indicate whether civilian personnel were entitled to wear military uniforms while employed by the government. It is possible that Butts was a member of the local militia or joined one of the numerous volunteer corps raised between 1795 and 1810, which would have entitled him to wear a uniform while on duty. Another possible explanation will be discussed below.

Blake's portrait depicts Butts's head and shoulders, with the head turned slightly to the left, and the right hand holding a book. Apart from faint traces of blue above and around the sitter's head and hair, the background is blank. Blake uses linear brushstrokes, with opaque white on the necktie and gold on the epaulette, to render the clothing. Linear brushstrokes are also used to delineate the eyebrows, chin, and jowls. However, Blake employs carefully worked stippling, which is achieved with densely interspersed red and black dots, on the majority of the face. Stippling combined with linear brushstrokes for outline is used to draw the hand holding the book. The skin coloring on both hand and face is extremely light because Blake leaves areas unpainted, using the luminous qualities of the ivory support to achieve tone and reflection, as on the tip and bridge of the nose. A small amount of opaque white is also used on the pupils for a reflective effect.

In 1809, Blake painted miniatures of Mrs. Butts and her son, Thomas Butts junior. These are also watercolors on ivory and again demonstrate Blake's use of delicate stippling. The portrait of Elizabeth Butts is on an oval ivory support, 8.7 x 6.5 cm., set in a red leather oval frame (illus. 5). Mrs. Butts is depicted with her hair tied up, wearing a lace bodice, and sporting a hoop earring with pearl drop. Her neck is bare, her head turned slightly to the right, and she holds a closed fan in her right hand.

10. British Museum, Department of Prints and Drawings: PD 1942,1010.4. There is a minute crack in the ivory, running vertically the length of the oval.
13. A member of the local militia or volunteer corps could wear a uniform only when on duty; see A Plan for Rendering the Militia of London Useful... (London, 1782) 21.
15. British Museum, Department of Prints and Drawings: PD 1942,1010.5.
16. Daphne Foskett notes that by 1800 unpowdered hair was fashionable among women, "worn with a bandeau swathed around the curls" (Collecting Miniatures [Woodbridge: Antique Collectors' Club, 1979] 355).
Above her right shoulder Blake has used brown pigment to date and sign the portrait "1809 W Blake pinx". The bodice is rendered with linear strokes, with opaque white used on the edges. As with her husband’s miniature, Blake employs a gentle stipple technique, interspersing black and light-red dots for tone to delineate the jowls, chin, lips, nose, and eyes. Black pigment is used to emphasize hair and shadow, noticeable under the chin, at the sides of the nose, and around the eyes. The eyebrows are drawn with very fine linear brushstrokes. Blake uses blue, black, and opaque white stippling on the pupils, which he mirrors on the jeweled earring. Stippling is also used on the exposed upper part of Mrs. Butts’s chest. As in the portrait of her husband, Blake makes extensive use of the ivory support for skin tone, and leaves the background of the portrait blank, except for a trace of blue above her left shoulder.

The miniature of Thomas Butts junior is on a slightly smaller oval ivory support, 7.05 x 6.5 cm. (illus. 6). The scale is, however, significantly larger in relation to the support than the portraits of his parents. The head and shoulders are depicted, with the head turned slightly to the left and the eyes staring directly at the viewer. In the same style and position as for the miniature of Mrs. Butts, Blake has used brown pigment to inscribe “W Blake Pinx”. On brown paper pasted on the rear is inscribed in black ink “T Butts jun’. Esq’. /Stat. 20. 1809”. While this does not appear to be Blake’s hand, it supports Butlin’s dating.

Thomas Butts junior is depicted with close-cropped, unpowdered Brutus-style hair and is wearing a high-necked shirt and collar. The clothing is delineated using linear strokes, with opaque white on the necktie and collar. The face is again made up of densely interspersed red and black stippling, evident on the chin, lips, nose, and eyes. Black stippling is used for the sideburns, eyebrows, and shadow under the chin, nose, and eyes. As with the other miniatures of the Butts family, Blake makes conspicuous use of the ivory support to achieve skin tone and reflection, evident on the chin, tip and bridge of the nose, and cheeks. There are some linear brushstrokes to delineate the jawline above the high collar. The background is blue wash, drawn using linear brushstrokes with stippling around the head and upper body of the sitter. As in the miniatures of his parents, the facial coloring is extremely delicate, accentuating the luminosity of the ivory support.

In all three miniatures Blake uses a delicate stipple technique that results in an almost transparent skin tone. In comparison with the miniatures of Cowper and Johnson, the lightness of skin tone is striking, though it is possible that this may be due to fading. When we look, however, at how these miniatures were worn, it is clear that the luminous skin tone was deliberate. The miniature of Butts senior was probably intended for Mrs. Butts, who, as contemporary fashion dictated, may have worn it around her neck. The clasp on the reverse of the gilt frame suggests that it may have hung on a chain.

18. Robert N. Essick relates the depiction of Mrs. Butts to Blake’s rendering of the Wife of Bath in his 1808 painting of the Canterbury Pilgrims ("William Blake's 'Female Will' and Its Biographical Context," Studies in English Literature, 1500-1900 31.4 [autumn 1991]: 615-30 [see 621]).
20. The reverse of the Butts senior portrait contains five locks of hair, each tied with a golden thread, on a woven hair ground (illus. 7). It was common practice to include a lock of the sitter’s hair on the reverse of the miniature. At least one lock (top left) corresponds to the dark color of Butts senior’s eyebrows on the miniature (the hair on his head being powdered or, as argued later, graying). Two locks (top and bottom right)


7. (this page, below) Rear of Thomas Butts senior portrait, containing five locks of hair on a woven hair ground. Reproduced by permission of the trustees of the British Museum.

The miniature of Mrs. Butts is set in a red leather case with a catch and a hinge. The lid of the case is now missing. It is likely that Butts senior carried it on his person, possibly on a chain tucked into his waist. The lid would have been closed to prevent fading.21 It seems likely that Blake's delicate stippling, evident in all three miniatures, was calculated to accentuate the luminosity of the ivory support.

The stylistic similarities among the three portraits call into question Butlin's speculative attribution of 1801 for the miniature of Thomas Butts senior. The evidence from Blake's letters also suggests a redating. When Blake sent the portrait of Thomas Butts senior in September 1801, he included in a postscript the following statement:

Next time I have the happiness to see you I am determined to paint another Portrait of you from Life in my best manner for Memory will not do in such minute operations, for I have now discoverd that without Nature before the painters Eye he can never produce any thing in the walks of Natural Painting Historical Designing is one thing & Portrait Painting another & they are as Distinct as any two Arts can be .... (E 717)

In a letter to Butts of 6 July 1803 Blake reiterates his promise:

I am determind that M" Butts shall have a good likeness of You if I have hands & eyes left, for I am become a likeness taker & succeed admirably well. but this is not to be atchievd

appear consistent with the dark-brown hair depicted in the miniature of Mrs. Butts; another (center, under tape) is similarly consistent with the brown hair depicted in the miniature of Butts junior. The remaining light-brown lock (bottom left) does not correspond to any of the others. It was not unknown for artists to include a lock of their own hair, particularly if close to the subject. Therefore, it is possible that this lock belongs to the artist who painted the miniature. For a discussion of the inclusion of hair in miniature portraits during the eighteenth century, see Marcia Pointon, "Surrounded with Brilliants: Miniature Portraits in Eighteenth-Century England," Art Bulletin 83.1 (March 2001): 48-71 (especially 58-63), and "Materialising Mourning: Hair, Jewellery and the Body," Material Memories, ed. Marius Kwint, Christopher Breward, and Jeremy Aynsley (Oxford: Berg, 1999) 39-58.

21. The portrait of Thomas Butts junior is set in a black wooden frame with brass mounts, suggesting that it may have been displayed, possibly in the Buttses' residence.
without the original sitting before you for Every touch, all likenesses from memory being necessarily very very defective but Nature & Fancy are Two Things & can Never be joined neither ought any one to attempt it for it is Idolatry & destroys the Soul. (E 730)

These two letters clearly indicate that Blake planned to paint another portrait of Butts upon his return to London in 1803, possibly a miniature.

The extant miniatures painted at Felpham were executed on card rather than on ivory, with the exception of the Butts senior miniature that Butlin has dated to 1801. If Blake had access to ivory in Felpham it is likely he would have used it as the support for the Johnson miniature and also perhaps for the two Cowper miniatures. Ivory was relatively expensive and difficult to procure outside London, and I have been unable to locate any record of an ivory turner working in Chichester during Blake’s residence in Sussex. Hayley may have been able to purchase ivory supports on his frequent trips to London, but this does not explain why Blake painted the portraits of Cowper, particularly the miniature sent to Lady Hesketh, and later that of Johnson, on card, and then painted the Butts senior miniature on ivory, unless the Butts portrait is from a later date.

While Blake repeatedly invited the Butts family to Felpham, there is no evidence to indicate that they took up his offer. Indeed, the extant correspondence suggests that from October 1801 to November 1802 Blake may have had no contact at all with his London patron. It therefore seems likely that he painted the portrait after he returned to the capital in 1803, possibly when he executed the miniatures of Mrs. Butts and Thomas Butts junior. The stylistic correspondences among the three miniatures appear to support this contention and, while there is a difference in scale among the portraits, a number of visual correspondences suggest a similar date of execution.

The portraits of Butts senior and his wife visually complement each other. The position of their heads and shoulders and the direction of their gazes are mirror images. The position of the hands, however, disturbs this mirroring effect. In both portraits the right hand of the sitter is in exactly the same position, palm uppermost holding an object, in the case of Butts senior, a book, and of his wife, a closed fan. Although the portrait of Thomas Butts junior is significantly larger in scale than those of his parents, it shares an important visual correspondence with his father’s portrait. Both Butts senior and junior sport the close-cropped hairstyle that became fashionable among the polite classes after the Peace of Amiens collapsed in May 1803.

Male fashions during the first twenty years of the nineteenth century were influenced by the military. This included wearing uniforms, which may explain why Butts is depicted in a military-style jacket. The Brutus haircut imitated the disheveled style of the close-cropped curls worn by soldiers. It is uncertain whether Butts senior is wearing hair powder or if he was naturally graying. This is significant, as from 1795 there was a heavy tax on hair powder. The fashion of the Brutus style stipulated that the hair or wig must not be powdered, which suggests that Butts senior’s hair was graying. Close-cropped hair was popular among the Jacobins during the 1790s. From 1795 the Crop Club, which was inspired by the Duke of Bedford and other opponents of William Pitt’s government, had their hair cropped “for the purpose of evading the tax on powdered heads.” Before 1800, it would have been unlikely that a government employee such as Butts would have sported close-cropped hair due to its association with the Jacobins. It is highly probable that he sported this style only when it became fashionable after 1802.

The evidence presented here supports a redating of Blake’s miniature of Thomas Butts senior. It is possible that the portrait of Butts sent to London on 11 September 1801 was either the portrait mentioned in the letter to Butts of 2 October 1800—that is, before Blake took up miniature painting for Hayley—or an untraced portrait. If, as Butlin claims, Blake is referring to a miniature portrait in the letter of September 1801, it may be one of a number of untraced miniatures that Blake executed during the Felpham period. The miniatures dating from the Felpham period are on card supports, unlike that of Butts senior, which was executed using a noticeably finer stippling technique on an oval ivory support, like the miniatures of his wife and son. It is therefore probable that the three Butts miniatures were painted during the same period, that is, when Blake had the original before him.

24. The style can be seen, for example, in Henry Edridge’s 1804 portrait of Robert Southey and Thomas Phillips’s 1807 portrait of Blake, both in the National Portrait Gallery, London.


26. This style became known as the Bedford Level (see Cunnington and Cunnington, Handbook of English Costume in the Eighteenth Century 247). For Jacobin associations with this style, see Times 19 September 1795: 3, col. B.

152 Blake/An Illustrated Quarterly
The Man Who Married the Blakes

By Morton D. Paley

On 18 August 1782 William Blake and Catherine Boucher were married in St. Mary's Church, Battersea, an event that is commemorated by a stained glass window in the church today. The clergyman officiating was the Rev. John Gardnor, who in the words of Alexander Gilchrist "was also an amateur artist of note in his day" (35). Gilchrist treats Gardnor's artistic career with considerable irony, but Gardnor was actually a competent landscape artist and engraver who also had some interesting educational, political, and literary associations.

John Gardnor (b. 1728 or 1729) kept a drawing school at 13 Kensington Square from c. 1763 to 1770, evidently a successful one because it expanded into the adjoining numbers 12 and 11. From 1763 to 1767 and again in 1769 he exhibited at the Free Society of Artists, showing a total of more than two dozen paintings and drawings of landscapes and of such popular subjects as Windsor Castle and Chepstow Castle, Monmouthshire. After taking holy orders he gave up his drawing school and became curate, then vicar of Battersea, becoming vicar in 1778 and remaining until his death in 1808. He was the only ordained clergyman of the Church of England who was also a practicing artist at that time, for although he had given up his school he had not given up painting. He began exhibiting at the Royal Academy in 1778 with two landscapes in oil, and exhibited every year, with the exceptions of 1792 and 1794, through 1796 (Graves, Royal Academy 3: 203). He also hoped to become chaplain to the Royal Academy upon the resignation of the incumbent, the Rev. Matthew William Peters (Williamson 201). In 1789 and again in 1790 Gardnor applied for the position, but unsuccessfully; it went to the Rt. Rev. Thomas Barnard, later Bishop of Limerick, in 1791. The subject matter of Gardnor's exhibited pictures changed after 1787. Through that year his locales had been in England and Wales, but in 1788 his two entries were The Castle of Rheinfels at St. Goar, on the Rhine and The Castle of Ober Lahnstein, near the River Rhine. These pictures were among the products of a trip to the Continent earlier that year, as were, with one exception, the fourteen works Gardnor showed in the exhibitions of 1789-91. They were among the origi-

1. This information is from Cust, from Hobhouse, and from Graves, Society of Artists 100.
2. For this information I thank Andrew Potter, research assistant at the Royal Academy Library.

Spring 2009
ies three guineas, and subscribers were invited to send their names to Mr. Walter, Bookseller, Charing Cross. The folio was issued in parts that year, with aquatints after Gardnor's originals by engravers including John and Elizabeth Fletcher, Dodd, J. S. Robinson, Richard Gardnor, Jr. (Gardnor's nephew), and Gardnor himself. The plates were then re-executed by the Gardnors in smaller size and published with the text in 1791. An unillustrated volume consisting of text alone also appeared that year, with an impressive list of subscribers, including the Lord Mayor, John Wilkes, Sir William Chambers, Joseph Farington, and Edward Burney.

Gardnor's characteristic views are of architecture—for the most part castles, abbeys, and churches—in natural settings. Among these are Ehrenbreitstein Castle (illus. 1), also to be a subject for Byron and for Turner, and the gate of Cologne (illus. 2). At the outset Gardnor tells us that he traveled on the Rhine because he needed "a change of climate" for his health (1-2), and indeed his health problems are a running theme in his narrative. He also offers ample reflections on his own art, as when he explains the differences between his two views of Rhinefels Castle according to the light at the time of day when the view was taken. Another theme is political. In connection with Ruin of the Abbey of Bingen he wrote in 1788: "It is, I think, impossible, for the most indifferent observer to survey the original, without lamenting its destruction, executing the ambition of Kings, and deprecating the wanton barbarities of military executioners" (plate 2). This general sentiment is particularized in 1791, where toward the end of the book Gardnor says, "Among the wonders of the present period, not the least remarkable is that the army in France has generally and warmly declared for liberty" (153). Gardnor had known Jacques-Pierre Brissot de Warville during Brissot's residence in London during February to November 1783 (Dybikowski 194), and this association may have prepared the way for his pro-revolutionary sympathy.

In 1793 the subjects of Gardnor's RA exhibition pictures changed again, to one view of Wales and three of Monmouthshire. He must by then have had in mind the illustrations to be provided for his friend David Williams's History of Monmouthshire (1796), engraved by Gardnor and J. Hill in 1793. Williams, a prolific writer on religious and political subjects, was also a supporter of the French Revolution in its early days, and another link between the two men was that both were among the original members of the Royal Literary Fund, set up in 1790 to help destitute writers (and still existing today). Among the thirty-six plates Gardnor furnished were views of Abergavenny Castle, Caerleon Castle, and Tintern Abbey, the last unusual in showing the abbey from the north with everyday commercial activities on the river. Williams's voluminous text includes translations from Welsh manuscripts by Edward Williams, a translation of a poem by the bard Gwilym Llwd, and an excerpt from the "Sarina" passage of Comus headed "Milton's Description of the Severn." Gardnor and Williams later had a falling-out about this venture. "Since that work was published," noted Farington, "Williams & Gardnor have quarreled about the profits of the work.—Gardner [sic] professing to understand that Williams undertook to assist him as a friend, the other declaring that He looked for a reward" (Diary 4: 1406, 22 June 1800).

One curious aspect of Gardnor's career is represented by his Plan of the Academy, at Battersea, in Surry, which the British Library catalogue conjectures to have been published in 1790. It is difficult to see how he could have been able to fulfill his duties as a vicar, pursue his artistic activities, and found a school at the same time, but this eight-page pamphlet speaks of the academy not as a theoretical project but as a school "kept by" him. The author begins by saying that it is necessary to have only a small number of students in order for the master "to attend to the Temper, Genius, and Disposition, of every Individual" (1), and more than half the pamphlet is devoted to the importance of "cultivating the Arts of Reading, Writing, and Speaking, our own Language with Energy and Propriety" (5). Greek and Latin are "taught with equal Care and Assiduity," as is French; among other subjects are mathematics, geography, music, and fencing, all taught by resident masters. Did this academy actually exist? Or is it an ideal academy written of as if it did exist?

There is no evidence that William Blake and John Gardnor met again after August 1782, although both showed pictures at the Royal Academy exhibitions of 1784 and 1785. Nevertheless, it is both interesting and appropriate that the man who married the Blakes was both an artist and an early supporter of the French Revolution.

Works Cited


The American Blake Foundation

By G. E. Bentley, Jr.

The AMERICAN BLAKE FOUNDATION was founded on 7 July 1970 by Professor Roger Easson and his wife, Professor Kay Parkhurst Easson, to foster Blake scholarship. According to a statement by the Eassons,

As a non-profit educational trust, the Foundation is designed to create an inexpensive reprint series of Blake materials, to host national Blake symposia, to build a research library [the foundation library then contained 178 books], and, ultimately, to award research grants and fellowships. The Advisory Board of Directors currently consists of Stuart Curran, Robert F. Gleckner, John E. Grant, Jean Hagstrum, Joseph Holland, Karl Kroeber, Paul Minar, Edward J. Rose, Rodger L. Tarr, Robert R. Wark, Winston Weathers, and Joseph A. Wittreich, Jr. The Executive Board is made up of Roger R. Easson, Kay Parkhurst Easson, and [attorney] Dale J. Briggs.

This was an extraordinarily ambitious program. It was clearly influenced by the William Blake Trust, which had been established with a substantial sum from the Graham Robertson estate and was largely run by Sir Geoffrey Keynes; the trust produced remarkably fine exhibitions and facsimiles but did not attempt symposia, journals, or research grants. The ambition of the American Blake Foundation helps to explain the presence on its advisory board of Blake scholars as distinguished as Curran, Gleckner, Grant, Hagstrum, Wark, and Wittreich. It should also be said that Roger was extraordinarily energetic and persuasive.

Crucial details of the enterprise appear in an essay in the student newspaper at Illinois State University in Normal, Illinois, where the Eassons taught:

The Center for the Study of William Blake is a private, non-circulating library geared toward Blake scholarship and research. It was begun in 1972 and is operated by Roger and Kay Easson, ISU associate professors of English. ... [The library includes] 95 per cent of all critical commentary on Blake in book form ... [and] 1200 slides and graphic illustrations .... The most costly item was ... “Night Thoughts,” which ... cost the Eassons $2,500. ... the Center ... is actually owned by three entities: the American Blake Foundation; the editorial staff of “Blake Studies,” ... and of course, the Eassons, who built half of the library from their own money, purchasing all of the expensive rare books. ... the university and the English department do not contribute to the Center, except in providing office space and allowing the pari [pair] three hours release time to work on “Blake Studies.” ... Currently, the Center is used mostly by the “Blake Studies” editorial staff ....

2. Edward Bury, "Mysticism Surrounds Blake Display," Daily Vidette (c. September 1976); I have seen only a photocopy of it.
Notice that the "three entities" which "actually owned" the center—"the American Blake Foundation; the editorial staff of "Blake Studies; ... and of course, the Eassons"—are virtually indistinguishable. I take it that the "Center" was chiefly a room provided by the university for the work and library of the American Blake Foundation, i.e., the Eassons.

The foundation produced a symposium, a periodical (Blake Studies), facsimiles, and catalogues. The periodical and the books made significant contributions to Blake scholarship. The foundation's first symposium—indeed, the only one of which I have a record—was held on 21 October 1971 at Illinois State University.

In 1976, when the Eassons were moving from Normal, Roger wrote to me that they had "a self-sustaining journal, a self-sustaining facsimile press, an extensive research collection (1,276 volumes at last count) endowed with a private fund amounting to approximately $5,000 annually." In a letter of 23 January 2007 he said that "the library was actually never owned by the Foundation but belonged to us; it was placed on loan to the Foundation for research purposes. All the funds for book purchases came from our personal resources."

When the Eassons moved to Memphis State University in 1977, Roger said in a letter to me that they preferred not to advertise their ownership of their plates from There is No Natural Religion (pis. a4, a6, b3) and the Songs (pl. 23) because

I do not wish it generally known that we are buying heavily at auction ... The Center will be housed here in Patterson Hall, and will begin with a collection of over twelve hundred volumes, and will have an annual budget of a modest $10,000.00 per annum for book acquisition.

The Eassons compiled "William Blake: Notes toward a Catalogue of the American Blake Foundation Research Library" (12 February 1977), iv, 62 pp., xerox. It was to be revised for "publication in September 1977," though so far as I know it never appeared. In addition to criticism and the prints from No Natural Religion and Songs, the most notable holdings of the foundation recorded there were: Ariosto, Orlando furioso (1783, 1785, 1791, 1799); Blair, The Grave (1808 ["Subscribers' Copy. Original Boards; uncut"] plus the "Trade issue"), 1813 folio and quarto); Boydell's Graphic Illustrations of ... Shakespeare (?1803); Mrs. [A. E.] Bray, Life of Thomas Stothard, R.A. (1851), extra-illustrated to 10 volumes "by Joseph Francis Daly with 829 engravings and 69 leaves with 110 original drawings by Thomas Stothard," including the plate Blake engraved for Chaucer (1782), plus a proof before letters; Bryant, A New System, ... of Ancient Mythology (1774, 1776); Bürger, Leonora (1796); Darwin, Botanic Garden (1791, 1795, 1799); Enfield, The Speaker (1774 [i.e., 1780]); Flaxman, Iliad (1805) and Classical Compositions (1870); Fuseli, Lectures (1801);

3. Roger wrote on 27 February 2007 that the catalogue was made "primarily for insurance purposes, since we were trusting the materials to movers."
The publication program was very ambitious. The first to appear was *Blake Studies*.

In imitation of it (*Blake Newsletter*), Professors Kay and Roger Easson established the semi-annual *Blake Studies* in 1968. Unlike Sir Geoffrey Keynes's book (1949, 1971), from which the title is borrowed, *Blake Studies* has thus far been largely concerned with appreciations and readings, sometimes of a rather ephemeral kind.

As it turned out, this summary was inaccurate; as Roger told me indignantly, the title of the journal did not derive from the book by Keynes because they had never heard of it when the journal was founded.

*Blake Studies* appeared somewhat irregularly (like some other scholarly journals): vol. 1, no. 1 (fall 1968); vol. 1, no. 2 (spring [October] 1969); vol. 2, no. 1 ([late] 1970); vol. 2, no. 2 (spring [sic] 1970); vol. 3, no. 1 (fall 1970); vol. 3, no. 2 (spring 1971); vol. 4, no. 1 (fall [August] 1971); vol. 4, no. 2 (spring 1972 [January 1973]); vol. 5, no. 1 (fall 1972); vol. 5, no. 2 ([March 1975]); vol. 6, no. 1 (fall [March 1974]); vol. 6, no. 2 (1976); vol. 7, no. 1 ([December 1974]); vol. 7, no. 2 (1975); vol. 8, no. 1 (1979); vol. 8, no. 2 ([February 1980]); vol. 9, nos. 1-2 ([March 1981]). It published 110 essays, some by scholars as distinguished as Martin Butlin, Morris Eaves, David V. Erdman, Robert N. Essick, Grant, Hagstrum, Mary Lynne Johnson, Keynes, and Witteich, and ceased without notice to readers or to scholars who had contributed essays accepted but not yet printed.

The foundation’s book-publishing plans were even more ambitious: “The American Blake Foundation intends to publish facsimiles of America (E), Europe (H), The Song of Los (E), Visions of the Daughters of Albion (F), An Island in the Moon, and The Genesis Manuscript.” They were to appear as Materials for the Study of William Blake, vols. 1-6. I may pretend to some authority on this matter, for I prepared editions of all these save the Genesis manuscript. *America* (1974) and *Europe* (1975 [i.e., 1979]) were actually published, but the rest languish forlornly, waiting for the kiss of a prince or angel to awaken them from their long sleep.

The facsimile of *America* copy E was produced in three forms: (1) 474 numbered copies bound in peach-red linen; (2) 26 copies lettered A-Z in quarter red morocco with marbled boards, signed by the editor; and (3) 5 copies in full morocco, signed by the editor. The morocco copies contained extra reproductions. At the time there was an epidemic of Americas:

- William Blake Trust facsimiles. If you’re going to imitate, imitate the Blake Trust facsimiles. If you’re going to imitate, imitate the best.
- The American Blake Foundation also produced two more volumes (and proposed a third which has never appeared). These were the most important work it accomplished.

- Volume II: Plates Designed or Engraved by Blake 1774-1796 (Memphis, Tennessee, 1979);
- Volume III with plates designed or engraved by Blake 1797-1827 was never published.

The financial returns were never as substantial as Roger had hoped. As he wrote to me in January 2007, “What monies we earned from publications went to pay publication costs. Those monies never covered the costs as they were supposed to, and Kay and I covered the shortfalls.”

In 1979 the Eassons apparently abandoned their independent book-publishing program. Roger said to me in a letter of 12 March 1979 that they had tried to persuade Shambhala to take over the American Blake Foundation series. However, Shambhala insisted “on a popular not a scholarly format,” so the Eassons “had to redesign the series completely.” By this time they had already produced facsimiles of *The First Book of Urizen* (G) and *Milton* (B) in 1978 for Shambhala’s Sacred Art of the World series. They had also, as Roger wrote to me, prepared for Shambhala two “triple volumes” consisting of *The Book of Thel, The Marriage of Heaven and Hell, and Visions of the Daughters of Albion* for the first and *America, Europe, and The Song of Los* for the second, “projected for

6. A flier advertised “100 copies only, loose in portfolio made of light blue linen, within dark blue slipcase. Gold Stamped. $60.00 each.” “signed and numbered by Professor Bentley,” with no reference to any other form of publication. A portfolio of loose sheets bore the imprint “Memphis, 1978”; my copy was received 5 March 1979. The limited edition colophon says it was published in “Bloomington, Illinois” (home of Indiana University). Roger was not sanguine about the edition’s commercial prospects; he wrote to me on 3 October 1978, “I will very likely lose my shirt on Europe too.”

Spring 1980." Perhaps by this time Shambhala had noticed that Blake's works are scarcely what would be regarded by the religious as forming part of the Sacred Art of the World, and no more Blake titles appeared in the series.

Roger tells me that the American Blake Foundation was dissolved in the early 1980s. In the autumn of 2008 most of the Eassons' remaining library of Blake was being sold through John Windle. For instance, Victoria University in the University of Toronto acquired in October 2008 the Eassons' very curious copy of "Spring" pl. 2 (Songs of Innocence pl. 23).

The American Blake Foundation was a brave enterprise. Its publications are worthy of honor and deserve to be remembered with respect.

7. In his letter of October 1978 Roger said, "The series will contain all the prophetic books in full color, except probably Jerusalem, and hopefully we will continue into the other book illustrations as well."

N E W S L E T T E R

Blake's Grave

Luis and Carol Garrido have rediscovered the exact site of Blake's grave at Bunhill Fields (some yards from the current marker) and have published their research at their Friends of Blake web site <http://www.friendsofblake.org>. They and the Blake Society are working with the City of London to design and raise funds for a new, correctly situated memorial stone.

Martin K. Nurmi, 1920–2008

Martin K. Nurmi, born in Duluth, Minnesota, received his doctorate in English ("Blake's Doctrine of Contraries: A Study in Visionary Metaphysics") from the University of Minnesota in 1954. He was a faculty member at Kent State from 1955 until his retirement in 1984, during which time he served terms as department chair, head of the faculty senate, and dean of the graduate school. His books include Blake's Marriage of Heaven and Hell: A Critical Study (1957), A Blake Bibliography (1964), in collaboration with G. E. Bentley, Jr., and William Blake (1975), an introduction to the poetry ("In trying to make Blake's poetry more easily accessible, I hope I have not diminished the wonder of his difference from most other poets but only clarified it a little"). His love of music was reflected in his scholarship by the "Note on Musical Settings" appended to A Blake Bibliography, as well as reviews for Blake of the concert at the Blake conference in Santa Barbara in 1976 and of Everett C. Frost's production of An Island in the Moon.

158 Blake/An Illustrated Quarterly

Spring 2009
John Windle Antiquarian Bookseller is delighted to announce our next catalogue devoted entirely to books by and about William Blake and his circle, approximately 1500 titles from the collection of Roger Easson and Kay Parkhurst Easson, and some very rare original material from private collections. Especially exciting are the Blake watercolor *The Last Trumpet*, which will be offered along with the original pencil sketch when Blake first conceived the image, and a receipt signed by Blake to Thomas Butts.

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Another exciting feature for scholars and institutions is that about 750 scholarly texts on Blake and the Romantics will be offered at special discounts for multiple purchases—25% off for 2-4 titles, 45% off for 5 or more titles.

The catalogue will be available only on my web site and not elsewhere on the internet by summer 2009, and hardbound copies will also be available for purchase in a limited edition. Requests for individual desiderata can be processed at any time—please contact me for availability.

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