## BLAKE

D I S C U S S I O N

## On the Newly Rediscovered Blake Letter

David V. Erdman

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wels agniward and bib one neares and and sidedown at il "With intellectual spears, & long winged arrows of thought" the same time. Evidence for this lies in the second drawing for the Little Black Boy which has been cut rather close (bottom left) and extended to make the contract of the co

Con the Newly Rediscovered Blake Letter

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It is a piece of good fortune that the long missing letter of Blake to Hayley (16 July 1804) which found its way into the hands of Goodspeed's of Boston recently did then find its way into the generous hands of Frederick W. Hilles, who at once gave the full text to the world in the Autumn 1967 Yale Review (pages 85-89). To top that generosity, Professor Hilles sent, with offprint, a xerox copy of the letter. a from tite

Collation turns up two flaws in the transcript. In the 13th line of the letter, as printed, "from" should read "fears", thus: Mr P was at Brighton with Mr Hoare - fears that so good" etc. In the 11th line from the end the ampersand (&) should be an etcetera (&c), thus: "I will again read Clarissa &c [end of line] They must be admirable [space] I was too hasty in my perusal of them to percieve all their beauty." Professor Hilles responds: "You are so right about fears . . . As to 'Clarissa &c', you may be right . . . the curve above the line . . . doesn't look like a c but . . . " With either reading, Blake's "they" could refer, as Hilles in the Yale Review suggests, to the letters in the Richardson Correspondence -- or to that book's six volumes. But "Clarissa &c" must mean: The novels must be better than I supposed. an agreement saith Jene Bene I can buy the electrotypes of the

Legorard and while are in the Bil. I think that there,

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