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Blake's Baptismal Font

C. M. Henning

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Roscoe, his son, and many of his friends and associates are listed as *Grave* subscribers.

² On the "List of Subscribers" is "George Frederick Cooke, Esq. Covent Garden Theatre." Since the theatre burned down on 20 September 1808, Cromek needed a new address for Cooke.

³ Cooke's title approximates that on the label glued to the boards of the folio "Subscriber's Copy": "Blake's Illustrations of Blair's *Grave*, Engraved by Schiavonetti. 13 Plates.--Price Four Guineas."

⁴ Thomas Bensley, Bolt Street, the printer of *The Grave*, was known for his quality work.

⁵ The *Gazette* advertisement is reproduced in Geoffrey Keynes, "Blake in the Provinces," *Blake Newsletter* 34 (Fall 1975), p. 41.



The Baptismal Font, St. James's Church, Piccadilly

Blake's Baptismal Font

by C.M. Henning

St. James's Church, Piccadilly, is the only West End Church designed by Wren. Blake was baptized in the church when Charles Moss was rector, in a font designed by Grinling Gibbons. It is one of few Gibbons sculptures in marble. The bowl shows three bas-reliefs: of Noah's Ark, the baptism of Jesus, and the baptism of the Treasurer of Candace by St. Philip. The stand represents the tree in the Garden of Eden, with the serpent coiled about it and Adam and Eve on either side.

By a strange twist of fate, William Pitt the elder was also baptized in the font.

In the north vestibule of the church is a tablet by Flaxman commemorating James Dodsley (d. 1797), the brother and partner of Robert Dodsley, the publisher-patron of Johnson, and a modern tablet commemorating Blake's baptism.

Holy Thursday

By M.

Sir Geoffrey Keynes recently called our attention to the following letter, which appeared in the *Monthly Magazine*, 23 (1 July 1807), 554-56.



To the Editor of the *Monthly Magazine*.

SIR,

HAVING attended the annual meeting of the charity-children at St. Paul's, on the 28th of last month, I can hardly find words to express how highly I was gratified, as well with the spectacle of upwards of six thousand poor children clothed, maintained and educated at the public expence, as with the astonishing effect produced by the union of sounds from so many voices, chanting the praises of their great Creator.

I should not, however, have troubled you with this, were it not at the same time to transmit some observations I made whilst there, in the hope, that by communicating them to the public through your widely-extended miscellany, they