## BLAKE

Q U E R Y

"Menny wouver"

Morton D. Paley

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stance implies that "the restrictions plastage the youth by adult morality!"
force him to visit the girl by night"; though it is obvious that the black-ey'd
maid sleeps in the village without him—as induce the companion song, 'When

In the letter to Butts, Jan. 10, 1802, Blake adds a postscript "Your Obliging proposal of Exhibiting my two Pictures likewise calls for my thanks; I will finish the other, & then we shall judge of the matter with certainty," and again, on August 16, 1803, "that passage in my rough sketch which related to your kindness in offering to Exhibit my 2 last Pictures in the Gallery in Berners Street. . . " Does anyone know anything about this exhibition, and did Blake exhibit?

Postidal Skatches, He teams heavily on Erdmen when discussing the political strength aspects of the poems, and tollowbor neverting irony in the apparently decided aspects of the apparently decided as the second strength of the second strength

In the final version of Blake's Notebook poem "English Encouragement of Art," occurs the curious line "Menny wouver both Bunglishness & skill (E 501). Erdman suggests that "Menny wouver" is "Cromekian for maneuver" (p. 787). Perhaps; but it occurs to me this may also be a pun on Meynheer Wouverman," referring to the Dutch painter Philips Wouverman.

the cheminage enisitethat tech enf a Morton D. Paley evisaving enough a refveet

In the Postpace Sketches; to no. It suggests that, had Blake been encouraged, not have been a great deal more than Shakespeare's imitator. Perhaps the safficulty of plotting an action of the start of the complication of a safficient plot would not have interested him.

a critique of Lowery's source study, which is the most obvious need at present.

But Ehrstide is curiously unaware of Lowery's deficiencies. The depremains to

support such a reading; if it were simply an anti-war play, the irony would be

Answers to Hard Questions: The Residence of Thomas Butts

Mr Ruthven Todd speculates about where Blake's patron Thomas Butts lived (Blake Newsletter, II [1968], 25-27). Thomas Butts was by 1789 living in a fine large house at about Number 9 on the north side of Great Mariborough Street, Westminster. The house was rated at £44, which suggests that it was considerably more pretentious than Blake's house a few hundred yards away at 28 Poland Street, which was rated at £18. I do not know when Butts arrived in the Mariborough Street house, but he had not been there when the rates were collected in 1787. (This information is based upon the rate books for Great Mariboro[ugh] Ward in Westminster Public Library, Buckingham Palace Road, London.) Blake's letters were addressed to him at this house through 1803.

Thereafter he moved to a more elegant neighbourhood, for in 1808 George Cumberland wrote that "Mr. Butts [lives at] Fitzroy Square Corner of Grafton Square 27 [word illeg]" (BM Add. MSS. 36519 I, f. 401). This is presumably the house at 17 Grafton Street (which was on the corner of Grafton Street and Fitzroy Square) where Butts died in 1845 ("Thomas Butts, White Collar Maecenas", PMLA, LXXI [1956], 1066n).

G. E. Bentley, Jr.

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