BLAKE

N E W S

Doubleday to Publish New Facsimile

David V. Erdman

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NEWS AND WORKS IN PROGRESS

DOUBLEDAY TO PUBLISH NEW FACSIMILE

From David Erdman:

Doubleday has signed me to prepare a large Anchor paperback to contain all Blake's Illuminated Works in monochromatic facsimile (plus the Job illustrations), with brief descriptive commentary on each plate. The aim is a price under ten dollars, for a working handbook. But the photography is to be of the best, and although each work will be reproduced in a single color, the plan calls for using as many as five different Blakean colors for the different works. Trim size will be 7 1/8 x 10 1/4 inches; 352 pages. Nearly all the reproductions will be in exact size, with the smaller pictures sometimes doubled up two or more on a page. There will probably be a very slight reduction of the largest plates, America . . Jerusalem.

The idea of trying to say what is going on in each illumination is, I realize, a mad one, and I know I'll need help. Suggestions about baffling details or whole pictures will be welcome. I shall also welcome ideas as to which copies of particular works will reproduce best in one color. And if anyone has a superb set of photographs of any Illuminated Work, that could be borrowed, I shall be happy to be apprised.

Target date: spring (or fall) 1972 publication.

Reward for the best title suggestion. "Blake's Illuminated Works Entire"?--"The Canon of &c &c"--"All In One . . . "? Hard to find the right words.

A VIDEOTAPE OF AMERICA PRODUCED AT YORK UNIVERSITY

Janet Warner, John Sutherland, and Robert Wallace collaborated on a one-hour videotape called <code>Blake's "America,"</code> which was made in October, 1970 at the television studio of York University. We wrote Mrs. Warner to find out more about the history, the nature, and the availability of the tape, and this is her reply:

The tape was very much a joint effort of John Sutherland and myself, who wrote the script, and Robert Wallace, my colleague at Glendon, who produced it. We wanted a program suitable for senior students, that is, those who were already acquainted with Blake's work, which would allow them to see all the plates of America, hear the whole poem read dramatically, and at the same time interpret the poem for them in a way that would link it to past and present historical events.

To this end, we obtained photographs of the black and white America in the Rosen-wald Collection, and we used slides and photographs of many other works of art, including some by Blake, and many by early American painters. We also used pictures of modern student riots and other political events which bore out the themes of political