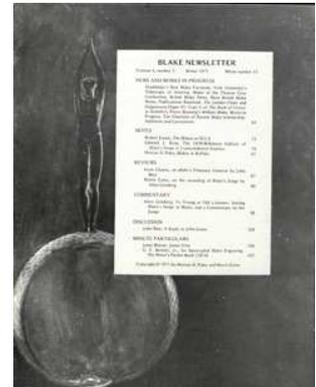


AN ILLUSTRATED QUARTERLY  
**BLAKE**

N E W S

## Blake at the Thomas Gray Conference

Blake/An Illustrated Quarterly, Volume 4, Issue 3, Winter 1971, p. 66



and psychological revolution.

The poem was read by Michael Gregory, our department chairman at Glendon, who is also an experienced actor; his voice and that of another narrator were heard always off camera. We used no "live" actors. Suitable music and sound effects were employed throughout to add emphasis and interpretation. The music consisted mainly of snatches of Charles Ives' "America Variations," while the sound effects concentrated upon both natural sounds (such as wind, thunder) and sounds of war and revolution (air raid sirens, machine gun warfare, bugle calls).

Most of our problems during production arose from our limited budget and the fact that York's television studio does not have a camera with a special close-up lens, which would have facilitated close examination of the plates and photographs. Consequently, because we could not afford to have all the graphics blown up to a suitably large size, some visual effects could not be maintained for every plate.

In addition, copyright stipulations covering both music and some photographs inhibited their expanded integration into the tape. Various other problems inherent to the process of adapting to a visual and rhythmic medium could only be discussed properly in a more academic paper, which, incidentally, Mr. Wallace is considering writing.

In general, we feel the tape was an artistic success and it has been well received at York, Glendon (a separate campus) and Colby College, Maine. In fact, it is likely we will receive money to do a second production on *Visions of the Daughters of Albion*.

Regarding distribution rights and costs, any institutions interested in *renting* a copy of the tape can do so by supplying their own videotape to York, which will transfer the production for a fee of \$75, with the stipulation that the transfer be erased after it is shown. Should enough institutions be interested in *buying* a copy of the tape, York would have it transferred to film, which could then be bought for approximately \$200.

It is interesting to find how suitable Blake's work is for adapting to television. We would be interested to hear if others have tried similar experiments.

#### BLAKE AT THE THOMAS GRAY CONFERENCE

A conference on "Thomas Gray and the Humanist Tradition" will be convened by James Downey at Carleton University in Ottawa, 18-20 May 1971. The brochure announcing the conference displays a detail from Blake's fifth illustration to Gray's "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard" (illustrating the line "Oft did the harvest to their sickle yield"), and the conference program includes at least one paper on Blake and Gray: "Gray and Blake and the Human Design" by Ben Jones, Chairman of the Department of English at Carleton. Others scheduled to participate in the conference are Jean Hagstrum, Eli Mandel, Roger Lonsdale, Donald Greene, Donald Davie, Kenneth MacLean, Arthur Johnston, George Whalley, Alastair Macdonald, Ian Jack, and Louis Kampf.