

AN ILLUSTRATED QUARTERLY
BLAKE

N E W S

Works in Progress

Blake/An Illustrated Quarterly, Volume 5, Issue 3, Winter, 1971-72, p. 165



subscribers. Manuscripts--accompanied by a stamped and addressed envelope for return--and subscriptions (\$4) may be addressed to Janet Todd / Department of English / University of Florida / Gainesville, Florida 32601.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Hoover, Suzanne (Sudbury, Mass.): a group of essays on unexplored aspects of Blake's reputation in the nineteenth century. Mrs. Hoover will be in England as an NEH Fellow for the academic year 1972-73 to study British art and literature with particular reference to Blake.

Mills, A. C. (Newnham College, Cambridge): a detailed study of the illustrations to *Jerusalem*, their imagery and their relation to the text and to other of Blake's works.

Paley, Morton D. (University of California, Berkeley): a book on *Jerusalem*. Paley has been named a Guggenheim Fellow for the academic year 1972-73 in order to enable him to complete his book.

Peterson, Jane E. (Dallas, Texas): a Ph.D. dissertation, "William Blake: Experimentation in Form and Structure in the Works of 1788-95, Excluding the Manuscript Poems," directed by T. C. Duncan Eaves at the University of Arkansas.

AULT LEAVES NEWSLETTER

After this issue, Donald Ault leaves our editorial board in order to devote more time to his own work. We are grateful for the help he has given us as Assistant Editor during the past two and a half years.

NOTES

JOHN BEER: PETERHOUSE, CAMBRIDGE

Blake's "Donald the Hammerer"

In *Blake Newsletter* 15 (Winter 1971, pp. 75-77) Robert Essick describes the pencil-and-ink drawing known as "Donald the Hammerer" in the UCLA Library, and states that he has been unable to trace its subject, though he thinks that Blake might be illustrating a scene in a book.

I think that Donald himself is to be identified with a character mentioned very briefly in Scott's *The Abbot* (1820), ch. xxxiv. Roland Graeme, explaining how he comes to have the skills of a metal worker, says,

My patron the Knight of Avenel used to compel the youth educated in his household to learn the use of axe and hammer, and working in wood and iron--he used to speak of old northern champions, who forged their own weapons, and of the Highland Captain, Donald nan Ord, or Donald of the Hammer, whom he himself knew, and who used to work at the anvil with a sledge-hammer in each hand. Some said he praised this art, because he was himself of churl's blood. . . .

The appearance of two hammers in Blake's design reinforces the identification with "Donald of the Hammer."

What was not at first clear to me was whether Scott had here created a character for his own purposes or was adding a touch of veracity to his narrative by referring to an actual historical figure. Reference to Scottish records failed to solve the mystery. In the end, however, I consulted Dr. James Corson, Honorary Librarian of Abbotsford and an authority on Scott, to whom I am most grateful for looking into the matter and discovering that Donald the Hammerer was in fact a real person. I quote from his letter to me:

Donald nan Nord was Donald Stewart of the Invernahyle family, a younger branch of the Stewarts of Appin.

In 1817 Joseph Train presented to Scott a manuscript called "An authentic account of the Stewarts of Invernahyle." The manuscript is still at Abbotsford. In 1818 Gale and Fenner, the London publishers, asked Scott to edit a new edition of Edward Burt's "Letters from a gentleman in the north of Scotland." This book was one of Scott's great favourites and he used it extensively in *The Lady of the Lake* and in *Waverley*. He declined, however, to edit it and passed the task on to Robert Jamieson. This edition was called the 5th and was issued in 1818 and also in 1822 when it was still called the 5th. To this edition