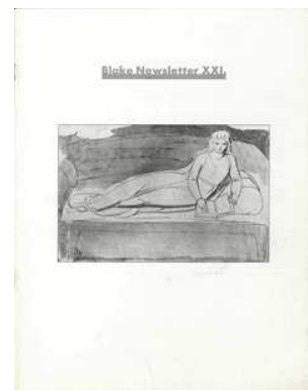


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*The cover illustration is Blake's Young woman reclining on a couch, pen and wash, 13 1/4 x 8 3/4 inches, from the collection of David Bindman, who remarks that "this drawing, in common with a number of others, derives from the collection of Richard Johnson, a late nineteenth century Blake collector. Most of his Blake drawings seem to have been bought at the Joseph Hogarth sale in 1854, and no doubt Young Woman reclining was initially one of the enormous number of drawings acquired by Frederick Tatham as Mrs. Blake's executor. It is undoubtedly early and a date of 1783-1785 can be proposed. The subject is more problematic, and so far it has not been definitely established. The couch upon which the woman reclines is similar to one in watercolours of Queen Katherine's Dream from Shakespeare's King Henry VIII, and it is possible that the young woman is Queen Katherine writing her will, leaving all her possessions to her servants just before her death. This suggestion would be compatible with the sense of melancholy she evokes, and the hints of a medieval tomb-figure in the pose. It has been connected with Blair's Grave, but it does not seem to fit with any passage in the poem. Any suggestions would be welcomed."*

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