

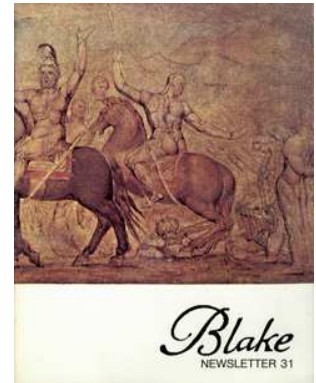
AN ILLUSTRATED QUARTERLY

BLAKE

N E W S

Taurus Press

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Taurus Press

The private press of Paul Peter Piech, Taurus Press of Willow Dene, 2 Willow Dene, Bushey Heath, Herts, WD2 1PS, England, publishes the following:

The Chimney Sweeper (1969), 10p. Edition: 200 copies

London (1969), 10p. Edition: 200

Auguries of Innocence (1970), 50p. Edition: 200

The Divine Image (1971), 15p. Edition: 300

Holy Thursday (1971), Cloth: £1, Paperback: 50p. Edition: 225

Tyger Tyger (1972), Cloth only: £5. Edition: 65

Proverbs of Hell (1974), Cloth: £5, Paperback

£2. Edition: 100 (To be published in 1975)

America (1975), Cloth/Slipcase: £50, Pre-publication price: £40. Edition: 100

The illustrations on nearby pages are prints from the Taurus Press.

Work in Progress

Michael Davis: a 70,000-word life of William Blake for the general reader, to be published by Sphere (Cardinal series), and to include among its many illustrations a number of works by artists other than Blake.

Donna Rix: a study of the narrative structure of Blake's *Milton* with reference to a literary form common to the prophetic books of the Old Testament and the Apocalypse of St. John; Blake inverts and transforms many of the symbols, themes, and motifs of the Biblical prophetic tradition in *Milton*; a Ph.D. dissertation directed by Morris Eaves at the University of New Mexico.

Gurbhagat Singh: *Meditations on William Blake: An Experiential Approach to His Poetry*, a study of Blake's poetry using comparative criticism (Eastern and Western) in an attempt to close the gap between critical theory and response; a Ph.D. dissertation completed for History of Consciousness, University of California at Santa Cruz, June 1974.

Wedding & Baptism

According to Aethelred and Alexandra Eldridge, of Golgonooza, Primal Church of the Blake Recital, in Ohio, "A first wedding was consummated under the name of Wm. Blake at the foot of Mt. Nebo, near the Ohio [River], on the grounds of the Church of William Blake. Daphne Finnegan & Donald Kutschall were pronounced 'Equal to the Poetic Task of Marriage' by the Tongue of the Church, Aethelred Eldridge, April 27, 1974." At the same place in June, Saffron Ann Henke was baptized "in Innocence outliving lasting life called strife." Copies of the wedding and baptism ceremonies are probably still available from the Eldridges, c/o Golgonooza, R. R. 1, Millfield, Ohio 45761.



News



Our New Subscription System

Some subscribers have had good reason to wonder why *The Newsletter* can't handle its affairs with the businesslike efficiency of *PMLA* and *Playboy*. The main reason is a chronic shortage of money and clerical help. Another reason is a primitive addressing and mailing operation in the University of New Mexico post office. We have tried for years to keep our dealings with individuals, libraries, and subscription agencies clean and efficient, and our occasional failures have made us more and more unhappy with things as they are.

So we have decided to get rid of at least one large trouble spot, our revolving subscription system. We publish four issues a year, and you have been able to begin subscribing with any one of the four issues. That is, your subscription may expire with the summer issue, while someone else's may expire with spring, winter, or fall. This system is easy for a computer to handle, and convenient for subscribers, and thus it is the standard system for commercial magazines.

But the system is very difficult to manage efficiently with limited money and clerical help, and a system that might ideally be convenient to

the subscriber becomes inconvenient. Everyone knows that there is no better analogy to the Gordian knot than a fouled-up magazine subscription, and we have decided to go with Alexander the Great.

Our new system of handling subscriptions will be the one used by *PMLA* and some other large scholarly journals--subscription by the volume. Every subscription will begin with the summer issue (the issue with which *Newsletter* volumes begin) and end with spring. All renewal notices will be sent out at the same time every year. New subscribers will be sent the current issue, plus all the previous issues in the current volume.

The new system is much simpler than the old for us, and we are certain it will mean fewer problems for you. But shifting from the old system to the new will be a lot of trouble for all of us, and we are asking you in advance to help us--mainly to bear with us--when the change-over begins this spring.

The procedure will not be complicated. The aim is to move each subscription from its present expiration date to expire with the spring issue. Every subscription will then begin with the summer issue. Of course, subscriptions that now expire with the spring issue will not be changed. All others will be. You will receive a bill for an amount large enough to bring your subscriptions into the new subscription cycle. You will not be paying extra money, of course--just paying on a slightly different schedule.

The procedure and the reasons for it will be explained again when you receive your bill.



Newsletter Reprints

We have now reprinted the early issues of the *Blake Newsletter*, numbers 1-13, originally printed and published at Berkeley from 1967 to 1970.

In order that all our subscribers who need the reprints may have them at a reasonable price, we have designed a reduced--not abridged--format that compresses all the early issues into two printed parts of slightly more than 50 pages each. We think you will find that the format makes the reprinted issues quite simple to consult.

Both parts of the reprint series are now ready for mailing:

Part I, Numbers 1-8, 1967-69
\$5 (special price of \$4 for individuals)

Part II, Numbers 9-13, 1969-70
\$5 (special price of \$4 for individuals)

Please send your order to:

Reprints
Morris Eaves
Department of English
University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87131

Make all checks out to the *Blake Newsletter*.

Bronowski Dead at 66

The following obituary notice, by Victor K. McElheny, appeared in the *New York Times* of 23 August 1974.

By Victor H. McElheny

Jacob Bronowski, a leading popular exponent of the philosophical basis of scientific research, and since 1964 a resident fellow of the Salk Institute in La Jolla, Calif., died after a heart attack yesterday morning in the East Hampton home of friends, where he and his wife were vacationing. He was 66 years old.

Dr. Bronowski's latest and most ambitious attempt to describe the place of science in human history, a 13-part television series for the British Broadcasting Corporation called *The Ascent of Man*, is to be broadcast on American public television stations this winter.

In the programs, first broadcast in Britain in May through July, 1973, and later in Canada, Dr. Bronowski played the same role as interpreter of his subject that Lord Clark, the art historian, had in the earlier B.B.C. series *Civilisation*.

Filming of Series

Sylvia Fitzgerald, for several years an editorial assistant to Dr. Bronowski at the Salk Institute, recalled yesterday in a telephone interview that the filming of the series took from



July, 1971, to December, 1972. Scenes were shot in such varied locations as Easter Island in the South Pacific, Machu Picchu in the Peruvian Andes, the Omo Valley in Ethiopia where hominid precursors of man lived two million years ago, and the English house of Charles Darwin, author of the theory of biological evolution.

Dr. Bronowski was born in Poland on Jan. 18, 1908, a son of Abram and Celia Bronowski. The family soon migrated to Germany and then to England.

In England, Dr. Bronowski attended the University of Cambridge, receiving his doctorate in mathematics there in 1933. In 1934 he became a senior lecturer at the University of Hull for eight years.

Report on Hiroshima

In World War II, Dr. Bronowski headed statistical groups studying the effects of bombing on industry and the economy. This was one of the origins of what became known as "operations research." In 1945, he was scientific deputy of the British Chiefs of Staff mission to Japan, where he wrote a report called "The Effects of Atomic Bombs at Hiroshima and Nagasaki."

In an article in *The Saturday Evening Post* in 1960, Dr. Bronowski wrote of his experience, "When I saw the inhuman desolation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, I was convinced that the development of atomic weapons could lead to the destruction of mankind."

In the same article, however, he said public fears that scientists who had worked on such weapons had lost their sense of right and wrong were mistaken. "On the contrary, I have found

that the conscience of scientists is the most active morality in the world," he wrote.

Dr. Bronowski closed the article by recalling the heroism of the atomic weapons specialist Louis Slotin who, when his screwdriver slipped during the delicate operation of manipulating the core of a plutonium bomb, causing a huge shower of deadly neutrons, pulled the pieces of the bomb apart with his own hands.

By this act, Mr. Slotin sentenced himself to death by radiation sickness nine days later, but he saved seven colleagues in the room. Dr. Bronowski commented, "Morality--shall we call it heroism in this case--has the same anatomy the world over."

In 1950, Dr. Bronowski became head of research for Britain's National Coal Board, which took over all British coal mines when they were nationalized after World War II. He held this post for 13 years, while the board's researchers worked to develop "smokeless" fuels to burn in British grates.

Often Witty

A short, stocky man, Dr. Bronowski was often witty, even sarcastic, in conversation. When interviewed on television, he made intent, dramatic pauses while he thought of answers to questions. He wrote many books, including the well-known *Science and Human Values*, and two plays. He was a frequent participant in the B.B.C. radio show "Brains Trust," a counterpart to "Information Please" in the United States.

One of Dr. Bronowski's deepest interests was the 19th century English artist and poet William Blake. He became an authority on Blake, about whom he wrote a book, *William Blake and the Age of Revolution*.

Although urging a loosening of ties between scientists and governments, and deploring a "terrible loss of nerve" eroding support for science in Western countries, Dr. Bronowski held to optimism about the future. At the close of the 13-part television series, Dr. Bronowski said, "If we do not take the next step in the ascent of man, it will be taken elsewhere, in Africa, in China."

In 1941, Dr. Bronowski married Rita Coblenz, a sculptor who used the professional name Rita Colin. They had four daughters, Mrs. Nicholas Jardine, Mrs. Robert Grant, Mrs. Jay Plett and Clare, a student at Harvard College.

Besides his widow and daughters, Dr. Bronowski is survived by a brother, Leo Baron.

The funeral will be private.

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Blake Symposium—Edinburgh

The Blake symposium held at the University of Edinburgh 1-4 May 1974 was attended by about 25 people, who kept discussion going variously during the intervals of eating and sight-seeing. The sights were in the University of Glasgow Library (an exhibition of emblem books and of the work of a 19th-century Scottish follower of Blake, David Scott) and at Pollock House, Glasgow, an Adams mansion now a museum of the fine arts housing six Blake originals, including the painting of *The Canterbury Pilgrims* and portraits of *Adam* and of *Eve* (the latter partly repainted).

The sensation of the conference was a dramatic performance, "Conversations at Mr. Quid's" (based on *An Island in the Moon* and, as an imaginative interlude, *The Book of Thel*), directed by Dr. Roger Savage—a smashing hit, all agreed. A public lecture by E. P. Thompson, who also participated in the seminar, presented some of the evidence of Blake's doctrinal affinities with such fellow antinomians as the Mugglestonians and the radical Swedenborgians.

There were seven seminar papers, each followed by extensive discussion, most of them illustrated by slides. They were:

- Heather Glen, "Blake's Criticism of Moral Thinking in the *Songs*"
- Frank M. Parisi, "*The Gates of Paradise* and Emblems of Melancholy"
- Belinda Humfrey and David Worrall, "Who Shall Bind the Infinite: A Study of *Europe*"
- David V. Erdman, "*Milton and The Song of Los*: Text and Illuminations"
- James B. Ferguson, "Prefaces to *Jerusalem*"
- John Beer, "Blake and the Problems of Influence"
- Annette S. Levitt, "Comus, Cloud, and Thel's 'Unacted Desires'"

(Our thanks to David V. Erdman for this item. Eds.)

Conference on British Romantic Art and Europe

A conference on "British Romantic Art and Europe" was held at the Courtauld Institute, London, on 12, 13, and 14 December 1974, coinciding with the Turner exhibition at the Royal Academy. Five sessions were scheduled for the conference: three to discuss the relationship between British art and Italy, Germany, and France respectively; one devoted exclusively to the Turner exhibition; one to encompass archival material, photographic schemes, and other tools of research relevant to the subject. Each session was to include three

half-hour papers given by invited speakers, followed by a discussion and brief contributions from two or three research students working in the field. Scheduled speakers were: David Irwin, Basil Skinner, and Francis Haskell on "Italy"; David Bindman, William Vaughan, and Rudiger Joppien on "Germany"; Michael Kitson on "France."

Blake Exhibition 1975—Hamburg & Frankfurt

The British Council is sponsoring a Blake exhibition to be held in Hamburg and Frankfurt during March and April 1975, for which David Bindman is writing the catalogue. This will be the next to last exhibition in a series organized by Dr. Werner Hofmann of the Hamburg Kunsthalle. The other exhibitions are "Ossian," "Friedrich," "Fuseli," and "Sergel." A representative



Blake portrait for *Proverbs of Hell*, Taurus Press

selection of Blake's visual art has been compiled from a wide range of collections in England, Scotland, America, and Australia, including substantial loans from the Fitzwilliam and the Tate. The new National Gallery of Art in Canberra, Australia, has promised to send its recently acquired *Jerusalem* proof plates, and there is a strong possibility of borrowing some of the Melbourne Dantes. The exhibition is the first major showing of Blake in Germany. Hamburg's associations with Blake, through Henry Crabb Robinson's article in the *Vaterlandisches Museum* of 1810, make it an especially suitable location.



London, Taurus Press

Blakes in Glasgow

The copies of *Visions of the Daughters of Albion* (Keynes and Wolf, copy C) and *Europe* (Keynes and Wolf, copy B) from the collection of Lord Cunliffe are now on deposit at the Glasgow University Library, together with a copy of the *Descriptive Catalogue* and its unique advertisement.

Druid Celebration

Blake's name was invoked in a somewhat perverse context on 22 September 1974 during the Druid celebration of the autumn equinox on Parliament Hill Fields in North London. The hyperborean revivalists in question belong to the Order of Bards, Ovates and Druids, a splinter group of the British Circle of the Universal Bond, which claims descent from a meeting of British Druids supposedly organized at Primrose Hill in 1717 by John Toland. More surprisingly, the Order accords Blake a place on the roll of honor for its departed chieftains, alongside John Aubrey, William Stukeley and Bulwer Lytton. A desire to appease conventional religious opinion has robbed the ceremony of much of its pagan flavor, to the point where even the four archangels are enlisted in the Druid cause. However, the fruits of the earth were duly presented to the Chief Druid, who then returned them to the soil (or rather to the hands of onlooking children who disliked the idea of waste); "Excalibur" was unsheathed for the pronouncement of peace on the four corners of the earth; two new posthumants were accepted into the Order; a poetry reading was given and, finally, after a comprehensive blessing, the Druid banner, bearing a trilithon surmounted by a wheatsheaf, made its way down the hill to the changing-rooms.

Holy Thursday, Taurus Press





New Music for *Four Zoas*

The first concert performance of Robert Starer's "Images of Man" was presented by the Department of Music, Brooklyn College School of Performing Arts, on 15 December 1974 at Whitman Hall. The text for "Images of Man" was freely selected from sections of *The Four Zoas*. The work is scored for four

soloists, four instruments (flute, horn, cello, and harp), four percussionists, and chorus. "Images of Man" was commissioned by CBS Television for presentation at the National Cathedral in Washington, D. C., on 4 November 1973 and is scheduled for publication in the spring of 1975.

