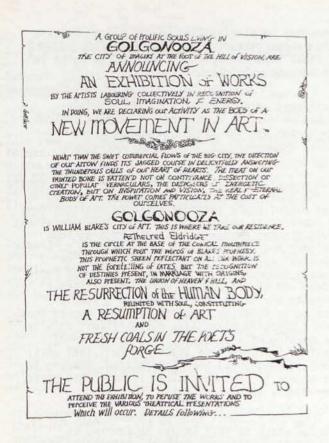
## BLAKE

N E W S

## Newsletter Reprints

Blake/An Illustrated Quarterly, Volume 8, Issue 4, Spring 1975, p. 105





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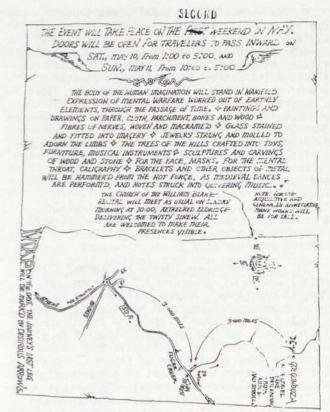
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## Report: 1974 MLA Blake Seminar

"Perspectives on Jerusalem" was the topic of this year's seminar, at which Edward J. Rose presided. Three essays, each representing a different approach to the poem, furnished the material for discussion. (These essays appeared in a special edition of Blake Studies, Vol. 7, No. 1, prior to the conference.) Methodological considerations are especially pertinent to Jerusalem, where Blake, in creating his system, draws on such a diversity of sources--philosophical, scientific, historical, religious, artistic, and literary.

E. B. Murray's "Jerusalem Reversed," briefly summarized by Rose, presents a structural approach. Murray states that reversals are intrinsic to the poem's meaning. Applying this idea and concentrating his attention on Vala, he holds that she represents hate or a reversal of Luvah. Those present at the seminar agreed that reversal is indeed a recurrent motif in the poem; there was some disagreement, however, about his analysis of Vala. It was pointed out that despite his strong insistence upon critics always sticking to the text, Murray himself had not done so: he explains not the name Vala but Vah-lu. is Vala and La-Va is Luvah," he concludes. Since Murray was not on hand to explain the large concepts on which his meaning depends, there was no further discussion of his essay. Unfortunately, only one author of the essays selected for discussion was present; exploration of the proposed subject therefore was often limited.