

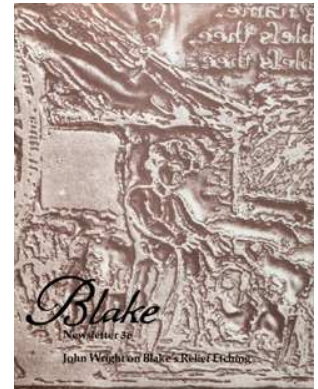
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D I S C U S S I O N

1974 Blake Seminar

E. B. Murray

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## QUERY

### *Gates of Paradise and Quarles' Emblems*

By Detlef Dorrbecker

While I was doing some research for an article on *For Children: The Gates of Paradise*,<sup>1</sup> I examined the numerous editions of Francis Quarles' *Emblemes* (first published 1635). I also came across the last "regular" reprint of Quarles' epigrams, a book produced in 1839 and furnished with totally new emblem-icons, the woodcuts done by Charles H. Bennett and W. Harry Rogers. Blake drew massively on the original illustrations in Quarles' collection of emblems when making his designs for *GP* in the *Notebook*, and in turn the latter artists, it appears to me, must have known and used Blake's inventions when engraving their designs.<sup>2</sup> Does anybody have some information on Bennett and Rogers, or some idea where they might have seen works of Blake (especially *GP*), etc.?

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<sup>1</sup> This essay is shortly to be published in the *Städel Jahrbuch*, N.F. Bd. V, hrsgb. Klaus Gallwitz & Herbert Beck, München 1975.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. Alexander B. Grosart, ed., *The Complete Works in Prose and Verse of Francis Quarles*, vol. III, N.Y. 1967 (reprint of 1880/1881 ed.), pp. 103 ff. Cf. especially for *GP* 10: Bk. III, emblem viii (p. 146); for *GP* 6: Bk. III, emblem xii (p. 150) and Bk. V, emblem xiii (p. 181), and for *GP* 14: Bk. IV, emblem ii (p. 155). There are some other striking iconographic parallels with Blake's emblem-designs in the *Notebook*, *GP* and some of the illuminated books.

## DISCUSSION

### 1974 Blake Seminar

By E. B. Murray

I am pleased the December 1974 MLA Blake Seminar ("Perspectives on *Jerusalem*") approved of the general tendency of my "Jerusalem Reversed" paper (see *Newsletter* 32, Spring 1975, p. 105), though I'd suspect it took a smug dealer in unconscionable paradox to confuse my Vala-Vahlu, Luvah-Lava syllabic reversals and consequent correspondences with the wholesale importing of extraneous readings into Blake's text that I was (gently) questioning. Another case of the saw posing as a razor's edge to hack up minute particulars--in lieu of an armed vision to see through them. The reversals are closer to their nominal sources in the text than

much Blakean word-play of these and other days (e.g., earth-owner, horizon, lethe--and "lover" [come back to me?]), perhaps even as close as that famous back-formation, Enitharmon. When this generation's Blakean establishment has been laid to waste, they'll come glimmering through as well as these. (I shall not promise so much for "nada-nada" as Udan Adan without evidence that a bit of simple Spanish had some currency to Blake.)

It was too bad I could not be at the meeting. I accept the wrist-slapping of its reporter with understanding. But sometimes things close in. Someone should suggest to those running Blake meetings in the future that they really should give an appropriate by-line to the people actually contributing papers. While my reasons for not showing were more substantial than this, I couldn't tell from any listing in the MLA program that I was really aboard--and so it came to pass. Also--the general carping tone of reported commentary, though in keeping with the spectral self-righteousness of Blakean commentary everywhere evident these days (perhaps contagious--*ecce signum*), suggests that, with only two of the paper-contributors in absentia, the group had one too many warm bodies to pick at.

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## MINUTE PARTICULARS

### "Fields from Islington to Marybone"

By John Adlard

Blake's conviction that "The fields from Islington to Marybone, / To Primrose Hill and Saint John's Wood" were once "builded over" with Jerusalem's pillars may have something to do with the fact that the Order of St. John of Jerusalem (whose Priory Gate still stands in Clerkenwell, adorned with a lamb) once owned much of this area. St. John's Wood itself is named after them (there was also a Little St. John's Wood in Islington) and Pieter Zwart, in his *Islington* (London 1973), p. 118, notes that "the fields to the west" belonged to them.

London

### Blake's Appearance in a Textbook

on Insanity

By Raymond Lister

From the viewpoint of the unprofessional reader, one of the most fascinating books on insanity is *Mad Humanity its Forms Apparent and Obscure* by L. Forbes Winslow, which was published in London by C. A. Pearson Ltd. in 1898.