INTRODUCTION

William Blake and His Circle originated in annual checklists in Blake: An Illustrated Quarterly, Volumes XXVIII-XLIII (1994 ff.). These have been consolidated, corrected, and amplified. In particular, the present work lists over 4,000 reviews, most of them not in Blake Books (1977), Blake Books Supplement (1995), or Blake (1994 ff). Blake Books and Blake Books Supplement ignored reviews except for catalogues and for works before 1863 (about 500).

William Blake and His Circle is a continuation of the records in

- (1) G.E. Bentley, Jr, Blake Books: Annotated Catalogues of his Writings in Illuminated Printing, in Conventional Typography, and in Manuscript, and Reprints thereof; Reproductions of his Designs; Books with his Engravings; Catalogues; Books He Owned; and Scholarly and Critical Books about Him (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1977)
- (2) G.E. Bentley, Jr, with the assistance of Keiko Aoyama, Blake Studies in Japan: A Bibliography of Works on William Blake Published in Japan 1893-1993 (Tokyo: Japan Association of English Romanticism, 1994)
- (3) G.E. Bentley, Jr, Blake Books Supplement: A Bibliography of Publications and Discoveries about William Blake 1971-1991 being a Continuation of BLAKE BOOKS (1977) (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1995)
- It is also the successor of the wonderfully detailed and voluminous checklists of D.W. Dörrbecker in *Blake: An Illustrated Quarterly* (1978-1992), whose findings are incorporated in *Blake Books Supplement*.

Three scholars have produced series of essays in *Blake Newsletter* and *Blake: An Illustrated Quarterly* which

cumulatively are more factually valuable than most books on Blake.

The first of these is R.N. Essick, whose "Blake in the Marketplace" began modestly in 1974 with an 8-page essay and in 2009 was 40 pp. This is an invaluable record of original books and pictures by Blake and his circle which have changed hands or been offered for sale or discovered. It is a record of the most basic elements of scholarship by an author who is both a major scholar and a major collector. The total number of pages from 1974 to 2009 was 558 pages, the equivalent of a very substantial book.

The second scholar is D.W. Dörrbecker, who for fifteen years (1978-1993) produced "Blake and His Circle: A Checklist of Recent Blake Scholarship". The first Checklist was published by Thomas Minnick in *Blake Newsletter*, X, 2 (Fall 1976), 59-62, and then he was joined by Dörrbecker in the issues in *Blake* for 1978-84. From 1987 to 1993 it was conducted by Dörrbecker alone. Under Dörrbecker it grew from 26 pages to the whole issue (1991, 1993), with more and more generous annotation and coverage of Blake's Circle from Flaxman to John Ruskin. Almost all the entries were annotated, and the annotations of some were so extensive as to constitute mini-reviews⁴ which are succinct and shrewd, occasionally spiced with a touch of indignation. His coverage of Blake's circle and of art history is far more extensive than

⁴ Dörrbecker published 83 reviews in *Blake* alone, most of them part of "Blake and His Circle"

He regularly annotates dissertations extensively, but these dissertation-annotations are not reported below.

that of his successor. The essays by Dörrbecker alone would make a very substantial book (241 pages).

The third scholar is G.E. Bentley, Jr in "William Blake and His Circle" in *Blake* beginning in 1994 – with the assistance of Keiko Aoyama (1994-2003) and of Hikari Sato (2004 ff) for Japanese publications. In Bentley's administration the emphasis is far less on Blake's Circle and on annotation and a good deal more on Blake's books and prints and drawings. The cumulative bulk is substantial – 581 pages for 1994-2009.

No other author or artist known to me is so well served.

ORGANIZATION Division I: William Blake

Division I of the checklist is as in *Blake Books* and *Blake Book Supplement*.

Division II: Blake's Circle⁵

Division II is organized by individual (say, William Hayley or John Flaxman), with works by and about Blake's friends and patrons, living individuals with whom he had significant direct and demonstrable contact. It does *not* include important contemporaries with whom Blake's contact was negligible or non-existent such as John Constable and William Wordsworth and Edmund Burke. Such major figures are dealt with more comprehensively elsewhere, and the light they throw upon Blake is very dim.

In general, Keiko Aoyama and Hikari Sato are responsible for works in Japanese, and I am greatly indebted to

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⁵ There is nothing in *Blake Books* (1977) or *Blake Books Supplement* (1995) corresponding to Division II: Blake's Circle.

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them for their meticulous accuracy and their patience in translating the words and conventions of Japan into our very different context.

I take *Blake Books* (1977) and *Blake Books Supplement* (1995), faute de mieux, to be the standard bibliographical authorities on Blake⁶ and have noted significant differences from them.

Blake's words are quoted from *William Blake's Writings*, ed. G.E. Bentley, Jr, (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1978).

Dates and documents about Blake come from *Blake Records* Second Edition (2004).

EXCLUSIONS

I have made no systematic attempt to record several modes of publication, and I list below a few I have come upon accidentally.

"Audio Books"

William Blake: poems read by Nicol Williamson (Harper/Collins, ISBN: 156511163X; Findaway World Lic., 2009) and William Blake: selected poems read by various readers (Penguin Audiobooks, ISBN 014086572), scathingly reviewed by Gilbert Francis, New Statesman, 4 Dec 1998, p. 63.

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⁶ Except for the states of the prints for Blake's commercial book engravings, where the standard authority is R.N. Essick, *William Blake's Commercial Book Illustrations* (1991).

"Audio Magazines"

Roger Lundin, "On the vision of William Blake", Mars Hill Audio Journal: A bimonthly audio magazine of contemporary culture & Christian conviction, LI ([Charlottesville, Virginia] July-August 2001), Disc 2.

Broadcasts on Radio

- (1) "Masao Hataya ... was devoted to 'popularizing' Blake, and from 6 pm on August 12 [1927], the time of the artist's death, he broadcasted a 30-minute radio program [in Japanese] called '100 Years since Blake's Death'" (Yoko Ima-Izumi, *Blake*, XXXVIII [2004-5], 113); (2) Jacob Bronowski, "The Prophetic Books of William Blake", BBC Third Programme, 7:55-8:25 P.M. 25 June 1951 and (3) his "Invention and Imagination: 1. William Blake", BBC Third Programme 9:25-9:45 P.M. 9 October 1946 (typescripts in the University of Toronto Library); (4) Canadian Broadcasting Company, 10:30 P.M., 12 June 1995, Bank of Montreal Stratford Festival Series in The Arts Tonight: Monday Night Playhouse; (5) BBC on-line for 20 January 2006 lists Peter Ackroyd, "The Romantics", section on Blake; (6) BBC online press release of 21 August 2002: "The complete list of the top 100" Britons includes Alfred the Great, Julie Andrews, David Beckham, Tony Blair, and William Blake; (7) G.E. Bentley, Jr, was interviewed on Ottawa station CFRA on 17 Feb 2006; (8) "The Divine Mr. Blake", CBC radio, 18 November 2007, interviews with Dr Susanne Sklar, Dr Stephen Faulkner, Susan McCaslin, and G.E. Bentley, Jr.;
- (9) "Blake's Doors of Perception", BBC, four days in November 2007.

Broadcasts on Television

(1) William Blake, The South Bank Show, ITV (London), 17 September 1995, largely narrated by **Peter Ackroyd**; (2) A.A. Gill, "English File: Poetry Backpack: William Blake. BBC 2 daytime educational program for television. Broadcast Friday, 23 May 1997", Sunday Times (London), Section 11, p. 31.

Calendars

(1) *William Blake: Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge 1994 Calendar (Rohnert Park, California: Pomegranate Calendars & Books, 1993); (2) 1995 Calendar; (3) William Blake. The Huntington Library (Rohnert Park, California: Pomegranate Calendars & Books, 1994) 4°, ISBN: 1566408237 -- an introductory statement by Robert N. Essick identifies the images correctly as "a small but sublime sample of the Blake treasures at the Huntington"; (4) William Blake Tate Gallery 1996 Calendar (Rohnert Park, California: Pomegranate Calendars & Books, 1995); (5) §Blake: Art of Imagination [for 2009] ([no place identified]: Amber Publishers [?2008]).

CD-Roms

(1) Nicholas Barker, The Book of Urizen (2001), which accompanies a CD-Rom of Urizen (G); (2) *Stephen Nachmanovitch, Job Returns: a meditation on William Blake's ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE BOOK OF JOB. Music & Multimedia by Stephen Nachmanovitch. 11 minutes ([Charlottesville, Virginia: Stephen Nachmanovitch, 2002]);

(3) *William Bolcom, Songs of Innocence and of Experience: Soloists, Choirs, University of Michigan School of Music Symphony Orchestra, University Musical Society, Leonard Slatkin ([Ann Arbor: Live Concert produced ... April 8th 2004]) Naxos American Classics (the liner-notes include William Bolcom (b. 1938), "Songs of Innocence and of Experience: A Musical Illumination of the Poems of William Blake", 1984 [pp. 5-6] [when "I was seventeen, ... the reading of William Blake ... [made] a profound difference in my life"]); (4) "Recollections on the Twentieth Anniversary of Songs of Innocence and of Experience", 2004 [p. 7]); and (5) Songs of Innocence and of Experience, Commentary by Stuart Curran (2003).

China-Ware

(1) the white bone china bud vase decorated with "The Sick Rose" apparently produced by Coalport for the 1978 Tate exhibition (see R.N. Essick, "Blake in the Marketplace, 1998", *Blake*, XXXII [1999]); (2) the decorated ceramic bowl by **Bernard Leach** with verses from Blake round the rim (reproduced in the Kyoto Blake exhibition catalogue [2003]).

Coffee Mugs

A mug with "I want! I want!" from *The Gates of Paradise* produced by the Fitzwilliam Museum, and a mug with a colour-reproduction of The Ancient of Days, marked "Bone China" (London: The British Museum [2002]).

Comic Books

Stan Lee presents *Wolverine in Origin: Part V of VI: Revelation;* Paul Jenkins, Bill Jemas & Joe Quesada, Plot; Paul Jenkins, Script; Andy Kubert, Pencils; Richard Isanove,

Original Painting; JG and Comcraft's Wes Abbott & Saida Temofonte, Lettering ... (N.Y.: Marvel Comics, May 2002) -- a well-made comic strip which begins (the first 18 panels) with a recitation of "The Tyger". My chief authority on comic books is my friend Professor Amir Hussein.

Computer Print-Outs (unpublished) Conferences

(1) "Blake in Contexts: William Blake (1757-1827) His Life and Times", A conference at the Swedenborg Society (London), 2 November 2007, says a publicity release; (2) "Blake's Doors of Perception", BBC, four days in November 2007; (3) "Becoming Blake", 22 February 2008 at the University of Manchester, accompanying the exhibition 26 January-20 April 28 of *Blake's Shadow: William Blake and his Artistic Legacy*; (4) "Burning Bright: An Evening for William Blake", 5 March 2007 at the British Library in conjunction with the exhibition of *William Blake: Under the Influence*, 11 January to 21 March 2007; (5) "Blake and His Influence" in Montreal 4-7 Nov 2009.

E-books

"eBooks" proliferate astonishingly. In January 2009 WorldCat reported hundreds of Blake "eBooks" dating as far back as Malkin (1806). I have usually ignored "eBooks"; the space to record them would be prodigious and the advance in knowledge trifling.

E-mail

Festivals and Lecture Series

(1) "Blake and the Book", Strawberry Hill (England), 18 April 1998; (2) "Blake Course at the Tate Gallery" (London, England), 12 May-9 June 1998; (3) "William Blake & His Circle", exhibition and lecture series at the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery (England), 22 June-6 September 1998; (4) Blake Festival as part of the annual Olavfestdagene (Trondheim, Norway), 25-28 July 1998.

Furniture-with-Inscriptions

For a faux-antique wooden chest decorated with lines from "A Cradle Song", see R.N. Essick, "Blake in the Marketplace, 1997", *Blake*, XXXI (1998), 28.

Home-Pages

The Blake List Home Page started in 1993 and is edited by Mark Trevor Smith. For the "Home Page" of the Blake Archive Hypertext prepared at the University of Virginia by Messrs **Eaves, Essick, and Viscomi**, see http://jefferson.village.virginia.edu/Blake, best viewed on Netscape Navigator.

Jewelry

Such as the Sterling silver ring engraved with "Exuberance is Beauty" advertised on the internet.

Lectures on Audio Cassettes

(1) *"Blake's Song of Liberty & America"; (2) *Grevel Lindop, "Blake's Vision of the Last Judgement"; (3) Dr Kathleen Raine, "William Blake's Fourfold Vision of London" (presumably related to her "The Spiritual Fourfold London", Aligarh Critical Miscellany, V [1992], 181-198); (4)

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her William Blake's Fourfold London [1993]); (5) her "William Blake – Prophetic Voice of England"; and (6) her "The Imagination According to William Blake"; (7) Jonathan Wordsworth, "William Blake & the Romantic Imagination", according to Temenos Academy Recorded Lectures: A Catalogue of Over three Hundred Lectures on Audio Cassette, from Our Programmes 1992-2005 an asterisk indicates "with slides"; (8) G.E. Bentley, Jr, '[Blake the Man:] The Public and the Buried Life", Cassette of a lecture delivered 14 Feb 1986 at the University of California, Santa Cruz, in the Santa Cruz library; (9) §Désirée Hirst, & M.G. Matthews, Blake's Long Poems (London: Audio Learning, 1978) Sound recording of instructional material.

Lipstick

See R.N. Essick, "Blake in the Marketplace, 2002", Blake, XXXVI (2003), 129.

Manuscripts about Blake Microforms

- Guide to Microforms in Author Title Print. Vol. I A-K 1996 (München: K.G. Saur Verlag, 1996) records:
 - Blake Studies (1968-80) produced by University Microfilms International;
 - America (O), Book of Thel (G), Europe (K), Jerusalem (E), Milton (A), Small and Large Book of Designs, Song of Los (A), Songs of Experience (B), Songs of Innocence (B), Songs of Innocence and of Experience (AA), Visions (P), watercolours for

Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* and Young's *Night Thoughts* and the coloured copy (F) of *Night Thoughts* from Sir John Soane's Museum, London, produced by Microform Academic Publishers (Wakefield, England);

Jerusalem produced by Library Preservation Systems International Ltd (Reading, England).

See also Coloured Engravings to Edward Young's "Night Thoughts" [F] from Sir John Soane's Museum (Microforms Academic).

Mosaic Pavements

(1) the mosaic pavement by **Boris Anrep** (1923) on the main floor of Tate gallery 2 illustrating proverbs from *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell (William Blake: The Painter at Work*, ed. Joyce H. Townsend [2003], Fig 139 and pp. 170-171); (2) See *Anon., "William Blake's art and poetry featured in Lambeth railway tunnel. A mosaic and audio installation featuring the works of William Blake who lived in Hercules Road – can now be found in Centaur Street", *London Se2 Community Website*, 16 June 2009.

Movies

(1) Dead Man (1995), in which Johnny Depp plays William Blake, an accountant from Cleveland who becomes "un outlaw fameux" -- see Anne Boulay, Marie Colmant, [interview with] Jim Jarmusch, "Le western n'est qu'un point de depart': Pour Jim Jarmusch son cinquième film, 'Dead Man,' est un nouveau voyage imprégné de poésie épique", Libération [Paris], 3 janvier 1996, p. 26, and *Gérard Leforet, "Jarmusch, le baladin de l'ouest: [review of] 'Dead man', légende du Far West hantée par un Indien et

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un Blanc. Hallucinogène", Libération [Paris], 3 janvier 1996, pp. 25-26; (2) In 2006 an educational film of William Blake: Inspiration, 30 minutes, was available from Timely Television/American Montage; and (3) Joseph Viscomi's Moon, first produced the in http://www.ibiblio.org/jsviscom/island/, 45 minutes; Blakeball. 1988. Directed by Emily Hubley Hubley Studios (Pyramid Film & Video, 1990) – according to WorldCat, it "explores the world of poet and painter William Blake using a baseball game's nine innings as a metaphor for the nine nights of Blake's poem" Vala; (5) Blake's Striptease, Flashgun Films (2009), "an alternative interpretation of William Blake's poem [sic]: The Marriage of Heaven and Hell" through lap-dancing and sin.

Murals

A mural 12' x 24' by **Ruth Weisberg** for the Virginia Steele Scott Gallery at the Huntington was "sparked by" Blake's design for Dante Canto V: "A Whirlwind of Lovers", according to Artnews.com, 1999.

Music

(1) §Huib Emmer, Bethlehem Hospital: William Blake in Hell: Opera in Three Acts, 1985-1988 (Amsterdam: Donemus, 1990); (2) §Two Blake Settings For Unison Treble Chorus & Harp or Piano by Richard Wienhorst (Boston: Ione Press, 1992), score "Commissioned for Sammy Cowen by the Children's Chorus of Victoria, Texas", "Premiered by the Chorus at the Kathaumixw [sic] International Choral Festival, Powell River, B.C., July 9, 1988"; (3) §Dmitri

Smirnov, Jacob's Ladder: Blake's Pictures for 16 Players, Op. 58 (N.Y.,1993); (4) §Dmitri Smirnov, Shest' Stikhoyvorenii ... Six Poems by William Blake: For Voice and Orhgan (1981); (5) §Dmitri Smirnov, Vremena Goda ...: The Seasons for Violin, Flute, Viola, and Harp (1986). Hundreds of musical settings have been composed for Blake's poems – see Donald Fitch, Blake Set to Music (1990).

Note-Books (blank)

To see a world in a grain of sand and a heaven in a wild flower, hold infinity in the palm of your hand and eternity in an hour (William Blake) ([No place:] Quotablejournals from Quotablecards, [?2000]) Square 8°, lined pages; no ISBN.

Pageants

§Arthur Whiting, Golden Cage; A Dance Pageant Arranged from the Poems of William Blake by Catharine Cook Smith, Music for Small Orchestra by Arthur Whiting (N.Y.: G. Schirmer Inc., 1926), 77 pp.

Performances

(1) the "literary freak-show" called "The Animated Blake" "created and performed by **James Jay**" at the Seattle Fringe Festival, March 1999; see *Blake*, XXXII, 3 (Winter 1998-99), 87; (2) "William Blake's Divine Humanity", performance 20 November-2 December 2007 at New Players Theatre, Charing Cross, London by The Theatre of Eternal Values; (3) "Companion of Angels", a new Chamber Oratorio in Eight Scenes based on the Lives of William and Catherine Blake, composed by Rachel Stott, Libretto constructed from the writings of William Blake and his contemporaries by Tom Lowenstein, performed 23 November 2007 at St James

Church, Piccadilly, 25 November 2007 (five scene version) at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, and 2 December 2007 in Felpham; (4) Double Bill: Songs of Innocence and of Experience read by Janet Whiteside and others (music by John Taverner and R. Vaughn Williams), and Elliot Hayes, Blake, with Peter Barnes as William Blake, performed at St Michael's Church, Highgtate, London, 24 November 2007, and at St John's Church, Waterloo, London, 28 November 2007; (5) Music, Readings and History to celebrate Blake's birthday at St Mary's Church, Battersea, 25 November 2007; These Songs are Not Mine": and (6) "William Blake: performed by Paul O'Hanrahan, music by John Goudie, in Torriano Meeting House, London, 28 November 2007, presented by Balloonatics Theatre Company, based on the life and work of William Blake, according to publicity releases.

Pillows

Such as the one embroidered with two tigers and "Tyger Tyger burning bright ..." bought in Pasadena December 1995 (R.N. Essick, "Blake in the Marketplace, 1996", *Blake*, XXX [1997]).

Playing-Cards

The set of playing-cards sold at the British Museum with reproductions of Blake's Shakespeare designs.

Pod-Casts

"Fifteen video podcasts" accompany the exhibition 26 January-20 April2008 of *Blake's Shadow: William Blake and his Artistic Legacy*.

Poems about Blake

From Comprehensive Index to English-Language Little Magazines 1890-1970 Series One, ed. Marion Sader (Millwood, N.Y.: Kraus-Thomson Organization, 1976):

Etta Blum, "For Blake's Angels", *Poetry*, XCIV, 1 (April 1959), 22

N.K. Cruickshank, "God Creating Adam (After the Picture By William Blake)", *Poetry Quarterly*, XII, 3 (Autumn 1950), 140-141

Robert Duncan, "Two Dicta of William Blake: Variations", *Poetry*, XCIX, 3 (Dec 1961), 172-177

John Gould Fletcher, "William Blake", *Poetry*, LXXXIV, 5 (Aug 1954), 280

Scott Greer, "After Blake: 1944", *Twice in a Year*, No. 12-13 (Spring-Summer, Fall-Winter 1945), 387

Josephine W. Johnson, "On a Cartoon by Blake: Ancient of Days", *Poetry*, XIV, 1 (April 1939), 7

James Beverley Martin, "To William Blake", *Poetry*, XLV, 5 (Feb 1935), 253

Philip Murray, "Ah Blake, my bleating mystic, Little Lamb ...", *Tyger's Eye*, I, 4 (June 1948), 34

David Mus, "Blake's Seasons: From the English of Wm. Blake (1783)", *Poetry*, CXI, 4 (Jan 1968), 226-228

Marcia Nardi, "No Emily's and No Blake's", New Directions, XI (1949), 311

Charles Snider, "Blake", New Directions, XIII (1951), 58-59

John Tagliabue, "From 'An Outdoor Blake Festival' [collection]", *Poetry*, XIV, 4 (July 1964), 222-223

Allen Tate, "William Blake", Double Dealer, IV, 19 (July 1922), 28

John Ormond Thomas, "Personalization of a Theme of Blake", *Life & Letters*, XLIV (March 1945), 157-158 There are also

Tom Snyder, "William Blake Visits a Typewriter Store in the Late Twentieth Century" in *Two Dogs and a Cigar: Poems* (Omaha: Lone Willow Press, 2006)

Adam Zagajewski, "Blake", tr. from Polish by Clare Cavanagh, *New Yorker*, 13 Aug 2007, p. 55

Portraits of Blake

A bust of Blake carved in apple wood, 23 cm high, by Donald E. Boyd, offered at §Ro Gallery (Long Island City, N.Y.) Auction, 4 April 2007, Lot 2015 (\$350), and F. Bacon, "William Blake", color lithograph (1991) based on the life mask, one of 60 copies offered at §Christie's (London), 19 September 2007.

Post-Cards

Blake Printed in Colours, British Museum Set C13, a portfolio (or rather envelope) with a note by **Campbell Dodgson:** "A Series of Postcards: Coloured Prints by William Blake (1757-1827)", 2 pp.; **(2)** *William Blake Postcards: 24 Full-Color Cards (N. Y.: Dover Publications, Inc., 1994) 4°, ISBN: 048627728 -- 14 reproductions from the Dover reproductions of the Blake Trust reproductions of

Songs, America, Europe, plus 10 from Song of Los, Urizen, Milton, and Jerusalem, perforated to be detached.

Posters

**The Tyger* (Ashington, Northumberland: MidNAG [c. 1976]) Poster No. 35, c. 12 x 18".

The distinction between a poster and a broadside is not always easy to perceive. I take a poster to be a picture perhaps with incidental text and a broadside to be a text perhaps with incidental decorations. In general, I record broadsides but not posters.

Recorded Readings and Singings

(1) § The Poetry of William Blake (Ocean, New Jersey: Musical Heritage Society, 1993), a sound cassette of readings by Wendy Hiller, Peter Jeffrey, David King, Peter Orr, (2) § Selected Poems (Ashland, Oregon: Blackstone Audio Books, 1992), two sound cassettes (180 minutes) of readings by Frederick Davidson; (3) "Sir Ralph Richardson reads William Blake" (Seland Publishing, 2001.

Refrigerator Magnets

"The Tyger" (4 lines), "The Sick Rose" (8 lines), and "Ah! Sunflower" (whole), with wall-paper-like designs unrelated to Blake's, were auctioned in 1999 for \$15.64, according to R.N. Essick, "Blake in the Marketplace, 1999", *Blake*, XXXIII (2000): "The market for Blake refrigerator magnets is clearly heating up; I was outbid".

Stained-Glass Windows

In 1976, stained-glass windows with designs by **John Hayward** after Blake's portrait of Catherine and Catherine's

portrait of Blake were installed in St Mary's Church, Battersea, where Catherine Boucher and her siblings were christened.

Stamps (Postage)

A black-and-white 40 kopek postage stamp of the U.S.S.R. (1958) representing the Phillips-Schiavonetti portrait of Blake, somewhat adjusted, acquired by R.N. Essick, is described and reproduced by him in *Blake*, XXXV (2002), 120. The only other Blake stamp recorded (*Blake*, XXVI [1993], 149) was issued in Romania in 1957.

Stamps (Rubber)

For rubber stamps of *America* and of Essick's portrait of Blake made by a Santa Barbara firm, see R.N. Essick, "Blake in the Marketplace, 1996", *Blake*, XXX (1997).

Stickers

Blake: 16 Art Stickers. (Mineola [N.Y.]: Dover Publications, 2003) 12° (4 1/16 x 5 1/4"), 6 pp. + covers; ISBN: 0486430685.

Sweatshirts

"I ♥ | WILLIAM | BLAKE" by Shop Zeus.

T-shirts Related to Blake

There is a William Blake T-Shirt Store in 2009, but such is the vagueness of the internet that I cannot determine even what continent it is on. They also sell other kinds of Blake memorabilia, most even sillier.

Tattoos (Temporary)

*Blake Art Tattoos. Designed by Marty Noble (Mineola, N. Y.: Dover Publications, Inc., 2002) 16°, 4 pp. (including covers and 4 removable "tattoos"); ISBN: 0486421996.

Tattoos (Permanent)

See the knee-tattoo of the Ancient of Days reproduced on the cover of *Blake*, XXX, 4 (Spring 1997).

Tiles

"Satan Watching the Endearments of Adam and Eve" (from the Thomas set of watercolours for *Paradise Lost* in the Huntington) reproduced in colour on 30 "tumbled Italian Botticino marble" tiles (?2003), each c. 10.2 cm square, is recorded in R.N. Essick, "Blake in the Marketplace, 2004", *Blake*, XXXVIII (2005), 139.

Typescripts (Unpublished) Related to Blake Video-Recordings

(1) §Songs of Innocence and [of] Experience (Princeton: Films for the Humanities, Inc., 1992), a videocassette (VHS), 20 minutes, dealing with the two "Chimney Sweeper" poems, "The [i.e., A] Poison Tree", "The Sick Rose", and "[?A] Little Girl Lost"; (2) Professor Eugenie Freed, "States of the Human Soul: William Blake's Songs of Innocence and of Experience" (30 minutes, 1993, available from her from 2000 at P.O. Box 40492, Cleveland, South Africa 2022 or on Email at eugenief@netactive.ca.za) (see the review by Anon. [Nelson Hilton] in Blake, XXVII [1993-94], 99); (3) "Genie und Wahn: Johann Heinrich Fuessli 1741-1825: Maler und Literat", Ein Film von Gardenz Meili, Einfurung Prof. D.H. Weinglass, Music by Haendel, including choreography and

animation (30 minutes VHS, 1999); (4) *Pioneers of the Spirit:* William Blake (Worcester [Pennsylvania]: Vision Video, DVD 1999; VHS 2005), 24 minutes; (5) Donald John, "Dante and Blake" at the Italian Cultural Institute (London), ?2009, on-line; (6) The Masonic William Blake Lodge Newsletter, e.g., II (Sept 2008); (7) The William Blake Lodge (Baltimore) web-site has reproductions from our William Blake.

The most comprehensive source of such frivolities in 2009 was CafePress on-line, which offers Blakean badges, bags (tote and messenger), bears (teddy, with "Blake" shirts), bibs (baby), body-suits (infant), boxes (keepsake), bumper-stickers, buttons, caps, cards (postal and greeting), clocks (wall), coasters, license-plate frames (automobile), mouse-pads, mugs (coffee), notebooks, ornaments (Christmas tree), pillows (throw), posters, refrigerator magnets, steins (beer), sweatshirts, T-shirts (including Maternity T-shirts), and underpants (boxer and thong).

ELECTRONIC PUBLICATIONS

The reliability of electronic "publications" is remarkably various. Some, such as *Romanticism [and Victorianism] on the Net* and *Romantic Circles* (for reviews) with juries of peers, are as reliable as conventionally printed scholarly journals. Others suggest no more knowledge than how to operate a computer, such as reviews invited for the listings of the book-sale firm of Amazon.Com, which are divided into those by (1) the author, (2) the publisher, and (3) other,

perhaps disinterested, remarkers.⁷ The *Wikipedia* has 3,800,000 articles in perhaps 130 languages with a motto "the free encyclopedia that anyone can edit".⁸ Of course many periodicals are now issued on-line as well as in hard copies. Electronic sites may change their names or even cease to exist, leaving not an electronic wrack behind.

In my experience, they are frequently seeded with fool's gold. For instance, Google.com, the world's largest electronic scrap heap known to me, had (on 20 February 2003) 2,340,000 apparently unsorted entries for Blake, 625,000 for William Blake, and even 488 for Gerald Eades Bentley, including Gerald Eades Bentley [Sr], author of The Jacobean and Caroline Stage, Gerald Eades Bentley, Jr., author of The Stranger from Paradise, and the 1919 University of Michigan football team. Similarly, on 3 March 2004 "Bentley, Stranger from Paradise" (without quotation marks in the search), had 772 Google entries which included catalogues Tuscaloosa Public Library), academic-course prospectuses, Curricula Vitae, Town & Country Toy Dog Club of Greater Andover, Karaoke WOW!, and endless offers for sale, while "Stranger from Paradise" had 2920 entries. I have not searched for electronic publications, and I report here only those I have happened upon which appear to bear some authority.

⁷ The reviewer for Amazon.com of Bentley, *The Stranger from Paradise* (see below) may have no more authority than my son-in-law, who claims that the title should be *The Stranger from the Parking Lot* because, as everyone knows, paradise was paved over years ago.

Blake is in the "Self-Publishing Hall of Fame" on-line, and there is a Website called "Home-Essays" with more than 30 essays on Blake for "All Grade Levels"; volunteers can submit essays (6 March 2006).

⁸ This may be the only site where one can learn that William Blake is recognized as a saint by the Ecclesia Gnostica Catholica founded on the principles of Aleister Crowley.

The Broken Virtual Fire Hydrant

A friend remarks that Google and its ilk are like a broken fire hydrant; they knock you down with a flood of information so voluminous and unsorted as to make it difficult to swallow any. Some examples on 23 October 2009:

Blake-like word	Examples in Google
Ariston	9,980,000
e.g., Ariston Water Heater	
Robert N. Essick	296,000
Anthony Stephen Mathew	1,910,000
Nobodaddy	779
e.g., Archibald Macleish, A	Jobodaddy,
a Play	
Thel	1,500,000
e.g., "Tactical High-Energy	Laser" and
"The L word"	

On the other hand, Google Books, which reproduces photographically thousands of searchable books, has made possible the discovery of scores of new early references to Blake by such notable contemporaries as Lady Charlotte Bury (1830), Leigh Hunt (1810), John Landseer (1834), and Charles Romey (1833).

Many periodicals (including newspapers), books, and authors (e.g., Joseph Viscomi, q.v.) now have electronic echoes on-line; this duplication is recorded here only when my evidence comes from the electronic version or when the electronic version differs significantly from the three-dimensional copy.

New editions of works by or about Blake are of course reported here. There is, however, a grey area between new editions or impressions and reproductions of the original with no change on the titlepage, one hopes after the original has gone out of print. One phrase for this practice is "Books on Demand".

WorldCat under "William Blake" on 18 June 2008 recorded 7,000 books (12 in braille, 8 in Large Print), 1,206 Musical Scores, 1,001 "Visual Materials", 295 video cassettes, 153 DVD videos, 934 sound recordings, 582 "music", 399 "CD Audio", 371 "Audio book, etc.", 300 cassette recordings, 192 LP recordings, 798 articles, 1,346 thesis/dissertations, 360 in languages "undetermined". There were 433 Internet Resources, including

- Carl Zigrosser Correspondence with Ruthven Todd, T. Edward Hanley, G.E. Bentley, Jr, Mrs. W.T. Tonner, Allan R. Brown <in the Van Pelt Library of the University of Pennsylvania>
- Card Catalogue of the Library of **William Augustus White** (ca. 1926), 3,000 cards 5 x 8", 2700 titles (without the Blake entries) < Grolier Club>
- S. Foster Damon Papers [c. 1930-70]
- **Kathleen Raine Papers** (c. 1913-86), University of California (Irvine)
- **Basil Montague Pickering** Miscellaneous Manuscripts, (1866-75)

Jean Hagstrum Papers

- **H. Buxton Forman** Family Collection (1879-1939)
- W. Graham Robertson Correspondence (1875-1948)
- "The William Cowper Papers and Other Eighteenth Century Manuscripts", Harvard College Library, microform, includes "Blake"

The Works of William Blake, notes and revisions of Ellis & Yeats

Poetry and Prose of William Blake, proofs corrected by Max Plowman

"Papers" of the **Trianon Press:** Stirling Jerusalem (1948-1952); America (1961-67); Cunliffe Jerusalem (1969-75); Milton (1962-68); Visions of the Daughters of Albion (1957-75); Europe (1964-73); Book of Urizen (1955-58); Book of Thel (1965)

Letters to John Sampson about William Blake

For some of these entries, no library is named.

Probably the most important background publication for study of British literary authors is the splendid new *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (2004).

REVIEWS

Reviews listed here are only for books which name Blake in the title. These reviews are listed in chronological order under the book reviewed.

Blake Books (covering publications to 1975) and Blake Books Supplement (to 1992) listed reviews only of exhibitions⁹ and of works published before 1863,¹⁰ whereas reviews of all works naming Blake on the title page are included in "William Blake and His Circle" in Blake: An Illustrated Quarterly (1994 ff.).

⁹ A few reviews crept in because of the distinction of the reviewer, such as W.B. Yeats and Northrop Frye. *BB* and *BBS* omit reviews even in *Blake Newsletter, Blake: An Illustrated Quarterly*, and *Blake Studies*.

¹⁰ I omit here contemporary reviews of books with Blake's commercial engravings which do not name Blake.

The present checklist includes 595 reviews from *Blake Books*, 177 from *Blake Books Supplement*, and over 3,500 reviews which I have not previously recorded.

However, I ignore here reviews which cover large numbers of works.

The list is certainly very incomplete.¹²

There are reviews of forty-four Blake exhibitions for which no catalogue is known.

Prolific Reviewers to 2006

G.E. Bentley, Jr	56
David Bindman	24
Martin Butlin	18
Irene H. Chayes	75
D.W. Dörrbecker	83
D.V. Erdman	81
Robert N. Essick	21
David Fuller	27
Robert F. Gleckner	25
John E. Grant	37
Nelson Hilton	30
Désirée Hirst	24
Mary Lynn Johnson	20
Andrew Lincoln	15
Martin K. Nurmi	21
Morton D. Paley	31
François Piquet	17

¹¹ BB and BBS listed books under the name of the reviewer, whereas here they are gathered under the book reviewed.

Blake Studies in Japan (1994) records 73 books on Blake published in Japan (not counting reprints, e.g., Blake's Poems, ed. **Makoto Sangu**, which had a 52nd printing in 1991), but I know of scarcely any Japanese reviews then or later.

William Blake and His Circle Introduction

Mark T. Smith	34
Brian Wilkie	<u>27</u>
Total	666

These prolific Blake reviewers produced more than 18% of all the recorded signed reviews.

There is a significant and agreeable correlation between the number of reviews a book received, at least in intellectual journals, and the intrinsic or lasting importance of the book.

FREQUENTLY REVIEWED BOOKS Especially 1946-1992

Especially 1740-1772		
Author, Title, Date	Number Reviews	of
WRITINGS, Original Editions		
Jerusalem, ed. M.D. Paley (1991)	22	
<i>Letters</i> , ed. Geoffrey Keynes (1956, 1965, 1980)	25	
Notebook, ed. D.V. Erdman (1967)	20	
Songs of Innocence and of Experience, ed. Andre	W	
Lincoln (1991)	20	
Vala or The Four Zoas, ed. G.E. Bentley, Jr (196	3) 19	
WRITINGS, Collections and Selectio	ns	
The Illuminated Blake, ed. D.V. Erdman (1974, 1	975) 19	
The Writings of William Blake, ed. Geoffrey Keyi	nes	
(1925); Poetry and Prose (1927-75); Comple	ete	
Writings (1957-1989)	27	

REPRODUCTIONS of Paintings and Drawin	_
William Blake's Designs for Night Thoughts, ed. D.	V.
Erdman, John E. Grant, Edward J. Rose, &	
Michael Tolley (1980)	15
William Blake, ed. Morton D. Paley (1978)	22
CATALOGUES	
1939 Philadelphia Art Museum, William Blake	18
1964 G.E. Bentley, Jr, & M.K. Nurmi, A Blake	
Bibliography	20
1964 An Exhibition of the Illuminated Books of	20
William Blake Poet - Printer - Prophet and	
Geoffrey Keynes, A Study of the Illuminated	
Books of William Blake - Poet - Printer - Prophe	t 23
1975 William Blake [exhibition at the Hamburger	
Kunsthalle; Städelsches Kunstinstitut und	
Städtisch Galerie, Frankfurt am Main]	110
1977 G.E. Bentley, Jr , Blake Books	16
1978 Martin Butlin, William Blake [exhibition at the	
Tate Gallery]	62
1981 Martin Butlin , The Paintings and Drawings of	
William Blake	19
1982-1983 David Bindman , William Blake His Art	1)
and Times, exhibition at the Yale Center for	
British Art and the Art Gallery of Ontario	29
1983 Casa di Dante in Abruzzo Castello Gizzi,	
Blake e Dante	52
1996 Barcelona & Madrid, Visiones de Mundos	
eternos	98
2000-2001 Tate & Metropolitan Museum of Art,	
William Blake	143
2004 Grasmere . Paradise Lost	25

111111111	duction
1111110	auction

2006 Sotheby , William Blake Designs for Blair's	
Grave	50
SCHOLARSHIP AND CRITICISM	
Ackroyd, Peter, Blake (1995)	59
Bentley, G.E., Jr, Blake Records (1969)	18
Bentley, G.E., Jr, The Stranger from Paradise (2001)	38
Bindman, David, William Blake as an Artist (1977)	18
Curran, Stuart, & Joseph Anthony Writtreich,	
Jr , ed., <i>Blake's Sublime Allegory</i> (1973)	16
Damon, S. Foster, A Blake Dictionary (1965, 1967,	
1971, 1988)	23
Damrosch, Leopold, Symbol and Truth in Blake's	
Myth(1980)	19
David V. Erdman, Blake: Prophet Against Empire	
(1954, 1969)	32
Essick, Robert N., William Blake and the Language	
of Adam (1989)	15
Essick, Robert N., William Blake Printmaker (1980)	23
Frosch, Thomas P., The Awakening of Albion (1974)	18
Frye, Northrop, Fearful Symmetry (1947 ff.)	16
Gilchrist, Alexander, Life of William Blake (1863 ff.)	31
Gleckner, Robert, Blake's Prelude (1982)	15
Hagstrum, Jean H., The Romantic Body (1985)	16
Hirsch, E.D. , <i>Innocence and Experience: An</i>	
Introduction to Blake (1964)	15
Keynes, Geoffrey, Blake Studies (1949, 1971)	16
Mitchell, W.J.T., Blake's Composite Art (1978)	20
Moskal, Jeanne , Blake, Ethics and Forgiveness	

(1994)	26
Paley, Morton D., The Continuing City: William	
Blake's JERUSALEM (1983)	17
Paley, Morton D., Energy and Imagination: A Study	
of the Development of Blake's Thought (1970)	20
Paley, Morton D., & Michael Phillips, ed., William	
Blake: Essays in Honour of Sir Geoffrey Keynes	
(1973)	19
Raine, Kathleen, Blake and Tradition (1963 ff.)	25
Tayler, Irene, Blake's Illustrations to the Poems of	
<i>Gray</i> (1971)	19
Thompson , E.P., Witness Against the Beast (1993)	19
Viscomi, Joseph, Blake and the Idea of the Book	
(1993)	25
Wagenknecht, David, Blake's Night (1973)	7

I was surprised by a number of features of this list. In the first place, serious scholarship and criticism is often widely reviewed, even when it is on recondite subjects, such as Essick's *William Blake and the Language of Adam*.

In the second place, there are a surprising number of reviews of the best texts of Blake, as in those of Keynes, Erdman, and Bentley.

In the third place, major exhibitions are surprisingly widely reviewed in newspapers – 110 reviews for the one in Germany (1975), 98 for the one in Spain (1996), and 143 for the one in the Tate and the Metropolitan Museum of Art (2000-2001). This fecundity is significantly due to the publicity offices of the institutions sponsoring the exhibitions and to franchising. One review of the 1975 German exhibition was published in 9 different newspapers and another in 23.

Introduction

Further, in at least a few cases, the list of exhibition-reviews derives from the institution itself which presumably has a pretty comprehensive clipping-service, while the information about book reviews never derives from the publisher or author.¹³

And at least occasionally the newspaper reviews may not be altogether disinterested. The 2000-2001 exhibition at the Tate (London) and Metropolitan Museum (N.Y.) had 68 reviews, puffs, etc. in *The Independent* and *The Independent on Sunday* as part of the *Independent*'s acknowledged sponsorship of the exhibition.

Newspaper reviews often appear within months or even weeks of the date of publication of the book, whereas reviews in academic periodicals may not appear until years after the work first appeared. Frequently, however, academic reviews make up in judiciousness what they lack in promptness.

A curious feature of the reviews listed here is that the most ephemeral reviews were paid for by newspapers, while the ones of most lasting value by scholars in learned journals were written without remuneration. For scores of reviews I don't suppose I've been paid enough to cover the postage to send them to their editors.

All the most prolifically reviewed authors are scholars whose publications form the foundations of Blake knowledge: G.E. Bentley, Jr (178 reviews), David Bindman (186), D.V.

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¹³ Even authors are unlikely to have complete information. I learned while compiling this list of a few reviews of my own works and of a review I had written.

Erdman (132), Robert N. Essick (148), Sir Geoffrey Keynes (148), and Morton Paley (120).

Of course a quantity of reviews is not normally associated with wide or repeated publication. Most of the works listed here appeared in only one edition. The chief exceptions are Blake's *Letters*, ed. Geoffrey Keynes, his *Writings*, ed. Keynes, his *Poetry and Prose*, ed. D.V. Erdman, Damon's *Blake Dictionary*, Erdman's *Prophet Against Empire*, Frye's *Fearful Symmetry*, Gilchrist's *Life of William Blake*, Keynes's *Blake Studies*, and Raine's *Blake and Tradition*. All these works appeared in more than one edition.

But the reviews certainly insure that academic libraries acquire these frequently noticed works.

Most facsimiles, even the finest, were not widely reviewed – perhaps because very few expensive review-copies were sent out. Of 31 admirable Blake Trust facsimiles, I have records of only about five reviews each (159 in all), most of them after 1990.

However, facsimiles with a scholarly apparatus were sometimes widely reviewed, such as Bogen's *Thel*, Dörrbecker's *Continental Prophecies*, Eaves, Essick, & Viscomi's *Early Illuminated Books*, Phillips's *Island in the Moon*, Paley's *Jerusalem*, Essick & Viscomi's *MILTON and the Final Illuminated Books*, Erdman's *Notebook*, Lincoln's *Songs*, and Bentley's *Tiriel* and *Vala*.

The plethora of reviews recorded here is formidable. These reviews are chiefly valuable to indicate what readers are directed or encouraged to think about Blake. They rarely have much of value to say about Blake himself. And when they do have something to say about Blake, as with Blake and Catherine dancing naked in their garden, "'like Adam and Eve',

did

as he put it", 14 we may be impressed more by the journalist's creative ingenuity or chutzpa than by his knowledge of what he is talking about. There is no more evidence that Blake and Catherine danced naked in the garden than that Adam and Eve

In collective bibliographies, such as *The Years' Work in English Studies*, it is sometimes not easy to distinguish between what might be called a notice, with only a sentence or a paragraph, and a review, which I take to require at least two paragraphs and an evaluation. I include "reviews" but omit notices.

Information about reviews with incomplete dates or even unidentified journals usually derives from clippings in the Essick Collection which were incompletely annotated when Professor Essick received them.

DISCOVERIES OF BLAKE'S WRITINGS

"What is now prov'd was once only imagin'd" *Marriage* pl. 8

The only new piece of writing attributed to Blake (aside from inscriptions in the Small Book of Designs [B]) is The Sophocles Manuscript, but this is generally not accepted as by the poet.

Among Blake's known writings, there are newly recorded copies of "Albion Rose" (E) with manuscript inscriptions, *America* (S), "Blake's Chaucer: The Canterbury

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¹⁴ Paul Johnson, "A very English genius who just loathed soap: A major exhibition now open shows how Blake's vision can still inspire us", *Daily Mail*, 10 Nov 2000, review of the Tate exhibition.

Pilgrims" (B), Book of Thel (S), Descriptive Catalogue (U, V), Europe (N) and pl. 13-14 plus four unidentified prints, First Book of Urizen (E and K), For Children (F) and pl. 18, For the Sexes pl. 2, letters of August(?) and 1 September 1800, 7 August 1804 plus four to Ozias Humphry, Small Book of Designs (B – newly recorded prints with inscriptions), Songs of Innocence and of Experience contemporary facsimile (Gamma), and Visions (S). Six of these newly recorded copies belonged to John Flaxman.

Newly-identified titles with Blake's comercial engravings include [Elizabeth Blower], *Maria: A Novel* (1785), *The Cabinet of the Arts* (1799), the *Diamond Bible* (1832-34; 1836-37; 1840), and *Diario de los Niños* (1839-40). In addition, two new sets of Young's *Night Thoughts* (1797) with coloured engravings have been located (AA, BB).

Among newly-recorded books which Blake probably owned are George Cumberland's Anecdotes of the Life of Julio Captive of the Castle Bonasone (1793) and his Sennaar (1798), though his copies have not been located. Blake's own copies have been identified for Anon., A Political and Satirical History of the Years 1756-1757 ([?1757]), John Dryden, Annus Mirabiles (1668), bound with [Jean Claude], An Account of the Persecutions and Oppressions of the French Protestants (1686), bound with Anon, Life & Death of Baxter (1692), Richard John Quincy, Pharmacopoeia (1733), and Raphael, Historia del Testamento *Vecchio* (1695).

The most important discoveries about Blake's life concern his mother's previously-unknown first marriage to Thomas Armitage and their brief affiliation with the extraordinary Fetter Lane congregation of the Moravian Church, a context discovered and illuminated by Marsha Keith

Schuchard and Keri Davies. David Alexander discovered that Blake took an apprentice in 1788. And thanks to Angus Whitehead, we also now know about Louisa Best, daughter of Catherine Blake's sister Sarah and her husband Henry Banes (the Blakes' landlord and landlady – land-peers? -- in Fountain Court) and Louisa's five children, the only recorded descendants of the siblings of William and Catherine Blake. Henry Banes bequeathed property to the Blakes.

TABLE 1 NUMBERS OF WORKS ABOUT BLAKE¹⁵

	Books 16 (in	cluding Editions and	Catalogues)	Essays	
BB	1,406	573	254	3,218	595^{17}
BBS	1,010	354	123	4,069	177
Miscel-					
laneous 18	3				1,951
1992-3	9	54	21	279	62
1994	50	16	5	234	84
1995	56	22	12	239	74
1996	37	14	10	160	136
1997	75	129	11	135	178

¹⁵ These totals are sometimes distorted when a work reported on second-hand authority in one year is repeated on first-hand authority in a later year.

One hundred reviews in *BB* were published before 1863.

The books include reprints.

The miscellaneous sources include Robert Essick's Biblioteca la Solana, the online versions of *The Times* [London] and *The New York 'Times*, reviews in *Philological Quarterly* (1925-1969), and reviews listed in *Blake Newsletter* and *Blake: An Illustrated Quarterly* before 1992, when I began reporting reviews in this Checklist.

69	32	6	233	59
46	21	3	235	71
73	13	12	152	56
57	23	13	181	175
52	26	6	208	45
50	17	8	205	47
31	8	6	153	81
43	9	9	139	79
110	48	11	237	41
90	19	15	311	100
193	68	54	330	107
<u>122</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>621</u>	<u>239</u>
3,638	1,396	602	11,362	4,357
	46 73 57 52 50 31 43 110 90 193 122	46 21 73 13 57 23 52 26 50 17 31 8 43 9 110 48 90 19 193 68 122 32	46 21 3 73 13 12 57 23 13 52 26 6 50 17 8 31 8 6 43 9 9 110 48 11 90 19 15 193 68 54 122 32 30	46 21 3 235 73 13 12 152 57 23 13 181 52 26 6 208 50 17 8 205 31 8 6 153 43 9 9 139 110 48 11 237 90 19 15 311 193 68 54 330 122 32 30 621

The languages of Blake criticism have multiplied in recent decades. Up to 1834, there were essays on Blake in English, French, German, Spanish, and Russian, and this pattern was not much altered in 1834-1970. Since that time the globalization of culture has multiplied the languages of Blake criticism, so that they included:

TABLE 2
FOREIGN LANGUAGES
OF PUBLISHED BLAKE SCHOLARSHIP

Language	Blake Books	Blake Books	Blake: An Illus-	TOTALS
	1780-1975	Supplement	trated Quarterly	
		1975-1992	1994 ff.	
Afrikaans	_	2	1	3
Albanian	_			
Arabic	_	_	3	3
Armenian	_	_		
Basque	_	_		
Bengali	_	_		
Bulgarian	_	2		2
Burmese				

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Catalan	1	4	41	46
Chinese	13	18	22	53
Croatian	_	_		
Czeck	5	7	10	22
Danish	2	9	17	28
Dutch	_	6	11	17
Esperanto	1	_		1
Estonian	1			1
Farsi ¹⁹	_	_	1	1
Finnish	3	2	9	14
Flemish	-	_	8	8
French	133	104	127	364
Gaelic	3	_		3
Galician			1	1
German	58	182	107	347
Georgian	2	_		2
Greek	7	7		14
Hebrew	6	14	7	27
Hindi	_	_		
Hungarian	1	2	10	13
Icelandic	1	_	2	3
Indonesian			1	1
Italian	27	100	68	195
Japanese ²⁰	244	402	592	1,238
Korean	_	16	33	49
Latin	3	2		5
Latvian	2	_	2	4
Lithuanian	1	1		2
Mazahua			1	1
Norwegian	3	_	7	10
Polish	3	5	19	27
Portuguese ²¹	1	6	16	23

¹⁹ See Persian.

²⁰ The information on Japanese Blake publications in *Blake Books* (1977) and *Blake Books Supplement* (1995) is corrected and extended in *Blake Studies in* Japan (1994).

Portuguese includes works published in Brazil and Portugal.

Punjabi	_	_		
Romansh	_	_		
Romany	_	_		
Rumanian	3	3	3	9
Russian	27	19	54	100
Serbo-Croat	_	1	1	2
Scotch			1	1
Spanish ²²	10	37	157	206
Swahili	_	_		
Swedish	1	3	13	17
Tamil	_	_		
Thai				
Turkish	_	_	1	1
Ukrainian	_	_		
Welsh	3	7		10
Yiddish ²³	1	_	_	1
TOTALS	576	981	1,344	2,858 ²⁴

Of these non-English languages, by far the most extensively represented is Japanese, with almost half the publications on Blake in all non-English languages combined. What began as a linguistic trickle with Soetsu Yanagi's William Blake (Tokyo, 1914) has become a flood. Among the Japanese scholars, the most valuable to western eyes, or at least to me, are Hikari Sato, writing about the contexts of *The Marriage of Heaven ahd Hell*, and Hisao Ishizuka demonstrating the fundamental importance in Blake's writings of Eighteenth-Century medicine.

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²² Spanish includes works published in Andorra, Argentina, Chile, Mexico, Spain, and Uruguay

²³ Note also the translations of "The Tyger" and the "Introduction" to *Innocence* into Yiddish by Joan Braman, *Der Yiddish-Vinkle: A Weekly Briefing in the Mother Tongue*, 17 July 2005, 30 June 2006.

See G.E. Bentley, Jr, "Blake and the Xenoglots: Strange-Speaking Critics and Scholars of Blake", on-line at http://www.blakequarterly.org/bentleyxenoglots.html (2004), adapted here.

Some of the Japanese scholars are remarkably prolific, such as Hatsuko Niimi (26 essays), Masashi Suzuki (28), and Kohei Koizumi (101, most also reprinted), but most of these essays save Niimi's are inaccessible to scholars who do not read Japanese.

In some years, for instance, 2000, about a quarter of the recorded works about William Blake are in languages other than English.

The places of publication outside the English speaking world (Australia, Britain, Canada, India, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, the United States) are also surprisingly diverse. They included in 2001 Brazil (Sao Paolo), Denmark (Copenhagen), Japan (Kyoto, Osaka, Tokyo), Malaysia (Gombak), Mexico (Xalapa), Norway (Oslo), Portugal (Lisbon), and Spain (Barcelona, Bilbao, Castello de la Plana, Madrid, Valencia).

Gombak! I hear you cry; how wonderful that there should be publications about Blake in Gombak! Even more wonderful, the essay published in Gombak is entitled "The Road Not Taken". ²⁵

How provincial Anglophone Blake scholars must seem to those of Gombak and Xalapa!

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Jalal Uddin Kahn, "The Road Not Taken: A View of William Blake's Originality", Gombak Review: A Biannual Publication of Creative Writing and Critical Comment, IV ([Gombak, Malaysia] (1999), 147-172.

TABLE 3

DOCTORAL DISSERTATIONS BY UNIVERSITY CUMULATIVE²⁶

Over six hundred doctoral dissertations are recorded here (2009) from almost two hundred universities, most of course from the United States, Britain, and Canada:²⁷

,	,
Adelaide (Australia)	1985, 1988
Alberta (Canada)	1977, 1982, 2003
Arizona State	2002
Arkansas	1971, 1975, 1977, 1985
Auburn	1999
Australian National	1977
Ball State	1974
Berlin (Germany)	1976
Bern (Switzerland)	1956
Birmingham (Englan	nd) 1995, 2003
Bonn (Germany)	1986
Bordeaux (France)	1924
Boston	1941 (2), 1991
Boston College	1976. 1982
Brandeis	1969, 1971, 1973, 1977, 1984, 1999
Bristol (England)	1964, 1966
British Columbia (C	anada) 1977
Brown	1954, 1971, 1974, 1976, 1978, 1997
Buffalo	1952
Calicut (India)	1991

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²⁶ See also G.E. Bentley, Jr., "'The Eternal Wheels of Intellect': Dissertations on William Blake." *Blake: An Illustrated Quarterly*, XII (1979), 224-243, and D.W. Dörrbecker, "In ... Cambridge & in Oxford, places of Thought": *Blake in British Theses*, 1950-1994. (Trier an der Mosel, 1995).

²⁷ Dissertations for universities outside the Britain, Canada, and the United States are probably under-represented here.

California (Berkeley) 1974 (2), 1975, 1976, 1977,
1990 (2)
(Davis) 1969, 1977, 1978, 1982
(Irvine) 1974, 1979, 1983, 1985, 1988, 1998
(Los Angeles) 1976, 1977, 1978 (2), 1980, 1985.
1993
(Riverside) 1969, 1975, 1976, 1985, 1997,
2000
(Santa Barbara) 1970, 1976 (2), 1980, 1986, 1993,
2006
(Santa Cruz) 1974, 1975, 1977, 1979, 1980,
1983, 1984
(San Diego) 1969, 1984, 1988, 1995
Cambridge (England) 1939, 1959, 1973, 1974, 1980,
1980, 1981, 1984, 1986, 1989,
1999
Carlton (Canada) 1990
Case Western Reserve 1975, 1983
(see also Western Reserve)
Chicago 1954, 1968, 1969, 1974, 1992,
1997
Chungang (South Korea) 1987
Cincinnati 1931, 1989, 1990, 1997
City University of New York 1976, 1977, 1987, 1992,
1995
Clermont-Ferrand (France) 1981
Colorado (Boulder) 1982, 1990

Columbia	1952, 1953, 1954, 1958, 1966 (2), 1969 (3), 1970, 1972, 1974 (2), 1980, 1982
Complutense (Madrid,	Spain) 1997, 1998
Concordia (Canada)	1991
Connecticut	1969, 1972, 1981, 2002
Copenhagen (Denmarl	
Cornell	1929, 1940, 1980, 1983, 1985,
	1992
Dalhousie (Canada)	1991
Dallas	1998, 2002
Drew	2008
Duke	1983, 1992 (2), 1994, 2006
Duquesne	1984
Durham (England)	1995
East Anglia (England)	1976
Edinburgh (Scotland)	1970, 1975 (2), 1980, 1992
Emory	1967, 1977 (2), 1979 1989, 1990,
j	1993, 2005
Essex (England)	1999
Exeter (England)	1972 (2)
Florida	1967, 1985, 1989, 1999, 2002
Florida State	1981, 1987, 1988 (2)
Florence (Italy)	1985
Fordham	1995
Georgia	1974, 1998, 1999
Glasgow (Scotland)	1977 1980, 2004
Guelph (Canada)	1988
Harvard	1950, 1963, 1976 (3), 1977, 1983
Hawaii	1995
Hiroshima (Japan)	1963
Illinois	1975, 1976

Indiana 1965,	1969, 1978, 1999, 2002, 2005 (2)
Innsbruck (Austria)	1933
Iowa 196	60, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1971, 1982,
1985,	1989, 1991
Johns Hopkins	1960, 1968, 1969, 1974, 1975
Joong-Ang (South Kore	a) 1982
Kansas	1979, 1980, 1990, 2007, 2008
Kansas State	1979
Keele (England)	1979
Keimyung (South Korea	a) 1986
Kent State	1974, 1980, 1985
Kentucky	1981
Kolkata (India)	1999
Korea University (Seoul	l, South Korea) 1991
Kyemyung (South Kore	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Kyoiku (Japan)	1967
Kyoto (Japan)	1950, 2001
Lancaster (England)	1971
Leeds (England)	1970
Leicester (England)	2005
London (England)	1967, 1968, 1970,1971, 1994,
(8)	2003, 2008
Lucknow (India)	1951, 1969
Manchester (England)	1981, 1991, 1993
Manitoba (Canada)	1981, 1991 (2)
	8, 1970, 1972, 1977, 1979, 1988,
•	987. 1993
Massachusetts	1973, 1974, 1975, 1978, 1979,
	996 (2)
-	(-)

McMaster (Cana	ıda)						1998
Miami	,			197	6, 19	989, 199	94, 2003
Michigan	1978, 1997	1979,	198	34,	1985	5, 1994	1, 1995,
Michigan State	1///						1974
Middle Tennesse	ee						2007
Minnesota				195	4, 19	970, 197	71, 1976
Mississippi					,	,	1998
Missouri							1979
Nanzan (Japan)							2001
Nebraska		19	969,	1970	0, 19	76, 198	7, 1999
New Brunswick	(Canac				,	,	1983
New Mexico		,	1969	9, 1	972,	1973(2	2) 1975,
		1	978,			•	,
New South Wale	es (Aus						1998
New York	`	19	915,	194	1, 19	47, 197	5, 1976
Nihon (Japan)						ŕ	1975
Norfolk (Englan	d)						1967
North Carolina (Chapel	Hill)		195	1, 19	68, 197	2, 1992
`	•	,	(2),	1998	3, 2001	
(Greensbor	ro)					198	31, 2001
North Texas						199	6, 1997
Northeastern							1997
Northumberland	(Engla	ind)					2003
Northwestern	` •	19	954, 973,			1958,	1971,
Nottingham (En	oland)	-	,,,	1) (Ü		1964
Nottingham Trea		land)				2004 2	2005 (2)
Ohio	it (Ling	iuiiu)					57, 1970
Ohio State						170	1984
Oklahoma							1979
Open University	(Engla	ınd)					1993
open omversity	(11510	mu _j					1773

Oregon	1963, 1967, 1973, 1974
Oxford (England)	1946, 1953, 1954, 1956 (2), 1957,
(8)	1979, 1980, 1985 (2), 1988, 1989,
	1990 (2), 1991, 1993, 2002, 2008
Oxford Brookes (Eng	
Pacific	1975
Paris (France)	1920, 1947, 1953, 1990
Paris III (France)	1974
Paris IV (France)	1976
Pennsylvania	1971 (2), 1972, 1976, 1982, 1986,
	1989, 1995
Pennsylvania State	1991
Pittsburgh	1974
Poona (India)	1984
Princeton	1968, 1975
Purdue	1981
Queen's (Canada)	1974
Queen's (Northern Ire	eland) 1970
Reading (England)	1951
Rice	1976
Rikkyo (Japan)	1986
Rochester	2005
Rostock (Germany)	1936
Rutgers	1968, 1974
St Andrews (Scotland	
Saint Louis	1995, 1997
St Petersburg (Russia)	
Seoul National (South	
Shuto (Japan)	2006

South Africa	1983
South Carolina	1990, 1995
Southampton (Engla	nd) 1989, 2001
Southern California	1968, 1987, 1990, 1996
Southern Illinois	1970, 1977
Stanford	1967, 1990
State University of N	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
(Binghampton)	` '
\ U 1	974, 1979, 1981 (3), 1982, 1983 (2),
	1993 (3), 1995, 2004 (2)
(Stony Brook)	1976, 1978, 1982, 1990
Surrey (England)	2003
Sussex (England)	1990
Swansea (Wales)	1991
Sydney (Australia)	1978
Syracuse	1969, 1980, 1987
Tennessee	1987, 1989, 1991, 2005, 2006, 2007
Texas (Arlington)	2001
(Austin)	1963, 1966, 1974, 1975 (2), 1976,
(1 1402 4111)	1987, 1997
(Dallas)	1958, 1967, 1972, 1974 (2), 1996
Texas A&M	1989, 2003
Texas Christian	1973, 1984, 1989, 1991
Texas Tech	` 1988
Texas Women's	1974
Tohoku	2007
Tokyo Metropolitan	
Tokyo University of	
Toledo	1970, 1976, 1981
Toronto (Canada)	1947, 1952, 1963, 1971, 1975, 1976
(Cminan)	(2), 1977, 1978, 1982, 1983, 1985,
	1986, 1988, 1993, 1998

William Blake and His Circle

Tours (France)	1971
Trier (Germany)	1985
Tufts	1971
Tulane	1972
Tulsa	1970 (2), 1975, 2006
Ulster (Northern Irelan	nd) 2006
Valencia (Spain)	1988
Vanderbilt	1973, 1974, 1979, 1981, 1990,
	1997, 2004
Victoria (Canada)	1999
Victoria (Wellington, 1	New Zealand) 1952
Vienna (Austria)	1939, 1954
Virginia	1976, 1983, 1987, 1998, 2006
Wales (Lampeter)	1978
Warwick (England)	1992
Washington	1941, 1954, 1968, 1970, 1972 (2),
	1974, 1975, 1980, 1983, 1984,
	1988, 1991 (2), 1995, 1996 (2),
	1998, 2000, 2005
Washington State	1975, 1987, 1988
Wayne State	1971
Western Ontario (Cana	ada) 1985, 1987, 1989, 1992, 1995
Western Reserve	1963
(see also Case Wes	stern Reserve)
Wisconsin (Madison)	1924, 1962, 1963, 1971, 1973 (2),
	1974, 1977, 1981, 1991
(Milwaukee)	1976, 1979 (2)
Wrocklawski (Poland)	2005

Yale 1935, 19	964 (2), 1969 (2), 1970, 1972,
1973, 19	78, 1981, 1985, 1990 (2), 1993,
1996	
Yeungnam (South Korea)	1987
York (Canada)	1974, 1981 (2), 1984
York (England)	1974, 1988, 2004, 2006
Youngnam (South Korea)	1987
Zurich (Switzerland)	1911, 1965, 1978

Dissertations about Blake thus far recorded (2009) were given in 195 universities in Australia (4 universities), Austria (2), Canada (14), Denmark (1), England (24), France (6), Germany (4),), India (4), Italy (1), Japan (7), New Zealand (1), Northern Ireland (2), Poland (1), Russia (1), Scotland (3), South Africa (1), South Korea (8), Spain (2), Switzerland (12), the United States (409), and Wales (2).

TABLE 4
DOCTORAL DISSERTATIONS BY YEAR
CUMULATIVE

1910		1920	1	1930		1940	1	1950	1
1911	1	1921		1931	1	1941	3	1951	4
1912		1922		1932		1942		1952	3
1913		1923		1933	3	1943		1953	3
1914		1924	1	1934		1944		1954	8
1915	1	1925	1	1935	1	1945		1955	
1916		1926		1936	1	1946	1	1956	4
1917		1927		1937		1947	1	1957	2
1918		1928		1938		1948		1958	2
1919		1929	1	1939	5	1949	7	1959	1

1960	2	1970	18	1980	14	1990	16	2000	3
1961	1	1971	14	1981		1991	18	2001	7
1962	1	1972	13	1982	19	1992	11	2002	6
1963	8	1973	12	1983	27	1993	12	2003	7
1964	6	1974	28	1984		1994	4	2004	7
1965	2	1975	23	1985	25	1995	15	2005	9
1966	5	1976	28	1986	8	1996	8	2006	8
1967	10	1977	20	1987	13	1997	12	2007	3
1968	10	1978	15	1988	14	1998	10	2008	3
1969	18	1979	18	1989	14	1999	8	2009	

BLAKE'S WRITINGS

Many, perhaps most, institutions with copies of Blake's works in Illuminated Printing, like the Huntington, now treat Blake's works in Illuminated Printing as if they were collections of separate prints, not books, and have disbound and matted the prints individually. This has the great advantage of allowing all the prints to be exhibited at once, rather than only one or two at a time, as when they were bound, and it permits one to see easily the sewing or stab holes in the inner margin -- even to perceive occasionally that the inner margins have deckled edges, indicating that they were the outside of the sheet. However, in disbound books facing pages no longer face one another, and the sense of the sequence of a book is lost.

David Bindman's assemblage of the reproductions of the recent Blake Trust editions in *The Collected Illuminated Books* (2000) is extraordinarily valuable – and affordable. This includes reproductions in full size and in glorious colour of all

eighteen of Blake's works in Illuminated Printing, along with transcriptions of the poems. However, the exceedingly useful editorial matter provided by the Blake Trust scholars as distinguished as Joseph Viscomi and Robert N. Essick have been abandoned entirely. *The Collected Illuminated Books* is likely to prove invaluable to all Blake students and irresistible to lovers of beautiful books.²⁸

Blake Trust Publications 1992 ff²⁹

- The Early Illuminated Books: All Religions are One, There is No Natural Religion, The Book of Thel, The Marriage of Heaven and Hell, Visions of the Daughters of Albion, ed. Morris Eaves, Robert N. Essick, & Joseph Viscomi (1993)
- MILTON: A POEM and the Final Illuminated Books: THE GHOST OF ABEL, ON HOMER'S POETRY [and] ON VIRGIL, LAOCOÖN, ed. Robert N. Essick & Joseph Viscomi (1993)
- The Continental Prophecies: AMERICA: A PROPHECY, EUROPE: A PROPHECY, THE SONG OF LOS, ed. D.W. Dörrbecker (1995)
- The Urizen Books: The First Book of Urizen, The Book of Ahania, The Book of Los, ed. David Worrall (1995)
- The Complete Illuminated Books, ed. David Bindman (2000) from the Blake Trust facsimiles, including those above plus Jerusalem, ed. M.D. Paley (1991) and Songs of

²⁸ The only previous comprehensive reproductions of Blake's works in Illuminated Printing were *The Illuminated Blake*: *All of William Blake's Illuminated Works with a Plate-by-Plate Commentary*, ed. David V. Erdman (1974) and *The Complete Graphic Works with 765 illustrations*, ed. David Bindman (1978). Both are in black-and-white, and the latter includes far more than the works in Illuminated Printing.

²⁹ For Blake Trust Publications 1951-1991, see *BBS*, 13.

Innocence and of Experience, ed. Andrew Lincoln (1991), but omitting the learned apparatus

Samuel Palmer: The Sketchbook of 1824. Edited with an Introduction and Commentary by Martin Butlin and with a Foreword by William Vaughan (2005)

William Blake's Watercolour Inventions in Illustration of THE GRAVE by Robert Blair. Edited with Essays and a Commentary by Martin Butlin and an Essay on the Poem by Morton D. Paley (2009)

novel, extensive, The most and valuable reproductions of Blake's works appear in the William Blake Archive on-line, created by Joseph Viscomi, Morris Eaves, and Robert N. Essick. This includes thus far (2009) carefully-corrected colour reproductions of 31 copies of Blake's works in Illuminated Printing, the manuscript of "The Order" of the Songs, the watercolours for Job, Blair's Grave, Milton's Comus, "On the Morning of Christ's Nativity", Paradise Lost, and Paradise Regained, the Large Colour Prints (23 prints), the engravings for Blair's *Grave*, Hayley's Ballads (1805) and Designs (1802), Mary Wollstonecraft, Original Stories, Young, Night Thoughts (1797), plus catalogues of the principal public collections of Blake's The wonderfully ingenious apparatus allows works. viewers to compare designs and details, magnify and juxtapose them. This is a major resource.

Nelson Hilton's *Blake Concordance On-Line* permits very elaborate searches for Blake's words. In the nature of

such works, it is probably used far more often than it is acknowledged.

Some of the new editions recorded here are less important than others. My favourite is the edition of "The Lamb" (1995) in which the words "William Blake" are "signed by the author by spirit pen, through [the medium?] Madam Casarosa of Tooting".

WORKS IN ILLUMINATED PRINTING

Joseph Viscomi's epic *Blake and the Idea of the Book* (1993) created a salutary earthquake in Blake studies. Some of its more important findings, insofar as they relate to the bibliography of Blake, are presented here. I take the evidence and conclusions in Viscomi's book to be reliable, and I endorse those reported below.

Invention of Illuminated Printing

"The Approach of Doom", in which Blake adapted a design by his brother Robert,

appears to have been Blake's first attempt at drawing in an "impervious liquid," perhaps shortly after his brother's death in 1787, and it seems to have evolved out of a planographic transfer print. *Doom* may not have evolved directly, though. The vignette known as *Songs* plate a [a naked man being carried upwards by cherubim] may have been an intermediate step [p. 194.]

Similarly, the separate prints of "Joseph of Arimathea Preaching" and "Charity"

seem to be early experiments in relief etching, which in turn suggests that *illuminated printing*, the printing of illuminated poems and books, evolved out of relief etching, which was motivated by the desire to duplicate drawings in facsimile rather than to publish preexistent texts. [p. 195]

Blake probably composed his designs for works in Illuminated Printing directly on the copperplate (as he did the marginal designs to *Job* about 1824), rather than transferring designs created separately, and he may well have composed some of the text for works in Illuminated Printing in this way also, particularly in *Milton* and *Jerusalem*.

Blake's text could not have been [mechanically] transferred and ... preliminary studies or models of page designs could not have preexisted their execution. ... In other words, Blake's innovation lies not in writing backward or in inventing an "impervious liquid," let alone a supposedly new method of transferring text, but in appropriating as a printmaker the tools, materials, process, and, most significantly, the aesthetics of sketching. [p. 370]

Blake scholars have often assumed that the creation of a work in Illuminated Printing was a very laborious and time-consuming process, but "A printable intaglio plate can be produced in about thirty minutes because the lines do not need to be etched deeply in order to print" (p. 82).

Printing Works in Illuminated Printing

Works in Illuminated Printing are printed from the surface of the copperplate, as in printing from conventional typography, rather than from the recesses incised in the copper, as in intaglio engraving and etching, and ordinarily different inks are used for printing relief and intaglio plates. However, in printing his relief plates

Blake appears to have used an intaglio rather than relief ink. Intaglio ink consisted of pigment ground with various grades of burnt oil ..., such as a walnut or linseed oil that had been boiled and then set on fire. Burnt oil was more viscous than boiled oil, making ink tacky and stiff [p. 95.]

Postumous copies ... were printed with far greater pressure and, it seems, with machine-made relief inks [p. 10].

In printing his own works, Blake did not attempt to emulate the meticulous standards of the best of his contemporaries, and he seems to have capitalized upon the irregularities of his printing. In a letter of 22 March 1911 the facsimilist William Muir calls Blake's method "skilful carelessness", and R.N. Essick says that Blake "expanded the circumference of the acceptable far beyond the limitations standard in the craft" (p. 102).

In ordinary printing, the printing surface (such as the copperplate) is placed face up on the bed of the press, and the paper is pressed down upon it. However, Blake appears to

³⁰ R.N. Essick, William Blake and the Language of Adam [1989], 191.

have placed the paper on the bed of the press, and the copperplate was imposed down upon the paper. For instance,

Plates 7-12 in *Europe* copy G have horizontal and vertical pencil lines (some partly erased) on their face that correspond to the size of the plates. If these lines were meant to register plate to paper, then the paper must have lain on the press bed facing up and the plate placed on top of it, or the lines would not have been visible. This reverse printing method ... would have prevented the paper from picking up any of the ink smudges in the shallows of the relief plate. Woodcuts were often printed [*in relief*] in this manner [*p. 394*.]

One of Blake's problems was that his copperplates, even within the same work, were different sizes, and consequently the margins of facing pages have different dimensions.

Given that registration was done by eye [i.e., not mechanically] and that plates were various sizes, diverse margins were inevitable. Facing pages with exactly shared margins, then, appear to be intentional [p. 105.]

In ordinary printing in conventional typography, several pages of type (a forme) are printed on one side of a sheet of paper; for instance, in a folio with two leaves per folded sheet of paper, pages 1 and 4 would be printed on the outside of the

sheet and pages 2 and 3 on the inside. Blake used this method at least occasionally and perhaps regularly for the copies he printed on both recto and verso of the leaf.³¹ For instance, the proofs of *Marriage* (K) pl. 21-24 were printed with four prints on one piece of paper, and the copies L and M³² with pl. 25-27 are the same (p. 107).

Occasionally Blake made mistakes. For instance, in *Marriage* (B),

He printed plates 5 and 7 as an outside form (they are in the same ink) and plates 6 and 8 as the corresponding inside form (they are also in the same ink). The leaf with plates 8 and 7 was reinserted into the binding, correctly, joined to the leaf with plates 5 and 6 by a strip of paper and stabbed three times with the other fourteen leaves. ... Apparently Blake had forgotten which form he was inking when he printed these four plates.

Printing plates in folio format [i.e., four prints on a piece of paper folded once] on aligned leaves ... appears to have been Blake's standard practice for books with facing pages, which ... includes all copies of illuminated books produced between 1789 and 1793 [p. 109.]

In his early printing, Blake carefully wiped the ink from the margins of the plates so that the designs would appear without frames. However,

³¹ In most surviving copies of Blake's works in Illuminated Printing, each leaf is separate, not conjugate with its neighbour, but this may be the result of later trimming for binding rather than an indication of the manner in which the copperplates were printed.

³² Copies L and M, rediscovered in 1993 and 1997, confirm Viscomi's hypothesis.

in 1795 ... [Blake began] for the first time, to print the plate borders The borders invited or suited a more elaborate colouring style, since text and illustration were then framed and would have looked unfinished if the washes did not meet the border/frame. This is why washing and streaking the text -- a method of washing that visually integrated text with illustration ... -- became common practice in books printed in and after 1795 [pp. 160-161.]

The evidence which Professor Viscomi has so laboriously accumulated demonstrates abundantly that

The times at which *Blake Books* claims Blake's works were printed need to be adjusted, and the periods need to be redefined ... This [*first*] period can be broken down ... according to three distinct formats: recto/verso (1789 to 1793), color printing (1794 to 1795), and single-sided printing with borders and rich palettes (ca. 1795). After 1795 the format remained the same, though the coloring style continued to become richer and more elaborate [*p. 372*.]

Since each copy of a work in Illuminated Printing seems to differ from every other copy, Blake scholars often carelessly assumed that Blake normally printed one copy at a time in deliberately unique ways. However, Blake's early practise was

to print half-a-dozen or more copies of each print at a time; "to imagine that illuminated books were produced one at a time makes illuminated printing and its inventor monstrously inefficient" (p. 374). Prints were later -- sometimes years later -- collated into books, using the best prints first; at the end of the process, only the inferior prints were left, and sometimes in these the printing was so weak or careless that Blake had to touch them up or retrace designs or letters extensively in order to make them acceptable.

Most copies of illuminated books were compiled from impressions printed and colored in small editions.³³ That Blake used this mode of producing books requires one to question the intentionality and significance of most variations, redate copies of nearly all illuminated books, revaluate the role of illuminated poetry in Blake's life, redefine his period and book styles, and, ultimately, reedit his work [*p. 153*.]

Colouring Works in Illuminated Printing

The conventional commercial method of coloring prints was for each worker to add a separate color; one would add the red according to a master copy and pass the print on to another who would add blue, and so on. However,

The limited palette used in early illuminated impressions suggests that labor was not divided

Viscomi uses "edition" to identify copies produced in one printing-session, rather than the standard bibliographical meaning of all copies printed from one setting of type – or from unchanged copperplates. A more conventional term would be "issue".

according to the standard procedure of one color per person but by impression, and that Mrs. Blake coloured entire impressions and books herself [p. 133.]

It has often been assumed that the time necessary to color a print was very extensive, but, at least for early copies, this is not so. The early coloring was simple, and

In fact, many *Innocence* impressions colored before 1794, like "The School Boy," "Holy Thursday," or "The Chimney Sweeper," have only one or two broad washes, which represent quick passes of a brush and nothing more. There is no outlining in pen and ink, no overlaying of colors, no treatment that was technically difficult or time consuming. ...

There is no reason to disbelieve [Blake's friends Frederick] Tatham or [J.T.] Smith about Mrs. Blake's having regularly colored impressions, though the quality of her work appears not to have been as high as Tatham states -- and certainly not as high as Blake's. Indeed, it is the very unevenness of quality in many books that reveals the presence of two hands [p. 133.]

Catherine Blake probably colored *Innocence* (G-H), *Songs* (C, M, R [*Experience* only]) and early copies of *Thel* and *Visions*.

I would even add to the list *America* copy K, which is loosely modeled on America copy A Marriage copy C, and possibly Europe copy A; Mrs. Blake seems also to have helped in recoloring books, like *Songs* copy R, and coloring late copies, like Songs copy AA, ca. 1826. ... [Such copies have] fewer colors, washes applied very flat and solid, and weak or incorrect modeling. The second hand is also characterized by a palette consisting primarily of pink, purple, bright blue, and With the exception of the yellowish green. frontispiece, the impressions in Europe copy A reveal these traits. For example, in plate 14 ... the pope is an opaquish purple, his throne is yellow gold, the cloud is pink and dark gray, the wings are bright blue, and the bodies are bright yellow with heavy black and gray washes. The gray and black washes in the cloud and garments are most revealing: they are crudely applied, following the lines of the forms but failing in their structural purpose of modeling those forms. ... The colouring of Europe copy A may be the work of Mrs. Blake, when she worked without a model; at the very least, it is not exclusively Blake's [pp. 133-134.]

Visions pl. 7 (in copies A-E, H-M)

were printed in raw sienna, yellow ochre, and green ink as three issues of the same edition. The impressions from plate 7 ... share the same palette, brush work, coloring techniques, and one of three compositions [i.e., arrangements of colours].

These compositions evolve one from the other and each composition includes impressions from at least two issues. The compositions are (1) purple clouds over light purple or blue sky, (2) purple clouds over a yellow sky with a rising (or setting?) sun, and (3) yellow sky with a rising (or setting?) sun with pronounced rays.

The first composition appears in copies H, C, B, and L ..., two copies printed in raw sienna and two in green. The second composition is found in copies K, M, D, and E ..., copies that were printed in all three colors. The third composition appears in copies I, J, and A ..., one copy in yellow ochre and two in green. ... The motifs, details, and coloring style appear to have been suggested by other impressions, since nothing in the original drawing (illus. 172 [which is a proof of the etching]) indicated sun or clouds or necessitated such simple coloring [p. 135.]

[In Visions pl. 7] Theotormon's right arm in copies C, E, J, K, L and M is cast in a purple shadow, with a touch of the same purple on the left elbow; technically, the shadow is one upward brush stroke, made in the same motion in nearly all of these copies. ... [In Thel pl. 7,] The sky is formed in the same colors and manner in copies H, G, B, E, and M. Yet there is no printed line suggesting clouds; in copy O, printed years later, the background was painted in multiple bright

colors to suggest twilight. The repetition of a form or gesture not part of the printed design suggests that it was generated by reference to other impressions, and thus sequentially and within an edition [p. 398.]

Mrs. Blake was probably responsible for the [VISIONS] copy C and H impressions, and possibly the copy L impression ... [plus for pl. 7 still] copy M and probably copy K ... [and] copies J and I [p. 142].

Dates of Printing

- 1789 Innocence³⁴ (U, V?; F, I-J, X; A-H, K-M, Z, B-E), Thel (a [proofs], + loose proofs, A-E, G-M, R, ?P, $?Q^{35}$)
- **1790** *Marriage* (K-M [proofs], A, C, B, H³⁶)
- Visions (a [proofs], A-E, H-M), For Children (A-E), America (a [proofs], + loose proofs, C-I, K-L, R)
- No Natural Religion (A-D, G, M), Marriage (E-F), Visions (F, R), Experience (F, G-H, T¹; B-E), Europe (a-c [proofs], + loose proofs, B-G), Urizen (H-I [proofs], A, C-F, J)
- 1795 All Religions (A), No Natural Religion (L), Innocence (J, N), Thel (F), Marriage (D), Visions (G, Q?), America (A-B), Experience (J, O, S),

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³⁴ In recording copies of *Songs of Innocence*, letters in roman type indicate the independent copies of *Innocence*; letters in italic type indicate prints of *Innocence* in copies of *Songs of Innocence and of Experience*.

The printing of *Thel* is dated no more precisely than 1789-90.

In *Marriage* (B, H), "the inking accidentals shared by the two copies (in plates 11 and 13, for example) are lighter in copy H, which suggests that most of the copy H impressions were probably second pulls" (Viscomi, 112).

	Songs (A, R; I, L, O/K, M, W/N, 37 BB), Europe (A,
	H), Urizen (B), Song of Los (A-F), Ahania (A-B),
	$Book \ of \ Los \ (A-B)^{38}$
1796	Large Book of Designs (A-B); Small Book of
	Designs (A-B)
1802	Innocence (P, O, R/Y), Experience (P, Q)
1804	Innocence $(P-Q, Q)$
1807	America (M?), Jerusalem proofs
1811	Innocence (S, S), Milton (A-C)
1818	Thel (N-O), Marriage (G), Visions (N-P),
	Experience (T ² , U), Urizen (G), Milton (D)
1820	?For the Sexes (A, B), Jerusalem (A, C-D)
1821	America (O), Songs (V), Europe (K), Jerusalem (B,
	E)
1822	?On Homer (A-F), Ghost of Abel (A-E)
1825	Songs (W, Y), ?For the Sexes (J-M [proofs], C, D)
1826	Songs (Z-AA)
1827	Marriage (I), Songs (X), Jerusalem (F)

Posthumous printing

Innocence (T), America (N, P-Q), Songs (a-o plus separate pulls including Tate and Theodore B. Donson Ltd), Europe (I, L-M), ?For Children (E-I), and Jerusalem (I-J).

³⁷ Songs (O/K and W/N) are sets which were later separated.

Of these works, *All Religions* (A), *No Natural Religion* (L), *Thel* (F), *Marriage* (D), *Visions* (G, Q?), *America* (A-B), *Songs* (A, R), *Europe* (A, H), and *Urizen* (B) were produced as a deluxe large-paper set with framing lines.

Posthumous colouring

Some copies of Blake's works were colored after his death. These include *Songs* (E, M, e),

thirteen *Experience* impressions in *Songs* copy K, plate 1 (if not also all) of *Europe* copy A, and the framelines and many of the blue and pink washes over interlinear decorations in *Marriage* copy E; some posthumous copies were colored very well: *Songs* copy e (in imitation of *Songs* copy Y) and *Songs* copy j [p. 367.]

The full history of the Small Book of Designs (B) has been clearly established, at least so far as current information permits, in the major article by Martin Butlin and Robin Hamlyn in *Blake*, ³⁹ with crucial evidence from stab-holes and inscriptions by Blake and Tatham.

BLAKE'S ART

The most extraordinary Blake discovery of the last century and more was of Blake's nineteen lost designs for Blair's *Grave*. Twelve of them had been engraved for Cromek's edition of *The Grave* in 1808, but Blake's watercolours for them had not been traced since 1836. The drawings were brought, apparently in ignorance of their significance, to the Swindon auction-house of Dominic Winter, they were identified and authenticated by Martin Butlin, Robin Hamlyn, Robert Essick, Rosamund Paice, David

³⁹ Butlin & Hamlyn, "Tate Britain Reveals Nine New Blakes and Thirteen New Lines of Verse", *Blake*, XLII (2008), 52-72.

Bindman, Morton Paley, GEB, and Dr E.B. Bentley. Seven of the designs had never been seen by Blake scholars, for most of them even the titles were unknown, and such titles as had been known were not very helpful, e.g., "Friendship" and "A characteristic Frontispiece". Some of the new drawings are very wonderful and surprising.

Perhaps the most surprising of them is that for "Death's Door". The version engraved by Schiavonetti for the 1808 *Grave* is of course very well known -- it was copied again in 1816, and Whitman was buried under a version of it in 1892. It was also copied by Blake in a dramatic white-line version which apparently so alarmed the publisher R.H. Cromek that he took the commission for the engravings from Blake and gave it to Schiavonetti.

Until the watercolours were rediscovered, we did not know whether Blake's version of 1805 or Schiavonetti's version of 1808 corresponded to the drawing of "Death's Door" which Blake had sold to Cromek. Cromek's betrayal of Blake in depriving him of the promised commission to engrave his designs for Blair's *Grave* has long been known, but the rights of the case were obscure. The newly discovered drawing makes it plain that Schiavonetti was extraordinarily faithful to the watercolour which Cromek put before him. It is Blake's engraving of "Death's Door" which is eccentric, or at least which varies from his watercolour, not Schiavonetti's. Perhaps there is more to be said for Cromek than had previously been thought. But not much more.

Two of the most ambitious and successful reproductions of Blake's art are *The Divine Comedy; Die Gottliche Komödie;*

La Divine Comedie, ed. David Bindman (2000), and Edward Young, NIGHT THOUGHTS: The Poem illustrated with Water Colours by William Blake, Commentary by Robin Hamlyn. [3 vols.] (2005).

COMMERCIAL ENGRAVINGS

New Titles

After a century and a half of Blake's fame, it is very surprising to find previously unknown books bearing his engravings. [Elizabeth Blower], Maria: A Novel (1785) and The Cabinet of the Arts (1799) were each was found by pure serendipity. I was looking somewhat idly in Bodley at books to which John Flaxman had subscribed and found with astonishment that *Maria*: A Novel had a print engraved by Blake. And Bob Essick bought a copy of *The Cabinet of the* Arts because it was said to have Stothard plates in it and discovered that it also included a print by Blake. In each case the print was known in other contexts, but the vehicle was new. I am particularly indignant about The Cabinet of the Arts, because I had looked decades earlier at the copy in the British Library and found, as I expected, no Blake print. But I could not tell from an examination of one copy that each known copy differs extensively from every other.

Two other newly-discovered workswith copies of Blake's designs are *The Diamond Bible* (1832-34; 1826-37; 1840) with a small engraving of Blake's "Job and his Family" and *Diario de los Niños* (1839-40) with large lithographs from Blake's designs for Blair's *Grave*.

New Editions

William Hayley, The Life ... of William Cowper (N.Y., 1803)

Josephus, *The Genuine and Complete Works* (London: J. Cooke [1785-87])

Josephus, *The Whole Genuine and Complete Works* (London: J. Cooke [?1789-90])

Newly Discovered Coloured Copies

William Hayley, *Ballads* (1805) Edward Young, *Night Thoughts* (1797) coloured copies AA, BB

Newly Discovered Working Proofs

Blair, The Grave

Among books with Blake's commercial engravings is a newly recorded proof of Chaucer, *Poetical Works* (1782 [i.e., 1783]). Even more remarkable is the survival in the Huntington of the woodblock for one of Blake's designs cut down and copied by another hand.

CATALOGUES AND BIBLIOGRAPHIES

One of Blake's most enthusiastic and colourful patrons was Thomas Griffiths Wainewright, dilettante, friend of Charles Lamb and Henry Fuseli, artist, charming essayist, forger, and poisoner. His enthusiasm for Blake has been previously known; he wrote that Blake's *Job* is "as exquisitely engraved as grandly conceived" (29 March 1826) and that "His Dante is the most wonderful emanation of imagination that I have ever heard of" (February 1827), and he apparently wanted to acquire "all M^r Bs works executed by his own hand" (28 March 1826).

However, the remarkable extent of his collection was not known until 2001. Wainewright wrote of acquiring Marriage, Milton, and Songs in 1826 and 1827, and Blake Books and Blake Books Supplement speculated that he also owned Descriptive Catalogue (F), and perhaps the Riddle Manuscript. Now Marc Vaulbert de Chantilly has discovered the catalogues of 1831, 1835, and 1837 in which Wainewright's books were sold. 40 Wainewright's Blakes can now be shown to include America (G), Descriptive Catalogue (F), Europe (B), For Children (B), Jerusalem (B), Marriage (I), Milton (B), Songs (X), Job (1826), Blair's Grave (1808), and Young's Night Thoughts (1797). None of Blake's contemporaries is known to have owned so many of his printed works during his lifetime, not even his intimate friends and patrons George Cumberland and Thomas Butts. Wainewright may have owned Jerusalem (B) as early as 1820, when he wrote in the London Magazine about the "newly discovered, illuminated manuscript, which has to name 'Jerusalem the Emanation of the Giant Albion!!!'".

Almost as surprising was the discovery of the Willis & Sotheran catalogues of 25 June and 25 December 1862 which offered Flaxman's otherwise unknown copies of *America* (S), *Book of Thel* (S), *Europe* (N), *First Book of Urizen* (K), *For Children* (F), and *Visions of the Daughters of Albion* (S).

There were major Blake exhibitions in Madrid and Barcelona in 1996-1997 by Robin Hamlyn with 101 reviews recorded below and in Tate, London, and The Metropolitan Museum (N.Y.) in 2000-2001 with 159 reviews.

⁴⁰ Marc Vaulbert de Chantilly, "Property of a Distinguished Poisoner: Thomas Griffiths Wainewright and the Griffiths family library", pp. 111-142 of *Under the Hammer: Book Auctions Since the Seventeenth Century*, ed. Robin Myers, Michael Harris, & Giles Mandelbrote (New Castle [Delaware]: Oak Knoll Press; London: The British Library, 2001). This is an exemplary essay.

Important Blakes were offered in John Windle's catalogues of 1995, 1998, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2006, and 2009. But the most extraordinary Blake sales were at Sotheby's (N.Y.) in 1999 and 2006. In the 23 April 1999 sale of the works of Betsy Cushing Whitney, an anonymous collector bought *Urizen* (E), which had been lost to sight for three quarters of a century (1920-1998). The cost was \$2,300,000 plus Sotheby and agent's fees. This was not only "a RECORD PRICE FOR A BLAKE", but "per square inch and even for number of pages, ... the highest price [for any book] in book auctions yet, over \$100,000 per page".

Even more sensational was the sale of the nineteen watercolours for Blair's *Grave* which had disappeared in 1836, reappeared in 2001, changed ownership repeatedly under dubious or litigious circumstances, and advanced in asking-price from about £600 to \$20,000,000. The set was then broken up, amid very wide-spread and public protests, and the watercolours were offered for sale at Sotheby's (New York) on 2 May 2006. From the point of view of the rapacious vendors, the sale must have been a disappointment, for the estimates were for \$12,000,000 to \$17,000,000, the sum realized was \$7,102,640, and eight watercolours were not sold at all. Sensational though these prices seem, they were put in a different perspective when next day Sotheby's sold a Picasso for over \$100,000,000.

Sotheby's (New York) also broke up and sold in 2007 Songs of Innocence (Y) which been reported as "on

⁴¹ E.B. Bentley, "*Urizen* in New York City", *Blake*, XXXIII (1999), 30. The copy of *Visions of the Daughters of Albion* (N) with 11 plates is reported to have been sold in 2007 for \$2,000,000 or about \$200,000 per print.

permanent deposit" in the Wallfraf-Richartz Museum in Cologne.

Two catalogues which cumulate and advance Blake studies were G.E. Bentley, Jr, with the assistance of Keiko Aoyama, *Blake Studies in Japan: A Bibliography of Works on William Blake Published in Japan 1893-1993* (1994) and G.E. Bentley, Jr, *Blake Books Supplement: A Bibliography of Publications and Discoveries about William Blake 1971-1992, being a Continuation of BLAKE BOOKS (1977)* (1995). The present *William Blake and His Circle* is a continuation of the records in these two works.

The vast and extraordinary Essick collection has been publicly visible chiefly in the records of exciting additions to it in Essick's annual essays for 1978-2008 on "Blake in the Marketplace" in *Blake: An Illustrated Quarterly*. Now the Biblioteca la Solana⁴³ is comprehensively visible in Essick's massive and wonderfully informative *William Blake and His Circle and Followers: A Catalogue of the Collection of Robert N. Essick Compiled by the Collector* (2008). Unfortunately this is visible only through the courtesy of the author and collector.

The largest collection of manuscript materials relating to Blake to appear for very many years is the Archive of Robert Hartley Cromek & Thomas Hartley Cromek which was described in the Hart & Johnson catalogue offering them for sale (2008) before the Archive went to Princeton.

BOOKS OWNED BY WILLIAM BLAKE Newly Identified

⁴³ I record here only the rarissima from La Biblioteca la Solana. I should confess that only GEB calls it the Biblioteca la Solana.

Anon., A Political and Satirical History of the Years 1756-1757 ([?1757])

George Cumberland, Anecdotes of Julio Bonasoni (1793)

George Cumberland, The Captive of the Castle of Sennaar (1798)

John Dryden, Annus Mirabiles (1668), bound with [Jean Claude], An Account of the Persecutions and Oppressions of the French Protestants (1686), bound with Anon, Life & Death of ... Richard Baxter (1692)

John Quincy, Pharmacopoeia (1733)

Raphael, Historia del Testamento Vecchio (1695)

Of these, copies of *A Political and Satirical History of the Years 1756-1757*, Dryden &c, Quincy, and Raphael bearing the signature of William Blake have been traced. Nothing like any of these works had previously been associated with Blake. The two books by Blake's faithful friend George Cumberland can be associated with Blake only by indirect but good evidence; his copies themselves have not been traced, but his ownership of them is not surprising.

Books Owned by the Wrong William Blake in the Years 1770-1827 Newly Identified

William Barret, The History and Antiquities of the City of Bristol (1789)

Andrew Mackay, The Theory and Practice of Finding the Longitude (1793)

Henry Man, The Miscellaneous Works, in Verse and Prose (1802)

John Milton, *Paradise Lost*, ed. Richard Bentley (1732)

SCHOLARSHIP AND CRITICISM BOOKS ABOUT BLAKE

The most original and lastingly important book about Blake published in 1992 ff. was Joseph Viscomi's *Blake and the Idea of the Book* (1993).

The Foundations Move⁴⁴

Some books mark epochs.

These are books which so persuasively and fundamentally alter the way the subject is comprehended that all successors consciously or unconsciously adapt their works to this new understanding or are ignored by posterity. Joseph Viscomi's *Blake and the Idea of the Book* is one of the epoch-marking books of Blake scholarship. He has created a salutary earthquake.

In Blake studies, the epoch-making works are those of Alexander Gilchrist, *Life of William Blake*, "Pictor Ignotus" (1863), Geoffrey Keynes, *Bibliography of William Blake* (1921) and his edition of Blake's Writings (... 1925), Northrop Frye, Fearful Symmetry ... (1947), David V. Erdman, Blake: Prophet Against Empire (1954), and Martin Butlin, William Blake's Paintings and Drawings (... 1981). To these must now be added Joseph Viscomi, Blake and the Idea of the Book [1993, i.e., Feb 1994]".

⁴⁴ This account is quoted from my review entitled "The Foundations Move", in *A & B: Analytical & Enumerative Bibliography*, NS IX, 1-2 (1995 [i.e., March 1997]), 68-79.

This is a remarkably fine book, profoundly original, ... drawing exceedingly novel and important conclusions. The most important of these conclusions are that Blake produced his works in Illuminated Printing in significantly long runs ... and that normally he colored them at the time – and colored all copies of one plate rather than all plates of one copy.

Blake and the Idea of the Book has changed fundamentally our understanding of why and how Blake produced his works in Illuminated Printing No longer may we assume that every jot and tittle of his printed words and images is pregnant with intellectual meaning, for many of Blake's jots and tittles are incidental by-products of his experimental technology. No longer may we believe that creating works in Illuminated Printing was a life-long concern for Blake, for there were many years when he neither printed nor colored any of them. No longer may we conceive of Blake as a literary man who was also a painter, for plainly there were long periods when he neither wrote nor printed his poetry, though he was making pictures continuously. Blake was always a graphic artist but only sometimes a poet. ...

Joseph Viscomi's accomplishment is to show us the real Blake as practical craftsman.

New Facts about Blake

A number of new records of Blake and his family have been found in contemporary **Directories** (1783-1821).⁴⁵

Similarly there are **voting records** of Blake's father James (1749, 1774, 1780, 1784), his brother James (1784), and his brother John (1788) – but never of the poet.

Peter Ackroyd, a successful novelist and imaginative biographer, produced an elaborately detailed biography of Blake as a "Cockney visionary", an "urban genius", with a good deal of analysis of Blake's words (conventional) and designs (often ambitious and interesting). This is the most popular biography of the poet since Gilchrist (1863). Entitled simply *Blake*, it was published in 1995 and republished in 1996, 1997, 2000 (in German), 2002 (in Japanese), and in 2004 (in German), and over sixty reviews of it have been recorded (2009). The reviews have varied between ecstatic, at first, to grumpy, particularly from Blake scholars such as Morton Paley and Aileen Ward. It was described as "lucid, ... intuitive and empathetic" (Bate), "a masterpiece" (Gowrie), "decently crafted fiction overwhelmed by an excess of tyrannical facts" (Sinclair), "a book with bounce and push" (Fraser), pervaded by "questionable statements" (Paley), and an "excellent" example of "haute vulgarization" (Fleming). It will continue to be widely read,

Blake scholars, however, are likely to depend more extensively on G.E. Bentley, Jr, *The Stranger from Paradise: A Biography of William Blake* (2001). The consensus among scholars is that it is a "splendid" book (Bate, Anon., McIntyre, D'Evelyn, King); "Bentley has performed the highest service imaginable" for Blake scholars in "this

⁴⁵ These derive chiefly from *BR* (2) 735-6 and Angus Whitehead, "'William Blocke': New References to Blake in *Boyle's City Guide* (1797) and *Boyle's City Companion* (1798)", *Blake Journal*, No. 8 (2004), 30-46.

impressive and summative master work" which evokes "continual excitement and perpetual discovery"; "One cannot ask more of a biography or more from a biographer" (Lussier). "No other biography on Blake stands this tall" (Miner). It is "a glorious capstone to his [Bentley's] labors" (Hilton). What author would contest such judgments of his work?

The book is based upon the then-as-yet-unpublished Second Edition of *Blake Records* ... *Incorporating BLAKE RECORDS* (1969), *BLAKE RECORDS SUPPLEMENT* (1988), and *Extensive Discoveries since 1988* (2004). Any account of Blake's life is likely to be quietly drawn from *Blake Records*.

One of the most persuasive books about Blake since 1991 is E.P. Thompson's *Witness Against the Beast: William Blake and the Moral Law* (1993). It provides an

admirably deft and just argument about Blake's connection with the traditions of the antinomians, who opposed the authority of "The Beast" of reason in established church and state; Blake's "writings contain the purest, most lucid and most persuasive statements that issued from that tradition in any voice and at any time"; in particular, "the Muggletonian Church preserved a vocabulary of symbolism, a whole cluster of signs and images, which recur -- but in a new form and organisation, and in association with others -- in Blake's poetry and painting. ... of all the traditions

touched upon, I known of none which consistently transmits so large a cluster of Blakean symbols". 46

Two works persuasively tracing Blake's sources are Sheila Spector's "Glorious Incomprehensible": The Development of Blake's Kabbalistic Language (2001) and her "Wonders Divine": The Development of Blake's Kabbalistic Myth (2001). The subject-matter is wonderfully arcane and the argument dense, but the two volumes "add immeasurably to our understanding of Blake" (Behrendt).

Morton Paley, The Traveller in the Evening: The Last Works of William Blake (2003)

is a comprehensively scholarly work, illuminating on every page, deft with Blake's designs, a worthy continuation of a lifetime of criticism covering all Blake's literary works, with *Energy and Imagination:* A Study of the Development of Blake's Thought (1970) and *The Continuing City:* William Blake's *Jerusalem* (1983) [see below].

More and more frequently Blake is the focus of novels, including among the works recorded here those by Tracy Chevalier, Michael Dibdin, Beryl Kingston, Ray Faraday Nelson, and Janet Warner.

By far the most distinguished of them is by the Japanese Nobel Laureate Kenzaburo Oe. His *Rouse Up O Young Men of the New Age!* tr. John Nathan (2002; originally published in 1983 in Japanese) is an autobiographical novel about the fictional author's changing relationship with his severely

⁴⁶ GEB summary (see below). Thompson flirts with the idea that Blake's mother was a Muggletonian, but his evidence for this is flawed, and this conclusion is now largely dismissed.

handicapped son called Eeyore who is not "corrupted by Experience: in Eeyore, the power of innocence had been preserved". Blake's influence in the novel is pervasive and fundamental. The book- and chapter-titles are from Blake, and the fictional author says: "I have braided my life with my handicapped son and my thoughts occasioned by reading William Blake"; it is a "chronicle of William Blake superimposed on my life with my son".

ESSAYS ABOUT BLAKE

William Blake and His Circle records over 3,000 essays focusing on Blake. About a third of these appeared in collections of essays on Blake, including (2009) essays in Catalan (6), Finnish (8), French (15), Italian (10), Japanese (197), Polish (5), and Spanish (10) and reprints (161).

Of these collections of essays, the most impressive one technologically is *William Blake: The Painter at Work*, ed. **Joyce H. Townsend & Robin Hamlyn** (2003). This is a remarkably fine and original book dealing particularly with the constitution, use, and deterioration of Blake's pigments, the materials of the supports, and the framing of his pictures (no frame survives from Blake's time), with sections on the temperas and Large Colour Prints, and telling reproductions. Any study of the materials of Blake's art must consult, indeed depend upon, *The Painter at Work*.

Four essayists have made particularly important factual contributions to our understanding of Blake and his times.

Chronologically, the first of these is Robert N. Essick. His invaluable "Blake in the Marketplace" has been

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⁴⁷ Robert N. Essick, "Blake in the Marketplace" for 1978-2007, *Blake*, XIV-XLI

appearing since 1974, often carrying with it the first news of Blake discoveries and wonderful oddities. After many years brooding. he devised an admirably demonstration that the portrait of a man with commanding eyes which he owned not only represented William Blake but was painted by him as well. 48 And with Joseph Viscomi he produced overwhelming evidence that Blake's colour-prints were almost invariably printed with only one pass through the press rather than two passes, the second for the colours.⁴⁹ These are major achievements.

Keri Davies has been crucially important in laying out the sensational facts that Catherine and Thomas Armitage joined the Moravian Church in 1750, that Thomas and their son Thomas died in 1751, and that Catherine Armitage married James Blake in 1752 and became the mother of the poet.⁵⁰ Blake's Moravian context is likely to be central to all future discussions of his religious ideas.

^{(1980-2009),} growing from 18 pp. to 34.

Robert N. Essick, "A Self(?) Portrait of William Blake", *Blake*, XXXIX (2005-6), 126-139.

⁴⁹ Robert N. Essick & Joseph Viscomi, "An Enquiry into William Blake's Method of Color Printing", Blake, XXXV (2002), 74-103, and "Blake's Method of Color Printing: Some Responses and Further Observations", Blake, XXXVI (2002), 45-

⁵⁰ Keri Davies, "William Blake's Mother: A New Identification", *Blake*, XXXIII (1999), 36-50; with Marsha Keith Schuchard, "Recovering the Lost Moravian History of William Blake's Family", Blake, XXXVIII (2004), 36-43; Keri Davies, "The Lost Moravian History of William Blake's Family: Snapshots from an Archive", Literature Compass (2006); Keri Davies, "Jonathan Spilsbury and the Lost Moravian History of William Blake's Family", Blake, XL (2006-7), 100-109.

I examined the Moravian records in 1955 but did not then have the crucial clue that Blake's mother had previously married Thomas Armitage. The Blake connection with the Moravians was discovered by Marsha Keith Schuchard, but Keri Davies has put it into a reliable factual context.

Keri Davies has also set out the context of Rebekah Bliss, one of Blake's earliest patrons, who made astonishing collections of books and pictures.⁵¹

G.E. Bentley, Jr has performed a chore like Robert Essick's in the annual survey of Blake publications and discoveries. He has also published influential essays on the startling context of Blake's trial for sedition in 1804, on false imprints on the editions of Lavater's *Physiognomy* bearing plates by Blake, and on the connection, or rather the irrelevance, of the so-called "Sophocles Manuscript" with William Blake. But the most lastingly valuable of these essays are likely to be those on the economics and the materials of Illuminated Printing.

Joseph Viscomi continues to do some of the most valuable basic research on Blake's graphic works. His essays on the Butts family and their ownership of works by Blake

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Keri Davies, ""Mrs Bliss: a Blake Collector of 1794" in *Blake in the Nineties*, ed. Steve Clark & David Worrall (1999).

⁵² G.E. Bentley, Jr, "William Blake and His Circle" (1992 ff.), *Blake* (1994 ff).

⁵³ G.E. Bentley, Jr, "*Rex v. Blake:* Sussex Attitudes toward the Military and Blake's Trial for Sedition in 1804", *Huntington Library Quarterly*, LVI (1993), 83-89.

⁵⁴ G.E. Bentley, Jr, "The Physiognomy of Lavater's *Essays*: False Imprints, '1789' and '1792'", *Blake*, XXIX (1995), 16-23.

⁵⁵ G.E. Bentley, Jr, "The Journeyman and the Genius: James Parker and His Partner William Blake With a List of Parker's Engravings", *Studies in Bibliography*, XLIX (1996), 208-231.

⁵⁶ G.E. Bentley, Jr, "William Blake and the Sophocles Enigma", *Blake*, XXXI (1997), 65-71.

⁵⁷ G.E. Bentley, Jr, "[']What Is the Price of Experience?['] William Blake and the Economics of Illuminated Painting [i.e., Printing]", University of Toronto Quarterly, LXVIII (1999), 617-641, and "Blake's Heavy Metal: The History, Weight, Uses, Cost, and Makers of His Copper Plates", University of Toronto Quarterly, LXXVI (2007), 714-770.

have thrown floods of light on the provenance of works by Blake.⁵⁸ He has demonstrated the influence of graphic technology on Gilchrist's epoch-marking *Life of William Blake, "Pictor Ignotus"* (1863).⁵⁹ And, most importantly, he has shown, through extraordinarily detailed and persuasive examination of the physical characteristics of Blake's works in Illuminated Printing, the evolution of separate designs into some of Blake's greatest achievements, from *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell* to *The Song of Los* and the Large Colour Prints.⁶⁰

For a digital agnostic like myself, the most wonderful "virtual" book on Blake is *Digital Designs on Blake*, ed. Ron Broglio (2005). Its "MOO Space" and "MOOs in Blake's *Milton*" are irresistible invitations to frivolity.⁶¹

Scholars occasionally attempt linguistic ingenuity -- one thinks of Nelson Hilton and Sheila Spector -- but none has achieved the outrageous success of journalists -- yet. My favourite is "O Rose thou art chic", 62 which has the double advantage of being hauntingly familiar and outrageously irrelevant to its origin.

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⁵⁸ Joseph Viscomi, "William Blake's 'The Phoenix / to Mrs Butts' Redux", *Blake*, XXIX (1995), 12-15; "Blake in the Marketplace 1852: Thomas Butts, Jr and Other Unknown Nineteenth Century Blake Collectors", *Blake*, XXIX (1996), 40-68; "A 'Green House' for Butts? New Information on Thomas Butts, His Residences, and Family", *Blake*, XXI (1996), 4-21.

⁵⁹ Joseph Viscomi, "Blake after Blake: A Nation Discovers Genius", in *Blake,Nation and Empire*, ed. Clark & Worrall (2006).

⁶⁰ Joseph Viscomi, "The Evolution of *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell*", *Huntington Library Quarterly*, LVIII (1996), 281-344; "Blake's Virtual Designs and Reconstruction of *The Song of Los*", *Romanticism on the Net*, No. 41-42 (2006); "Blake's 'Annus Mirabilis': The Productions of 1795", *Blake*, XLI (2007), 52-83.

⁶¹ It's like Old McDonald's Farm, with "here a MOO, there a MOO, everywhere a MOO-MOO" – a cheap witticism debased to a footnote.

⁶² Marni Jackson, "O Rose thou art chic: A William Blake Web site prompts thoughts about the relationship between words and pictures," *Globe and Mail* [Toronto], 10 Feb 2001, p. D18.