KEN SANDERS RARE BOOKS E-LIST: WILLIAM BLAKE

(COVER ILLUSTRATION TAKEN FROM #9)

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An attractively produced collected edition in uniform format of all of Blake's Illuminated Books. These Illuminated Books reflect the heart of the British Romantic's artistic essence, exquisitely blending his masterworks of art and text. Blake had hoped that the Books would be widely circulated, but this did not happen, with some existing solely as unique copies, or if printed, only in very small numbers. The scarcity of the Illuminated books was noted early on and numerous attempts were made to reproduce them. The most complete and faithful of these reproductions was produced by Trianon Press for the William Blake Trust. However, due to the complexity and high costs of their reproduction, as well as the fact that they were produced in low numbers, the Blake Trust facsimiles have become scarce as well. Therefore, the Blake Trust, realizing that its goal of making the Books widely available had not come to fruition, initiated this Collected Edition. Here, William Blake's Illuminated Books are reproduced in high quality reproductions. The originals have been newly and thoroughly photographed, and the finest modern technology has been used to ensure that the plates are reproduced as faithfully as feasible. This lavish collection, rich in content, and beautiful to behold, also features notes and commentaries by leading Blake scholars.

A photographic facsimile and restoration of the pictorial details of William Blake's illuminated manuscript of the acclaimed epic prophecy *Vala* or *The Four Zoas*. In this book, the whole work is more accessible than it ever has been. Until this point, much of the manuscript had been erased and scribbled over, particularly where the drawings reflected what Blake termed "naked beauty displayed." As a result, critical interpretation of the designs, and in turn of the related text, had been speculative and partial. The publisher writes, "The present commentary, without offering a full and continuous reading of the work, calls attention to all the details that can be made out, supplementing the facsimile with tracings and sketches in which faint or hidden lines have been enhanced and restored through various methods, including infrared photography."
Black cloth over boards. The front hinge is just a tiny bit tender. In the illustrated dust jacket showing moderate rubbing and scratching to the surface. [54127] $30

*Part of The Clinamen Studies Series. This is the first comprehensive interpretation of the verbal portion of Blake's most complex long poetic prophecy The Four Zoas. This poem was never engraved or published in Blake's lifetime, remaining unfinished and heavily revised, however it is widely viewed as one of his greatest works. Here, Ault argues against the notion that the poem is basically incomplete and flawed, maintaining instead that the well-known difficulties in the text are typical characteristics of Blake's transformative narrative strategies.*

*In A Blake Bibliography* by G. E. Bentley, Jr., and Martin K. Nurmi, the authors write, "Unlike the preceding biographers of Blake, Gilchrist was moved by a passion for accuracy and by a love for his subject. He wrote [John] Linnell that 'The first virtue of Biography [sic] is entire veracity,' and that it was most important to collect materials about 'so remarkable & lovable a man: a man who attracts the more of my sympathy, the better I understand him. It is a fullness of detail which to Biography [sic] imparts life & reality.' Unfortunately, Gilchrist died suddenly in 1861, with the majority of the work written and several chapters in print. His widow Anne was determined that the book should be published as a monument to her husband's memory. Bentley and Nurmi point out, "Its effect was thunderous. Never has an important literary reputation been posthumously established so effectively, instantaneously, and forcefully. Enthusiastic reviews appeared in all the major journals, and at a length that hardly seems possible to our own day."

*In Bracher's study the metaphysical aspects of Blake's Milton assume a greater significance than they are typically granted in Blake criticism, which often gives priority to the psychological dimensions of the poem.*
6. Blake, William. **Songs of Innocence and of Experience**. New York and Paris: The Orion Press in association with The Trianon Press, 1967. Octavo [23.5 cm] Blue cloth over boards with the title in gilt on the backstrip. The backstrip is subtly faded and there is a previous owner's name on the front pastedown. In a slipcase with fading to the top edge and gentle rubbing and fraying at the extremities. [54167] **$25**

*A reproduction in the original size of Blake’s Illuminated Book Songs of Innocence and of Experience, with an introduction and commentary by Sir Geoffrey Keynes.*
7. Blake, William. *The Prophetic Writings of William Blake in Two Volumes (2 volumes).* Oxford: At the Clarendon Press, 1969. Reprint. 648; 361pp. Octavo [22 cm] Dark blue cloth over boards with gilt stamped titles on the backstrips and embossed designs on the front covers. The books are only very lightly shelf worn. In price-clipped dust jackets with a number of short closed and open tears along the edges and folds, a handful of small marks and stains, and gentle fading to the spines. The jacket of volume 2 is a bit more prominently stained. [54168] $50

Edited with a general introduction, glossarial index of symbols, commentary and appendices by D. J. Sloss and J. P. R. Wallis. From the dust jacket—"The features of the present edition, over and above its scholarly text, are an index of Blake's symbols in alphabetical order, with copious references to passages where they are employed and elucidations of their meaning and scope; a series of concise explanations of the drift of each of these poems, with full biographical details and notes of all that is known of the time and place of their composition; and last but not least, an extremely able general introduction, in which the writers range, at once critically and sympathetically, over the whole field of Blake's beliefs and speculations."

A volume by the well-known Blake scholar, presented as a companion volume to the color reproduction of the "Stirling" copy and the monochrome reproduction of the "Rinder" copy. G. E. Bentley describes this volume as a plate by plate commentary by Wicksteed, stating that "Wicksteed's commentary is a rather personal book, reflecting a lifetime of Blake study, and though it is often more subjective than it out to be, it contains a number of useful observations."

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