Sexy Blake

Also by Helen P. Bruder and Tristanne Connolly

BLAKE, GENDER AND CULTURE (ed. 2012)

QUEER BLAKE (ed. 2010)

Also by Helen P. Bruder

WOMEN READING WILLIAM BLAKE (ed. 2006)

WILLIAM BLAKE AND THE DAUGHTERS OF ALBION (1997)

Also by Tristanne Connolly

BLAKE 2.0 (ed. with Steve Clark and Jason Whittaker, 2012)

SPECTACULAR DEATH (ed. 2011)

LIBERATING MEDICINE, 1720–1835 (ed. with Steve Clark, 2009)

WILLIAM BLAKE AND THE BODY (2002)

Sexy Blake

Edited by

Helen P. Bruder

Independent scholar and researcher, UK

and

Tristanne Connolly

Associate Professor of English, St. Jerome's University, Canada

palgrave
macmillan

Introduction, selection and editorial matter © Helen P. Bruder and Tristanne Connolly 2013

Individual chapters © Contributors 2013

Softcover reprint of the hardcover 1st edition 2013 978-1-137-33283-7

All rights reserved. No reproduction, copy or transmission of this publication may be made without written permission.

No portion of this publication may be reproduced, copied or transmitted save with written permission or in accordance with the provisions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, or under the terms of any licence permitting limited copying issued by the Copyright Licensing Agency, Saffron House, 6–10 Kirby Street, London EC1N 8TS.

Any person who does any unauthorized act in relation to this publication may be liable to criminal prosecution and civil claims for damages.

The authors have asserted their rights to be identified as the authors of this work in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

First published 2013 by
PALGRAVE MACMILLAN

Palgrave Macmillan in the UK is an imprint of Macmillan Publishers Limited, registered in England, company number 785998, of Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 6XS.

Palgrave Macmillan in the US is a division of St Martin's Press LLC, 175 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10010.

Palgrave Macmillan is the global academic imprint of the above companies and has companies and representatives throughout the world.

Palgrave® and Macmillan® are registered trademarks in the United States, the United Kingdom, Europe and other countries.

ISBN 978-1-349-46192-9 ISBN 978-1-137-33284-4 (eBook)
DOI 10.1057/9781137332844

This book is printed on paper suitable for recycling and made from fully managed and sustained forest sources. Logging, pulping and manufacturing processes are expected to conform to the environmental regulations of the country of origin.

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

A catalog record for this book is available from the Library of Congress.

Contents

<i>List of Illustrations</i>	vii
<i>List of Abbreviations</i>	viii
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	ix
<i>Notes on the Contributors</i>	x

Introduction: 'Bring me my Arrows of desire': Sexy Blake in the Twenty-First Century <i>Helen P. Bruder and Tristanne Connolly</i>	1
---	---

I Violence and Dominance

1 Subjectivity, Mutuality and Masochism: Ahanian in <i>The Book of Ahanian</i> and <i>The Four Zoas</i> <i>Lucy Cogan</i>	21
2 Visions of the Love Triangle and Adulterous Birth in Blake's <i>The Four Zoas</i> <i>Ayako Wada</i>	35
3 Blood in Blake's Poetry of Gender Struggle <i>Yoko Ima-Izumi</i>	47
4 Ripped from Complacency: Violence and Feminist Moments in Blake <i>Michelle Leigh Gompf</i>	65

II Chastity, Redemption and Feminine Desire

5 In the 'Lilly of Havilah': Sapphism and Chastity in Blake's <i>Jerusalem</i> <i>Sean David Nelson</i>	83
6 'Abstinence sows sand all over': William Lost in Paradise <i>Magnus Ankarsjö</i>	99

7	'The Sight of All These Things': Sexual Vision and Obscurity in Blake's <i>Milton</i> <i>David Shakespeare</i>	113
8	Erotic Spirituality in Blake's <i>Last Judgement</i> <i>Susanne Sklar</i>	125
9	Blake's Bowers of Bliss: The <i>Gitagovinda</i> , <i>The Four Zoas</i> , and Two Illustrations for <i>L'Allegro</i> <i>Kathryn Sullivan Kruger</i>	141
III Conceptual Sex, Conceptual Art		
10	Hélyos and Ceylèn [A Poison Tree] <i>Tommy Mayberry</i>	161
11	The Hinges on the Doors of Marriage: The Body's Openness to Information in the Art of Stelarc and Blake <i>Paige Morgan</i>	177
12	The Sexual Life of Catherine B.: Women Novelists, Blake Scholars and Contemporary Fabulations of Catherine Blake <i>Angus Whitehead and Joel Gwynne</i>	193
13	Blake and Porn <i>Philippa Simpson</i>	211
IV Coda		
14	Normalizing Perversity: Blake and Homosexuality in 2013 <i>Christopher Z. Hobson</i>	221
15	Commemorating the Vere-street 'Monsters' <i>Christopher Z. Hobson</i>	235
	<i>Bibliography</i>	239
	<i>Index</i>	255

List of Illustrations

Cover	<i>Jerusalem</i> , plate 2, title page. Yale Center for British Art, Paul Mellon Collection	
1.1	William Blake, <i>VALA, or The Four Zoas</i> , MSS pg. 37, © The British Library Board, Add 39764, f.19	29
3.1	William Blake, <i>Jerusalem</i> , plate 25. Yale Center for British Art, Paul Mellon Collection	56
3.2	Drawings by Toyokazu Nomura, based on <i>Patriotism</i>	62
3.3	Drawings by Toyokazu Nomura, based on <i>Ponyo</i>	62
8.1	William Blake, <i>The Last Judgement</i> (1808), at Petworth House, West Sussex. 49008 © National Trust Images/John Hammond	126
9.1	<i>Mahdew and Purwutee</i> , <i>Asiatick Researches</i> v. 6, 1801. G.E. Bentley Jr. Collection, Victoria University Library (Toronto)	153
9.2	<i>The Door of the Temple of Junwassoe</i> , <i>Asiatick Researches</i> v. 6, 1801. G.E. Bentley Jr. Collection, Victoria University Library (Toronto)	155
10.1	<i>Ceylèn[1]</i> , 2010. Artist/Model: Tommy Mayberry, Photographic Artist: Tina Weltz, MPA, LPPO, Hair and Make-up Artist: Jessica Barber. Calla Studio. Digital image. Originally in colour	164
10.2	<i>Djaala/Torveeda/Khili[1]</i> , 2010. Artist/Model: Tommy Mayberry, Photographic Artist: Tina Weltz, MPA, LPPO, Hair and Make-up Artist: Jessica Barber. Calla Studio. Digital image. Originally in colour	165
10.3	<i>Hélyos[1]</i> , 2010. Artist/Model: Tommy Mayberry, Photographic Artist: Tina Weltz, MPA, LPPO, Hair and Make-up Artist: Jessica Barber. Calla Studio. Digital image. Originally in colour	166

List of Abbreviations

<i>Thel</i>	<i>The Book of Thel</i>
<i>Ah</i>	<i>The Book of Ahania</i>
<i>Am</i>	<i>America a Prophecy</i>
<i>BR</i>	Bentley, <i>Blake Records</i> , 2nd Edition
<i>BU</i>	<i>The Book of Urizen</i>
<i>E</i>	Erdman, <i>The Complete Poetry and Prose of William Blake</i>
<i>FZ</i>	<i>The Four Zoas</i>
<i>J</i>	<i>Jerusalem</i>
<i>M</i>	<i>Milton a Poem</i>
<i>MHH</i>	<i>The Marriage of Heaven and Hell</i>
<i>VDA</i>	<i>Visions of the Daughters of Albion</i>
<i>VLJ</i>	<i>A Vision of The Last Judgment</i>

All references to Blake's written words are taken from *The Complete Poetry and Prose of William Blake*, edited by David V. Erdman, and cited by plate and line numbers (where applicable) and page numbers indicated by E.

Unless otherwise specified, Blake's visual art (including the plates of the Illuminated Books) is referenced by title and, where applicable, plate number by Erdman's numbering. To view digital reproductions, please consult The William Blake Archive, at www.blakearchive.org.

Acknowledgements

'The thankful receiver bears a plentiful harvest' (*MHH* 9, E37). Thanks from HPB to Paula Booth and Sian Gaines for their liberality, to Chloe, Jonathan, Mark and Sara Butcher for blowing bubbles, to Jennie Cockram for all the tea and to Captain Green for all the pies. Gratitude too to my family and to the Chippy Massive for their love, encouragement and interest in the strange world of Blake – cheers Dad, Mum and Primolino Jane, cheers The Jhanie, Kezia and beloved Harriet.

TJC would like to thank St Jerome's University and the interdisciplinary research group, City Life and Well Being: The Grey Zone of Health and Illness, funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, for financial support and intellectual encouragement, especially in the fundamental beginnings of this book. Thanks also to Mum and Dad, and Cal and Gill, for loving supportiveness in my crazy-busy-ness, and to Ken for the same plus his own unique kindness and laughs. To Krista for close camaraderie across miles, and to Steve for his sense and sensibility. Much appreciation to my students for their bright enthusiasm: Blake it down!

Our gratitude to Palgrave, to the anonymous reader who spurred us on, and in particular to our editors, Sophie Ainscough and Ben Doyle, for their unfailing interest in and practical support of our work and all good Blakean endeavours.

Notes on the Contributors

Magnus Ankarsjö received his PhD in 2003 at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, with a thesis entitled 'Bring Me My Arrows of Desire: Gender Utopia in Blake's *The Four Zoas*'. This was later reworked as *Blake and Gender* (2006). He is also the author of *Blake and Religion* (2009). Currently Ankarsjö is working on an investigation of Swedenborgian connections to Scandinavia in Blake's time, tentatively called *Blake and Swedenborgian Swedes*. After teaching at the universities of Gothenburg and Borås, Sweden, he taught at various British universities. Between 2009 and 2012 he was a Visiting Fellow at the University of Buckingham, where he is now a lecturer.

Lucy Cogan is a lecturer in eighteenth-century literature at Queen's University Belfast. She has a forthcoming article on Blake and the figure of the prophetess, 'William Blake's *The Book of Los* and the Female Prophetic Tradition'. At present, she is working on a monograph that examines the interaction between ideas of language, authority and resistance in Blake's poetry of the mid-1790s, within the context of the political climate of the period.

Michelle Leigh Gompf is an Associate Professor of English in the Division of Languages and Literature at Concord University in Athens, West Virginia. Her book, *Thomas Harris and William Blake: Allusions in the Hannibal Lecter Novels*, will be published in late 2013.

Joel Gwynne is Assistant Professor of English at the National Institute of Education, Singapore, where he teaches courses on contemporary literature and feminism. His essays have appeared in several journals of gender and postcolonial studies. He is the author of *The Secular Visionaries: Aestheticism and New Zealand Short Fiction in the Twentieth Century* (2010) and *Erotic Memoirs and Postfeminism: The Politics of Pleasure* (2013), and co-editor of *Sexuality and Contemporary Literature* (2012) and *Postfeminism and Contemporary Hollywood Cinema* (2013).

Christopher Z. Hobson is Professor of English at State University of New York, College at Old Westbury. He is the author of *Blake and Homosexuality* (2000) as well as *The Chained Boy: Orc and Blake's Idea of Revolution* and other essays on Blake. He is co-editor with Jackie DiSalvo and G.A. Rosso of *Blake, Politics, and History* (1998). He has also pub-

lished on African American literature and culture, most recently *The Mount of Vision: African American Prophetic Tradition, 1800–1950* (2012).

Yoko Ima-Izumi is Professor of Film and Literature at the Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Tsukuba, Japan. Books include *Blake's Re-vision of the Female in His Composite Art* (2001), *Film Syntax: Shot Analysis of Japanese Film* (2004), and *The Transformation of the Female Citizens in Japanese Film* (2008). Articles have appeared in the following collections: *Voyages of Conception: Essays in English Romanticism* (2006), *The Reception of Blake in the Orient* (2006) and *Women Reading William Blake* (2007).

Kathryn Sullivan Kruger is an adjunct professor at Benedictine University in Lisle, Illinois. She is the author of *Weaving the Word: The Metaphorics of Weaving and Female Textual Production* (2001) along with essays on Blake. She authored 'Clues and Cloth: Seeking Ourselves in "The Fabric of Myth"' that appeared in the Compton Verney exhibition catalogue (Warwickshire, UK) for *The Fabric of Myth*, 21 June–7 September 2008. Her chapbook *Solstice* won the 2001 award from Poetic Matrix Chapbook Series (Yosemite, California), followed by *Tryst* in 2009. Recently, Tales & Legends of the World has published her children's story, *The Girl, the Garden, and the Grimm*, fully illustrated for IBook (2013).

Tommy Mayberry is a PhD candidate in English Language and Literature at the University of Waterloo. He holds a Joint Honours BA in English Literature and Fine Arts: Studio, with Dean's Honours, from the University of Waterloo and an MA in English and Cultural Studies from McMaster University. He has been the recipient of two Ontario Graduate Scholarships, and his doctoral work focuses transhistorically on drag (queen/king) culture as he mixes clothing, wigs, and make-up with his academic writing to embody his research.

Paige Morgan is a PhD student in English and Textual Studies at the University of Washington. She works on the relationship between eighteenth- and nineteenth-century poetry and economics, and the digital humanities. She is a Trustee of the Blake Society.

Sean David Nelson received his BA in English and Art History at the University of Southern California in 2009, and is currently a PhD student at the University of California, Irvine. His major research interests are Romantic poetry, politics and political theory, and the law.

David Shakespeare is a PhD candidate in the Department of English at the University of Waterloo. His dissertation explores the discourse of marriage across the genres of British Romanticism.

Philippa Simpson is Touring Exhibitions Manager for Royal Museums Greenwich, and was previously William Blake Curator at Tate. Her PhD explored the impact of Old Master painting on the British art market during the French War period. She has co-curated a number of exhibitions, including 'Turner and the Masters' (2009) and 'Blake and British Visionary Art' (2011) and is currently working on a major new show, 'Waterloo: the Spectacle of War' (2015).

Susanne Sklar is a member of the Cumnor Fellowship, Oxford, lecturing in Theology and English at the University, where she received her DPhil in 2007. She is also a part-time assistant professor in English and Great Ideas at Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin. She has taught and carried out peace research in Russia, China, and Sweden, with the help of Fulbright and MacArthur grants. Her book, *Blake's Jerusalem As Visionary Theatre* was published by Oxford University Press last year.

Ayako Wada is Associate Professor of English at Tottori University. Her publications include 'Blake's Oriental Heterodoxy: Yanagi's Perception of Blake' in *The Reception of Blake in the Orient* edited by Steve Clark and Masashi Suzuki (2006), 'Production of Blake's America and Europe Revisited' in *A Firm Perswasion: Essays in British Romanticism* edited by Hatsuko Niimi and Masashi Suzuki (2011), and 'Turning the Pages: Blake's Notebook and its Digital Transformation' in *Digital Romanticisms*, a special issue of *Poetica* edited by Steve Clark and Tristanne Connolly (2013).

Angus Whitehead is an Assistant Professor in Literature in English at the National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University. He has published a number of papers on Blake, and is co-editor with Mark Crosby and Troy Patenaude of *Re-envisioning Blake* (2012). He is currently completing a book-length microbiographical study of William and Catherine Blake's residence at 17 South Molton Street. He has also published a number of papers, reviews and interviews related to writing in Singapore and is currently editing collections of short stories by Arthur Yap and local trade unionist and journalist, Gregory Nalpon (1938–1978), the latter to be published in August 2013.