

Yale University Library
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Guide to the William Blake Collection

GEN MSS 914



by Beinecke Staff

2012

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

CALL NUMBER: GEN MSS 914

CREATOR: Blake, William, 1757-1827

TITLE: William Blake collection

DATES: 1780-1957

BULK DATES: 1780-1834

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.21 linear feet (1 box)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The collection consists of documents, correspondence, and drawings by the English artist William Blake and his colleague John Linnell. Included are business and financial documents covering the relationship between Blake and Linnell, a letter from Blake to Linnell, two drawings by Blake, and a portrait of Blake by Linnell. The items were acquired by the library between 1941 and 1973.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.blake>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.blake>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The collection of documents was acquired by gift and purchase from various sources between 1941 and 1973. Source information is recorded at the folder level in the contents list. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The William Blake Collection is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

William Blake Collection. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

Processing Information

This finding aid was produced from previously existing cards in the Manuscripts Catalog. All pertinent bibliographical information has been retained.

Former call number: MS Vault Shelves Blake

Existence and Location of Copies

The entire collection is available in digital form.

William Blake (1757-1827)

English artist and poet.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of documents, correspondence, and drawings by the English artist William Blake and his colleague John Linnell. Included are business and financial documents covering the relationship between Blake and Linnell, a letter from Blake to Linnell, two drawings by Blake, and a portrait of Blake by Linnell. The items were acquired by the library between 1941 and 1973.

Arrangement

Organized into two series: I. Documents Related to the *Book of Job*, 1819-1941. II. Other Papers, 1780-1957.

Collection Contents

Series I: Documents Related to the *Book of Job* , 1819-1941

6 Folders

The series consists of a group of papers documenting the financial and business relationship of William Blake and John Linnell. The items are fully described in "New Blake Documents" by Geoffrey Keynes (*Times Literary Supplement*, January 9, 1943) and in *Blake Studies: Notes on His Life and Work, in Seventeen Chapters*, by Geoffrey Keynes (London, R. Hart-Davis, 1949).

Gift of Otis T. Bradley (Yale 1915), 1941.

b. 1, f. 1	Typed inventory and description of documents	circa 1941
b. 1, f. 2	Manuscript memorandum of agreement between John Linnell and William Blake, written by Linnell and signed by Blake	1823 Mar 25
b. 1, f. 3	"Subscribers & Purchasers of the Book of Illustrations of the History of Job Designed & Engraved by William Blake" Two small autograph manuscript account books pasted together, containing approximately 10 pages of notes by Blake, with some later entries in another hand	1823-1834
b. 1, f. 4	Accounts of money paid to William Blake by John Linnell Four autograph manuscript pages (on three leaves) of accounts paid for "The Portrait of Mr Lowry," "sketches of subjects from Dante," "drawings of Paradise regained," and "on account of Job"	1823-1825
b. 1, f. 5	Receipts for money paid to William Blake by John Linnell Ten autograph manuscript receipts signed by William Blake and one signed by Frederick Tatham for Blake, which span the relationship of Blake and Linnell. The receipts are regarding help with Mr. Upton's portrait, and for <i>Songs of Innocence and Experience</i> , <i>Jerusalem</i> , <i>Heaven and Hell</i> , <i>The Book of Job</i> , and other accounts	1819-1826
b. 1, f. 6	Bespoke leather case by Riviere and Son that formerly held the Bradley documents	undated

Series II: Other Papers, 1780-1957

5 Folders

The series consists of two letters and three drawings.

b. 1, f. 7	Autograph manuscript letter, signed, from William Blake to an unidentified recipient	undated
	Gift of Julia Millhiser Gimbel, 1973.	
	Published in "A Blake Letter Found," by G. E. Bentley, Jr., in <i>Yale University Library Gazette</i> 68, no. ½ (October 1993): 60-64.	
b. 1, f. 8	Autograph manuscript letter, signed, from William Blake to John Linnell	undated
	Purchased from Alfred W. Van Sinderen (Yale 1945) on the Chauncey Brewster Tinker Fund, 1965.	
	Formerly laid in <i>Blake's Songs of Innocence</i> , copy Q; see Keynes and Wolf, <i>William Blake's Illuminated Books</i> (New York, 1953), 16-17.	
b. 1, f. 9	Drawing, "The Keys of Calais," by William Blake; watercolor and ink on paper	circa 1780, 1957
	Gift of Robert J. Barry in memory of Louis M. Rabinowitz, 1957.	
	Drawing 12.5 x 18 cm. mounted on a card 35 x 39 cm. Accompanied by typed description and exhibition history prepared by C. A. Stonehill, Inc.	
b. 1, f. 10	Drawing, "Timon," by William Blake and John Linnell; watercolor, ink, and graphite on paper	circa 1798
	Gift of Alfred W. Van Sinderen (Yale 1945), 1965.	
	Drawing measures 11.5 x 13.5 cm. Formerly laid in <i>Blake's Songs of Innocence</i> , copy Q; see Keynes and Wolf, <i>William Blake's Illuminated Books</i> (New York, 1953), 16.	
	Martin Butlin (Tate Gallery) examined the drawing on June 6, 1966, and said that it is "possibly a working over, by Linnell, of a pencil and wash drawing by Blake." Butlin identified the inscriptions on the drawing, "Timon" and "By Wm Blake," as Linnell's handwriting.	
b. 1, f. 11	Profile portrait of William Blake, by John Linnell; ink on paper, signed.	undated
	Purchased from Alfred W. Van Sinderen (Yale 1945) on the Chauncey Brewster Tinker Fund, 1965.	
	Drawing measures 16.5 x 11.5 cm. Formerly laid in <i>Blake's Songs of Innocence</i> , copy Q; see Keynes and Wolf, <i>William Blake's Illuminated Books</i> (New York, 1953), 16-17.	

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Artists -- Great Britain -- 18th century
Artists -- Great Britain -- 19th century

Genres / Formats

Account books -- England -- 19th century
Drawings (visual works) -- England -- 18th century
Watercolors (paintings) -- England -- 18th century

Occupations

Artists -- Great Britain -- 18th century
Artists -- Great Britain -- 19th century

Names

Blake, William, 1757-1827
Linnell, John, 1792-1882