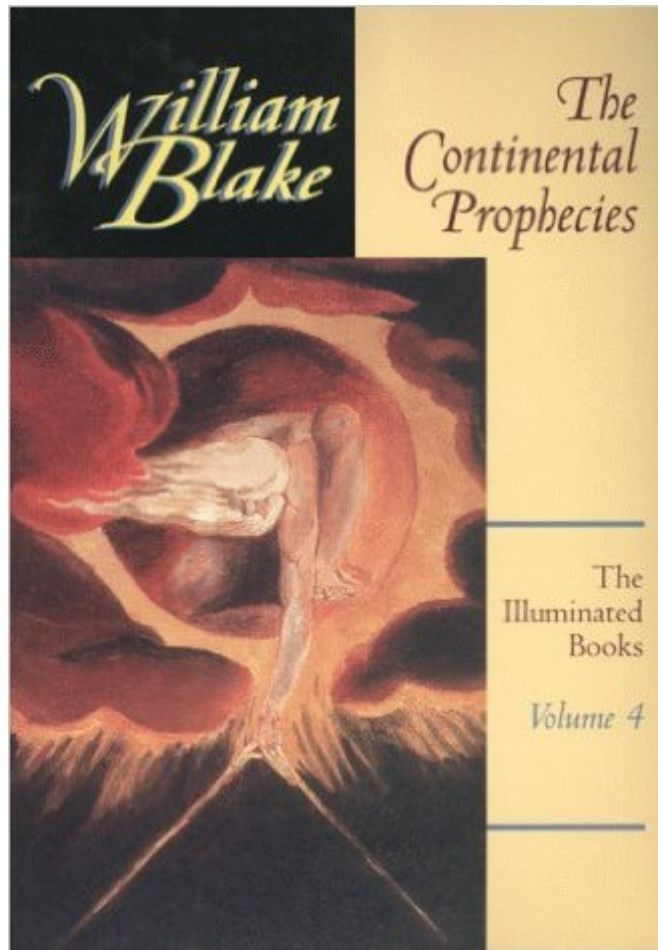


The book was found

The Continental Prophecies (The Illuminated Books Of William Blake, Volume 4)



Synopsis

The last volumes in the series of William Blake's Illuminated Books reveal the writer and artist as a prophet driven by a sense of apocalyptic urgency. Blake conceived and executed *The Continental Prophecies* and *The Urizen Books* in the early 1790s, capturing the intellectual and spiritual turmoil of the American and French revolutions. Here, for the first time, the general reader will encounter Blake's most intense vision in reproductions that do justice to the originals, accompanied by texts, comprehensive notes and commentaries, and detailed interpretations of the designs. *The Continental Prophecies*, which comprises "America," "Europe," and "The Song of Los," presents Blake's critical reckoning with the history of his own times. Marked by a particularly close integration of word and image, the books form a mythical plot from historical events and criticize the intricate structure of social oppression that the author attributes to organized state religion. Each of the three books attempts to point a way toward the process of millennial liberation. These volumes complete the six-part series of William Blake's Illuminated Books, including *Jerusalem*, *Songs of Innocence and of Experience* (now available in paperback), *The Early Illuminated Books*, and *Milton, A Poem*, all published by Princeton University Press.

Book Information

Series: Blake (Book 4)

Paperback: 368 pages

Publisher: Princeton University Press (September 4, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0691001456

ISBN-13: 978-0691001456

Product Dimensions: 11.7 x 8.2 x 0.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.9 pounds

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #2,543,802 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #93 in [Books > Arts &](#)

[Photography > Other Media > Illuminations](#) #685 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Graphic](#)

[Design > Commercial > Book Design](#) #3542 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism](#)

[> Genres & Styles > Poetry](#)

Customer Reviews

Blake's work must be read in reproduction. An engraver by trade, Blake revolutionized book production with his "infernal method" of engraved illumination, hand-crafting each book. In the

Continental Prophecies, Blake revolutionizes historiography; America's retelling of the American Revolution, for instance, juxtaposes Washington and Paine with Orc and Urizen, fact with myth, to produce something that powerfully transcends the dull round of history. The accompanying illuminations cannot be omitted-- they do not simply illustrate the text, but ILLUMINATE it, supplementing and counter-pointing. And Blake's art is awesome. The Blake Trust's series is superb, conveniently transcribing the handwritten text of the engraved text on the adjacent page, offering important visual variations between versions of the book, and amply providing comprehensive glosses (in separate sections, both interpretative and contextual) on each plate/page visually and textually. It is expensive to buy the entire series, but one MUST have Blake's illuminations, and Blake is an author for whom one needs all the notes one can get (Blake's allusions are extremely complex, so one must at least recognize them on the most basic level). One cannot say enough about the the visions of Blake presented in these books, but this is too much; you must SEE.

This wonderful volume contains what are referred to as Blake's Continental Prophecies. They are: "America", "Europe", and "The Song of Los". The last has two sections called "Africa" and "Asia" and is by far the shortest. They are all beautifully illustrated and the first plate in "Europe" is probably the most famous image from Blake's illuminated works - the bearded white man kneeling and reaching down out of the sun with the measuring compass. "The Song of Los" is also full of beautifully colored images. The "America" plates are monochrome although a couple of colored plates are shown in the supplementary plates. Since "America" has 18 plates and "Europe" 17 and "Los" 8, it follows that most of the volume's 367 pages are filled with commentary, notes, and supplementary material. This helps a lot because these prophecies are part of Blake's rather opaque personal mythology. Scholars have filled shelves with conjecture about what it all means and they do have some good notions, but it is tough sledding without the background material to ease the way. This is a great edition and will be a treasure on the bookshelf of all who love the works of William Blake.

I recommend that any fan of William Blake buy this volume and the other 5 in the series. The books are beautiful, large, and handsomely bound. Each book is reproduced in full color, using a six-color printing process rather than the standard four. The pages are heavy, opaque and have a gorgeous lustre indicating very high quality paper. The text of each book accompanies the color reproductions in standard typeface with very competent commentary to boot. A must have!

Excellent

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Continental Prophecies (The Illuminated Books of William Blake, Volume 4) The Early Illuminated Books (The Illuminated Books of William Blake, Volume 3) Milton, A Poem (The Illuminated Books of William Blake, Volume 5) The Great Poets: William Blake Artificial Intelligence Illuminated (Jones and Bartlett Illuminated) The Laughing Corpse: Anita Blake, Vampire Hunter, Book 2 Blue Moon (Anita Blake, Vampire Hunter) Crimson Death: Anita Blake, Vampire Hunter, Book 25 Zero to One: Notes on Startups, or How to Build the Future by Peter Thiel, Blake Masters: Book Summary William Shakespeare's Tragedy of the Sith's Revenge: Star Wars Part the Third (William Shakespeare's Star Wars) William Shakespeare's The Clone Army Attacketh: Star Wars Part the Second (William Shakespeare's Star Wars) Stella Adler on America's Master Playwrights: Eugene O'Neill, Thornton Wilder, Clifford Odets, William Saroyan, Tennessee Williams, William Inge, Arthur Miller, Edward Albee Continental Infantryman of the American Revolution (Warrior) The Shaping of America: A Geographical Perspective on 500 Years of History, Vol. 2: Continental America, 1800-1867 (Paperback) Analytic versus Continental: Arguments on the Methods and Value of Philosophy The Metamorphosis of Finitude: An Essay on Birth and Resurrection (Perspectives in Continental Philosophy (FUP)) Ponderings II-VI: Black Notebooks 1931-1938 (Studies in Continental Thought) Philosophical Investigations into the Essence of Human Freedom (Sunny Series in Contemporary Continental Philosophy) Flesh of Images, The: Merleau-Ponty between Painting and Cinema (SUNY series in Contemporary Continental Philosophy) The North American Idea: A Vision of a Continental Future

[Dmca](#)