

Contents

Acknowledgements	5
1 William Blake – A Missing Piece in the Ecocritical Debate?	11
2 Positioning Blake Within Ecocritical Discourse ...	21
2.1 The Emergence and Development of Ecocriticism as a Mode of Literary Criticism	21
2.1.1 Ecocritical Reading: Reintegrating »Human« into »Nature«	21
2.1.2 Towards a more Dynamic Cosmos: Romanticism from an Ecocritical Perspective	26
2.2 New Horizons in Ecocriticism	32
2.3 Humankind's »Other«: Literary Animal Studies and Animals in Romantic Literature	38
2.3.1 Animal Studies and Ecocriticism	39
2.3.2 Species Discourse in the Romantic Period: The Inconvenient Truths of Enlightenment Science	40
2.3.3 »The question is not, can they reason? Nor, Can they talk, but Can they suffer?«: Towards the Protection of Animals	44
2.4 Manifestations of Societal Change: Animals in Romantic Poetry and Prose	47

2.4.1	»[F]antasies of a missing link?«: Narratives of Feral Children	52
2.5	William Blake's Understanding of the Nonhuman World	58
2.5.1	»Where Man is not, Nature is Barren«: Competing Arguments	59
2.5.2	»Everything that lives is holy«: Blake's Holistic Cosmos . .	63
2.5.3	Eco-Fascism: The Dangers of Over-Identification	69
2.5.4	»Unsettling Insight[s] into Nature's Otherness«: Shifting Notions of the Sublime, »Becoming-Animal«, and Blake's »Corporeal Knowledge«	72
3	Blake's Nonhuman Animals	83
3.1	The Visual and Verbal Presence of the Nonhuman in Blake's <i>Songs of Innocence and Experience</i>	83
3.1.1	Children, Outcasts, and Animals Dictating the Verse	84
3.1.2	An Art »to Overcome Dualities«: Blake's <i>SoIE</i> as Composite Art	86
3.1.3	Envisioning Innocence and Experience: Blake's Contrary States of the Human Soul	91
3.2	»Lost« and »Found«: Towards a Pre-Lapsarian Harmony? . .	94
3.2.1	Earlier Critical Voices on the Lyca Poems	102
3.2.2	Lyca's Becoming-Animal as an Innovative Outcome of the Sublime	106
3.2.3	Lyca as a Feral Child	109
3.3	Crossing Species Boundaries in <i>Songs of Innocence and Experience</i>	113
3.4	»Art thou but a Worm?«: Blake's Other Animals and the Dangers of Human Representation	123

4	Holism versus Dualism: Blake's Nature Philosophy in Today's Ecocritical Debate	131
5	Works Cited	139
6	Appendix	151