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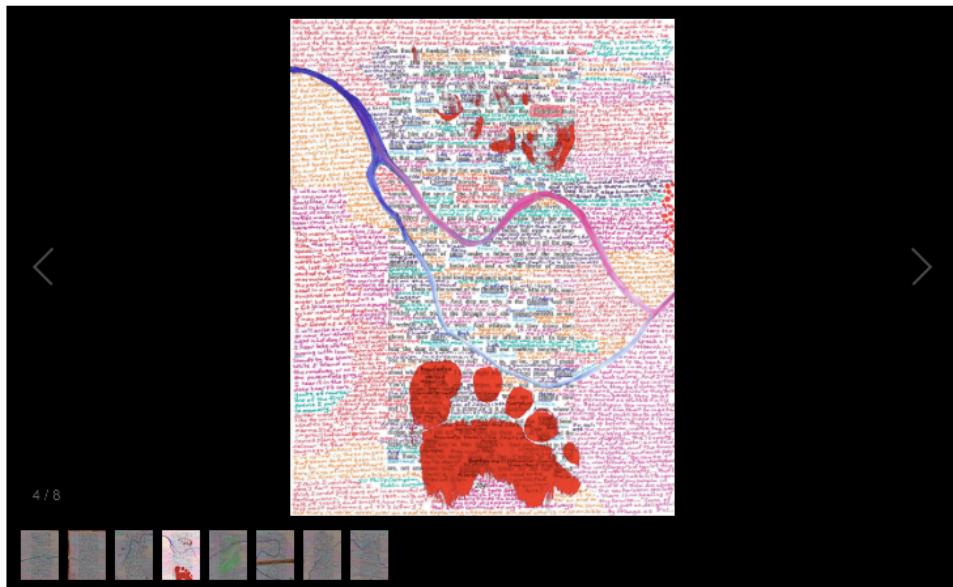


CULTURAL CROSS SECTIONS

Come into the Pictures: James Joyce, Illustrated

July 12, 2017

by Peter O'Brien



In *Finnegans Wake*, James Joyce invites us to “come into the pictures” (243.1). I’ve decided to play with his words by annotating / illustrating / disrupting the 628 pages of the book, a six-year project I call “Lots of Fun with Finnegans Wake.”

Each of us confronts this fantastical text in our own way. In all its linguistic, meandering richness, *Finnegans Wake* is commodious enough to accommodate a multitude of such confrontations, perhaps a limitless number of them.

The project is also a way for me to connect my twinning interests of the visual and the verbal, the intellectual and the illustrative.

This portfolio for *World Literature Today* is pages 201–208, from the “Anna Livia” chapter.

Welcome to the pictures.

New York / Dublin / Toronto

[Finnegans Wake](#) [James Joyce](#) [Illustration](#) [Peter O'Brien](#) [Gallery](#)

Peter O'Brien has published five books, including *Introduction to Literature: British, American, Canadian* (Harper & Row) and *Cleopatra at the Breakfast Table: Why I Studied Latin with My Teenager and How I Discovered the Daughterland* (Quattro). He attended Notre Dame (BA), McGill (MA), and the Banff School of Fine Arts. His writings on art and literature have appeared in *The Globe and Mail*, *Montreal Gazette*, and *Journal of Canadian Art History*, among others.

The image shows a single page of a handwritten manuscript. The text is written in a variety of colors (black, blue, red, green, yellow) and styles, creating a dense and layered visual effect. The handwriting is cursive and somewhat illegible at times, with many corrections and additions made throughout. The content seems to be a mix of different languages or dialects, possibly including English, French, and Latin, though no single sentence is clearly readable. The overall impression is one of a personal, unstructured document, perhaps a diary or a collection of thoughts and fragments.

lyre, / That regnest ay in thre and two, and oon, / Uncircumscrip, and al maist circumscriue, / us from
visible and invisible toon Defende, and to thy mercy, everthon, / So make us, Jesus, for thi meay digne,
For love of mayde and moder thybenigne." Begun on previous page, the ending of Troilus and Cress
the more the merrier

more and merrier, twills and trills, sparefours and spoilfives, nord-
2...3...4...5...6...7...8...9 dat willinger twins Da. trillinger triplets sportive: a ucer. I am pleased to

each pair of numbers Nord sihkes and sudsevers and ayes and neins, to a litter. Grandfarthing
has the opposite built I nap: a card game Missouri Yes — No litter: wasteforthing nap: here, as I am pleased,

into it: will hasthe Sud nap and Messamisery and the knave of all knaves and the joker. — a card game to see Lucan referenced

sense of a directional Napoleon U.: It messa: Mass Knav: the spring Grandfather to love about that crazed

mindset and will is a small meandering stream; spae the bray must and sure show less Good She had a lover of the spectac-

and spoil; and then Nt S: and of an ass moist Shoal wanderer God few muscular and the breathless:

Yes and No, don't we all like must, more than most, Shoal she was, gidge. She had a flewmenn,

to brag at, or lament, the number own Gratherton: N. S. Dan Gid Gud! "at a single moment all

of lovers we've had; or to Owen death Tote: Nore egad! "the world is ours to use"

marvel at, or chastise, agape New Zealand Switzerland Colombia how came she animal Civil War Book 7, 362.

criticize other? wide open Camlin Cr. 20e my, sas agapo: my life, I

for the number of lovers that's agapo! Tell me, tell me, how cam she camlin through all Ireland Maid of Athens, by Byron Bellini:

that others have had? I love you Neckar tease England Dive

swain; young lover, Suitor her fellows, the Neckar she was, the diveine? Casting her perils "Casta Diva" from Norma

Mathew 7:6 "Give not that which is swines Font mount Divaline: name for Dublin used by people

holy unto the dogs, neither before our swains from Fonte-in-Monte to Tidington and from Fingal, north of

cast ye your pearls before swine, lest Da. til havet: It. forte in mont: the spring The Themes Dublin

they trample them under to the sea Link on the mountain is tied to Teddington

their feet, and turn again flank: side until have it" H. - Paul and Peter I could not find a Pictor (in

and rend you." She does Tap: body until heaven Oregon Juteipull, PAL fall: n. Pieter River but I did and

cast a wide net) (linking, taping a flank and tipping a jutty and palling in and pietaring

knocking, tapping, flanking, India Sliding tip toeing Brazil Jetty Petering out differences in a document

tipping, jutting, peeling, falling out and clyding by on her eastway. Waihou was the first thur-

Sliding: all perfectly appropriate Nunavut he > the estuary Huebra New Zealand Who? Switzerland (Who was the first to burst

Synonyms for her volum- ever burst? Someone he was, whuebra they were, in a tactic attack

ious and fertile activitie One man Spain Tinker, tailor, Soldier, sailor, rich man,

This is one of the best, silliest, and most delig- Tilar Spain Sauldré Saler Pieman Peace eternal multiplicity Hieft

htful literary allusions, with a policeman thinkers, PLA Polista: llers, soundruts, Tilia France Spain Tasseron: within individual

ever. Talk of dispensing with her virginity, Coleridge is invoked! "We were the first, that ever burst into that sil- Russia Vardar, come indeed... always wan New Zealand/Australia: a St. for the fool, a

A quicksterere Joan of Arc to the rainbow girls or the leap- year girls, who are describ- Doubts Doubt Ser. niemand: Boddy Greece L. nini: nothing a daff and change some

Doubt arises like Niemann from Nirgends found the Nihil. Worry ed by Kim Fordham as Doubt

"the female flip side of France/Switzerland for alberni: you sighn fo, Albern, O Anser? Untie the gemman's fistknots

the people, and are Joyce's portrait of femininity en masse, or rather his Qvic and Nuancee! She can't put her hand on him for the mo-

ironized picture of certain px- Nuancet, L. anser: goose knots mak great abuse. On of considerable size

tures of this. To Loli, China nuancee Africa an' croose; when the best work-lune: the house, / By Cart-

Humbert Humbert watching Nabokov Tsu Thelon low Langlo wear Loon Webash rap wit/ Is instant mage

a highschool baller and realizing that it is back to! She sid herself she hardly knows whalon the annals

modelled on the rainbow back to! Huon when on mystic knots says McHugh,

girls in II. 1 of Fimegan's bale... g' vellerly herself, "no wolf Tasmania's entanglements in bride's night-

So they represent, again, another her guveller w's, a dynast of Leinster, a wolf of the sea, or what

kind of multiplicity, but more harmonious, ceremonious, and less aggressive than 'the twelve'. Jutu PLA (she) sawdwing #2 love and affection, is used here as a way to

Qvic: h quod vide, "which seen he did or how she played or how, when, why, where and

used often to reference material have been mentioned elsewhere in the who Jump Junna some one else indicated her and what natural inclinations.

text. (Another name for this book son he jumped her and, how it was gave her away, She happens to maybe that is why

could have been "q.v.") AS get us. India Nathaniel Hasephorne, "The a woman once she can't put her

Closer to these words, I was just a young hin pale soft shy slim slip of a thing then, Marble Fair". She was a "she has been jumped on him

realize I am disregarding er forest moonlake and he was a heavy trudging

forgeting or, ignorin so much- here the ohn river lay a silver broad moonlight

in Ghad → this happens otto lurching lieabroa

the curragh of Kilaloe, an make now whi

Irish racecourse Sun the sun shines sun to shine on sun moon above 4.5 sun here

"forstfell foss" invokes for me the "furrow followed free" from our Cole ridge poem

used to rustle t from the Adam and Eve story, part of the Sathair na forest fell Fog kann, a collection of medieval for, forstfell foss

Irish poems: for a week Wales Neath beneath neath the grou

"The critical moment from Eden, Tigris tiger's eye! O haj

for this whole business without fire, horribly wrong! Eves request, ages

is art food - at Corrib wrong corribly wrong!

Gaius Cornelius seek food but only was ages behind

according to Livy, finds herbs - Adam prop-

est told by Plutarch oses to Eve to do pen-

ance, to adore god in sil-

Tigris for 30 days, Adam in the Jordan for

47 days - with water up to their necks, Eves hair dishevelled, and

with her eyes directed to heaven in silent prayer for forgiveness, pardon is granted, the stream ceases, flood returns,

The image is a dense, abstract artwork composed of a variety of handwritten texts in different colors (purple, blue, green, red) and a large, stylized heart outline. The text is written in a cursive or script-like font and appears to be from a book or document. The red ink splatters are prominent at the bottom of the heart, creating a textured, layered base. The overall composition is organic and expressive, with the text appearing as if it's growing out of the heart.



your time now. Breathe then deep. Thouat's the
take your time and lead
Sex your time Scheldt Ger. Enfant Lyndus France er your energies to speed up
Slow down, in order to gather
again "Tongue your time"; I
give us your can't help laughing at
the multiple meanings
of Downton over swirling around in that
Australia blessing over ever delightfully simple phrase.
River. A sort of purification is Ash more haste less speed canon
happening throughout these Minnesota Ki Polipoli: slowly Minnesota slow/Continue Ireland her
words. And what is in need more. And pooley pooley. And sometimes JJ still sends me wandering among words.
of cleaning? All of the parts of the body where excretion and sex take place: all those grooves and
islands, up and down, in- Teviot devious curls
Panurged Gr. gala: milk intercessor
is finally (upper and lower) Side and out places of the body
able to say St. keel: back Side Gaul Scotland Soul South America Grease up her wedge; hence pool hole a hole
what he has from the grand wanted to say to the earthy tentacle: time and the leath war the for wear no man Mole Ira Itchen cust quincunx: knows whether JJ knew
all along: "I feel butterscotch scat: animal dropping England Australia Serpentine time Leaf in a cross, thustly: but it is certainly
an urgent necessity to feed... In Heaven's name, order me some food. Usher's Islands, Dublin PLA Prunelli Isle Esla Dundown Quebec/Mississippi 2 hands not far from
name, order me some food. Of course, all of this is in my ushers round prunella isles and eslays dun, quincecunct, all over 2 feet and the possible.
English translation, by J.M. Cohen. There are many other connecti- her little girl Peeld gold of waxwork her jellybelly and her playful sing-song repetition in
ons between Rabelais and Joyce, including their affection for the scatalogical, their tour- Mary Street, Dublin St. little Mary: tummy quite a provocative, evocative, fragrant, sensuous earthly picture of Alp,
their mutual desire to stuff as much as they can into their respective, extravagant contradictory, gargantuan books. "Rabelais' naked washing her self: the land scape other body
plays with words as children do with pebbles; he piles them into heaps, and the says Anatole France. "He was a man... intoxicated by every sort of learning and the eory, who had... the earthy common sense of a peasant," says J.M. Cohen.

