

James Joyce's *Ulysses*

episodes 1-3:
"Telemachus"
"Nestor"
"Proteus"

English 4520F
September 30, 2013

James Joyce from 1914 to 1922

since 1905: in Trieste (Italian city in Austria)
1914: *Dubliners* published, *Portrait* finished (*Egoist* 1914-15, book 1916), starts *Ulysses*
1914-18: World War I
1914-15: writes play *Exiles* (performed 1918)
1915-22: writes *Ulysses* (*Little Review* 1918-20 until court case stops it)
1915-18: in Zurich, Switzerland
1916: Easter Rising in Dublin
1918: return to Trieste (part of Italy)
1919: Irish War of Independence begins (to 1922)
1920: to Paris
1922: published Feb. 2, 1922, Joyce's 40th birthday

Joyce's schema for *Ulysses* (Fall 1921)

TITLE	SCENE	HR.	ORGAN	ART	COLOUR
I Telemachus					
II Odysseus					
III Nestor					

columns: Title, Scene, Hour, Organ, Art, Colour,
+ Symbol, Technic, Correspondences

The Odyssey

"Mr. Joyce's parallel use of the *Odyssey* has a great importance. It has the importance of a scientific discovery. . . . In manipulating a continuous parallel between contemporaneity and antiquity, Mr. Joyce is pursuing a method which others must pursue after him. . . . It is simply a way of controlling, of ordering, of giving a shape and a significance to the immense panorama of futility and anarchy which is contemporary history." T.S. Eliot in 1923
"These [Homeric] correspondences are part of Joyce's mediaevalism and are chiefly his own affair, a scaffold, a means of construction, justified by the result, and justifiable by it only." Ezra Pound in 1922

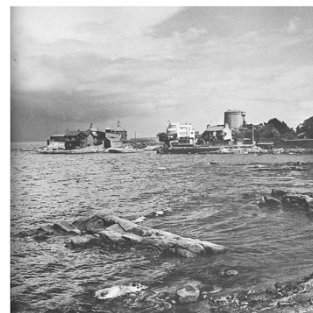
one-minute audio version of *The Odyssey*
(from "Ten Classics in Ten Minutes")

Dublin: fictional and real

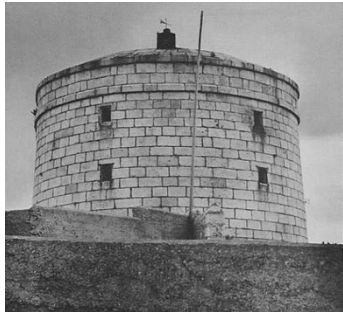
"I want to give a picture of Dublin so complete that if the city one day suddenly disappeared from the earth it could be reconstructed out of my book."

Joyce to Frank Budgen,
quoted in Frank Budgen,
James Joyce and the Making of Ulysses (1934), pp. 67-68

Telemachus: Martello Tower 1



Telemachus: Martello Tower 2



Telemachus: Martello Tower 3



Telemachus: Martello Tower 4



Telemachus 1) Stephen-Mulligan

gloomy artist + mocker

Odyssey: Penelope's suitors

question of characters' freedom

key (1:720)

"usurper" at end (1:743)

Telemachus 2) mother-father

mother's death (emotional)

compare *Portrait*: mistake for eternity

"missing" father (intellectual)

Hamlet (1:555-57)

Jesus + Catholic church & theology

Odyssey

Telemachus 3) Haines-England

Ireland-England

politics

postcolonial

"the cracked lookingglass of a servant"

(Stephen at 1:146)

History

"fall into the hands of German jews"

(Haines at 1:667)

Nestor: Deasy's school



Nestor

history
 mother (especially 2:139-50)
 Deasy: money, order, horses, wisdom
 Nestor in *Odyssey*: master of horses

"History . . . is a nightmare from which I
 am trying to awake." (2:377)
 God: "a shout in the street" (2:386)

Proteus: Sandymount Strand



Proteus

- 1) nature of Stephen's thoughts - his dilemma as he sees it
- 2) relationship to Proteus
- 3) sea, drowning, mother, father
- 4) Joyce to Frank Budgen: "I haven't let this young man off very lightly, have I?"
- 5) example: 3:310-30

the EU 10 Euro commemorative coin

Ulysses: start of episode 3:
 Ineluctable modality of the visible: at least that if no more, thought through my eyes. Signatures of all things I am here to read, seaspawn and seawrack, the



text on the coin:
 Ineluctable modality of the visible: at least that if no more, thought through my eyes. Signatures of all things that I am here to read, seaspawn and seawrack, the

Hamlet:
 To be or maybe not to be, that is the question