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ETHICAL JOYCE

Marian Eide argues that the central concern of James Joyce's writing was the creation of a literary ethics. Eide examines Joyce's ethical preoccupations throughout his work, particularly the tension between his commitment as an artist and his social obligations as a father and citizen during a tumultuous period of European history. Eide argues that his narrative suggestion that ethics, which etymologically signifies both "character" and "habitat," might be understood best as an interaction between immediate and intimate processes (character) and more external and enduring structures (habitat). Drawing on feminist theory, Eide focuses on the ideas of alterity and difference. The literary ethics developed in this book proceed from a textual focus in order to examine how our assumptions about what it means to read and interpret produce within each reader an implicit ethical practice. This is the first study devoted to Joyce's ethical philosophy as it emerges in his writing.

MARIAN EIDE is Assistant Professor of English at Texas A&M University. She is the author of several articles on twentieth-century literature.

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PUBLISHED BY THE PRESS SYNDICATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge, United Kingdom

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK
40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
Ruiz de Alarcón 13, 28014 Madrid, Spain
Dock House, The Waterfront, Cape Town 8001, South Africa
<http://www.cambridge.org>

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First published 2002

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

Typeface Baskerville Monotype 11/12.5 pt *System* L^AT_EX 2_ε [TB]

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN 0 521 81498 7 hardback

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*In memory of
Ellen Olsen Eide
& Stephen Vincent Gilligan*

Once the realization is accepted that even between the closest human beings infinite distances continue to exist, a wonderful living side by side can grow up, if they succeed in loving the distance between them which makes it possible for each to see the other whole and against a wide sky.

Rainer Maria Rilke (*Letters to a Young Poet*)

Contents

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	<i>page</i> viii
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	x
Introduction	i
1. Ethical interpretation and the elliptical subject	30
2. Ethical knowledge and errant pedagogy	54
3. Ethical opposition and fluid sensibility	83
4. Ethical representation and Lucia's letters	109
Envoy: to the Reader	144
<i>Notes</i>	147
<i>Bibliography</i>	186
<i>Index</i>	197

Acknowledgments

It has become a common-place to say that an academic book is a collaborative effort. But like many other writers, I find writing a solitary activity. And while I generally bask in the particular quality of that solitude, I am grateful for the interruptions that have been so generously provided by friends and colleagues who agreed to read and comment on these pages, who often inspired me, always encouraged me, and occasionally interrogated me with just the right questions.

My kind and wise friend Vicki Mahaffey helped me to start this project and has accompanied me throughout its composition; my life and my work are immeasurably enriched by her friendship. Larry Reynolds stepped in just when I most needed him with a generous, gentle, and intelligent reading. From the distance of half a country and often an ocean, Jean-Michel Rabaté has supported me in my research from its earliest days. I began my friendship with Katharine Conley in a series of letters from the northeast of America to France, and our continued friendship of letters made this writing itself more pleasurable.

I am blessed with the most extraordinary group of colleagues in the English Department at Texas A&M. Each of them has been a generous reader and a thoughtful critic. I would like to express my gratitude to Dennis Berthold, Susan Egenolf, Kate Kelly, Pam Matthews, Howard Marchitello, David McWhirter, Mary Ann O'Farrell, Patricia Phillippy, Sally Robinson, Susan Stabile, Janis Stout, and Lynne Vallone. My thanks also to Shelden Brivik, Vincent Cheng, Barbara Lonnquist, and Nicholas Miller for their encouragement. Mikel Parent was invaluable in his tireless work checking details for a final revision of the manuscript, and for being one of the manuscript's first readers. I would also like to thank my students at the University of Pennsylvania, the Rosenbach Museum and Library, and Texas A&M University for inspiring conversations.

Acknowledgments

ix

Research in the archive of Joyce / Léon letters was supported by a travel grant from the University of Pennsylvania. Further travel for research has been supported by Texas A&M's Center for Humanities Studies Research and Program for Scholarly and Creative Activities.

I would like to thank the *James Joyce Quarterly* for permission to reprint a revised version of "The Language of Flows: Fluidity, Virology, and *Finnegans Wake*" (Vol. 34, no. 4, summer 1997). Thanks also to Louis le Brocqy and Pierre le Brocqy for permission to reproduce "James Joyce."

Finally, I would like to thank my family for the habitat they have always provided, Richard DeVaul for years of ethical conversation, and especially Uwe Moeller for loving me on my umbrella, and for standing by my side against an expanse of sky.

Abbreviations

Works frequently cited are listed parenthetically using the following abbreviations:

- CW* Joyce, James. *The Critical Writings of James Joyce*, ed. Ellsworth Mason and Richard Ellmann. New York: Viking, 1959.
- D* Joyce, James. *Dubliners: Text, Criticism, and Notes*, ed. Robert Scholes and A. Walton Litz. New York: Viking, 1969.
- E* Joyce, James. *Exiles: A Play in Three Acts, including Hitherto Unpublished Notes by the Author, Discovered after His Death, and an Introduction by Padraic Colum*. New York: Viking, 1951.
- FW* Joyce, James. *Finnegans Wake*. New York: Viking, 1939. References are indicated by page number followed by the line number.
- GJ* Joyce, James. *Giacomo Joyce*, ed. Richard Ellmann. New York: Viking, 1968.
- P* Joyce, James. *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man: Text, Criticism, and Notes*, ed. Chester G. Anderson. New York: Viking, 1968.
- OTB* Levinas, Emmanuel. *Otherwise than Being: or, Beyond Essence*. Trans. Alphonso Lingis. Pittsburgh: Duquesne University Press, 1998.
- TI* Levinas, Emmanuel. *Totality and Infinity: An Essay on Exteriority*. Trans. Alphonso Lingis. Pittsburgh: Duquesne University Press, 1969.
- U* Joyce, James. *Ulysses: The Corrected Text*, ed. Hans Walter Gabler with Wolfhard Sheppe and Claus Melchior. New York: Random House, 1986. References are identified by chapter and line number.