

## JOYCE'S DANTE

Joyce's engagement with Dante is a crucial component of all of his work. This title reconsiders the responses to Dante in Joyce's work from *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* to *Finnegans Wake*. It presents that encounter as a historically complex and contextually determined interaction reflecting the contested development of Dante's reputation, readership and textuality throughout the nineteenth century. This process produced a 'Dante with a difference', a uniquely creative and unorthodox construction of the poet that informed Joyce's lifelong engagement with such works as the *Vita Nuova* and the *Commedia*. Tracing the movement through Joyce's writing on exile as a mode of alienation and charting his growing interest in ideas of community, *Joyce's Dante* shows how awareness of his changing reading of Dante can alter our understanding of one of the Irish writer's lasting thematic preoccupations.

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# JOYCE'S DANTE

*Exile, Memory, and Community*

JAMES ROBINSON



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*For Zoë and for Nick*

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## *Note on Texts and Editions*

The following abbreviations and editions have been used throughout the text:

- D* James Joyce, *Dubliners*, ed. Hans Walter Gabler with Walter Heche (New York, 1993). References are to sequential number of story and line number.
- E* James Joyce, *Exiles* (Harmondsworth, 1973). References are to page number.
- FW* James Joyce, *Finnegans Wake* (London, 1968). References are to page and line number.
- L* James Joyce, *Letters*, ed. Stuart Gilbert and Richard Ellmann, 3 vols. (New York, 1957–1966). References are to volume and page number.
- OCPW* James Joyce, *Occasional, Critical, and Political Writing*, ed. Kevin Barry (Oxford, 2000). References are to page number.
- P* James Joyce, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, ed. Hans Walter Gabler with Walter Heche (New York, 1993). References are to chapter number and line number.
- SH* James Joyce, *Stephen Hero*, ed. Theodore Spencer, John J. Slocum and Herbert Cahoon (London, 1977). References are to page number.
- SL* James Joyce, *Selected Letters*, ed. Richard Ellmann (London, 1975). References are to page number.
- U* James Joyce, *Ulysses: The Corrected Text*, ed. Hans Walter Gabler with Wolfhard Steppe and Claus Melchior (London, 1986). References are to episode and line number.
- JJ* Richard Ellmann, *James Joyce*, revised edition (Oxford, 1982). References are to page number.
- Conv.* Dante Alighieri, *Tutte le opere di Dante Alighieri*, ed. Edward Moore (Oxford, 1894), 235–338. English translations of *The Convivio* are taken from Dante Alighieri, *The Convivio*, trans. Richard Lansing, <http://dante.ilt.columbia.edu/books/convivi>. References are to book, chapter and sentence number.



- Inf.* Dante Alighieri, *La Divina Commedia di Dante Alighieri con note tratte dai migliori commenti*, ed. Eugenio Camerini (Milan, 1904). English translations of the *Inferno* are taken from Dante Alighieri, *The Divine Comedy of Dante Alighieri, vol. 1, Inferno*, ed. and trans. Robert M. Durling (Oxford, 1996). References are to canto and line number.
- Par.* Dante Alighieri, *La Divina Commedia di Dante Alighieri con note tratte dai migliori commenti*, ed. Eugenio Camerini (Milan, 1904). English translations of the *Paradiso* are taken from Dante Alighieri, *The Divine Comedy of Dante Alighieri, vol. 3, Paradiso*, ed. and trans. Robert M. Durling (Oxford, 2011). References are to canto and line number.
- Purg.* Dante Alighieri, *La Divina Commedia di Dante Alighieri con note tratte dai migliori commenti*, ed. Eugenio Camerini (Milan, 1904). English translations of the *Purgatorio* are taken from Dante Alighieri, *The Divine Comedy of Dante Alighieri, vol. 2, Purgatorio*, ed. and trans. Robert M. Durling (Oxford, 2003). References are to canto and line number.
- VN* Dante Alighieri, *La Vita Nova di Dante Alighieri illustrata dei quadri di Dante Gabriele Rossetti*, ed. Marco de Rubris (Turin: Società Tipografica-Editrice Nazionale, 1911). English translations of the *Vita Nuova* are taken from Dante Alighieri, *Vita Nuova*, trans. Mark Musa (Oxford, 1999). References are to chapter and sentence number.

All other quotations from Dante's works are taken from Dante Alighieri, *Tutte le opere di Dante Alighieri*, ed. Edward Moore (Oxford, 1894). Translations of poetry are taken from Dante Alighieri, *Dante's Lyric Poetry*, ed. and trans. Kenelm Foster and Patrick Boyde, 2 vols. (Oxford, 1967). References are to Moore's lyric and line numbering. Translations of letters are taken from Dante Alighieri, *Dantis Alagherii Epistolae: The Letters of Dante*, ed. and trans. Paget Toynbee (Oxford, 1920). References are to Moore's numbering of the letters and line number.

All further translations from Italian are my own, unless otherwise stated.