

James Joyce's Dublin

A *Topographical Guide to the Dublin of Ulysses*

IAN GUNN & CLIVE HART

With HARALD BECK

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This book is fascinating on several levels. On one level it summarizes, with great clarity, chapter by chapter, the action of James Joyce's *Ulysses*. On another it documents the travels of all the characters in *Ulysses* through the use of illustrated maps of the city of Dublin. On a third level it provides a "fact vs. fiction" chronicle of the names, places, and movements of the characters. Finally, it is a historical snapshot of 1904 Dublin.

Clive Hart, a much-noted Joycean scholar, provides the commentary. His observations are clear, concise, and succinct and his interpretations generally brilliant. Ian Gunn's maps and illustrations are masterful and very well done. However, I do have two complaints, one major and one minor. Hart defers a major portion of commentary on the Wandering Rocks episode of *Ulysses* to a previous essay that he has written. To read this essay one would have to hunt down the book it is published in, as it's not published in this one. The other complaint, though minor, is the rather small number and size of photos of Dublin circa 1904.

All in all, though, the book is pleasing. I have read *Ulysses* cover to cover numerous times, and have studied individual chapters on more occasions, and this book helped bring to light many of Joyce's more obscure passages. I highly recommend it for the Joyce enthusiast as well as for the first-time reader in need of a little help. —Thomas McCarthy ■