Libertin, Mary

THE PLAY OF MUSEMENT IN JAMES JOYCE'S "ULYSSES"

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THE PLAY OF MUSEMENT IN JAMES JOYCE'S ULYSSES

by
Mary Libertin

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ABSTRACT

Libertin, Mary (Doctor of Philosophy in Modern Letters)
The Play of Musement in James Joyce's Ulysses
(535 pp.-Chapter IV)
Directed by Professor Thomas F. Staley
(350 WORDS)

The eighteen episodes of Ulysses, each written in a
different style, constitute a radical, new approach to
matters pertaining to fiction, language, and understanding,
as Hugh Kenner has suggested in Joyce's Voices. Previous
studies of the styles of Ulysses have been hampered by some
of the very presuppositions which are overturned by the
novel itself. These presuppositions concern concepts such
as whether things-in-themselves can be cognized, whether
there are a priori principles of knowledge, and whether
there is a transcendental subject of cognition. The
nominalistic bias of modern philosophy, found in traditional
criticism of the novel, is transformed in the novel.

Previous attempts to describe the "progression" of
styles in Ulysses thus have not considered Ulysses as a
cognitive system. This study makes use of a Peircean
approach to reveal the manner in which Ulysses asserts the
infinite cognizability of things-in-themselves, three modes
of inquiry (abduction, deduction, and induction) which
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