

XXXI. Modern Novels (Joyce). Holograph Notebook, Unsigned and Undated. (Berg)

On March 5, 1919, Woolf noted in her diary that she had to read “The entire works of Mr James Joyce, Wyndham Lewis, Ezra Pound so as to compare them with the entire works of Dickens & Mrs. Gaskell” (D, I). In this entry, she was very likely planning for her essay on “Modern Novels,” published in the *TLS*, April 10, 1919 (Kp. C147). Her notes on *Ulysses* (which she read in *The Little Review*: B.3), on May Sinclair’s review of Dorothy Richardson’s novels (B.2), and on Thackeray’s *Pendennis* (B.5) in this notebook, as well as the “Sketches of Article” (B.4), all contributed to that essay. (On May 16, 1919, she returned *The Little Review*, which she apparently did not subscribe to herself, to Mary Hutchinson: L, VI, 1046a.) Three years later, when Woolf read *Ulysses* as a completed book and thought it a “mis-fire” (D, II, September 6, 1922), she compared it again to Thackeray’s *Pendennis*, which she seems to have reread at the same time and found, in some ways, “more illuminating” (D, II, September 26, 1922; see also August 16, 22, 26, September 3, 1922).

The notes on *The Life and Letters of William Thomson, Archbishop of York* (B.6) were made for her review of this work, “The Soul of an Archbishop,” *Athenaeum*, May 9, 1919 (Kp. C151). These two articles locate this notebook between March and May 1919.

A label reading “MODERN NOVELS (Joyce),” and the title, “MODERN NOVELS,” both appear on the cover of the notebook in black ink; the notes are black as well.

A typescript of this notebook appears in the Monk’s House Papers, Sussex, as MH/B.3f.

B. ENTRIES

1. “Order of Ulysses/I—claret red./II—pale blue . . .”: 1 p., not numbered. The entry is annotated “Modern Novels”; it consists of a list of numbers from I–VII, each one followed by a color. This list corresponds to the seven episodes of James Joyce’s *Ulysses* that Woolf read in *The Little Review*. See below, B.3.
2. “Reality is thick & deep.”: 1 p., not numbered. Marginal notation, “Miss/Sinclair/Little/Review.” The entry appears on the same page as B.1. The notes include a reference to “Remy de Gourmont, Promenades Littéraires” which is a reference to the passages from Gourmont’s essays, “L’Originalité de Maeterlinck” and “La Leçon de Sainte-Antoine” [*Promenades Littéraires*, Series 5 and 3] quoted by May Sinclair in her review.
Sinclair, May. “The Novels of Dorothy Richardson.” *The Little Review* 5, no. 12 (April 1918): 3–11.
3. “Ulysses James Joyce”: 5 pp., not numbered. The entry begins on the same page as B.1 and B.2; it consists of notes on the first seven episodes of *Ulysses*, published in *The Little Review* from March to October 1918. A note at the end of the entry reads, “Tristram Shandy Would my objections apply to T.S? I believe Johnson was outraged by TS T.S. has a warmer temperature than Ulysses.”

Joyce, James. *Ulysses*.

I. *The Little Review* 4, no. 11

(March 1918): 3–22.

II. *The Little Review* 5, no. 12

(April 1918): 32–45.

III. *The Little Review* 6, no. 1

(May 1918): 31–45.

IV. *The Little Review* 6, no. 2

(June 1918): 39–52.

V. *The Little Review* 5, no. 3

(July 1918): 37–49.

VI. *The Little Review* 5, no. 5

(Sept. 1918): 15–37.

VII. *The Little Review* 5, no. 6

(Oct. 1918): 26–51.

4. “Sketches of Article.”: 5 pp., not numbered, including one page opposite that with the heading. (Fifth page, 2 lines only.) The entry consists of notes for Woolf’s essay on “Modern Novels,” beginning, “No one has any wish to abuse the ancients.”
5. “Its a very queer convention that makes us/believe that people talked or felt or lived as/J.A. & Thack. & Dickens make them—the only/thing is that we’re used to it”: 1 p., not numbered. Marginal notation, “Pendennis.” The entry begins on the last page of B.4, and is related to her notes for “Modern Novels.” See above, B.4.

Thackeray, William Makepeace. *The History of Pendennis*. Vol. I [of II]. Bradbury & Evans, 1849.

6. “The Life & Letters of/William Thomson. Archbishop of York”: 2 pp., not numbered.

Thomson, Ethel H. *The Life and Letters of William Thomson, Arch-Bishop of York*. The Bodley Head, 1919.