

■ Foreword

In the autumn of every other year, The James Joyce Society of Korea (JJSK) makes it a rule to hold an international conference in Seoul and carry the conference papers as the special feature of the ensuing winter issue of its organ, *James Joyce Journal*, which we call an International Issue to distinguish it from its other numbers. It was in the Bloomsday centennial of 2004 that the JJSK's first international project came to fruition. Thus, the current publication is our third International Issue of *JJJ*. This year, we successfully held our third biennial conference on September 26 and 27 at Sungkyunkwan University under the title of "Glocalizing Joyce: The East Asian and Other Perspectives." Varied contributions, intellectual and other, naturally came together to make it happen. First of all, we ought to thank all the paper readers, discussants and other individual participants for their personal enthusiasm. Many thanks should also go to Sungkyunkwan University for its generous sponsorship and the Embassy of Ireland in Korea for hosting a warm reception at Hyatt Hotel for all participants.

There were four overseas Joyce scholars reading papers for the occasion. Professor Richard Brown from the University of Leeds, who delivered a special lecture "Reading Joyce's Penelope for the Body" on the eve of the conference, read "From Stephen's 'Roads' to Postmodern Place in Later Joyce." His paper invites us to think about how the reading of places in Joyce's writings could be influenced by "localisation effect" relating to the locality of the reader. Professor Jun Guo from Beijing Language and Culture University argues in her "Exile Writer, Intellectualized Aesthetics and Obscure Art: Interpreting James Joyce and His Artistic Aspiration" that Joyce's self-exile, which was both spiritual and physical, was a strategy to transcend reification and to "de-territorialize" Ireland from its parochialism. Professor Yen-Yen Hsiao from National Tsing Hua University of Taiwan read "A Gendered History in *Ulysses*: From Milkwoman to Molly" where she observes that Joyce underlines the paradoxical significance of both the central and marginal role of mother which lays bare Ireland's repressed cultural consciousness. In the current publication, she had her title revised to "Imagining Motherland in *Ulysses*: Rethinking a Global/Local Gendered History." Professor Eishiro Ito from Iwate Prefectural University of Japan read "Orienting Orientalism

in *Ulysses*” in which he makes a point of Bloom’s ambivalent attitude towards Asia.

Four papers were read by Korean Joyceans. In “Joyce and Buddhism: Bloom’s Multiple Identities in *Ulysses* and a Linguistic Reorientation in Zen Practices,” Professor Sang-Wook Kim discusses Joycean pacifism foregrounding the connection between the multiplicity of Bloom’s identity and the Buddhist idea of emptiness of the self. His title is here changed into “Joyce and Buddhism: Bloom’s Conflated Nationality as a Reification of Joyce’s Pacifism.” Professor Suk Kim’s “Literature at the Gates: Joyce and Yi Sang” compares Joyce with Yi Sang, a famed modern Korean writer. But for the current issue he submitted another article, “Joyce and the Question of the Rural” which warns of the rigid dualism of the urban male and rural female in Joyce. Professor Kyung-Sook Kim read “The Return of Repressed Memory in Joyce’s ‘The Dead’: Re-imagining the Nation through Subaltern Historiography.” Very regrettably, however, we are not able to get her fine paper printed in this issue as it somehow happened to be preengaged for some other journal.

Besides these Conference papers, there are six more individual articles in this issue. These articles may not directly address the topics of “Glocalizing Joyce.” However, the “glocal” aspects of Joyce, whatever that means, are so ensnaring that it should also be true that one would have a hard time to avoid the topic totally as long as one is talking Joyce in length and in place. Of these non-Conference contributions, two articles attract attention: one because it deals with Virginia Woolf and the other because it is a contribution from an overseas Joyce scholar.

The JJSK has so far been able to keep going with its original biennial format of international conference and publication. Despite our modest success and continuing support from our international colleagues, however, we are painfully aware that we’re yet to fulfill what we have long intended to do: creating a modest formula for electronic distance communication in which to conduct international discussions on some specific Joyce topics. This high-tech forum was in fact intended for the current issue but saw abortion for various little impediments, both personal and technical. At this juncture, we are pretty sure that *JJSK*’s next international issue will open *ab initio* with this new *glocal* session of talk. Is there anybody out there to quip: *Who is this glocal guy when he’s at home to induce us to make much ado as far as Asia and the 21st century?* Anyway, we solemnly solicit your support and participation in advance.