

Joyce's Book of the Dark: Finnegans Wake 1986 9780299108243 Univ of Wisconsin Press, 1986 John Bishop 479 pages

In looking at political proverbs in the twentieth century, Wolfgang Mieder the leading expert on proverbs today offers proof of the power of these bits of borrowed wisdom to serve any master or any purpose, for good or ill. Mieder first singles out Adolf Hitler's *Mein Kampf*, in which the Fuhrer used proverbs to advocate the deadly goals of Nazism. Pitted against Hitler's rhetoric is that of Winston Churchill, who was, Mieder demonstrates, as gifted with the proverb as any leader in this century. He moves next to America and Harry S. Truman, whose proverbial plain English won him the trust of t...
The New Science and Finnegans Wake. 174. Meoptics. The Wake deserves more books like this. For now, we can all settle for plumbing the depths of Bishop's rich and illuminating study. Read more.
I was excited when I found a copy of John Bishop's book *Joyce's Book of the Dark, Finnegans Wake* because it is one of the most praised books about James Joyce's final literary work. Furthermore, people I know and whose opinions I respect have praised Bishop's book, sometimes exuberantly. I regret therefore that the time has come for me to write these few lines about Bishop's book, which I do not find to be so praiseworthy. Joyce famously said that *Finnegans Wake* will keep the professors busy for centuries, and 75 years later his prognostication seems to be playing out. Most of us are still skirting around the edges of *Finnegans Wake* scholarship; Campbell's skeleton key, McHugh's annotations, and this fascinating book of Bishop's being among the handful of readily available major studies of Joyce's infinite text.
Reading John Bishop's *Joyce's Book of the Dark* is like reading *Finnegans Wake* with that table round of old men reading one page together per week for seven years and at the end of that seven years rearriving to begin again to finnagain to funagain. *Finnegans Wake* is a book by Irish writer James Joyce. It has been called "a work of fiction which combines a body of fables with the work of analysis and deconstruction".
It is significant for its experimental style and reputation as one of the most difficult works in the Western canon. Written in Paris over a period of seventeen years and published in 1939, *Finnegans Wake* was Joyce's final work. The entire book is written in a largely idiosyncratic language, which blends standard English