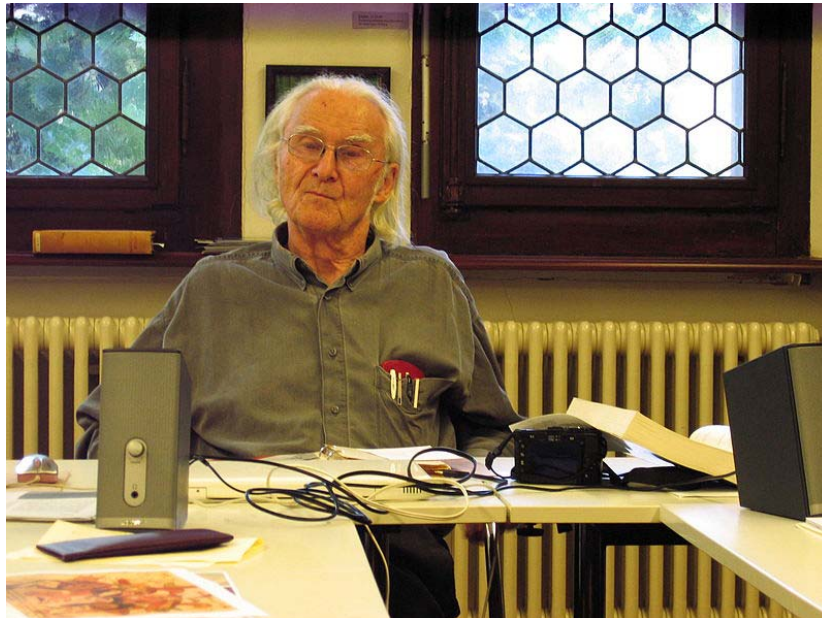


FRITZ SENN: A JUBILEE OF THE OUTSTANDING SWISS JOYCEAN AND HIS HALF-CENTURY COMMITMENT TO JAMES JOYCE



The article is devoted to the 85th jubilee of Fritz Senn, a renowned Joycean who is the director of Zurich Joyce Foundation, a remarkable scholar who inspired several generations of Joyceans by his extraordinary way of thinking and deep interpretations of Joyce's idiosyncrasy in the context of world culture. Developing his own conception of Joyce's internal translations, Fritz Senn has been serving philology for many years, committed to his search of truth, never compromising his opinion, promoting dialogue of cultures, integrating the movements of his thinking soul into dynamics of the modern world. A recognized authority in the Joycean world, Fritz Senn follows his own path without holding an official scientific degree. He is cited by Joyceans from all over the world, he is Doctor Emeritus at several universities, he is an editor of academic journals that specialize in Joyce's work. He inspires Joyceans to discover new ways within an integral scientific paradigm. With deep respect and appreciation of Fritz Senn's scientific honesty, his openness to academic discussions, his deep commitment to Joyce Ukrainian scholars congratulate him on his jubilee and wish him new achievements in his work.

Key words: *Joycean research, the writer's idiosyncrasy, integral modeling.*

Fritz Senn is renowned for his lifelong commitment to James Joyce, his inspiring interest in Joycean research, and his support of Joyceans all over the world. He is a visiting professor at the State University of New York at Buffalo, Indian University, Ohio State University, University of Hawaii, and University of Delaware. He is co-editor of such academic journals as *European Joyce Studies*, *Joyce Studies Annual*, *James Joyce Literary Supplement*, *Papers on Joyce*, and *Dublin James Joyce Journal*. There is hardly a person who knows more about Joyce in Zurich than Fritz Senn.

I am lucky to have been invited by this scholar to spend two months at the Zurich James Joyce Foundation headed by him. His devotion to Joyce and original theory of text

comprehension has impressed me a great deal. Fritz Senn worries about the future of academic writing on Joyce. He is strongly against the conveyor belt of such writing that may be hazardous to Joyce's heritage. Fritz Senn has a rare gift of establishing a Joycean environment in which new ways of writing about Joyce and on Joyce would be found. The scholar's human consciousness gets awakened to diverse cultures and languages when it is integrated into the hypertextual world of Joyce. At his age of 85 Fritz Senn's heart and soul remain young. Sometimes you may think how much he resembles Joyce, for there is unspoken interaction between Joyce, an ideal writer, and Senn, his ideal reader. Fritz Senn's remarkable involvement in Joyce's writings is shared by all Joyceans whose leader he certainly is. He has been writing on

Joyce for half a century. His voice is heard through his "inductive scrutinies" [1]. Ukrainian and Russian scholars congratulate Fritz Senn on his jubilee and appraise his outstanding scholarly work. I am one of his disciples who holds a Doctor of Philology (habilitation) degree for my study of linguistic and typological aspects in Joyce's idiostyle.

Fritz Senn is an unusual scholar. His writings are far from being conventional but there is always inspiration, a genuine attitude, and masterly knowledge of James Joyce in them. His essays, as he calls his articles in academic journals, are recognizable, for he is unique in Joyce's literary criticism. Fritz is aware of all nuances of Joyce's meaning and is brilliant at establishing Joyce's intertextual links. Senn is a pioneer in the exegesis of *Finnegans Wake*. He was one of the first to speak about the *epiwo* of this text. Senn is a self-made scholar who proves that academic scholarship and real movements of the heart that help create masterpieces on Joyce are different things. With all modesty, without scientific degrees but overwhelming respect and appraisal of his followers, he claims to be an autodidact. Although Fritz's research is not conditioned by any school, he has mastered the world of Joycean cognition, text production, and text comprehension. He is one of the few who is integrated into Joyce's *epiwo* as a scholar, a reader, and a human being. I would never call his writings eclectic. I feel that they are products of one and the same line of reasoning, which we can identify for Fritz. What he does, goes beyond interpretation. He is in his own scientific paradigm whose fundamentals are endless curiosity, reading as adventure and discovery, commitment to Joyce's WORD, scientific honesty, sharing with generosity, and an invitation to open horizons by leaving the constraints of any boundaries. Fritz Senn's model of Joycean comprehension is integral, humanistic, and free from any chains and stereotypes. This is a scientific soul awakened to elucidate the greatness of Joyce's WORD across ages. Senn's approach is textual. All his life has been devoted to the explanations of blind spots that are so many in Joyce's books.

Fritz Senn used to be in isolation when he started research on *Finnegans Wake*. Now, he has many followers who are curious about the depths of this remarkably complicated text. In his writings, Fritz is precise in his conceptualizations. He claims, "Retroactive semantification is vital in *Finnegans Wake*" [1, p. 127]. He is brilliant at what he calls "instances of postponed clarification": "... in life too we often understand long afterwards, or too late" [1, p. 75]. Fritz's insight empowers us with many reflections that are still to be comprehended. To illustrate one of them: "A Wakean consciousness permits the past to be affected

by the future" [1, p. 111]. This statement is a precise way of identifying the macrostructure of *Finnegans Wake*. Also, it points to the fictional world as the one that awakens consciousness across ages. In his writings, Fritz Senn turns to Aristotle, Homer, Ovid, Augustinus, Aquinas, Dante, Bruno, Nicolas of Cusa, Shakespeare, Vico, and many others. All of them are related to Joyce because, as Fritz Senn claims, "each impulse of new life is a revival" [1, p. 112]. In Senn's view, "If anyone, Joyce was always altering, remodelling times, including his own past. *A Portrait* puts this into words and style. *Dubliners* went into *Finnegans Wake* and *Finnegans Wake* changed *Dubliners* for us" [1, p. 112]. It is true that Joyce's epiphanic model curbed conventional narrative superstructures. Instead, Joyce built on his reader's conventions to discover the world of active human consciousness through words which in *Finnegans Wake* may be traced in diversity of human languages and cultures.

In his academic work, Fritz Senn is left with Joyce with whom he is in dialogical interaction. He explores Joycean lexical clashes. He argues that "much of Greek and Roman literature that almost by educational reflex went into Joyce's works has not been researched, or even labelled" [1, p. 197]. Senn expresses a great concern of Joyce's literary translation. He collects translations of Joyce from many languages. The secret of Fritz Senn's outstanding scholarly achievements is in his neglect of scholarly ambitions. He considers himself to be an amateur because it gives him freedom to pursue his angle of perception and develop his own theory of text comprehension.

In Zurich's James Joyce Foundation, a scholar, the receiver of a grant, only stretches a hand to find any book on Joyce. Fritz Senn is always in his office. His working day begins early and he is one of the last to leave the foundation late in the afternoon. At times, he enters the library, looks at you reading a book, takes a seat, and talks about Joyce. This is inspiring and encouraging. I am the only one from the former Soviet Union who was granted such an honour to work on my doctoral thesis, habilitation, in the Foundation. From Fritz, I have learned commitment to the course of life, which to us, Joyceans, is Joyce himself, enigmatic, changeable, and humane.

Dear Fritz! Many happy returns of the day! New talented researchers entering your Joycean constellation! Good health and new insights! Thank you for your serving Joyce for so many years!

References

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Фоменко О.Г. Фріц Сенн: Ювілей видатного швейцарського джойсознавця і його півнікове служіння Джойсу

Статтю присвячено 85-річчю Фрітца Сенна, відомого джойсознавця, який очолює Цюрихський фонд Джеймса Джойса, прекрасного вченого, що надихнув не одне покоління дослідників Джеймса Джойса неординарністю власного мислення, глибиною інтерпретації ідиостилю письменника в контексті світової культури. Створюючи власну концепцію розуміння ідиостилю Джойса, Фріц Сенн упродовж багатьох років самовіддано служить науці, перебуваючи в постійному пошуку істини, не йдучи на компроміси, запрошуючи до діалогу культур, пізнання творчої думаючої душі в динаміці сучасного світу. Як авторитет у джойсознавстві, Фріц Сенн стоїть окремо; не маючи офіційного вченого ступеня, він цитується провідними джойсознавцями світу, є почесним професором ряду світових університетів, входить до складу редакцій журналів, присвячених Джойсу, надихає нових джойсознавців до пошуків і відкриттів у рамках інтегральної наукової парадигми. З глибокою повагою і визнанням наукової чесності Фрітца Сенна, його відкритості до полеміки, його глибоких роздумів про Джойса і місце Джойса у свою епоху українські вчені вітають Фрітца Сенна з ювілеєм і бажають йому нових творчих досягнень.

Ключові слова: джойсознавство, ідиостиль Джойса, інтегративне моделювання.

Фоменко Е.Г. Фриц Сенн: Юбилей выдающегося швейцарского джойсоведа и его полувекое служение Джойсу

Статья посвящена 85-летнему юбилею Фритца Сенна, известного джойсоведа, возглавляющего Цюрихский фонд Джеймса Джойса, великолепного ученого, вдохновившего не одно поколение исследователей Джеймса Джойса своей неординарностью мышления, глубиной интерпретации идиостиля писателя в контексте мировой культуры. Создавая собственную концепцию понимания идиостиля Джойса, Фритц Сенн в течение многих лет самоотверженно служит науке, находясь в постоянном поиске истины, не идя на компромиссы, приглашая к диалогу культур, познанию творческой думающей души в динамике современного мира. Будучи авторитетом в джойсоведении, Фритц Сенн стоит особняком; не имея официальной ученой степени, он цитируется ведущими джойсоведами мира, является почетным профессором целого ряда университетов мира, входит в состав редакций журналов, посвященных Джойсу, вдохновляет новых джойсоведов к поискам и открытиям в рамках интегральной научной парадигмы. С глубоким уважением и признанием научной честности Фритца Сенна, его открытости к полемике, его глубоких размышлений о Джойсе и месте Джойса в свою эпоху украинские ученые поздравляют Фритца Сенна с юбилеем и желают ему новых творческих достижений.

Ключевые слова: джойсоведение, идиостиль Джойса, интегративное моделирование.