

BOULEVARD BLOOM

Sir, — The centenary of the birth of James Joyce is almost upon us. Let the city fathers mark the occasion with flair and humour by honouring literature's most famous Dubliner, Leopold Bloom. Let the prophecy of his dreams be fulfilled. Let his house "be ornamented with a commemorative tablet", and let a thoroughfare "be henceforth designated Boulevard Bloom."

Unfortunately, little remains of No. 7 Eccles Street, but a memorial should be incorporated in the development plans for the area. There is, however, no shortage of suitable streets; Westmoreland Street would be admirable as the Boulevard.

The occasion should be further embellished by a mighty ceremony granting posthumously to Bloom the Freedom of the City "embodied in a charter". The etiquette is laid down in elaborate detail in "Ulysses": "Venetian masts, maypoles and festal arches . . . A streamer bearing the legends Cead Mile Failte and Mah Tob Melek Israel . . . All the windows thronged with sightseers, chiefly ladies . . . A fife and drum band . . . playing the Kol Nidre . . . The chryselephantine papal standard . . . The lord mayor of Dublin, the lord mayor of Cork, their worships the mayor of Limerick, Galway, Sligo and Waterford, twentyeight Irish representative peers, sirdars, grandees and maharajahs . . . the Dublin Metropolitan Fire Brigade . . . the bishop of Down and Connor, . . . the primate of all Ireland . . . the chief rabbi, the presbyterian moderator, the heads of the baptist, anabaptist, methodist and Moravian chapels, . . . the guilds and trades . . . bird fanciers, masseurs, trussmakers, assessors of fire losses and riddlemakers". And in the evening fireworks will "go up from all sides with symbolical phallopyrotechnic design."

What a Bloomsday! June 16th, 1982, should be declared a national holiday. — Yours, etc.

EÓIN O'BRIEN.

Seabank,
9 Clifton Terrace, I.T.
Monkstown, 26/27 OCT
Co Dublin. 1981

Street to be named after Joyce

Dublin city councillors are pressing to have a street of the capital called after James Joyce to mark the centenary of the author's birth.

At yesterday's meeting of the council's general purposes committee, Ms Mary Freehill suggested that they call a street "Boulevard Bloom", as this had been mentioned in Ulysses.

However, Mr Ben Briscoe, TD said that they should call Anglesea Street, where Blooms Hotel was situated, James Joyce Street. He felt that "Boulevard Bloom" had been used as a piece of "implish humour" by Joyce in Ulysses.

It was essential, according to Mr Tony Gregory, TD to do something to commemorate Joyce. He was sure that other cities in Europe would be doing something. To call a street after Joyce was the least they could do.

The councillors agreed in principle to call some street after Joyce and a report is to be prepared for the next meeting on the matter.

Man held over teacher's death

A man was last night reported to be helping gardai with their inquiries into the death of the part-time music teacher, Mr George Leonard, who was found dead from head injuries at his flat in Slievebloom Road, Crumlin, Dublin, last week.

Rush Times

15.7.81.

JAMES JOYCE STREET

Sir, — Recent correspondence suggesting the renaming of a Dublin street in honour of James Joyce must surely call to mind the remarkable prescience of past City Fathers in naming Synge Street and Shaw Street for John M. Synge and Bernard Shaw even before these men were born.

Dubliners will be aware that we have had a Joyce Road (north side) and a Joyce Avenue (south side) for many years. In my view James A.'s temperament would hardly permit of his approval of having a street named for him at secondhand by way of a renaming process. — Yours, etc.,

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