

other observations and prufrock

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 01 Mar 1999

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Peter Stephenson — 01 Mar 1999, 15:05

I would tend to caution against seeing Prufrock as anyone too specific --- he may well be a horny old man, but Eliot is saying `there's a lot of it about'. To me he stands for all (or much of) the impotence and apathy of the modern world, just as, for example, the `small house agent's clerk' in the Wasteland (`one of the poor on whom assurance sits Like a silk hat on a Bradford millionaire', not guaranteed to be an exact quotation) stands for its degeneration and pettiness.

For that reason, I don't think there are many general structural resonances between Prufrock and Wolfe, even Peace, since Wolfe's major characters often have wide-reaching, if subtle, effects on the universes of the novels

--- Weer certainly does, however negative they may seem in retrospect; if Weer's tale is of being part of other people's stories (which is a very nice idea), then to a lot of them he's been a golem in the gears, which Prufrock was never capable of being. But I'm agog to hear any specific thoughts.

till human voices wake us,
corncrake

Peter Stephenson <pws at ibmth.df.unipi.it> Tel: +39 050 844536
WWW: <http://www.ifh.de/~pws/>
Dipartimento di Fisica, Via Buonarroti 2, 56127 Pisa, Italy