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by Daniel Wright

Calvin Brown's seminal work, *A Glossary of Faulkner's South* (Yale UP, 1976), first provided readers with a handbook to the rhetoric of the premiere writer of the twentieth-century American South, and Brown's work is still the authoritative standard in the field. Allusions to non-Southern colloquialisms or to other literary sources of Faulkner's works have not been as thoroughly examined, however, and such references could be more fully indexed for Faulkner scholars and enthusiasts. Some of these non-culturally-confined references are assuredly of importance in determining something of Faulkner's reference base, outline, and purpose in his novels.

For example, most readers of Faulkner's *Mosquitoes* (1926) probably assume that the name of the ill-fated yacht, the Nausikka, is a classical allusion to Nausicaa, the daughter of King Alkinous in Homer's *Odyssey*. In the Homeric account, Nausicaa receives the shipwrecked Odysseus, and after the latter's narration of his adventures to the king, Alkinous bestows a magical ship upon Odysseus to continue his interrupted voyage. Poseidon, however, angered that his will would be thwarted, turns the ship into stone.

Faulkner, however, probably does not derive his name for the yacht in *Mosquitoes* from direct consultation with the Greek myth of the girl whose kindness ultimately delivers Odysseus to new disaster; rather, his more likely source is the Nausicaa chapter in Part Two of James Joyce's *Ulysses* (1922), a work to which Faulkner was profoundly indebted (see especially Robert Slabey's penetrating study of the extensiveness of Faulkner's reliance on and use of *Ulysses* in composing *Mosquitoes* [*"Faulkner's Mosquitoes and Joyce's Ulysses," Revue des Langues Vivantes* 28 (1962): 435-37]). Furthermore, given that the Nausicaa chapter itself preceded the publication of *Ulysses* by two years (The Nausicaa chapter of the forthcoming novel had been published in an edition of *The Little Review* in the spring of 1920), it is not difficult to ascertain that Faulkner, Joyce devotee that he was, had read this work (either in excerpt or in completed form) by the time he wrote *Mosquitoes* in 1926. The likelihood of a direct or exclusive consultation by Faulkner with Homer rather than Joyce is therefore questionable, for the literary evidence suggests that exclusive reliance by Faulkner on the classical source is improbable at best and uncertain at least.