

FB&C Collegiate Book-Collecting Championship
THIRD PLACE—\$500

David Rando

FINNEGANS WAKE REFERENCE COLLECTION
CORNELL UNIVERSITY

“My mother is a kindergarten teacher, and she instilled in me a real love of books and reading. In college, I became an English major, and one semester, when I was packing up to go home, I was stunned by how many books I had. I had more books than anything else.”

In His Collection

Tim Ahern’s *Finnegans Wake Chapter One: The Illnesstraited Colossick Idition*. The novel in comic-book form.

Adaline Glasheen’s *Third Census of Finnegans Wake: An Index of the Characters and Their Roles*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1977. First edition.

About Finnegans Wake

It’s a difficult book and an intimidating book. That’s why I have so many reference books. It is a book that has always led me to community. I have made great friends through this book. I’ve set up two reading groups, and we started out as strangers and became very close through Joyce.

On Hard Books

I’ve always tended toward authors who have a high degree of verbal density. Those are books that reward spending more time with them.

Current Reading

Toni Morrison’s *Song of Solomon*. Her novel *Beloved* stands with *Moby-Dick* and *Huck Finn* as the best we have in American literature.

On Thomas Pynchon

People tend to glorify *Gravity’s Rainbow*. I think as a novelist he became more proficient with *Vineland* and *Mason & Dixon*. They get short shrift from critics, but they are my favorites.