PYNCHON NOTES

A Newsletter

October, 1979

Editors

Bibliography:
John M. Krafft
Suffolk County Community College
Western Campus
Brentwood, NY 11717

News:
Khachig Tololyan
English Department
Wesleyan University
Middletown, CT 06457

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Inaugural

Pynchon Notes arises in part from the frustration of our efforts for the past two years to continue meeting formally at MLA conventions in order to exchange information and scholarly opinions. Our present ambitions are modest by comparison with the opportunities afforded by an MLA special session; but we may be able to reach more people, and they us, more readily. We hope to provide a forum for the exchange of information, and also to create a stable structure to facilitate future meetings. Eventually, Pynchon Notes may develop into a full-fledged journal.

At the moment, our primary purpose is to publicize information of two, somewhat overlapping kinds: (1) news of work in progress—essays and book-length studies, including dissertations—circulating manuscripts and forthcoming works, as well as news of papers being presented, discussions being held, and lectures being delivered at conventions and the like; (2) bibliographic information about books, chapters, essays, articles, reviews, interviews, and even the
minutest fragments thereof, from the most out-of-the-way to the seemingly most familiar, which have not been, may not have been, or are unlikely to be listed in the standard and more accessible bibliographic sources as discussing or containing references to Pynchon. "Kach" Tololyan and John Krafft respectively will have editorial responsibility for these two kinds of material, although, given the overlapping of the present-future and the past-present orientations and our desire not to erect barriers to the flow of information, each of us will be happy to receive any material and pass it along to the other. (Furthermore, any need to distinguish our roles may eventually all but disappear if we are markedly successful in filling in the past bibliographic record and therefore come to publicize mainly current items and events.)

In addition to the kinds of information described above, we will publish authors' queries, news of conferences, solicitations for collections of essays and special numbers of journals, as well as such op-ed material and brief critical exchanges as space and other resources permit.

The success of Pynchon Notes depends on your interest and cooperation. We ask that you spread word of our project among your friends and colleagues. We also ask that you send us news and information. We know of some works in progress, but do not feel at liberty to publicize most of them, and indeed will not unless explicitly authorized to do so. We know of curious and significant material which has not appeared in Pynchon bibliographies or in the common reference sources under "Pynchon"; but we are sure that we don't know about all of it and that we are in any case not infallible judges of what will and will not seem significant to others.

There will be no charge for the initial issues of Pynchon Notes. If it survives and thrives, however, we may begin to welcome an occasional check for a dollar to help with printing and mailing costs. But first, of course, we need your intellectual support. We invite both your contributions to the newsletter and your comments about it.

JMK, KT
News

The lists of items in the categories below are exemplary rather than exhaustive.

RECENT WORKS:


----------. "Cinematic Auguries of the Third Reich in Gravity's Rainbow." Literature/Film Quarterly, 6, No. 4 (1978), 364-70.

----------. "Pynchon's Use of the Tannhauser-Legend in Gravity's Rainbow." Notes on Contemporary Literature, 9, No. 3 (1979), 2-3.


Herzberg, Bruce I. "Illusions of Control: A Reading of Gravity's Rainbow." DAI, 39 (1979), 6756-57A (Rutgers).


Solberg, Sara Margaret. "Resonance: Joyce's Ulysses and Pynchon's V." DAI, 39 (1978), 2241A (Columbia).


RECENT PAPERS:


The following were presented at the RMMLA convention Pynchon seminar, October, 1978.

Marquez, Antonio. "Technologique in Gravity's Rainbow."

Merrill, Dotson. "Pynchon's V.: 'The master is gone, the crew is gone, I am here and I am painting the ship.'"

Price, Penelope. "Between the One and the Zero."

Qazi, Javaid. "Pynchon in Central Asia: A Study of Sources and Resources."

FORTHCOMING WORKS:


CIRCULATING MANUSCRIPT:

Cowart, David. (See Recent Papers, p. 4 above.)

WORK IN PROGRESS:

We welcome information and authorizations to publicize.

NOTES AND QUERIES:

Invited.

Bibliography

The following bibliographies (presumed to be widely known and generally available) presently constitute the basis of the bibliographic record on Pynchon, which record it is a major purpose of Pynchon Notes to fill in and update.


Very thorough, although items from before 1972 which Weixlmann does not list do occasionally turn up.


Selectively repeats Weixlmann's bibliography and selectively updates the record.


Selectively recapitulates and extends the updating of the record.


Selectively repeats Weixlmann's bibliography and subsumes both of Herzberg's, but for two
entries from the first, one of which is in Weixlmann's and the other in Walsh and Northhouse's; also selectively updates the record.


Incomplete, and often grossly inaccurate, otherwise distinguished chiefly by its extensive though flawed list of reviews of and similar bits about Gravity's Rainbow.

The bibliographic record thus constituted can easily be expanded and updated by consulting the following standard reference sources.

MLA International Bibliography

Humanities Index

Abstracts of English Studies

"Current Bibliography" in Twentieth Century Literature

"Articles on American Literature Appearing in Current Periodicals" in American Literature

Dissertation Abstracts International

Book Review Index

Perhaps relatively few readers consult many of the following standard reference sources regularly, if at all, excellent as some of them are.

American Literary Scholarship

MHRA Annual Bibliography of English Language and Literature

Essay and General Literature Index

British Humanities Index

Year's Work in English Studies

Year's Work in Modern Language Studies

Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature

Bibliographic Index

Much material, some significant, some hardly so, ordinarily eludes or is ignored by bibliographers.
Much, therefore, must be missed by the average, reasonably thorough investigator, and some by even the unreasonably thorough. Yet the less thorough may have information the more thorough lacks, and the casual browser probably has information both those others lack. It is a particular purpose of Pynchon Notes to publicize items on Pynchon which may have escaped or may escape ready, general notice because of not having been or being unlikely to be listed in such sources as the more common of those listed above. We invite all readers to contribute bibliographic information about bibliographies, dissertations, books, chapters, essays, articles, reviews, interviews, newspaper and magazine stories, fragments, oddments, stray comments, old conference papers, and anything else of the sort which items seem significant, interesting, or otherwise valuable and worthy of wider publicity with specific reference to Pynchon. Of course, contributions need not be researched to be certain that they have never appeared before in a Pynchon bibliography or in a standard index under "Pynchon." We will screen the material we receive, verify the references, and publish doubtless even some of the most flagrantly obvious information, repeating what may already be familiar to some rather than omitting what may be unknown. Information which anticipates inevitable entries in standard reference sources is also welcome, the more so the greater the anticipation.

The lists of items in the categories below are exemplary rather than exhaustive.

ODDMENTS BY PYNCHON:


BOOKS, CHAPTERS, ESSAYS, ARTICLES, FRAGMENTS, ETC. WHOLLY OR PARTLY ABOUT PYNCHON:


Especially noteworthy for the present purpose are the following.


Styron, William. (See p. 9 above.)


ITEMS FROM THE POPULAR PRESS:

Batchelor, John Calvin. "Thomas Pynchon is not Thomas Pynchon, or, This is the End of the Plot Which Has No Name." The Soho Weekly News, Apr. 22-28, 1976, 15-17, 21, 35.


Goolrick, Robert Cooke. (See p. 3 above.)


**TRANSLATIONS OF WORKS BY AND ABOUT PYNCHON:**


**FOREIGN-LANGUAGE WORKS ABOUT PYNCHON:**


Petillon, Pierre-Yves. (See p. 4 above.)


For this and the preceding category, very precise information, and, if feasible, copies of less accessible items, for the sake of verification, would be especially helpful, although, of course, we welcome any and all leads.

**CONFERENCE PAPERS:**


The following were presented at the MLA convention special session on Pynchon, December, 1975.

Earl, James W. "Scientific and Philosophical Themes in Gravity's Rainbow."

Henkle, Roger B. "Pynchon in Gravity's Rainbow: Love Among the Runes, or, Miltonic in the Gloaming."
Olderman, Raymond M. "Freaks, Freak Humor, Thomas Pynchon's Gravity's Rainbow and the Freak Mythology."

Pearce, Richard. "Where're They At, Where're They Going? Gravity's Rainbow and the Novel of Motion in America," with an appendix on V.

Slade, Joseph W. "Escaping Rationalization: Options for the Self in Gravity's Rainbow."

The following were presented at the MLA convention special session on Pynchon, December, 1976.


Grant, J. K. "'Convention' and 'Neurosis,' 'Communion' and 'Tragedy': Thomas Pynchon, Iris Murdoch, Alain Robbe-Grillet."


Lhamon, W. T. Jr. "Pynchon's Dodgy Politics."

Siegel, Mark R. "The Importance of Film in Gravity's Rainbow."

Slade, Joseph W. "Thomas Pynchon, Post-Industrial Humanist."

Tololyan, Khachig. "Cold War and Hot Peace in Gravity's Rainbow."

The following were presented at the MLA convention special session on Pynchon, December, 1977.


Krafft, John M. "Historical Imagination in the Novels of Thomas Pynchon."

Kramer, Dewey W. and Victor A. "German Madness as a Matrix for Gravity's Rainbow: Rilke, Mann, and the Movement away from the Spiritual."

Schaub, Thomas. "Pynchon's Marvellous Style and the Finer Plot."


We would like to thank Beverly Lyon Clark, David Cowart, Edward Mendelson, Richard Pearce, Penelope Price, Javaid Qazi, and Mark Siegel for their contributions to this issue of Pynchon Notes.
Pynchon Notes 2 will feature an annotated bibliography of source materials employed by Pynchon as compiled by Mark Siegel and Javaid Qazi.