

Editorial

In earlier issues of Pynchon Notes, we have informed readers of the problems faced by scholars who wanted to organize formal seminars on Pynchon's work at MLA Conventions. As announced in our last issue, an informal meeting of such scholars was held at the 1981 Convention in New York on Monday, December 28. Thirty-two people attended this get-together, where the principal topic of discussion was the possibility of securing a more regular forum that would make possible the presentation of papers, in a seminar format, at the next MLA Convention.

Thanks to the initiative of Professors Lance Schachterle of Worcester Polytechnic, Alan Friedman of Berkeley's Lawrence Hall of Science, and Joseph Slade of Long Island University, there will be a panel devoted to papers on Pynchon at the MLA's 1982 Convention in Los Angeles. As one of the directors of the Division on Literature and Science, which is a permanent organization within the MLA, Professor Schachterle suggested that a session devoted to the influence of science and technology upon the language, style or structure of Pynchon's-works could be held under the aegis of that Division. This suggestion was welcomed by all those present. Professors Friedman and Slade are now the committee of two in charge of organizing the seminar. They request that abstracts or proposals, 1 - 3 pages long, be sent to Prof. Joseph Slade, Communications Center, Long Island University/Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn, NY 11201, before April 1.

In a less formal way, there was some discussion of the desirability of forming a Pynchon Society, similar to such organizations as the John Updike Society, which would function as an integral part of the MLA structure and not need constantly to ask for validation of its proposals for annual seminars at the Convention. While the organizational advantages of having such a Society were obvious to many, others objected to the institutionalization of a writer with the sort of attitudes we ascribe to Pynchon. There was no formal proposal, only rambling debate. Those of us who have been present at several such discussions at

earlier Conventions detected a decrease in the intensity of the opposition to creating a Pynchon Society. It is conceivable that in another year or two a Pynchon Society will be formed, especially since the MLA is lifting its moratorium on the acceptance of new allied organizations. We hope to convene some sort of informal meeting, perhaps just before or just after the session devoted to Pynchon at the 1982 Convention, in order to discuss this issue further. Until that time, the Editorial page of PN will keep interested readers informed of developments.

JMK, KT