

Editorial

We are pleased to be able to share with our readers the news that Pynchon Notes has been added to the Master List of periodicals covered by the MLA International Bibliography, where it will be referred to by the acronym PNotes. We hope that this will make the contents of our publication available to a wider audience, and above all we like to think that this will encourage our contributors to send us more new material-- on all of Pynchon's work, as well as on the links between the work of Pynchon and others. Ultimately, of course, it is our fondest aim to make this publication a meeting-place for those who think of Pynchon's developing oeuvre as a central text of contemporary American literature, drawing heavily on its past and on a host of disciplines while helping to shape the future of American narrative. We do not, however, mean to eschew controversy or even dyslogistic criticism.

These are, we realize, large ambitions for a small publication. We hope the added legitimization of Pynchon Notes by the MLA establishment signals a shift in the ambivalent attitude towards Pynchon, of which we see evidence in much contemporary scholarship and commentary, and above all in the recent behavior of the MLA Executives in charge of special sessions at the MLA Conventions. After three seminars in 1975, 1976 and 1977, all subsequent attempts to organize one, made by one of us (Tölölyan) or by other colleagues, have been turned down, usually with no explanation as to the criteria used for the selection of special sessions. We hope that this year's seminar, proposed by Profs. Isle and Thompson (see PN5) will be accepted, and that it will open the way for others contemplated by the editors of PN and, we are sure, by scholars elsewhere.

JMK, KT