

Notes

Call for Papers

Transit of Venus: An International Pynchon Conference
Malta, June 8–10, 2004

This three-day event, slated to coincide with the next Transit of Venus (June 8, 2004), will provide a forum for wide-ranging engagement with the totality of Pynchon's work to date.

We welcome presentations on any Pynchon-related subject, taking any critical or theoretical approach; studies of individual texts or of Pynchon's oeuvre; studies of the texts in themselves or in cultural, literary-historical or other context. We also welcome presentations on other subjects that may appear to particular advantage viewed through the lens of Pynchon's work.

To facilitate a rich and stimulating exchange of views, all presentations will be in plenary session. Each speaker will be allotted thirty minutes.

Selected conference proceedings will be published as a special issue of *Pynchon Notes*.

Held in Valletta, the conference will also include a tour of Pynchon's Malta, observation of the Transit of Venus, and archival displays to complement the academic schedule.

Presentations may take the form of individual papers, media presentations, or panels. Please submit proposals/abstracts (in English) of 500–750 words for individual presentations, or of 1000–1500 words for panels. (Also, please specify what, if any, audiovisual or other equipment may be needed.) Responses to inquiries and notification of acceptance will be by e-mail.

Deadline for proposals: October 15, 2003.

Decisions by December 1, 2003.

Proposals should be e-mailed to Vaska Tumir <Vtumir@conestogac.on.ca>.

Conference Organizers

Vaska Tumir

School of Liberal Studies, Conestoga College, Kitchener, Ontario,
Canada

John M. Krafft

English Department, Miami University–Hamilton, Hamilton, Ohio,
USA

Conference Sponsors

The University of Malta

The St James Cavalier Centre for Creativity, Valletta, Malta

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Report from Sweden

When *Mason & Dixon* was published in Swedish in autumn 2001, the publishing house, Albert Bonniers Förlag, arranged a little seminar: “Discover Thomas Pynchon at the Observatory Museum.” Magnus Bergh talked about transits of Venus, and Swedish author Lotta Lotass talked about expeditions, explorers and borderlines in *Mason & Dixon*. The seminar took place in an old observatory building in the middle of Stockholm, which is nowadays a museum managed by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences—the same organization, by the way, which constitutes the Committee in Pointsman’s dreams of Stockholm and the Nobel Prize (GR 141–42).

The old observatory in Stockholm, built in 1753, was a part of the international chain of sites for observing the Transit of Venus that Pynchon documents in his novel. The building, with its typical cupole-roof for the telescope, is preserved as a historical relic. Besides exhibiting a pedagogical filmstrip which explains a Transit of Venus in detail, the museum contains a nice little model showing the actual “Venus-in-the-Sun” observation—as it was called here in 1761. The model is placed in exactly the spot it is supposed to represent—a beautiful example of *mise en abyme*. Now we are only waiting for 2004 and the historical rerun of Venus-in-the-Sun, and perhaps a new Pynchon seminar.

—Magnus Bergh, Stockholm

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The Narrated Gravity’s Rainbow

The final presentation at the Antwerp conference during International Pynchon Week in June 1998 was *The Narrated Gravity’s Rainbow*—a critical reading/performance of Pynchon’s novel by Project Vox Libris. Their reading of the novel centers on the ideas of Europe as a Zone of conflicting human and technological forces, the transformation of power in the ever-changing shapes of entertainment, and the evolution of technology from V-2 missiles to space dreams and



Upptäck THOMAS PYNCHON
på OBSERVATORIEMUSEET

*Om upptäcktsfärder och
Venuspassager i
Thomas Pynchons roman
Mason & Dixon talar
Magnus Bergh, förläggare
och Lotte Lotass, författare*

*Tisdagen den 6 november
klockan 18.00-19.00 seminarium
klockan 19.00-20.00 visning av museet*

Observatoriemuseet, Drottninggatan 120
För pressplatser kontakta Albert Bonniers Förlags
Pressavdelning, tel: 08-696 86 20

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ALBERT BONNIERS FÖRLAG

computer mirages. Spanning several orthodox categories, *The Narrated Gravity's Rainbow* integrates criticism with animated digital collage (using the work of Canadian artist Larry Daw), theatre and contemporary music into a compelling aural and visual performance, transforming Pynchon's postmodern fiction into performance art. The entire presentation is now available on CD-ROM for \$15.00 (U.S.) plus postage. An order form is available on the *Pynchon Notes* website at <<http://www.ham.muohio.edu/~krafftjm/voxLibris.html>>.

Project Vox Libris are Massimiliano Aloisi—computer programming, visual arts, bass, guitar, samples, voice; Mattia Carratello—sound editing, movie production, guitar, keyboard, voice; Doc Rossi—computer programming, digital effects, text preparation, guitar, cittern, lead voices.

Websites of Special Interest

The *Pynchon Notes* website: <<http://www.ham.muohio.edu/~krafftjm/pynchon.html>>

Brennschluss V2—A Pynchon Portal: <<http://www.linguistix.com/pynchon/>>

Don Larsson's *Companion's Companion*: <<http://www.english.mankato.msus.edu/larsson/grnotes.html>>

Jorn Barger's Pynchon portal: <<http://www.robotwisdom.com/jorn/tpportal.html>>

Larry Daw's Spermatikos Logos: <<http://www.themodernword.com/pynchon/>>

Michel Ryckx's Vheissu: <<http://www.vheissu.be>>

Otto Sell's *Gravity's Rainbow* site: <<http://WWW.ottosell.de/pynchon>>

The Pomona Pynchon page: <<http://www.pynchon.pomona.edu>>

Stuart Moulthrop's *Hyperbola* stack: <<http://raven.ubalt.edu/staff/moulthrop/hypertexts/hyperbola.html>>

Susan Argus's Pynchon links: <<http://www.acmeme.org/pynchon/>>

Tim Ware's web-guides to Pynchon's fiction: <<http://www.thomaspynchon.com>>

Pynchon-L: <<http://www.waste.org/pynchon-l>>