

# PYNCHON NOTES

A Newsletter

**2** February, 1980

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## Editorial

We thank the readers of Pynchon Notes 1 who have written to us for their gratifying, supportive responses. Some have sent us the names and addresses of colleagues who might be interested in receiving the newsletter; others have sent us queries, notes, and bibliographic information which we have included in the appropriate sections of this issue. In all, the responses we have received suggest that Pynchon Notes can indeed perform, as we had hoped, a valued service. Readers appreciated our up-to-date bibliography, but what they mentioned most frequently was the usefulness of Pynchon Notes as a forum to replace the one denied to us by the "leadership" of the MLA which has twice denied us the right to hold a special session devoted to Pynchon's work after allowing three such sessions consecutively.

Readers of Gravity's Rainbow will understand how, in imposing "control" and "order" on the proliferating special sessions of earlier conventions, the MLA "leadership" might find the Pynchon seminar a suitable

target for elimination; neither the author nor the largely untenured readers he has among the MLA membership are quite respectable. We have written repeatedly, asking for reconsideration, citing the manifest interest in such a seminar and the increasing attendance at the previous three, but to no avail. While Pynchon Notes will do its best to facilitate communication among its readers, we feel that nothing can replace the somewhat different kind of exchanges that go on at MLA conventions. Therefore we support, and urge our readers to support Beverly Lyon Clark's effort to organize a special session entitled "Teaching Pynchon to Undergraduates" for the 1980 Convention (see MEETING, p. 5 below).

We are eager to continue hearing from our readers, and want especially to elicit items of the sort contributed to this issue by Marcus Smith and Javid Qazi.

JMK, KT

### News

#### RECENT WORKS:

- Baxter, Charles. Rev. of The Grim Phoenix: Reconstructing Thomas Pynchon, by William M. Plater. Criticism, 21, No. 2 (1979), 179-82.
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- Brahn, Eliot. "Menippean Satire in the Novels of Thomas Pynchon." Diss. Columbia, 1979. (DAI citation unavailable.)
- Brugière, Marion. "Les Avatars de la quête dans The Crying of Lot 49." Delta, 6 (1979), 143-54.
- Cowart, David. Rev. of Pynchon: A Collection of Critical Essays, by Edward Mendelson. The Journal of Aesthetic Education, 13, No. 3 (1979), 125-27.
- Davis, Susan Elizabeth Hendricks. "A Counterforce of Readers: The Rhetoric of Thomas Pynchon's