

# PYNCHON NOTES

A Newsletter

**3** June, 1980

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## News

### RECENT WORKS:

Barth, John. "The Literature of Replenishment: Postmodernist Fiction." The Atlantic Monthly, Jan. 1980, 65-71. (66-67, 70)  
Mentions Pynchon.

Berthoff, Warner. A Literature Without Qualities: American Writing Since 1945. Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 1979, 70-76, 77-78, 175.

Braudy, Leo. "Realists, Naturalists, and Novelists of Manners." In Harvard Guide to Contemporary American Writing. Ed. Daniel Hoffman. Cambridge: Harvard Univ. Press, 1979, 84-152. (117, 134-35)

Brief remarks about Gravity's Rainbow.

Clark, Beverly Lyon. "The Mirror Worlds of Carroll, Nabokov, and Pynchon: Fantasy in the 1860's and 1960's." DAI, 40 (1980), 5847A (Brown).

- Cowart, David. "V. in Florence: Botticelli's Birth of Venus and the Metamorphosis of Victoria Wren." Southern Humanities Review, 13, No. 4 (1979), 345-53.
- . Thomas Pynchon: The Art of Allusion. Carbondale: Southern Illinois Univ. Press, 1980.
- Hariman, Robert Donald. "The Public Temper of Gravity's Rainbow." DAI, 40 (1980), 4798A (Minnesota).
- Hendin, Josephine. "Experimental Fiction." In Harvard Guide to Contemporary American Writing. Ed. Daniel Hoffman. Cambridge: Harvard Univ. Press, 1979, 240-86. (281-86)
- Katz, Bruce Leslie. "This Ruinous Garden: Readable Signs in Pynchon's Gravity's Rainbow with Remarks on Barth's Giles Goat-Boy." DAI, 40 (1980), 4027A (Rutgers).
- Marquez, Antonio. Rev. of Pynchon: Creative Paranoia in Gravity's Rainbow by Mark Richard Siegel. Rocky Mountain Review of Language and Literature, 33, No. 2 (1979), 82.
- . "The Cinematic Imagination in Thomas Pynchon's Gravity's Rainbow." Rocky Mountain Review of Language and Literature, 33, No. 4 (1979), 165-79.
- McHale, Brian. "Modernist Reading, Post-Modern Text: The Case of Gravity's Rainbow." Poetics Today, 1, Nos. 1-2 (1979), 85-110.
- Patteson, Richard F. "Architecture and Junk in Pynchon's Short Fiction." Illinois Quarterly, 42, No. 2 (1979), 38-47.
- Porush, David. Rev. of The Grim Phoenix: Reconstructing Thomas Pynchon by William M. Plater. The American Book Review, 2, No. 3 (1980), 16.
- Pütz, Manfred. "Thomas Pynchon: History, Self, and the Narrative Discourse." In The Story of Identity: American Fiction of the Sixties. Stuttgart: Metzler, 1979, 130-57.

- Qazi, Javaid. "Source Materials for Thomas Pynchon's Fiction: An Annotated Bibliography." Pynchon Notes, 2 (1980), 7-19.
- Quilligan, Maureen. The Language of Allegory: Defining the Genre. Ithaca: Cornell Univ. Press, 1979, 13-14, 33, 42-46, 204-18, 220, 242, 261-63, 265-77, 280, 289-90.
- Safer, Elaine B. "The Allusive Mode and Black Humor in Barth's Giles Goat-Boy and Pynchon's Gravity's Rainbow." Renascence, 32, No. 2 (1980), 89-104.
- Sale, Roger. On Not Being Good Enough: Writings of a Working Critic. New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 1979, 107-08, 113-16.
- Simmon, Scott Allan. "The Ulysses Tradition: Open and Closed Form in the Novels of James Joyce, William Gaddis, and Thomas Pynchon." DAI, 40 (1980), 5441A (U. of California/Davis).
- Smith, Marcus. "V. and The Maltese Falcon: A Connection?" Pynchon Notes, 2 (1980), 6.
- Tololyan, Khachig. "The Fishy Poisson: Allusions to Statistics in Gravity's Rainbow." Notes on Modern American Literature, 4, No. 1 (1979), Item 5, n. pag.

#### RECENT PAPERS:

- Price, Penelope. "Pynchon's Wild West Projection." Presented at the Southwest Popular Culture Association, February, 1980.

#### FORTHCOMING WORKS:

- Larsson, Don. Entry on Pynchon in The Encyclopedia of Short Fiction. Ed. Walton Beacham. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Salem, Fall, 1980.
- Stark, John O. Pynchon's Fictions: Thomas Pynchon and the Literature of Information. Athens: Ohio Univ. Press, Fall, 1980.

#### MEETING:

- "Teaching Pynchon to Undergraduates," proposed

special session for the 1980 MLA Convention, was not approved.

NOTES AND QUERIES:

In response to Javald Qazi's "Source Materials for Thomas Pynchon's Fiction: An Annotated Bibliography" in PN 2, Mark Siegel offers the following additional suggested sources.

Adams, Henry. The Degradation of the Democratic Dogma. New York: Harper & Row, 1969.

Here and in A Letter to American Teachers of History, Adams proposes that the analysis of energy and the Second Law of Thermodynamics be applied to all social phenomena. Like Pynchon in V. and "Entropy," Adams suggests that all the world's energies, physical and societal, are being degraded to lower levels and will finally be unusable.

Feller, William. An Introduction to Probability Theory and Its Application. Vol. 1. New York: Wiley, 1950.

This standard text (which Pynchon is likely to have used at Cornell) contains an explanation of the Poisson Distribution, illustrated with the distribution of "Flying Bomb Hits on London" during World War II (150-52).

Likewise, T. S. Tillotson writes:

Some readers might be interested by indexed references to George Kingsley Zipf and his empirical law as it applies to lexicographic trees and to the temperature of discourse. These references are provided by Benoit B. Mandelbrot in Fractals: Form, Chance, and Dimension (San Francisco: W. H. Freeman, 1977). Mandelbrot describes Zipf's book, Human Behavior and the Principle of Least Effort thus:

"I know very few books in which so many flashes of genius, projected in so many directions, are lost in so thick a ganque of wild notions and extravagance. On the one hand it includes a chapter dealing with the shape of sexual organs and another in which the Anschluss of Austria into Germany is justified by means of a mathematical formula. . . ."