Recent Works:

Mentions Pynchon.


Brief remarks about Gravity's Rainbow.


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.


RECENT PAPERS:


FORTHCOMING WORKS:


MEETING:

"Teaching Pynchon to Undergraduates," proposed
special session for the 1980 MLA Convention, was not approved.

NOTES AND QUERIES:

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


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.


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 gangue 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. ..."