# Notes

The organizers of the conference on the twentieth anniversary of the publication of *Gravity's Rainbow* regret to announce that they have cancelled their original plans for sessions in London and Germany during July–August 1993. Several factors led to this unhappy decision: six months of soliciting for funding, both in the US and abroad, yielded no results and very little encouragement; attempts to identify a significant number of European scholars as participants failed; the current recession and the sharp slump in the dollar made planning to attend a conference involving heavy travel expenses impossible for many scholars whose institutions are cutting support for research and travel. In short, mounting a London/Germany conference out of reach for many colleagues, especially younger ones whose presence and contributions would be crucial, hardly seemed to serve the purposes of the author or readers of *Gravity's Rainbow*.

Nevertheless, the organizers are still interested in hearing from potential conference participants about the possibilities for a smaller-scale event in the US, most likely as an adjunct to an existing conference (thus also reducing administrative and set-up demands). Four possible candidates are the Twentieth-Century Literature Conference in Louisville in February, the Narrative Conference at Rensselaer Polytechnic in April, the ALA conference in Baltimore in May, and The Society for Literature and Science conference in October (tentatively scheduled for Cambridge, MA). The organizers, listed below, are eager to hear suggestions about these (or other) possible venues and about possible conference activities.

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Many thanks to the readers of *Pynchon Notes* who encouraged us to proceed with our ambitious plans. We hope something can be salvaged for 1993—and of course know that now we have five years to plan the quarter-century celebration.

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**Can Anyone Write a Biography of Pynchon?**—a panel organized by Lance Schachterle, with featured speakers Joseph Slade and Joseph Tabbi, to be held at the Society for Literature and Science conference in Atlanta, October 8–11, 1992. (The session is tentatively scheduled for late afternoon on Friday, October 9.) What motivates Pynchon to preserve his privacy, a task certainly as daunting as, say, Norman Mailer's efforts to garner public exposure? Prof. Schachterle hopes the panel will stimulate interest in the cultural phenomenon of a major author choosing total privacy in the Age of Publicity. He would also be interested in knowing whether Pynchon readers would find some venue or format for regular discussions of Pynchon of any utility. Should a Pynchon session become a regular part of the annual meeting of the SLS or the American Literature Association? Despite the fact that a "Pynchon Society" seems a non-sequitur, or a jape on the Peter Pinguid Society, he would like to float the idea and hear responses. He is not suggesting and would be sorry to see an MLA-like situation where we "have" to mount a session to maintain some corporate status.

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**Call for papers:**     Narrative: An International Conference
                 Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, April 1–3, 1993

The conference is an interdisciplinary forum to discuss all aspects of narrative theory and practice. Papers on narrative in any genre, period, nationality, discipline, or medium (film, art, popular culture) will be considered. The committee especially welcomes topics involving interdisciplinary methods or cross-cultural perspectives. The presentation should be in English, and the focus should be on narrative. Submit papers (no more than 10 pages [2500 words]) or abstracts (at least 500 words) and a short *vita*. Proposals for panels of 3 or 4 papers are encouraged. Panels of particular interest with only 2 papers will also be considered. Organizers should include a statement on the focus of the panel, the name and *vita* of each panelist, and papers or abstracts for all participants. Panel organizers may give a paper in the session they propose. Submissions cannot be returned. Deadline: October 10, 1992 postmark. Send to:

> Alan Nadel, Conference Coordinator
> Department of Language, Literature, and Communication
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