

NOTES

On March 31, 1987, Little, Brown and Company announced that it would publish a novel (as yet untitled) by Pynchon in early 1989. No other information about the novel was given.

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The Spring 1986 MLA Newsletter reports that, on December 29, 1985 in Chicago, "Acting on nominations made by the Executive Council," the Delegate Assembly of the Modern Language Association elected Pynchon an honorary fellow of the MLA, subject to ratification by the membership. The Summer 1986 Newsletter reports the ratification vote and states that Pynchon "will be invited to become" an honorary fellow. Pynchon's name, however, does not appear in the subsequent membership directory, as do the names of the others to whom the invitation was extended at the same time.

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Louis Mackey writes:

Impolex G makes an appearance in Rudy Rucker's science-fiction novel, Software. It is used as "flicker-cladding" for autonomic self-reproducing robots on the moon. It acts as a heat-shield and also as a communication screen. Nothing is said of its erectile properties, but when the robot Ralph Numbers puts it on, it arouses in "female" robots a desire to "conjugate" with him. (See page 59 of the 1982 Ace Books edition.) Allusions to other writers' works occur often in Rucker's books.

The influence of Pynchon is very strong in the later work of Walter Jon Williams (Hardwired, Voice of the Whirlwind). But it is diffuse and not compounded of singular references.

Detective stories have a tendency to "work out." What I like about SF (and Pynchon) is that it usually leaves you hanging in indecision.