

Editorial

For some time now, Pynchon's work has stirred strong critical interest abroad. The editors want Pynchon Notes to convey a sense of the reception this oeuvre has received in countries that have inherited different fragments of the Western literary legacy. These cultures have constituted different novelistic canons for themselves, and have developed divergent critical methodologies and ideologies. Our colleagues have kept us aware of these differences by sending us references to such items as reviews of V. in Swedish, or to essays published by Japanese Americanists. Each issue of Pynchon Notes goes to a growing number of readers in Canada, Britain, Israel, France, Germany and Japan. We have published the work of some of these readers and have made our bibliography an international one. We hope to maintain that inclusiveness which Pynchon's work invites.

To translate means not only to attempt to reproduce a text in a new language, but also (etymologically) to move something from one place to another and thereby to make it more accessible. This issue of Pynchon Notes bears the mark of our determination to make this journal a locus of both kinds of translation. Vincent Balitas's essay first appeared in English, but in an Iranian University publication, now defunct. We reproduce it here, with some abridgments, because we doubt that more than a handful of university libraries in America have the original. Margaret Langford's translation of a French essay by Marion Brugière--with its distinctive critical idiolect--is the first of several such that we will be publishing. We are grateful to Claude Richard and the Centre d'Étude et de Recherches sur les Écrivains du Sud aux États-Unis, Université Paul Valéry for permission to publish this translation.

JMK, KT