

Supervisor's Report on B.A. Thesis by

Daniel Litochleb

ENTROPY AND CONSUMERISM IN PYNCHON'S WORKS

Mr. Litochleb sets out in his thesis to portray the facets of the double problematic of entropy and consumerism in three key texts by the American author Thomas Pynchon, "Entropy", The Crying of Lot 49 and Gravity's Rainbow.

The thesis contains x + 53 pp. across some preliminary matter, five chapters and a bibliography. As for the prose style, it reads very cleanly and displays good compositional skill.

This reader appreciated the rigorous use of close reading of the target Pynchon works, which is outfitted by a highly select band of critical works, something that could have been of a more large scale and yet for the present project the research program holds adequate water.

As far as the topical double phenomenon of consumerism and entropy go that cut into and form the principal object of focus for the present thesis investigations, I wonder if the candidate would have a response to the idea that even his literary-critical hermeneutic interpretations are an index of a kind of consumerist property and so by extension of authority, force and use of power and as such should be itself subject to a critique as part and parcel of a consumerist mentality and attitude? Interpretation as property so to say is my storyline here. This issue would open up questions of a more methodological or theoretical nature, which may not be the candidate's supervening concern I recognize and yet I ask all the same.

Furthermore, I would like to know the candidate's position on experience and exchange value, and whether it is possible to get out of the systemic set up of exchange value in a lifeworld, to have a genuine experience? Walter Benjamin famously posed a variant of this question in his Arcades Project and this question continues to reverberate down to our present day. How would consumerism, and perhaps even entropy, fit into this equation? Textual support here from Pynchon and/or the reader's own individual critical intelligence would be appreciated.

In light of the foregoing mentions, I hereby recommend the pre thesis defense mark of 1 (výborně) for the thesis work.

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