

THE FICTIONAL LABYRINTHS OF
THOMAS PYNCHON

The Fictional Labyrinths of Thomas Pynchon

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For Nana

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Foreword

Criticism is by its very nature an incremental process and while I have recorded particular debts in the following pages I would also like to acknowledge the general influence of the following critics: Tony Tanner, Thomas H. Schaub, William M. Plater, Richard Poirier and Joseph W. Slade. Professor Slade has also kindly given his permission for the calculus diagram (Figure 2) to be reproduced from his 1974 study *Thomas Pynchon*. I am grateful for financial assistance from the University of Liverpool and the US Information Service which enabled me to pursue research in New York. I am grateful too for the help and assistance of my friend and colleague Brian Nellist who read parts of this study in its early stages. Sections of Chapter 1 have previously appeared in the *Journal of Narrative Technique* and the *Rocky Mountain Review of Language and Literature*; a part of Chapter 3 first appeared in *Pynchon Notes*; and several parts of this book first appeared in a very different form in the *Critical Quarterly*. I am grateful to the editors of these journals for their permission to reprint the material. I would also like to record my thanks to the secretaries of the Liverpool University English Department for their patience and accuracy in typing this book. My thanks must go to Thomas Pynchon himself for granting permission to quote from his works and particularly for his generosity in allowing me to print the letter which forms my appendix in spite of his misgivings about its style. Lastly I must record a great debt to my wife Nana for her patience and support during the writing of this book, which is dedicated to her.

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