One of Barthian figures conjectures, "to understand any one thing entirely, no matter how minute, requires the understanding of every other thing in the world." And in similar vein a character from Pynchon seems to retort: "everything is connected." Thus any reader who wishes to comprehend the essence of Barth and Pynchon has to first grapple with its myriad relations to inter/cross-disciplinary subjects such as Psychology, Philosophy, Anthropology, Mythology, History, Geography, Mathematics, Social Science and Technology to understand the intricate connections between everything so as to understand any one thing entirely. Yet, it may not be all that easy since the postmodernists seem to concur with Murphy's law that states, "there can be no answers, only cross references." Still, if he would strive, like Pynchon's Oedipa, to look for a 'meaning' in the text he may find himself in a state of paranoia. This paranoia is perhaps better than anti-paranoia since it is "a condition," Pynchon says, "not many of us can bear for long, where nothing is connected to anything." To cut a long story short, any research work of this magnitude, in a sense, "begins in delight and ends in wisdom." Again as Frost would have explained it: "wisdom"--not of an eternal revelation--but just "a momentary stay against confusion." And often, for years, one needs to slog on to get a glimpse of this moment, and then to shape it and give an existence in the form of a thesis. This thesis would have still remained a myth, but for the indispensable and invaluable contributions of the people around me. Acknowledgements are due to the following:
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