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Nota di contenuto	"The space that may not be seen" : the form of historicity in Mason & Dixon / Mitchum Huehls -- The sweetness of immorality : Mason & Dixon and the American sins of consumption / Brian Thill -- Consumption on the frontier : food and sacrament in Mason & Dixon / Colin A. Clarke -- "America was the only place -- " : American exceptionalism and the geographic politics of Pynchon's Mason & Dixon / Pedro Garcia-Caro -- Postmodernism at sea : the quest for longitude in Thomas Pynchon's Mason & Dixon and Umberto Eco's The island of the day before / Dennis M. Lensing -- Haunting and hunting : bodily resurrection and the occupation of history in Thomas Pynchon's Mason & Dixon / Justin M. Scott Coe -- "Our madmen, our paranoid" : enlightened communities and the mental state in Mason & Dixon / Ian D. Copestake -- General Wolfe and the weavers : re-envisioning history in Pynchon's Mason & Dixon / Frank Palmeri.
Sommario/riassunto	Thomas Pynchon's 1997 novel 'Mason & Dixon' marked a deep shift in Pynchon's career and in American letters in general. All of Pynchon's

novels had been socially and politically aware, marked by social criticism and a profound questioning of American values. They have carried the labels of satire and black humor, and 'Pynchonesque' has come to be associated with erudition, a playful style, anachronisms and puns - and an interest in scientific theories, popular culture, paranoia, and the 'military-industrial complex.' In short, Pynchon's novels were the sine qua non of postmodernism; 'Mason & Dixon' went further, using the same style, wit, and erudition to re-create an 18th century when 'America' was being formed as both place and idea. Pynchon's focus on the creation of the Mason-Dixon Line and the governmental and scientific entities responsible for it makes a clearer statement than any of his previous novels about the slavery and imperialism at the heart of the Enlightenment, as he levels a dark and hilarious critique at this America. This volume of new essays studies the interface between 18th- and 20th-century culture both in Pynchon's novel and in the historical past. It offers fresh thinking about Pynchon's work, as the contributors take up the linkages between the 18th and 20th centuries in studies that are as concerned with culture as with the literary text itself. Contributors: Mitchum Huehls, Brian Thill, Colin Clarke, Pedro Garcia-Caro, Dennis Lensing, Justin M. Scott Coe, Ian Copestake, Frank Palmeri. Elizabeth Jane Wall Hinds is Professor and Chair of the English Department at SUNY Brockport.
