

mentary

The writings of Mstislav Bogdanovich

A checklist compiled
by Edward Mendelson

Le Cercle de la Linéarité, the magnum opus of Mstislav Bogdanovich, is published this week by Editions de Marge. Although its author is perhaps the most important of the French philosopher-critics, his work remains inexplicably little-known—and less understood—in the English-speaking world. The TLS offers a complete list of his writings in place of a single essay or chapter, because Bogdanovich's intricate *intertextualité* (his word) demands that he be read entire or not at all. And a review would be out of the question: Bogdanovich cannot be reviewed, only studied.

Mstislav Svetozar Bogdanovich was born on April 1, 1928, in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, and received a degree in engineering from the Sofia Technical Upper School in 1953. He was awarded a doctorate in linguistics at Prague in 1957, and an MD in Paris in 1960. After a few years in private practice he began lecturing at the Ecole Normale Supérieure, whence he now divides his time with Université Paris VIII (Vincennes). During 1971-72 he was visiting professor at Cornell, where he founded "Dial-a-Critic," described as a "combinatory telephone advisory service for young structuralists".

The compiler is grateful to Professor Edward Stankiewicz for calling attention to some of the more obscure items.

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Mstislav Bogdanovich

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Note: Bogdanovich has recently announced the founding of a journal, *Absences critiques*, whose first issue is expected to appear early in 1976.

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Portnoy's Complaint went through before reaching its final form, Philip Roth mentions two stages that relate in different ways to *Lenny*. One was a play about a middle-class Jew involved with a

in his life and that with his "gaunt and driven" appearance Bruce was "just about ripe for the role of Joseph K".

The last piece in Roth's book is