

Correspondence

CHANGES FOR HENRY JAMES

Donald Lyons's exposé of the astonishing biography of Henry James ("Homosexualizing Henry James," Jan. 13) brings to mind Vladimir Nabokov's 1962 parody *Pale Fire*.

Nabokov writes an execrable thousand-line poem about the banalities of middle-aged suburban life, then provides a bogus critical apparatus (foreword, commentary, index) that turns the poem into an adventure tale of the lost kingdom of Zembla.

Sounds like poor Henry James has suffered at the hands of his latest biographer, Sheldon M. Novick, a fate roughly akin to Nabokov's hapless suburban poet.

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