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EDITOR

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Editorial: Yuli Kagarlitsky

We were deeply saddened to read, in the London *Times* of November 2nd 1983, the news that 'A leading Soviet academic and expert on English drama has been dismissed because of his son's dissident activities'.

Besides his interest in drama, Professor Kagarlitsky's life-work has been his devotion to the study of H.G. Wells. He is an honorary Vice-President of the H.G. Wells Society. A protest letter on behalf of the Society, drafted by the Chairman and Secretary and signed by our President Lord Stewart of Fulham, was sent to the Soviet Embassy in December 1983.

Yuli Kagarlitsky was editor of the 15-volume Russian edition of the *Works of H.G. Wells* published in 1964. His book *The Life and Thought of H.G. Wells*, translated by Moura Budberg, was published by Sidgwick and Jackson in 1966. We were proud to print a contribution of his in the *Wellsian* No. 5 (Summer 1982). Another recent article appears in a volume entitled *20th Century English Literature: A Soviet View* (Moscow: Progress Publishers, 1982). Kagarlitsky's essay 'The Summing-Up: H.G. Wells', which is to be found on pp.41-57 of this volume, offers an inspiring survey of Wells's life and writings. The author says that Wells 'showed that it is impossible to describe the present without contemplating the future', and describes him as 'a man of great vision and one of the most courageous figures of modern English letters'.

We send our warmest greetings to Professor Kagarlitsky and his family, and hope that in their current ordeal they are still able to take heart from the Wellsian spirit of vision and courage.

Orwell or...Wells?

Patrick Parrinder

1984 is George Orwell's year (though the Wells Society scored a notable 'first' by holding its residential conference on the theme of 'Wells and Orwell' in September 1983). Orwell's debt to H.G. Wells has always been acknowledged, though — thanks to Orwell's hostile essay 'Wells, Hitler and the World State', and to their subsequent quarrel — it has probably been underestimated. What nobody has noticed, I think, is the remarkable significance of Orwell's choice of a pen-name (his real name was Eric Blair). In 1932 he wrote to his publisher to say that he was hesitating between three possible pseudonyms: Kenneth Miles, George Orwell, and H. Lewis Allways. Putting the three names together, is it not clear that what they have in common is that they are all variations on the name 'Herbert George Wells'?