

assess what has happened by adding an epilogue to the account of the Time Traveller. The tale of the future has somewhat sobered the narrator from utopian optimism but the flowers that Weena gave to the Time Traveller remain as symbols of the ecotopian credo of love. These flowers, to quote from the interpretation by the narrator, "witness that even when mind and strength had gone, gratitude and a mutual tenderness still lived on in the heart of man."¹⁴

François O. Beaulieu

The Copy Texts of American Revised Editions of *The Time Machine*

The various forms of the text of *The Time Machine* are well known. It is generally agreed that the Heinemann 1895 edition constitutes the final form of the text. This was very slightly revised in the Atlantic edition of 1924. Among the minor changes is the replacement of the term "Over-world" with the more suggestive "Upper-world." However, as pointed out by David J. Lake in an earlier study, this revision was not done thoroughly. Consequently, later editions sometimes corrected omissions and, just as often, introduced unwarranted modifications and further typographical errors. It is these variations found in the early subsequent editions of the Atlantic text that make it possible to trace the origins of the copy texts for American revised editions of *The Time Machine*.

Part I: A Second Look at David J. Lake's 'The Current Texts of Wells's Early SF Novels: Situation Unsatisfactory'

David J. Lake's study published in *The Wellsian* #11 is admirable but some of his assumptions concerning the copy texts of American editions of the revised Atlantic text of *The Time Machine* are somewhat inaccurate.

He states on page 4 that "the SR [*The Scientific Romances of H.G. Wells* (Gollancz 1933)] texts have been reproduced [...] in the Dover edition (New York 1950)

¹⁴ Wells, *The Time Machine*, p.105.

of *Seven Science Fiction Novels* and these texts are followed in American paperbacks." My own research suggests that the copy texts for most American revised paperback editions are the Everyman's Library (Dent 1935) edition of *The Wheels of Chance & The Time Machine* and the Benn 1960 edition of *The Short Stories of H.G. Wells*. This conclusion is based on the fact that all but two American revised paperback editions contain the un-revised term "Over-world" in chapter 6. Yet, in *The Scientific Romances of H.G. Wells*, this segment was correctly revised and the term "Upper-World" is used. [Note: The original title of *Seven Science Fiction Novels of H.G. Wells* (Dover 1950) is *Seven Famous Novels of H.G. Wells* – not to be confused with *Seven Famous Novels by H.G. Wells* (Knopf 1934).]

In order to accurately trace the origins of the copy texts of American editions, it is necessary to examine quite closely the publishing history of the Benn edition of *The Short Stories of H.G. Wells* first published in 1927.

As Mr. Lake points out on page 6 of his article, the 1948 reset edition contains an error in the sentence "There several times, [...]." It should read "Three several times [...]." The 1958 Penguin edition of *Selected Short Stories* not only omits to correct this error but adds a coma after "There". Even so, this error does not in fact originate in the Benn 1948 edition but first appears two years earlier in the Heinemann text of the Penguin 1946 edition of *The Time Machine and Other Stories*. Later, it even shows up in Heinemann's own printings. This first occurs when the text of *The Time Machine* is revised for Heinemann's first 1963 edition of *Three Novels*. This text is then used for all subsequent Heinemann reprints of *The Time Machine* (including the most recent) beginning with the 1964 reset edition.

Mr. Lake also remarks that "Penguin [1958, as *Selected Short Stories*], on its own whim, twice misprints the name of the housekeeper as 'Mrs. Watchets' [...]." Although this is essentially correct, there is a precedent for this error: Its appearance in the second paragraph of chapter 3 can be traced to Benn 1948 (it is correct in Benn 1927). However, the Benn edition was eventually corrected. ("Watchett" is correctly spelled in the 1970 printing.) Although I could not verify this, the correction was most likely made in the 1960 printing, since it immediately precedes the first American paperback edition which uses Benn 1948 as copy text and where the "Watchets" error is absent.

The second occurrence of the "Watchets" error, appearing in the second paragraph of chapter 12, is present only in the Penguin 1958 edition of *Selected Short Stories* and was never subsequently corrected – not even in the recent (1995) Penguin 60s

edition of *The Time Machine*. This, of course, disqualifies Penguin as a possible copy text for any American edition other than its own.

Mr. Lake, on page 5, states that the Benn edition was re-titled *Complete Short Stories* when reset in 1948. Although the latter was indeed reset in 1948, the title change actually occurred several years later. A 1952 printing I examined – itself a first reprint of the 1948 reset edition (and the 16th printing) – still bears the original title. The twentieth printing (1966) does feature the new title *The Complete Short Stories of H.G. Wells* (“*Complete Short Stories*” on the dust jacket) and new cover art by society member Richard Gilbert. However, there are three other printings in between (1957, 1960, 1965). The addition of “*Complete*” may be as recent as 1966 (coinciding with the new jacket design), but it could also date from 1960 – to differentiate it from Penguin’s recently released *Selected Short Stories* (1958). To be sure, all three printings between 1952 and 1966 would have to be checked.

Mr. Lake is essentially correct when referring to errors in the Everyman 1935 edition of *The Wheels of Chance & The Time Machine*, but the text of his article contains a typographical error: The word “readjustments” is indeed spelled correctly in this edition. The only word at fault is of course “patent” which should be “patient.” However, the Everyman 1935 edition is not the first in which this error occurs. It first appears in the first edition of *The Short Stories of H.G. Wells* (Benn 1927 – most likely, the copy text for Everyman 1935) and is repeated in nearly every other revised edition I have examined. The few exceptions (besides the original Atlantic edition) are *The Scientific Romances of H.G. Wells* (Gollancz 1933), *Seven Famous Novels by H.G. Wells* (Knopf 1934), their respective facsimiles as well as the few editions using them as copy texts.

Part II: Differentiating the Various Texts and their Copies

After examining several editions in light of David Lake’s findings and my own, I have observed that nearly all editions published prior to 1962 have distinctive characteristics.

For example, in *The Scientific Romances of H.G. Wells*, the word “readjustments” is hyphenated (“re-adjustments”). This, of course, also occurs in Dover’s 1950 facsimile of the same. In recent years, one finds that this peculiarity has showed up in an anthology *The Works of H.G. Wells* (Heinemann/Octopus 1977) reprinted in the “Treasury of World Masterpieces” collection (Octopus 1982). It should come as no surprise that it appears in

Dover’s 1995 Centennial edition of *The Time Machine*. It is also present in Scholastic Books’ 1963 edition of *The Time Machine and Other Stories* (not to be confused with Penguin’s similarly titled 1946 edition of the Heinemann text). However, in this case, “re-adjustments” is hyphenated because the word begins at the end of a line and is continued on the next. One would have to compare other typos in the source editions to determine its exact origin. Similarly, the Benn editions of *The Short Stories of H.G. Wells* are the only “early generation” editions where “Over-world” is not hyphenated (“Overworld”).

Consequently, it is a simple matter to categorize these editions according to their textual peculiarities and then to determine which ones were used as copy texts for later editions. In order to do this, I have devised the following method: Six passages in a given edition are checked and each variation on a passage is assigned a letter. The resulting sequence of letters serves as identification of the source edition or of its copies. The passages chosen and their assigned letters are the following:

From chapter 3, 2nd paragraph (beginning with “I drew a breath [...]”):

* Mrs Watchett: A[Watchett] B[Watchets]

From slightly after the middle of chapter 5 (beginning with “The moon was setting [...]”)

* Three several times: A[Three] B[There] C[There,]

From the last paragraph of chapter 5 (beginning with “Then came troublesome [...]”):

* her human inheritance: A[her] B[] C[the]

From chapter 6, 8th paragraph (beginning with “I tried to call [...]”)

* the Over-world: A[Over-world] B[Upper-world] C[Overworld] D[Upperworld]

From chapter 7, 7th paragraph (beginning with “The Time Traveller paused, put [...]”)

* whole paragraph: A[*The Time Traveller...*] B[The Time Traveller...]

From chapter 8, 6th paragraph (beginning with “To judge from the size of the place [...]”)

* the patient readjustments: A[patient] B[patent] C[patient re-adjustments]

Thus, for example, the Atlantic edition is attributed the following sequence: "AABAAA".

Part III: Identifying the Source Editions

Using the method outlined in part II, letter sequences are ascribed to the following source editions – those which, for the most part, served as the copy texts of American editions of the Atlantic text of *The Time Machine*.

Original revised edition

* Atlantic 1924: AABAAA

First generation copies (group I)

* Essex 1927: AACCB

* Benn 1927: AACCB

First generation copies (group II)

* Gollancz 1933: AACBAC

* Knopf 1934: AACBAA

* Dover 1950: AACBAC

Second generation copies

* Random House 1931: AACBBB
(based on Benn 1927)

* Everyman 1935: AACABB
(based on Benn 1927)

* Benn 1948: BBCCAB
(reset version of Benn 1927)

Corrected second generation copy

* Benn 1960: ABCCAB
(reprint of Benn 1948 – but "Watchets" is corrected)

Third generation copies

* Berkley 1957: AACABB
(based on Everyman 1935)

* Penguin 1958: BCCAAB
(based on Benn 1948 – "Watchets" is not corrected)

* Dolphin 1961: ABCABB
(based on Benn 1960 – "Overworld" is hyphenated)

Part IV: Classifying American Revised Editions

The following is a listing of American editions of *The Time Machine* which have been grouped under their respective source editions. It should be kept in mind that most of these more recent editions have undergone further unintentional deformations. This explains why the letter sequences identifying them are, in most cases, slightly different from those of the source editions.

American Pulp

Copy text: Random House 1931 (AACBBB)

Wings Publishing 1951 ABCBBB [3rd generation copy]

Published under the magazine title "Two Complete Science-Adventure Books" (issue no.4), this pulp edition is clearly based on the Random House 1931 text ("copyright Random House 1931" is specified). Nonetheless, it contains a further error: "Three" was replaced by "There", as in so many later editions. Furthermore, the paragraph in chapter 7 which, originally, was italicized is, in the Random House 1931 edition, printed in coloured Roman font. When it was copied in the above edition, this passage, being monochrome, was no longer highlighted. There are two other pulp editions of *The Time Machine*; however, both are based on the Holt text.

American Paperbacks

Copy text: Everyman 1935 (AACABB)

Berkley 1957 AACABB [3rd generation copy]
Ace 1988 (Berkley reprint) AACABB [3rd generation copy]

The Berkley edition is the first American edition based on the Everyman 1935 text and probably was itself the copy text for several subsequent American editions. The Berkley edition has not been out of print since it was first introduced in 1957. Since 1988, it has been reprinted under a different publisher's name: "Ace Books". However, Ace Books is now part of the Berkley Publishing Group. The current Ace printing is an exact duplicate of the original Berkley 1957 edition.

Copy text: Everyman 1935 or Berkley 1957 (AACABB)

Airmont 1964 AACABB [3rd or 4th generation copy]
Signet 1984 AACABB [3rd or 4th generation copy]

Aerie 1986 AACABB [3rd or 4th generation copy]
Tor 1992 (Aerie reprint) AACABB [3rd or 4th generation copy]

Subsequent editions based on the Everyman 1935 text are most likely based on the Berkley 1957 edition which, by April 1964, was already into its 14th printing and was therefore widely available in America.

Copy text: Benn 1960 (ABCCAB)

Dolphin 1961 ABCABB [3rd generation copy]

The Dolphin edition is the first American edition based on the Benn 1960 text. Again, in this case, the italics in chapter 7 are replaced by Roman font. Furthermore, the term "Overworld" written as a single word in all original Benn editions appears here as "Over-World." (The hyphenated form is the one found in the original Heinemann 1895 edition.)

Copy text: Dolphin 1961 (ABCABB)

Pyramid 1966 ABCABB [4th generation copy]
Fawcett 1968 ABCABB [4th generation copy]
Bantam 1968 ABCABB [4th generation copy]
Lancer 1970 ABCABB [4th generation copy]
Watermill 1980 ABCABB [4th generation copy]

Since the variations on Benn 1960 found in Dolphin 1961 are repeated in all subsequent editions based on Benn 1960, these later editions are most likely 4th generation copies of Dolphin 1961.

Copy text: Gollancz 1933, Dover 1950 (AACBAC) or Knopf 1934 (AACBAA)

Scholastic 1963 AACDAA [2nd generation copy]

Scholastic 1978 AACDAA [2nd generation copy]

The Scholastic 1963 edition is the first American edition based on Gollancz 1933, Dover 1950 or Knopf 1934. It is most likely based on Dover 1950 (Dover's facsimile of Gollancz 1933), but could just as well be based on the Knopf 1934 edition. It is difficult to determine this because the hyphenated word "re-adjustments" is printed on two lines. The 1978 edition of Scholastic is a reprint that excludes the short stories found in the original edition.

Copy text: Dover 1950 (AACBAC)

Dover 1995 AACBAC [2nd generation copy]

The Dover 1995 edition is a reset printing of the text of Dover's facsimile edition of *The Scientific Romances of H.G. Wells* (Gollancz 1933). Ironically, the introduction states that the text is "an unabridged republication of the work originally published by William Heinemann, London 1895."

Copy text: Penguin 1958 (BCCAAB)

Penguin USA 1995 BCCAAB [4th generation copy]

The Penguin 60s edition of *The Time Machine* is the only American edition based on the Penguin 1958 text of *Selected Short Stories*. For its centennial edition of *The Time Machine* and its own 60th anniversary, Penguin did not even bother to revise its faulty 1958 text. Not even the two occurrences of "Watchets" are corrected!

American Hardbacks

Copy text: Everyman 1935 or Berkley 1957 (AACABB)

Nelson Doubleday 1979 AACABB [3rd or 4th generation copy]

Copy text: Dolphin 1961 (ABCABB)

Heritage 1964 ABCABB [4th generation copy]

Buccaneer 1976 ABCABB [4th generation copy]

Amereon 1986 ABCABB [4th generation copy]

The Buccaneer edition is actually a hardback facsimile of the Bantam 1968 paperback edition while the Amereon 1986 edition is a hardback facsimile of the Lancer 1970 paperback edition.

Copy text: Knopf 1934 (AACBAA)

Franklin 1982 ABCBAA [2nd generation copy]

Although it appears quite likely that this version is based on the Knopf 1934 text, "Three" was again replaced by "There."

In conclusion, I can only echo David Lake's original concerns: The further away one moves from the original copy text, the more likely one is to copy accumulated errors and to add further ones. Given that even the original text published in the Atlantic edition needs revisions, the task facing American publishers in correcting their editions is not a simple one. Unfortunately, it is an objective that most publishers are not willing (and perhaps not qualified) to meet. Their editions have sold well for years, so why bother making the necessary rectifications? For now, American readers wishing a fairly error-free text of *The Time Machine* may have to turn to the current British Everyman edition. It is readily available in the U.S.A. from Charles E. Tuttle Inc.

Editions Consulted:

Heinemann text:

The Time Machine – An Invention

London: William Heinemann (First & Popular Edition) [1895]

London: William Heinemann (New Edition & New Windmill) [reset 1949]

London: William Heinemann (New Edition & New Windmill) [reset 1964]

The Time Machine and Other Stories

London: Penguin Books [1946]

Three Novels: The Time Machine, The War of the Worlds, The Island of Doctor Moreau

London: William Heinemann [1963]

The Time Machine & The Man Who Could Work Miracles

London: Pan Books [1953]

London: Pan Books [reset 1965]

Atlantic text:

The Time Machine, The Wonderful Visit and Other Stories

The Atlantic Edition of the Works of H.G. Wells (vol. I)

London: T. Fisher Unwin [1924]

The Time Machine and Other Stories

The Collected Essex Edition of the Works of H.G. Wells (vol. XVI)

London: Ernest Benn [1927]

The Short Stories of H.G. Wells

(re-titled: *The Complete Short Stories of H.G. Wells*)

London: Ernest Benn [1927] (printings of 1927 and 1941)

London: Ernest Benn [reset 1948] (printings of 1948, 1952)

London: Ernest Benn [1960 ?] (printings of 1966, 1970)

The Time Machine – An Invention

New York: Random House [1931]

The Scientific Romances of H.G. Wells

London: Victor Gollancz [1933]

Seven Famous Novels by H.G. Wells

New York: Alfred A. Knopf [1934]

The Wheels of Chance & The Time Machine

London: J.M. Dent & Sons (Everyman's Library) [1935] (printings of 1935, 1946, 1969)

Seven Famous Novels of H.G. Wells

(re-titled: *Seven Science-Fiction Novels of H.G. Wells*)

New York: Dover Publications [1950]

Selected Short Stories

London: Penguin Books [1958] (printings of 1958, 1961, 1968, 1981)

The War of the Worlds and The Time Machine

New York: Dolphin Books [1961]

The Time Machine & Other Stories

New York: Scholastic Book Services [1963] (printings of 1966, 1968, 1971)

The War of the Worlds / The Time Machine

New York: Limited Editions Club [1964]

New York: Heritage Press [1964]

The Time Machine / The War of the Worlds

Greenwich, Connecticut: Fawcett Publications [1968]

Three Novels of the Future – The Time Machine, The Invisible Man, The War of the Worlds

New York: Nelson Doubleday [1979]

The Time Machine / The Invisible Man / The War of the Worlds

Franklin Center, Pennsylvania: Franklin Library [1982]

The Time Machine and The Invisible Man

New York: Signet Classic [1984]

The Time Machine

New York: Wings Publishing [1951]

New York: Berkley Publishing [1957]

New York: Airmont Publishing [1964]

New York: Pyramid Books [1966]

New York: Bantam Books [1968]

New York: Lancer Books [1970]

New York: Buccaneer Books [1976]

New York: Scholastic Book Services [1978]

Mahwah, New Jersey: Watermill Press [1980]

New York: Amereon House [1984]

New York: Aerie Books [1986]

New York: Ace Books [1988]

New York: Tor Books [1992]

New York: Dover Publications [1995]

New York: Penguin Books U.S.A. [1995]

Note: Although the above list includes the majority of editions printed in America, there are other editions which I have not yet been able to examine. Among them, Dufour, Bentley and Willowisp Press. Critical and annotated editions have been left out of this study as the text in such editions is most often revised by its editors. The Oxford University Press edition of *The Time Machine & The Island of Doctor Moreau*, edited by Patrick Parrinder, deserves mentioning here.

Book Review: *Lost Worlds and Mad Elephants: Literature, Science and Technology 1700-1990*, edited by Elmar Schenkel and Stefan Welz (Leipzig Explorations in Literature and Culture, 2) (Galda + Wilch: Gleinicke, Berlin and Cambridge, MA, 1999). 371 pp. ISBN 3-9311397-16-5. DM 118. [By Edward James]

This is a collection of twenty-one essays and an introduction, all in English, the product