

Secondly, all the chapters added since his death should be removed and replaced by an account which will take us up to the end of the Second Millennium in a recognisably Wellsian spirit. If the publishers cannot find anyone else to do the job, there are, I must point out, a number of writers and historians in the Wells Society who would be more than willing to lend a hand. Enough said?

Sylvia Hardy

The "Definitive" *Time Machine*

H.G. Wells. *The Definitive Time Machine: A Critical Edition of H.G. Wells's Scientific Romance with Introduction and Notes by Harry M. Geduld*. Bloomington (Indiana UP) 1987. \$27.50 hardcover, \$10.95 paperback.

As David Lake points out in his review of this book for *Science Fiction Studies* (Vol 15, 1988), the most significant aspect of Harry M. Geduld's *The Definitive Time Machine* is, that it is not definitive - there are a number of textual errors. Geduld assumes, apparently unquestioningly, that the Atlantic Edition of *The Time Machine* is the definitive text, whereas in fact, as David Lake makes clear in his 1988 *Wellsian* article, Wells made several substantive corrections in both the later Essex Edition and in the 1933 collection, *The Scientific Romances of H.G. Wells*. Geduld's explanatory notes are also misleading. The most prominent example is his claim in Note 1, p. 91, that in an earlier version of *The Time Machine* the Time Traveller was given the name Bayliss, but this is clearly a confusion. Again it was Professor Lake who demonstrated (in an article in the 1980 *Wellsian*, 'The Drafts of *The Time Machine*') that Bayliss was the name Wells gave to one of the dinner guests, a character first designated as 'the red haired man'; this was in later drafts changed to Bayliss, and in the final version he was re-named Filby.

In other respects, however, Professor Geduld's book does have a great deal to recommend it. The various versions of *The Time Machine* are brought together in one volume, and for the first time the chapter of the 1894 version which Wells omitted from the published text is made available to the general reader. The other appendices (VIII-XII), are less easy to defend - or even account for. They are all of peripheral interest, and the parallels with Beowulf adduced in Appendix XI seem particularly strained. On the plus

side, there is a very informative and succinct introduction which, in the space of twenty-four pages brings together discussion of the biographical and literary influences on the gestation of *The Time Machine* together with an account of its publication and reception, plus a helpful account of the structure of the story, analysed thematically in relation to some recent critical commentary. The notes, too, are in general both helpful and interesting.

Nonetheless, it is difficult to see for whom the book as a whole is intended. Whilst some of the footnotes seem superfluous for the mature reader - is it necessary to provide a gloss on 'lichen' (Note 4 p. 116) or 'crustacea' (Note 16, p. 116), for instance? - others, particularly when Geduld engages in dispute with Frank McConnell's 1977 edition of *The Time Machine*, seem recondite (See Note 19, p. 99). In general I feel that this book could be very useful to students because it does bring together in one volume a great deal of valuable background material which has until now only been available in a number of sources. I would, on the other hand, want to qualify this recommendation with the warning that when the notes do not confine themselves to clarification of factual details but attempt to explain the reader's response to the text of *The Time Machine*, the comments are often naive because they rest on a number of unquestioned assumptions and literary judgements - Note 1 on page 91 provides a good instance of this.

Michael Draper

Wells and the Modern Novel

J.R. Hammond *H.G. Wells and the Modern Novel*. London (Macmillan) 1988, 224 pp. £29.50

Even if he were not the founder of the H.G. Wells Society, John Hammond would have earned a distinguished place for himself in the field of Wells Studies as the author of several invaluable books. His *Annotated Bibliography* (NY: Garland, 1977), *H.G. Wells Companion* (London: Macmillan, 1979) and *H.G. Wells: Interviews and Recollections* (London: Macmillan, 1981) are all volumes which any serious student of the Great Man will have consulted with gratitude; more recently JRH has gone on to compile *The Man with a Nose, and Other Uncollected Short Stories of H.G. Wells* (London: Athlone Press, 1984). Without his quarter-century of campaigning, it is likely that