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EDITORIAL

Welcome to the 2013 issue of *The Wellsian* – and my apologies to those of you will not receive this until 2014. We present again this year the winner of the Giles Hart Prize, awarded in memory of the H. G. Wells Society's former chairman, for an essay that makes an outstanding contribution to Wells studies. The winning essay is Paul Vlitos's 'H. G. Wells and Autointoxication Theory', which, in the judges' view, 'looks at a range of texts, fiction and non-fiction, from different stages of Wells's career, and tackles some controversial questions, and was judged to be persuasive, original, well-written and well-structured. This is both an amusing article and a fine piece of scholarship.' The runner up is Jeremy Withers's 'Bicycles, Tricycles and Tripods', which well places Wells's work, especially *The War of the Worlds*, in the context of the Victorian history of bicycling, reaching a perhaps surprising conclusion about the relationship between humanity and technology. We are also delighted to find a home for Andrew Glazzard's detailed and thorough essay 'H. G. Wells and "The Housing Problem"' which addresses a very important topic in Wells studies.

It is a pleasing sign that every year *The Wellsian* receives more books than it has space to review, and this year we have an especially fertile crop. The range of the different ways in which Wells continues to be considered is proof of his enduring importance to scholarship, and to other fields of human endeavour. I would also like to thank for her contributions to the editing of this issue, my Research Assistant, Denise Kinsinger, and for funding, the Department of English Studies at Durham University.

NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

Andrew Glazzard completed a PhD examining Joseph Conrad's use of popular fictional genres at Royal Holloway, University of London in 2013. He is working on a monograph on Conrad, and is proposing a new project looking at ideas from economics in Edwardian fiction.

Sylvia Hardy is a Vice President of the H. G. Wells Society. Formerly a lecturer and, until recently a Fellow at the University of Northampton, she has degrees in English Literature and Language (London University) Film Studies (University of East Anglia) a PhD on H. G. Wells and Language (University of Leicester). She has published extensively on H. G. Wells and on British film.

Simon J. James is Professor of Victorian Literature and Deputy Head of Department at the Department of English Studies, Durham University. He is the author of *Unsettled Accounts: Money and Narrative Form in the Novels of George Gissing, Maps of Utopia: H. G. Wells, Modernity and the End of Culture* and articles on Charles Dickens, Marie Corelli and Wells; he has also edited work on Gissing and Charles Darwin, and four Wells novels for Penguin Classics. He has co-edited collections on Gissing and on Charles Darwin, and has edited texts by Wells and by Gissing. His current projects include an online edition of the manuscript of *The Time Machine*.

Paul Vlitos is Programme Director for the MA in Creative Writing and the BA in English Literature with Creative Writing at the University of Surrey. His current research project explores the relationship between literary fiction and the political, scientific and medical discourses surrounding food and eating during the period 1890-1914 – a period when new scientific understandings of the digestive processes and of the effects of malnutrition offered journalists, medical writers, politicians, political reformers and novelists new ways of understanding and debating the social significances of diet and eating. He has recently published work

on Joseph Conrad, Mrs Beeton and cannibalism. He is also the author of two published novels.

Keith Williams is Senior Lecturer in the English and Film programme at the University of Dundee and chairs the Scottish Word and Image Group. He is the author of several books and articles on literature and inter-mediality in the early twentieth century, including *British Writers and the Media, 1930-45* (1996). His most recent monograph is *H. G. Wells, Modernity and the Movies* (Liverpool UP, 2007) and he is currently completing a study of *James Joyce and Cinematicity: Before and After Film*. He has recently published an article comparing Wells and Joyce's joint interest in film animation: "'Sperrits in the Furniture': Wells, Joyce and Animation', *Alternative 1910s*, a special number of *Literature and History*.

Jeremy Withers is a Lecturer in the English Department at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa, USA. His previous publications have examined the intersections of warfare and animals in medieval British literature, in addition to articles on the role of animals in contemporary American fiction and film. Currently, he is editing (with Daniel Shea) a collection of essays on bicycling in literature and film tentatively entitled *Texts on Two Wheels: Bicycling in Literature, Film, and Culture*.