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ISSN 0263 1776

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## Editorial

When I became editor of the *Wellsian* there was a slight doubt in my mind whether I'd be able to find enough material to produce an issue every year. Seven years later, such has been the growth of interest in Wells, the problem has become how to fit everything in! This time around we have managed to accommodate six substantial articles, two of them lengthy ones, each with its own distinctive approach but all linked by a common theme: the birth of the future from the past, and the problems (literary, political and philosophical) which this transition entails both for Wells and for his readers. I hope you find the arguments they put forward as stimulating as I have, and also that you look forward as much as I do to reading the 1992 issue of the *Wellsian*.

M.D.

## Patrick Parrinder New Worlds for Old

"I am English by origin," wrote H.G. Wells in the 1930s, "but I am an early World-Man and I live in exile from the world community of my desires."<sup>1</sup> All three parts of this statement - Wells's English origins, his international outlook, and his sense of exile from a longed-for new world - deserve to be emphasized, though it is his militant sense of world citizenship which most obviously sets him off from other writers of his time. A founder of P.E.N. (Poets, Essayists, Novelists), he was elected international president of that organization in 1934. In the same year, some of his admirers banded together to form the first H.G. Wells Society. They debated whether to change its name to the Open Conspiracy (after Wells's book of 1928 advocating a