

The Wellsian: The Journal of the H.G. Wells Society

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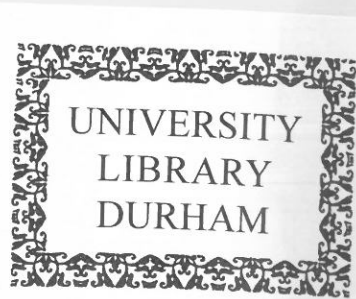
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(Please send submissions on floppy disk
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The Wellsian – Mission Statement and Editorial Policy

The Wellsian is the official journal of the H.G. Wells Society and its primary aim is to provide fresh new interpretations of the life, work and thought of H.G. Wells to members of the Society. Secondly, though still very importantly, the journal aims to expand interest in Wells outside the Society, and this is largely achieved through the subscription of libraries to the journal and through individual non-members purchasing copies of the journal through our Sales Officer, John Green.

The criteria for publication in *The Wellsian* are set by these aims. Selection for publication is based on competition between contributors. Priority for publication is given based on a) originality of contribution; b) variety in the journal; c) competence of the research; and d) conformity to the journal's standard of presentation and length. Thus, where an article has been published before, or has been publicly presented previously, other articles of *the same standard or better* will be given priority. This does not mean that previously published/presented articles will not be included in *The Wellsian*, but that they will receive lower priority than *equally good* submissions that have never appeared publicly elsewhere. On the other hand, previously published/presented articles of outstanding quality, which are not easily available to members of the Society, will be published in *The Wellsian* without question. The ultimate decision for acceptance or rejection of an article in *The Wellsian* rests with the editor, following consultation with members of the Society's committee where necessary. All decisions are made based on the above criteria and with the Society's mission statement in mind: "For the promotion and encouragement of an active interest in, and appreciation of the life, work and thought of Herbert George Wells".

Notes on Contributors

Gail-Nina Anderson is an art historian who takes a keen interest in all things Victorian. It was while writing programme notes for *The Princess and the Goblin* pantomime that she discovered the connections between MacDonald and Wells.

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Charles DePaolo received his PhD in English at New York University in 1982 and teaches in the City University of New York. His widely published interdisciplinary writings explore the relationship between literature, history, science and religion.

James Dilloway is a retired international official and UN representative, and author of books and reports dealing with national and international economic and political development, scientific and technical questions and human rights.

Sylvia Hardy is chair of the H.G. Wells Society and a Research Associate of the University College of Northampton. She is currently researching H.G. Wells and film, having recently engaged in study at the Wells archive at the University of Illinois.

David J. Lake was born in Bangalore, India. Educated in Britain and Australia, he was a school teacher in England before teaching English in Vietnam and Thailand. From 1967 to 1994, he lectured at the University of Queensland, becoming an Assoc. Professor. He attended school with Wells's grandson Martin, and has been interested in Wells from age 12. His research interests include Elizabethan drama and science fiction. A prolific author, he has written two 'sequels' to *The Time Machine*.

Richard Law, PhD, is Associate Professor of English and Communication at Alvernia College, Reading, Pennsylvania, USA. His critical essays have appeared in a number of journals and books.

David Longhorn works for a talking newspaper company serving the visually impaired. He has been rereading Wells's science fiction since childhood.

John S. Partington is the editor of *The Wellsian* and a regular reviewer for *Kritikon Litterarum* and the *Annotated Bibliography for English Studies*. He has published several articles on Wells's science fiction and utopian writings and is currently completing his PhD thesis at the University of Reading on Wells's political thought.

David C. Smith is a vice president of the H.G. Wells Society. He is retired from teaching but continues to work on his annotated bibliography of Wells's writing as well as a fifth volume of Wells's correspondence.

W. Warren Wagar is a vice-president of the H.G. Wells Society and Distinguished Teaching Professor of History at Binghamton University in New York. His new edition of Wells's *The Open Conspiracy* is scheduled for publication in mid-2000 by Praeger Publishers of Westport, Connecticut.

James Dilloway

Wellsian Thinking Revisited

In this piece our purpose is to examine an area of Wells's enormous output that has received relatively little attention over the last five decades – that part of his non-fiction writing concerned with original analysis or proposals. This means that a vast field of metaphysical, biological, social, political and economic creativity and comment will have to be whittled down to an irreducible essence and defined in clear terms. We shall also have to leave out of account a rich commentary pursued through characters and situations evoked in his fictional output. From the major non-fiction must then be removed, or allowed for, several viewpoints that changed during his lifetime – e.g. in such areas as religion, international government, collectivism in the USSR or some aspects of political economy. After all due pruning of this kind, we might try to see how far the residue that remains may suggest a lifelong evolution of ideas and what might be its status – whether in the context of his own time or in the wildly different climate that has emerged today.

The Early Setting

First, ought we not to set the scene – to take some account of that unique setting in which his sudden individual surge of creativity came to arise? If the shape of ideas can be moulded by environment or circumstance, it is hardly in doubt that in Wells's earlier years the climate for change was certainly ripe. He arrived on the scene only eight years after Darwin and Wallace had wrought that biological bombshell – the theory of organic evolution by natural selection. When the Greenwich meridian became the datum for measuring time and longitude, Wells had reached the age of eighteen. Not long afterwards, Mendel's biological laws of heredity first reached public awareness. So far as concerned political and economic change he was, for his first seventeen years, a contemporary of Karl Marx, and longer still of Friedrich Engels. When *Das Kapital* arrived, with its theory seeking to unify history, economy and politics, he was one year old. Those founders of modern social science – Emile Durkheim, Max Weber and, in Britain, Charles Booth and L.T. Hobhouse – were all