

reinterpretation for cinematic use, he was unable to write effectively directly for the screen and thus, the "war of the worlds" of filmmaking and literature continued to rage long after his involvement with both media ceased.

[Also of special interest to Wellsians is *Foundation*, no.65 (Autumn 1995) which commemorates the centenary of *The Time Machine* and is entitled 'Wells's *Time Machine* After 100 Years'. Back issues of *Foundation* can be ordered from Andy Sawyer, Science Fiction Foundation Collection, Sydney Jones Library, University of Liverpool, PO Box 123, Liverpool L69 3DA; email: <A.P.Sawyer@liverpool.ac.uk>.]

Book Review: *When the Sleeper Wakes: A Critical Text of the 1899 New York and London First Edition, with an Introduction and Appendices, 'The Annotated H.G. Wells, 5'*, by H.G. Wells, ed. by Leon Stover (Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2000). xii, 465pp. \$55. [By John S. Partington]

In this critical text of H.G. Wells's *When the Sleeper Wakes*, Leon Stover makes a bold attempt to read fiction in its contemporary context and reveal the author's 'overt' political message. Stover tends to stretch his case for Wells as a Saint-Simonian Socialist beyond belief, however, through a desperate use of footnotes – 263 in all, and some several pages long – though followed by a series of appendices which contradict his thesis. These appendices are mostly the author's introductions to reprinted editions of his book (1910, 1921 and 1924) and they all ridicule the idea of taking the novel as a serious statement of the future of society – just exactly what Stover is trying to do. Stover explains away these contradictions either by discovering a 'hidden' meaning between the lines of the introductions in question or by simply saying "This preface is troublesome because it seems to repudiate the author's intention" (in the case of his criticism of Wells's 1921 introduction). Nonetheless, despite Stover's frankly weird political agenda, this volume has it uses. Firstly, the republication of Wells's introductions and also his, now rare, 1912 article, 'The Labour Unrest', and the 1899 Wells interview, 'What I Believe', are a boon for researchers seeking easy access to some of Wells's lesser known pieces of writing.

And secondly, occasionally Stover does make an enlightened comment in his introduction or in a footnote to the text that can form a basis for further research. The book should come with a warning label, however, when made available to eager researchers cutting their teeth in the skills of interpretation. *When the Sleeper Wakes* is number five in Stover's six-part reassessment of Wells's science fiction – *The Time Machine*, *The Island of Doctor Moreau*, *The Invisible Man* and *The First Men in the Moon* have also appeared and *The War of the Worlds* is due to follow shortly. These can all be order from the following address: McFarland and Company, Inc., Publishers, Box 611, Jefferson, North Carolina 28640, USA (Order line in the USA: 1-800-253-2187).

Recent Books and Articles on H.G. Wells

Aldiss, Brian, 'The Referee of *The War of the Worlds*', *Foundation*, vol.28, no.77 (autumn 1999), pp.7-14

Baxter, Stephen, 'Rebuilding the Time Machine: The Science of H.G. Wells', <<http://www.sam.math.ethz.ch/~pkeller/BAXTER/Articles/HGWells.html>>

Baxter, Stephen, 'Wild Extravagant Theories: The Science of *The Time Machine*', *Paper for Picocon 13, Imperial College, 4 February 1996*, <<http://www.sam.math.ethz.ch/~pkeller/BAXTER/Articles/PicoconTalk.html>>

Boerst, William J., *Time Machine: The Story of H.G. Wells* (Greensboro, NC: Morgan Reynolds, 2000)

Bond, Patricia, 'H.G. Wells and Spade House', in *Spade House Nursing Home* (Folkestone)

Bradshaw, David, ed., 'Open Conspirators: Huxley and H.G. Wells 1927-35', in *The Hidden Huxley* (London and Boston: Faber and Faber, 1995), pp.31-43

Brians, Paul, 'Study Guide for H.G. Wells: *The War of the Worlds* (1898)' (2 March 1995), <http://www.wsu.edu:8080/~brians/science_fiction/warofworlds.html>