

Dr Lake had had second thoughts on the matter. He pointed out to me in a letter that the cut version makes remarkably little sense.

The chaps in the sphere move abruptly from blackness and misted up windows to light outside and clear windows within the space of one sentence - and there is a reference to "these hummocks" which are only mentioned previously in the cut portion. I think it suspicious that the cut is almost exactly one page long.

His theory to account for these difficulties was that a page of the typescript had got lost when the American edition was set and, since the dislocation still made superficial sense, no one noticed the problem. This included Wells himself, who went on to use the defective version as copy text for the Atlantic Edition.

By August Dr Lake had come up with a persuasive explanation for how the mistaken cut could have occurred. He had been looking through *The Collector's Book of Science Fiction by H.G. Wells* (Secaucus, NJ: Castle Books, 1978), a facsimile reprint of some of Wells's early work as originally published in magazines, when he noticed that the mysterious deletion constituted exactly one page of the *Strand Magazine* serial version, namely p.32 of the January 1901 issue. Could it be that the typescript sent to America was copied from the magazine, with one page accidentally left out? It could indeed - for the American text shows other signs of influence from the *Strand* text (the placing of commas, for example). Presumably Wells wrote his revisions for the US edition onto a copy of the *Strand*, just as he had earlier revised *The Time Machine* utilising pages from the *National Observer* serial version.

Sad to say, after all that detective work (right down to suggesting the name of the guilty typist, Wells's cousin Bertha Williams), Dr Lake cannot actually claim the credit for being the first person to spot what must have happened. In a letter to me of January 1990, Chris Little, a Lecturer in Physics at the University of St Andrews, in Fife, advances the same theory and points out that it had been suggested previously, in Peter Haining's *H.G. Wells Scrapbook* (London: New English Library, 1978) pp.104-5. Worse, by February Dr Lake had discovered he had been 'scooped' by a massive fifty-six years! The mystery of the missing page had, it turns out, been noted in the *Times Literary Supplement* for 3rd August 1933, p.17, column 4.

One intriguing question remains, did anyone draw Wells's attention to this item in the *TLS*? It's hard to believe that it can simply have passed him by. The last I heard, Dr Lake was trying to get hold of the 1934 Knopf edition of *Seven Famous Novels by H.G. Wells* to see

whether Wells took the opportunity this edition offered him to rebuild the American text into the original twenty-six chapters. By 1934, however, Wells had little interest in the details of his early fiction, so it is doubtful whether, even if he knew of the defect, he would have taken the trouble to remedy it. Contemporary Wellsians, on the other hand, will doubtless be keen to hand on to posterity that delightful, imaginative, historic and thought-provoking document, *The First Men in the Moon*, in the best state possible. I for one look forward to the publication of a definitive edition, with the miraculous touchdown on the Moon preserved in its full glory.

M.D.

RECENT BOOKS AND ARTICLES ON WELLS

compiled by Professor Patrick Parrinder, Head of the Department of English Language and Literature, University of Reading

'Current Selling Prices: The Fiction of H.G. Wells', *Book and Magazine Collector* 54 (September 1988) pp.46-51.

GORMAN BEAUCHAMP 'All's Well That Ends Wells: The Anti-Wellsian Satire of *Brave New World*' in *Utopian Studies II* ed. Michael S. Cummings and Nicholas D. Smith, Lanham, Maryland (University Press of America) 1988.

MARIA TERESEA CHIALANT 'A Proposito dell' Isola del Dottor Moreau' in *Nel Tempo del Sogno: Le forme della narrativa fantastica dell' immaginario vittoriano all' utopia contemporanea* ed. Carlo Pagetti, Rome (Pleiadi) 1989, pp.75-93.

MICHAEL DRAPER 'The War Against Little Green Men' *Times Higher Education Supplement* 836 (11th November 1988) p.13.

LAWRENCE GOLDSTEIN *The Flying Machine and Modern Literature* Basingstoke (Macmillan) 1986. Chapter 4 is on 'Wells and *The War in the Air*.'

M. HAMMERTON 'Wells as Prophet' *Foundation* 45 (Spring 1989) pp.23-37.

DAVID Y. HUGHES 'God, the Devil, and H.G. Wells' *Science-Fiction Studies* 47 (March 1989) pp.103-108. Review of *H.G. Wells* by Michael Draper.

EDWARD JAMES ed. *Index to Foundation 1-40* London (North East London Polytechnic, for the Science Fiction Foundation) 1988. A full column devoted to Wells, noting over a hundred major and minor references.

YULI KAGARLITSKI *Forecasting the Future: A Book on Herbert Wells* [in Russian]. Foreword by P. Parrinder. Moscow (Kniga) 1989.

DAVID LAKE 'Undefinitive Wells' *Science-Fiction Studies* 46 (November 1988) pp.369-373. Review of *The Definitive Time Machine* ed. Harry M. Geduld. See also contributions by Geduld and Lake to *Science-Fiction Studies* No 49 (November 1989) pp.400-404, and by Parrinder and Geduld to No 50 (March 1990) p.121.

PATRICK PARRINDER and ANNIE ESCURET eds. *Cahiers Victoriens et Edouardiens* 30 (October 1989), H.G. Wells special number. [Reviewed elsewhere in this issue of the *Wellsian*.]

PATRICK PARRINDER 'Wells's Cancelled Endings for "The Country of the Blind"' *Science-Fiction Studies* (1990), pp.71-76.

ROBERT M. PHILMUS 'Anthony West, 1914-87' *Science-Fiction Studies* 45 (July 1988) pp.250-251.

ROBERT M. PHILMUS 'The Strange Case of *The Island of Doctor Moreau*' *Science-Fiction Studies* 50 (March 1990) pp.64-70.

GEOFFREY RILEY "Echoes of Wells in Naipaul's *A House for Mr Biswas*" *Notes and Queries* Vol 36, No 2 (June 1989) pp.208-209.

ANNY SADRIN 'De la métaphore à la métamorphose: l'homme-machine de Descartes à la science-fiction, avec arrêt sur H.G. Wells' *Cahiers Victoriens et Edouardiens* 31 (April 1990) pp.119-136.

Considers *The Time Machine* and *The First Men in the Moon*. [This issue of *Cahiers* also lists, on p.161, three theses on Wells being undertaken at French universities.]

WILLIAM J. SCHEIK and J. RANDOLPH COX *H.G. Wells: A Reference Guide* Boston (G.K. Hall) 1988.

PATRICIA A. SQUIRES *The Early Science Fiction of H.G. Wells*, unpublished Ph.D dissertation, University of Wales 1989.

H.G. WELLS *The Discovery of the Future, with The Common-Sense of World Peace and the Human Adventure* ed. Patrick Parrinder, London (PNL Press, for the H.G. Wells Society) 1989.

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