

## THE WELLSIAN

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### Editorial

This year I have received an unprecedented number of excellent papers on various aspects of H.G. Wells's work, far more, in fact, than can be incorporated in this edition of the *Wellsian* – and I thought that last year's issue was unprecedentedly large, since it included several articles from the *Time Machine* Symposium.

Patrick Parrinder's "The View from Bun Hill: H.G. Wells, Kent and the Male Romance" and my paper, questioning whether Well can be regarded as a feminist, were originally delivered at the 1996 Weekend Conference at Bromley. Although they appear at first glance to have nothing in common, each provided a particular slant on that year's theme - "Reappraising Wells" – and in a sense, all of the papers in this issue relate to this idea in one way or another. David Smith's article gives a fascinating view of Wells as a very new author, and Fernando Porta's textual analysis of *The Time Machine*, together with Part II of Alan Mayne's "Virtual Time Machine" (which provides a theoretical backing for Part I, which appeared in the last *Wellsian*) also provide perspectives on Wells's first full-length fiction. John Partington's paper centres on *Kipps*, another early work, and points to the way its political message is reappraised – to the point of attenuation - in Carol Reed's 1941 film adaptation of the novel.

Next year the Weekend Conference will commemorate the centenary of *The War of the Worlds*, and I hope that the *Wellsian* will have a science fiction theme.

### Notes on Contributors

**Sylvia Hardy** is Editor of the *Wellsian*, and is currently engaged in researching the films made of Wells's work.

**Alan Mayne** has been interested in the life, work and whole range of ideas of H.G. Wells, ever since he was a teenager. His latest book is the new edition of H.G. Wells *World Brain* (1995), which he edited, and he is now writing *Politics in the 21st Century* for the Adamantine Press.

**Patrick Parrinder** is Professor of English at Reading University and a Vice President of the H.G. Wells Society. His most recent publication on Wells is *Shadows of the Future: H.G. Wells, Science Fiction and Prophecy* (1995).

**John Partington** is now a Ph.D student at the University of Reading, working on H.G. Wells and politics.

**Fernando Porta** recently completed a doctorate on Wells's science fiction.

**David Smith**, a former professor of history at Maine University, is a biographer of H.G. Wells and has been editing a multi-volume edition of H.G. Wells's correspondence which will be published shortly.

**Michael Sherborne** is Head of English at Luton Sixth Form College. His edition of *The Country of the Blind and Other Stories* by H.G. Wells was published in the USA by Oxford University Press in 1996.

**A Chat with the Author of *The Time Machine*, Mr H.G. Wells  
edited with comment by David C. Smith**

H.G. Wells must have been a boon for newspaper publishers, reporters and writers searching for a vivid and interesting story. He enjoyed giving interviews and we know of nearly one hundred serious interviews with Wells which appeared in the world press. A few have been reprinted, notably one by John Hammond, "The Romance of the Scientist: An Interview with Mr H.G. Wells," which appeared in *H.G. Wells: Interviews and Recollections*. This important interview was first published in *The Young Man*, August 1897, and was recycled to some extent in *Today* as well. I have probably missed some published interviews with Wells, but the table below does indicate the years of those I have actually seen. They vary widely in content, or course, but many of them provide much new and useful information about Wells and his work.

Table One – Published Press Interviews with H.G. Wells – 1892-1946

1892	1910	1921	1928	1936 (2)	1945
1895	1913	1922 (3)	1929 (2)	1937 (2)	1946 (2)
1897	1914 (3)	1923 (5)	1930 (2)	1938 (6)	
1899 (2)	1915	1924	1931 (8)	1939 (9)	
1902	1916	1925	1932 (3)	1940 (9)	
1906 (2)	1919	1926	1934 (2)	1941	
1909	1920 (7)	1927 (2)	1935 (5)	1944	

These interviews with Wells all provide some new ideas about his work. He was at ease with journalists, frequently referring to his own journalistic background. He was open and responsive to their queries, and provided easily reprintable quotations for them. He did not try to dissemble when faced with tough questions. These interviews range from shipboard conversations to formal set piece press conferences. Half a dozen of them are major statements of purpose and ideology.

The interview which is reprinted here appeared in the 1 December 1895 issue of the *Weekly Sun Literary Supplement*. It probably took place in the early autumn of 1895. The interview is located in what may be the first formal literary supplement ever issued. It is a rare piece. I have seen only two copies of this issue. It is a very scarce item even in the files of the British Library Newspaper Collection at Colindale. In fact, the run of the weekly is very incomplete. The paper also features a story by Morley Roberts, and one by H.G. Wells as well as the usual paraphernalia of literary supplements – reviews, advertisements, book gossip. The Wells short story which