

Editorial

It is with some regret that I publish my last issue of the *Wellsian*. From this issue onwards, the editor will be John Partington, whose address appears on the inside cover. I have found my five years as editor very stimulating – as well as hard work – and I have particularly enjoyed making contact with contributors, but I feel that it is time to step down and to introduce a new perspective to the journal.

At least I can claim that I am retiring on a high-note. This year's contributions are even more wide-ranging than usual and between them cover many aspects of H.G. Wells's multifarious interests. Katalin Csala's article on Wells's involvement with Hungary in the 1920s, for instance, offers a provocative not to say controversial view of his political activities and philosophy – one that I have never come across before. At the opposite extreme, Dana Cook's miscellany of first encounters with Wells gives us a very different, light-hearted glimpse of the writer's personality, whilst Catherine Stoye's article (based on the talk she gave to this year's AGM) shows us H.G. as only his family could have seen him. The two papers by John Hammond and Tom Miller explore different aspects of Wells's fiction – his novels, short-stories and science fiction, and there are interesting differences and overlaps in the two articles by Laurence Price and John Partington. Both these papers relate Wells to different aspects of his nineteenth century context – one is concerned with intertextual influences, the way in which various themes are taken up by later writers, the other with the literary-historical background to his short-stories – and both bring out the links and parallels with his contemporary, Arthur Conan Doyle. John Hammond's discerning and well-informed review of reminds us that the publication of David Smith's *Correspondence of H.G. Wells* makes 1998 an important year for Wells enthusiasts.

I apologise to the contributors whose work did not make it into this issue of the *Wellsian*. This year I have again received more material than I could include – I have passed it on to the new editor: the decisions are now his.

Sylvia Hardy

Notes on Contributors

Dana Cook lives in Toronto, and describes himself as an independent scholar who collects Literary encounters.

Katalin Csala is a scholar living in Szeged, Hungary, who is researching Wells's relations with Hungary, including the connection with film through Alexander Korda and Pál Tabori.

John Hammond is the President and founder of the H.G. Wells Society. He has written numerous books on Wells and is a Research Fellow at Nottingham Trent University.

Sylvia Hardy, Chairman of the H.G. Wells Society and retiring Editor of the *Wellsian* is engaged in researching Wells's relationship with the cinema.

Tom Miller is a long-standing member of the H.G. Wells Society and a regular contributor to the *Wellsian* and the Newsletter.

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 S. Partington is the new Editor of the *Wellsian*. He is a Ph.D student at the University of Reading, researching H.G. Wells and politics.

Laurence Price is a new member of the H.G. Wells Society and he is also a member of the Arthur Conan Doyle Society. He is working on a study of nineteenth century science fiction, focusing on Wells, together with Poe, Verne, Conan Doyle and Mark Twain.

Catherine Stoye is a granddaughter of H.G. Wells and a Trustee of the H.G. Wells Estate.