

Hungarian cause. Berzeviczy appears to have been right in his view of Wells posing in the role of an internationalist. The fundamental nature of Wells's own patriotism came to light when he urged that the English should hit back in the same way during the German bombardment of English towns.<sup>9</sup> When the existence of his own nation was at risk he gave up resounding phrases and demanded merciless bomb attacks.

Countess Bethlen's persistent opposition to Wellsian cosmopolitanism was the first, still relatively polite, negative response that forecast the unfavourable Hungarian public reaction. Wells's ignorance and his readiness to speak out, rashly claiming competence in questions where in fact he was merely dilettante, led him into a rather unpleasant situation. His publicly expressed opinion received widespread condemnation in Hungary. Instead of acknowledging his ignorance, Wells could not refrain from expressing his ideas on his World State in the Hungarian press at the very time that Hungarians were pleading with European public opinion for a renegotiation of the fatal peace treaty that threatened their national existence. The fact that the problem of the Hungarian revision meant no more to Wells than a modification of the borders by 20 or 50 kilometres simply reflects public opinion in Western Europe at that time on the Hungarian revision, an opinion which has remained unchanged ever since. We can only feel deeply sorry that Wells's well-meaning ideas and the just cause of the Hungarian revision could not get to the ground of common understanding. The great novelist from a nation accustomed to winning world wars and dictating conditions of peace treaties could not understand let alone remedy the painful wounds of the present when on his remote horizon loomed the tragic future of human kind – a future which he sought to avert by all means at his disposal.

In our day, at the very end of the twentieth century, Wells's ideas seem still almost as utopic as when he wrote the article discussed above, and the wounds of the Hungarian nation are nearly as painful as they were. His ideas, however sincere and full of good faith remain still to be carried out in the remote future, just as the Hungarians are as far as ever from the achievement of their objective. Not even today could the theoretically utopian-internationalist but practically British Wells make his World State ideas popular in Hungary by calling the nation to give up its desire to regain lost territories, nor could they reconcile the irreconcilability of internationalism and nationalism.

<sup>9</sup> Unsigned. "Az a hir érkezett..." *Protesans Szemle* (1940): 91-92.

## RECENT BOOKS AND ARTICLES ON WELLS

Compiled by Patrick Parrinder

- Bleiler, Everett F.** "On Wells's Source for the Phrase 'Things to Come'." *Science Fiction Studies* 74 (March 1998): 159.
- Cahiers Victorien et Edouardiens** No.46 (Octobre 1997). Special number: "H.G. Wells: Science et fiction au XIXe Siècle", ed. Annie Escuret. Includes the following articles: Larry W. Caldwell, "Time at the End of its Tether: H.G. Wells and the Subversion of the Master Narrative", pp 127-44; Kirby Farrell, "H.G. Wells and Neoteny", pp 145-58; Elaine L. Kleiner, "H.G. Wells, Joseph Conrad, and the Scientific Romance", pp 159-66; John S. Partington, *The Time Machine: a Polemic on the Inevitability of Working-Class Liberation*", pp 167-80; Frank Scaffella, "From Reason to Intelligence: Wells's White Sphinx as Chronotope of Nineteenth-Century Science", pp 181-90; George Slusser and Danièle Chatelain, "Re-writing *The Time Machine* around Mrs Watchett", pp 191-212; David C. Smith, "H.G. Wells and his Contemporary Critics: a Developing Reputation", pp 213-44; Nicoletta Vallorani, "Hybridizing Science. The 'patchwork biology' of Doctor Moreau", pp 245-61.
- James, Simon J.** "Money and Narrative Form in Dickens, Gissing and H.G. Wells". Unpublished PhD dissertation, University of Cambridge 1997.
- Kemp, Peter.** *H.G. Wells and the Culminating Ape*. New edition. Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1996.
- Ketterer, David.** "The Editor's Slant on *The Time Machine*". *Science-Fiction Studies* 74 (March 1998): 155-58.
- Lake, David.** *Darwin and Doom: H.G. Wells and "The Time Machine"*. New Lambton, NSW: Nimrod, 1997. 23pp.
- MacDonald, Alex.** "'Passionate Intensity' in Wells's *The Island of Doctor Moreau* and Yeats's 'The Second Coming': Constructing an Echo". *ANQ* 9.4 (Fall 1996): 40-43.

**Mendelson, Edward.** "How Lawrence Corrected Wells; How Orwell Refuted Lawrence". *High and Low Moderns: Literature and Culture 1889-1939*. Eds. Maria DiBattista & Lucy McDiarmid. New York: Oxford University Press, 1996. Pp 166-75.

**Parrinder, Patrick.** "Licensing scholarship: some encounters with the Wells Estate". *Textual Monopolies: Literary Copyright and the Public Domain*. London: Office for Humanities Communication and Centre for English Studies, University of London, 1997. Pp 57-67.

---. *Shadows of the Future: H.G. Wells, Science Fiction and Prophecy*. (Arabic Translation). Trans. Bakre Abbas. Cairo: Supreme Council of Arts and Literature, 1998.

**Simpson, Anne B.** "Architects of the Erotic: H.G. Wells's 'New Women'". *Seeing Double: Revisioning Edwardian and Modernist Literature*. New York: St Martin's, 1996. pp 39-55.

**Telotte, J.P.** "'So Big': The Monumental Technology of *Things to Come*". *Science-Fiction Studies* 74 (March 1998):77-86.

**Wells, H.G.** *The Correspondence of H.G. Wells*. Ed. David C. Smith. Vol 1: 1880-1903, liii + 458 pp; Vol 2: 1904-1918, vii + 574 pp; Vol 3: 1919-1934, vii + 563 pp; Vol 4: 1935-1946, vii + 629 pp. London: Pickering & Chatto, 1998.

---. *The Invisible Man: A Grotesque Romance. A Critical Text of the 1897 New York First Edition*. Ed. Leon Stover. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 1998. xi + 239 pp. "Annotated H.G. Wells" series.

---. *The First Men in the Moon. A Critical Text of the 1901 London First Edition*. Ed. Leon Stover. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 1998. xi + 321 pp. "Annotated H.G. Wells" series.

## REVIEW ARTICLES

### THE CORRESPONDENCE OF H.G. WELLS

David C. Smith, ed, *The Correspondence of H.G. Wells 1880-1946*. 4 vols. London: Pickering & Chatto. 1998. 2,234pp, index, notes. £275 1 85196 173 9

These four attractively produced volumes bring together in a convenient format 2800 of Wells's letters, many of them not previously published. Hitherto, the reader interested in Wells's correspondence has been given tantalising glimpses of the letters through those reproduced in his autobiography and in the biographies by Geoffrey West, Lovat Dickson, Norman and Jeanne Mackenzie, and David Smith. Now for the first time the letters are brought together in a single compilation; the publisher and the editor are to be warmly congratulated on this initiative. (It should be noted however that these four volumes do not include the letters previously published from Wells to Henry James, Gissing, Bennett and Shaw. For these it is still necessary to refer to the separate volumes).

David Smith has performed a magnificent task in collecting and editing this immense body of correspondence. Prior to this, the letters were scattered throughout the world in libraries, universities and private collections; it was therefore a difficult, if not impossible, task to refer to the correspondence apart from extracts reproduced in the standard biographies.

This edition includes full critical apparatus including a biographical outline, a chronology, rules of transcription, and a detailed explanation of the principles of selection and editing. The letters themselves are helpfully annotated with explanatory notes containing background information on the recipients and on other points requiring explication. There is a comprehensive index arranged both by recipient and by subject. Patrick Parrinder contributes a most illuminating introductory essay, "Wells in his Letters", offering an overview of Wells as a correspondent of prodigious energy and interests.

One of the great joys of browsing through the correspondence is the delightful illustrations, many of which are reproduced here. Some of the letters are enlivened by amusing "picshuas" of people and places: letter 1031, for example, contains a