

EDITORIAL

2009 saw the hundredth anniversary of the publication of Wells's controversial and bracing bestselling novel, *Ann Veronica*. This special edition, another extra-size issue of *The Wellsian*, showcases papers given at the H. G. Wells Society conference in September 2009, 'Ann Veronica: Feminist, *Flâneuse* and Freethinker?', which was held at the Women's Library. Also featured are some papers from the summer 2010 conference, 'H. G. Wells: From Kent to Cosmopolis'.

Starting us off with a discussion of turn-of-the-century literature and society, Maria Teresa Chialant considers the extent to which Wells's eponymous heroine was an emancipated 'New Woman'. Nathalie Saudo-Welby then asks: Wells might be telling Ann Veronica's story but whose voice are we hearing? Sex, suffrage and science are

the hot topics of Maroula Joannou's article, while Anthony Patterson examines the role that eugenics played in the face-off between Wells and his famously strident critic, the editor of the *Spectator*. Renowned historian of the suffrage movement Elizabeth Crawford explores the real-life people and places behind the caricatures in *Ann Veronica*, and Jennifer Walker and Lesley Hall consider women's responses to Wells the man and his work. If the curved forms of Art Nouveau have ever reminded you of alien tentacles, then Simon Bacon's article provides another point of comparison, looking at motherhood in *Ann Veronica* and *Alien IV*. Lastly, Emma Miller reviews *The Utopian Vision of H. G. Wells* and finishes this edition with this year's list of new books and articles on Wells.

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Emelyne Godfrey, London, 2011.