

A NORTON CRITICAL EDITION

H. G. Wells

THE TIME MACHINE

AN INVENTION



AUTHORITATIVE TEXT
BACKGROUNDS AND CONTEXTS
CRITICISM

Edited by

STEPHEN ARATA

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA



W. W. NORTON & COMPANY

New York • London

Contents

Preface	vii
A Note on the Text	ix
The Text of <i>The Time Machine</i>	1
Backgrounds and Contexts	73
THE EVOLUTION OF <i>THE TIME MACHINE</i>	75
<i>The Chronic Argonauts</i> (1888)	75
Revising <i>The Chronic Argonauts</i>	94
National Observer <i>Time Machine</i> (1894)	95
Alternate Ending: The Last Voyage of the Time Machine	118
From New Review <i>Time Machine</i> (1895)	120
Cancelled Episode: The Return of the Time Traveller	127
WELLS'S SCIENTIFIC JOURNALISM (1891–94)	132
From The Rediscovery of the Unique (1891)	132
From Zoological Retrogression (1891)	133
On Extinction (1893)	136
The Man of the Year Million. A Scientific Forecast (1893)	138
The Extinction of Man. Some Speculative Suggestions (1894)	143
From The “Cyclic” Delusion (1894)	147
WELLS ON <i>THE TIME MACHINE</i>	150
From Preface to the Atlantic Edition of <i>The Time Machine</i> (1924)	150
Preface to <i>The Time Machine: An Invention</i> (1931)	151
From Preface to <i>Seven Famous Novels</i> (1934)	154
SCIENTIFIC AND SOCIAL CONTEXTS	157
Edwin Ray Lankester • From <i>Degeneration: A Chapter in Darwinism</i> (1880)	157

Thomas Henry Huxley • <i>From The Struggle for Existence: A Programme</i> (1888)	163
Benjamin Kidd • <i>From Social Evolution</i> (1894)	169
William Thomson [Lord Kelvin] • <i>From On the Age of the Sun's Heat</i> (1862)	173
Balfour Stewart and Peter Guthrie Tait • <i>From The Unseen Universe</i> (1885)	174

Criticism 177

EARLY REVIEWS 179

Richard Holt Hutton • In A.D. 802,701, <i>Spectator</i> , July 13, 1895	179
Unsigned • A Pilgrim through Time, <i>Daily Chronicle</i> , July 27, 1895	182
Israel Zangwill • [Paradoxes of Time Travel], <i>Pall Mall Magazine</i> , September 1895	184

RECENT CRITICISM 188

Yevgeny Zamyatin • [Wells's Urban Fairy Tales]	188
Bernard Bergonzi • [Wells the Myth-Maker]	190
Kathryn Hume • Eat or Be Eaten: H. G. Wells's <i>Time Machine</i>	202
Elaine Showalter • The Apocalyptic Fables of H. G. Wells	213
John Huntington • <i>The Time Machine</i> and Wells's Social Trajectory	222
Paul A. Cantor and Peter Hufnagel • The Empire of the Future: Imperialism and Modernism in H. G. Wells	229
Colin Manlove • H. G. Wells and the Machine in Victorian Fiction	243
Roger Luckhurst • The Scientific Romance and the Evolutionary Paradigm	252

H. G. Wells: A Chronology	260
Selected Bibliography	266