

# CONTENTS

<i>List of illustrations</i>	<i>vii</i>
<i>Preface</i>	<i>viii</i>
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	<i>x</i>
<i>Introduction</i>	<i>xi</i>
PART ONE: THE WRITER AND HIS SETTING	1
<i>Family tree</i>	3
<i>Chronological table</i>	4
CHAPTER 1: HIS LIFE AND TIMES	18
Early years	19
The student	29
Journalism and early fiction	33
The middle years	38
The later years	64
CHAPTER 2: WELLS AND HIS WORLD	85
The influence of place	85
The town of his birth	85
Town and country	86

A PREFACE TO H. G. WELLS

The London of his fiction	91
The autobiographical novels	94
Wells's prose style	96
PART TWO: CRITICAL COMMENTARY	101
The science fiction of the 1890s	103
The social novels	121
The narrative voice	139
Classical and romantic	147
Wells and modernism	151
Utopia and dystopia	163
The novel as myth: <i>The Time Machine</i>	174
<i>Tono-Bungay</i> : the divided self	189
PART THREE: REFERENCE SECTION	197
<i>Wells and his circle: short biographies</i>	199
<i>A Wells geography</i>	206
<i>Wells's literary reputation</i>	214
<i>Further reading and reference</i>	219
<i>Index</i>	222
<i>Index of Wells's Works</i>	224