assess what has happened by adding an epilogue to the account of the Time Traveller. The tale of the future has somewhat sobered the narrator from utopian optimism but the flowers that Weena gave to the Time Traveller remain as symbols of the ecotopian credo of love. These flowers, to quote from the interpretation by the narrator, "witness that even when mind and strength had gone, gratitude and a mutual tenderness still lived on in the heart of man."²¹

François O. Beaulieu

The Copy Texts of American Revised Editions of The Time Machine

The various forms of the text of The Time Machine are well known. It is generally agreed that the Heinemann 1895 edition constitutes the final form of the text. This was very slightly revised in the Atlantic edition of 1924. Among the minor changes is the replacement of the term "Over-world" with the more suggestive "Upper-world." However, as pointed out by David J. Lake in an earlier study, this revision was not done thoroughly. Consequently, later editions sometimes corrected omissions and, just as often, introduced unwarranted modifications and further typographical errors. It is these variations found in the early subsequent editions of the Atlantic text that make it possible to trace the origins of the copy texts for American revised editions of The Time Machine.

Part I: A Second Look at David J. Lake's 'The Current Texts of Wells's Early SF Novels: Situation Unsatisfactory'

David J. Lake's study published in The WELLISIAN #11 is admirable but some of his assumptions concerning the copy texts of American editions of the revised Atlantic text of The Time Machine are somewhat inaccurate.

He states on page 4 that "the SR [The Scientific Romances of H.G. Wells (Gollancz 1953)] texts have been reproduced [...] in the Dover edition (New York 1950)

The Wellsian, no.22 (1999)

Dover’s 1995 Centennial edition of The Time Machine. It is also present in Scholastic Books’ 1963 edition of The Time Machine and Other Stories (not to be confused with Penguin’s similarly titled 1946 edition of the Heinemann text). However, in this case, “re-adjustments” is hyphenated because the word begins at the end of a line and is continued on the next. One would have to compare other typos in the source editions to determine its exact origin. Similarly, the Benn editions of The Short Stories of H.G. Wells are the only “early generation” editions where “Over-world” is not hyphenated (“Overworld”).

Consequently, it is a simple matter to categorize these editions according to their textual peculiarities and then to determine which ones were used as copy texts for later editions. In order to do this, I have devised the following method: Six passages in a given edition are checked and each variation on a passage is assigned a letter. The resulting sequence of letters serves as identification of the source edition or of its copies. The passages chosen and their assigned letters are the following:

From chapter 3, 2nd paragraph (beginning with “I drew a breath […]”):


From slightly after the middle of chapter 5 (beginning with “The moon was setting […]”)


From the last paragraph of chapter 5 (beginning with “Then came troublesome […]”):

* her human inheritance: A[her] B[ ] C[the]

From chapter 6, 8th paragraph (beginning with “I tried to call […]”)


From chapter 7, 7th paragraph (beginning with “The Time Traveller paused, put […]”)

* whole paragraph: A[The Time Traveller…] B[The Time Traveller…]

From chapter 8, 6th paragraph (beginning with “To judge from the size of the place […]”)

Part II: Differentiating the Various Texts and their Copies

After examining several editions in light of David Lake’s findings and my own, I have observed that nearly all editions published prior to 1962 have distinctive characteristics.

For example, in The Scientific Romances of H.G. Wells, the word “re-adjustments” is hyphenated (“re-adjustments”). This, of course, also occurs in Dover’s 1950 facsimile of the same. In recent years, one finds that this peculiarity has showed up in an anthology The Works of H.G. Wells (Heinemann/Octopus 1977) reprinted in the “Treasury of World Masterpieces” collection (Octopus 1982). It should come as no surprise that it appears in
Thus, for example, the Atlantic edition is attributed the following sequence: "AABAAA".

Part III: Identifying the Source Editions

Using the method outlined in part II, letter sequences are ascribed to the following source editions - those which, for the most part, served as the copy texts of American editions of the Atlantic text of *The Time Machine*.

**Original revised edition**

* Atlantic 1924: AABAAA

**First generation copies (group I)**

* Essex 1927: AACCAB
* Benn 1927: AACCAB

**First generation copies (group II)**

* Gollancz 1933: AACBAC
* Knopf 1934: AACBAA
* Dover 1950: AACBAC

**Second generation copies**

* Random House 1931: AACBBB (based on Benn 1927)
* Everyman 1935: AACABB (based on Benn 1927)

**Corrected second generation copy**

* Benn 1948: BBCCAB (reset version of Benn 1927)

**Third generation copies**

* Berkley 1957: AACABB (based on Everyman 1935)
* Penguin 1958: BCCAB (based on Benn 1948 — "Watchets" is not corrected)
* Dolphin 1961: ABCABB (based on Benn 1960 — "Overworld" is hyphenated)

Part IV: Classifying American Revised Editions

The following is a listing of American editions of *The Time Machine* which have been grouped under their respective source editions. It should be kept in mind that most of these more recent editions have undergone further unintentional deformations. This explains why the letter sequences identifying them are, in most cases, slightly different from those of the source editions.

**American Pulps**

Copy text: Random House 1931 (AACBBB)
Published under the magazine title "Two Complete Science-Adventure Books" (issue no.4), this pulp edition is clearly based on the Random House 1931 text ("copyright Random House 1931" is specified). Nonetheless, it contains a further error: "Three" was replaced by "There", as in so many later editions. Furthermore, the paragraph in chapter 7 which, originally, was italicized, is, in the Random House 1931 edition, printed in coloured Roman font. When it was copied in the above edition, this passage, being monochrome, was no longer highlighted. There are two other pulp editions of *The Time Machine*; however, both are based on the Holt text.

American Paperbacks

Copy text: Everyman 1935 (AACABB)

Berkley 1957 AACABB [3rd generation copy]
Ace 1988 (Berkley reprint) AACABB [3rd generation copy]

The Berkley edition is the first American edition based on the Everyman 1935 text and probably was itself the copy text for several subsequent American editions. The Berkley edition has not been out of print since it was first introduced in 1957. Since 1988, it has been reprinted under a different publisher's name: "Ace Books". However, Ace Books is now part of the Berkley Publishing Group. The current Ace printing is an exact duplicate of the original Berkley 1957 edition.

Copy text: Everyman 1935 or Berkley 1957 (AACABB)

Airmont 1964 AACABB [3rd or 4th generation copy]
Signet 1984 AACABB [3rd or 4th generation copy]
Scholastic 1963 AACDAA [2nd generation copy]
Scholastic 1978 AACDAA [2nd generation copy]

The Scholastic 1963 edition is the first American edition based on Gollancz 1933, Dover 1950 or Knopf 1914. It is most likely based on Dover 1950 (Dover's facsimile of Gollancz 1933), but could just as well be based on the Knopf 1934 edition. It is difficult to determine this because the hyphenated word “re-adjustments” is printed on two lines. The 1978 edition of Scholastic is a reprint that excludes the short stories found in the original edition.

Copy text: Dover 1950 (AACBAC)

Dover 1995 AACBAC [2nd generation copy]

The Dover 1995 edition is a reset printing of the text of Dover's facsimile edition of *The Scientific Romances of H.G. Wells* (Gollancz 1933). Ironically, the introduction states that the text is “an unabridged republication of the work originally published by William Heinemann, London 1895.”

Copy text: Penguin 1958 (BCCAAB)

Penguin USA 1995 BCCAAB [4th generation copy]

The Penguin 60s edition of *The Time Machine* is the only American edition based on the Penguin 1958 text of *Selected Short Stories*. For its centennial edition of *The Time Machine* and its own 60th anniversary, Penguin did not even bother to revise its faulty 1958 text. Not even the two occurrences of “Watchets” are corrected!

American Hardbacks

Copy text: Everyman 1935 or Berkley 1957 (AACABB)

Nelson Doubleday 1979 AACABB [3rd or 4th generation copy]

Copy text: Dolphin 1961 (ABCABB)

Heritage 1964 ABCABB [4th generation copy]
Buccaneer 1976 ABCABB [4th generation copy]
Amereon 1986 ABCABB [4th generation copy]


Copy text: Knopf 1934 (AACBAA)

Franklin 1982 ABCBAA [2nd generation copy]

Although it appears quite likely that this version is based on the Knopf 1934 text, “Three” was again replaced by “There.”

In conclusion, I can only echo David Lake’s original concerns: The further away one moves from the original copy text, the more likely one is to copy accumulated errors and to add further ones. Given that even the original text published in the Atlantic edition needs revisions, the task facing American publishers in correcting their editions is not a simple one. Unfortunately, it is an objective that most publishers are not willing (and perhaps not qualified) to meet. Their editions have sold well for years, so why bother making the necessary rectifications? For now, American readers wishing a fairly error-free text of *The Time Machine* may have to turn to the current British Everyman edition. It is readily available in the U.S.A. from Charles E. Tuttle Inc.
Editions Consulted:

Heinemann text:

*The Time Machine – An Invention*

  - London: William Heinemann (First & Popular Edition) [1895]

*The Time Machine and Other Stories*


*Three Novels: The Time Machine, The War of the Worlds, The Island of Doctor Moreau*


*The Time Machine & The Man Who Could Work Miracles*


Atlantic text:

*The Time Machine, The Wonderful Visit and Other Stories*


  - London: T. Fisher Unwin [1924]

*The Time Machine and Other Stories*

The War of the Worlds and The Time Machine
New York: Dolphin Books [1961]

The Time Machine & Other Stories

The War of the Worlds / The Time Machine
New York: Limited Editions Club [1964]
New York: Heritage Press [1964]

The Time Machine / The War of the Worlds

Three Novels of the Future — The Time Machine, The Invisible Man, The War of the Worlds
New York: Nelson Doubleday [1979]

The Time Machine / The Invisible Man / The War of the Worlds
Franklin Center, Pennsylvania: Franklin Library [1982]

The Time Machine and The Invisible Man
New York: Signet Classic [1984]

The Time Machine
New York: Wings Publishing [1951]

New York: Berkley Publishing [1957]
New York: Airmont Publishing [1964]
New York: Pyramid Books [1966]
New York: Scholastic Book Services [1978]
Mahwah, New Jersey: Watermill Press [1980]
New York: Amereon House [1984]
New York: Tor Books [1992]
New York: Dover Publications [1995]

Note: Although the above list includes the majority of editions printed in America, there are other editions which I have not yet been able to examine. Among them, Dufour, Bentley and Willowisp Press. Critical and annotated editions have been left out of this study as the text in such editions is most often revised by its editors. The Oxford University Press edition of The Time Machine & The Island of Doctor Moreau, edited by Patrick Parrinder, deserves mentioning here.


This is a collection of twenty-one essays and an introduction, all in English, the product