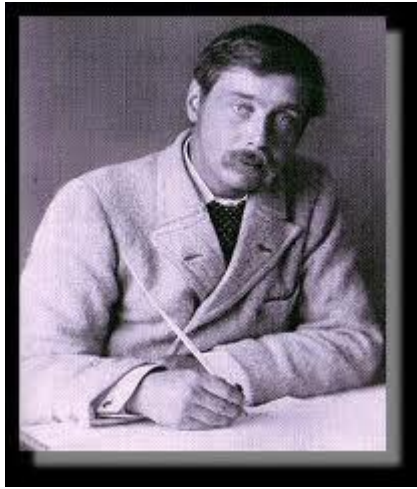


Please turn off phones tablets & computers

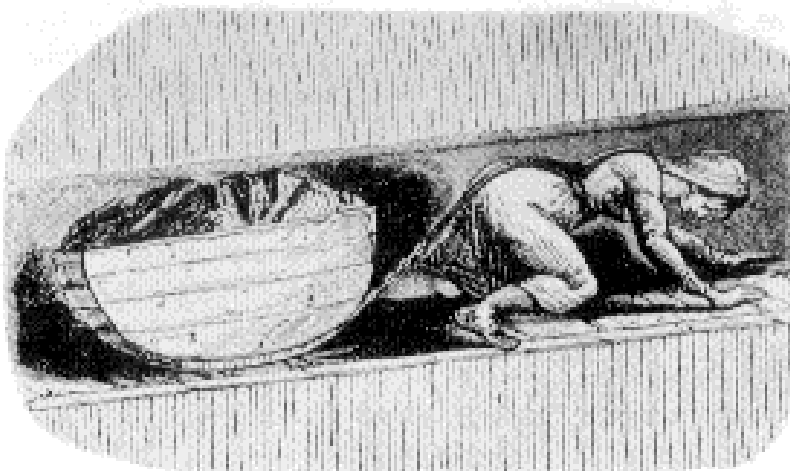
The Time Machine (1895)



- H. G. Wells (1866-1946)
- “English Jules Verne” (1828-1905)
 - Novels of technological marvels, travel
- Wells: lower middle class family
- Draper, teacher, artist, science enthusiast, writer
- Student of T. H. Huxley
- Socialist -- “World state”
- 50 novels, about half sci-fi
- *Invisible Man, Island of*
- *Doctor Moreau, War of the Worlds, The War in the Air*
- Resented privilege of upper classes

Victorian period (1837-1901)

- Height of British Empire
- Expansion of technology, economy
- Crystal Palace and the Great Exhibition (1851)
- But class informs everything
- Hereditary title vs. professional, middle class
- Vast poverty & working poor
- Crime & child labour
- Pollution (The Great Stink 1858)
- Marx: bourgeoisie own production methods; proletariat sell their labour
- No social safety net or standards



Fears

- Potential social unrest
- Disease
- Miscegenation
- Criminal “class”
- Phrenology: Franz Joseph Gall (1758-1828)
- surface of skull indicates psychological/moral aptitudes
- Theory of evolution
 - Future of mankind?
 - March of progress??
 - Or Social Darwinism?
- Degeneration?
- Geological time: extinction
- Marxism
 - Predicts destruction of class system
 - Utopia? Loss of privilege?
- *TM* topical: evolution + class divide, science and social inequity

The Title of novel:

- *The Time Machine: An Invention*
- not *voyage* or *traveller*
- Inventions:
 - Sewing machine, safety matches, pasteurization
 - Underground railway, bicycle, typewriter
 - Electric railway, gramophone, Kodak box camera
 - Moving pictures, x-rays, radio, flush toilet
- Pg. 1 Incandescent light (1880)
- Patented chairs
- Technology—invention, science
- Time traveller = scientist & inventor
- Audience = professional class:
 - Psychologist – brand new science
 - Provincial Mayor
 - Medical Man
 - Filby
 - Narrator (Hillyer)
- Household with servants
- Discussing physics

The Fourth Dimension

- Popular scientific speculation in 1880s
- Pg. 3 Simon Newcombe
- Traveller = time, duration
- Nb. Objections pg. 5
- 6 potentials
- The demonstration
- Chapter 2: class bias--
 - pg. 12 pork butcher
 - pg. 13 “rang the bell”
 - pg. 17 “greasy plates”
- Vs “the Linnaean, ” “Richmond,” pg. 13
- TT’s appearance: 14 – “tramp”
- Reaction: 15 -16 – “Amateur Cadger,”
Nebuchadnezzar, clothes brushes
- Chap. 3ff, the story-within-a-story
- Novel = TT’s *narrative* of adventure
- Therefore subjective, distanced
- Dependent on TT’s personality: 12

The Time Traveller

- Rich scientist, inventor
- Should be detached, logical
- Instead:
 - Jumps to incorrect conclusions
 - Hysterical in crisis
 - Panic-stricken
 - Negligent
- “Romantic” hero: emotional, melodramatic, self-centered
- How reliable??
- Trip through time (20ff)
 - “switchback” = rollercoaster
- Scale of time passage:
 - biological
 - astronomical
 - civilization

The Arrival

- Rain – obscures vision
- Lawn & garden
- Sphinx
- symbol of antiquity
- human/animal blend
- keeper of riddle



The Eloi

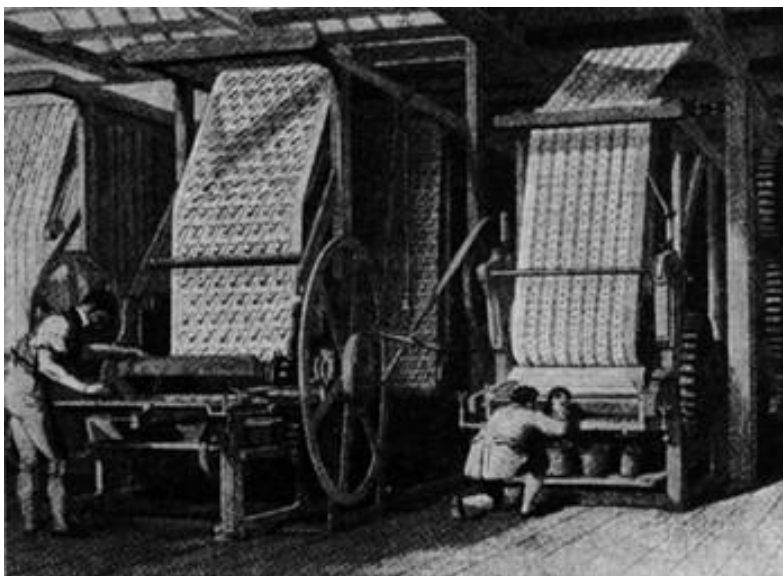
- 24 fear of future humans
- Appearance of Eloi
- degeneration?
- 27 prettiness, lack of interest
- Stupidity?
- 29 lack of social class
- 30 vegetarians
- Vegetarian Society 1847
- 32 communal living
- 33 lack of gender distinction
- The “New Woman”
- 37 end of art
- 48 failure of empathy
- 49 Weena
- Traveller’s theory: triumph of modernity (35-6) = lack of adversity
- = dulling of human
- = “langour and decay” (37)

Modernity self-defeating

- Civilization in decline, or . . .
- “Golden Age” (47)
- A type of Eden
- *Time Machine* as pastoral
- Pastoral literature / vision
- Virgil’s (70 BC- 19 BC) *Eclogues*
- Problems with TT’s theory
- 36 population control
- 47 lack of cemeteries & aged
- 48 manufacturing of clothes
- ventilation “wells”
- 39 time machine gone
- 43 footstep and sphinx
- *Time Machine* as mystery novel
- a riddle or crime to be solved
- Wells attack on other Utopian novels (47)
- *Time Machine* as anthropology --
ethnocentrism

The Morlocks

- First hints: 43
- 51 white figures
- 52-2 contact
- 54-5 revelation and theory
- evolutionary proof
- Reflection of Victorian reality 56
- 61 descent
- Tradition of myth, epic poetry: katabasis
- journey to underworld / hell
- hero seeking knowledge
- Upper-class Victorian into the mines / factories



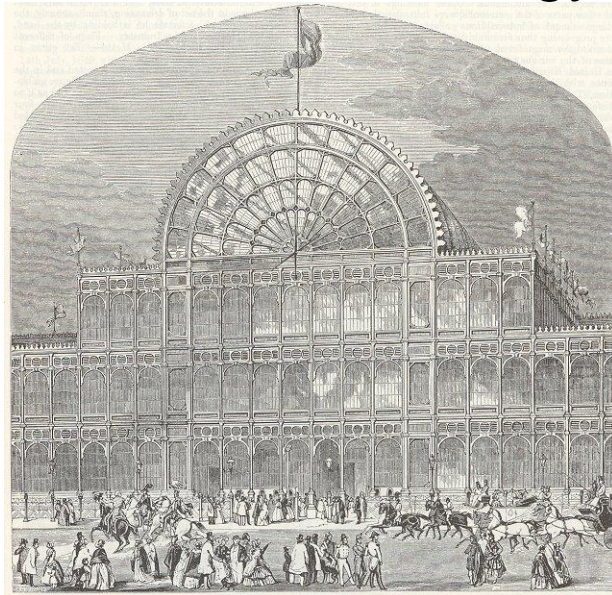
Degeneration

- Lower class
- Criminal class
- Athleticism
- Mechanical aptitude
- Nauseating 64
- beast as opposed to Eloi
- Cannibalism 67, 71, 72
- ultimate taboo?
- ultimate class rebellion?
- Time Traveller as mythic hero
- Prometheus, “forethought,” titan
- stole fire from Zeus, gives to mankind
- Punished with eternal torment
- TT = giant, arrives in thunder
- Brings fire
- Disappears at end: eternal time travel?

OFFICE HOUR TOMORROW: 1:30-2:30

The Palace of Green Porcelain

- The Crystal Palace & the Great Exhibition (1851)
- Symbol of British technology and industry



Vanity of knowledge

- Palace = museum
- Repository of human achievement
- 75 historical organization: dinosaurs
- 76 geology, natural history
- 77 machines = industrial revolution
- 78 weapon vs. books
- The escape:
 - TT fails as hero
 - Burns the forest
 - 88 violence
- *Mystery solved* 90ff
- Metal seat 90 (34)
 - throne / superiority / overview
 - same landscape – different view
 - lack of need = failure of intelligence
- Push towards taming of nature self-defeating?
- Modernity doomed?

The end of the world

- TT almost trapped
- Distant future: sun flaring out
- Humankind extinct
- Crustaceans & insects
- Logical extension of evolution, geological time
- Humans as a historical blip
- Ultimate fear: extinction
- Victorian phobias about
 - evolution
 - astronomical time
- Before expanse of time – Victorian self-confidence and industry meaningless
- End(s) of novel
- End of TT's story
 - evidence? Flowers
- Dismissed 104
- Hillyer's last vision: 105

Epilogue

- Narrator believes, but no proof
- 108 two flowers
- Symbol of affection: TT and Weena
- Love endures the end of the world

The Time Machine. not another direction at right angles to the other three?" and have even tried to construct a Four-Dimension geometry. Professor Simon Newcomb was expounding this to the New York Mathematical Society only a month or so ago. You know how on a flat surface, which has only two dimensions, we can represent a figure of a three-dimensional solid, and similarly they think that by models of thee dimensions they could represent one of four"if they could master the perspective of the thing. See?" "I think so," murmured the Provincial Mayor; and, knitting his brows, he lapsed into an in