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Abstract. Most of the early science fantasies of H. G. Wells are, as he defines the term, prophetic: the myths that they develop to a logical conclusion represent a critique of some historical or essential aspect of the human condition. The Time Machine, his first scientific romance, explores the premises of pro-

phetic fantasy at the same time that it embodies a myth of its own. In it Wells envisions the future devolution of man, already outlined in previous essays of his, as the ultimate consequence of what he perceived as a present attitude of complacent optimism, an attitude he dramatizes in the reaction of the fictive audience to the Time Traveller's account of the world of 802,701 and beyond. Although the Time Traveller accepts this vision as literally true, his own theories about that world make it clear that its significance pertains to it only as a metaphoric projection of tendencies existing in the present. Thus the structure of *The Time Machine* reveals the Time Traveller's point of view, like that of his audience, to be limited: his final disappearance into the fantasied world of the future vindicates the rigorous integrity of Wells's prophecy. (RMP)

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Abstract. William Carlos Williams invented his own form for Paterson. His long and complex poem has a number of important literary forebears and counterparts, including the other major American sequences (particularly Song of Myself and the Cantos), but in each case it is more unlike than like the work with which it shares significant affinities. The poem is a vast montage comprised of associated images, symbols, and themes. Prose is interspersed with various sorts of poetry, which gains its effects through metrical variations, tonal modulations, and concrete imagery. A close look at a representative formal passage and a loose "unfinished piece" helps to clarify the poet's strategy of maneuvering the reader through a series of alternately high- and low-pitched experiences. Williams pays particular attention to visual patterns and to auditory effects, relying heavily on the American idiom and on spoken language. His diction, like his handling of theme, allusion, imagery, and sound, is part of an attempt to break with outmoded conventions and to find a measure and a form capable of expressing his particular vision of contemporary urban America. The sequence as a whole, though uneven in quality, provides incontrovertible evidence of his integrity and of his skill. (JOC)

# Don Juan and Le Misanthrope, or the Esthetics of Individualism in Molière. By Jules Brody.....

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of dexterity, style, and form—a world in which the "social esthetic" of honnêteté has degenerated into a "moral anesthetic" (Krailsheimer). Thus, Don Juan and his female counterpart, Célimène, enjoy an almost constitutional invulnerability to the comic fate which overtakes their often morally superior antagonists. Don Juan is a dazzling rhetorician and consummate actor who, in contrast to the inept Sganarelle, among others, manages to exploit his individuality to the bitter end with an elegant, lordly coherency. So complete is his impunity that only a deus ex machina can thwart his self-aggrandizing schemes. Although morally wrong, he remains esthetically right. So does the devious and corrupt Célimène whose artful self-possession allows her-where Alceste, the moralist, fails—to assert her personality and speak her mind freely even in the conformistic, hypocritical society that she typifies. Don Juan's deft histrionics, like Célimène's imperturbable grace, constitute an art of living, intended by Molière perhaps as an esthetic compensation or consolation for the irremediable moral ugliness that he discerned in a still splendorous but decadent civilization, (IB)

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Abstract. By keeping the frame-characters before the reader while they visit Versailles and listen to the tale of Cupid and Psyché, and by informing us of the kinds of emotions Psyche's adventures inspire, La Fontaine uses the elaborate framework to place into perspective our reactions to his art. The frame makes the reader recognize his reactions to the story, mirrored in the four friends' responses, as well as to the poet's stylistic devices: badinage, reminders of the tale's oral narration, a variety of rhetorical and narrative modes including verse passages that decorate the tale. The friends intrude according to temperament; each prefers a different literary style for the emotions it induces. Their comments lead to the central "digression" on tragedy and comedy, between Parts I and II of Psyché's adventures. This discussion permits transition between the tragic and comic parts of the tale, and the analysis of pity there prepares for Part II in which compassion is the principal emotion experienced by the characters in the tale and the frame. La Fontaine's strategy of holding the frame-characters before the reader is his most significant contribution to his version of Apuleius' tale. (NG)

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# Notes, Documents, and Critical Comment: 1. Dream and Disguise in The Blithedale Romance (by Claire Sprague).....

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Romance and on its structurally unconvincing elements. Classically functioning both as revelation and wish-fulfillment, Miles Coverdale's central dream tells the perceptive reader what he already knows. This dream, and two framing briefer dream references, unearth disguise more accurately than Miles's consciously prying self can do. Through Miles, Hawthorne wryly portrays the limited success of the (minor?) artist's effort to "lawfully dream awake." (CS)	
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