



## Editorial — The Verne Translation Renaissance Continues

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Asked to write an editorial for Volume 5 of *Verniana*, I would like to give a brief update to the survey of Anglophone Vernian scholarship (1965-2007) that I contributed to Volume 1 of *Verniana* several years ago. [1] In particular, I'd like to take a moment to recognize those many scholars, fans, and publishers who have made 2008-2012 an especially rich period for new English-language translations of Jules Verne.

Top kudos for recent translations must go to the indefatigable American Vernian from Albuquerque Frederick Paul Walter, not only for his impressive omnibus volume *Amazing Journeys: Five Visionary Classics* published in 2010 (containing new translations of *Journey to the Center of the Earth*, *From the Earth to the Moon*, *Circling the Moon*, *20,000 Leagues Under the Seas*, *Around the World in 80 Days*) but also for his "first complete English translation" of Verne's *The Sphinx of the Ice Realm* (also featuring the full text of Edgar Allan Poe's *The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym*) which appeared in 2012. Both were published by Excelsior Editions, an imprint of SUNY Press.

Equally indefatigable is Brian Taves, president of the North American Jules Verne Society and editor of its excellent *Palik Series*. He continues to lead a talented team of translators (Edward Baxter, Kieran M. O'Driscoll, and Frank Morlock et al.) and world-class Verne scholars (Jean-Michel Margot, Volker Dehs, and Garmt de Vries-Uiterweerd et al.) in their quest to "bring to the Anglo-American public [...] hitherto unknown Verne tales" (see their website at <http://www.najvs.org/palikseries-press.shtml>). In the past two years, this team has produced first English translations of several early novellettes and theatrical works by Verne such as *The Marriage of a Marquis*, *Mr. Chimpanzee*, *Eleven Days of Siege*, and *The Count of Chanteleine*, among others. In 2011, they also published Sidney Kravitz's English translation of Verne's manuscript draft of *The Mysterious Island* originally called *L'Oncle Robinson*, published as *Shipwrecked Family: Marooned with Uncle Robinson* (so as to not confuse readers with Verne's later novel *L'École des Robinsons* [The School for Robinsons]). And one of the most recent translations in the *Palik Series* includes not only the work of Jules Verne but also of his son Michel in *Vice, Redemption and the Distant Colony* (2012). Kieran M. O'Driscoll served as the translator for this fine volume and was also responsible for its critical notes which offer a refreshingly unbiased

and nonjudgmental view on the “familial collaboration” between Jules and Michel Verne and their often controversial literary (and cinematic) legacy. [2] All these titles in the *Palik Series* are published by BearManor Fiction.

By way of Edinburgh’s Luath Press, two new translations of Verne’s *The Green Ray* and *The Blockade Runners* appeared in 2009 and 2011 respectively, both translated by Karen Loukes and both including interesting critical commentary by Professor Ian Thompson. A new translation of Verne’s *Château des Carpathes* by Charlotte Manell called *A Castle in Transylvania* was published by Melville House in Brooklyn, New York in 2010. And finally, noted Verne scholar Peter Schulman translated the original manuscript of Verne’s posthumous *The Secret of Wilhelm Storitz* and had it published in 2011 by the University of Nebraska Press. [3]

On the horizon for 2013 are several more English translations of Verne. The last untranslated novel of the *Voyages extraordinaires*—Verne’s *Travel Scholarships* (originally published in French in 1903 as *Bourses de voyage*)—will finally be available in English, thanks to the efforts of Teri J. Hernández and Wesleyan University Press. And for its sixth volume, the Palik Series will publish a Bolossy Kiralfy translation of the 1874 play by Verne and Adolphe D’Ennery of *Around the World in 80 Days* as well as Edward Baxter translations of two early Verne stories titled *San Carlos* and *The Siege of Rome* (published for the first time in French in 1993).

In Volume 1 of *Verniana*, toward the end of my introduction to “Jules Verne in English,” I made the following observation: “English-language readers are now witnessing a veritable renaissance of interest in all things Vernian” (10). From 2008 to today, in terms of the number of new English-language translations of Verne’s works that have appeared on the market, I am pleased to report that this “renaissance” continues unabated.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

### I. First and new English translations of novels in Verne’s *Voyages extraordinaires*:

- Jules Verne. *The Green Ray*. Translated by Karen Loukes, with an afterword by Ian Thompson. Edinburgh: Luath Press, 2009.
- Jules Verne. *The Castle in Transylvania*. Translated by Charlotte Manell. Brooklyn, NY: Melville House Publishing, 2010.
- Jules Verne. *Amazing Journeys: Five Visionary Classics* (including *Journey to the Center of the Earth*, *From the Earth to the Moon*, *Circling the Moon*, *20,000 Leagues Under the Seas*, *Around the World in 80 Days*). Translated and edited by Frederick Paul Walter. Albany, NY: SUNY Press, Excelsior Editions, 2010.
- Jules Verne. *The Blockade Runners*. Translated by Karen Loukes with an introduction, notes, and afterword by Ian Thompson. Edinburgh: Luath Press, 2011.
- Jules Verne. *The Sphinx of the Ice Realm*. Translated and edited by Frederick Paul Walter. Albany, NY: SUNY Press, Excelsior Editions, 2012.
- Jules Verne. *Travel Scholarships*. Translated by Teri J. Hernández, edited by Arthur B. Evans, with an introduction by Volker Dehs. Middletown, CT: Wesleyan University Press, (forthcoming 2013).

## II. First English translations of the original manuscripts of some of Verne's novels:

- Jules Verne. *The Golden Volcano*. Translated by Edward Baxter with a preface by Olivier Dumas. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 2008.
- Jules Verne. *The Secret of Wilhelm Storitz*. Translated and edited by Peter Schulman. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 2011.
- Jules Verne. *Shipwrecked Family: Marooned with Uncle Robinson*. Translated by Sidney Kravitz, edited and with an introduction by Brian Taves. Albany, GA: BearManor, Palik Series, 2011.

## III. First English translations of some of Verne's other works (novellas, short stories, plays, incomplete novel manuscripts, etc.) in the *Palik Series*, sponsored by the North American Jules Verne Society:

- Jules Verne. *The Marriage of a Marquis* (including *The Marriage of Mr. Anselme des Tilleuls* and *Jédédias Jamet, or The Tale of an Inheritance*). Translated by Edward Baxter and Kieran M. O'Driscoll, edited and with other contributions by Brian Taves, Walter James Miller, and Jean-Michel Margot. Albany, GA: BearManor, Palik Series, 2011.
- Jules Verne. *Mr. Chimp and Other Plays* (including *The Knights of the Daffodil* [*The Companions of Marjoram*], *Mr. Chimpanzee*, *The Adoptive Son*, and *Eleven Days of Siege*). Translated by Frank Morlock, edited and with notes by Brian Taves, with an introduction by Jean-Michel Margot. Albany, GA: BearManor, Palik Series, 2011.
- Jules Verne. *The Count of Chanteleine: A Tale of the French Revolution*. Translated by Edward Baxter, with notes by Garnt de Vries-Uiterweerd, afterword by Volker Dehs, and edited and with an introduction by Brian Taves. Albany, GA: BearManor, Palik Series, 2011.
- Jules Verne. *Vice, Redemption and the Distant Colony: Stories by Jules Verne and Michael Verne* (including *Pierre-Jean*, *The Somber Fate of Jean Morénas*, and *Fact-Finding Mission*). Translated and with notes by Kieran M. O'Driscoll and edited by Brian Taves. Albany, GA: BearManor, Palik Series, 2012.
- Jules Verne and Adolphe D'Ennery. *Around the World in 80 Days - The 1874 Play* (including Verne's essay "The Meridians and the Calendar" translated by Jean-Louis Trudel). Translated by Blossy Kiralfy, introduction by Philippe Burgaud, notes by Jean-Michel Margot, and edited by Brian Taves. Albany, GA: BearManor, Palik Series, (forthcoming 2013).
- Jules Verne. *Bandits and Rebels: San Carlos and The Siege of Rome*. Translated by Edward Baxter, with an introduction by Daniel Compère. Albany, GA: BearManor, Palik Series, (forthcoming 2013).

## NOTES

1. Arthur B. Evans. "Jules Verne in English: A Bibliography of Modern Editions and Scholarly Studies." *Verniana* Vol. 1 (2008-09): 9-22.
2. As I explained in a 2009 book review entitled "Protesting Too Much: The Jules vs. Michel Verne Controversy" (online at [http://www.depauw.edu/sfs/review\\_essays/evans108.htm](http://www.depauw.edu/sfs/review_essays/evans108.htm) ), since the 1980s many Vernians have reacted with dismay and indignation when learning of Michel's (re)writing of his father's posthumous novels. As a knee-jerk reaction, they uniformly condemned all these "contaminated" works regardless of their individual quality. Following the lead of Olivier Dumas, president of the Société Jules Verne, the majority of these Verne scholars have been so vociferous in their denunciation of Michel's "tainted" editions that all the

posthumous novels originally included in Verne's *Voyages extraordinaires* have now been conspicuously expunged from some modern Verne bibliographies (see, for example, <http://jv.gilead.org.il/biblio/voyages.html>). Personally, I find this vilification of Michel's contributions to his father's oeuvre to be excessive, simplistic, and historically myopic. Less blind condemnation and more scholarly study of Michel's work is what is truly needed.

3. English translations of the original manuscripts for nearly all of the posthumous novels of Verne's *Voyages extraordinaires* are now available. The only exceptions are *Le Beau Danube jaune* (the original manuscript of Verne's 1908 *Le Pilote du Danube* [translated by I.O. Evans as *The Danube Pilot* in 1967]) and Verne's 1907 *L'Agence Thompson and Co.* (translated by I.O. Evans as *The Thompson Travel Agency* [in 2 volumes: *Package Holiday* and *End of the Journey*] in 1965), for which no known manuscript version by Jules Verne exists. The original manuscript of the final novel of Verne's *Voyages extraordinaires*, *L'Étonnante aventure de la mission Barsac* (1919, translated by I.O. Evans as *The Barsac Mission* [in 2 volumes: *Into the Niger Bend* and *The City of the Sahara*] in 1960) consisted only of five short chapters and some notes and was tentatively titled *Voyage d'études* (recently translated by Kieren N. O'Driscoll as *Fact-Finding Mission* and published in the Palik Series volume *Vice, Redemption and the Distant Colony* in 2012).

While Renaissance secular literature was translated primarily from the vernacular into Latin, the Bible translation was of another direction. The cardinal principle of that time, the ideology of the Reformation, was that each person should be granted access to the text of the Bible in his or her own tongue, that is, in the vernacular. In the 19th century translation was mostly concerned with fiction, a unilateral means of communication among educated people. In the 20th century, foreign classics continue to be translated in popular series, like English Penguin Classics (1946 - ) and others. The 19th century's trade, on the other hand, was carried on in the language of dominating nations, and diplomatic practice was carried on at first in Latin, then in French.