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Bicycles, Tricycles, and Tripods: Late Victorian Cycling and Wells's The War of the Worlds

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Abstract

As evident from several of H. G. Wells's writings from the 1890s, most notably his novel *The Wheels of Chance* (1896), the social, cultural, and technological changes initiated by late Victorian developments in the bicycle fascinated him. Furthermore, as his early 'scientific romances' like *The Time Machine* (1895) and *The War of the Worlds* (1898) demonstrate, Wells's interest in the bicycle was accompanied by a keen interest in the overall cultural implications of machines and of technological development in general. However, scholars have yet to comment on any larger significance of bicycles appearing so often during the devastating attack of the Martian invaders in *The War of the Worlds*, the work published only two years after the much more overtly and unabashedly bicycle-oriented *The Wheels of Chance*.

Comments

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