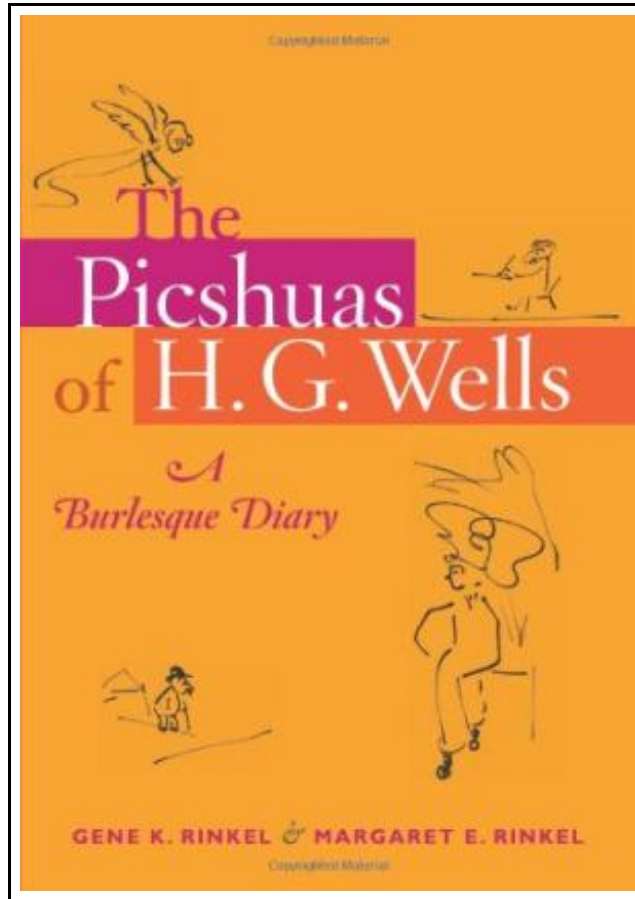


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THE PICSHUAS OF H.G. WELLS: A BURLESQUE DIARY

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Illinois. 1 Cloth(s), 2006. hard. Book Condition: New. Though he was a literary lion who published more than a hundred books including the science fiction classics *The War of the Worlds* and *The Time Machine*, H.G. Wells (1866-1946) also loved to draw, and frequently enlivened his correspondence and marginalia with the piquant cartoons he called his "picshuas." Some 40 of them did appear in print in Wells's *Experiment in Autobiography*, but most remained as private, often hilarious commentary on his life and literary opinions, rich with expression and insight. This book collects and examines dozens of these picshuas in detail, weaving facts from Wells's life with incidents reflected in the cartoons and episodes from his novels and other writings. "One of the most prolific and enduring turn-of-the-century authors, Wells's work included not only science fiction, but biology textbooks, novels and short stories of everyday life, essays on politics, as well as rich autobiographical writings. In this meticulously researched book, [Gene and Margaret Rinkel] give readers a sense of the richness and depth of Wells's life and work through a close reading of dozens of his 'picshuas'-line drawings he made throughout his life for family and friends. These drawings . were the primary means of communication between Wells and his second wife, Amy Catherine Robbins, for the thirty-three years they were married. Robbins was a central force in Wells's life, not just as wife and mother, but as an editor, literary agent and collaborator. The Rinkels do an admirable job making sense of what are essentially private jokes between the old friends, and guiding readers through their complicated and often melancholy relationship. This work should be of prime interest to Wells's fans." *Publishers Weekly* 251.

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