



September 1997

The Newsletter of the
North American
Jules Verne Society, Inc.

Vol 3, No 3

Ray Bradbury Accepts Honorary Membership Of The Society

The NAJVS is delighted that Mr. Ray Bradbury has agreed to become an honorary member of the Society. This tremendous mark of support can only add to our reputation.

The author of *The Martian Chronicles*, *Fahrenheit 451*, and many other science fiction and fantasy short stories, screen plays and poems has an unparalleled literary reputation.

But Mr. Bradbury has also contributed greatly to knowledge and understanding of Jules Verne. His first publication in this field was a pioneering article in the *New York Times Magazine* of 20 March 1954, "Marvels and Miracles — Pass It On!". Next he wrote a distinguished and enthusiastic introduction for the W.H.G. Kingston translation of *The Mysterious Island* (Garamond, Baltimore: 1959). In it he showed that Verne's works are eminently cinematic, representing a rare art of magic and exhilaration. Again, in his introduction to *Around the World in Eighty Days* (Plantin Press, Los Angeles: 1962), he convincingly demonstrated that Fogg and Passepartout divide up the roles of thinking and doing, eccentric genius and uncreative shadow. Next, in "The Ardent Blasphemers" in Anthony Bonner's translation of *Twenty Thousand Leagues under the Sea* (Garamond Press, Baltimore: 1962; Bantam, New York: 1962, 1981), Mr. Bradbury made a lyrical comparison of the 'American' spirit of Captain Nemo and of Ahab in Melville's *Moby-Dick*, with Nemo representing more positive values of curiosity and historical progress.

At the Cerisy Colloquium in Normandy in 1978 that established modern Verne Studies, the writer not only participated in debates but delivered a powerful paper. Published in the proceedings *Colloque de Cerisy* (1979) as *La Révolution invisible*, it proved that Verne's essential spirit lives on in man's desire to penetrate the quasidivine realms of outer space.

His most recent Verne piece is a thoughtful and thought-provoking preface for my *Verne's Journey to the Centre of the Self: Space and Time in the 'Voyages extraordinaires'* (Macmillan, London, and St Martin's Press, New York: 1990).¹ As well as surveying contemporary Verne critics — not always tenderly, for Ray Bradbury notes a certain pedantic tendency — the author praises the multiplicity of approaches adopted in this volume.

Mr. Ray Bradbury is probably therefore the longest-established fan of Verne's! We are delighted and flattered that he has agreed to become an honorary member of our Society.

—William Butcher—

¹ A second edition of this book is to be published by the Acadian Press in late 1997.

EV

Ray Bradbury - 1
Bibliography - 2
Thanks - 2
Nominating Committee - 2
Bar in Germany - 2

Incorporation - 2
Philately - 3
Squid or Octopus? - 4
Television - 4
Verne in the Media - 4

New Books - 5
Around the World in ... - 5
Internet Contact - 7
Reading Festival - 7
Notes from the Editor - 8