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The Woodlanders
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Three Men in a Boat
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## AROUND THE WORLD IN EIGHTY DAYS

BY JULES VERNE

Jules Verne (1828–1905). Often overlooked by English critics, Verne was a prolific writer whose work combined a vivid imagination with a gift for popularizing science and travel. He remains among the classics of nineteenth-century French literature.

Born in Nantes in 1828, Jules Verne was the eldest of five children. His father, Pierre Verne, a successful lawver, was known to write occasional verse but encouraged his son to follow the family profession, which Verne duly did, studying law in Paris. His schooldays proved unexceptional and, apart from an unrequited love he cherished for his cousin, happy. After successfully completing his baccalauréat at the Lycée in Nantes in 1847, Verne went to Paris in order to study for the bar. For the next ten years he devoted himself to his real interest, writing, living an artist's existence in a succession of gloomy lodgings. During this time he received moderate success with his plays, and it is thought that about seven of his works reached the stage or print. Alexandre Dumas père and fils were instrumental in this. In 1856 Verne attended a wedding where he met his future wife. Honorine de Viane, a widow with two daughters. After his marriage in 1857 Verne became a stockbroker and for a time his interests vacillated between the bourse and the theatre. It was not until the success of some of his traveller's tales which he wrote for the Musée des familles that his true talent for imaginative travel stories emerged. The success of Five Weeks in a Balloon (1862) led to a partnership between Verne and the publisher Hetzel that lasted for forty years and was intended, in Hetzel's own words, 'to sum up all the geographical, geological, physical and astronomical knowledge amassed by modern science, and

to rewrite the history of the world'. Between the publication of Journey to the Centre of the Earth in 1864 and his death Verne wrote a staggering sixty-three novels, including From the Earth to the Moon (1865), Twenty Thousand Leagues under the Sea (1869) and Around the World in Eighty Days (1873). Verne himself travelled widely in Europe, North Africa and America and was a keen yachtsman. He divided his time between Paris, Amiens and his yacht, but for reasons which remain a mystery he suddenly sold his yacht in 1886 and never travelled again. A month later he was shot twice by his mentally unstable nephew, leaving him permanently lame. Jules Verne died at Amiens in 1905. After his death several posthumous works appeared, but it has since been discovered that Verne's son Michel wrote large chunks of them.

Introducing the memorable figure of Phileas Fogg, Around the World in Eighty Days became an instant success on its publication in 1873. It remains almost unsurpassed as a piece of adventure fiction.

Readers may also find the following books of interest: William Butcher, Verne's Journey to the Centre of the Self: Space and Time in the 'Voyages extraordinaires' (1990); Jean Chesneaux, The Political and Social Ideas of Jules Verne (1972); Arhur B. Evans, Jules Verne Rediscovered (1988); and Andrew Martin, The Mask of the Prophet: The Extraordinary Fictions of Jules Verne (1990).

# AROUND THE WORLD IN EIGHTY DAYS

#### **JULES VERNE**

Revised and updated translation by Jacqueline Rogers



PENGUIN BOOKS

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#### CHAPTERI

## IN WHICH PHILEAS FOGG AND PASSEPARTOUT ACCEPT EACH OTHER, THE ONE AS MASTER, THE OTHER AS SERVANT

Row, Burlington Gardens, the house in which Sheridan died in 1814. He was one of the most prominent members of the London Reform Club, though he never did anything to attract attention; an enigmatic character about whom little was known except that he was a polished man of the world. People said that he resembled Byron—at least that his head was Byronic; but he was a bearded, tranquil Byron, who might live on a thousand years without growing old.

An Englishman, indeed it was more doubtful whether Phileas Fogg was a Londoner. He was never seen on 'Change, nor at the Bank, nor in the counting rooms of the "City"; no ships of which he was the owner ever came into London docks; he had no public employment; he had never been entered at any of the Inns of Court, either at the Temple, or Lincoln's Inn, or Gray's Inn; nor had his voice ever resounded in the Court of Chancery, or in the Exchequer, or the Queen's Bench, or the Ecclesiastical Courts. He certainly was not a manufacturer; nor was he a merchant or a gen-

<sup>\* &</sup>quot;Mr." in the French original.

tleman farmer. His name was unfamiliar to the scientific and learned societies, and he never was known to take part in the deliberations of the Royal Institution or the London Institution, the Artisan's Association or the Institution of Arts and Sciences. He belonged, in fact, to none of the numerous societies which swarm in the English capital, from the Harmonica Society to that of the Entomologists, founded mainly for the purpose of abolishing pernicious insects.

Phileas Fogg was a member of the Reform, and that

was all.

The way in which he got admission to this exclusive club was simple enough.

He was recommended by the Barings Brothers, with whom he had an open credit. His checks were regularly paid on sight from his account, which was always flush.

Was Phileas Fogg rich? Undoubtedly. But those who knew him best could not imagine how he had made his fortune, and Mr. Fogg was the last person to whom to apply for the information. He was not lavish, nor, on the contrary, stingy; for whenever he knew that money was needed for a noble, useful, or benevolent purpose, he supplied it quietly, and sometimes anonymously. He was, in short, the least communicative of men. He talked very little, and seemed all the more mysterious for his taciturn manner. His daily habits were quite open to observation; but whatever he did was so precisely what he had always done before, that the wits of the curious were fairly puzzled.

Had he traveled? It was likely, for no one seemed to be so familiar with the world; there was no spot so secluded that he did not have an intimate acquaintance with it. He often corrected, with a few clear words, the thousand conjectures advanced by members of the club as to lost and unheard-of travelers; he would point out the true probabilities, seem as if gifted with a sort of second sight, so often did events justify his predic-