

Title: Vivisection as Allegorical Warning to Social Engineering in H.G. Wells' *The Island of Doctor Moreau* and Bulgakov's *Heart of a Dog*

Author: Irina Barclay, Appalachian State University

My paper seeks to uncover the allegorical warning to social engineers that I see as contained in H.G. Wells's and M. Bulgakov's treatments of the question of vivisection. Beyond the most obvious anti-vivisectionist manifesto of Wells's *The Island of Doctor Moreau* (1896) and Bulgakov's *Heart of a Dog* (1925), which, following Voltaire, Tennyson and Hugo, was meant to offset a fervour for vivisection starting with Descartes in the sixteenth-century and culminating in Russia with the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917, the failure of Wells' and Bulgakov's protagonists (Dr. Moreau and Professor Preobrazhensky, respectively) to surgically transform animals into humans has profound implications. To social engineers who wish to aggressively alter human societies overnight with techniques and an emotional detachment comparable to those of the surgeon leaning over an experimental subject with his carving knife, Wells and Bulgakov seem to intimate that one should be patient in witnessing the events that take place in the formation of humans and nature. No societal event, be it the most successful revolution, can circumvent the necessary conditions of its development.

#### References

Bulgakov, M.A. *Heart of a Dog*. New York: Grove Press, 1968.

Wells, H.G. *The Island of Doctor Moreau*. London: McFarland Publishers, 1996.