

A C H R O N O L O G Y O F J U L E S V E R N E

W i l l i a m B u t c h e r

- 1828 8 February: birth in Nantes of Jules Verne, to Pierre, a lawyer, and Sophie, of distant Scottish descent. The parents have links with reactionary milieux and the slave trade. They move to 2 Quai Jean-Bart, with a magnificent view over the Loire.
- 1829 Birth of brother, Paul, followed by sisters Anna (1837), Mathilde (1839) and Marie (1842).
- 1834–7 Boarding school. The Vernes spend the summers in bucolic countryside with a buccaneer uncle, where Jules writes his travel dreams. His cousins drown in the Loire.
- 1837–9 École Saint-Stanislas. Performs well in geography, translation and singing. For half the year, the Vernes stay in Chantenay, overlooking the Loire. Jules's boat sinks near an island, and he re-enacts Crusoe. Runs away to sea, but is caught by his father.
- 1840–2 Petit séminaire de Saint-Donitien. The family move to 6 Rue Jean-Jacques Rousseau. Jules writes in various genres, his father predicting a future as a 'savant'.
- 1843 Collège royal de Nantes, but missing a year's studies.
- 1844–6 In love with his cousin Caroline. Writes plays and short prose pieces. Easily passes *baccalauréat*.
- 1847 Studies law in the Latin Quarter. Fruitless passion for Herminie Arnault-Grossetière, dedicating her scores of poems.
- 1848–9 In the literary salons meets Dumas *père* and *fils*, and perhaps Victor Hugo. Law degree.
- 1850 Comedy '*Broken Straws*' runs for twelve nights.
- 1851 Publishes short stories 'Drama in Mexico' and 'Drama in the Air'. Works as private tutor, bank clerk and law clerk.
- 1852–5 Secretary of the Théâtre lyrique. Publishes three more stories. One of his operettas is performed. Visits brothels.



- 1856 Meets a young widow with two daughters.
- 1857 Marries Honorine, becomes a stockbroker and moves frequently.
- 1859–60 Visits Scotland and England and writes *Backwards to Britain*.
- 1861 Travels to Norway and Denmark. Birth of only child, Michel.
- 1863 *Five Weeks in a Balloon*.
- 1864 *Adventures of Captain Hatteras* and *Journey to the Centre of the Earth*. *Paris in the Twentieth Century* is brutally rejected by publisher Jules Hetzel.
- 1865 *From the Earth to the Moon* and *Captain Grant's Children*. A contract specifies 200,000 words a year.
- 1866 'Geography of France and her Colonies'. Summer residence in fishing village of Le Crotoy.
- 1867 With Paul to America on the *Great Eastern*.
- 1868 Buys a boat, the *Saint-Michel*. Visits London.
- 1869 *Twenty Thousand Leagues under the Seas* and *Round the Moon*.
- 1870 Hetzel rejects an early draft of *The Mysterious Island*. Verne has a mistress in Paris. During the Franco–Prussian War, he serves in the National Guard.
- 1871 Moves to Amiens. Father dies.
- 1872 *Around the World in Eighty Days* and *The Fur Country*.
- 1873–4 *The Mysterious Island* and *The Chancellor*. Begins collaboration with Adolphe d'Ennery on successful stage adaptations.
- 1876–7 *Michel Strogoff*, *Hector Servadac* and *The Child of the Cavern*. Buys second, then third boat, the *Saint-Michel II* and *III*. Wife critically ill, but recovers. Michel rebels and is sent to a reformatory.
- 1878 *The Boy Captain*. Sails to Lisbon and Algiers.
- 1879–80 *The Begum's Fortune*, *The Tribulations of a Chinese in China* and *The Steam House*. Verne sails to Edinburgh and visits the Hebrides.
- 1881 *The Giant Raft*. Sails to Rotterdam and Copenhagen.



- 1882 *The Green Ray* and *The School for Robinsons*. Moves to a larger house.
- 1883–4 *Keraban the Inflexible*. Takes Honorine on a tour of the Mediterranean and is received in private audience by Pope Leo XIII.
- 1885 *Mathias Sandorf*. Sells *Saint-Michel III*.
- 1886 *The Clipper of the Clouds*. Paul's son, Gaston, fires twice at Verne, laming him for life. Hetzel dies.
- 1887 *North against South*. Mother dies.
- 1888 *Two Years Vacation*. Local councillor on a Republican list.
- 1889 *The Purchase of the North Pole* and 'In the Year 2889' (signed Jules Verne but written by Michel).
- 1890 Stomach problems.
- 1892 *Carpathian Castle*.
- 1893 *Foundling Mick*.
- 1895 *Propeller Island*.
- 1896–7 *For the Flag* and *An Antarctic Mystery*. Health deteriorates. Brother dies.
- 1901 *The Village in the Treetops*.
- 1904 *The Master of the World*.
- 1905 Falls ill from diabetes and dies.
- 1905–14 Michel takes responsibility for the manuscripts, publishing nine volumes under his father's name, although writing major parts himself.

