

1. Biographies and biography-related:

Butcher, William. *Jules Verne: The Definitive Biography*. Intro. by Arthur C. Clarke. New York: Thunder's Mouth, 2006. xxxii + 369 pp. \$28.00 hc.

Dumas, Olivier, Volker Dehs, and Piero Gondolo della Riva, eds. *Correspondance inédite de Jules et Michel Verne avec l'éditeur Louis-Jules Hetzel (1886-1914)*. Tome I (1886-1896). Geneva: Slatkine, 2004. €44 hc.

Dusseau, Joëlle. *Jules Verne*. Paris: Perrin, 2005. 562 pp. €24 pbk.

Margot, Jean-Michel, ed. *Jules Verne en son temps*. Amiens: Encrage, 2004. 254 pages. €28 pbk.

Although, to my mind, no biography can ever be truly "definitive," the two new biographies on Verne by Butcher (in English) and Dusseau (in French) far surpass previous efforts—such as those by Jean Jules-Verne (1973) or Herbert Lottman (1996)—by their accuracy, balance, and familiarity with the latest discoveries about the personal life of this sometimes secretive author. Both are highly recommended. Many such secrets pertaining to Verne's complex relationship with his publisher and "spiritual father" Pierre-Jules Hetzel have been brought to light during the past few years by the publication (in three volumes) of their voluminous correspondence by Dumas, Dehs, and Gondolo della Riva (see my review in *SFS* 28.1 [March 2001]: 97-106). The above-listed book by the same trio of Vernian researchers is the first of two more volumes