
London Particular

The Dickens Fellowship Newsletter

“...in reference to the projected business...” (*David Copperfield*, Chapter 2)

The Dickens Fellowship was recently contacted by British Pathé Ltd, who have uncovered a number of rare Dickensian newsreels in their film archive, covering everything from a 1918 memorial service for The Inimitable to the opening of a Boz-themed restaurant in the 1960s. Clips are freely viewable on the following website:

<http://britishpathe.wordpress.com/2010/06/01/charles-dickens-and-british-pathe/>

British Pathé’s Media Officer, Mr Jack Cullen, would like to hear from any Fellowship members who can give further information about the clips. Please contact him at: British Pathé Ltd, The Media Centre, 3-8 Carburton Street, London, W1W 5AJ, Tel: 0207 665 8349

“A SLATER THUS MIXES WITH THE ARISTOCRACY...” (*Household Words*, New Series, Vol. 1, no. 39)

Well, not *just* the aristocracy, because Michael Slater’s lecture “Dickens’s Shakespeare” is free and open to all!

7th July: Hilda Hume Annual Lecture (School of Advanced Studies) in the Beveridge Hall, Senate House, University of London, 6.00pm. Please contact Jon Millington if you wish to attend. Tel 020 7862 8659/8736
Email: jon.millington@sas.ac.uk

“Before this number reaches the hands of our readers, they will have become acquainted with the melancholy death of Mr Seymour...” (Charles Dickens, address inserted in the second part of *The Pickwick Papers*.)

Some members will already know that the tombstone of *Pickwick’s* first illustrator, Robert Seymour, is now in the garden of the Dickens Museum, and the official unveiling of the stone, along with a commemorative plaque, will take place at 6.15pm on 27th July. Details of the event are still being finalised, but the unveiling will be performed by Michael Buss, the great-great grandson of R.W. Buss, Seymour’s immediate successor as the *Pickwick* artist. **Cost for the event will be £10 per head, which will include wine and Pickwick-themed food, possibly picture cupcakes and other items showing Seymour’s illustrations. Proceeds will go to the Museum’s Great Expectations Appeal.**

Would any member wishing to attend this event please inform Stephen Jarvis, preferably by email at stephenjarvis@hotmail.com or by telephone on 01628 783310. (Do not trust to the answerphone, Daytime calls preferred.)

“I have very particular business....” (*Pickwick Papers*, Chapter 20)

Thanks to those members who have opted to receive the *London Particular* by email. The Management Committee would, however, like more members to take the e-version of the newsletter, thereby saving on trees and costs. To make the change, simply send an email, showing your name, and the email address to which you would like your *London Particular* to be sent, to: stephenjarvis@hotmail.com

Clearly mark the subject-heading of the email: “London Particular Email, Please”

“The orator having refreshed himself, wiped his corrugated forehead from left to right several times with his handkerchief folded into a pad and concentrated all his revived forces in a sneer of great disdain and bitterness.”
(*Hard Times*, Book the Second, Chapter Four)

This forehead is useful in introducing characters who appear in an extraordinary adaptation of *A Christmas Carol* notified to us by Risa Yamamoto of Alexandria, Virginia. Yes, the *Carol* has been translated into Klingon, the language of *Star Trek*, and performed as a stage play. To see a clip of the performance, go to:

www.kontraband.com/videos/20886/A-Klingon-Christmas-Carol/

Still on the subject of the *Carol*, Derek Mortimer noted a letter published in *The Economist* of 17th April:

“Sir – With the rise of e-book publishing you asked, “Will bookshops disappear completely?” (*Edited Out*, 3rd April.) Last December, I went shopping for copies of Charles Dickens’s works as Christmas gifts. I asked a young bookstore clerk where I might find *A Christmas Carol* and she steered me confidently towards a rack of DVDs. On that basis I fear the answer to your question is yes. Dave Erchull, Tucson.”

“It was...proposed to the...meeting that a change should be made....” (*Household Words*, No 311, 1856)

Accompanying this issue of the *London Particular* is the Notice and Agenda for the 104th Annual General Meeting of the Fellowship, to be held at 9 am, Saturday 24th July, at the Eastbourne Conference. Attention is drawn to the proposed revision of the membership fees and subscriptions.

Following the recent death of Sir John Dankworth, the jazz musician and composer, Allan Clack wrote to the *London Particular*, to remind us that Sir John recorded an album

in 1963 called *What the Dickens!* with tracks such as *The Artful Dodger* and *Dodson and Fogg*. The musician once said: “Dickens is the only author I ever really read. The diversity of characters left an indelible mark on my memory.”

WE HAVE JUST HEARD THAT THE FELLOWSHIP’S TREASURER, GEORGE WRIGHT, IS RETIRING FROM THE ROLE AFTER MANY YEARS OF SERVICE. JOAN DICKS WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM ANYONE WHO WOULD BE WILLING TO UNDERTAKE THE MANAGEMENT OF THE DAY-TO-DAY FINANCES OF THE FELLOWSHIP, OR WHO CAN RECOMMEND A SUITABLE CANDIDATE WHO MIGHT BE PERSUADED! THE ROLE REQUIRES BOOK-KEEPING SKILLS. Please contact joan@dickshg.freereserve.co.uk

DICKENS IN THE NEWS

Author Martin Baum has recently translated Dickens’s novels into “yoof-speak”. His new book *Oi, Mate, Gimme Some More* gives a fresh take on all of the novels in just 158 pages. Thus, *A Tale of Two Cities* becomes *A Tale of Two Turfs* and begins “It was da best of times, and not being funny or nuffing, but was da worst of times, to be honest”, while in *David Copperfield*, Micawber now advises: “Just you remember that no matter what somefing will turn up coz it always does and that is what I’m saying, you get me bro?”

Mr Baum was previously known for his adaptation of Shakespeare, *To Be or Not to Be, Innit*.

A Final Thought....

“The Shakespeare of Caricature” – description of Robert Seymour in the advertisements of the magazine Figaro in London, 1833.

Please send any contributions, news clippings etc to the *London Particular* editorial address:
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