

DICKENS DIARY

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE RIVERSIDE DICKENS FESTIVAL

July
2022



Riverside Dickens Festival Review

Coming off a virtual event last year with the pandemic, we were excited to bring an in-person festival back to Riverside for the 2022 season, thus marking the festival's 29th year celebrating the life and times of Charles Dickens. This year's festival brought lots of fun new experiences for patrons as well as some classic favorites that festival attendees look forward to year after year. In addition to the existing line-up of wonderful historical figures, this year saw the addition of a number of new faces to encounter, as follows: Beatrix Potter, scientist and author of "The Tales of Peter Rabbit." Brothers Wilhelm and Jacob Grimm, collectors and publishers of folklore. Stephen Foster, known as "the father of American music." And certainly not least- Henry Huntington, American railroad magnate and collector of rare art and books. The ever popular AC vs DC debate between our own Thomas Edison and Nikola Tesla became a ticketed event this year leaving the audience with standing room only. Life Art Classes were brought to the festival giving aspiring artists chances to draw multiple models in historical and steampunk attire in a myriad of poses. The Riverside Dickens Festival also debuted a special after hours ticketed event for those interested in the darker salacious side of the Victorian underworld. Dickens After Dark showcased different musical acts, bawdy jokes, curiosities and photo opportunities. With its wild success it will definitely be a continuing part of future festivals. If you joined us this past February we hope you had an incredible time and we can not wait to bring the 2023 Riverside Dickens Festival to you.

Dickens Diary is published four times a year by the Riverside Dickens Festival, Inc., at the address below. Editorial submissions and queries may be sent there. We reserve the right to edit submissions.

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For more information on the Festival visit our website today!
www.dickensfest.com

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President's Message

Festival President and Entertainment Director

I've been performing with the Dickens Festival since 2008 as a street performer and musical entertainer with several bands/troupes. I've also portrayed Charlotte Bronte as a roving character in the last several years as well as my new character Beatrix Potter for 2022. I am delighted to have joined the Dickens Board of Directors in 2017 and I'm excited to carry on the traditions of the festival as well as create some new and exciting attractions along the way.



A little about me: I attained my Product Development and Business degrees from FIDM in Los Angeles and I love volunteering in the entertainment community. I have been directing and performing at reenactment festivals, Renaissance faires, and community theater since 1999 across the west coast. I have an eclectic background in Shakespearean performance, musical theater, and music theory.

A New Year with New Adventures!

I am happy to announce the coming Festival theme book as, "The Pickwick Papers!" We cannot wait to show you what we have in store for the in-person 2023 festival. The board and I are starting to come up with something truly special to dazzle your family with fun for all ages.

Save the date Feb 25 & 26th 2023!

Shanna Lovette
Dickens Fest President

Art & Writing Contest

The Riverside Dickens Festival sponsored the First Annual Pen & Pixel Challenge. Students of middle and high school age were encouraged to submit original short stories of no more than 5000 words or a visual art piece to the festival.



Writing Contest Winners

First Prize Winner

Rayyan Ansari, 11th grade, Riverside STEM High School

Second Prize Winner

Ryan Gerry, 11th grade, Riverside Poly High School

Art Contest Winner

First Prize Winner

Lainey Moreno

Is there A future Charles Dickens, Louisa May Allcott, or Claude Monet in your midst? Please visit www.dickensfest in the fall for the 2023 rules and procedures for our next student contest.

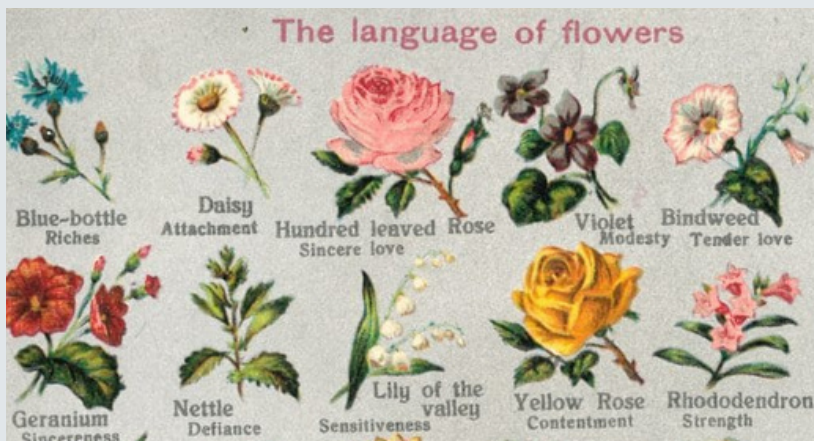
Moments in time from the 2022 Steampunk Royale Ball



We are already having fantasies about next year.
Mark your calendars and join us for
a DREAM of a time!



The Secret Language of Flowers



The gift of receiving flowers has always been quite a thoughtful gesture. Initial thoughts after receiving a bouquet might be to find a vase to put them on display or to express a gratitude to the sender. But have you ever wondered if the flowers chosen share a deeper, possibly hidden meaning?

Floriography, often referred to as the language of flowers, is the means of cryptological

communication through the use or arrangement of flowers. Floral communication has been around in many cultures throughout history but reached its peak popularity during the Victorian era. During Queen Victoria's reign, flowers were used to communicate feelings or sentiments that the strict social etiquette of the time period deemed inappropriate if allowed to be expressed openly. In other words flirting, lots of Victorian flirting. The first dictionary of floriography appeared in 1819 when Louise Cortambert wrote *Le Langage des Fleurs* under the pen name Madame Charlotte de la Tour. With its first publication in 1884, *The Language of Flowers* illustrated by Kate Greenaway is one of the most familiar books about floriography. It continues to be reprinted to this day.

All flowers hold different meanings and can be influenced by the type of flower or its color. Let's take the rose for example. Most associate red roses with a message of love, but the color of a rose can change the context of an intended message. Pink roses signify happiness. White roses can represent innocence or a message of worthiness, while yellow can send messages of jealousy, infidelity, or a decrease in love toward another. The symbolic meaning could also be changed by the size of a flowers bloom. Dwarf sunflowers express adoration, where tall ones express haughtiness. Authors of the time used floral codes in their literary works as well. Bronte wrote that Jane looks at "snowdrops, crocuses, purple auriculas and gold eyed pansies," this corresponds to what Jane felt "hopeful, cheerful, modest and preoccupied" in her novel *Jane Eyre*. Emily Dickinson referred to the symbolic meaning of flowers in her poems. She saw the violet as a sign of

humility and the poppy as a projection of doom. Along with messages of love and potential courtship Victorians also sent messages of their disdain or hatred of one another. A great way to tell a potential Victorian suitor to preverbally "get lost" would be a bouquet of geraniums for stupidity, foxglove for insincerity, meadowsweet for uselessness, yellow carnations for you have disappointed me, and orange lilies for hatred. Or for the messenger with a flair for the dramatic, a single black rose to say you cease to exist to me. So that leaves one burning question unanswered...

What cryptic message will you send?



Our volunteers are Indispensable!

As an all-volunteer nonprofit organization we need your help. If you have an interest, lots of energy, a talent or skill and some time to give, we need you.

If you want to help with the planning committees and/or with the various activities during the festival, please contact us NOW!

Contact us on our website at www.dickensfest.com or call and leave a message at (951) 781-3168.

Author Spotlight: Charles Dickens

Written by Paul Jacques

Every journey has a beginning, and for the literary career of Charles Dickens it was *The Pickwick Papers*. I ask my audiences what Dickens' first novel was, to which the vast majority of people answer *Oliver Twist*. While *Twist* launched Boz on his way as a social reformer, *The Pickwick Papers* ought to be the cornerstone of our understanding of the man and his work.



Paul Jacques as Charles Dickens

It acts as a creative bridge between the collection of people-watching short stories that is *Sketches by Boz* and what would become one of the most well-loved gallery of characters in literature. *The Pickwick Papers* is more than just Samuel Pickwick, Esquire, galivanting through the English countryside with Sam Weller and his band of Pickwickians. Lightly hidden within the misbegotten romance between Pickwick and Bardell and the court judgement against Mr. Pickwick is the curious stance



Paul Jacques as Charles Dickens with Mr. Pickwick

that Pickwick takes towards his punishment. He is given a choice near the end of the book: pay the judgement against him or be sent to the notorious Fleet Street prison, which by the time of the story's syndication was primarily used as a debtor's prison. This sort of facility was well known to Dickens, as his own father had been placed in Marshalsea for his outstanding debts leading to young Charles' placement in a shoe blacking factory.

It is the choice that stands out here; Pickwick, unlike Charles' father, John, has a say in what his fate will be. Pickwick is a man of means and can simply pay his way out of to him is an unjust ruling or he can go to Prison. Pickwick chooses the latter, making a principled stand in the midst of a chaotic and humorous conclusion to the published records of his adventures. This is the kernel of the future that is often overlooked in this book. Dickens, through Pickwick, is offering a bit of critique on faults of the English legal system, something that he will revisit again in more scathing detail in *Bleak House*. It all begins here with *The Pickwick Papers*, however. It is more than just quirky characters with memorable names; it is the beginning of a social conscience that will change the course of British literature forever.

Literary Corner: Charles Dickens' Pickwick Papers

A glimpse into the main characters:

Samuel Pickwick: our novel's protagonist, an elderly man, portly and jovial, founder of the Pickwick Club.

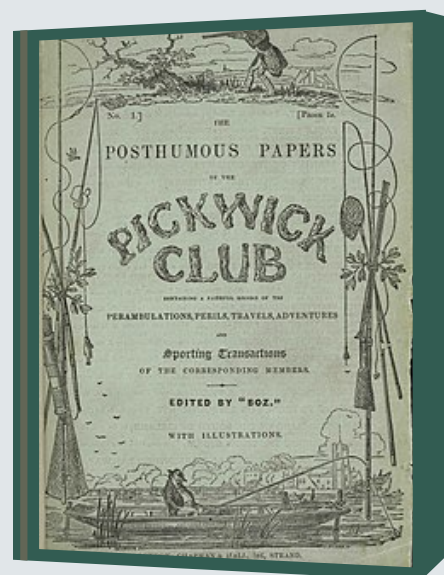
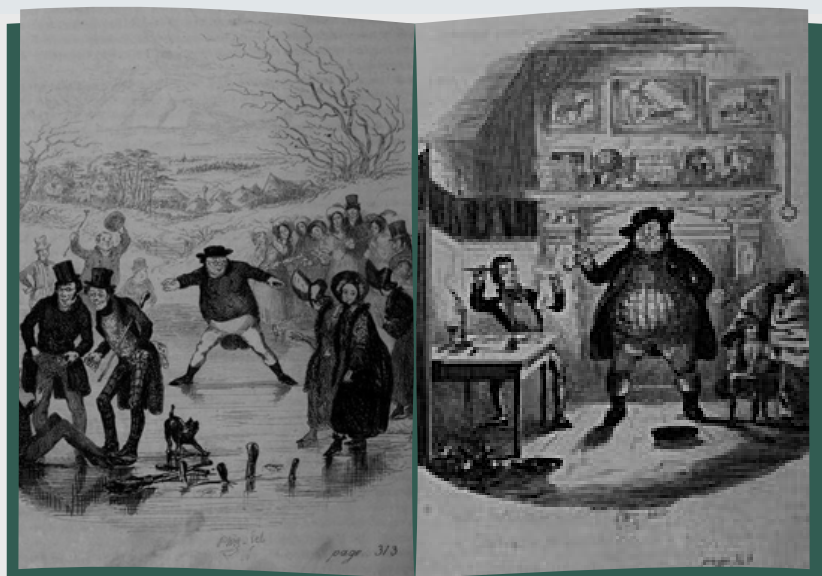
* **Augustus Snodgrass:** a member of the club, considers himself a poet, though he has never written anything.

* **Nathaniel Winkle:** friend of Mr. Pickwick and a member of the Pickwick Club. An awkward young man who deludes himself into believing that he is a sportsman, though he is anything but.

* **Tracy Tupman:** Another member of the Pickwick Club. An elderly, fat, gentleman who considers himself a womanizer.

* **Sam Weller:** an honest young man, with a great sense of humour. Has away of mangling descriptions and proverbs that came to be known as "wellerisms". He later becomes Mr. Pickwick's valet and friend.

The story follows Samuel Pickwick and three other members of The Pickwick Club as they travel throughout the English countryside by coach observing the phenomena of life and human nature, and recording their experiences for the other members of The Pickwick Club. Published in 19 issues over 20 months, the success of The Pickwick Papers popularised serialized fiction and cliffhanger endings.



Original cover issued in 1836

A Brief History of Swimwear: Victorian Era to Present Day



With the introduction of railroads in the early 1800s, people began to flock to the beaches for amusement. The primary purpose of this swimwear was to conceal a woman's body. For it was considered proper to keep their skin white and untouched by the sun. Modesty ruled over fashion. Ladies were known to sew weights into the hem of their smock-like bathing gowns to prevent the garment from floating up and showing their legs.

At the turn of the century swimming became an intercollegiate and Olympic sport. Women were permitted to compete in swimming for the first time at the 1912 Olympics. As the sport grew, swimsuits became more streamlined and less heavy. Women exposed their arms, hemlines crept higher and designers used less fabric to conceal women's bodies.



1912 Olympics



1920s

Hollywood and Vogue both popularized the idea of swimwear being sexy and glam, a trend that persisted in the decades to come. During this era, the term "bathing suit" gave way to "swimming suits" as Portland swimwear company Jantzen coined the term to represent the sleeker silhouettes of its suits. Women were arrested by the swimming police for swimming suits deemed "too short." The swimming police would literally measure the length of swimwear to ensure that women were in compliance with local rules.

During World War II the U.S. government regulated a 10% reduction in the amount of fabric used in swimsuits to deal with wartime shortages. Therefore, beginning the history of the two-piece swimsuit. The introduction of Lastex yarn into women's swimwear meant the garments would hold their form in and out of the water. One of the most significant moments in the history of women's swimwear was the creation of the bikini in 1946. The design is credited to two separate French designers who introduced the revolutionary garment at the same time, Jacques Heim and Louis Réard.



1940s



1990s
& up

Changes to future generations of swimwear were mostly aesthetic. One of the iconic swim styles to captivate the country was Baywatch's signature red high cut one piece. Swimsuit photography, getting its start in the middle of the 20th century, has since catapulted into popularity. Tyra Banks being one of the most iconic swimsuit models around the turn of the century. Advances in technology made the 2000s the apex of competitive swimwear. New fabrics, techniques and styles pioneered by brands like Speedo made competitive swimmers faster than ever.