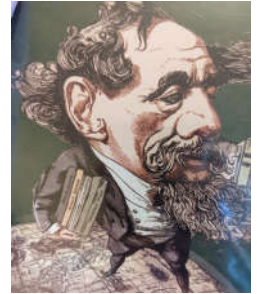


etwist

electronic newsletter from The Cleveland Dickens Fellowship

Editor: Kathleen Schuerger k.schuerger@outlook.com



March 22, 2024

- Come Tuesday, April 2, 11:15, to Beachwood Library to continue our study of *Dombey* and hear Ann Meissner's research on women in CD's time.
- You are invited to be Paul's guest at Pine Ridge Country Club for Civil War Roundtable's dinner and Dawidziak's talk on General Grant, April 9th.
- Ink your calendar for the May 7th meeting when Mark D. will discuss *Dombey*.
- Note April 1 deadline for 2024 International Conference.
- We have a table at Loganberry's Open House for Book Clubs this September.
- Dick Turpin rides again! (Kind of)
- *Dombey* adaptations featured in *Dickensian*, Autumn 2023.
- Collectors, do you lust after Royal Doulton Dickens mugs?

Meet April 2, 11:15, at the Beachwood Library.

During the March meeting our discussion circled around Dickens's female characters in *Dombey*, especially Edith Dombey. How timely that in April Ann Meissner will discuss women in Dickens's time.

Below, left: Harry Furniss's (1910) illustration of Edith and her mirror. Center: Phiz's drawing of Edith and Florence meeting on the stairs. Far right: Edith confronting her mother about her lost childhood (Barnard).



Ed's note: In the mirror (left illustration by Furniss) note the depressing image of her husband, Dombey. In the middle pic by Phiz, note some of the unlovely décor in the Dombey house, especially the pedestal statue of someone (?) ready to murder whom?? And on the right, an indistinct look at Edith's mother stripped of her artifice. I would love to see that one in more detail. CD's description is merciless. — K.S.

Civil War Roundtable on U.S. Grant. Was he an alcoholic? Mark Dawidziak discusses Grant and his relationship with Mark Twain. Paul Siedel invites us to this dinner meeting at the Pine Ridge Country Club, April 9, 6:00 to 8 pm. For admission declare yourself Paul's guest.



May 7, we meet at Beachwood Library, 11:15 am. Mark D. speaks about *Dombey*.
Something to look forward to. This is proving to be a Mark Dawidziak spring.

All becomes clear! Time to register for the 2024 International Conference in England Aug. 5 to 8. Deadline: April 1!

The website gives us a look at what's on offer from host Portsmouth Birthplace Branch. Schedule and registration available now.

Conference includes a day on the Isle of Wight (Who knew that's what IoW means?), a boat trip, tours of many places he and his family knew. The banquet will be held aboard the HMS Warrior in the dockyard where John Dickens worked. Note the conference is in August, not July as usual, and is not residential, but dorm rooms available.

https://dickensfellowship.org/images/sati/pdf2024/conf2024_form-info.pdf

Dick Turpin, favorite clever highwayman in Dickens's time, rides on Apple Plus Streaming!

Not your grandmother's Dick Turpin, this series (Season One: six episodes) is called *The Completely Made-Up Version of Dick Turpin Season 1*. New episodes drop on Fridays. They're funny if you share the Brit sense of humor.

<https://www.yahoo.com/entertainment/completely-made-adventures-dick-turpin-104953783.html>



Keeping up...

Zadie Smith's novel *The Fraud* deals in part with William Ainsworth, who counted CD among his friends for a while. Ainsworth and Dickens published *Jack Sheppard* and *Oliver Twist* at approximately the same time and Ainsworth briefly outsold CD. Known for the Newgate novels popular at the time, Ainsworth's success didn't last very long. Dickens dropped out of Ainsworth's circle and early divorced himself from the Newgate crowd. Ainsworth's career as a Newgate novelist began with *Rookwood*, a resurrection of the Dick Turpin saga and went downhill from there.

These days, as Zadie Smith makes clear, his output deserves the "Completely Made-Up" version for TV.

Essayist in Autumn 2023 *Dickensian* takes on an adaptation of *Dombey*.

Atif Abdullah wrote his dissertation on screen adaptations of Dickens's works. Not many were made of *Dombey*, but one came from the BBC in 1983. He argues that we should critique the video as art in its own right and he quotes from other critics as well as the series. This essay's title gives you a glimpse of his concerns. (Note, Rodney Bennett is one of the specified critics.)

"Rodney Bennett's *Dombey and Son* (1983): Economic Capital, Transactional Relationships, and Women's (Dis) Positions." Much of his argument contains issues we've talked about at meetings, but our vocabulary is much more prosaic.

Page 194. Check it out. Don't get too discouraged. He includes stills from the videos and bits of dialogue.

Royal Doulton mugs offered to Cleveland Dickens Fellowship members.

The seller, wanting to remain in the background, contacted Kathy Broz with good photos and a minimum of info. For example, how much?



Far left: BuzzFuzz, from Pickwick. Near left: Cap'n Cuttle from Dombey. Right: Mrs. Gamp (1), Chuzzlewit.



Above and clockwise: Mrs. Gamp (2). Old Curiosity Shop, back and front (with Grandfather and Little Nell).

The seller wishes to remain discreet, so email Kathy Broz if you're interested.

kathybroz23@gmail.com