NSW Dickens Society.
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Household Words
Issue 75 (June, 2019)

PO Box 3024, West Lindfield NSW 2070, Australia
Patron: Miriam Margolyes OBE
President: Louise Owens
NSW Dickens Society 2019 Books of the Year; *American Notes* and *Pictures from Italy*

Letter from the President

What a wonderful time we enjoyed at the Novotel Manly for our NSW Dickens Society; Weekend Away! Bathed in glorious Sydney sunshine, delegates from NSW, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania and the UK were spoiled with a winning combination of talks, interviews and discussions and a brilliant venue, service, audio visuals and delicious food!

Highlights of the weekend were our fabulous guest from London, Lucinda Hawksley, Charles and Catherine Dickens' great-great-great-granddaughter, who presented two fascinating talks, brilliant sessions by Walter Mason, Anne Schofield, Charmaine O'Brien and Chris Browne and wonderful panels and interviews facilitated by Catherine du Peloux Menagé and Walter Mason speaking to Chris Browne, Gary Corkill, Kate Forsyth, Ashley Kalagian Blunt, Tom Keneally AO and Malvina Yock. Add to this the Lindfield Bookshop stall, book signings, our own The Old Curiosity Shop and raffles each day, we had a ball!

As one member emailed me afterwards, 'The talks were all fabulous. What we were all there to hear. I just loved sitting there getting drenched with everything Dickensian, one of my favourite things. What a weekend! Went home floating on cloud nine'.

Thank you to the fabulous committee; Lynn Clayton, Catherine du Peloux Managé, Walter Mason, Andrew Owens and Claudette Palomares for making it all happen and to Gary Corkill and Geoffrey Usher who helped with selling of raffle tickets.

A very warm welcome new members since our last newsletter: **Chris Browne, Kate Forsyth, Lucinda Hawksley, Ashley Kalagian Blunt, Rebecca Kang, Tom Keneally, Charmaine O'Brien, Kaye Remington** and **Anne Schofield.** We hope you enjoy the NSW Dickens Society as much as we do!

As well as creating all the wonderful graphics, visuals and working on The Old Curiosity Shop, our Marketing and IT committee member, Claudette Palomares, has been working tirelessly and in a voluntary capacity to create a beautiful new website for the NSW Dickens Society so that you can easily locate:

- Our next NSW Dickens Society event
- Membership forms for new members and renewals. You can pay online here.
- Our events for the rest of each year
- News
- Links for Facebook and Twitter
- Contact details and map

Please take a moment to look and admire Claudette's work here: https://www.nswdickenssociety.com/ . We hope that the new website will be a helpful tool for you to see what, where and when things are happening. I'd like to publicly thank Claudette for taking on this project and creating such a user-friendly and beautifully designed website.

It is with great excitement that I let you know our plans for the Christmas Lunch this year. To celebrate the highly anticipated BBC TV series, *A Christmas Carol*, due to be screened later this year, Walter Mason will treat us with a series of brief clips from past adaptions, plus a talk on the history of this wonderful piece of Dickens' work. Geoffrey Usher will compliment Walter's talk with some short, pithy readings of *A Christmas Carol*. Please mark the date in your diary: Saturday, 7th December for lunch at Cellos' Restaurant in the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel, 169 Castlereagh Street, Sydney. Booking forms will be available closer to the date. We look forward to enjoying this wonderful event with you!

For our next meeting on Saturday, 1st June, our very own Walter Mason will be giving a talk; *Nineteenth Century Journeys through America and Italy.* The NSW Dickens Society has chosen Dickens' two travel books, *American Notes* and *Pictures from Italy* as our Books of the Year for 2019. Walter will examine what drove Dickens to travel, and the distinctively 19th century obsessions that shaped his itinerary while abroad. These books managed to infuriate and offend as much as they delighted readers, and we will spend some time looking at the assumptions and prejudices that Dickens took with him along with his wife, his family and his travel trunks. From phrenology and burning books to smouldering volcanoes and street carnivals, this will be a wonderful opportunity to visit two of Dickens' less well-known texts and look at what it means for a writer to travel, to observe and to record things seen. Walter's witty and informed talks are always a great favourite of Society members. Malvina Yock will be giving a reading from our 2019 Books of the Year and Gary Corkill will be presenting a piece of his Dickens Memorabilia. 10.30am - 12noon in the Nangamay Room, 2nd Floor, City Tattersalls Club, 194 – 204 Pitt Street (near the Market Street end), Sydney. No bookings required. $5 entry fee for NSW Dickens Society members. $10 for non-members.

As you can see, we have a lot to look forward to at the NSW Dickens Society! Thank you for your support, interest and enthusiasm for the NSW Dickens Society and all things Dickens!

By Louise Owens

Louella Kerr: The Fun of Collecting Charles Dickens - Saturday 6 April

After hearing Louella talk about the many possibilities open to the Dickens collector, it would be surprising if all those at the session couldn't find a collecting niche to match their interests and their budget. The main thing a collector needs to develop a coherent collection is discipline – know what you want within the limits of what you can afford. Of course some people might prefer an eclectic collection rather than a systematic one. There are no firm rules about what kind of collection to create.

Louella talked about collecting the different genres of Dickens' work, from novels and other major works, to short stories, plays, readings, letters, pamphlets, works for children. It would also be possible to collect books by Dickens' friends, books about Dickens, illustrated books or even Australian editions of his work. Of course there is also Dickensiana - works by Dickens' friends, books about his life or his work and my favourite, Dickens fakes.

Within each of those categories, the collector has many choices depending on taste and budget. One might collect complete sets of Dickens novels, in a huge range of editions, illustrated or not. It would be possible to focus on different editions of a single book. Of course price is critical here. Rarer books in better condition will be more expensive.

The key is to do the necessary research. The internet is a treasure trove for collections but it is also possible to be misled so take care. Bookdealers can also help, first of all with the direction of a collection and information about what is available, the criteria to use when evaluating a book or other material including condition, scarcity and price. Of course a book dealer can also help collectors find specific items.

Apart from the internet and forming relationships with rare book dealers, it's a good idea to visit auctions and bookfairs where the booksellers and books come together – perhaps we should all head to the Australian and New Zealand Association of Antiquarian Booksellers (ANZAAB) annual bookfair at Melbourne University, held from Friday 12th to Sunday 14th July this year, preceded by Rare Books Week, with talks and exhibitions held throughout the city, entirely given over to the book and works on paper.

By Catherine du Peloux Menagé

Raffle Limerick for the Weekend by the Seaside

There's nothing to puzzle or baffle.
Just buy tickets for the raffle.
Six dollars for three
From Gary or me,
And wait to see what you'll snaffle.

By Geoffrey R. Usher

Limerick for the Weekend by the Seaside:

You know we can always depend
On our lovely Dickensian friend.
Thanks, Louise and the team,
For arranging the cream
Of speakers for this Seaside Weekend

By Geoffrey R. Usher

NSW Dickens Society; *Household Words*; Member Interview with Professor Chris Browne

1. Which is the first Dickens' novel you read? It was an adaptation of *David Copperfield* for children. Unfortunately, I cannot recall exactly which version it was, but I would have read it in around 1955. I remember being very impressed with (Clara) Peggotty and revolted by Uriah Heep. The first 'proper' adult Dickens book that I read was *The Pickwick Papers*, also much enjoyed about a decade later.

2.Who is one of your favourite Dickens' characters? I am very fond of John Wemmick from *Great Expectations*. Although a minor character, he has an ongoing and universal appeal as a man who has what we would now call "work-life balance" in perfect equilibrium. His personal domestic life as the proud owner of the Walworth castle, complete with drawbridge and "The Stinger" contrasts beautifully with his professional life as the deferential employee and dogsbody of the grasping Mr. Jaggers.

3.Which Dickens' novel would you most like to live in? The world of *The Pickwick Papers* would be my choice, as it already represented in Dickens' lifetime an idealised, nostalgic vision of rural England that had almost ceased to exist. The world of Dingley Dell, the old Coaching Inns of England and the uncomplicated rural life of Regency England have endless appeal to me as a world of lost innocence.

4.If Dickens could visit today's world, what do you think he would be most surprised by? The transformation of Victorian London into one of the world's most infuriating and chaotic, haphazard modern cities, where the charm of the old is often lost in the brash ugliness of the new.

5.What would you most like to ask Dickens? Simple. What happened to Edwin Drood? However, this is not without risk as part of the appeal of *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* is the unresolved nature of the narrative.

6.What do you enjoy most about the NSW Dickens Society? Its welcoming sense of fellowship and friendliness and enthusiasm.

7.Can you tell us about your career to date? That the best parts can come after formal retirement.

8.Do you collect anything? Books. About 12,500 of them. From early examples of Venetian printing in the sixteenth century to the latest quality crime fiction and literature.

9. What is something that people might be surprised to know about you? I am (was) a Professor of Medicine and an absolute amateur (in the true sense of the world) expert in books and literature.

10. What is one of your favourite lines from Dickens' work? "When they coughed, they coughed like people accustomed to be forgotten on doorsteps and in draughty passages, waiting for answers to letters in faded ink, which gave the recipients of those manuscripts great mental disturbance, and no satisfaction." This quotation from *Little Dorrit* has always moved me, particularly the phrase "waiting for answers to letters in faded ink", which to me highlights the hopelessness of those victims of society who ended up in places like the Marshalsea prison.

Coordinated by Louise Owens

A Vote for *Bleak House*

In the Arts & Culture section of *The Sun Herald,* Sunday 3 February 2019, Barry Maitland - former professor of architecture and an award-winning novelist - cites Charles Dickens *Bleak House* as his first choice of books that changed him. Maitland, whose latest novel is *The Promised Land* (Allen & Unwin), states that:

"One of the great murder mysteries of all time, Dickens' novel begins with an unforgettable description of a London enveloped in fog, nowhere denser and more toxic than in the High Court of Chancery. The murder of a sinister lawyer is investigated by Inspector Bucket, one of the first detectives in fiction and based upon the real-life policeman Charles F Field, with whom Dickens explored the city at night, gathering material and characters for his books. The combination of atmospheric setting, memorable characters and cunning plotting was an inspiration for me."

As I recently downloaded *Bleak House,* narrated by Miriam Margolyes, as part of the sponsorship *Audible* gave the NSW Dickens Society for last year's International Conference - Boz in Oz; Charles Dickens' Colonial Connections - I shall eagerly look forward to listening to it when time permits.

By Michelle Cavanagh

Update from The Charles Dickens Museum

The Lost Portrait Appeal

The Charles Dickens Museum is nearly at the end of its quest to raise £180,000 for he lost portrait of Charles Dickens by Margaret Gillies. We expect to be able to make an announcement in the coming weeks. Thank you again to all who contributed to the appeal.

Recent acquisitions

The Museum recently acquired three items – two bracelets and a bouquet holder – that belonged to Catherine Dickens and are now on permanent display in the Morning Room.

These items first came to light through an episode of the BBC's *Antiques Roadshow* in December 2015. It was an exciting and serendipitous moment, as we were preparing for a special exhibition to open the following spring focussing on the life and achievements of Catherine Dickens, the first exhibition to ever tackle this subject, and we were looking for material to help us tell that story. The Museum had a few portraits of Catherine, an example of her needlework, and some personal items but otherwise nothing of substance to bring the story of this remarkable person to life.

The items have both historical and decorative value – they are fine examples of the fashion of the period and indicative of Catherine's taste and style. We also know from Catherine's will, and other documentation, that these items had particular meaning for Catherine and were treasured by her and those to whom they were passed.

One of the items is a gold and turquoise Ouroboros snake bracelet with cabochon garnet eyes, dating from c 1840, and is a fine example of early Victorian, Romantic period jewellery. Prince Albert's engagement ring to Queen Victoria (given to her in autumn 1839) featured a serpent, a symbol of eternal love. As a result, snake jewellery proliferated in the early 1840s. It was depicted on rings, bracelets, brooches, and necklaces. This bracelet is a companion piece to a snake ring belonging to Catherine Dickens that is already in the Museum's collection.

The second bracelet is finely carved Chinoiserie and is unusual in depicting a series of figures in tableaux, rather than the more common floral motifs. The custom box bears the name Phillips of Cockspur Street, London. The firm of Phillips Brothers was founded in 1839 by brothers Robert and Magnus Phillips. It became one of the most prominent jewellers in London and its pieces are held in a number of museum collections, including the Victoria & Albert Museum and the British Museum.

The gilt bouquet holder is also an unusual example, being a cornucopia shape with stand, etched with a fleur-de-lis motif and dating from around 1850. It is more delicate than the prevailing heavily filigreed and ornate examples of the period.

The Other Dickens: Discovering Catherine, in which these items featured, opened in May 2016 and ran for six months. This ground-breaking exhibition successfully debunked a series of myths surrounding Catherine and brought her out from under the shadow of her famous husband. It demonstrated her role in Dickens's success, her place in London's literary scene, her musical talent and needlework skills, as well as her position at the centre of a lively home that provided the foundation for Dickens' expansive literary and journalistic output and a platform for his enthusiasm for entertaining.

Charles Dickens was undoubtedly a genius – his literary output alone was immense, but he simultaneously ran a weekly journal, campaigned tirelessly for social reform, raised funds for a host of causes, gave speeches, produced (and sometimes performed in) plays, and presented dramatic readings of his work. He was charming, gregarious, and energetic, as well as demanding, sometimes impatient, and increasingly restless and dissatisfied. For more than 20 years, until their separation in 1858, Catherine ran the household and raised the children, hosted dinners and social gatherings, provided companionship, and supported and enabled Dickens to pursue his various interests and commitments.

What most people know about Catherine Dickens is that she was the subject of an enforced separation, including from her children, after Dickens fell in love with a young actress. She is viewed as a tragic figure, dull and frumpy, isolated and forgotten. By contrast, we know that she was elegant and stylish, well-educated and well-travelled, and that for most of the years she was with Dickens, she was a fun-loving and amiable companion. By acquiring these three items, we are able to draw out more of Catherine's story in the Museum's permanent displays and celebrate her many attributes and the crucial role she played in Dickens's success.

The Museum has also acquired a French pottery olive oil jug belonging to Charles Dickens. It is an example of French souvenir decorative art of the 1840s and comes from Aix-les-Bains, a renowned spa town in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region in south-eastern France, through which Dickens travelled with Catherine and their children in 1844 on their way to Italy where they resided in 1844-45. We know from contemporary portraits of Dickens at his desk, as well as letters and memoirs of family and close friends, that Dickens gathered colourful flowers on his daily walks and displayed them on his writing desk alongside favourite objects. The jug is also revealing of Dickens' taste, his sentimentality, and his fondness for surrounding himself when working with items that reflected his travels; it speaks of Dickens' emotional side and love of colour.

Global Dickens: For Every Nation upon Earth

Our 2019 special exhibition – *Global Dickens* – is now open and attracting considerable interest. When planning the exhibition, we knew we had a range of items in our collection that would feature, but we didn't appreciate just how rich the collection is with material relating to Dickens's own travels and its influence on his writing, as well as how his work has travelled the world, crossing continents and cultural divides.

Amongst the 40 fascinating items on display is a copy of *David Copperfield* taken by Captain Robert Falcon Scott and his men on the Terra Nova expedition to Antarctica in 1910. Scott split his men into two groups, one of which, containing geologist Raymond E Priestley, was stranded and lived in an ice cave for seven months. They read a chapter of this copy every night for sixty nights. Priestley wrote that, when they had finished the book, they were 'very sorry to part with him'. Unlike Scott, Priestley and his group survived the expedition but never reached the South Pole.

My personal favourite is a small leather travelling bag (for holding money, passports and letters) given to Dickens by the French artist Count D'Orsay in 1844, just before Dickens set off, with his family, to travel across France and Switzerland en route to Italy where they resided for a year. The bag was with Dickens when he climbed Mount Vesuvius in February 1845 – an adventure vividly described in a letter to his friend Tom Mitton (17-22 February 1845) and subsequently recorded in *Pictures from Italy*.

We also now know that we have more than 500 foreign language translations! The very first was *Pickwick Papers* in German in 1837, and range of Dickens's work appeared in 18 foreign languages (including Icelandic and Croatian) during his lifetime. *Oliver Twist* made it into Japanese in 1885, and *Nicholas Nickleby* was the first Chinese translation in 1907. *David Copperfield* appeared in Arabic in 1912 and Hebrew in 1965. We've arranged a selection of translations in Dickens's study for the duration of the exhibition. My favourite shelf has a run of *Bleak House* or as it is variously knows: Casa Desolata, La Maison d'Âpre-Vent, Das

Bleakhaus, La Casa Trista, Kōryōkan, Kholodniy Dom, Hladna Kuca, A Puszta Has, Casa Umbrelor, and Het Grauwe Huis.

The exhibition runs until 3rd November 2019.

By Dr Cindy Sughrue, Director of the Charles Dickens Museum

Dickensian Slice of Refugee Life

On Dickens' 207th birthday, Thursday 7th February 2019, a review of the film *Capharnaum* by Sandra Hall appeared in the Arts Section of *The Sydney Morning Herald* which began as follows:

"*Capharnaum* is a Dickensian tale updated to the slums of modern-day Beirut with 12-year-old Zain as its Oliver Twist.

He's not an orphan but there are times he wishes he were. His elder brother and several cousins are in jail – a circumstance his mother regards as just another business opportunity. Consequently Zain is forced to spend much of his time scamming pills from pharmacies with fake prescriptions so she can smuggle them in to tell them to the inmates.

He's precociously streetwise and impressively foul-mouthed with a certain entrepreneurial flair… But he's also fiercely protective of those he cares for, and he's especially worried for his 11-year-old sister, Sahar, because his father is about to marry her off to their landlord, a local shopkeeper."

Capharmaum, which is in limited release, is obviously not a movie for the faint hearted but then again, in Dickens' time, neither was *Oliver Twist*.

By Michelle Cavanagh

A Unique Dickensian party; A Bloody Dickens Christmas.

This is fun way to pass an afternoon or evening; it's a Murder Mystery game which features some of Dickens' characters…

Miss Havisham was left at the altar by her fiancé 23 years ago.
Her mansion is now in ruins and Havisham's days are spent in a haze of madness. She continues to wear her wedding dress.
But something has occurred that has summoned a moment of clarity. A skeleton has been dug up on the property. A mutilated, murdered corpse, that at least for Miss Havisham must be her lost fiancé.
Is it possible that after all these years she wasn't in fact jilted? But who committed this atrocity?
A plan is set forth, as the very guests that were present on her wedding day 23 years ago receive invitations to spend Christmas Eve at the Satis Manor, and within the Christmas merriment a murderer will be uncovered.
This is a wonderfully dark / humorous role-playing dinner party game, hosted by the Murder Master.

Play as one of Charles Dickens' most beloved characters as you unravel the mysterious murder at Satis Manor all the while proclaiming your innocence! A Christmas Eve like no other, as you discover the horrors of each of the dinner guests, and their alibis.
Along with a few morbid Christmas Carols, this is one evening you won't soon forget!
A Bloody Dickens Christmas is a game for 10 people, each of whom play one of the following characters;

- Lady Dedlock: Aristocratic, icy cold, with a deadly secret. 'Bleak House'
- Miss Havisham: Abandoned at the Altar. 'Great Expectations'
- Mr. Dorrit: A rich snob with a past. 'Little Dorrit'
- Fagin: A vile hideous man with a trailing of boys. 'Oliver Twist'
- Estella: Miss Havisham's adopted daughter, sociopath. 'Great Expectations'
- Ebenezer Scrooge: Cold-hearted miser. 'A Christmas Carol'
- Pip: Miss Havisham's angry protégé. 'Great Expectations'
- Vincent Crummles: Theatre troupe leader, nasty habits. 'Nicholas Nickleby'
- Little Nell: A sweet girl, with murderous tendencies. 'Old Curiosity Shop'
- Sarah Gamp: Alcoholic midwife, accidents will happen. 'Martin Chuzzlewit'

Get a group of your fellow Dickens-mad friends together (you'll need a group, or groups, of 10 people), to dress up and play one of Dickens' characters, as you all strive to solve this 23-year-old mystery. Who among you is the Killer?
When and Where?
Anytime, although very popular as a Christmas-in-July / Yulefest or Christmas party.
The Murder Master hosts this Murder Mystery in the Blue Mountains, west of Sydney – or if you prefer, he can bring the party to you; he hosts Killer Parties Australia-wide.

Answers to Quiz B; *American Notes* Chapters IX - XVI

1 Barnum's, in Baltimore
2 Fix
3 The Messenger
4 Hot corn bread
5 A Temperance Convention
6 Choctaw
7 A lithographed portrait of himself
8 The Galt House
9 Cairo
10 The Planter's House
11 The early French settlers
12 Doctor Crocus
13 Bloody Island
14 Strike the iakes
15 "Yes. sir."
16 The Neill House
·17 An ordinary four-horse stage-coach
18 Wyandot
19 Peace
20 Brock
21 Political differences
22 The Burlington
23 The Shakers
24 West Point
25 The twenty-seventh of June

By Geoffrey R Usher

Quiz C; *Pictures from Italy*
Answers shall be published in Issue 76 (August 2019).

1 In what year were the Pictures written?
2 If the invisible rule was for all little men in France to be soldiers, what were all the big men?
3 What kind of pavement surrounded Paris?

4 How many nurses arrived with the family at the Hotel de l'Ecu d'Or?
5 What was in the mighty good sort of leathern bottle which the brave Courier had on one of his two belts?
6 Who was the real subject of the ill-looking puppet in the mechanism of the Lyons Cathedral clock, emblematic of the victory over Sin and Death?
7 Who was imprisoned in the dungeon in the dismal tower des oubliettes at Avignon?
8 For how long were the prisoners of the Inquisition confined in the Cachets without food or drink after their capture?
9 Who exacted a terrible revenge several years after 1441?
10 In Marseilles, what was the "low, contracted, miserable building looking straight upon the street, without the smallest screen or court-yard"?
11 On what handsome steamer did the Dickenses travel from Marseilles to Genoa?
12 What was the far more expressive name of the villa in which they stayed in Albaro, the suburb of Genoa?
13 What was the favourite national game which the men of Albaro played with surprising ardour?
14 Which two rivers could be seen from the top of Monte Faccio?
15 What were the names of the two Streets of Palaces?
16 Who once heard a clergyman assert that if he could meet a Priest and an angel together, he would salute the Priest first?
17 Who, though not a learned body, were, as an order, the best friends of the people?
18 After he had witnessed a baptism in the little country church of San Martino, what soon ceased to surprise Dickens?
19 What, without exception, was "the drollest exhibition" that Dickens ever beheld in his life?
20 What was reputed to be the loveliest residence in Italy?
21 What was the name of the "brown, decayed, old town" which was "four or five hours journey from the inn at Stradella"?
22 How many years had passed since any play was acted in the grand, old, gloomy theatre in the Farnese Palace?
23 What was the subject of the harmless monomania of the chief waiter at the hotel in Bologna?
24 Which city was "more solitary, more depopulated, more deserted ... than any city of the solemn brotherhood"?
25 In Verona, what had "degenerated into a most miserable little inn"?
26 Which opera was always popular in Verona?
27 Where did Dickens put up in Mantua?
28 What was said to be preserved under the enclosed pavement of the Basilica of Santo Andrea?
29 Which Saint was buried within the Cathedral of Milan?
30 Which work of art - perhaps better known than any other in the world - was in the old refectory of the dilapidated Convent of Santa Maria della Grazie?
31 What, for Dickens, was the most beautiful thing in Italy?
32 What was the unbridged river on the high road to Pisa which was too high to be safely crossed until the next day?
33 What did the local people call the marble quarries at Carrara?
34 What proud distinction was claimed by the then reigning Duke of Modena?
35 What was the name of the deceptive Bookseller at the corner of St Paul's Churchyard, London?
36 Whose grave made the town of Leghorn illustrious?

37 In which dismal, dirty Papal Frontier town was a Carnival in progress when Dickens passed through it?
38 On what date did the Dickenses arrive in the Eternal City?
39 What was the name of the member of the company of English Tourists in Rome who was always in great request among her party, and was never observed to be silent?
40 Which church, supposedly built on the site of the old Temple of Jupiter Feretrius, did Dickens select for separate mention?
41 What was remarkable about it?
42 Which "damp, mildewed vault of an old church in the outskirts of Rome" struggled uppermost in Dickens' mind because of its hideous paintings?
43 What did Dickens witness on Saturday the eighth of March?
44 Whose portrait, in the Palazzo Berberini, did Dickens consider almost impossible to be forgotten?
45 "Welling from a hundred jets, and rolling over mimic rocks", what was "silvery to the eye and ear"?
46 Whose graves, significant to an English traveller, were near the squat and stunted pyramid where Caius Cestius was buried?
47 What event was represented by the conveyance by the Pope of the Sacrament from the Sistine Chapel to the Capella Paolina?
48 What did Dickens think was the most popular and most crowded sight, excepting those of Easter Sunday and Monday?
49 What Good Friday spectacle particularly struck Dickens as a dangerous reliance on outward observance?
50 Which brotherhood included all ranks of men, including the Grand Duke?

By Geoffrey R Usher

Please Note

Opinions and information in the articles do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the NSW Dickens Society.

Contributions to NSW DS Publications

We welcome submissions for consideration for our publications: *Household Words* (published six times per year) and *Boz in Oz* (published once per year). For *Household Words,* please email articles maximum of one typed page to louiseo@bigpond.net.au Deadline for submissions is: 22/7/19, 16/9/19, and 11/11/19. For *Boz in Oz*, please email articles maximum of three typed pages (including photos) to; louiseo@bigpond.net.au Deadline for submissions for *Boz in Oz* is: 3/12/19. Please use Chicago-style referencing for footnotes in these articles.

The NSW Dickens Society Facebook Page and Twitter Stream

Are you following us yet? We know for certain you are on Facebook, but our follower numbers are quite low – it would be really terrific (and a great help to the Society) if you could “Like” our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/NSW.Dickens.Society/

We post all kinds of fascinating information there. From our upcoming events and whispers of future activities to great articles of interest to all Dickensians. Where else can you keep your finger on the pulse of lost portraits, obscure Dickensian journalism and forgotten luminaries in the world of Dickens studies? Your committee scours the internet so you don't have to, constantly in search of new articles, mentions and connections. Do follow us on there, "Like" our articles and posts and share them on your own pages. Tell your friends and family about the page, too – it is free, and it is a simple but important way to spread the news that NSW has a thriving Dickens Society.

Now, fewer of you are on Twitter, but things are just as interesting on our Twitter stream, which you can follow @NSWDS. As well as posting similarly fascinating and useful stuff, we also re-post and interact with Dickensian people and associations all around the world. People we chat with on there, and whose info we share, include the Dickens Fellowship in the UK, the Dickens Museum in London, Gerald Dickens and Lucinda Hawksley. If you sign up to Twitter just to read our stream it would be worth it! And of course, following us and sharing our posts is also easy, fast, free and of tremendous importance to our growth and profile, not just in Australia but around the world.

Don't forget to follow NSW DS on our Social Media

Website:	https://dickenssydney.com/
Facebook page:	https://www.facebook.com/NSW.Dickens.Society/
Twitter:	https://twitter.com/NSWDS @NSWDS

Calendar of Dickens-Related Events:

Saturday, 1st June: ***A talk by Walter Mason; Nineteenth Century Journeys through America and Italy***

The NSW Dickens Society has chosen Dickens' two travel books, *American Notes* and *Pictures from Italy* as our Books of the Year for 2019. NSW Dickens Society Vice President and travel writer, Walter Mason, will examine what drove Dickens to travel, and the distinctively 19th century obsessions that shaped his itinerary while abroad. These books managed to infuriate and offend as much as they delighted readers, and we will spend some time looking at the assumptions and prejudices that Dickens took with him along with his wife, his family and his travel trunks. From phrenology and burning books to smouldering volcanoes and street carnivals, this will be a wonderful opportunity to visit two of Dickens' less well-known texts and look at what it means for a writer to travel, to observe and to record things seen. Walter's witty and informed talks are always a great favourite of Society members.

10.30am - 12noon in the Nangamay Room, 2nd Floor, City Tattersalls Club, 194 – 204 Pitt Street (near the Market Street end), Sydney. No bookings required. $5 entry fee for NSW Dickens Society members. $10 for non-members

Saturday, 3rd August: ***A talk by Dr. Vasudha Chandra; Prescription for Mr. Dickens***

What ailed Charles Dickens, the man? What about some of his sickly and invalid characters? What medical conditions did they suffer from? This talk delves into such diagnostic dilemmas and explores some of the treatments used in Dickens' time, including taking a holiday, which many Victorians believed to have health-giving benefits.

10.30am – 12noon in the Nangamay Room, 2nd Floor, City Tattersalls Club, 194 – 204 Pitt Street (near the Market Street end), Sydney. No bookings required. $5 entry fee for NSW Dickens Society members. $10 for non-members.

Saturday, 5th October: A talk by Isabel Deeble; Charles Dickens and his American Reading Tour

Social media creates celebrities overnight but Charles Dickens was arguably the first international celebrity over 150 years ago. He attracted fame particularly though his paid readings in the later part of his life, and especially during his second trip to America (1867/68). There was a rapturous public reception to the 'British lion'. His dramatic readings, their staging and scripting were highly praised. He made a 'multitude of new friends', some of them eminent figures like himself. On his second tour he noted illuminating observations and experiences. We will explore this triumphal reading tour and the responses it drew from his audiences.

10.30am – 12noon in the Nangamay Room, 2nd Floor, City Tattersalls Club, 194 – 204 Pitt Street (near the Market Street end), Sydney. No bookings required. $5 entry fee for NSW Dickens Society members. $10 for non-members.

Saturday, 7th December: Christmas Lunch:

Cellos' Restaurant in the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel, 169 Castlereagh Street, Sydney.

To celebrate the highly anticipated BBC TV series, *A Christmas Carol*, due later this year, Walter Mason, will treat us with a series of brief clips from past adaptions, plus a brief talk on the history of this wonderful piece of Dickens' work. Geoffrey Usher will give us some short readings of *A Christmas Carol*. Booking forms will be available closer to the date.

Information was correct at time of printing.