"Legal Fictions: Dickens, Victorian Society, and the Law"

An Interdisciplinary Conference

Dates: August 4-7, 1988
Kresge College, University of California at Santa Cruz

Sponsored by the Dickens Project and the Law and Humanities Institute

The Dickens Project at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and the Law and Humanities Institute announce a conference on Legal Fictions: Dickens, Victorian Society, and the Law to be held August 4-7, 1988, on the Santa Cruz campus. Interdisciplinary in nature, the conference will bring together legal experts, cultural theorists, literary critics, historians, psychologists, and art historians who will apply a variety of theoretical and methodological strategies to study the construction, representation, and experience of Victorian society and the law in nineteenth-century England. Through argument and by example these scholars and theorists will reveal as well some of the ideological structures that support our own contemporary reconstructions of Victorian culture.

Registration: The conference registration fee is $25.00, which entitles participants to attend the conference sessions. Registration will take place at Kresge Town Hall on Thursday evening from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Accommodations: A limited number of on-campus rooms are available for this conference on a first-come, first-served basis. The rates for these rooms include three meals a day. Please contact Freda Crown at the UC Santa Cruz conference.

Melvyn Haberman
(California Lutheran University),
"Justice and the Ethical Life in Our Mutual Friend"

Nancy Armstrong
(University of Minnesota),
"Unlawful Bodies: 1857-1867"

5:30-6:30
Dinner, Porter Dining Hall

7:00
Dessert Party, followed by a Dramatic Reading of scenes from Dickens's novels by Philip Collins (University of Leicester), Kresge Town Hall

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6
7:30-8:30
Breakfast, Porter Dining Hall

8:30-10:00
Lecture: Michal Ginsburg
(Northwestern University),
"Dickens and the Language of the Law"

10:15-12:00
Panel—Dickens and Others: Comparative Perspectives on Dickens and the Law

Moderator: Daniela Bielecka
(University of Poznan)

James L. Porter
(University of Michigan),
"The open Texture of Closure: Legal Fiction and Narrative Form"

Judith S. Koffler,
(Pace University School of Law),
"Injustice as Disease: the Homeless in Bleak House"

Richard Weisberg
(Benjamin Cardozo School of Law),
"Mr. Jaggers in a Comparative Context"

12:00-1:00
Lunch, Porter Dining Hall

1:30-3:15
Panel—Dickens and the Law
office to arrange for payment and reservations. If you plan to stay in local hotels or motels, we recommend that you make reservations immediately, as Santa Cruz has many visitors in the summer season.

Parking: Parking permits must be purchased to park in on-campus lots. They can be purchased at the Parking Office just inside the main entrance to the campus at High and Bay streets. We suggest that you allow plenty of time to do this before the sessions begin. Those persons in on-campus housing may purchase their permits through the housing office. The fee is $2.00 per day.

All events, unless otherwise indicated, will take place in the Kresge College Town Hall.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4
Afternoon arrivals and check-in, Kresge College
5:30-6:30  Dinner, Porter College Dining Hall
6:30-7:30  Sherry Hour, Kresge Town Hall
7:30  Introduction: Al Hutter
       (UC Los Angeles)

Keynote Address: David Sugarman
       (Middlesex Polytechnic, London),
       "Dickens and the Rational Irrationality of the Law in Victorian England"

FRIDAY, AUGUST 5
7:30-8:30  Breakfast, Porter Dining Hall
9:45  Lecture: John O. Jordan
       (UC Santa Cruz),
       "Bleak House and the Crisis of Legitimacy"
12:00  Box Lunch and Performance:
       "Bleak House," directed by John Glavin
       (Georgetown University),
       Kresge Town Hall

Moderator: Norris Pope
       (Stanford University Press)

James Redmond
       (Westfield College, Univ. of London),
       "Smirk and Serious: Farce and Tragedy in Dickens's Portrayal of the Law"

C.R.B. Dunlop
       (University of Alberta Law School),
       "Debtors and Creditors in Dickens's Novels"

Eloise Hay
       (UC Santa Barbara),
       "From Burke to Bucket: Dickens on Society and Law"

Barbara Rosecrance,
       "Law as Solution, Law as Problem: W. S. Gilbert and Dickens"

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7
7:30-8:30  Breakfast, Porter Dining Hall
8:45-10:00  Lecture—Martin J. Wiener
       (Rice University),
       "Dickens and the Liberal War on Crime"
10:15-12:00  Panel—Law/Literature/Critique
       Moderator: Hilary Schor
       (University of Southern California)

Regenia Gagnier
       (Stanford University),
       "Critical Legal Studies and Cultural Studies: Studies in Possibilities"

Robert Weisberg
       (Stanford University Law School),
       "The Law/Literature Enterprise"

Frances Olsen
       (UCLA Law School),
       "Deconstructing the Sex of Law"

12:00-1:00  Lunch, Porter Dining Hall

Afternoon departures

Legal Fictions: Dickens, Victorian Society, and the Law  
August 4-7, 1988

Name ____________________________________________
Institution _______________________________________
Address _________________________________________
City __________________________ State ____________ Zip ___________
Telephone ________________________________

Registration: $25  Call for housing information (408) 429-2611

Make checks payable to: The Dickens Project
Return this form by July 25 to: The Dickens Project, University of California, Kresge
College, Santa Cruz, California 95064

Remove August 8, 1988
The Dickens Project
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