



JULY 29–AUGUST 4, 2001

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Join Us to  
Explore the World  
of Dickens

on the University of California's  
Santa Cruz Campus

Presented by  
The Dickens Project

# THE DICKENS UNIVERSE

## THE BOOK—*Bleak House*

In 2001, just 150 years after Dickens began to write it, the Dickens Universe returns to *Bleak House*, which is in the view of many critics his best novel, a frequent contender also for title of best novel of the nineteenth century. It is certainly the work of Dickens's that has attracted the most critical attention in the last fifty years, and, appropriately enough for the Universe's 21st year, it is the work that in most scholars' views marks Dickens's coming to full artistic maturity. As G. K. Chesterton marvelously writes, *Bleak House* "is no longer a string of incidents; it is a cycle of incidents. It returns upon itself; it has recurrent melody and poetic justice;

it has artistic constancy and artistic revenge.... The story circles round two or three symbolic places.... People go from one place to another place; but not from one place to another place on the road to everywhere else [as is typical of the earlier works].... The whole story strays from *Bleak House* and plunges into the foul fogs of Chancery and the autumn mists of

Chesney Wold; but the whole story comes back to *Bleak House*. The domestic title is appropriate; it is a permanent address."

Domesticity is certainly central among the novel's great themes, but in *Bleak House* Dickens pushes the ideals of domesticity to extend to the whole of England and indeed the whole cosmos. For while the novel insists upon the ideals of domesticity, it also represents a world that is domestically largely dysfunctional. Most of its families are incomplete, maimed, neglected, or simply what we nowadays call highly "nontraditional." And those of its public and private institutions charged with managing the national family—most notably the law (represented by the infamous Court of Chancery and its endless and tortuous law suits that suck the very blood out of those who find themselves entirely unwillingly made parties to

them), government, and organized philanthropies—are miserable failures. Its religious institutions do no better. As Mr. Jarndyce wilyly observes, "The universe . . . makes rather an indifferent parent . . ."

But for all the bleakness of the book's world view, it is one of Dickens's most exciting and suspenseful as well as funny novels. It is full of romantic love (including even illicit, if offstage, sex) and gives us a true murder mystery and one of the first actual detectives in British fiction. It is one of Dickens's most Gothic tales, replete

with madness, ghosts, and death scenes—pathetic as well as grotesque and macabre (including a famous death by Spontaneous Combustion that Dickens defends in his Preface; as usual, he was quite right in his account of the phenomena, though he most likely got the spontaneous part wrong)

*Bleak House* is notable also for the striking technical innovation of a dual narrative: one half related by an omniscient, masterful, and bitingly satirical third-person narrator entirely in the present tense, the other half related by one of its central characters, the young and diffident governess Esther Summerson, in the past tense. Esther is Dickens's only sustained first-person female narrator, and remains somewhat controversial: some readers (beginning with Charlotte Brontë) have been irritated by her habitual deference to men and her elders, but for other readers she is a likeable and truly admirable survivor of a characteristically horrendous Dickensian childhood, a more genuine hero than other of Dickens's first-person narrators, such as David Copperfield or Pip.

*But for all the bleakness of the book's world view, it is one of Dickens's most exciting and suspenseful, as well as funny, novels.*

### JOHN O. JORDAN

is Director of the Dickens Project. A Professor of English at UCSC, he teaches Victorian literature.

### JOHN BOWEN

teaches Victorian literature at Keele University and is the author of *Other Dickens: Pickwick to Chuzzlewit*.

### JAMES BUZARD

teaches literature at MIT. He writes about Victorian and modernist literature, travel, and anthropology.

### CAROL T. CHRIST

teaches 19th-century literature at the University of California at Berkeley

### CAROLYN DEVER

teaches Victorian literature and feminist theory at Vanderbilt University.

### EDWIN EIGNER

is emeritus from the University of California at Riverside. He writes fiction and criticism of the nineteenth century novel.

### JAMES KINCAID

does time at USC and claims to be doing cultural studies, though that's not really what it is at all.

### ROBERT PATTEN

is Lynette S. Autrey Professor in Humanities at Rice. He edits "Studies in English Literature 1500-1900" and teaches courses in Victorian literature and culture.

### HILARY SCHOR

is Professor of English at USC and the author of books on Gaskell and Dickens. Her current projects include a study of women, realism, and the law.

# Leading 19th-Century Scholars

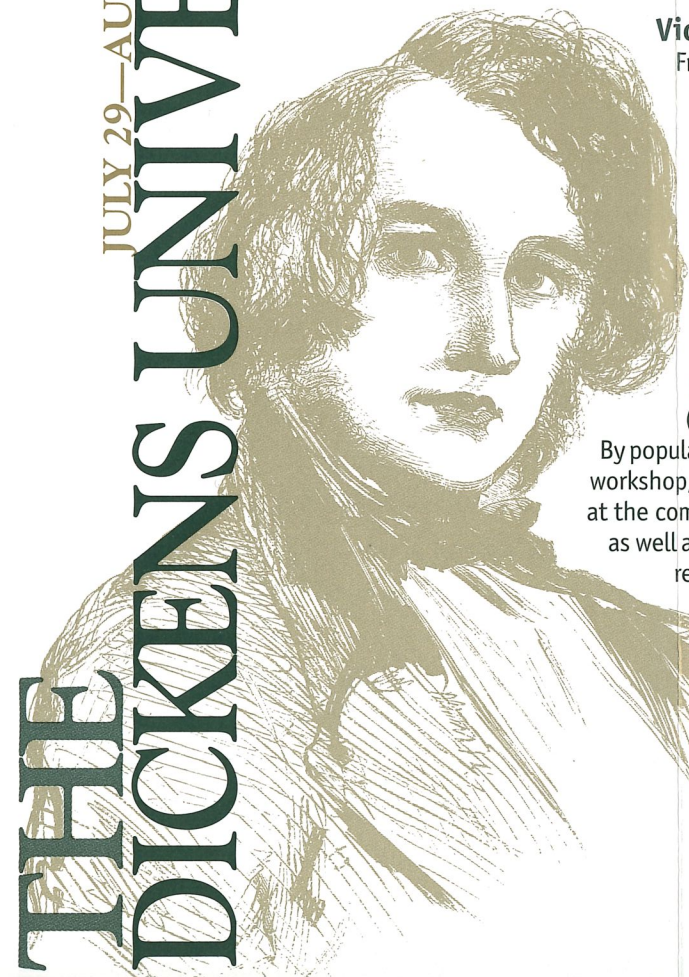
## Workshops for Teachers

### Magic Lantern Show (new this year!)

### Afternoon Victorian Teas

### Films & Special Activities

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#### Victorian Exhibitions—A Scholarly Conference

From Thursday evening, August 2, through noon on Sunday, August 5, the Dickens Project will present a scholarly conference focusing on "Victorian Exhibitions" to which all Dickens Universe participants are invited without additional fee. 2001 marks the 150th anniversary of the "Great Exhibition of the Works of Industry of All Nations," held at the Crystal Palace. The anniversary affords an occasion for revisiting not only the Great Exhibition itself, but also the many other forms of exhibiting (and of exhibitionism) that helped define the Victorian era. Conference registration for non-Universe participants is \$60.

#### Special Sessions for Post-Secondary Teachers (new this year!)

By popular demand, we have added a new feature to our Universe week: a daily workshop, taught by Professor James Kincaid of USC, especially for teachers at the community and state college level. The genial Prof. Kincaid is erudite as well as entertaining. Reserve your spot by indicating your interest on the registration form.

#### Daily Workshops for High School Teachers

Led by a Master Teacher, these workshops are devoted to presenting innovative and successful ideas for teaching 19th-century novels to junior high and high school students. Offered at no extra charge, each workshop will demonstrate practical teaching strategies developed by experienced teachers and tested in the classroom. Special emphasis will be given to cooperative learning techniques and to approaches that recognize differences among student learning and thinking styles.

## THE SETTING

We will be discussing *Bleak House* far from the English landscape of Chesney Wold. The Santa Cruz campus of the University of California, 75 miles south of San Francisco and 50 miles north of Carmel, is perched on a hill high above Monterey Bay and the city of Santa Cruz; a place of open vistas, shady redwood groves, and nearly tame deer. There is easy access to Santa Cruz's many shops, restaurants, and beaches via car or bus. The climate is normally mild: cool mornings and evenings, warm afternoons. While we dwell imaginatively in nineteenth-century England, we will simultaneously enjoy the amenities of the most beautiful of the University of California's campuses.

Santa Cruz is best served by San Jose International Airport, just 45 minutes away. Travelers may also use San Francisco International Airport (2 hours away), Amtrak into San Jose, or reach Santa Cruz by car via Highway 1.

Since many people summer in Santa Cruz, off-campus housing is usually in short and expensive supply. For this reason, we suggest that you stay at Kresge College, where all conference events are held. Program registration, campus parking, and meals at the dining hall are all included in the room rates. Accommodations at Kresge feature shared apartments with twin beds. A bedroom to yourself ("Single") is \$735/person. A shared bedroom ("Double") is \$639/person. These prices include all meals, registration, and parking. There is a short walk among the redwoods to a nearby dining hall for meals.

Those not wishing to live on campus pay \$195 for registration. Parking is an additional \$12/week and meals in the dining hall range from \$5 for breakfast to \$8 for dinner. If you wish, we can send you a list of motels within close driving distance to the campus.

Although UCSC is great for walking and biking, the campus is hilly and can be strenuous for those with mobility concerns.

For more information and links to other helpful web sites, please visit us at <http://humwww.ucsc.edu/dickens/index.html>

## Changes to Note

You can now order 2001 Universe T-Shirts and the recommended Penguin edition of *Bleak House* once you've registered. In addition, Shakespeare Santa Cruz is offering Universe participants discounted tickets to selected performances (*Macbeth*, *Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *She Stoops to Conquer*).

Look for details in your registration packet.

## Credit

You may receive 5 units of credit (quarter system) in Literature; please indicate your wish on the registration form and include an additional \$20 and your Social Security number. The course is approved to be repeated for credit.

Students taking the course for credit are expected to write a paper 5-7 typewritten pages in length, which will be due August 31. The topic of the paper will be discussed at the program.

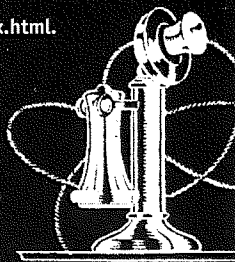
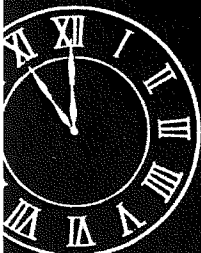
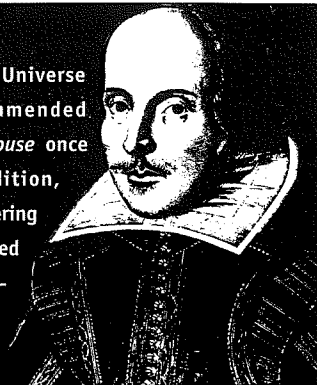
## Cancellations

Cancellations must be received in writing before July 25. A service charge of \$30 will be withheld from the registration fee refund. Housing cancellations must be arranged by 5 pm, July 28, or one night's meals and lodging will be charged.

## For More Information

If you have questions not answered by this brochure, please contact us or visit our website <http://humwww.ucsc.edu/dickens/index.html>.

A detailed schedule of activities will be sent to all registrants. All programs are handicapped accessible but those with mobility concerns should call first for more information.



## The Dickens Universe, July 29 - August 4

- |  |   |          |
|--|---|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Resident:</b> Six nights, Sunday night to Saturday noon. Rooms are close to conference activities and fee includes programs, parties, meals, parking, and "Victorian Exhibitions." | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Single room</b>         | \$735.00 |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Double (per person)</b> | \$639.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Extra Night Option:</b> You may stay over one more night, Saturday, August 4. Especially useful if you are attending "Victorian Exhibitions."                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Single room</b>         | \$90.00  |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Double (per person)</b> | \$74.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Non-resident:</b> Meals and parking not included.  | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Non-resident</b>        | \$195.00 |

List roommate's name, if mailed separately.

Total Universe Registration \$

## Victorian Exhibitions, August 2 - 5

- |   |   |          |
|---|---|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>"Victorian Exhibitions" Only:</b> Three nights, Thursday night to Sunday noon. Registration for the Dickens Universe includes free registration to "Victorian Exhibitions." | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Single room</b>         | \$330.00 |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Double (per person)</b> | \$282.00 |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Non-resident</b>        | \$60.00  |

List roommate's name, if mailed separately.

Exhibitions Registration \$

## The Details

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Eve Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Visa  MasterCard Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

No. \_\_\_\_\_

Authorizing Signature \_\_\_\_\_

- I plan to attend the workshop for high school teachers  
 I plan to attend the workshop for post-secondary teachers  
 This is my first time at the Dickens Universe

Students may take the Dickens Universe for 5 quarter units of credit for an additional charge of \$20 (fee is non-refundable).

- Post-baccalaureate credit  
 Undergraduate credit

Please give Social Security number to identify student records.

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$

Please make checks payable to:  
UC Regents

UCSC-The Dickens Project  
1156 High St, Santa Cruz, CA 95064  
831-459-2103 (phone) 831-459-4424 (fax)

REGISTRATION

## **SUNDAY July 29, 2001**

- 2:00-4:00 pm Room Registration for participants staying on campus
- 5:30-6:15 pm Dinner
- 6:30-7:30 pm Program Registration at Kresge Town Hall
- 7:30 pm Welcome and preview of the week's events, followed by an opening address

## **MONDAY July 30 - FRIDAY August 3**

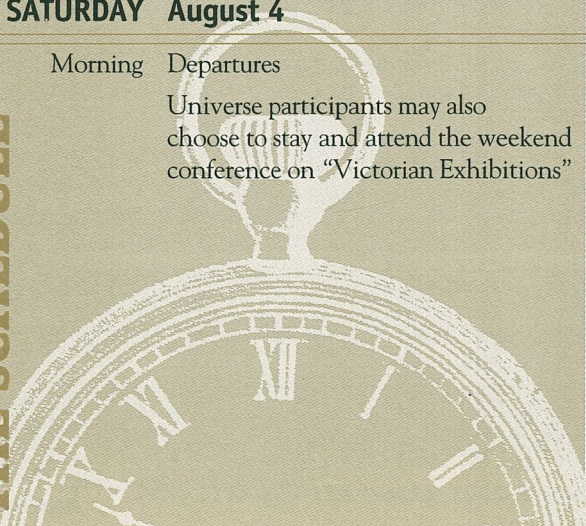
- 7:15-8:30 am Breakfast
- 8:00-9:15 am Faculty-led discussion groups
- 9:30-11:00 am Faculty lectures on *Bleak House*
- 11:15-12:30 pm Workshops on *Bleak House* and the lecture material
- 12:30-1:30 pm Lunch
- 1:45-3:00 pm Special workshops
- 3:00-5:00 pm Teas, optional lectures, and activities
- 5:30-6:15 pm Dinner
- 6:30-7:30 pm Sherry and social hour
- 7:30 pm Lectures and films

## **FRIDAY August 3**

- 7:00 pm Closing festivities: dessert party and Magic Lantern show

## **SATURDAY August 4**

- Morning Departures
- Universe participants may also choose to stay and attend the weekend conference on "Victorian Exhibitions"



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**The Dickens Project**

UC Santa Cruz

1156 High Street

Santa Cruz CA 95064

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Santa Cruz CA

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