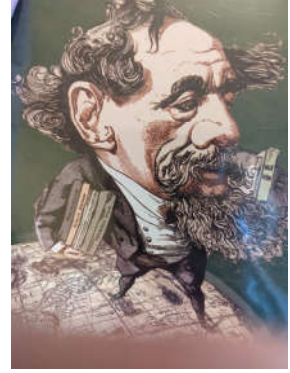


## etwist

Electronic newsletter from The Cleveland Dickens Fellowship  
<https://www.clevelanddickensfellowship.org/>



**Winter/Spring Calendar**  
**Meetings scheduled for second**  
**Saturday of the month. All 11am to**  
**1pm, Beachwood County Library.**

**Sat. March 8, Rm B, discussion of non-**  
**profit status and “Dostoevsky and**  
**Dickens”.**

**Sat. April 12, Rm B, Paul Siedel and a**  
**panel on characters in DC.**

**Sat. May 10, Rm A, General discussion**  
**to conclude *David Copperfield*.**

Editor:  
k.schuerger@outlook.com

- **March 8, come at 11:00 to discuss our non-profit status with our webmaster and to hear Rick Fox on Dickens and Dostoevsky.**
- **Did Dickens write “commercial” or “literary” fiction?**
- **Americans read less than before. (Dickens doesn’t have a chance.)**
- **International conference 2025 schedule, booking form on main website.**
- **Charles Dickens Museum celebrates 100 years.**
- **Civil War Roundtable offers speakers, actors, dinner.**

### **We meet Sat. March 8, 11 am at the Beachwood County Library, Rm. B.**

At 11:00 we will talk with **Willem Ekels**, our webmaster, who will help us decide on our non-profit status—pros and cons. Please come by 11:00 to join that discussion.

Then, **Rick Fox** (**Kathy Broz’s** husband, CPL librarian) talks about Dickens and Dostoevsky. Bring questions and your observations about the great Russian authors of Dickens’s time.

### **Author Robert Harris (Author of *Conclave*, *Fatherland*, *Imperium*) interviewed in *New York Times Book Review*.**

The interviewer asked Harris, “Do you distinguish between ‘commercial’ and ‘literary’ fiction? Harris nixed the idea using the great 19<sup>th</sup> century authors as examples, including Dickens. His favorite Dickens novel? *Great Expectations*.

[Ed. note: Thackeray (right) came close to accusing CD of being commercial, not so much in his novels as in his persona—vulgar dress, no Greek or Latin, etc. He also admits CD’s genius.]

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/01/23/books/review/robert-harris-conclave-precipice.html>



## **Reading statistics. Are we the only ones left who enjoy reading?**

Read 'em and weep. US Bureau of Labor Statistics spreads the bad news.

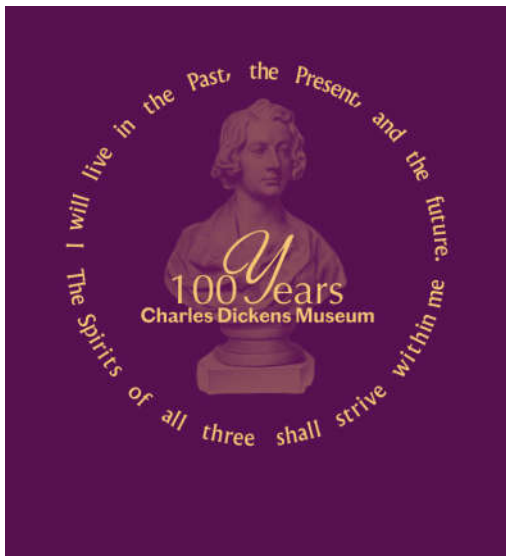
<https://www.arts.gov/stories/blog/2024/federal-data-reading-pleasure-all-signs-show-slump>

*On any given day from 2017 to 2023, the amount of time that Americans aged 15 and older spent reading anything “for personal interest” was roughly 15-16 minutes. Yet, for each year from 2013 to 2015, that amount had exceeded 19 minutes, before slipping to about 17 minutes in 2016. Over the entire measurement span (from 2013 to 2023), by contrast, Americans spent between 2:40 and 2:51 hours watching TV on any given day.*

## **Fellowship Conference, July 14 – 15, 2025. Canterbury Cathedral conference centre. Theme: Dickens, Faith and Antiquity.**

**Find Dickens Fellowship Conference news, events and booking form on the web.**

<https://dickensfellowship.org/index.php/announcements/398-fellowship-conference-2025-july-14-16>



## **Dickens Museum in London celebrates its 100-year anniversary, Feb. 5 to June 29.**

You'll want to follow this event. Learn the highlights of the museum's 100-year-old collection of everything Dickensian—his books, manuscripts, letters, his belongings—right down to his cane and hairbrush. If you get to London, great. If you can't, watch the Museum's website to learn what they're doing.

<https://dickensmuseum.com/> Also:

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2024/dec/22/charles-dickens-museum-showcases-its-collections-to-celebrate-centenary>

**We missed hearing our own Paul Siedel at the Civil War Roundtable on John Wilkes Booth's escape. Check out the rest of the season.**

**Northeast Ohio Civil War Roundtable, March 11, April 8, May 13.**

**Pine Ridge Country Club, Wickliffe, OH.**

**Topics include neuroscience, “Stagecoach Mary Fields,” Sherman's March to the Sea.**

**Social, Dinner, Program, \$30 member, \$40, non-member.**

**RSVP Franco Sperrazzo (440) 567-2414**