

Annual Winter Dickens Conference to be held

January 23, 1984

The annual Winter Dickens Conference, a gathering of scholars working in the field of Victorian studies with an emphasis on the English novelist Charles Dickens, will be held at the University of California, San Diego Friday through Sunday, January 27 - 29.

Working sessions will be held from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday in room 111A of the Administrative Complex at UCSD. The conference will begin Friday evening with a dinner for participants at University House sponsored by UCSD Chancellor Richard C. Atkinson. Some 30 professors, scholars and graduate students are scheduled to attend the conference.

The conference is the winter working session for the Dickens Project, a consortium of scholars from the eight general campuses of the University of California, Stanford University, the University of Texas at Austin and City University of New York. The Dickens Project meets each summer on the campus of the University of California, Santa Cruz to study in depth the writings from and about Charles Dickens.

According to Dr. Murray Baumgarten, professor of English and comparative literature at Santa Cruz and head of the Dickens Project, more than 100 participants ranging from university professors to high school teachers and from graduate students to interested scholars attend the summer sessions which have been held since 1981.

The 1984 summer project, scheduled August 5 through 12 at UC Santa Cruz, will focus on Dickens and America and will feature the relationship of Charles Dickens and Mark Twain. The conference will honor the 100th anniversary of the publishing in England of "Huckleberry Finn" by Twain. According to Baumgarten, Twain published his story in England in 1884, a year before it was published in the United States.

The smaller and shorter winter conference, Baumgarten said, is designed as a chance for graduate students to meet professors working in the Victorian field and to have their papers read in front of a critical audience. Graduate students from each of the eight UC general campuses, the Graduate Center at City University of New York and the University of Texas at Austin are scheduled to take part.

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