

CHARLES DICKENS

A CHRONOLOGY

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1812

- February 7th Charles John Huffam Dickens is born at 13 MileTerrace, Landport, Portsmouth, second child of John Dickens and Elizabeth Dickens [Barrow]. Sister Fanny was born October 28th, 1810
- March 4th Charles is baptized at St.Mary's in Portsea
- The Dickens family moves at least twice over the rest of the year

1814

- March 28th Birth of Dickens' brother Alfred Allen
- September 6th Death of Alfred of 'Water on the Brain'

1815

- January Dickens family moves to London to live at 10 Norfolk Street – now Cleveland Street – because John Dickens was transferred to work at Somerset House – [This address is located a few doors removed from the CLEVELAND STREET WORKHOUSE]

1816

- April 23rd Birth of sister Letitia Mary

1817

John Dickens is moved again to Chatham, Kent

1819

- August Birth of sister Harriett Ellen who dies in infancy
- August 14th John Dickens borrows 200 GBP

1820

- July Birth of brother Frederick William

1821

- Summer Charles is sent to a school kept by Wm. Giles
- December 11th Aunt Fanny, who has lived with the family, marries Dr. Lamert and moves. Dr. Lamert had taken Charles, along with his own son, James to a number of theatrical performances to the Theatre Royal, Chatham and other theatres. These visits are continued by James Lamert after his father's departure

1822

- March 11th Birth of brother Alfred Lamert
- June John Dickens is transferred back to Somerset House, moving the family to Camden Town
- September Death of Aunt Fanny in Ireland -
- After the move back to London, John Dickens' debts become dire – Charles is NOT sent to school again at this time

1823

- April 9th Fanny Dickens, Charles' sister, becomes a pupil at The Royal Academy of Music – remains 'til 1827. In September, family moves again – Dickens' mother attempts to start a school for Ladies – not successful. Debts pile up – household goods sold and pawned Charles starts work at Warren's Blacking at Hungerford Stairs during September 1823 and works there until October 1824

1824

- 20th February John Dickens is arrested for debt and is taken to the Marshalsea Prison – a short time later, Mrs. Dickens and three children join him there, while Charles is boarded – eventually close to prison where he is able to have meals with the family while working at Warren's.
- March 2nd John Dickens applies for retirement from the Navy Payoffice.
- April 26th Death of John Dickens' grandmother – leaves him 450 GBP – all of which goes to pay debts
- May 28th John Dickens is released from prison under the 'Insolvent Debtor's Act' – that means he comes to an arrangements with his creditors – family moves twice – finally to a house in Somerstown
- Sometime early this year, Charles begins to attend Wellington House Academy -

1825

- March 9th John Dickens retires from the Navy Payoffice on a pension – supplementing his income with occasional journalism writings.

1826

Charles leaves school and, for a short time, is employed in a solicitor's office.

1827

The Dickens family has to suffer many moves because of continuous debt problems.

May

Charles moves to another solicitor's office and begins to teach himself shorthand writing.

November

Birth of brother Augustus, nicknamed Moses

1828

November

Charles leaves solicitor's office, has a calling card printed which reads MR. CHARLES DICKENS, SHORTHAND WRITER, 10 Fitzroy Street. This is the second time Dickens lives at this address

1829

Charles first meets Maria Beadnell, daughter of a banker – and is instantly smitten

1830

February 8th

The day after his 18th birthday, Charles obtains his reader's ticket at the British Library, CD continues his infatuation with Maria, but she is sent to Paris to go to 'Finishing School' – or to get her away from Charles!

At a dinner party at the Beadnell's, Dickens writes some verses which he calls 'Bill of Fare' in which he speaks about having fallen in love – this is the first piece of writing done by CD that we know of.

1832

Early in the year, CD joins the MIRROR OF PARLIAMENT as a reporter. For a short time, he also becomes a reporter on THE TRUE SUN.

1833

March 18th

Discouraged by her 'display of heartless indifference' CD breaks off whatever relationship he had with Maria.

During this year, CD continues as a shorthand writer and reporter – CD plans to apply for an audition at Covent Garden Theatre but becomes ill and cannot attend. He also writes a play, O'THELLO, which he directs and produces - for 'private performance' only.

December 1st Dickens' first 'Sketch'
A DINNER AT POPLAR WALK [re-named MR. MINNS AND HIS COUSIN] is published in the MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

1834

During this year, CD publishes six more Sketches in the MM. In August he uses the pseudonym 'BOZ' for the first time. He also becomes a reporter on THE MORNING CHRONICLE and write another five Sketches for that publication. In November, John Dickens is again arrested for debt. In December, CD moves to quarters at Furnival's Inn.

1835

Between January and August, CD publishes twenty SKETCHES OF LONDON in the EVENING CHRONICLE. He also reports on elections from many locations.

May CD becomes engaged to Catherine Hogarth, daughter of artist George Hogarth.

September 27th Publishes twelve Sketches in BELL'S LIFE IN LONDON.

October 26th Suggests the title SKETCHES BY BOZ to publisher Macrone for a collection of his work. Macrone agrees to a two-volume edition.

1836

February 8th A day after his 24th birthday, a two-volume edition of SKETCHES BY BOZ is published.

February 12th Publishers Chapman and Hall propose terms for PICKWICK PAPERS.

February 18th CD writes to C & H "PICKWICK is at length begun in all its might and glory. The first chapter will be ready tomorrow."

March 26th PP advertised in THE TIMES.

March 31st The first number of PP appears. Instalments follow until October 1837.

April 2nd CD marries Catherine Hogarth

April 20th Robert Seymour, illustrator of PP commits suicide. R.W. Buss does the next number – H.K.Browne [PHIZ] completes the rest of the book and stays with CD's major novels until A TALE OF TWO CITIES

May 9th Accepts Macrone's offer to write another novel.

November 4th CD withdraws from that offer, being offered more money from yet another publisher, Robert Bentley. Dickens also agrees to become editor of a new literary magazine BENTLEY'S MISCELLANY.

December 5th CD's new play THE VILLAGE COQUETTES is successfully produced at the St. James' Theatre

December 17th SKETCHES BY BOZ – SECOND SERIES - is published
Dickens meets John Forster for the first time.

1837

January 6th Birth of Charles Culliford Boz Dickens, CD's first son

January 31 BENTLEY'S MISCELLANY – first number – Contains the start of OLIVER TWIST – it will continue to publish until April 1839.

February's installment of PP sells 14.000 copies – 20.000 are sold in March, 26.000 in September, 29.000 in October and an astonishing 40.000 in November of 1837 !

March 3rd CD's new play IS SHE HIS WIFE OR SOMETHING SINGULAR is produced at the St. James' Theatre

April CD and family – along with sister-in-law Mary move to Doughty Street – today's Dickens Museum

May 6th CD, Catherine and Mary go to the theatre – after returning home, Mary is taken ill

May 7th Mary dies that afternoon from unknown causes. CD is inconsolable – takes the ring from Mary's finger, puts it on and never again takes it off. There are NO installments of PP and OT.

June 16 CD meets Macready – the pre-eminent actor of the time

June 20 Queen Victoria ascends to the British throne

July 2nd CD and Catherine travel to France – the first of many trips to come.

September 9 Death of CD's first publisher, Macrone – CD edits PIC NIC PAPERS to raise funds for the family

CD has a dispute with Bentley, threatening to resign editorship of the MISCELLANY – and promptly receives a raise !

November 18 CD gives a dinner to celebrate completion of PP –

November 29th CD signs an agreement with Bentley to edit MEMOIRS OF GRIMALDI

Dickens attends many meetings and dinners during 1837 making important connections with publishers, artists, actors and politicians. He also attends many theatrical productions – especially those of Macready - As well, he contributes a number of minor pieces to various numbers of BENTLEY'S MISCELLANY.

1838

January CD works on MEMOIRS OF J. GRIMALDI

January 8th CD begins SKETCHES OF YOUNG GENTLEMAN

January 14th Attends a demonstration on ANIMAL MAGNETISM [MESMERISM/HYPNOTISM] by Dr. Elliotson – CD develops a lifelong fascination with the subject

January 30th	Sets off with PHIZ to visit Yorkshire schools
February 2nd	Visit Mr. Wm Shaw – principal of Bowes Academy CD tells Catherine in a letter that he still dreams of Mary every night
February 10th	SKETCHES OF YOUNG GENTLEMEN is published
February 26	MEMOIRS OF JOSEPH GRIMALDI is published
March 6th	Birth of Mary [!] Dickens – first daughter
March 31st	First number of NICHOLAS NICKLEBY appears for publishers Chapman and Hall – it continues until October 1839. During April, May, June and July, the Dickens' attend many social events- and travel frequently out of London.
June 28	Coronation of Queen Victoria
July	CD is writing TWIST, NICKLEBY, small articles as well as editing BENTLEY'S – all at once !
August 10th	Signs an agreement to edit PIC NIC PAPERS !
September 22nd	Signs agreement with Bentley to write BARNABY RUDGE after OT for him. During the next few months, CD and PHIZ travel extensively.
November 9th	OLIVER TWIST is published in three volumes.
December 5th	Dickens takes his new play THE LAMPLIGHTER TO Macready – it is not very good, so it never produced.

1839

January 22nd	Asks Bentley to postpone publication of BARNABY RUDGE – it is refused – CD explodes – resigns editorship of BM –
February 27th	Signs an agreement with Bentley regarding BR
March 13th	Elected to the Royal Literary Fund Committee
April – July	Rents a cottage in Petersham frequent trips to London.
September 2nd	Begins four weeks in Broadstairs – Albion Hotel
September 20th	Finishes NICKLEBY
October 3rd	Starts work on BARNABY RUDGE
October 5th	CD gives dinner to celebrate completion of NN – He is presented with Maclise's portrait
October 23rd	NN is published in one volume

October 29th Birth of Kate Macready Dickens – 2nd daughter

Early in December, the Dickens household move to 1 Devonshire Terrace, which remains their home until the lease expires in 1851. Bentley advertises a new novel by CD – but Dickens has not even started it - and he is not pleased at all !

1840

January 8th Working on a title for his new work

January 13th Tells Cattermole that he wants his new work illustrated with intra-textual wood cuts

February 7th CD's 28th birthday – 'confined with the worst cold you can conceive'

February 10th SKETCHES OF YOUNG COUPLES is published

March 9th First mentions OLD CURIOSITY SHOP as name for part of the new work –

CD is dealing with health issues – some dating back to his youth

April 4th First number of the new 'Magazine' MASTER HUMPHREY'S CLOCK – is published

April 27th First installment of THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP APPEARS in MHC

THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP appears in 37 weekly parts from May 30th, 1840 to February 6th, 1841

June 1st The Dickens family travels to Broadstairs

July 2nd CD meets with Chapman and Hall and agrees to write BARNABY RUDGE as part of MHC. They, in turn, will advance money so he can buy the copyright of OLIVER TWIST from Bentley

CD visits his parents during July and is busy with writing and visiting during August – The family is in Broadstairs in September

October 15th Volume I – of III - of OCS is published

During November, Dickens has to decide if Little Nell should live !

1841

January 6th Well – she DID die !

February 8th Birth of fourth child – Walter Landor Dickens

February 13th First instalment of BARNABY RUDGE

March 8th Notice in the papers that CD will NOT be responsible for debts by anyone with his surname – namely – his father !

April 12th Volume II of MHC is published

June-July CD and Catherine travel to Scotland

August	Most of the family is in Broadstairs
September 19th	Tells Forster of his plans to go to America
October	More health problems leave CD weak – in addition, some family members pass on
November 5th	CD finishes BARNABY RUDGE Health improves –
December 4th	Last weekly number of MASTER HUMPHREY'S CLOCK is published.
December 15th	the third and final volume of MHC appears – One-volume editions of OCS and BR are also published.

1842

January 2nd	CD and Catherine travel to Liverpool –
January 4th	SS BRITANNIA sets sail for Boston – miserable voyage – seasick for half of it
January 20th	Land in Halifax – enthusiastic welcome –
January 22nd	Arrive in Boston – Festivities galore
February 5th	They leave Boston – to New York via Worcester, Springfield Mass., and Hartford and New Haven, Conn.
February 12th	Arrival in New York
February 14th	The BOZ BALL – with 3000 participants ! Both CD and Catherine become ill – just worn out - still they visit many places in and around New York.
March 5th	They leave N.Y. head for Philadelphia – then on Baltimore and Washington where they meet President Tyler. The journey takes them to Richmond, Baltimore, Harrisburg, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Louisville, Columbus, Sandusky, Cleveland, Buffalo, Niagara Falls, Toronto, Kingston and Montreal – and many of the cities they had to pass through a second time on the way back to somewhere else - and all this in the spring of 1842 ! CD's record of the trip is in his AMERICAN NOTES They are in Montreal for 2 weeks, where Dickens takes part in 'Private Theatricals' – which he enjoys immensely ! Because he can be 'in charge! On their way back to New York, they travel via St.John's, Whitehall and Albany and they arrive there on June 2nd. On June 7th, they set sail on the GEORGE WASHINGTON for Liverpool, to arrive on June 29th to be re-united with their children and move back to Devonshire Terrace.
July 1st	Copyright Act receives royal assent.

July 9th	Welcome home dinner in Greenwich CD is working on his AMERICAN NOTES - also practicing Mesmerism on his wife and her sister, who now lives with them –
August	Family leaves for two months at Broadstairs – CD is working very hard on AN –
October 5th	Longfellow arrives for a visit – CD shows him London and some other places of interest
October 19th	Publication of AMERICAN NOTES – CD travels to Cornwall - is thinking hard about a new novel
November 12th	CD relates to Forster the title of the new book: <i>THE LIFE AND ADVENTURES OF MARTIN CHUZZLEWIT</i> and he begins to write
December 1st	CD tells that he has received many letters about AN
December 31st	first number of CHUZZLEWIT is published –

1843

January 6th	Big 'Twelfth Night Party' where CD does magic tricks and does a Magic Lantern Show
February	Catherine is quite unwell – CD does not know what to do about his father's money troubles
March 2nd	Sales of monthly parts of MC are disappointing –
March 6th	Reads the report of the Children's Employment Commission and is 'perfectly stricken down' by it
April	CD continues writing MC
May 1st	6th number of MC complete – comments on the fact that he is writing 'A Little History of England' for Charley by and by – CD attends many meetings and dinners during the next few months
August	Working holiday at Broadstairs – brief visit to London – hears about the negative feedback on MC from America
September 14th	Visits a 'Ragged School': "... an awful sight..."
September 28th	CD's father in debt again – has sent him a 'threatening letter' – make him VERY upset
October 3rd	Back to London – CD begins work on A CHRISTMAS CAROL – also continues work on MARTIN CHUZZLEWIT.
November	CD has finished the CAROL by the end of the month
December 17th	'Working till three o'clock in the morning on MC'
December 19th	A CHRISTMAS CAROL is published – sells out 6000 copies on day of publication

1844

- January 2nd 9000 copies now printed – a second edition of the CAROL is advertised
- January 9th Begins action against pirates – he wins – but....
- January 15th Birth of Francis Jeffrey Dickens – 5th child –
- January 20th A third edition of CC is announced – and sold out
- February 10th Discovers a financial shock with finances of CC –
- During the next little while, CD is contemplating a lengthy visit to Italy and attempts to discern where they would be best to reside.
- July 1st Final number of MARTIN CHUZZLEWIT is published – it appears in a one-volume edition on July 16th
- July 2nd The Family sets out for Italy – a party of 12 in all –
- July 16th They arrive in Genoa and travel to Albaro where they will stay – then move back to Genoa for the rest of rest of their stay – CD is working on an idea for the next Christmas Book.
- October 8th CD decides that the title of his next story will be THE CHIMES
- November 3rd CD Finishes THE CHIMES
- November 6-21 The family tours Italy, visiting 8 cities – then, CD returns to London, arriving there on Nov. 30th
- December 3rd CD reads THE CHIMES to friends with great success
- December 16th Publication of THE CHIMES – an authorized version of the story opens on a London stage
- December 20th CD back in Italy
- December 23 Begins Mesmerism treatment of Mme. De La Rue

1845

- January 19 CD and Catherine leave for another tour of Italy – this time visiting another twelve cities – including a climb up active Mount Vesuvius.
- July 3rd The Dickens family arrives back in London after an extensive journey through Europe. CD has an idea for another Christmas book – THE CRICKET ON THE HEARTH
- During August, CD is very involved in rehearsals for a private performance of Ben Johnson's EVERY MAN IN HIS HUMOUR on September 20th. It is well received and reviewed.
- October 5th CD is considering taking on the editorship of a new Daily – THE DAILY NEWS.
- October 20th CD is involved in hiring staff for the paper.
- October 28th Birth of son Alfred D'Orsay Tennyson Dickens – 6th child

November 3rd	CD accepts post as the editor of the DAILY NEWS for 2000 GBP
November 15th	Another performance of EVERY MAN...
December 1st	CD finishes A CRICKET ON THE HEARTH which is published Dec. 20th
December 31st	First number of re-issue of OLIVER TWIST appears in parts

1846

January 21st	First issue of DAILY NEWS appears
January 30th	CD tells publishers B & E he is "thoroughly disgusted" with their treatment of him
February 9th	Resigns editorship of DN – but continues to contribute 'TRAVELLING LETTERS – WRITTEN ON THE ROAD – about his trip to Italy.
February 23rd	Writes first of five long letters on CAPITAL PUNISHMENT
March	CD is contemplating a new story as he wanders London streets at night.
April 1st	Decides to write his new book – DOMBEY AND SON in Switzerland – proceeds to make travel arrangements
May 18th	PICTURES FROM ITALY is published sells 5000 copies quickly – second edition planned
May 30th	The whole family leave for Switzerland –
June 15th	They move into Rosemont Villa outside Lausanne – CD write about 'Ragged Schools' for Lord John Russell
June 29th	CD communicates with Baroness Burdett-Coutts about her charitable projects – he also continues writing THE LIFE OF OUR LORD for his children – At the same time, he begins work on DOMBEY AND SON –
	During July and August and September, CD and Catherine take part in many social engagements while he continues writing DS – he also begins a new Christmas Book, which he calls THE BATTLE OF LIFE.
October 15th	Publishers Bradbury and Evans tell CD that the First number of DS has sold 30000 copies so far
November 12th	CD Finishes BATTLE OF LIFE, which is published on December 19th and sells 23000 copies
November 16th	CD leaves Lausanne for Paris and London
December 15th	CD works on an authorized dramatic version of BATTLE OF LIFE for a London stage
December 23rd	CD returns to Paris

1847

January 15th	CD finishes 5th number of DS – death of Paul
January 17th	CD visits Victor Hugo
February	CD is very busy with DS and travels back and forth, trying to find the inspiration to continue.
February 23	CD gets news that Charley has come down with Scarlet Fever –
February 28th	CD and Catherine travel to London to be with their son – whom they cannot visit for fear of infection
March	CD has great trouble continuing DS – “ My wretchedness – just now - is inconceivable...”
April 3rd	Charley is withdrawn from King’s College School for health reasons.
April 18th	Birth of son Sydney Smith Haldimand Dickens – CD’s 7th child.
May 3rd	CD has an accident when a horse attacks him – This has affected his health in a serious way. Nevertheless, CD has to continue with DS – travels to and from Brighton – is restless as he tries to regain his writing powers -
June 5th	CD arranges for a lease for Miss Coutts for her home for ‘Homeless Women’ [ladies of the night]
June 28th	The family goes to Broadstairs for two months – All the children have whooping cough –
July 26th	Dickens’ Company of Players perform EVERY MAN IN HIS HUMOUR under CD’s direction and with him in the leading role. They also perform in Manchester and Liverpool.
August	CD travels between London and Broadstairs – continuing with DS – and thinking of another Christmas Book – THE HAUNTED MAN
September 12	Sends opening portion of HM to Forster but says that, because he is having such difficulty with DS, he cannot take the time to write it – it does not appear until Christmas 1848. CD continues short trips from London
October	Continued work on DS
November 13th	URANIA COTTAGE, the home for ‘Fallen Women’ funded by Miss Coutts is opened. CD very involved with its operation
December	Many social engagements while writing DS – after Christmas, CD and Catherine take a trip to Scotland for two weeks, returning early in the New Year. 16th number of DS is published.

1848

It is during the trip to Scotland, on December 28th, that Catherine suffers a miscarriage on the train. This occurrence causes her to be quite unwell on and off for much of the first part of the new year.

January	CD visits Urania Cottage frequently during the next few months to check on and report on the progress of the venture to Miss Coutts. He is also still hard at work on DS – the circulation of which has reached well over 30000 copies monthly, reached a high of 35000 copies with the final double number.
February	Takes Catherine to Brighton for a rest – and to try and finish DS
March 23rd	CD writes final chapter of DS
March 31st	Final double-number of DS is published
April 11th	Dinner to celebrate completion of DS
April 12th	DOMBEY AND SON is published in a one-volume edition. CD completes a number of speaking engagements - as he is highly sought after as an after-dinner speaker. Dickens is hard at work rehearsing at Miss Kelly's theatre during the last week of April and the first 2 weeks of May for a performance of Shakespeare's THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR, EVERY MAN IN HIS HUMOUR and ANIMAL MAGNETISM – by the 'Company of Amateur Actors - all stage-managed and directed by Dickens – who is also involved in most other aspects of the performances. The profits of these performances are to go towards an endowment of a curatorship of Shakespeare's house in Stratford upon Avon.
May 26th	CD and Catherine travel to Birmingham, Liverpool and Manchester before returning to London and the family on May 31st.
June 3rd	Performance of MERRY WIVES in Manchester
June 5th	Performance of MERRY WIVES in Liverpool
June 6th	Performance of EVERY MAN in Birmingham
June 27th	Performance of EVERY MAN in Birmingham
July 5th	CD visits sister Fanny – dying of consumption
July 15th	Actors leave for Edinburgh
July 17th	Performance in Edinburgh
July 18th	Performances in Glasgow
July 29th	The Dickens family goes to Broadstairs for a 2-month vacation. CD makes frequent trips to London – as usual.
September 2nd	Death of sister Fanny – funeral on the 8th – CD, Catherine and family attend
October 5th	Re-starts writing THE HAUNTED MAN – It is the last of the five Christmas books.

November 13th	Visits the Isle of Wight for a few days
November 30th	Finishes THE HAUNTED MAN – "...Having been crying my eyes out over it..."
December 11th	Reads HM to his friends with great success...
December 19th	Publication of THE HAUNTED MAN – CD tells a friend that 18000 copies were sold on the day of publication – CD attends rehearsals of a production of HM at the Adelphi Theatre. CD has authorized this adaptation

1849

January 3rd	Dinner to celebrate the success of THE HAUNTED MAN
January 6th	TWELFTH NIGHT CELEBRATIONS – CD performs conjuring feats for the children
January 7th	CD goes on a short walking holiday
January 16th	Birth of Henry Fielding Dickens – 8th child
January 20th	John Forster's first mention of CD's 'Fragment of Autobiography' maybe written in 1845/46 – parts of this form the basis of the early chapters of DAVID COPPERFIELD
January 29TH	Death of crippled nephew Harry Burnett – [a model for Tiny Tim?]
February 3rd	CD is considering a new work – spends a good deal of time trying to find a name for the new novel CD visits Urania cottage a number of times during the following months to make sure that all is as he deems it to be
March 5th	CD tells John Forster that he has begun the new story – it is called DAVID COPPERFIELD CD encounters considerable difficulty in writing DC – goes for days without being able to write at all – on his walks, he thinks about how to present the first – and auto-biographical - chapters of DC, because they are HIS story and they will include parts about which he has not spoken to anyone before – including his wife and children.
April 30th	First number of DC is published – publication of the novel continues until October 31st, 1850
May 6th	Discovers that his 'Social Heroes' Count d'Orsay and Lady Blessington have fled to Paris to escape their creditors – contents of their home, Gore House, are readied for sale by auction
May 12th	Celebratory Dinner on the start of DC
June 4th	Death of Lady Blessington in Paris During this month works hard on the new numbers of DC - which has been received enthusiastically– 20000 copies of part I sold -
July 1st	CD has a fall, which leaves him quite unwell for a time. He goes to Broadstairs to recuperate

July 15th	CD travels to the Isle of Wight to rent a house for their family vacation
July 26th	CD and family off on vacation till the end of September – ‘Working’ vacation for him
July 28th	First mentions the idea of ‘A weekly Magazine’ - to be published under his editorship – to his publishers During their holiday, the family entertain many visitors from London - CD is working away on DC while still thinking of this new weekly Magazine [which will become HOUSEHOLD WORDS]
October 1st	CD and family return to London – then he, Catherine and Georgina go to Broadstairs for a couple of weeks without the children ! Work continues on DC
November 13th	CD, accompanied by some friends, watches the execution of the Mannings – this execution at Horsemonger’s Lane Gaol is watched by more than 30,000 people CD writes two long letters to THE TIMES – on November 13th and 17th - concerning his disgust of public executions.
November 26th	The Dickens family go to Rockingham Castle, where CD performs scenes as after dinner entertainment
December 18th	CD, while working on DC, receives a letter of complaint from a reader, charging that he has used her as the model for one of the characters in DC – CD agrees to modify his plans for the character in future issues of DC

1850

During January, CD tries out more than a dozen possible titles for the weekly magazine which he is planning and finally settles on HOUSEHOLD WORDS – all the while, he is working away on the next chapters of DC – writing goes slowly –

February is a ‘Working Month’ – both on CD and on plans for HHW – CD invites a number of well-known authors of the day to submit items for publication in HHW –

March 14th	CD sends to JF the manuscript of his story A CHILD’S DREAM OF A STAR, which is published in the second issue of HHW
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March 30th	First number of HHW is published – publication will continue until May 28th, 1859.
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During the month of April, THE HOUSEHOLD NARRATIVE OF CURRENT EVENTS begins publication – it is not very successful and ends publication at the end of 1855.

During the next few months, CD, working on both DC and HHW and says that “ Between Copperfield and Household Words, I’m as busy as a bee!” As busy as he is, he goes on a short holiday to Paris – to ‘refresh his mind!’

August 16th	Birth of Dora Annie, ninth child. The family is already on holidays in Broadstairs – CD joins them and remains there, with frequent trips to London, until October 28th.
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August 20th	CD has to decide on DC’s Dora’s death
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- September 6th Catherine joins the family at Broadstairs – CD works an average of eight hours a day trying to conclude the final chapters of DC – while, of course, reading and editing the weekly issues of HHW
- During the month of October, CD starts to think again about ‘The Theatre’ – he begins to plan a performance of Jonson’s EVERY MAN IN HIS HUMOUR at Bulwer-Lyttons country house.
- October 23rd CD sends the final chapter of DC to the publishers
- October 28th The family returns to London
- October 31st Rehearses EVERY MAN almost every day – Rehearsals also occupy CD throughout the first part of next month.
- On November 18th, 19th and 20th there are three performances, which go off ‘in a whirl of triumph!’ CD is in his element – in charge of EVERYTHING!
- During the first few days of December, CD is “...so very unwell...that I have hardly been able to hold up my head!”
- We can assume that he was just plain BURNED OUT – having worked so very hard on finishing DC, editing HHW AND preparing and directing and performing in EVERY MAN – a workload that could lay anyone out cold!
- Regardless, CD is still up for various dinner engagements with friends both at home and away from home. Towards the latter part of the month, CD visits Rockingham Castle to discuss arrangements for further Theatricals in the very near future – like next month! I think that we can easily apply the term WORKOHOLIC to CD !

1851

- January 1st CD tells Bulwer-Lytton that his comedy NOT SO BAD AS WE SEEM might be worth considering for performance
- January 5th CD mentions – in a letter – to B-L about the idea to create a GUILD OF LITERATURE AND ART which they discussed last November – The plan is put on performances of Lytton’s comedy to raise money for homes for ARTISTS IN NEED
- January 8th CD is off to Rockingham for rehearsals for some new plays
- January 15th Performances of three short plays – again – CD IN CHARGE !
- February 10th CD and some friends go to Paris for a few days
- February 18th Death of Catherine’s grandfather
- February 26th CD goes to see MACBETH in Macready’s final performance on the London stage

March 1st	Farewell dinner to Macready Catherine is quite unwell and undergoes a number of treatments in Malvern to try and cure her from whatever ails her – ‘nervousness of a peculiar kind’ according to CD – maybe she can’t keep up with him while CD is now busy preparing for a royal performance to be presented next month
March 31st	Death of CD’s father, John Dickens – CD is with him when he dies
April 5th	Funeral of John Dickens
April 14th	CD presides at the dinner of the General Theatrical Fund – after its conclusion, CD is told that his baby daughter Dora had died
April 15th	Catherine, still in Malvern ‘for the cure’, is told of Dora’s death and, accompanied by Georgina returns to London for the funeral
May 1st	CD is at work on his new play MISTER NIGHTINGALE’S DIARY Rehearsals for the planned performance proceed during most of this month – dress rehearsal is on May 14th
May 16th	Performance of NOT SO BAD AS WE SEEM before The Queen and Prince Albert at Devonshire House. THE WHOLE PRODUCED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF MISTER CHARLES DICKENS !
May 27th	Repeat performance – with the addition of a short farce by CD – MR. NIGHTINGALE’S DIARY In which Dickens plays SIX different parts !!! The Dickens family is off to Fort House in Broadstairs, with CD traveling to and from London regularly. Because Devonshire Terrace has been leased, CD sleeps in the offices of HW when he ‘overnights’. The comedy and farce are repeated on June 18th and 21st in London at the Hanover Square Rooms [see my playbill for June 3rd] – CD visits THE GREAT EXHIBITION, which had opened on May 1st and which was on view throughout the summer. CD visited more than once.
July 20th	CD offer to purchase Tavistock House is accepted – CD tells friends that he has read Carlyle’s THE FRENCH REVOLUTION ‘for the 500th time’
August	CD is “pondering a new book - with violent restlessness and vague ideas of going I don’t know where coming over me...” During September and October, CD is busy getting Tavistock Place ready for the family – they return on October 20th and move into the new home- CD also says that there is a new book waiting to be born –
November 11th	Performance of NOT SO BAD in Bath
November 12th	Performance in Clifton –By the end of the month, move to Tavistock House is complete
December 8th	CD completes chapter I of BLEAK HOUSE

- December 9th Performance in Reading
- December 26th CD visits St.Luke's Hospital – writes
A CURIOUS DANCE AROUND
A CURIOUS TREE [for the hospital] – It is published in HHW January 17th, 1852

1852

During January, CD – with a 'most deplorable, bilious cold' – is writing BH, is editing HHW AND is rehearsing the plays for an upcoming provincial tour of the 'Amateur Players' – again – work, work and more work – but it seems to keep CD happy -

- February 11th Performance of NOT SO BAD in Manchester
- February 13-14th Performances in Liverpool – all received with most enthusiastic applause
- February 24th CD and Catherine visit Eton where Charley is a pupil
- March 1st First number of BLEAK HOUSE appears – Celebratory dinner – as usual
- March 2nd Extra copies of BH had to be printed – most successful [initial printing was 25000] – by June nearly 40000 of the first number have been sold
- March 6th CD visits Highgate Cementary
- March 13th Birth of Edward Bulwer Lytten Dickens – tenth child of CD and Catherine – CD continues writing BH and editing HHW
- During the month of April, CD visits various cities in preparation for upcoming performances next month –
- May 8th CD tells friends that BH is even more successful than DC – 2nd number 32000 – 3rd number 34000
- May 10th The 'Amateur Players' perform at Shrewsbury
- May 12-13th They perform at Birmingham – CD and colleagues visit factories "seeing the processes at all places"
- During June, CD continues his work on BH and HHW
- The Dickens family travel to Dover for their vacation during the next couple of months – ending in early October - with CD going to London and back frequently – and traveling to all performances of the Amateur Players
- August 4th Death of Count d'Orsay
- August 23rd Amateur Players perform in Nottingham
- August 25th Performance at Derby
- August 27th Performance at Newcastle
- August 28th Performance at Sunderland

August 30th	Performance at Sheffield – All performances are sold out well in advance and are well received
September 1st	Performance at Manchester – to an audience Of 4000 !
September 3rd	Performance at Liverpool
September 14th	Death of the Duke of Wellington
October 3rd	Family returns from Dover – CD and Catherine go to Boulogne for two weeks – without kids ! CD turns down an invitation from the Dean of St.Paul's Cathedral to attend the funeral of the Duke of Wellington, because he had already accepted an invitation from the Duke of Devonshire to see funeral procession from Devonshire House – it is said the over 1 and ½ million people lined up to see that procession –
November 18th	Funeral of the Duke of Wellington
December 28th	CD attends a 'Dinner for poor people' given by Miss Coutts. CD Sub-editor at HHW Wills loses his sight toward the end of the month

1853

Because of the illness of Wills, CD's workload at HHW has increased dramatically over the next few months - while he is also still hard at work on BLEAK HOUSE –

March 2nd	CD joins Catherine and Georgina in Brighton. Charley is off to Leipzig to study German with Tauchnitz
April 30th	CD speaks at the banquet of the Royal Academy During May, CD is still editing HHW with more work on his desk than ever – he is also attempting to write the final chapters of BH During the early part of June, CD is seriously ill with an old kidney affliction stemming from his youth - and he spends six days in bed – He decides that he needs a complete change
June 11th	CD is feeling better
June 13th	Travels to Boulogne and feels a great improvement in his health –
June 18th	CD finds writing BH much easier, now that he feels better - still work on HHW from afar During July, CD continues to take breaks in his writing, only to go back to it, invigorated by the rest he gets
August 25th	Reads the final number of BH to his family and they react with very great enthusiasm

- August 27th Discusses with Miss Coutts a plan to give a reading of A CHRISTMAS CAROL in Birmingham – for charity !
- CD continues his stay in Boulogne during September and travels to and from London frequently to attend HHW business –
- September 1st Final number of BLEAK HOUSE is published
- August 21st CD relates to friends that he is completing A CHILD’S HISTORY OF ENGLAND, final chapters appearing in HHW on December 10th
- October 10th CD, now completely recovered, sets off, with friends, on a tour of France, Switzerland and Italy – the family returns to London
- During October and November, their trip takes CD and friends to Strasbourg, Lausanne, Chamonix, Martigny, across the Simplon Pass, to Milan, Genoa, Naples, Rome, Florence, Bologna, Ferrara, Padua, Venice and Turin – they return to London – via Marseilles and Paris crossing the channel from Calais to Dover on December 5th – Quite the trip – without family – just with friends!!!
- Once back in London, CD prepares for the readings of A CHRISTMAS CAROL – as he had discussed with friends earlier in the year – He gives his FIRST PUBLIC READINGS in Birmingham Town Hall in aid of the Literary and Scientific Institute on December 27th, 29th and 30th. He reads CC on the first and third day and THE CRICKET ON THE HEARTH on the second day. His reception by the sold out audiences is absolutely rapturous and there are great problems with ‘ticket touts’[scalpers] for each show

1854

In the early months of the year, having just finished BLEAK HOUSE and A CHILD’S HISTORY, CD is again contemplating another story. This time for publication in HHW because sales of the weekly magazine have fallen off. As usual, he is agonizing over a title for it – the outcome of these deliberations is HARD TIMES – which appears in HHW from April 1st to August 12th

- April 1st The first chapters of HARD TIMES appear in HOUSEHOLD WORDS
- CD SPENDS April, May attending dinners, writing HT and editing HHW – he also goes on great walking excursions both alone and with friends
- June 16th The Dickens family travel to Boulogne for their annual summer holidays – returning in mid-October
- July 17th CD finishes the final chapters of HT – he travels to London to deliver the manuscript to the publishers – he stays there for a week and attends various social functions

- July 24th CD returns to Boulogne after having arranged with Mrs. Gaskell to publish her new novel NORTH AND SOUTH
- After finishing HT weekly chapters, CD is, for a change, being 'so dreadfully lazy – just lying on the grass reading books and sleeping' CD continues to work on HHW in Boulogne during August – He listens to his son Frank read, working on the boys tendency to stutter
- Mary Dickens is seriously ill in the early days of September with 'English Cholera', but she recovers by the end of the month
- October 14th CD communicates with his sub-editor Wills, who has recovered from his illness, discussing the 'fallen sales numbers' of HHW with Mrs. Gaskell's novel – the Dickens family return to London on October 17th
- During November, CD is at work on HHW and on the EXTRA CHRISTMAS NUMBER, a carry-over from his Christmas Books, a 'tradition' which he began back in HHW in 1850 with great success
- December 19th CD gives a 'Charity Reading' of the CAROL at Reading
- December 20th CD visits Macready in Dorset and gives another 'Charity Reading' at Sherbourne
- December 24th CD returns to London for Christmas
- December 28th Another 'Charity Reading' – this time at Bradford – to an audience of 3700
- NB: These 'Charity Readings' which CD really enjoys doing, are extremely popular – again – ticket 'touts' are hard at work selling both real and forged tickets for many times their actual price – It is to note, that CD did NOT benefit one penny from any of these readings – John Forster was very much against CD doing these readings, saying that it did not become for 'an author to become a performer of his own works' – but CD said " if not ME – then WHO else better ?"

1855

In early January, CD tells a friend that 'Charley has returned to Germany and will embark on a business career' and that – at that point – 'all nine children are well and happy' –

- January 6th Dress rehearsal for the Christmas Play –
- January 8th Performance of the play at Tavistock House
- January 27th Mrs. Gaskell's novel is concluded in HHW –
- February 7th CD's 43rd birthday – dinner at Gravesend – CD walks – through the snow – to Rochester on the way, he notices that the house of his childhood dreams, GAD'S HILL, is for sale and he becomes interested in its purchase
- NB. GAD'S HILL is the house, which CD and his father passed on a walk when CD was very young. When CD said that he really liked it, his father had said to him that if he was good and worked hard, maybe, some day, he could live in it. Now, the idea that this could become true was, as he said, ' a childhood dream come true'

February 9th	CD receives a letter from his very first love – Maria Beadnell – now Mrs. Winter – CD replies and they correspond for some time
February 11th	CD travels to Paris with his new friend, Wilkie Collins – on the way, they stop off in Boulogne where two of CD's sons are at school
February 23rd	CD and WC return to London – CD kept up correspondence with Mrs. Winter from Paris
February 25th	<p>CD and Mrs. Winter meet – and she was not quite “toothless, fat, old and ugly” as she had said of herself, but she was certainly not the beauty which he remembered and loved oh so many years ago – seeing her “...this stout monster, tossing her head with a caricature of her girlish manner” – He was CRUSHED -</p> <p>CD portrays the Mrs. Winter he met now in his next novel, LITTLE DORRIT, as Flora Finching – “Flora – who had seemed enchanting in all she said and thought was diffuse and silly. Flora, who had been spoiled and artless long ago was determined to be spoiled and artless now.” CD was hit hard by the realization that the love of his youth was no longer as he remembered her – as was he no longer as he was when he loved her. In the opinion of some Dickens scholars, it was seeing his ‘old flame’ as old – and no longer a flame’ that was the start of the unrest in CD's marriage to Catherine. He is “now in a state of restlessness impossible to be described...”</p> <p>CD works off his disappointment with his now old love with work on HHW – and, despite having a severe cold, he gives one of his ‘Charity Readings’ of the CC at Ashford to an audience of railway workers. CD is now ‘between books’ and he is actively thinking of a new story and of course, as usual, for an interesting name for it</p>
May 8th	CD tells that he has come up “with a ‘capital’ name his for the new novel - LITTLE DORRIT
May 11th	<p>CD tells WC that “The restless condition in which I wander up and down my room with the first page of my new book before me defies all description”</p> <p>NB. It is a statement like this, which give us an insight into the difficulty CD was having getting started on a new work – in spite of having the general idea in his head, the actual writing was hard</p>
May 20th	CD plans to produce and act in a play by Wilkie Collins called THE LIGHTHOUSE – once again – ‘The Theatre’ is calling him
June 15th	First performance of THE LIGHTHOUSE along with CD's farce MR. NIGHTINGALE'S DIARY is performed at Tavistock House - ‘The smallest Theatre in the World’
June 18-19th	Two more performances – these are all private – for invited guests only – are received warmly
July 10th	<p>Another performance – at Campden House in – in Aid of the Bournemouth Sanatorium</p> <p>At about the middle of the month, the Dickens family go to Folkestone for their summer holidays – CD is hard at work on his new book – finishes the third number by the end of September</p>
October 5th	Reads A CHRISTMAS CAROL in Folkestone

October 13th	CD is on route to Paris, where the family will reside until May 1856 – He travels to and from London on business with HHW and his novel
October 24th	CD makes an offer to buy Gad's Hill Place -
November	CD is experiencing problems with LD – he is also working on the Extra Christmas number for HHW - THE HOLLY TREE INN
December 1st	First number of LITTLE DORRIT appears
December 2nd	LD has even beaten BH – 32000 copies sold on the first day – 6000 more printed before the end of the month
December 15th	CD leaves Paris for London
December 17th	CD gives a 'Charity' reading of the CC in Aid of the Mechanics Institute
December 22nd	Reads in Sheffield " to enormous effect..."
CD returns to Paris to spend Christmas and New Years with his family	

1856

January 6th	CD tells Forster that part 2 of LD sold 35000 on New Year's Day [day of publication] – publicity campaign for the book included 4000 posters and 310000 handbills !!!
January 19th	CD sits for a portrait by Ari Scheffer – which he calls " a nightmare portrait..."
February 9th	CD visits Gad's Hill Place – which he has agreed to purchase and he is " better pleased with it than I had myself prepared to be" –
February 11th	CD returns to Paris
	During the month of March, CD travels back and forth between London and Paris, all the while wrestling with new chapters of LD.
March 14th	CD pays 1750 Pound for Gad's Hill Place –
April 21st	CD has dinner with the translators of the French version of his works
	In early May, CD returns to London to do work on HHW and LD
	The Dickens family travels to Boulogne for their summer holidays in early June through until August, when they return to Tavistock House in London – earlier than expected because of an epidemic in Paris
	During September, CD is hard at work at HHW - taking Wilkie Collins on as regular staff member at HHW– writing of LD continues – again with great difficulties
October 4th	Tells daughter Mary that preparations for a production of Collins' play THE FROZEN DEEP are under way

October 26th CD goes for a 20 mile walk to learn his part for the play – concentrating on it - while walking

During November and December, CD and cast spend a great deal of time rehearsing the play – while CD is still at work on LD and HHW

1857

January 6th Performance of THE FROZEN DEEP followed by The farce UNCLE JOHN for an invited audience

Jan 8, 12,14th Further performances – to great acclaim

February 5th CD declines to send his brother Frederick 30 pound “because I cannot trust you...”-

February 23rd CD visits Gad’s Hill Place to familiarize himself

CD is very much occupied during February and March with HHW business and, of course, further chapters of LITTLE DORRIT

April 3rd CD invites Hans Christian Andersen to visit him – At Gad’s Hill Place in the summer

During this month, CD spends a couple of weeks at Gravesend with Catherine and Georgina – to ‘catch his breath’ so to speak

May 9th CD finally finishes LITTLE DORRIT

May 19th A housewarming party takes place at Gad’s Hill

Having finished his book, CD has time to attend a number of dinners with a variety of friends during the rest of the month

June 1st The Dickens family moves to Gad’s Hill Place for the Summer [it is ‘in the country’]

June 8th Death of CD’s friend Douglas Jerrold

June 11th H.C. Andersen arrives – for an ‘extended’ visit

June 21st CD has declined an invitation to put on a performance of THE FROZEN DEEP at the palace a private performance is arranged for her at another location – CD and his troupe are busy rehearsing for the remainder of the month and into July

June 30th CD gives a ‘charity’ reading of the CC at St.Martin’s Hall to benefit the Douglas Jerrold Fund

July 4th THE FROZEN DEEP is performed before the Queen and other invited and important guests – CD refuses to meet the queen after the performance because he does not want to meet her while in costume and make-up

July 5th The Queen writes a ‘private’ note to CD – to thank him and to congratulate him on his performance

July 8th Public performance in aid of the Douglas Jerrold Fund

July 15th Andersen’s visit is ending – finally - CD drives him to Maidstone to the ferry

- July 18, 25th Further public performances of FROZEN DEEP
- July 20th Walter Dickens sails for India CD sees him off
- July 24th CD reads CC again in aid of the Jerrold Fund
- July 31st Reads CC in Manchester for the Jerrold Fund – Tennyson and his wife attend the reading
- August 21st Performances of the FROZEN DEEP are held this day as well as on the 22nd and the 23rd in Manchester

Because the hall in which these performances take place are considerably larger than the theatre at Tavistock House, CD has to replace the female cast members – family members and friends

He hires three professional actresses – ELLEN TERNAN – her mother and her sister – CD has been rehearsing with them in London since the 17th – and, as we know now, he was falling head-over-heels for the older daughter, Ellen. Little does he know how completely his life would change in the near future because of his actions now.

- September 4th CD has some ideas for a new story, now that he is ‘between books’ and ‘between plays’ – he is, however, still the editor of his weekly magazine HOUSEHOLD WORDS and devotes much time
- He says to Forster that he is considering some public readings from his books to pay for Gad’s Hill Place – he also seems to have mentioned in a letter, that “...poor Catherine and I are not made for each other!” [That – after 20 years of marriage and 10 children!]

- September 7-22nd CD and Wilkie Collins travel by train to various places in England on a ‘working holiday’ while writing THE LAZY TOUR OF TWO IDLE APPRENTICES – a series of sketches serialized in HHW from October 3rd to 30th – These sketches, written as a collaborative effort, harken back to CD’s early efforts in SKETCHES BY BOZ

NB. Early in October, CD gives instructions that alterations are to be made in his sleeping arrangements at Tavistock House – His dressing room is converted into his bedroom and the door communicating with Catherine’s – formerly their shared bedroom – is blocked up!

CD gives further ‘Charity’ readings of CC at Coventry and Chatham before Christmas and works on the Christmas Number of HHW

1858

- January 19th CD reads CC at Bristol in aid of the Atheneum
- February 7th CD’s 46th birthday – he is NOT at home !
- March 16th CD talks about giving between 35-40 ‘Public Readings’ – for money – in London and the Provinces – with a possibility of, later, touring Ireland and America – He wonders what effect these readings would have on the reception of a new book by his ‘reading’ public – these plans are discussed with many of CD’s friends – John Forster is ‘dead-set’ against them and CD finds his attitude ‘extraordinarily irrational’ – he goes ahead

- March 21st CD comments the "The domestic unhappiness remains so strong upon me that I can't write and – waking - can't rest – one minute! I have never known one moment's peace or and contentment since the last night of THE FROZEN DEEP" [last time he was with Ellen Ternan !] – thus the readings would be good to help him get over whatever it is !
- March 26th Charity reading of CC in Edinburgh
- March 30th The Queen expresses an interest in hearing CD read CC
- During this month, CD tells JF that his marriage is " ...all despairingly over - A dismal failure that has to be borne..."
- April 15th CD reads at St.Martin's Hall in aid of the Hospital for Sick Children
- April 29th CD gives the FIRST of a series of Public Readings FOR PROFIT at St.Martin's Hall – He reads THE CRICKET ON THE HEARTH - The London 'season' is for 17 readings
- The readings continue until July 22nd at St.Martin's Hall. Rumours about CD and Ellen Ternan and Catherine make their rounds.
- May 22nd CD tells friends that Catherine and he have " agreed to live apart – henceforth", the matter having been as good as settled – JF was the intermediary in this settlement – After this time, Catherine moves into another house – taking their oldest son Charley to live with her – CD gives Catherine a monthly allowance of 600 pounds and her own 'Brougham' !!!
- May 25th CD gives a copy of a letter – the 'Violated' letter- explaining his marital problems to the public
- May 29th Catherine's mother and sister sign a statement declaring 'their disbelief' in rumours regarding CD and Ellen or Georgina
- June 12th CD publishes a statement in HHW concerning his 'domestic troubles' and denying 'all the lately whispered rumours'
- This statement, called 'PERSONAL', is widely published in British newspapers – CD's publisher's, Bradbury and Evans refuse to publish it in PUNCH, a magazine also published by them, saying it would not be of interest to their readers [?] – This decision so infuriates CD that, in late July, he dismisses B & E as his publishers and eventually, returns to his earlier publishers, Chapman and Hall.
- CD begins his tour of 'The Provinces' on August 2nd in Clifton. The tour lasts until November 13th and includes 83 Readings! He tells Miss Coutts that the tour is 'an immense success - it is a great sensation to have an audience IN one's hand' – CD's reading are attended by an audience of as many as 2500 a night. During the next three months, CD criss-crosses Britain, Scotland and Ireland to do his readings and he is received with enthusiastic receptions and sold-out houses everywhere - they are financially very rewarding. On December 24th, CD begins a season of 8 Christmas Readings in London, which ends February 8th, the day after his 47th birthday. During this time, CD thinks about a new magazine replacing HHW.

1859

During January, CD continues with his readings on the 6th, 13th, 20th and 28th – He discusses various names for his new monthly magazine and finally settles on ALL THE YEAR ROUND – He tells friends that he has received an invitation to undertake a Reading Tour of America – CD's portrait is painted by Frith –

- February CD reads on the 3rd and the 10th – he says that “he is more popular than he has ever been...”
- March 11th CD has decided that the title of his new book will be A TALE OF TWO CITIES – It will be appearing both in weekly parts in ATYR and in monthly parts – CD is trying to ‘catch more of his public’ that way it will connect with more readers -
- April 30th First number of ATYR appears – containing the first chapters of TTC – that story will appear in the weekly numbers until November 26th
- May 28th HOUSEHOLD WORDS publishes its final number – CD has bought the publishers’ share of HHW and now, in the title of ATYR, CD can use the term ‘ATYR – with which is incorporated HHW’ – thus making sure that his reading public was aware that ATYR was very much like HHW
- CD spends the summer at Gad’s Hill Place – Although he is still considering his invitation to come to America, he eventually decides not to do so at this time – Makes arrangements with Wilkie Collins to have his novel THE WOMAN IN WHITE follow TTC in ATYR beginning on November 26th
- In September, CD takes a short holiday at Broadstairs – he is planning another reading Tour to begin next month
- The tour begins on October 10th and includes 14 readings at Norwich [2], Bury St.Edmund’s, Cambridge [2], Peterborough, Bradford, Nottingham, Oxford [2] – [The Prince of Wales in the audience] – Birmingham and Cheltenham [2] – On October 29th, CD returns to Gad’s Hill for daughter Kate’s birthday
- November 10th CD meets with George Eliot to ask her to write a story for ATYR – to which she agrees
- November 18th Death of Frank Stone – CD arranges for a plot at Highgate Cemetery
- November 26th Conclusion of weekly parts of TTC in ATYR
- December 20th CD asks novelist Mrs. Gaskell to write a story for ATYR – CD tries to get the popular writers of the day to contribute stories for ATYR – CD does readings on the 24th and the 26th

1860

CD concludes his readings in London on January 2nd – He begins to write a series of sketches, similar to his early efforts, which he calls THE UNCOMMERCIAL TRAVELLER and which appear in ATYR

February 14th	George Eliot has decided not to submit a story for publication, so Lever's A DAY'S RIDE will follow THE WOMAN IN WHITE starting in July
	During the next few months, CD keeps a close eye on his work as editor of ATYR and if the weekly numbers are up or down
July 17th	CD daughter, Kate marries his friend's Wilkie Collins' brother, Charles – CD is NOT thrilled – Catherine is NOT invited to the wedding ceremony
July 27th	CD travels to Manchester where his brother Alfred is quite ill – By the time CD arrives, Alfred has died leaving his widow and five children – CD takes the family to Gad's Hill to make arrangements for their future
August 1st	CD attends Alfred's funeral
August 3rd	Discusses with Bowler-Lytton the possibility of having him write a novel for ATYR
August 21st	The sale of Tavistock House is finally completed
August 24th	CD accompanies his son Sydney to Portsmouth – Sydney has completed his exams as a Naval Cadet and is ready to join his training ship.
	CD begins work on his new novel GREAT EXPECTATIONS
October 2nd	Lever's novel is NOT a success and circulation numbers have declined – It is decided, that to correct this, GE will be published alongside Lever's story - rather than following it
	In early November, CD and Wilkie Collins make a short tour of Cornwall gathering material for the new Christmas Story in ATYR
	A MESSAGE FROM THE SEA, which is written jointly by them – CD interrupts work on GE to work on the Christmas Story
December 1st	First instalment of GREAT EXPECTATIONS appears in ATYR
December 18th	CD gives a 'Charity' reading in Chatham
December 28th	CD is feeling 'quite unwell' – he is staying at the ATYR office in London Dr. Frank Beard, an old friend is looking after him – As unwell as he is, he goes to the theatre almost every night
	1861
	CD's health is improving gradually – A theatrical version of A MESSAGE FROM THE SEA has appeared on a London stage and CD and Collins decide to sue the theatre and its manager
January 12th	CD publishes an letter in THE TIMES regarding 'dramatic rights in works of fiction' – CD tells friends that, as far as he is concerned, GE is 'an immense success'
March 14th	CD begins a set of six readings at London's St. James's Hall
	During the next few weeks, CD is continuing his work - writing GE and editing ATYR

May 23rd	CD goes on a brief walking holiday to Dover
June 11th	GREAT EXPECTATIONS is completed and CD says that he is "the worse for wear..."
June 15th	CD – with Georgina and Mary – make a short visit to Bulwer-Lytton – where they discuss GE
July 1st	CD tells John Forster that, on Bulwer-Lytton's urging, he has changed the ending of GE – into what could be called, a 'Happy Ending'!
August 3rd	GREAT EXPECTATION finishes in ATYR CD is spending a good deal of time adapting some of his works for 'Reading' purposes – he is working on DAVID COPPERFIELD as well as NICHOLAS NICKLEBY
October 1st	Death of Arthur Smith, CD's tour manager – CD states that "it is as if my right arm was gone..." This event weighted heavily on CD – particularly as he was about to begin a 'Provincial' tour encompassing 46 readings! Smith's death caused him "great distress and anxiety..." Smith's successor proves to be quite unsatisfactory – that can be easily understood, considering CD worked with Smith a long time CD's tour begins on October 28th and ends on January 30th. He is in Edinburgh at the end of November and says, to friends, he enjoys "Blazes of triumph..." He interrupts the tour on December 15th on account of the death of Queen Victoria's husband, Prince Albert.

1862

During the month of January, CD continues his travels throughout Britain, completing the remainder of his reading tour by the end of the month.

January 30th	CD, having completed his readings, travels to London
February 1st	CD to Gad's Hill Place
February 7th	Dickens' 50th birthday – he dines with Forster and Collins
February 25th	CD has moved into a small house in London which he calls "the nastiest little house in London..."
March 13th	CD begins another series of 11 readings at London's St.Martins' Hall – it concludes on June 19th During the next few months, along with his readings, CD is still busy with editing ATYR – He tells Forster that he has been offered 10000 Pound to visit Australia. He is tempted and searches out advice from his friends, some of which are for the trip others not so much – A final decision NOT to go is made on December 24th.

During the month of June, CD goes on holiday France – with Ellen as his most likely his companion

During July, Georgina has been very unwell and, toward the end of the month, she is “very, very poorly...” She continues to be ill during the summer and is finally better by the end of September –

During August, CD has started thinking about and working on the Christmas Number for ATYR – the story is called **SOMEBODY’S LUGGAGE**

October 16th

CD leaves on a trip for the continent

October 19th

He meets Georgina and Mary at Boulogne and escorts them to Paris

They stay in Paris until December, with CD making short trip back and forth to London on personal and ATYR business

December 22

They leave Paris for London and go on to Gads Hill Place for Christmas

1863

January 8th

During this month, CD, as usual, stays at the ATYR office in London – he tells Collins that “he will vanish for a day or two.” [with whom we wonder? Ellen, perhaps?]

January 15th

CD returns to Paris

January 17th

He give the first of three outstandingly successful readings at the British Embassy in Paris – two more follow on the 29th and 30th – These readings are for charity – NOT for profit

February 5th

CD leaves Paris for a short tour of France

February 19th

He is back in London

March 2nd

CD begins a set of 13 readings at the Hanover Square Rooms in London, which will last until June 12th

During these months, CD attends a number of social functions

Starting in July, Henry and Edward Dickens issue the **GAD’S HILL GAZETTE**, which carries news of the goings-on in the Dickens family and household. This ‘magazine’ is continued until 1866.

August 5th

Death of CD’s mother-in-law

September 13th

Death of CD’s mother

CD has begun work on the new Christmas story for ATYR to be called **MRS. LIRRIPER’S LODGINGS**

In early October, CD tells Forster that he is anxious to finally make a start on his new story about which he has been thinking for a long time – The title of the story will be OUR MUTUAL FRIEND - and some of the plotlines have been developed as far back as 1861 – just after CD had completed GREAT EXPECTATIONS – He also said that he had tried, without success, to make a start writing the story

During November, CD is working on OMF, MRS.L'S L. and on editing ATYR – he is now twice the age he was when he first tried to do that many things at the same time

December 15th CD gives a Charity reading at Chatham –

December 24th Death of W.M.Thackeray – CD attends the funeral [CD and WMT were estranged but reconciled earlier in the year] – CD writes a piece about WMT – published in February

December 31st New Year's Fun and Games at Gad's Hill – CD plays Charades with his children
His son Walter dies in Calcutta – CD does not hear of this until February

1864

January 25th CD tells Collins that MRS LIRRIPER'S LODGINGS was more successful than any previous 'Extra Christmas Number' of ATYR- It sold about 220 000 copies !

At the end of the month, Frank Dickens leaves for India, hoping to join his brother Walter – not knowing that he had passed away

At the beginning of February, CD moves again – this time to Hyde Park – “ to be in town when my book is preparing and begins to come out...” He has moved in by February 12th and has met with Marcus Stone to discuss the illustrations for OUR MUTUAL FRIEND – this is first novel PHIZ has not illustrated in many a year – he first started working with Dickens as far back as PICKWICK PAPERS - By mid-March, CD tells Forster, that “ the writing is od the new book is coming - but very slowly...”

April 30th The first number of OMF is published – it sells between 35 000 and 40 000 copies

Work on OMF continues – again slowly – throughout the next few months. Toward the end of June, CD leaves for a short holiday on the continent [June 26th to July 7th] most possibly accompanied by Ellen as he refers to his excursion as “mysterious disappearance...”

By the end of July, CD tells JF that he feels quite unwell and that writing on OMF is proceeding 'so very slowly' – In addition, CD has to concern himself with the new Christmas number for ATYR which is called MRS. LIRRIPER'S LEGACY.

October 1st CD has completed the ninth number of OMF and has begun MRS.L's.L.

In the middle of the month, CD takes a short break at Dover for a few days rest

October 29th Death of John Leech – Illustrator of A CHRISTMAS CAROL and a very good friend To CD – who is so affected by the loss of Leech that he actually cannot work for days –

December The Extra Christmas Number is published – it is the first to be issued in a blue wrapper
Christmas Festivities take place at Gad's Hill Place with many of CD's friends visiting at various times

1865

- January 7th CD reports that the construction of the SWISS CHALET, which the actor Charles Fechter has sent to Dickens as a gift [it arrived in 58 boxes] is coming along nicely – it is being erected in the garden of Gad's Hill Place and it becomes CD's favourite place to do his work
- CD is, again, working hard on OMF and promises himself that he will "only dine out once a week..." and concentrate on his writing
- February 25th CD and Wilkie Collins resign from the Garrick Club after Wills whom they sponsored, was blackballed
- During one of his long walks, this time in deep snow, CD suffers frost bite in one foot – something that still causes him severe discomfort for the next couple of months – and long into the future but by the end of April, he can "walk his ten miles in the morning – without inconvenience..." – but he has to go shoeless all evening' – so obviously, all is not well yet – CD rents a house – in Hyde Park – until June – not having a permanent London address proves to be an inconvenience more often than not –
- April 22nd CD tells Macready that "he is working like a dragon" at OMF – CD presides at various dinners during the next few weeks
- May 29th CD's son Alfred sails for Melbourne – 'to make his way in the new world'
- CD takes a holiday in France from his duties at ATYR and from writing OMF – most likely accompanied by Ellen Ternan
- On their way back on June 9th, the train carrying Dickens, Ellen and her mother is involved in a serious accident at Staplehurst [a working crew, misread the train's timetable]. It had taken up some track for repairs just before a bridge and, as the train approached, the locomotive and the first cars went over the embankment into the river. CD's carriage was left hanging over the edge – CD helped Ellen and her mother climb out and then he went back into the hanging car to retrieve the manuscript pages of the next few chapters of OMF which had been left behind. After doing that, CD spent much time helping the injured and dying at the accident scene.
- CD is not injured physically in this accident, but it was this event, which made him approach train journeys with trepidation for the rest of his life – even though they, again, became his way of traveling when he was doing his readings. His future travels were made more comfortable in a private carriage with all the modern conveniences to reduce CD's fear of train travel but he still dreaded them.
- July 1st CD's favourite dog is killed by a train !
- Over the next couple of months, CD is working furiously to complete OMF - taking short bits of 'time out' and attending various social functions
- September 2nd CD finishes OUR MUTUAL FRIEND – not realizing that this would be his final completed novel – He goes for a brief holiday in Paris returning on the 14th

The final double number of OMF is published in November – Volume I of the novel appeared in book form in January 1865, volume II in October of 1865 – just before the final monthly number[s]

Having finished OMF, CD is now beginning his work on the 'Extra Christmas Number of ATYR for 1865' – DR. MARIGOLD'S PRESCRIPTION – which is published in December

CD has been feeling 'unwell' during – we may be looking at a little bit of 'burn-out' after the gruelling schedule CD had just put himself through – and still...He has 'Readings' on his mind...

December 19th CD gives a Charity reading in Chatham !

The Christmas season sees many visitors to Gad's Hill Place who take part in the celebrations both at Christmas and New Year's.

1866

During January, CD seems restless – between books – and plays and readings – He is thinking hard about doing a new series of readings in London – It seems that he always needs to be engaged in a project

February 8th Frank Beard, CD's trusted family doctor, gives CD a thorough examination – diagnosis – some heart problems – medication is prescribed – CD gets a second opinion – same results – but reports that the medications have done their job
CD tells friends that he has accepted an offer to do a series of 30 readings for a fee of 50 pound each – all expenses paid

Final preparations for the new tour are going ahead – CD stays with Macready in Cheltenham and gives two readings – for charity - in preparation for his tour –

April 10th Begins the new season of readings at St.James's Hall in London with his newly created piece DR.MARIGOLD'S PRESCRIPTION, which is based on one of the extra Christmas numbers of ATYR – His new tour manager is George Dolby

The new series of readings, which begins on April 10th, ends on June 12th and includes stops in Liverpool [3000 people are tuned away from the three sold out readings], Manchester, Glasgow, Edinburgh [2], London, Manchester, Liverpool [2], London, Crystal Palace, Greenwich, Clifton, Birmingham, Clifton, London, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Edinburgh, London, Portsmouth and three final readings in London...I'm exhausted just to read this itinerary

During this tour, CD experiences some health problems – half-way he suffers from a severe cold and he says he is "dyspeptically gloomy and dull.." – On May 17th, CD makes a short stop in Perth, where a good walk makes him feel better – When he visits Portsmouth on May24th/25th, he and Dolby find themselves in Landport and CD realizes that that was where he was born – but he cannot discover the house of his birth – At the end of the tour, CD says that "the success of the present series of readings has been quite astounding"

When one looks at the itinerary of places, it shows that CD kept jumping across Britain going back and forth – returning to some place more than once – a most tiring undertaking which, perhaps, could have used a little better planning of traveling routes

In early August, CD discusses another reading tour with the promoters of the last one – he wants 60 Pound per – 10 Pound more than previous - with all expenses paid – for 42 readings and a total of 2500 Pound! His offer is accepted. He also tells Dolby that, again, he has had a very large offer to read in America. However, he states that he would have a problem with ‘distance and absence’ – perhaps from Ellen Ternan, who lives now in Slough. Despite CD’s interest in doing more readings both at home and abroad, CD’s health is showing definite signs of slowly deteriorating. Whether the problem is with the heart or the nerves or the stomach or whether it is just plain old overwork – CD and his doctor are aware that all is not well!

During October and November, CD is hard at work on the extra Christmas number for 1866 for ATYR called MUGBY JUNCTION – A story in eight chapters, of which four are written by CD

December 14th CD says that MUGBY JUNCTION has sold 211 000 copies and more than a quarter million by Christmas Day

Holiday festivities are organized at Gad’s Hill Place for family and villagers of Higham – Kate arrives with her husband, Wilkie Collins’ brother, whom she married against CD’s wishes

1867

January 1st CD is working on a new reading based on MUGBY JUNCTION

January 15th The new series of readings begins, as usual at St.James’s Hall in London. It concludes on May 13th – again at St.James’s Hall.

Over the next four months, CD gives about 12-14 or so readings per month for a total of 52. It has to be considered that during this time, he was still editor of the weekly ATYR, a job that took a great deal of time to execute properly.

January 22nd Travels to Chester in ‘a blinding snowstorm with a severe head cold

January 29th Reads in London – even though he is tired, he cannot sleep [CD was an insomniac for a long time]

February 3rd CD returns to London “so shaken with the railway that I can hardly write...” – since Staplehurst “he feels [the railways] very much...”

March 1st Receives a gift of an English and a Hebrew Bible from a lady who had accused him of anti-Semitism in the creation of Fagin – he had denied that and gave her a donation for a Jewish Charity

During his frequent returns to London during the reading tour, CD has to ‘conduct’ his editorial duties by proof reading articles scheduled to appear in ATYR. He also makes frequent side-trips to Slough to visit Ellen.

As the tour concludes, CD is seriously considering a reading tour of America – an offer of 10 000 Pound is most attractive - perhaps he might do it towards the latter part of the year.

He sends Dolby ahead to investigate all possibilities – CD has ‘perfected’ his readings to the point where he has memorized them and they are no longer ‘Readings’ as such but performances –

May 19th Death of his good friend Clarkson Stanfield –

May 27th Funeral of Stanfield – CD meets Mark Lemon – and they reconcile [Lemon had taken Catherine’s side in the separation – CD did not like that]

June 21st CD travels to Peckham – where Ellen now lives!

August 2nd CD suffers from a badly swollen left foot – “it is torture”

August 3rd Dolby sails for America – CD sees him off

Later this month, CD tells Wilkie Collins that he has started on the writing of NO THOROUGHFARE – the extra Christmas number for ATYR for 1867 – which they agreed to make a completely collaborative effort – It turns out to be the last of these extra numbers in which CD was involved – After CD’s death, they were continued by his son, Charley, now known as CHARLES DICKENS, JR. –

By mid-September, CD is still not certain about visiting America – Dolby returns on September 22nd and reports directly to CD – He discusses ideas with Forster and Wills, who has to look after the editing of ATYR during CD’s absence – The decision to go ahead with the overseas trip is made and on September 30th, he sends a wire to Boston, confirming his arrival.

On November 2nd there is a Farewell banquet in honour of CD’s trip and on the 9th CD sails for America on the CUBA, instructing Wills to stay in touch with Ellen, who is on holidays in Florence – in case CD wanted her to join him on his tour of America

November 18th CD arrives in Halifax

November 19th CD arrives in Boston – where, he is met by Dolby

November 20th CD receives a visit from Longfellow

The American Reading Tour starts on December 2nd with three readings in Boston – CD writes to Charley that they are “ success beyond description...” – the readings are making a ‘clear profit of 1300 Pound’ per night !

December 9th CD arrives in New York and gives EIGHT sold-out readings – described as ‘beyond all precedent or description’

During the rest of December and in January and February, CD travels between Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington to continue his readings, despite suffering from a severe cold which seems to get worse rather than better as the tour progresses

On February 7th, CD’s 56th birthday, he visits president Andrew Johnson at the White House and gives his final Washington reading – but his cold is worse than ever. CD gets

a week of unexpected rest at the end of February, cancelling his second week in Boston because the impeachment of the President keeps people at home.

On February 29th, he participates – with Dolby and publisher Osgood in THE GREAT INTERNATIONAL WALKING MATCH despite his cold being no better – At the beginning of March, CD starts the part of the tour which requires him to travel to Albany, Syracuse, Rochester, Buffalo, Springfield, Worcester, New Haven, Hartford, Portland and finally back to Boston by March 31st.

April 1st CD gives six farewell readings in Boston – his ‘catarrh’ is worse than ever

April 13th CD gives five farewell readings in New York

April 18th Farewell dinner at Delmonico’s

April 20th Final reading in New York

April 22nd CD leaves America on the RUSSIA

It turns out, that the American tour has brought CD a profit of about 19 000 Pound – Even though the Atlantic crossing is quite rough, CD starts feeling better as the journey proceeds

May 1st CD arrives in Liverpool

May 2nd Goes on to London and on to Gad’s Hill to an enthusiastic reception by one and all

CD is now fully recovered from the cold which dogged him throughout the American tour – He sees the dramatization of NO THOROUGHFARE in London and takes a short trip to Paris to see and work on the French production

CD is now overwhelmed with work for ATYR because Wills is injured and cannot do his part – He entertains American visitors at Gad’s Hill Place

CD’s youngest, Edward, nicknamed ‘Plorn’, is off to Australia and CD is very much affected by the “sad parting...I have not been myself – I did not think I could have been so shaken...I find myself thinking constantly of Plorn...” CD writes in his letters to friends and family

In October, CD’s son Henry [Harry] starts as a student at Cambridge having been home and working on ATYR for five months now, CD is ready to go out on the road again – He begins a series of ‘Farewell’ Readings at St.James’s Hall in London – for 80 Pound per performance ! Along with London, he reads in Manchester, Brighton and Liverpool – where he tells Forster that “I have not been well and have been heavily tired...”

Again – in spite of not feeling up to par, CD is working on a new piece – THE MURDER OF NANCY from OLIVER TWIST – but he is apprehensive about reading it “because it is so horrible...” He is going to try it out on a small, invited audience on November 14th – with tremendous success He is advised by friends and family to both TO read it and NOT to read it but, because he personally likes it, he performs it for the first time on January 5th of 1869. He expands the reading to also include the death of Sikes.

His reading tour continues, with extensive visits to Scotland.

CD spends Christmas and New Years period at Gad's Hill Place – but he spends a great deal of time rehearsing THE MURDER OF NANCY – for its first performance on January 5th

1869

After the first public of SIKES AND NANCY – in November - to invited guests, CD noticed – with some sort of glee “ That the audience had “unmistakably pale and horror-stricken faces...”

The very same reaction was seen throughout the house on January 5th – its first ‘Public’ performance – and at every performance thereafter. There were some readings at which ladies fainted and had to be carried out of the performance hall. The reading was obviously a great success, except it took its toll on CD's health. His pulse rate would skyrocket to a count of 150 or more after reading/performance and it would take a good deal of time for him to recover.

- January 5th First Public Reading of SIKES AND NANCY
- January 7th CD travels to Belfast accompanied by Georgina and some friends – He reads there and in Dublin
- The readings continue in London, Clifton, Newport, Cheltenham, Torquay, Nottingham and Leicester
- February 7th CD's 57th birthday – CD spends a couple of days at Gad's Hill Place
- On April 15th - for the first time – CD cancels some Readings because of ‘ill health’ – it is ‘inflammation of the foot’ [gout?] which keeps him grounded for a week – but he then continues the tour in Scotland – Glasgow and Edinburgh for the rest of the month
- CD then reads back in England – Wolverhampton, Manchester, Hull, Ipswich, Cambridge, Birmingham, Liverpool, Leeds and occasional returns to London for readings and to attend to the business of ATYR during March and the first half of April
- On April 19th CD reads in Blackburn, but he is NOT WELL and he contacts Dr. Beard, complaining that he is “extremely giddy – extremely uncertain of my footing – especially on the left side – and extremely indisposed to raise my hands to my head...”. He writes to Georgina “ My weakness and deadness are all on the left side and, if I don't look at anything I try to touch with my left hand, I don't know where it is...” On Dr. Beard's insistence, the remainder of the tour is cancelled on April 22nd. CD had done 72 of the planned 100 readings.
- May 3rd CD is in London and states that he is ‘in a brilliant condition’ – so the almost two week rest had done him a lot of good
- May 12th CD makes a will [!] which includes leaving Ellen Ternan 1000 Pound !
- May 18th CD dines with visitors from America and takes them on excursions throughout London – and environs

In June, CD has written a piece for the Atlantic Monthly - ON MR. FECHTER'S ACTING – This is the same American Magazine for which CD had written GEORGE SILVERMAN'S EXPLANATION in early 1868 –

July 20th CD tells friends that he is 'perfectly well' – but next month, he admits that "...I am not as well as I hoped I was..."

August 8th CD tells Forster that he has a very new and different idea for a story and he begins to consider titles for it

During September, CD agonizes over the new book, which is to be THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD – Charles Collins, his son-in-law makes an attempt to create the cover for the novel – CD thinks it is 'excellent' but Collins becomes quite ill and cannot do the illustrations – so CD engages Luke Fildes for that assignment – CD finds the writing of the new book very difficult – much more so than giving a reading of something with which he is familiar!

In December, CD is told that the first two number of MED are short of the 32 pages each which they should be – This becomes very difficult additional work for CD – who is also planning another short season of 'Farewell' readings in London early in the new year –

Christmas is spent at Gad's Hill Place with the usual festivities and a sports meet on the field adjoining the house – Even though CD's health seems to have improved a great deal since his bad month - April – in which he had to cancel his tour. The reading of SIKES AND NANCY, which CD insisted on doing on a regular basis now, leaves him weak and exhausted every time he does it – However –he almost always finishes a performance with a short, humorous piece because he wants to see the audience to go home happy!

1870

During the month, CD rents a house at Hyde Park Place until June

January 6th CD attends 'Prize Giving' at Birmingham

January 11th CD begins the FINAL set of 12 'Farewell Readings' in London at St.James's Hall – they continue – well spaced out

March 9th CD has an audience with Queen Victoria at Buckingham Palace – she finds him 'very agreeable, with a pleasant voice and manner'

March 15th CD gives his 472nd and final Reading of his life – it consists of A CHRISTMAS CAROL and THE TRIAL from PICKWICK

He concludes the Reading with the following words:

"...from these garish lights, I vanish now for evermore, with a heartfelt, grateful, respectful and affectionate farewell!"

April 1st First number of THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD is published – sales of the opening number reach 50 000 !

During the month of April, CD is hard at work on MED – He also attends a number of social function, dinners and banquets –

In May, CD attends a breakfast given by the Prime Minister – the ‘neuralgic foot’ is still causing CD a great deal of discomfort and, although he is forced to cancel some social engagements during the month of May, he does attend others

June 3rd

On June 3rd, CD returns to Gad’s Hill Place from London

His daughter Kate, who was waiting for him, finds him looking ‘a good deal changed’ – he tells her that he hopes MED will be successful “...if, please God, I live to finish it...” – He seems to be quite cheerful but tires easily – CD plans to go to London on ATYR business the next day- He works on MED during that day – the 8th

At dinner, he suffers a stroke and never regains consciousness – On June 9th, 1870, CD dies at his favourite place in the whole world - the place he started to love when he was a child – GAD’S HILL PLACE!

June 19

CD was buried in Westmister Abbey on June 19th, 1870

September 1st

The sixth and final number of THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD is published, posthumously, on September 1st.

SOME INTERESTING FACTS AND FIGURE ABOUT DICKENS AND HIS WORKS:

HIS MAJOR NOVELS ARE

PICKWICK PAPERS	1837
OLIVER TWIST	1838
MASTER HUPHREY'S CLOCK	1840
Containing	
THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP and	1841
BARNABY RUDGE	1841
MARTIN CHUZZLEWIT	1844
DOMBEY AND SON	1848
DAVID COPPERFIELD	1850
BLEAK HOUSE	1853
HARD TIMES	1854
LITTLE DORRIT	1857
A TALE OF TWO CITIES	1859
GREAT EXPECTATIONS	1861
OUR MUTUAL FRIEND	1865
THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD	1870

The Christmas Books are:

A CHRISTMAS CAROL	1843
THE CHIMES	1844
THE CRICKET ON THE HEARTH	1845
THE BATTLE OF LIFE	1846
THE HAUNTED MAN	1848

MINOR WORKS:

SKETCHES BY BOZ – 1836, SKETCHES OF YOUNG GENTLEMEN – 1838, SKETCHES OF YOUNG COUPLES – 1840,
AMERICAN NOTES – 1842, PICTURES FROM ITALY – 1846,
A CHILD'S HISTORY OF ENGLAND – 1852/53/54,
THE LIFE OF OUR LORD – 1934

Miscellaneous pieces"

SUNDAY UNDER THREE HEADS [pseud. Timothy Sparks] – 1836,
THE LOVING BALLAD OF GEORGE BATEMAN – 1839,
THE MEMOIRS OF JOSEPH GRIMALDI [EDITOR] – 1838,
THE PIC NIC PAPERS [EDITOR] – 1841

The extra Christmas numbers – for HOUSEHOLD WORDS

1850 – A CHRISTMAS TREE
1851 – WHAT CHRISTMAS IS AS WE GROW OLDER
1852 – A ROUND OF STORIES BY THE CHRISTMAS FIRE
1853 – ANOTHER ROUND OF STORIES BY THE CHRISTMAS FIRE
1854 – THE SEVEN POOR TRAVELLERS
1855 – THE HOLLY TREE INN
1856 – THE WRECK OF THE GOLDEN MARY
1857 – THE PERILS OF CERTAIN ENGLISH PRISONERS
1858 – A HOUSE TO LET

for ALL THE YEAR ROUND:

1859 – THE HAUNTED HOUSE
1860 – A MESSAGE FROM THE SEA
1861 – TOM TIDDLER'S GROUND
1862 – SOMEBODY'S LUGGAGE
1863 – MRS. LIRRIPER'S LODGINGS
1864 – MRS. LIRRPER'S LEGACY
1865 – DR, MARIGOLD'S PRESCRIPTION
1866 – MUGBY JUNCTION
1867 – NO THOROUGHFARE

It is recorded, that CD worked with 25 other writers on the numbers for HHW – unfortunately, those records do not exist for the numbers of ATYR

It is know that during the publication of ATYR, Wilkie Collins became a favourite collaborator to CD – They shared the writing of THE LAZY TOUR OF TWO IDLE APPRENTICES, which appeared in ATYR in 1857-We also know that Collins worked on about 10 of the Christmas numbers with Dickens, including MUGBY JUNCTION and NO THOROUGHFARE

CD also contributed the following pieces to various magazines –
THE MUDFOG PAPERS - 1837, HUNTED DOWN – 1860, THE UNCOMMERCIAL TRAVELLER – 1860, HOLIDAY ROMANCE – 1868, GEORGE SILVERMAN'S EXPLANATION – 1868

A SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

I have listed the some of the books, which I have consulted – at one time or another – to produce this paper on THE LIFE AND WORK OF CHARLES DICKENS. I am listing Title an Author only, because of some books there are many different editions available. For a good and easy book search engine consult www.abe.com

- F.G. Mitton The Novels of Charles Dickens
- F.G. Mitton The Minor Wrtings of Charles Dickens
- W.E. Smith Charles Dickens in the original Cloth
- Part I – The Novels with Sketches by Boz
- Part II – The Christmas Books and Selected Secondary Works
- N.Page A Dickens Chronology
- A. Lohrli Household Words – Table of Contents and List of Contributors and their Contributions
- P. Collins Charles Dickens – The Public Readings
- S. Callow Charles Dickens and the Great Theatre of the World
- M. Slater The Great Charles Dickens Scandal
- M. Slater Charles Dickens
- E. Johnson Charles Dickens – His Tragedy and Triumph
- J. Forster The Life of Charles Dickens [J.W.T.Ley – Ed.]
- M. Andrews Dickens and his Performing Selves
- G. Dolby Charles Dickens as I knew Him
- C. Kent Charles Dickens as a Reader
- E.A. Oppenlander Dickens' ALL THE YEAR ROUND – Descriptive Index and Contributor List