

CHARLES DICKENS AS A FOUNDER OF CHRISTMAS GENRE IN BRITISH LITERATURE

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ABSTRACT

This article examines the pivotal role of Charles Dickens in establishing the Christmas genre within British literature. Through an analysis of his iconic works such as "A Christmas Carol," "The Chimes," and "The Cricket on the Hearth," the paper explores how Dickens transformed Christmas into a symbol of generosity, redemption, and familial warmth. By blending elements of social commentary with heartwarming narratives, Dickens popularized traditions such as feasting, gift-giving, and goodwill, shaping the modern celebration of Christmas. Through his vivid characters and timeless themes, Dickens's influence on the festive season resonates to this day, making him a foundational figure in the Christmas literary canon.

KEYWORDS: Charles Dickens, "A Christmas Carol", Christmas genre, "Carol philosophy".

INTRODUCTION

Charles Dickens, renowned for his masterful storytelling and keen social commentary, holds a unique position in the annals of British literature as the preeminent architect of the Christmas genre. His enduring legacy is intricately woven into the festive fabric of the holiday season, where his works continue to enchant readers and audiences alike. In this introduction, we delve into Dickens's profound impact on the Christmas narrative, exploring how his writings not only reflected but also shaped Victorian society's evolving perceptions and traditions surrounding the holiday. From the iconic characters he created to the themes of compassion, redemption, and the spirit of giving Dickens's influence remains palpable, making him a timeless figure synonymous with the magic of Christmas. Through an examination of his seminal works, we uncover the essence of Dickensian Christmas and its enduring resonance in contemporary culture.

Charles Dickens was an English novelist who was widely regarded as the best of the Victorian era. He was born in Portsmouth, Hampshire, on February 7, 1812, and passed away in Gad's Hill, close to Chatham, on June 9, 1870. A Christmas Carol, David Copperfield, Bleak House, A Tale of Two Cities, Great Expectations, and Our Mutual Friend are just a few of the numerous books he has written.

During his lifetime, Dickens was more well-liked than any other writer. Both the poor and the queen, the simple and the clever, could find something in his work to appeal to them, and the attributes of his creations combined with technical advancements allowed his popularity to spread fast throughout the world. Throughout his long career, there have been swings in the sales and reception of individual novels, but none of them have been insignificant, out of character, or ignored. His popularity has never stopped, even though he is today praised for parts of his work that his contemporaries undervalued. Not only was he one of the most hilarious writers in English, but he was also a fantastic entertainer. His books were enhanced by the depth, empathy, and wisdom of his understanding of his society and its flaws, which elevated him to the status of one of the greatest writers of the 19th century and a powerful voice for the social conscience of his day.

The first of these Christmas books (which, incidentally, founded a new literary genre) was *A Christmas Carol*, which was written in a matter of weeks after an unexpected idea in late 1843. Written during his peak writing period, *Chuzzlewit* was a remarkable accomplishment and the only major Christmas myth in contemporary literature. His philosophy of life was subsequently labelled as "Christmas philosophy" or disregarded; he mentioned "Carol philosophy" as the foundation for planned work.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Charles Dickens's indelible mark on the Christmas genre in British literature is undeniable. Through his evocative prose, memorable characters, and timeless themes, Dickens transformed the holiday season from a mere religious observance into a cultural phenomenon. His ability to blend social critique with heartwarming narratives not only captured the spirit of Victorian England but also laid the foundation for modern Christmas traditions. From the redemption of Ebenezer Scrooge to the festive revelry of the Cratchit family, Dickens's portrayals of love, compassion, and the triumph of the human spirit continue to resonate across generations. As we gather around the hearth each December, Dickens's legacy serves as a reminder of the enduring power of literature to inspire joy, kindness, and the true spirit of Christmas.

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