

# The Charles Lamb Bulletin

**Summer 2022**

*New Series No. 175*

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*'Let us cultivate the Elian spirit of friendliness and humour'*

**Lamb's Friendship with William Hone**

DUNCAN WU

**John Thelwall's Covent Garden**

JUDITH THOMPSON

**On a Spree with Pierce Egan's *Life in London***

DAVID STEWART

**Charles Dickens And 'The Sentimental Man'**

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**Milton at Home at Grasmere**

CLAY DANIEL

**Book Reviews**

PAUL KEEN; CHRISTOPHER BUTCHER; SARAH BURTON;

CRYSTAL BIGGIN; CHLOE CHARD



PUBLISHED BY  
THE CHARLES LAMB  
SOCIETY

## An Elian Bicentenary

Charles Lamb first published 'The Praise of Chimney-Sweepers' in the *London Magazine*, in May 1822.

### From 'The Praise of Chimney-Sweepers'

I am by nature extremely susceptible of street affronts; the jeers and taunts of the populace; the low-bred triumph they display over the casual trip, or splashed stocking, of a gentleman. Yet can I endure the jocularly of a young sweep with something more than forgiveness. In the last winter but one, pacing along Cheap-side with my accustomed precipitation when I walk westward, a treacherous slide brought me upon my back in an instant. I scrambled up with pain and shame enough -- yet outwardly trying to face it down, as if nothing had happened -- when the roguish grin of one of these young wits encountered me. There he stood, pointing me out with his dusky finger to the mob, and to a poor woman (I suppose his mother) in particular, till the tears for the exquisiteness of the fun (so he thought it) worked themselves out at the corners of his poor red eyes, red from many a previous weeping, and soot-inflamed, yet twinkling through all with such a joy, snatched out of desolation, that Hogarth -- but Hogarth has got him already (how could he miss him?) in the March to Finchley, grinning at the pye-man -- there he stood, as he stands in the picture, irremovable, as if the jest was to last for ever -- with such a maximum of glee, and minimum of mischief, in his mirth -- for the grin of a genuine sweep hath absolutely no malice in it -- that I could have been content, if the honour of a gentleman might endure it, to have remained his butt and his mockery till midnight.

Front cover images of Mary and Charles Lamb are taken from the MacDonald edition of the *Works of Charles and Mary Lamb* (London: Dent, 1903-1908).

# The Charles Lamb Bulletin

[www.charleslambociety.com/bulletin.html](http://www.charleslambociety.com/bulletin.html)

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The Charles Lamb Society *Bulletin* has been published since 1935. Its first editor was the Elian scholar and poet S. M. Rich. The new series began in January 1973 as *The Charles Lamb Bulletin* under the editorship of Basil Savage. The *Bulletin* is a peer-reviewed journal devoted to the study of Charles and Mary Lamb and their circle. It aims to promote Lamb scholarship and welcomes submissions in the form of essays, reviews, and notes and queries from established academics, new entrants to the field, and those who simply admire the Lambs' writings.

Essays submitted to the journal should be in 11-point Book Antiqua typescript and between 4000 and 8000 words in length. Preferably, submissions should be sent to the Editor as an email attachment in MS Word. Submissions should be double-spaced throughout, including quotations, and should follow MHRA style, with a couple of minor alterations. A full style-sheet is available online at the Society's website. For further information contact the Editor, John Gardner, School of Humanities, Anglia Ruskin University, East Road, Cambridge, CB1 1PT ([john.gardner@aru.ac.uk](mailto:john.gardner@aru.ac.uk)).

# The Charles Lamb Society

[www.charleslambociety.com](http://www.charleslambociety.com)

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The Charles Lamb Society was founded on 1 February 1935 at a meeting at Essex Hall in The Strand. Its first President was Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch. Today, the Society aims to advance the study of the life, works, and times of Charles and Mary Lamb and their circle; to preserve for the public a collection of Eliana (currently held at Guildhall Library, London); and to stimulate the Elian spirit of friendliness and humour. The Society holds a series of events each year in London, including lectures, study days, and a Charles Lamb Birthday Luncheon. The Society also publishes the biannual peer-review journal, *The Charles Lamb Bulletin*. For further information please contact either the Membership Secretary, Helen Goodman, [h.goodman@bathspa.ac.uk](mailto:h.goodman@bathspa.ac.uk), or the Chairs, Felicity James, [fj21@le.ac.uk](mailto:fj21@le.ac.uk) and John Strachan, [j.strachan@bathspa.ac.uk](mailto:j.strachan@bathspa.ac.uk).

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