2015

Guide to the Charles Dickens Collection, 1837 – 1981 (Bulk 1837 – 1904)

Orson Kingsley
Bridgewater State University

Follow this and additional works at: http://vc.bridgew.edu/finding_aids
Part of the Library and Information Science Commons

This item is available as part of Virtual Commons, the open-access institutional repository of Bridgewater State University, Bridgewater, Massachusetts.
Volume: 1 linear foot (3 document boxes)

Acquisition: All items in this manuscript group were donated to or purchased by Bridgewater State University.

Access: Access to this record group is unrestricted.

Copyright: The researcher assumes full responsibility for conforming to the laws of copyright. Whenever possible, the Maxwell Library will provide information about copyright owners and other restrictions, but the legal determination ultimately rests with the researcher. Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with the University Archivist.

Charles Dickens
Biographical Sketch

Charles Dickens, born February 7, 1812, was an English writer and social critic. He created some of the world’s most well-known fictional characters and is generally regarded as one of, if not the greatest, novelist of the Victorian Period. His work was, and continues to be, highly popular. Many aspects of his stories and his characters have become embedded in our culture and continue to influence society to this day. He died on June 9, 1870.

Scope and Content Note

The Charles Dickens Collection consists of material relating to the life and work of Dickens, such as original journal reviews and essays by critics and scholars, ephemera, portraits, and other types of items of this nature. Due to the numerous titles of serials represented in the collection, a list of titles organized in alphabetical order by country has been included to aid research. The vast majority of the serial publications in this collection were published in London.

A related collection held by the Maxwell Library is the Charles Dickens Rare Book Collection. This collection consists solely of books and pamphlets by, about, or relating to Charles Dickens and the London of his era. The collection contains over 700 individually cataloged items and can be searched by using the Maxwell Library’s online catalog. The majority of first editions of Dickens’ novels in both serial and book form are held in this collection, and a list of these can be found at the end of this finding aid.

List of Serial Publications Represented in the Collection by Country

Britain
-Atalanta (1887-1898)
-Athenaeum (1828 – 1921)
-Cassell’s Illustrated Family Paper (1853 – 1867)
- *Connoisseur* (1901 – 1992)
- *Contemporary Review* (1866 - )
- *Crystal Palace Magazine* (dates unknown)
- *Eclectic Review* (1805 – 1868)
- *English Illustrated Magazine* (1883 – 1913)
- *Girl's Own Paper* (1880 – 1956)
- *Illustrated London News* (1842 - )
- *London Society* (1862 – 1898)
- *Longman’s Magazine* (1882 – 1900)
- *Magazine of Art* (1878 – 1904)
- *Mirror of Literature, Amusement and Instruction* (1823 – 1849; renamed *Mirror Monthly Magazine* in 1847)
- *New Review* (1889 – 1897)
- *Pall Mall Magazine* (1893 – 1914)
- *People’s Magazine, An Illustrated Miscellany for All Classes* (dates unknown)
- *Sketch* (1893 – 1959)
- *Strand Magazine* (1891 – 1950)
- *Saturday Review* (1855 – 1938)
- *Tatler* (1901 - )
- *Trollopian* (1945 – 1949)

**France**
- *Revue des deux Mondes* (1829 - )

**United States**
- *Argosy* (1882 – 1978)
- *Century Magazine* (1881 – 1930)
- *Harper’s Magazine* (1850 - )
- *Scribner’s Monthly: An Illustrated Magazine for the People* (1870 – 1881)
Box and Folder List

Box 1
Folder
4. Athenaeum – Review and Excerpt by “Boz”: Oliver Twist; or, the Parish Boy’s Progress, 1838.
8. Mirror of Literature, Amusement and Instruction – Review and Excerpt: Mr. Dickens and his New Work, December 1845.
15. Saturday Review – Mr. Dickens’s Return, May 9, 1868.
17. Illustrated London News (Supplement) – The Late Charles Dickens, June 18, 1870.
19. Chambers’s Journal – At Dickens’s Sale, August 1870.
22. Chambers’s Journal – The Middle Age of Dickens, by John Forster, c. 1872.
28. Scribner’s Monthly – Mr. Pickwick and Nicholas Nickleby, September 1880.
31. Longman’s Magazine – Charles Dickens as a Dramatic Critic, by Dutton Cook, 1883.
33. Century Magazine – How Edwin Drood was Illustrated, by Alice Meynell, 1884.
34. Argosy (magazine) – The Tendency of Dickens’s Works, by A.D., 1885.
37. Contemporary Review – Mr. Forster, by Justin McCarthy, 1888.
38. Magazine of Art – Charles Dickens and His Less Familiar Portraits (2 articles), 1888.
41. English Illustrated Magazine – Charles Dickens as an Editor, by C. Dickens Jr., 1888-89.
42. New Review – The Truth About “The Dead Heart” and “A Tale of Two Cities,” by Coleman, 1889.
44. Girl’s Own Paper – The “Little Nell” of Charles Dickens, by W. Lawrence Liston, 1889 or 1890.

**Box 2**

**Folder**

2. English Illustrated Magazine – Pickwickian Topography, by Charles Dickens the Younger, 1892-93.
7. Sketch – A Dickens Village, Photographs by Russell and Sons, July 1897.
17. Connoisseur – A Trifle Light as Air, Being the Strange Story of a Dickens Misprint, by Wilfred Hargrave, 1902.
21. Chambers’s Journal – When Dickens was in Italy, by G. Pignatorre, 1911.
36. Silhouette of Wilkins Micawber (Character of David Copperfield), with Certificate of Purchase from “The Old Curiosity Shop,” in London, c. 1940.
37. Sheet Music – Charles Dickens’ Last Song (Autumn Leaves), Music by Lesta Vesé, Louisville, KY, 1870.
41. Pamphlet – Maxwell on Dickens, 1958.
42. Extra Copy of “Charles Dickens Rare Print Collection” (in 10 parts), 1900.

Box 3
Folder
7. Leisure Hour Library, Dombey and Son, No. 42, April 18, 1896.
8. Leisure Hour Library, Little Dorrit, No. 52, May 6, 1886.

Oversized Material
-Lithograph portrait of Charles Dickens, c. 1927. Copyright by Frank C. Reilly. Includes photocopied letter and envelope from Charles Dickens’ son, Henry Fielding Dickens, to John C. Reilly, dated May 6, 1929.

**First Editions in the Dickens Rare Book Collection**


**The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby.** London: Chapman and Hall, April 1838 – October 1839. Complete set of original monthly parts.


**Master Humphrey’s Clock.** London: Chapman and Hall, April 1840 - November 1841. Complete set of original 88 weekly parts. Represents the first appearance of *The Old Curiosity Shop* and *Barnaby Rudge*.

**Dombey and Son.** London: Bradbury & Evans, 1848. First edition, two copies, both different issues.


**The Mystery of Edwin Drood.** London: Chapman & Hall, April 1870 - September 1870. Complete set of original monthly parts.

The Christmas Books


