Bridgewater State University

Maxwell Library
Archives & Special Collections

Charles Dickens Collection,
1837 – 1981, (Bulk 1837 – 1904)
(MSS-021)

Finding Aid Compiled by
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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 Maxwell Library holds two separate Charles Dickens Collections. One collection pertains solely to books and pamphlets by, about, or relating to Charles Dickens and the London of his era that influenced his work. This collection consists of over 700 individual items, including a majority of first editions of his novels in both serial and book form (a list is included below). This finding aid pertains to the Maxwell Library’s other Dickens Collection, which includes material different from books and pamphlets, such as original journal reviews of his works upon release, original journal essays by critics and scholars on the work of Dickens and his life, ephemera, etc. A list of publications of the journals, magazines, and other serials that are represented in the collection are listed for reference, and include the dates each publication was active. This list is organized by country, with the vast majority of material originating from London, England.

The strength of this collection lies in the publications of reviews and of the scholarly articles written during the years Dickens was producing his writings, and during the years following his death. The collection allows one to get an understanding of how Dickens’ contemporaries viewed his work, as well as how they viewed him.
List of Serial Publications Represented in the Collection by Country

British
- Atalanta (1887-1898)
- Athenaeum (1828 – 1921)
- Cassell’s Illustrated Family Paper (1853 – 1867)
- Connoisseur (1901 – 1992)
- Contemporary Review (1866 - )
- Cornhill Magazine (1860 – 1975)
- Crystal Palace Magazine (dates unknown)
- Eclectic Review (1805 – 1868)
- English Illustrated Magazine (1883 – 1913)
- Girl’s Own Paper (1880 – 1956)
- Hibbert Journal (1902 – 1968)
- 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)
- National Review (1883 – 1960)
- New Review (1889 – 1897)
- Pall Mall Magazine (1893 – 1914)
- People’s Magazine, An Illustrated Miscellany for All Classes (dates unknown)
- Quarterly Review (1809 – 1967)
- Saint Paul’s: A Monthly Magazine (1867 – 1874)
- Sketch (1893 – 1959)
- Strand Magazine (1891 – 1950)
- Saturday Review (1855 – 1938)
- Tatler (1901 - )
- Trollopian (1945 – 1949)

French
- 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
11. Carte-de-visite photograph of Dickens, c. 1870.

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


