

# HORDERN HOUSE

RARE BOOKS · MANUSCRIPTS · PAINTINGS



Pickwick!





## INTRODUCTION

Pickwick in its various first appearances has always had an allure for book collectors.

Dickens's first novel, his fame actually developed during the course of its publication. A few hundred copies were printed of the first few parts of Chapman and Hall's first publication of *The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club*; during the course of the publication its fame exploded and by the end of the venture tens of thousands of copies were needed of each part.

He had changed from a little-known young journalist to a household name.

Described in the 1930s as "one of the three or four most remarkable books in the whole course of English literature", perception of that status may have changed a little in the century since, but Dickens' great and sympathetic classic remains a highpoint of both literature and collecting.

We offer here an attractive small group of Pickwicks that includes:

- The Bradley Martin set of the first edition in original wrapped parts, with continuous provenance from the time of publication;
- The Suzannet copy of the first American edition, which is actually the first book version;
- The first English book edition;
- The rare Tasmanian pirated edition.

**Please note that all prices are in Australian dollars.**

More images, currency conversions and in some cases extensive descriptions, will be found on our website by clicking the symbol 

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PICKWICK IN THE ORIGINAL PARTS





## 1. DICKENS, Charles.

### [The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club.](#)

Twenty numbers as published, in the original nineteen monthly wrapped octavo parts; forty-three inserted engraved plates, including frontispiece and vignette title-page; original green printed wrappers designed by Seymour; in a custom-made quarter morocco case. London, Chapman and Hall, 1836-1837.

A most attractive set of Pickwick in original parts, well-preserved by a series of owners, and in unsophisticated condition.

Collation of a Pickwick in parts is famously laborious. There are often multiple varying states or issues of individual components, whether text, engravings, wrappers, or advertisements. Changes were made to engravings as they were reprinted, sometimes because the plates wore out, errors in the text were corrected, and changes to the wrappers were frequent to revise the advertisements that they included.

Suffice to say of this set that, as with most, it is made up from different states. What is important is its impeccable original condition, as sold by the Belfast bookseller Hodgson, probably to H.W. Calmount who has boldly signed each part (presumably a Dublin reader, since there is a Calmount Park in Dublin).

The exhaustive description by Hatton and Cleaver is recognised as the standard bibliographical analysis: a full collation has been prepared of the present set. In summary: Parts I-XIII are in the later or reprinted wrappers with the others in the primary wrappers. The plates are mostly in their later states (where priority is distinguished) until the tenth part, after which they are a mixture of first and second states. Most texts are in their corrected later state. Four of the seven inserted "address leaves" by the author and publisher are present. (Also present are Calmount's copies of "Illustrations to the Pickwick Club... by Samuel Weller" (E. Gratten, 1837) parts I & II, in the original green wrappers).

In the past collectors have been anxious to acquire so-called "prime" sets, composed only of first states or issues of the various components. This was especially the case in the 1930s when enormous premiums were paid. Since only a few hundred copies of the first few parts were published in 1836, and those parts were later reprinted to meet demand as the novel's

popularity snowballed after part IV, this is an almost hopeless ambition – at any rate to find a set issued in that form, rather than later merged or made up. Over the years collectors have exchanged parts between sets, often improving individual plates and exchanging earlier states of wrappers for older ones, thus terribly muddying the bibliographical waters.

Nowadays, as it should be, as much attention is paid to the coherence of a set and to be able to show, as with this one, that there has been no sophistication attempted. The set is as originally purchased on publication, and is in original condition.

Hatton & Cleaver, 3; Eckel, p.17ff.

PROVENANCE: Hodgson, Belfast bookseller (small label on most front wrappers); each front wrapper inscribed at head "H.W. Calmount"; Arnold Greenhill (pictorial bookplate); H. Bradley Martin (emblematic bookplate, sale Sotheby's New York, 30 April 1990, lot 2766, \$6,000); private collection (Australia).

[\\$16,500 \[5000624 at hordern.com\]](#)

[see description and illustrations at](#)







## THE RARE PHILADELPHIA PICKWICK: COUNT SUZANNET'S SET

### 2. DICKENS, Charles.

#### The posthumous papers of the Pickwick Club.

Five volumes, small octavo; original quarter pink cloth and plain boards, printed spine labels; preserved in separate folders contained together in a quarter morocco bookform slipcase. Philadelphia, Carey, Lea & Blanchard, 1836.

Pickwick in its earliest book form: Dickens' first great work, completed when he was just 24. This very scarce first American edition predated the English book edition, at a time before any international forms of copyright, a practice that was to cause its author great annoyance. The first four volumes of this Philadelphia edition were published between November 1836 and September 1837. The one-volume book edition in England was not issued until November 1837, with the fifth volume of this American edition appearing in December.

Only about 1500 copies of the first volume were issued, but as Dickens' popularity grew, later volumes appeared in greater quantities and volumes 1 and 2 were re-issued. In this set, once in the famous Suzannet collection of Dickens, volume 1 is in its rare first state, while volume 2 is in its second issue form.

With this set is the letter from the Rosenbach Company offering it to Count de Suzannet, the Dickens collector, for the very substantial 1932 price of \$585 (citing the \$600 made by a copy at Jerome Kern's 1929 sale). For the relationship between Rosenbach and Suzannet, see Frank A. Gibson, "A Great Bookseller", in *The Dickensian* Vol. 57, Issue 334 (1 May 1961).

Detailed summary: first issue of volume one (no mention of 'part first' on title or spine label, verso of title with note "Dickinson & Ward, Printers", 2pp. advertisements at front listing only "Watkins Tottle" and two sections of 8pp. and 4pp. at end with advertisement for two further works by Boz on verso of final leaf of text p.[220]), second issue of volume two with 'part second' on title and spine label and 'sporting' on sixth line only, volumes 3-5 each with advertisements (3: 4 pp. at front and 4 pp. at end, 4: 4 pp. at front, 5: 4 pp. at front and 14 pp. at end).

Gimbel, A19; Smith, *First American Editions*, 2.

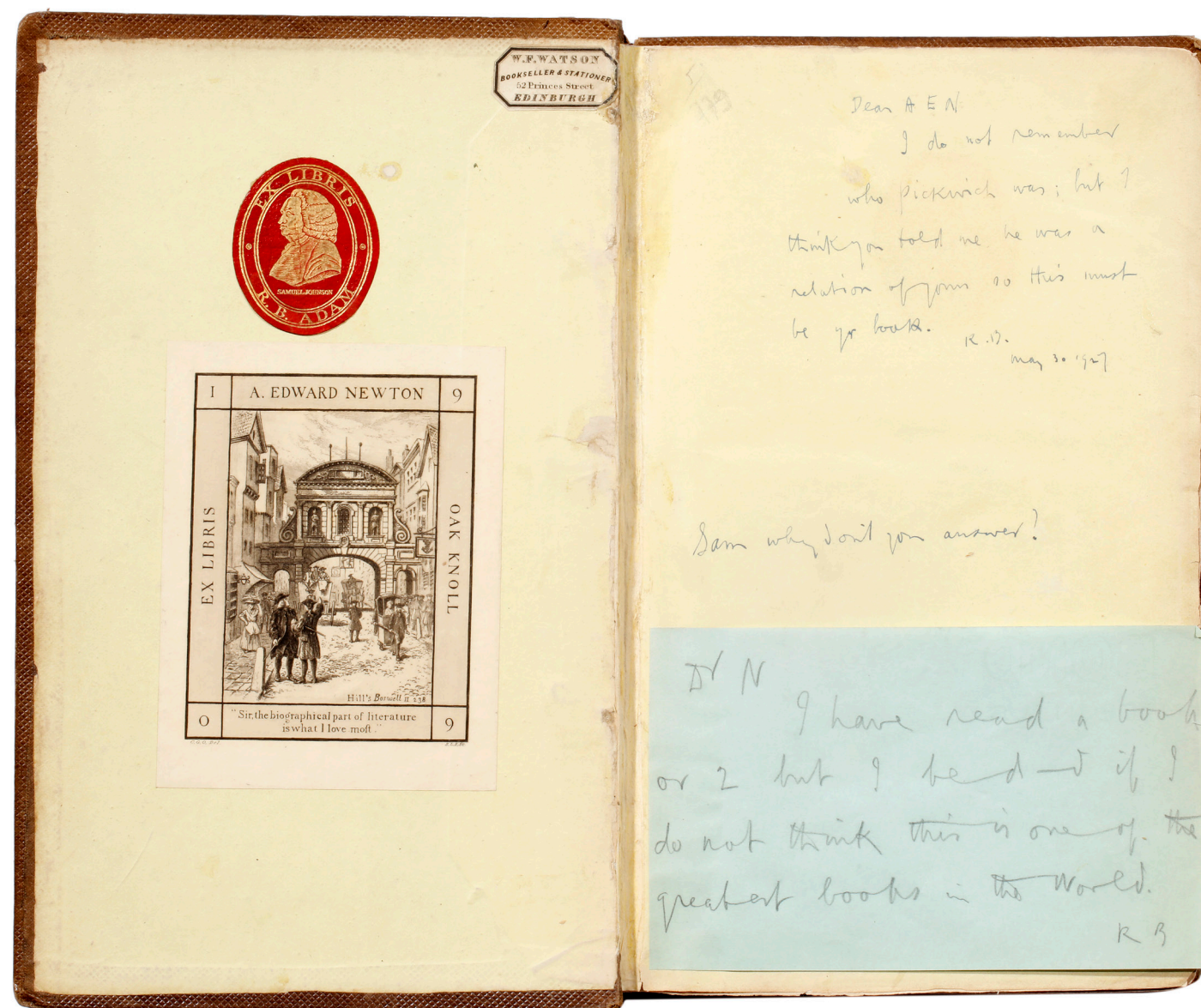
PROVENANCE: Rosenbach Company, New York; sold in 1932 to Count Alain de Suzannet, Lausanne (his bookplates and original Rosenbach offer letter); Sotheby's, 22 November 1971, lot 26; Frank Fletcher (decorative bookplate); Sotheby's, 11 July 2002, lot 183; private collection (Sydney).

\$8500 [5000622 at hordern.com]

see description and illustrations at







## FIRST ENGLISH EDITION, FIRST ISSUE

### 3. DICKENS, Charles.

#### The Posthumous papers of the Pickwick Club.

Octavo, with the half-title; 43 plates in first state; publisher's brown blind-stamped cloth binding, spine lettered in gilt, pale yellow endpapers. London, Chapman and Hall, 1837.

First English edition, first issue, of the great novel, preceded only by the publication in original parts, and the unauthorised Philadelphia printing.

This copy has a charming if rather boisterous bibliophile association, having been given to A. Edward Newton by R. B. Adam, who has written on the front free endpaper 'Dear A E N, I do not remember who Pickwick was; but I think you told me he was a relation of yours so this must be yr book. R. B. May 30 1927'. Beneath this he has added 'Sam [Weller] why don't you answer?' Tipped in on the same leaf is a slip of paper in Adam's hand: 'Dr N, I have read a book or 2 but I be d... d if I do not think this is one of the greatest books in the World. R. B.'

This first issue of the first edition has the Phiz plates in first impressions. The relevant bibliographical points are:-

Page 43, second paragraph below Chapter V line 1 has "ruined wall" in the singular

Signature "E" on p. 25 & "X2" on p. 261

P. 10 last line has no mark between "r" & "u" in rum

P. 17 the last "e" appears broken

Vignette on title has "Veller"

Smith, Dickens, 3.

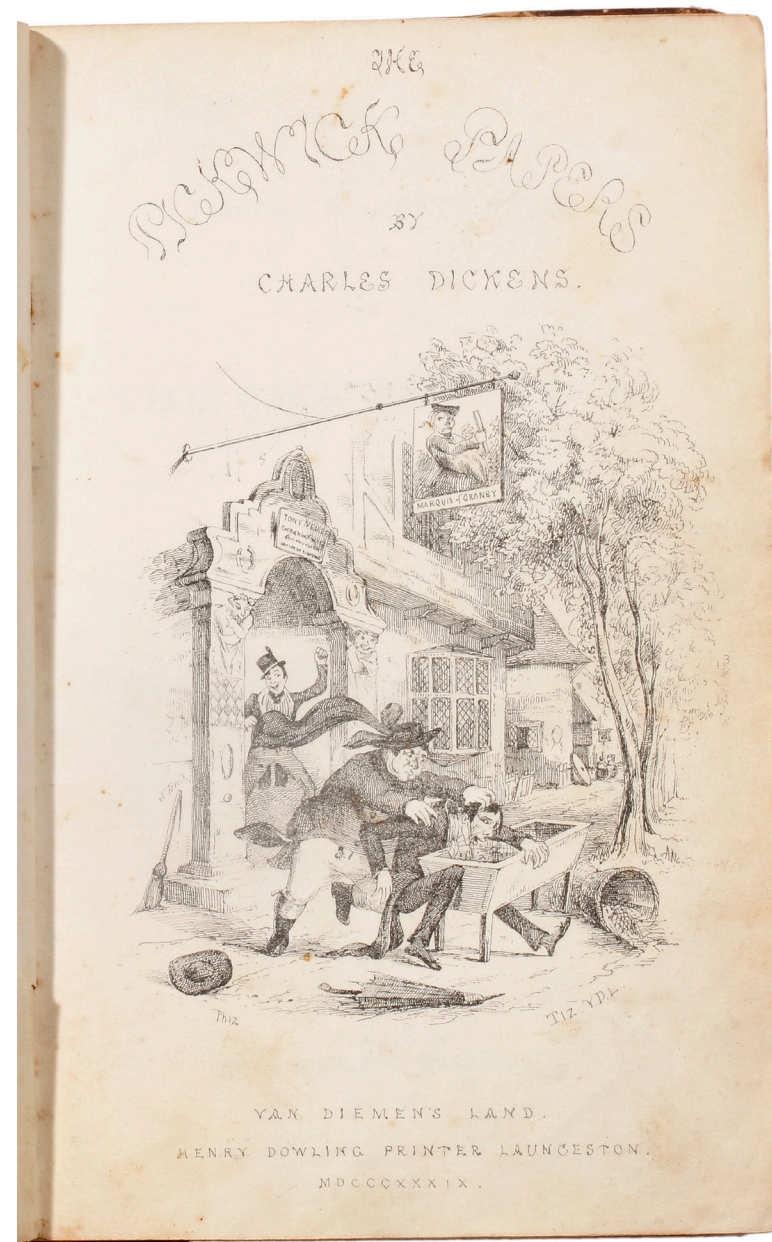
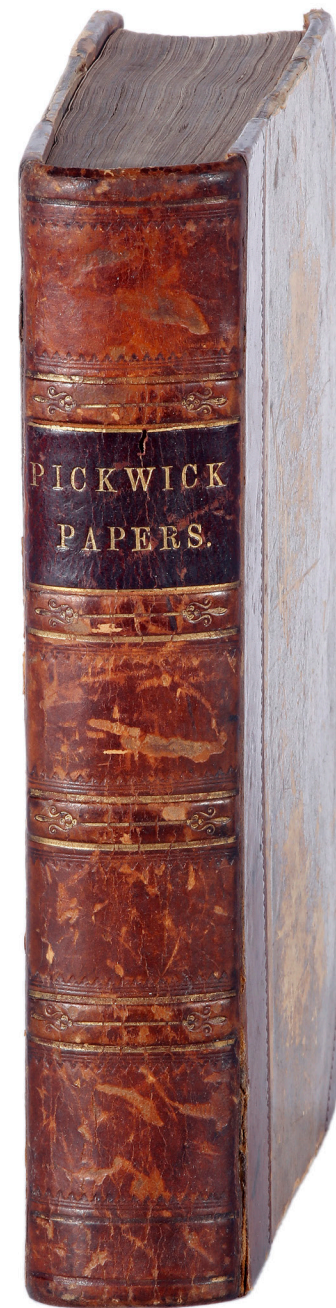
PROVENANCE: W.P. Watson (Edinburgh bookseller, with label); R.B. Adam (leather booklabel, and inscription dated 1927 presenting the copy to:) A. Edward Newton (with his Oak Knoll bookplate); Newton's sale (1940, lot 498): private collection (Australia).

\$8250 [5000779 at hordern.com]

see description and illustrations at







## THE TASMANIAN "PIRATED" PICKWICK

### 4. DICKENS, Charles.

#### The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club.

Octavo, lithographed frontispiece, additional lithographed title-page with vignette, and 18 lithograph plates (variants all in Craig's "A" state), as usual without the half-title and two leaves of inserted terminal advertisements (issued in only a few copies); the plate at p. 95 with lower outer section (less than a quarter of the image) supplied in good facsimile); contemporary half calf.V.D. Land: Launceston, Henry Dowling, 1838 [-1839].

The famous Tasmanian Pickwick. Capitalising on the huge demand for the London printing of Dickens' *Pickwick Papers*, the Launceston printer Henry Dowling decided to pirate the edition and release it in parts as they became available throughout 1838 and 1839. The story of its publication is dealt with at length by Clifford Craig, in *The Van Diemen's Land Edition of the Pickwick Papers* (Hobart 1973), who describes the book as 'one of the most coveted books sought after by the Australian collector'. It is a rarity in collections of Dickens in Europe and America.

The illustrations were offered for sale after the publication in parts was complete, and were used for finished volumes like this. They have generally been attributed to either Jack Briggs, who was a servant of the publisher, or Wainwright, the poisoner, a skilled artist. More recent research, however, hypothesises that they may have been carried out by the colonial artist Robert Hawker Dowling, the publisher's brother.

The title-page is dated 1838 while the pictorial title-page is dated 1839.

The lithograph plates in this copy are all examples of the 'A' variants identified by Craig (five plates, at pp. 76, 117, 233, 265 and 334 or 337, are known in two distinct versions which he identified as 'A' or 'B'). A contemporary advertisement sang the praises of this "product of colonial industry... The obstacles which the Publisher has had to contend with in the production in this Colony [of the lithograph illustrations] can only be estimated by those who are familiar with the lithographic art...".

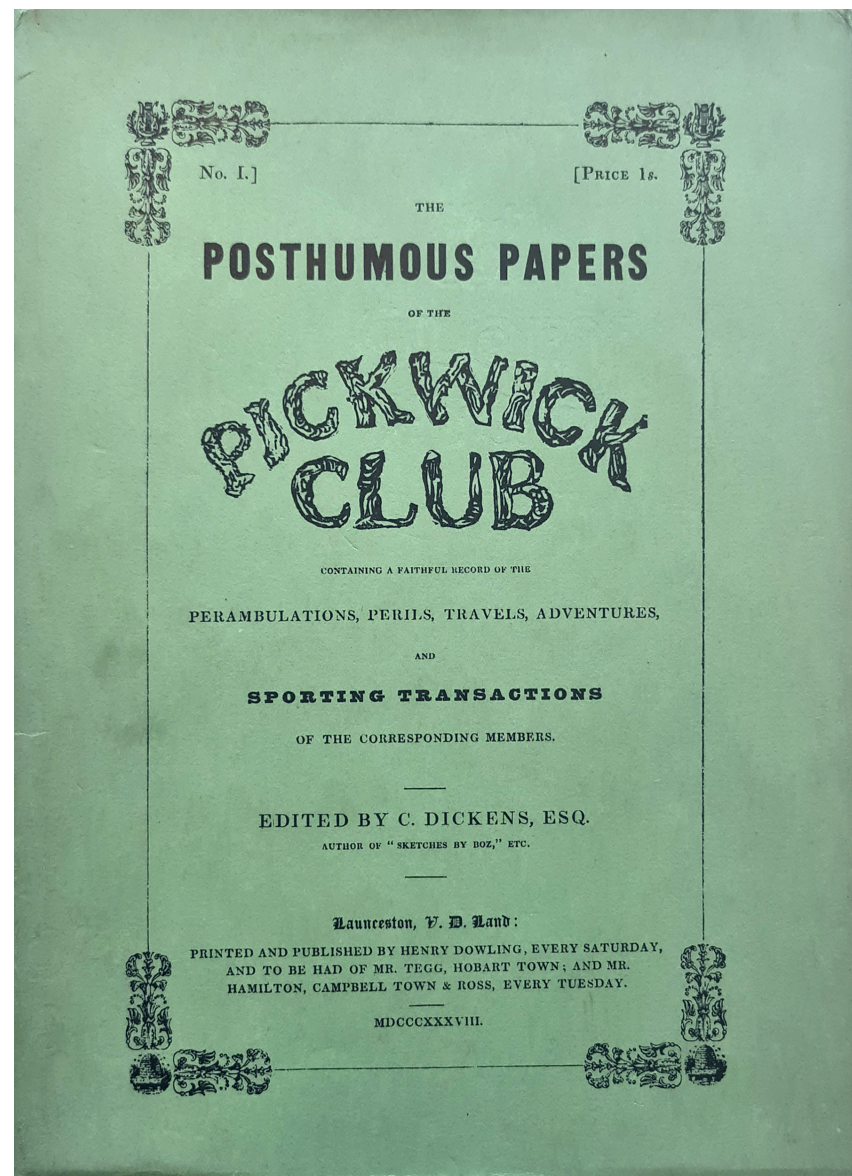
Bremer, 355; Craig (Engravers), pp. 127-132; Craig (The Van Diemen's Land Edition of The Pickwick Papers), passim, and pp. 24-44 for the variant plates; Ferguson, 2473; Kerr, pp. 804-5 and 217-9.

\$9850 [5000623 at hordern.com]

see description and illustrations at







## CLIFFORD CRAIG ON THE TASMANIAN PICKWICK

### 5. CRAIG, Clifford.

The Van Diemen's Land Edition of the Pickwick Papers.

Octavo, illustrations, original printed green cloth, fine in dustwrapper. Hobart, Cat & Fiddle Press, 1973.

Limited to 150 numbered copies, this is the study of the 'pirated' edition of *The Pickwick Papers* published by Henry Dowling in 1838-1839. As the last of the English parts of the book would not have reached Launceston until about mid 1838, Dowling "did not lose much time in printing Part I of the Van Diemen's Land edition which was published on Saturday, 30 June, 1838'.

\$250 [5000619 at [hordern.com](http://hordern.com)]

see description and illustrations at







## COVENY'S MAJOR WORK

### 6. [DICKENS] COVENY, Christopher.

#### *Twenty Scenes from the Works of Dickens...*

Quarto, etched additional title-page, and 21 etched plates (plate 7 present in two forms, as noted in the Preface); publisher's half roan. Sydney, Thomas H. Feilding, 1883.

First edition and quite rare: the first purely artistic suite of etchings produced in Australia. Excellent impressions, well inked on thick paper, they have a real charm and vitality.

Coveny, an illustrator and painter of literary subjects, was the first to produce a series of etchings or engravings outside the natural history and topographical genres. This suite of plates shows a mastery of the form and is not only a good example of the art of etching but also a key work in the development of printing arts in colonial Australia. The book was printed by John Sands who, coincidentally, had worked in England on the illustration of Dickens's novels.

A self-taught printmaker, *Twenty Scenes*, published when he was 36 years old, would prove to be Coveny's chief work. The year that it was published he travelled to England hoping to establish himself there as a graphic artist, but suffered a mental breakdown from which he never fully recovered.

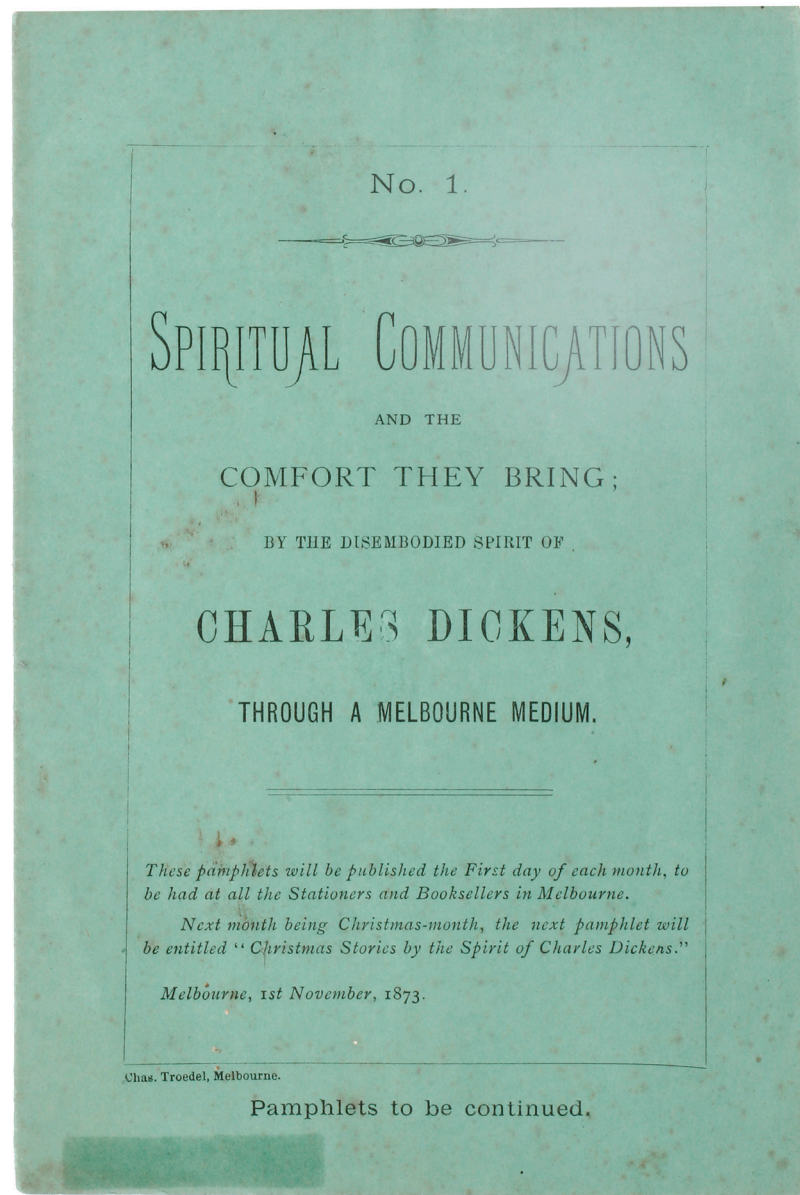
Ferguson, 9140a.

\$725 [5000690 at hordern.com]

see description and illustrations at







## DICKENS FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE

### 7. DICKENS, Charles (spurious attribution).

*Spiritual Communications...* [with various other items]...

8 pp, small octavo pamphlet in original printed green wrappers; tipped into a small volume containing typed notes and other pieces (see note). Melbourne, printed by Charles Troedel, 1873.

Scarce and odd Australian booklet, publishing thoughts from the other side supposedly derived from "the disembodied Spirit" of Charles Dickens by an unnamed medium in Melbourne. As if! Dickens had of course mocked mediums that he took to be fakers. The publisher (like the medium anonymous) planned a series, announcing in the cover that "These pamphlets will be published the First day of each month, to be had at all the Stationers and Booksellers in Melbourne. Next month being Christmas-month, the next pamphlet will be entitled, 'Christmas Stories by the Spirit of Charles Dickens'."

This copy was owned by Harry Chaplin, and is tipped into a small volume of typed notes, mainly regarding the Tasmanian Pickwick, but also with a facsimile Dickens letter with an explanation from an English bookseller.

Ferguson, 16083.

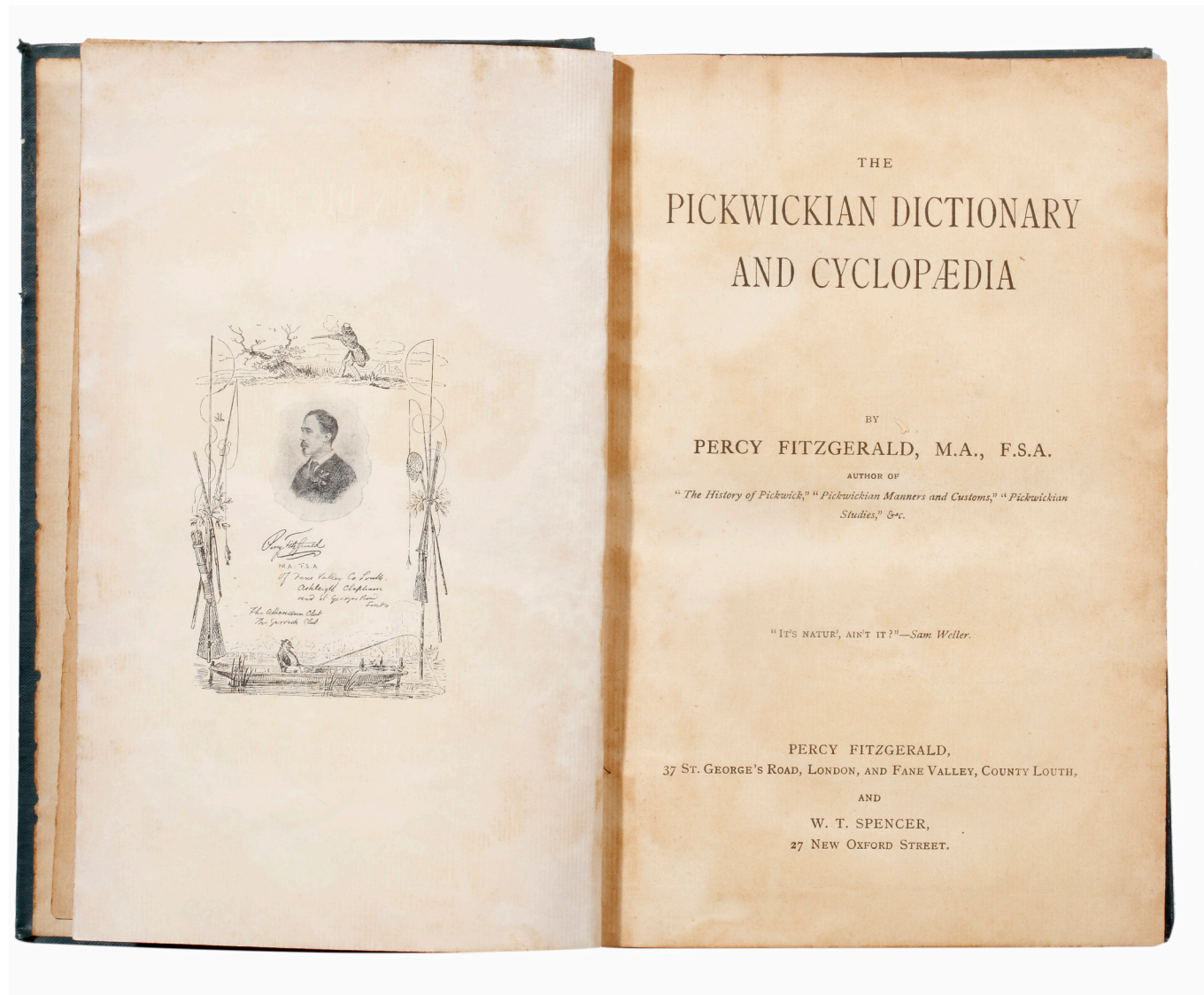
PROVENANCE: Harry H. Chaplin (Australian book collector, with pictorial bookplate).

\$385 [5000625 at hordern.com]

see description and illustrations at







## OMNIUM GATHERUM


### 8. DICKENS. FITZGERALD, Percy.

#### The Pickwickian Dictionary and Cyclopaedia...

Large octavo; rather odd frontispiece portrait of FitzGerald; original dark green cloth with printed paper spine label. London, Percy FitzGerald and W.T. Spencer, 1900.

A scarce and somewhat eccentric Dickens vademecum.

\$185 [5000621 at hordern.com]

see description and illustrations at 





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