

LOCATING DICKENS'S JOURNALISM

It is comparatively recently that Dickens's Journalism has been given the full attention that it richly merits and we are now fortunate to have it in easily accessible forms.

During Dickens's lifetime there were three collections of his journalism published in addition to original runs of the weekly journals. The *Sketches by Boz* were published in volume form at various times during the 1830's. There were three phases of *Uncommercial Traveller* essays published in 1861, 1865 and 1869. *Reprinted Pieces*, published in 1858 included 31 sketches, stories and essays from *Household Words*.

The next phase of publication took place thirty-eight years after Dickens's death when in 1908 the Secretary of the recently-founded (1902) Dickens Fellowship, Bertram Waldrom Matz, who was also editor of the again recently-established (1905) journal *The Dickensian*, collected and published two volumes of *Miscellaneous Papers*, comprising journalism, plays, and poems. A further thirty years passed and the lavishly-produced Nonesuch edition of Dickens's works edited by Walter Dexter re-published Matz's edition together with letters, reports and prefaces as *Collected Papers* in 1937. Yet another thirty years went by before the appearance in 1968 of Harry Stone's *Uncollected Writings of Charles Dickens, Household Words 1850-59* including much of the writing Dickens had done in collaboration with other contributors to the journal.

The next great step forward in making this material available began in 1994 with the publication of the first of four volumes of *Dickens's Journalism* published by Dent and edited by Michael Slater. This edition was completed in 2000 by a fourth volume co-edited by Michael Slater and John Drew including 'The Uncommercial Traveller' essays. Paperback editions followed. In the meantime, other editions like David Pascoe's *Selected Journalism 1850-1870* (Penguin 1997) and various of the Christmas and other Stories (Hesperus Press) appeared. In 2015 an edition of 'The Uncommercial Traveller' essays, edited by Daniel Tyler and published by Oxford University Press, appeared. In 2020 the long-anticipated edition of *Sketches by Boz*, edited by Paul Schlicke and David Hewitt, was published as the first volume of the *Oxford Edition of Charles Dickens*.

The Dickens Journals Online project based at the University of Buckingham, has made the contents of the two journals, *Household Words* and *All The Year Round* as well as the *Household Narrative of Current Events*, available free on the internet with access open to all levels of user. It was formally launched during a conference on ‘Charles Dickens and the Mid-Victorian Press’ held at the University of Buckingham from 28-31 March 2012, and a volume comprising the papers delivered at that conference was published in 2013. The contents of the journals may be found on the project website at www.djo.org.uk It opens to everyone the riches these journals contain.