

## Why Dickens Resumed his Connection with American Publishers

On his return from his first visit to the United States in 1842, Charles Dickens, expressing discontent with the fact that an international copyright law was unlikely to be passed in the United States, declared in a public letter he would no longer negotiate with any American publishers regarding publication of his work, and encouraged other British authors to follow him, or at least to negotiate only with reputable publishers. Dickens himself even terminated his connection with the respected publishers, Lea and Blanchard, which had published his works and had paid for advance sheets since 1837. However, ten years later, Dickens resumed his relationship with another American publisher, Harper and Brothers. By this time Harpers had been publishing Dickens's works for ten years (since 1842), but without payment of proper royalties. In order to be certain of receiving advance sheets from the author, Harpers had contacted Dickens and started to publish his works on a proper contractual basis. Taking his statement in 1842 into consideration, Dickens's acceptance of the offer made by Harpers—so to speak, a piratical publisher of his works—seems to be rather surprising.

In this paper, I would look into the reasons why Dickens resumed his relationship with an American publisher in the context of the circumstances surrounding international copyright in the early 1850s. The movement towards establishment of an American international copyright law, which was vigorously promoted beginning in 1837, had gradually subsided by the later 1840s. In the early 1850s, as a measure to encourage other countries to join in international copyright treaties, a new wave of support for the protection of foreign authors' works emerged in the UK and France. It is my supposition that this new development significantly influenced Dickens's decision to break with the resolution he had made in 1842.