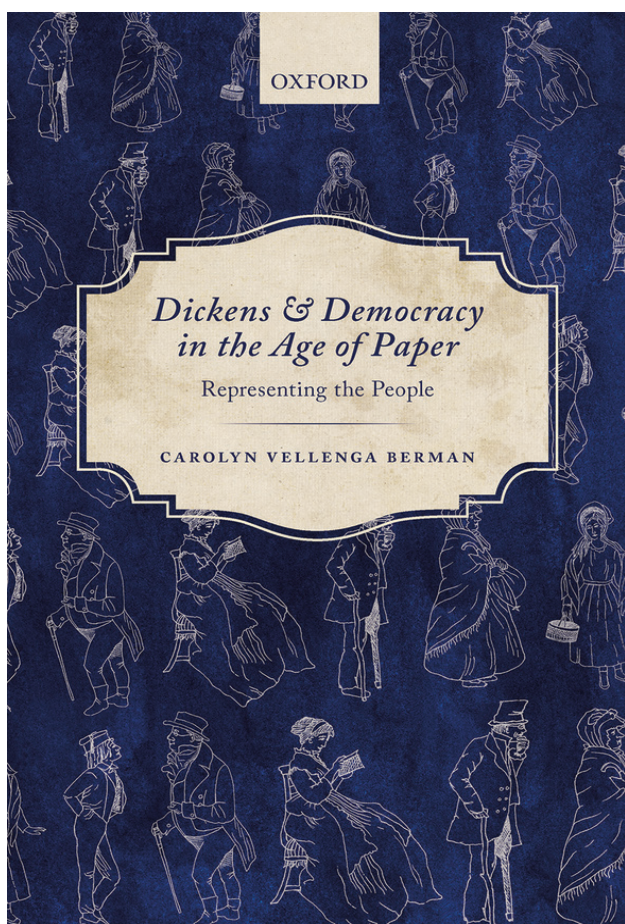


Dickens and Democracy in the Age of Paper

Representing the People



This book examines Charles Dickens's fiction alongside publications emanating from Parliament. It argues that Dickens and Parliament were engaged in competitive efforts to represent the People at a crucial moment in the history of representative democracy--when the British government was under enormous political pressure to expand the franchise beyond a narrow band of male landowners. Contending that fiction and the literature of Parliament interacted at a host of levels--jostling one another in the same bookshops--it reads Dickens's novels in tandem with blue books, the practice texts of shorthand manuals, and Dickens's journalism.

Features

- Explores how learning shorthand as a neophyte journalist influenced Dickens's writing career
- Examines the relationship between Dickens's biography, his fiction, his journalism, and his political engagement

THE AUTHOR: Carolyn Vellenga Berman

Carolyn Vellenga Berman is an Associate Professor of literature and Co-Chair of Literary Studies at Eugene Lang College.

May 2022

Hardcover

9780192845405

368 pages

£90.00 | \$115.00

Read chapters for free:

[Introduction: The Popular Press](#)
[Vagabonds: Suspicious Company in Oliver Twist](#)
[Coda: Victorian Twitter](#)

Free to read until the 28th of November, 2022.

 **OXFORD**
UNIVERSITY PRESS