Quotes from Dickens.

**Quotes from Litte Dorrit**

“It was evident from the general tone of the whole party, that they had come to regard insolvency as the normal state of mankind, and the payment of debts as a disease that occasionally broke out.”

Dickens family in Marshalsea from 1824 (h was 12). Marshalsea closed 1842. Little Dorrit published 1855-57. Dickens writes in Little Dorrit:

“Some of my readers may have an interest in being informed whether or no any portions of the Marshalsea Prison are yet standing. I did not know, myself, until the sixth of this present month, when I went to look. I found the outer front courtyard, often mentioned here, metamorphosed into a butter shop; and I then almost gave up every brick of the jail for lost. Wandering, however, down a certain adjacent 'Angel Court, leading to Bermondsey', I came to 'Marshalsea Place:' the houses in which I recognised, not only as the great block of the former prison, but as preserving the rooms that arose in my mind's-eye when I became Little Dorrit's biographer.”

Angel Place is the path next to the surviving prison wall.

**Dog and pot Sculpture. Noted in Dicken’s autobiography.**“My usual way home was over Blackfriars Bridge and down that turning in the Blackfriars Road which has Rowland Hill’s chapel on one side, and the likeness of a golden dog licking a golden pot over a shop door on the other.”  
The current sign, made from Elm, was created by carpenter and artist Michael Painter for the bicentenary of Dickens’ birth in 2012 .

**Pickwick Papers**. Pickwick found Sam Weller at the  
White Hart coaching inn ‘burnishing a pair of painted tops (boots), the personal property of a farmer who was refreshing himself with a slight lunch of two or three pounds of beef and a pot or two of porter, after the fatigues of the Borough Market’.

Wellerisms

 "Out vith it, as the father said to his child, when he swallowed a [farden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Farthing_(British_coin))."

 "Wery glad to see you, indeed, and hope our acquaintance may be a long 'un, as the gen'l'm'n said to the fi' pun' note."

 "Vich I call addin' insult to injury, as the parrot said ven they not only took him from his native land, but made him talk the English langwidge arterwards."

**Oliver Twist**. Hunt for and demise of Bill Sikes.

“Near the part of the Thames on which the church at Rotherhithe abuts, where the buildings are dirtiest and the vessels on the river blackest,…there exists the filthiest, the strangest, the most extraordinary of the many localities that are hidden in London…”

“In such a neighbourhood stands Jacob’s Island, surrounded by a muddy fitch…known….as Folly Ditch.”

Describing the scene along Folly Ditch. “Windows broken, with poles thrust out, on which to dry the linen that is never there.” “Dirt-besmeared walls and decaying foundations;….every loathsome indication of filth, rot and garbage; all these ornament the banks of Folly Ditch”

“In Jacob’s Island, the warehouses are roofless and empty; the walls are crumbling down… They must have powerful motives for a secret residence who seek a refuge on Jacob’s Island.”

Sikes is on the parapet and preparing to use a rope to escape from the mob. “He lost his balance and stumbled over the parapet. The rope was round his neck. It ran up with his weight. He fell for five and thirty feet. There was a sudden jerk and there he hung, with an open knife clenched in this stiffening hand.”

And remember his faithful dog. “The dog ran backwards and forwards on the parapet with a dismal howl. Collecting himself he jumped to the dead man’s shoulders. Missing his aim he fell into the ditch and striking his head against a stone, dashed out his brains.”