Poster - The Only Way: A Tale of Two Cities

Object: Poster

Place of origin: United Kingdom (made)

Date: ca. 1895-1900 (made)

Artist/Maker: Hassall, John, born 1868 - died 1948 (artist)

Materials and Techniques: lithograph (some red)

Credit Line: Gift of the American Friends of the V&A; Gift to the American Friends by Leslie, Judith and Gabri Schreyer and Alice Schreyer Batko

Museum number: E.823-2004

Gallery location: Prints & Drawings Study Room, level C, case 3G, shelf DR27

Public access description
A Tale of Two Cities (1859) is among Charles Dickens's best known works. The historical novel, set in Paris and London during the French Revolution, was originally issued as a serial by Dickens himself. Different instalments were available every month. The novel proved so popular that it was adapted for the stage as 'The Only Way: A Tale of Two Cities'. The prolific poster artist John Hassall designed this striking image of the character Sidney Carton for the dramatic production. Hassall's work appealed to a wide audience and is here appropriated to advertise the publication for sale in America.

Descriptive line

Physical description
Charles Dickens' smartly dressed Englishman S. Carton on the steps of the guillotine. An angry French mob waves blades in the foreground, reminding the viewer of the blade on the scaffold. Dramatic diagonal lines across the sky, behind.

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URL
http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O106664/the-only-way-a-tale-poster-hassall-john/