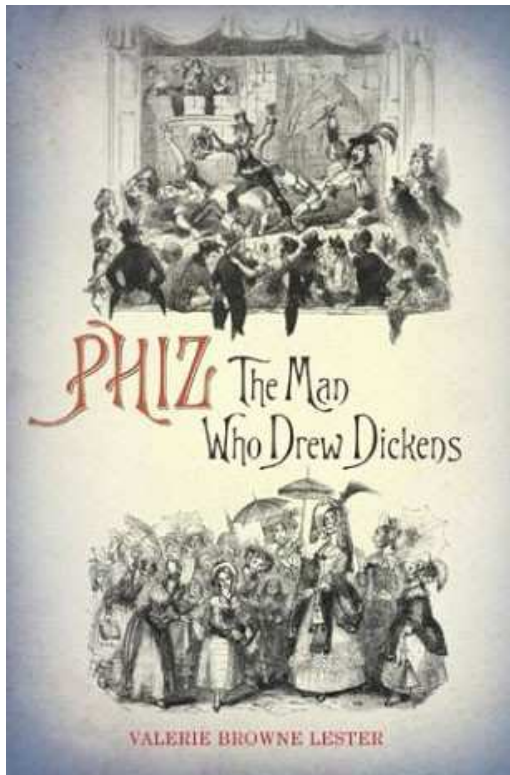


Valerie Lester

Valerie Browne Lester, an independent scholar, writer, and translator living in the Boston area, is descended from Clarence Bicknell's grand-parents. She is the author of *Fasten Your Seat Belts! History and Heroism in the Pan Am Cabin* (1995), which is a history of Pan American told in the voices of its cabin crew; and *Phiz, The Man Who Drew Dickens* (London, 2004), a biography of Hablot Knight Browne, Dickens's principal illustrator (Clarence Bicknell's uncle and Valerie's great-great-grandfather). Her biography of the great Italian printer Giambattista Bodoni (1710-1813) *Giambattista Bodoni: His Life and His World* was published by David Godine in September 2015.



In addition to her books and her translation of Alain-Fournier's *Le Grand Meaulnes* (*The Magnificent Meaulnes*, 2009), she has written poetry, plays, and articles, including "A Bird's Eye View of Nepal," for *The Atlantic Monthly*.

Valerie earned her B.A. from George Washington University and her M.A. from Georgetown. She spent many years teaching writing at GWU, and at the U.S. Naval

Academy for seven years.

She now devotes her time to writing and makes sure that her subjects take her to interesting places like Italy, France, and Jamaica. Her novel *Spanish Town* is set in Jamaica in the late 1700s. A prequel to *Wuthering Heights* and *Jane Eyre*, it is currently under consideration for publication. She has been researching Clarence Bicknell since 2014 and expects to finish this biography in 2017.

