



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

4 July 1989

Dear Charles,

Prime Minister

Agree to present
the Dickens? copy
4/7

Paris Bicentenary Celebrations: Presents

After consulting our mission in Paris, and the Geographical Department concerned in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Western European Department), we understand that the Americans intend to bring a gift for President Mitterrand on the occasion of the Bicentenary. We do not yet know whether the Germans or the Italians intend to bring a gift and await such advice. If the Prime Minister wishes to present President Mitterrand with a gift, the main recommendation is for a suitably British antiquarian book on the French Revolution. Three such books are currently being held by George Bayntun in Bath: they are described below:

Dickens: "A Tale of Two Cities", first edition, original red cloth, neatly repaired, first issue with the mis-print at page 213, 1859. In a first presentation case, red morocco back, gilt. (£650)

"Loi Constitution Francoise", donne a Paris le 14eme Septembre, 1791. L'Imprimerie Royale. Quarto, 63 pages. Recent half mid-brown calf, marbled sides, a little spotted or browned throughout, drop head title. Very rare edition, pre-originale, printed at L'Imprimerie Royale before the one generally regarded as the first edition. The first constitution of revolutionary France preceded by the Decorat des Droits de l'Homme et du Citoyen. (£2,500)

"Memoirs of the History of France during the Reign of Napoleon". Finely printed on hand-made paper, Golden Cockerell Press, folio, 1945. Full red morocco gilt extra with emblematic tooling, with a miniature of Napoleon by William Bennett set under glass in the front cover. A particularly fine example of mid-century printing and recent binding. Dictated by the Emperor at St Helena to the generals who shared his captivity and published from the original manuscripts corrected by himself. Now edited by Somerset de Chair. (£1,200)

/Our



Our mission in Paris and Western European Department particularly recommend the Dickens, and feel (because of their French slant) that it would not be particularly appropriate to present one of the other two books.

Yours ever,

Richard Somy

(R H T Gozney)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street