In Little Dorrit, which depicts the Calvinist, Sabbatarian London of 1825, Dickens inadvertently slipped forward thirty years in his effort to present the South Sea islands in dystopic terms, to suggest the continuity of their brutal superstitions with those of a nominally enlightened city:

No pictures, no unfamiliar animals, no rare plants or flowers, no natural or artificial wonders of the ancient world—all taboo with that enlightened strictness, that the ugly South Sea gods in the British Museum might have supposed themselves at home again. (28)

According to T. W. Hill, “this reference may be specifically to the images from Easter Island which, when Dickens was writing Little Dorrit, had recently been added to the National Collection” (197).

I think we also catch an oblique glimpse of these same idols in Hard Times, Little Dorrit's predecessor, for their proto-Cubist lines seem to have inspired his conception of Mr. Gradgrind. There Dickens presents his foursquare, stony figure as the emanation of a milieu identical with that of Little Dorrit's London. Compare “a plain, bare, monotonous vault” with “Sunday evening in London, gloomy, close, stale” (Little Dorrit 28) and “Nothing for the spent toiler to do, but to compare the monotony..."
was greatly admired by many authors, including Jorge Luis Borg.

Robert Louis Stevenson was born on November 13, 1850 in Edinburgh, Scotland. He is best known for his novel, *Treasure Island*. Stevenson was sent to study science at Edinburgh University to become a civil engineer, but he was not much interested in studying science; instead, he spent ample time studying French literature, Scottish history, and the works of Darwin and Spencer. Stevenson spent 6 months in South France during which he worked on numerous essays. He continued with the flow of writing after his return to Edinburgh, writing articles, book reviews, and short stories. Stevenson spent his early twenties developing a severe respiratory illness from which he was to suffer for the rest of his life. Stevenson was born in Edinburgh in 1850. The son of a prosperous civil engineer, he was expected to follow the family profession but finally was allowed to study law at Edinburgh University. Stevenson reacted violently against the Presbyterian respectability of the city’s professional classes and this led to painful clashes with his parents. In his early twenties he became afflicted with a severe respiratory illness from which he was to suffer for the rest of his life. Stevenson was born in Edinburgh in 1850. The son of a prosperous civil engineer, he was expected to follow the family profession but finally was allowed to study law at Edinburgh University. Stevenson reacted violently against the Presbyterian respectability of the city’s professional classes and this led to painful clashes with his parents. In his early twenties he became afflicted with a severe respiratory illness from which he was to suffer for the rest of his life. Stevenson was born in Edinburgh in 1850. The son of a prosperous civil engineer, he was expected to follow the family profession but finally was allowed to study law at Edinburgh University. 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