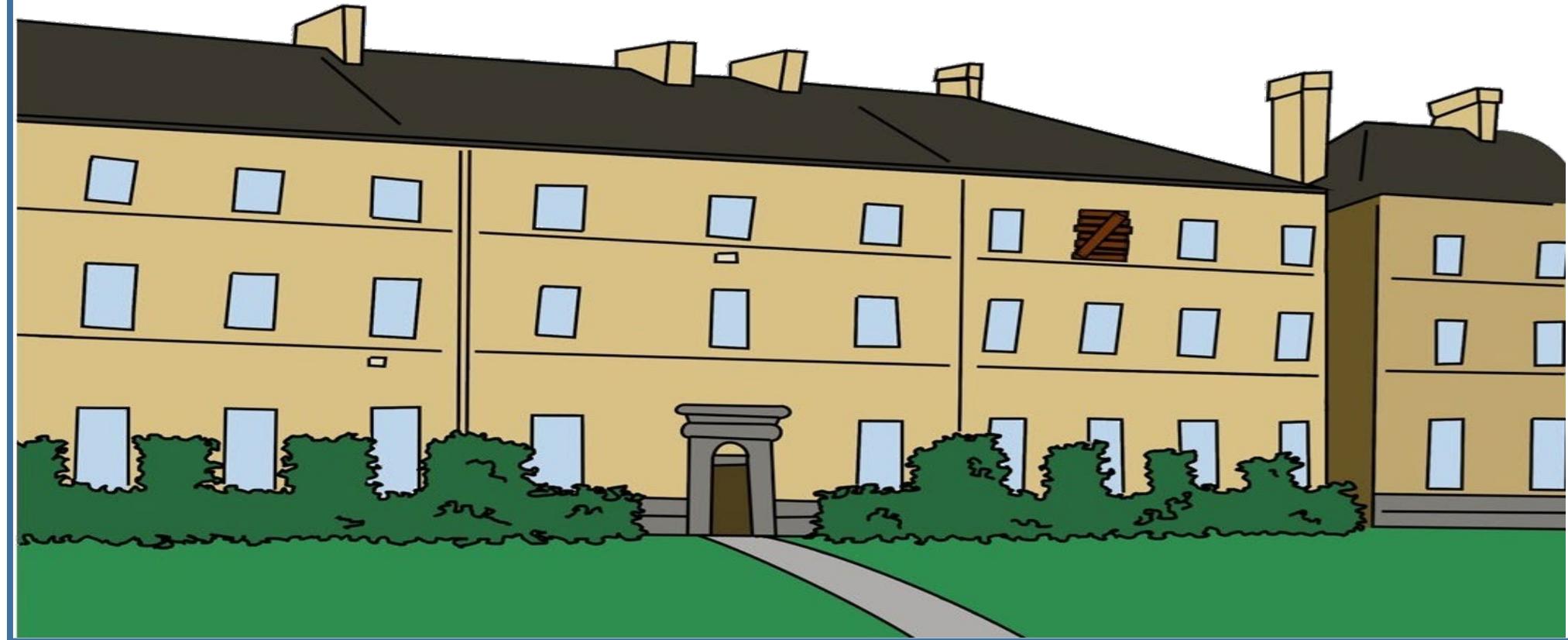


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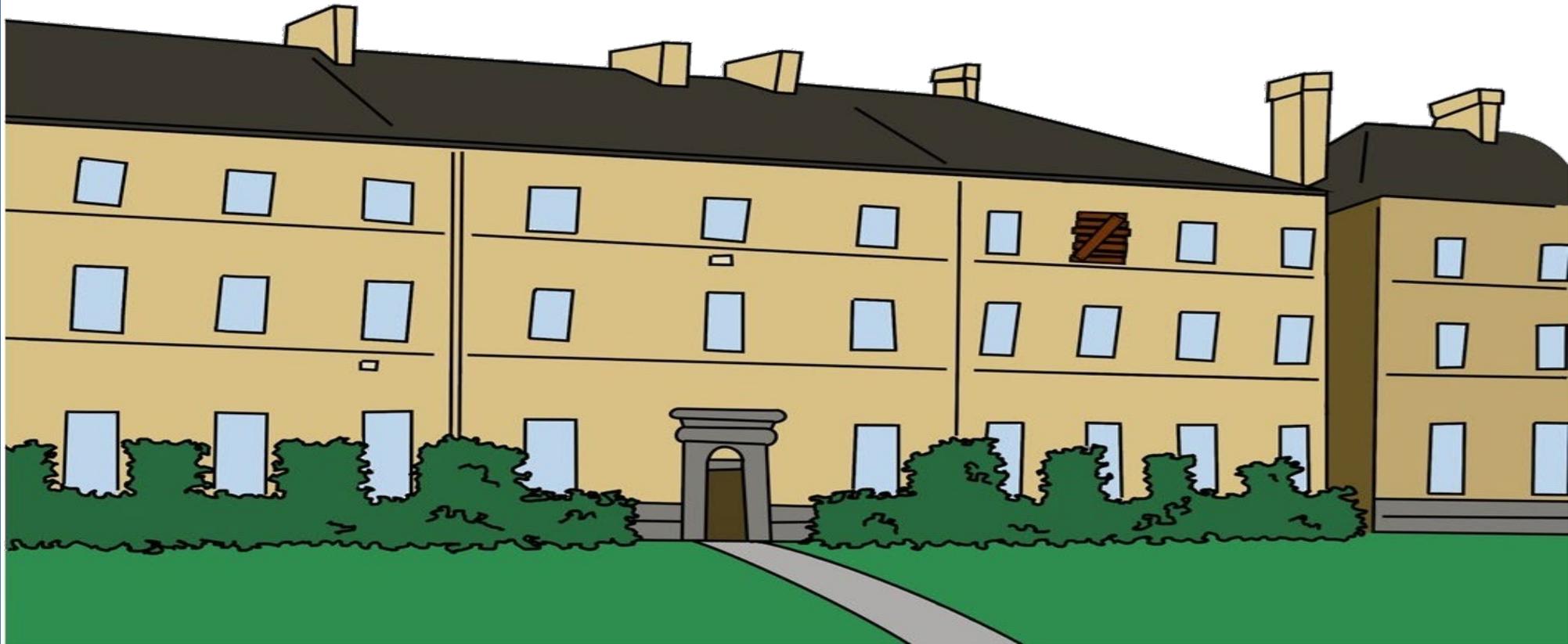
Presents

"The Life and Times in Victorian London"



Baker Street Elementary

The Life and Times in Victorian London
014 -- 221b: A World-Famous Address -- January, 2022

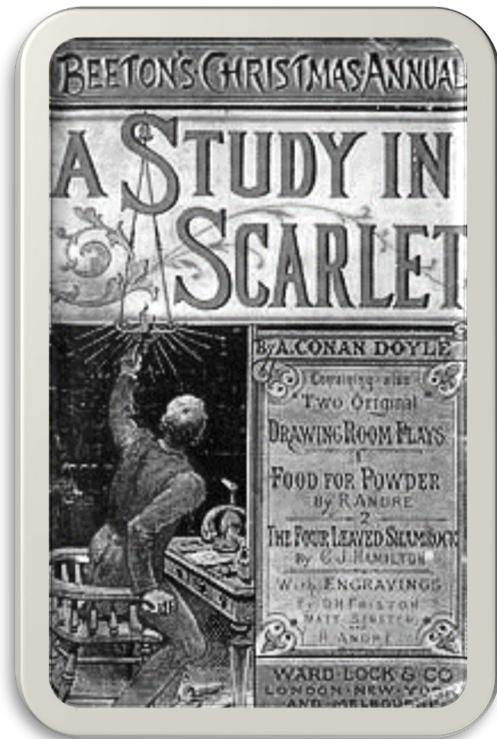




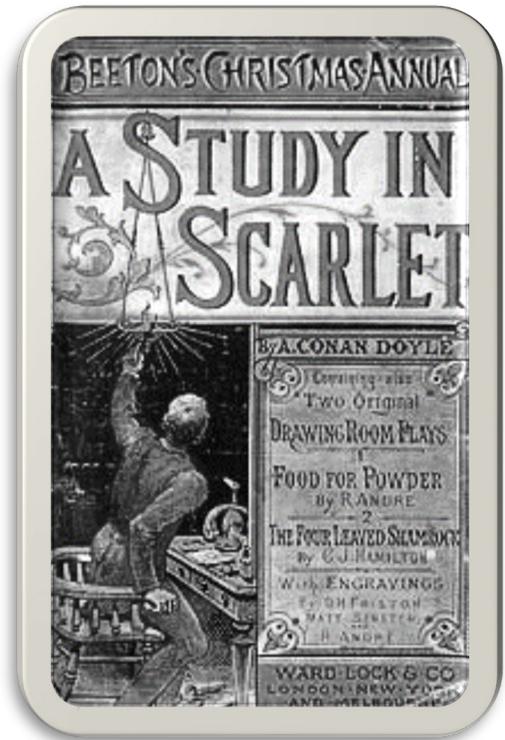
Welcome to topic # 014... today we will be looking at our future residence, or at least the address, known throughout the world.



*Within a day of meeting,
we will move into 221b
Baker Street*



When Arthur Conan Doyle
pens A Study in Scarlet,
Baker Street existed, but
the address did not.



William Baker originally laid out the street bearing his name in the 18th century, and the numbers extended only into the 100s at the time of the story's publication.





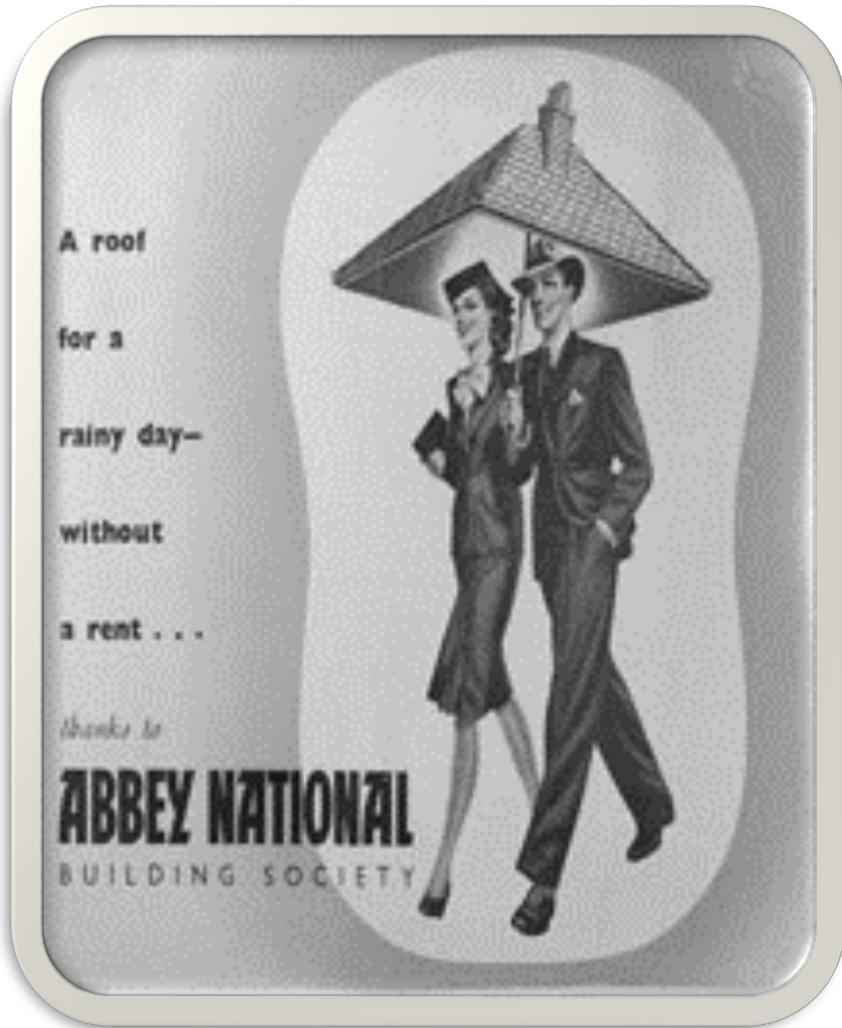
With such a street actually existing in London, reality finally caught up with fiction in the 1930s when Baker Street...





...York Place, and Upper Baker Street were renamed together as Baker Street and the buildings renumbered.

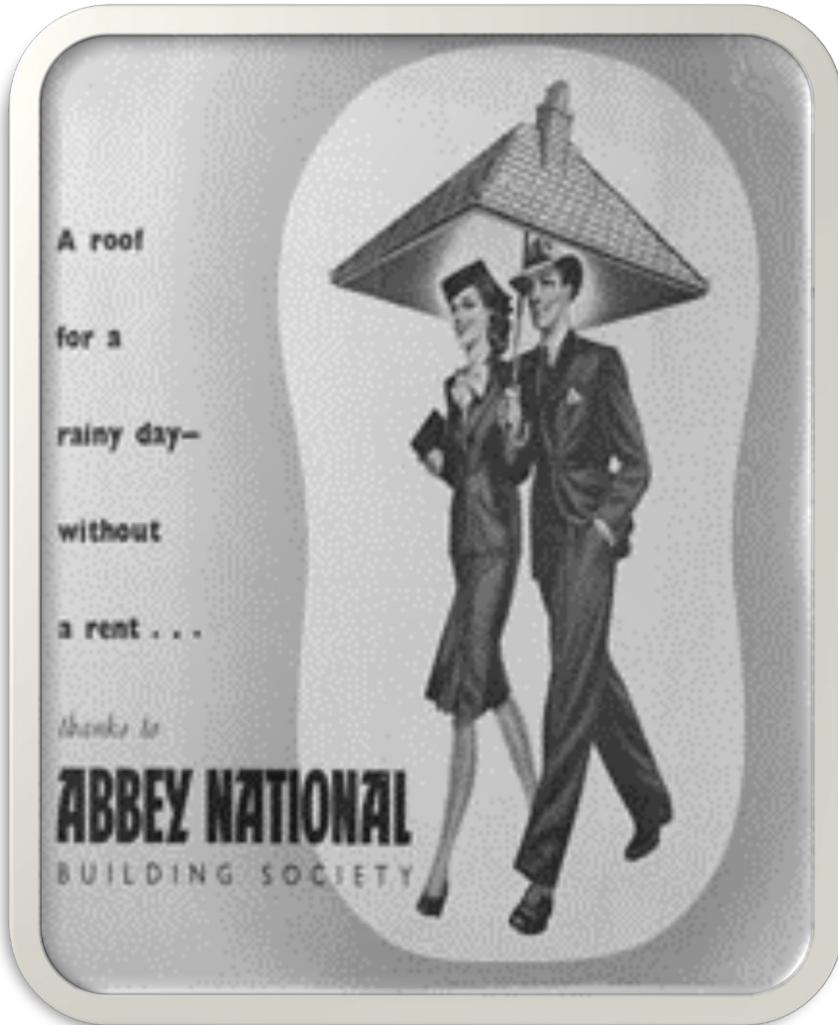




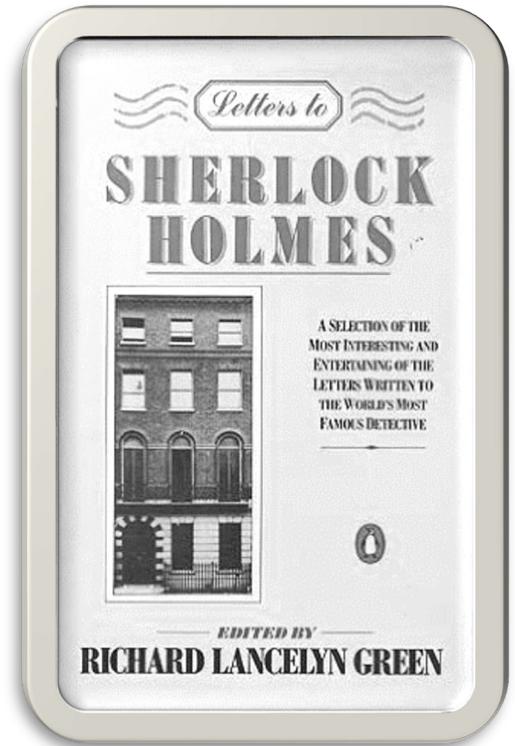
*At that point, a building housing
the Abbey National Building
Society, a financial firm,
became 221 Baker Street...*



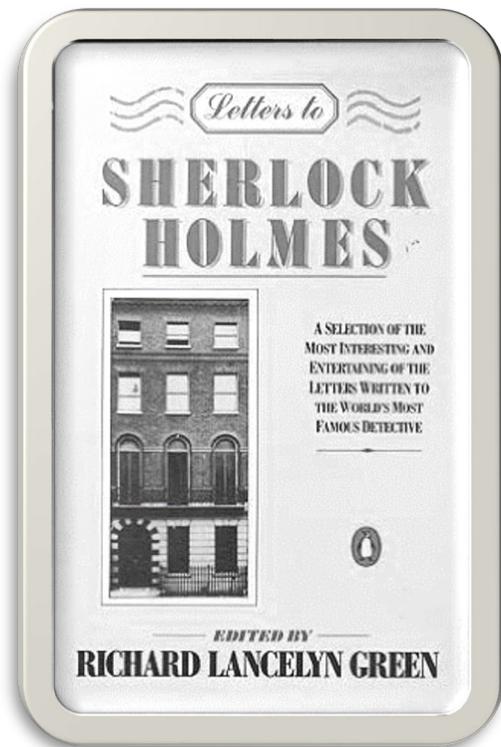
...and almost immediately the Royal Mail began delivering letters addressed to me to the organization.



The correspondence was great enough for their public relations office to employ a full-time secretary...



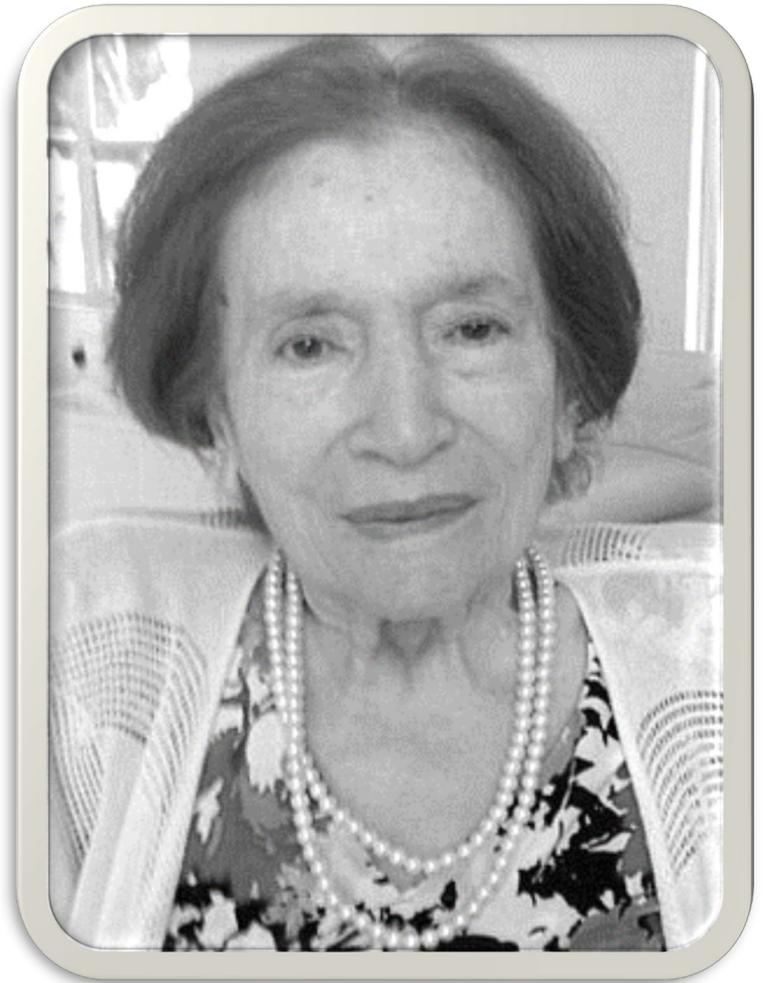
...to respond to it all, most often noting you had retired to raise bees in Sussex.



In 1990, the Sherlock Holmes Museum opened farther down at 239 Baker Street in a Georgian townhouse that resembled Doyle's description of our residence.



John Aidiniantz purchased the house with funds his mother Grace raised by selling her own home.



MIAMI
FLORIDA 33177
U.S.A.
6th Nov. '98.

Dear Sherlock Holmes,

I have heard that some of the lads of London help you from time to time in solving crimes. I would like to let you know that I also am at your service.

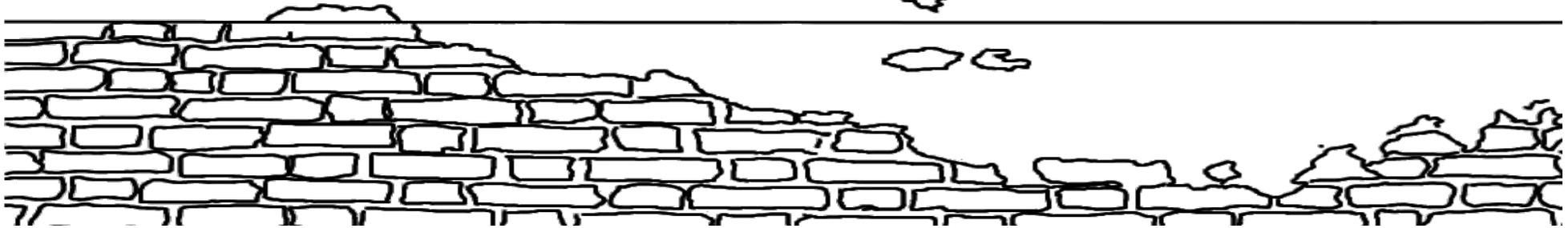
Any time you need help solving some of the cases which are connected with the United States of America, I will be there for you; especially if the case involves dinosaurs or fish, as these subjects are my speciality. Just let me know.

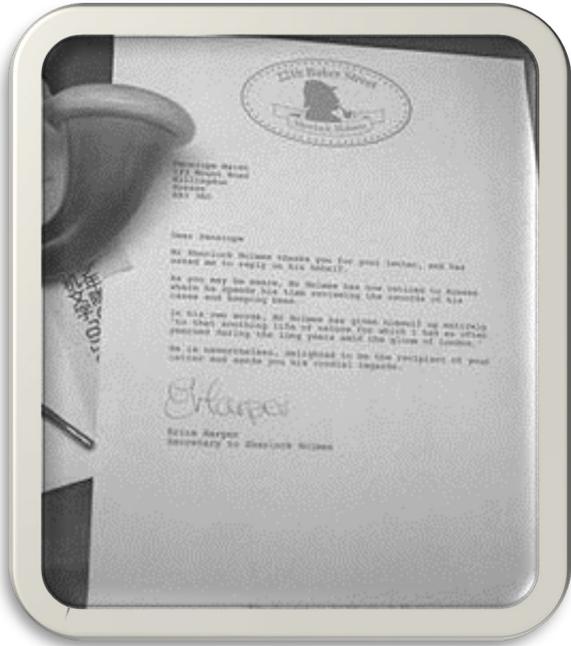
Give my regards to Dr Watson.

Yours sincerely,

Brandon Sellers (5 y/o).

The museum and Abbey National fought for the next twelve years over who should receive the mail still arriving for me.

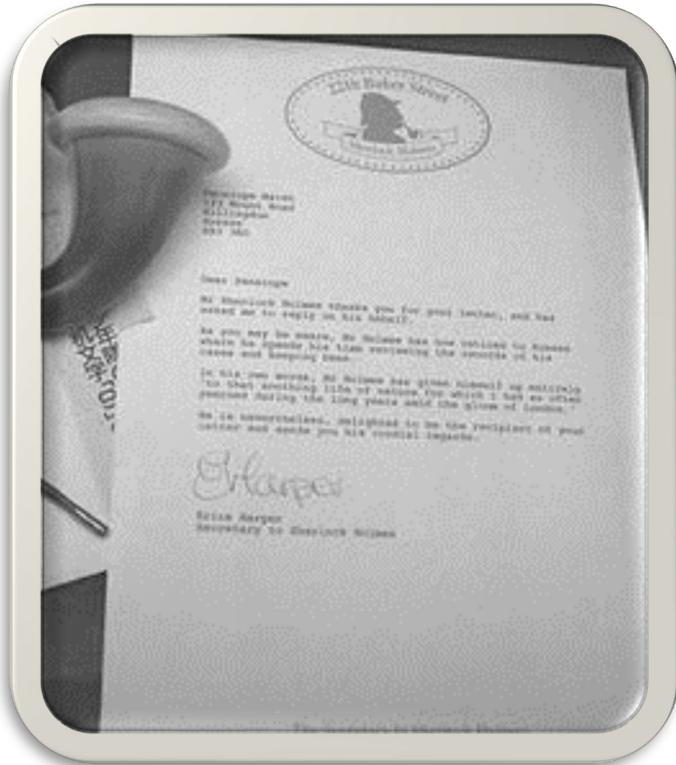




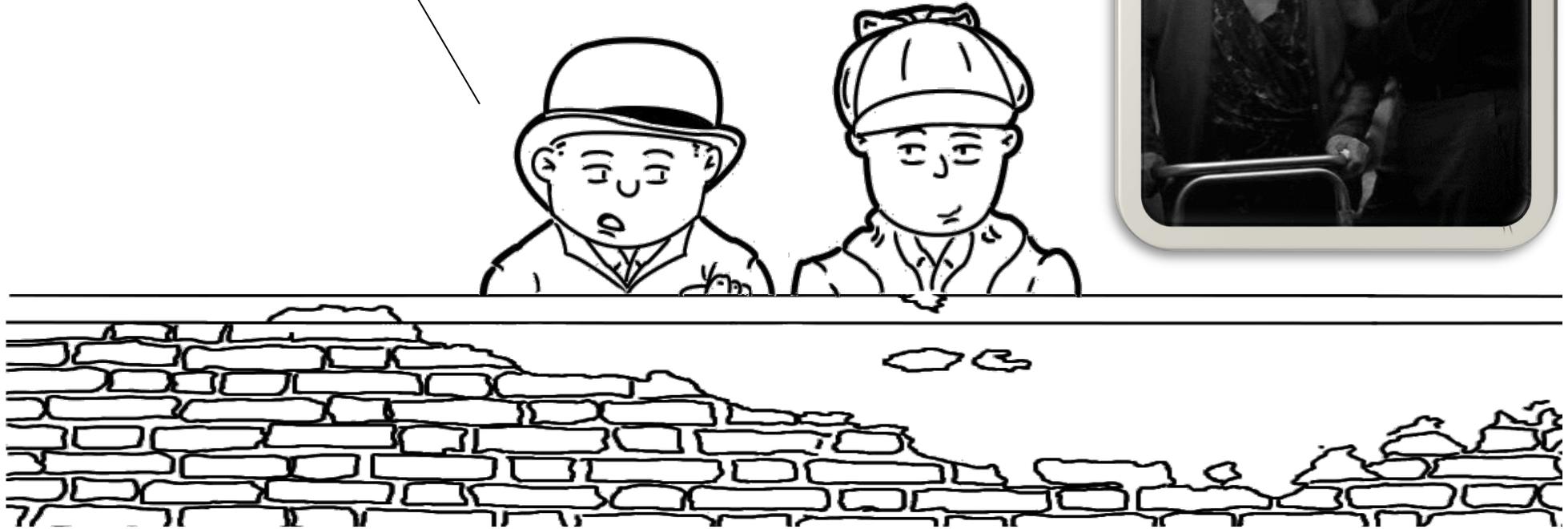
The firm argued they were more equipped to handle the letters.



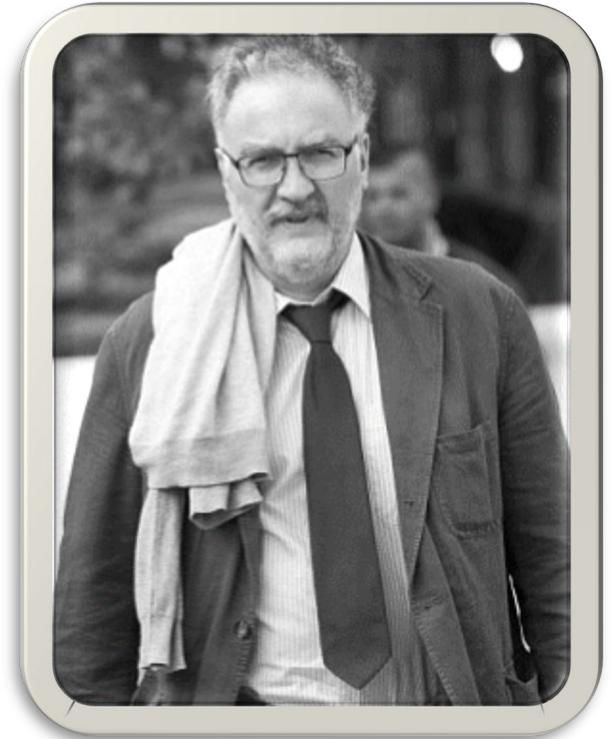
Only after the company moved to new quarters in 2002 and the City of Westminster approved the museum's use of the address 221B did the Royal Mail agree to deliver correspondence there.



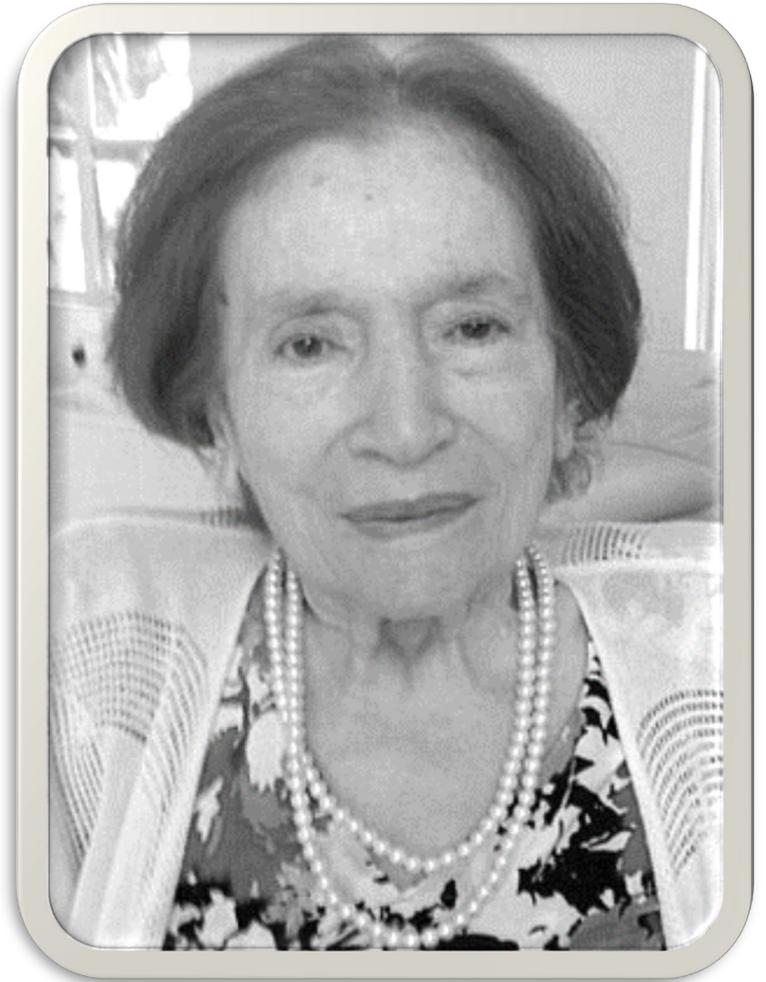
Unfortunately, the museum owner did not only have a contentious relationship with outside interests.



Family members have accused each other of various wrong-doings and sued each other for a portion of the £20 million business.



The in-fighting took a toll on Grace Aidianiantz, who died, the family reported, of a broken heart in December, 2015.



The museum provides its 700 annual visitors a recreation of the full flat, including your bedroom and a Victorian water closet on an upper floor.





Other replicas exist, but do not necessarily offer as complete a vision of the our living quarters.



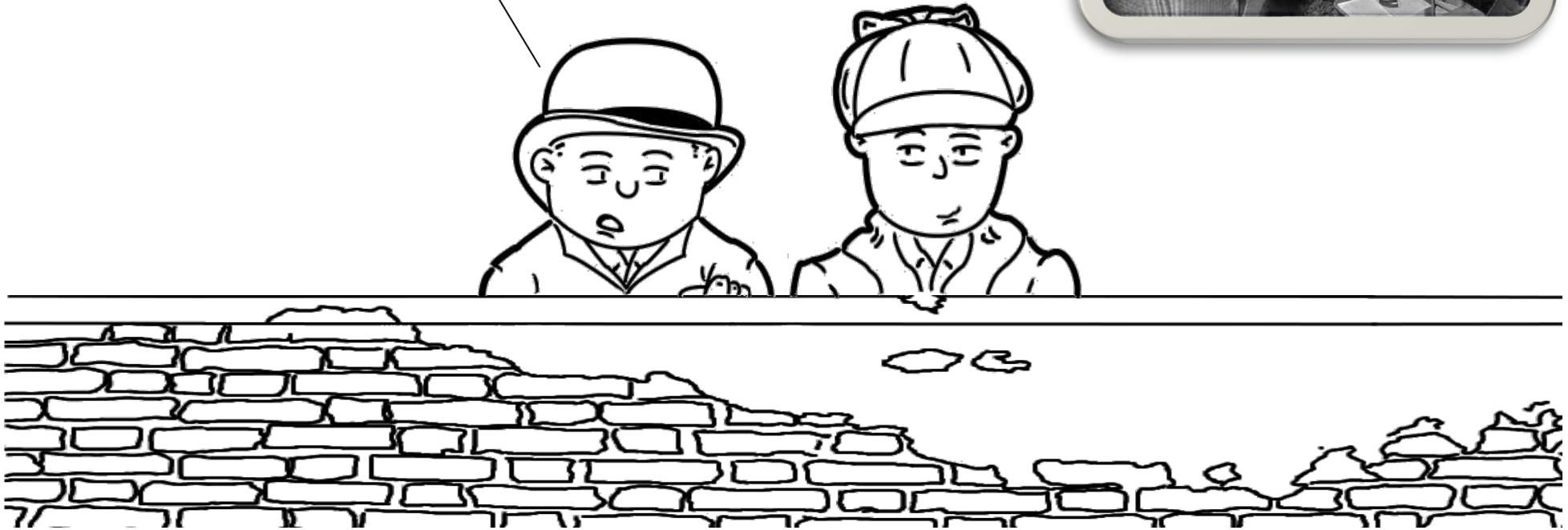
While certain aspects of the apartment are described by Doyle, such as the number of rooms, the fireplace in the sitting room, my chemical table...



...your desk, and the basket, or wicker, chair for guests, other features were less defined, such as wallpaper or other furnishings.



As a result, the various replicas reflect the tastes and interests of the designer.



For example, the Sherlock Holmes Pub displays the first collection of Holmes memorabilia collected for the Festival of Britain in 1951, including Doyle's desk and chair.



Other depictions can be found at the Sherlock Holmes Museum in Meiringen, Switzerland near the Reichenbach Falls; another museum inside a hotel at Lucens, Switzerland; and the Wilson Library at the University of Minnesota.





In all, the rooms are arranged to appear as if we just left and will return shortly.





Fires burn in the fireplace, a jack-knife holds recent correspondence in place on the mantel, and papers are scattered about the room.



The visitor is left the impression that at any moment, we will enter, offer the basket chair to the guest, and settle back as a new mystery is presented to us.



*So we have completed topic
014 in our series...*

*Yes, but we'll be
back with another
topic soon...*



References for this topic:

- 1) Doyle, Arthur Conan; Ryan, Robert (2012-12-13). The Complete Sherlock Holmes (Kindle Locations 477-478). Kindle Edition.
- 2) www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/the-mystery-of-221b-baker-street-3608784/?no-ist
- 3) www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3270857/A-case-Sherlock-Holmes-Founder-Baker-Street-museum-accused-embezzling-mother-s-money-bitter-court-battle-half-sisters-brother-lucrative-tourist-trap.html
- 4) <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3341419/Founder-Sherlock-Holmes-Museum-dies-broken-heart-amid-long-running-poisonous-feud-2m-ticket-sales-divided-family.html>
- 5) Steven Doyle and David Crowder, Sherlock Holmes for Dummies (Hoboken, NJ: Wiley Publishing, 2010).



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"The Life and Times in Victorian London"

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JOE FAY

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RUSTY MASON

&

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