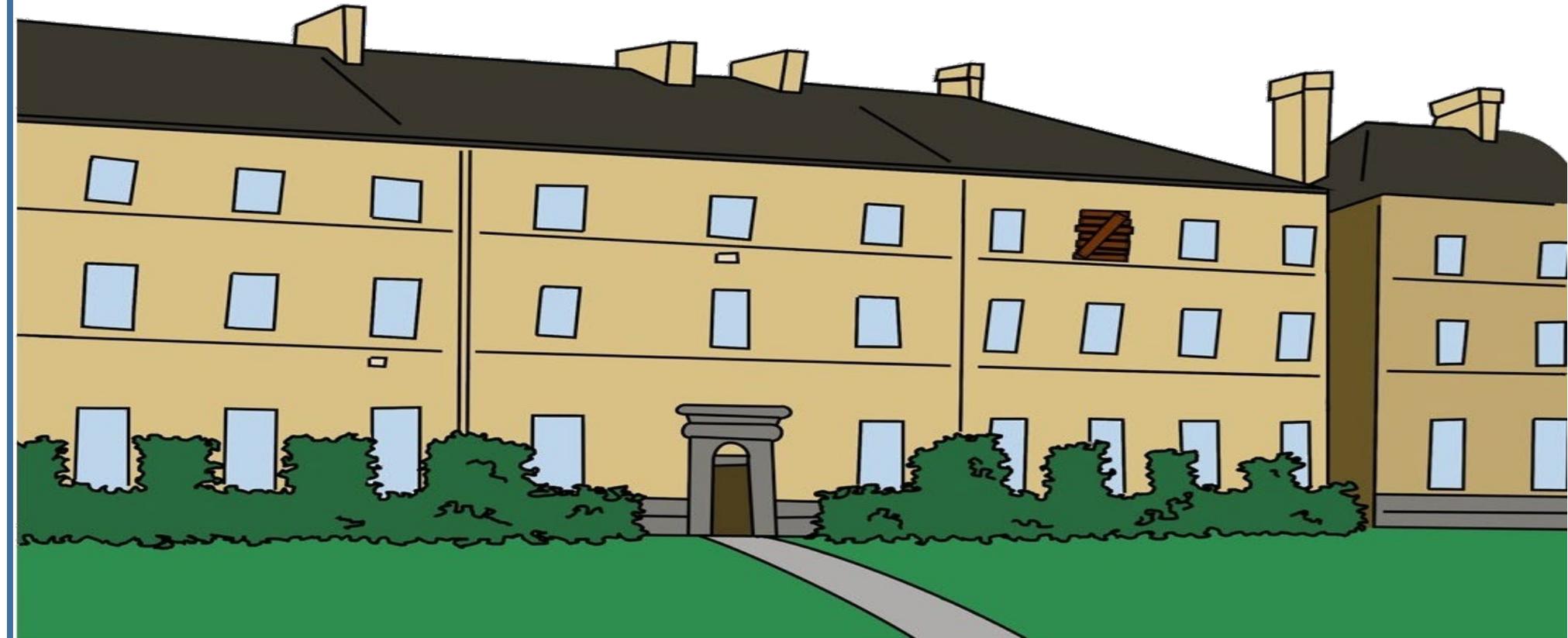


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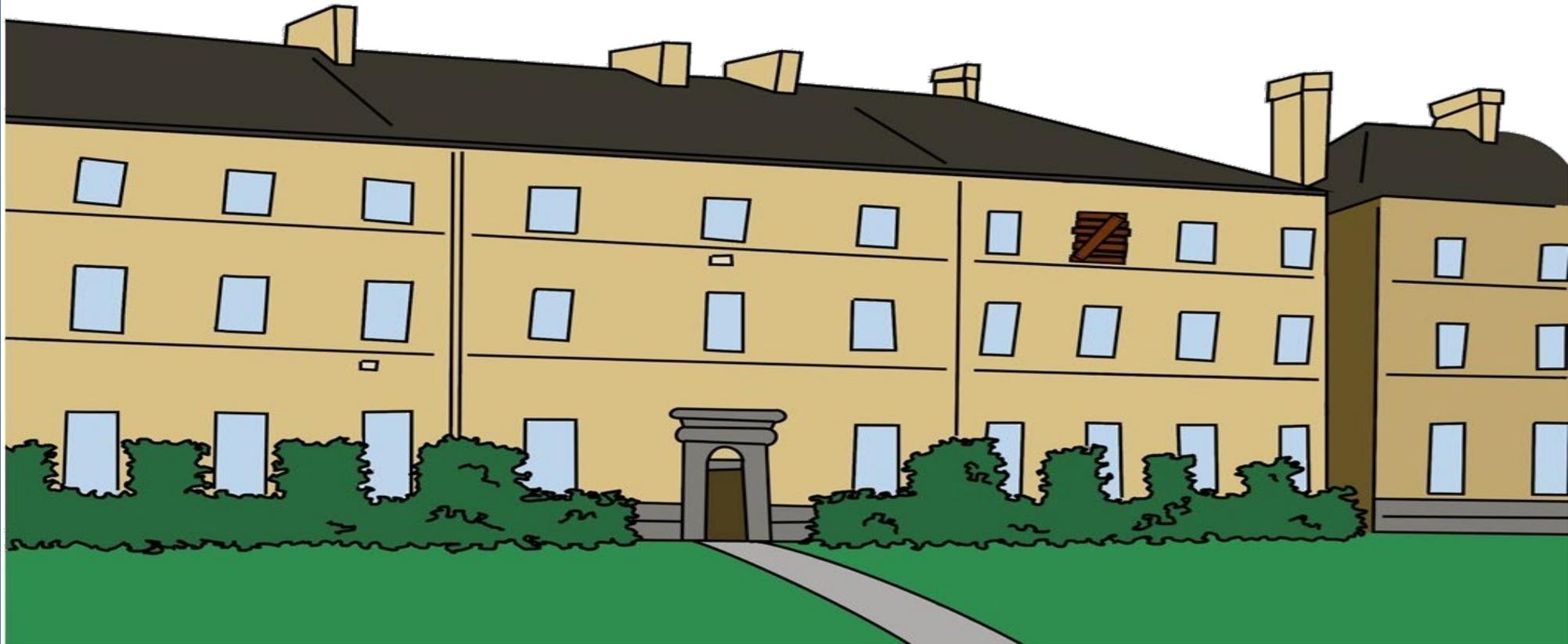
Presents

"The Life and Times in Victorian London"



Baker Street Elementary

The Life and Times in Victorian London
082 -- The Fine Art of Collecting -- February, 2022





*Welcome to topic # 082...
Today, Master Stamford and
I will explore collecting in the
Victorian period...*



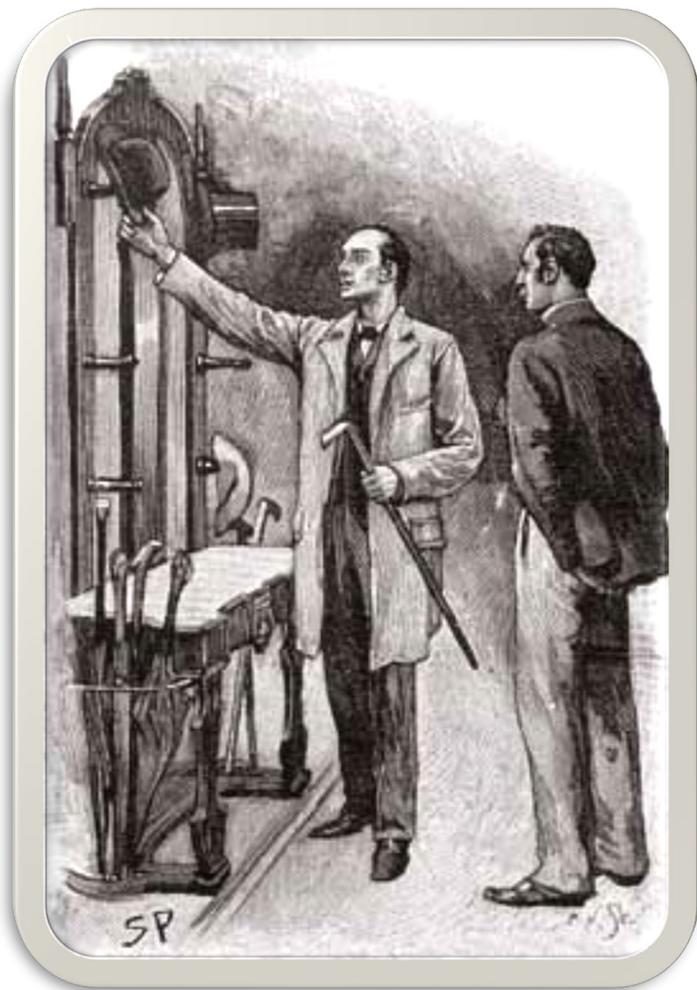
A number of collectors and collections appear in the Sherlock Holmes stories.





Among them are Jack Stapleton from *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, known for his butterfly and moth collection...





Colonel Barclay had a weapons collection in "The Adventure of the Crooked Man;" and Baron Adelbert.



Gruner's tastes ran to women and Chinese pottery in "The Adventure of the Illustrious Client."



*Watson and you are
not above your own
collections.*



You have scrapbooks where he catalogs items, such as biographical information, and Watson, notes and objects from your various cases.



While the interest and art of collecting can be traced back to ancient times (Caesar referred to a "collection" as a gathering of things, and Aristotle had a herbarium)...



43 ARISTOTLE'S MASTER-PIECE.

of the child in the womb, according to the energy given it by the divine Creator, Maker, and Upholder of all things, both in heaven and earth.
By some others more briefly, but to the same purpose, the forming of the child in the womb of its mother is thus described: three days in the milk, three in the blood, twelve days from the flesh, and eighteen the members, and forty days afterwards the child is inspired with life, being endowed with an immortal living soul.

SECT. II. Of the Manner of the Child's lying in the Womb from the Conception to the Birth.



...the hobby truly gained momentum in the Middle Ages and is considered an important characteristic of human society.





*Assembling and organizing objects,
such as from various cultures and
societies, offer a different context...*





...for the items as they are grouped in ways not seen in nature and provide new insights into their character.



The reasons behind collecting vary, but pleasure provides the basis for the desire. Finding, obtaining, and reviewing one's collection feed into the pleasure center.



*Acquiring a rare piece can
produce pride in the owner and
admiration from fellow
collectors.*



*Others enjoy the thrill
of the chase and
attaining one's goal.*



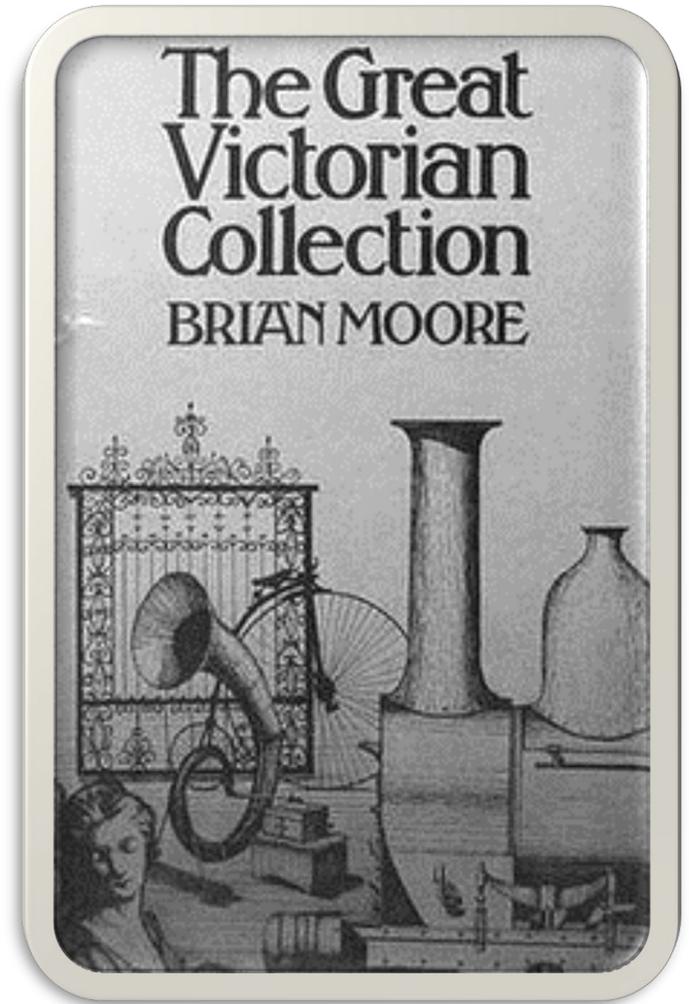
*When the objects are antiques,
the collection can provide the
person with a sense of history,
or an intellectual satisfaction.*



Collecting became a major interest for the nobility and landed gentry during the 1700s and 1800s.



*These aristocratic collectors
traveled far and wide to
obtain different objects,
(based on their interest)...*



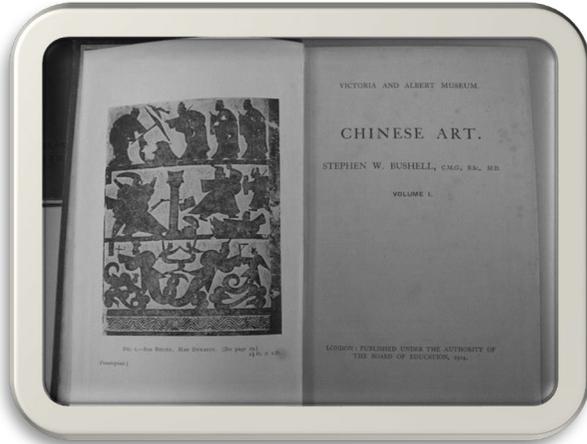
...art, books, animal specimens, etc.—and stored them in their “cabinets of curiosities.”





Such rooms, designed for keeping them safe as well as permit private viewing, served to indicate the nobleman's power and wealth.

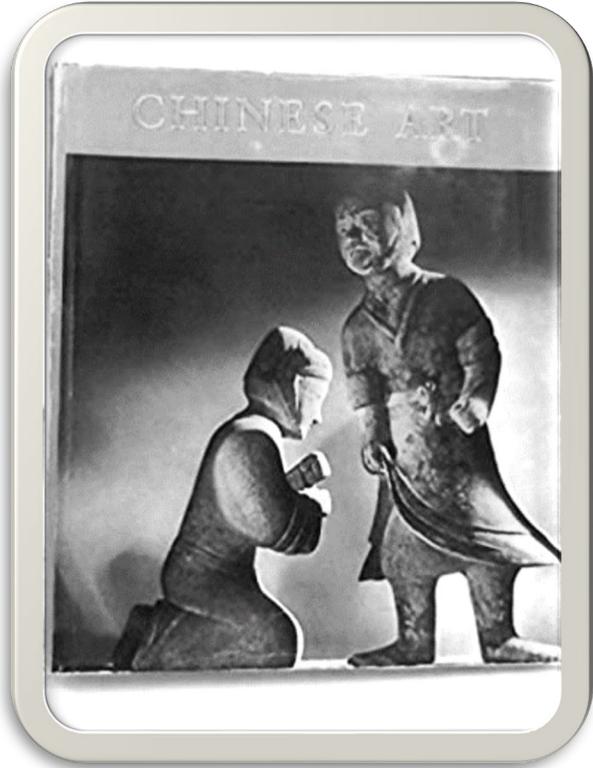




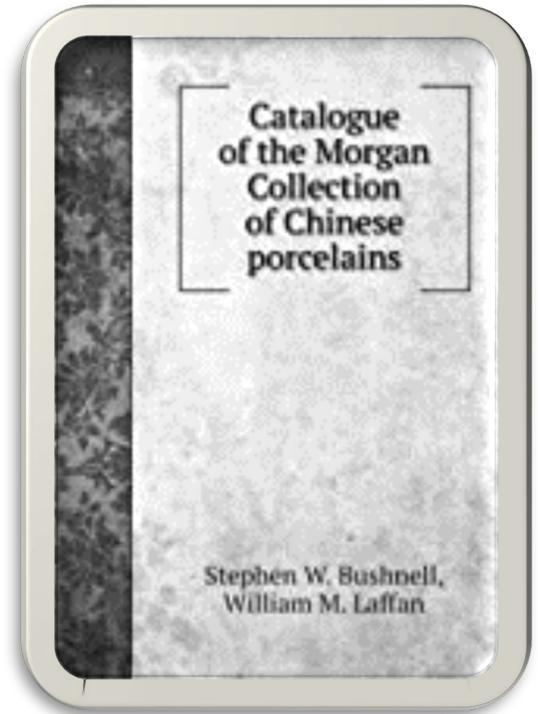
Among the most famous during this period was Stephen W. Bushnell, a Victorian authority on Chinese porcelain.



He collected pieces while serving as a physician in Peking (Beijing) and later produced a number of books on the subject, increasing the interest of such works in the West.



*No doubt some of Watson's
cramming on Chinese pottery before
meeting with Baron Gruner included
Bushnell's research.*



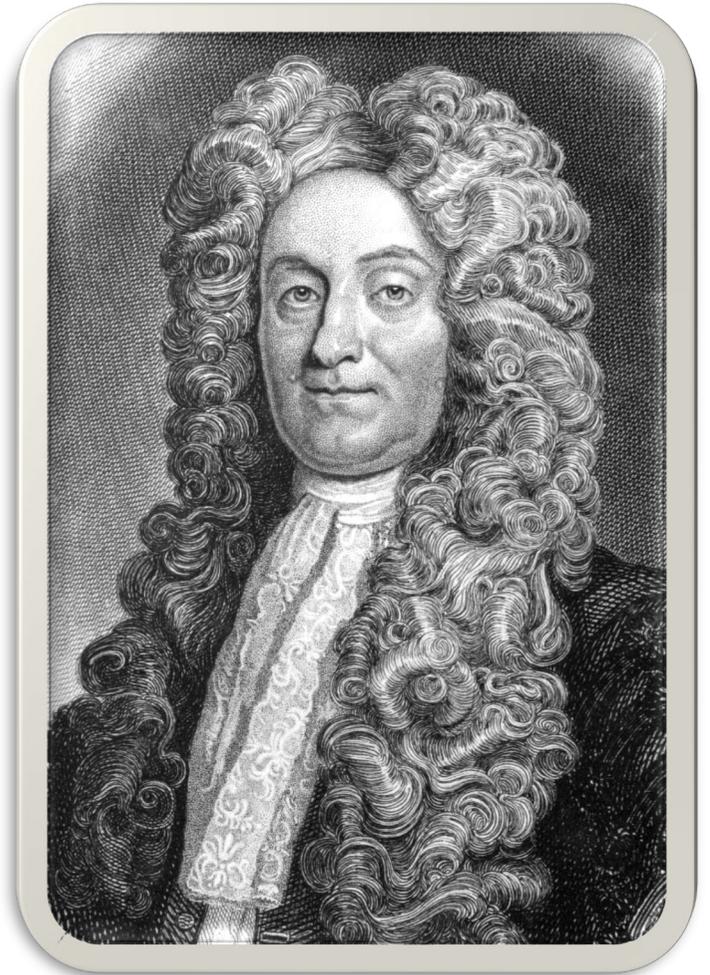
Perhaps the epitome of such a hobbyist in the Canon would be Nathan Garrideb, who housed his collection in a room...



...that appeared "like a small museum," and dreamed of being a second "Hans Sloane."



*An eighteenth-century physician,
Sir Hans Sloane began collecting
while serving as the Jamaican
governor's physician.*

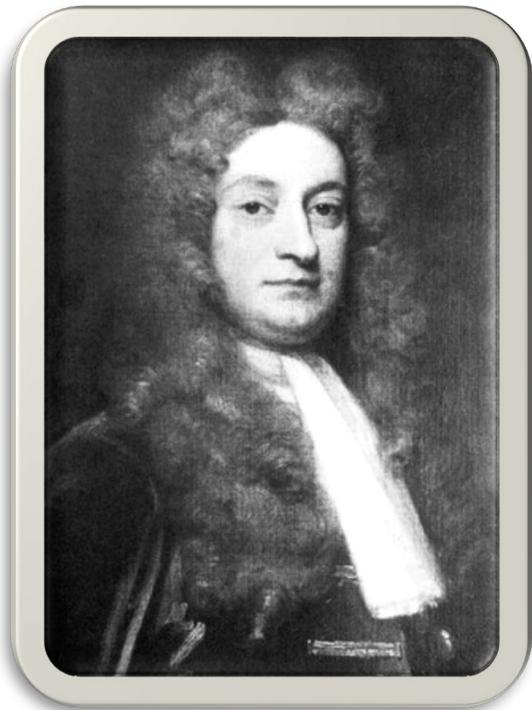


While in that colony, he assembled more than 800 plants (along with specimens of animals and other curiosities)...



*...that served as the basis
for his natural history work
on the flora and fauna of the
British Caribbean colonies.*





He continued to collect items from travelers after he returned to Britain, as well as absorbing other collectors' inventories.





In 1753, he willed his collection to the Crown, with the condition that it be housed in a public museum.



Parliament responded by creating the British Museum, using his collection as its base.



As Nathan Garrideb illustrates, however, collecting can have drawbacks.



Watson describes the man as "round-backed" and "cadaverous" because he never exercises and prefers to spend his time admiring his collection.



*While not enough
information exists on the
man's habits to determine
whether his collecting...*



...has moved into the mental disorder of "hoarding," his behavior does suggest a pattern in that direction.





Of course, I have my own hoarding tendencies, mostly related to the newspapers I carefully catalog at some point after filling every corner with them...





*...but just as important is
Watson's, who pulled from them
the sixty cases that make up the
Sherlockian stories.*



For both of us, our habits did not hinder our abilities to serve as a team to solve the most intriguing of cases, but instead enhanced them.



*So we have completed
topic # 082 in our
series...*

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



References for this topic:

- 1) <https://lignup.com/collectibles/103-history.html>
- 2) <https://historyjournal.org.uk/2021/01/27/collecting-contexts-why-do-we-collect/>
- 3) <https://coinweek.com/education/want-stuff-eight-views-psychology-collecting/>
- 4) <https://nationalpsychologist.com/2007/01/the-psychology-of-collecting/10904.html>
- 5) <https://www.hcplive.com/view/the-psychology-of-collecting>
- 6) <https://www.britishmuseum.org/about-us/british-museum-story/sir-hans-sloane>
- 7) Monica Schmidt, "You Have Been on eBay, I Perceive: the Psychopathology of Sherlockian Hoarding," Baker Street Journal, Volume 69, No. 1 (Spring 2019), pp 26-30.



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