

Baker Street *Elementary*

PRESENTS
"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"



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THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON
A041 -- VICTORIAN WOMEN'S FASHION -- JANUARY, 2022





**WELCOME TO TOPIC # 041... TODAY WE WILL BE
LOOKING AT WOMEN'S FASHIONS... SPECIFICALLY
DRESSES AND OTHER GARMENTS...**



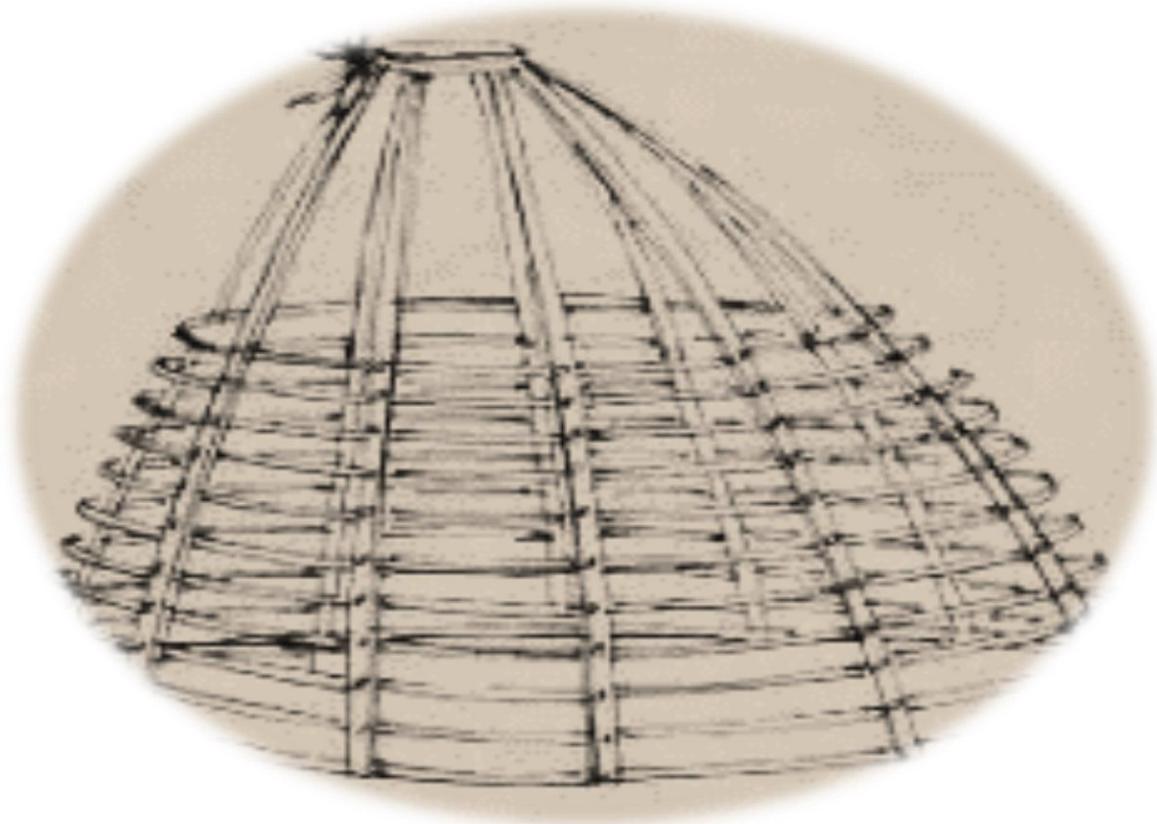
NOT OFTEN HOLMES AND I DISCUSS WOMEN'S FASHIONS, SO THIS SHOULD BE INTERESTING.



IN OUR TIME, WOMEN'S FASHIONS WERE VERY ELEGANT AND TRIMMED WITH LACE FRILLS, BRAID, FRINGES, AND GATHERS.



WHEN YOU SEE A SKIRT THAT FORMS A CIRCLE AROUND THE WOMAN, IT WAS BEING SUPPORTED BY A 'CRINOLINE.' WHICH WAS A RIGID FRAME.





OUR SOCIETY'S MODESTY DICTATED WOMEN STILL COVER THEIR ARMS AND LEGS... THE LESS EXPOSED SKIN, THE MORE RESPECTABLE.



SEVERAL LAYERS OF PETTICOATS AND UNDERGARMENTS WERE UNDERNEATH THE SKIRTS... AND THE SKIRTS THEMSELVES HAD SEVERAL YARDS OF MATERIAL.

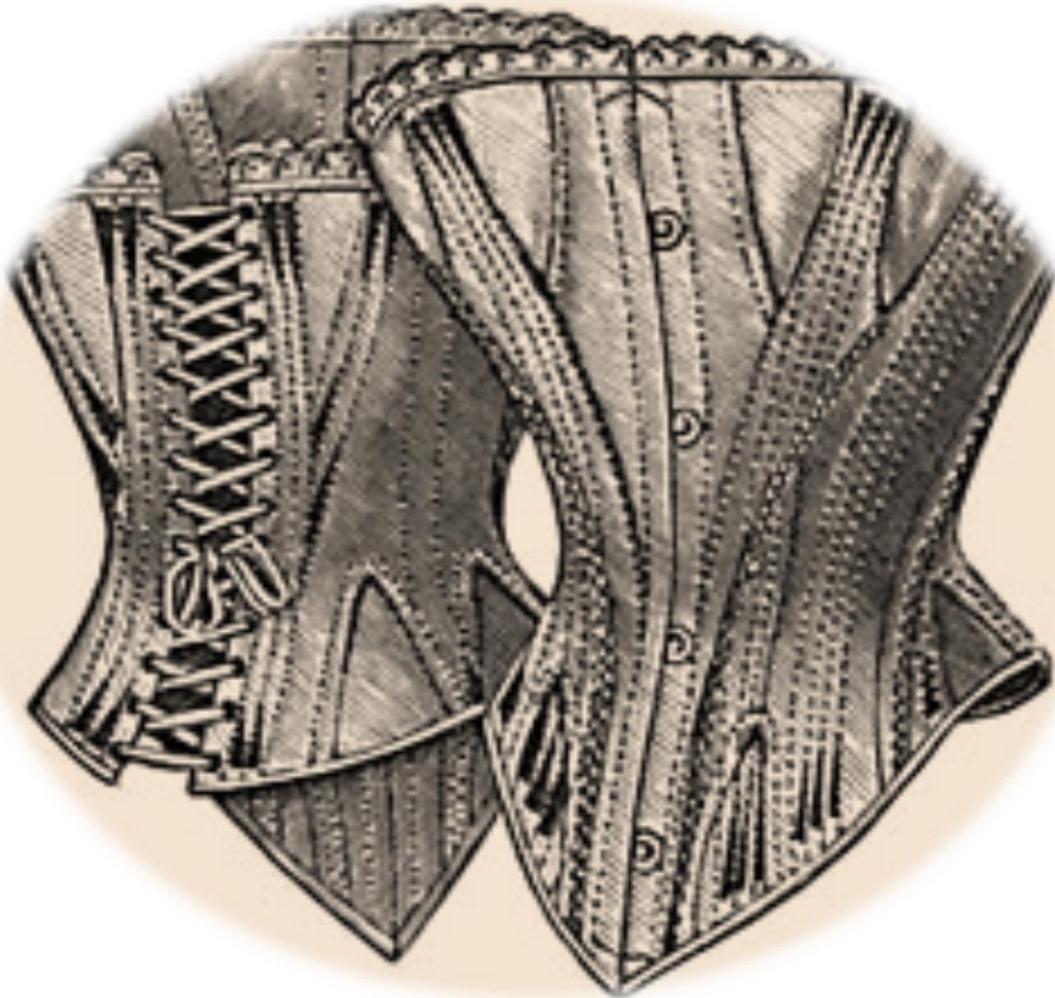




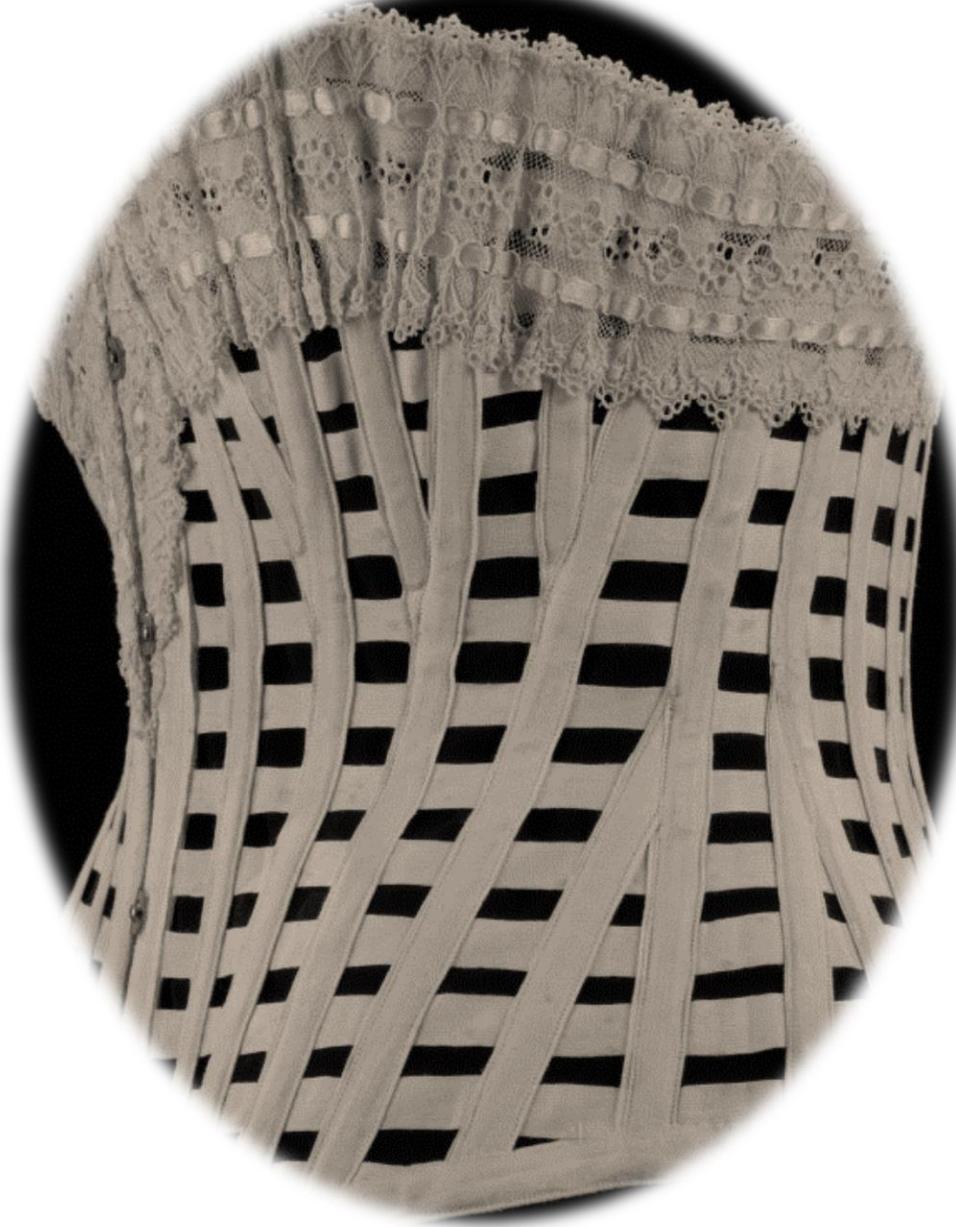
THE BODICE, THE PART OF A WOMAN'S DRESS, EXCLUDING SLEEVES, THAT IS ABOVE THE WAIST, WERE WORN AS TIGHTLY AS POSSIBLE.



THE CORSET WAS WORN UNDERNEATH THE BODICE,
AND HELPED GIVE A WOMAN AN HOURGLASS
FIGURE... BUT THEY WERE SO PAINFUL.



TO PINCH THE BODY SHAPE DOWN EVEN MORE,
WOMEN RESORTED TO INSERTING WHALEBONES
AND STEEL INTO THE BODICE TO HOLD THEIR
FIGURE TO THE DESIRE SHAPE.





**PEOPLE THOUGHT VICTORIAN WOMEN WERE PRONE TO
FAINTING DUE TO THEIR DELICATE EMOTIONAL NATURE...**





**... WHEN IT IS ACTUALLY THE LONDON HEAT, OR
THE MASSIVE CLOTHING LAYERING WE ENDURED,
WHICH RESTRICTED OUR ABILITY TO BREATHE!**



DURING MID-CENTURY, SEVERAL UNDERSLEEVES BECAME POPULAR, WORN UNDER THE DRESS SLEEVE ITSELF.



A SECOND COLLAR WOULD BE ADDED TO THE DRESS.



THE DRESSES WERE TOO COMPLICATED FOR THE AVERAGE WOMAN TO SEW THEMSELVES, SO THEY WOULD HIRE A SEAMSTRESS OR TAILOR TO MAKE THE DRESS.



FOR LADY'S MAIDS, ADAPTED TO THE PAPER

A 'PELERINE' OR SHORT CAPE OR JACKET WAS WORN FOR OUTDOOR CONDITIONS. YOU COULD RECOGNIZE THEM BY THE POINTED ENDS IN THE FRONT OF THE OUTFIT.



**GLOVES WERE WORN, EVEN IN THE SUMMERTIME,
ADDING TO THE BODY TEMPERATURE... A WOMAN
CARRIED A FAN OR PARASOL, AS WELL AS
WEARING HATS, TO HELP COOL OFF.**





MUFFS WERE USED IN THE WINTER TO KEEP OUR HANDS WARM... HEAVIER, FELT HATS WERE WORN IN WINTER TO HELP INSULATE OUR HEADS.





**SUMMER HATS WERE ADORNED WITH FLOWERS
AND RIBBON... MANY TIMES, THE RIBBON REACHED
DOWN TO THE WOMAN'S LOWER BACK.**





A LADY ALWAYS CARRIED A PURSE OR 'RETICULE'
FOR THEIR PERSONAL EFFECTS... BEADS WERE USED
TO MAKE THE PURSE, WHICH IS SEWN ONTO A
FABRIC BACKING.





TOWARD THE LATTER HALF OF THE CENTURY,
FRENCH STYLES BEGAN TO INFLUENCE THE
FASHIONS OF VICTORIAN ENGLAND.



*THIS INCLUDED THREE-PIECE SILK OUTFITS FOR
AFTERNOON OUTINGS WITH YOUR FRIENDS.*





**ALSO IN THE LATTER HALF OF THE CENTURY, A
BUSTLE REPLACED THE HOOPED SKIRT IN
POPULARITY... THIS ENHANCED THE POSTERIOR
AREA OF THE DRESS.**





SADLY, THESE DRESSES TENDED TO HANG DOWN ENOUGH TO DRAG IN THE DIRT AND MUD, MAKING THEM FILTHY AFTER EACH WEARING.



UNDER ALL THE LAYERS, WOMEN USUALLY WORE THICK SILK STOCKINGS TO PROTECT THEIR LEGS AND ANKLES FROM WEATHER.



SO, WE HAVE COMPLETED TOPIC # 041 IN OUR SERIES...

IN TOPIC # 042, TODAY WE WILL BE LOOKING AT THE PORT OF DUNDEE IN SCOTLAND.



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"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"

IS CREATED THROUGH THE INGENUITY & HARD WORK OF:

JOE FAY
LIESE SHERWOOD-FABRE
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