

Baker Street *Elementary*

PRESENTS
"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"



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THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON
A060 -- THE AGONY OF ECSTASY (THE AGONY COLUMNS IN VICTORIAN
NEWSPAPERS) -- FEBRUARY, 2022



*WELCOME TO TOPIC # 060... TODAY, WATSON AND I WILL
LOOK AT AGONY COLUMNS IN VICTORIAN NEWSPAPERS.*



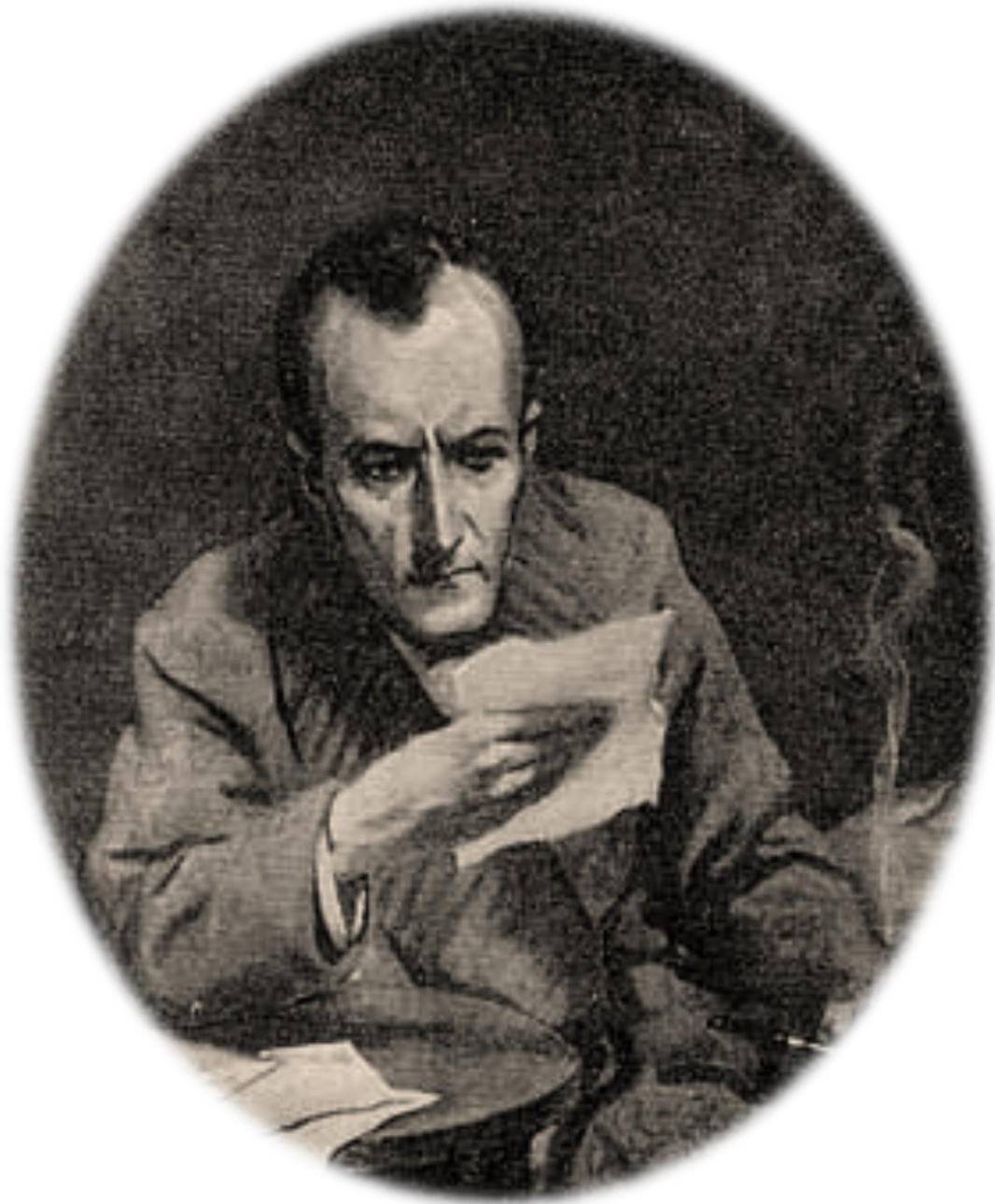
DESPITE DESCRIBING THE AGONY COLUMN — PERSONAL ADVERTISEMENTS APPEARING THE NEWSPAPERS — AS 'A CHORUS OF GROANS, CRIES, AND BLEATINGS'. I NONETHELESS PERUSED THAT COLUMN AS WELL AS OTHER ADVERTISEMENTS RELIGIOUSLY, EVEN KEEPING THEM IN SPECIAL SCRAPBOOKS.

EMMMA to JACK.—My dearest boy, I am alone. I must see you. I want you to come early one day next week, and take me for a coach drive. You arrange which day? Place of meeting? At what time? And let me know soon as possible. Fondest love. Write daily. Be kind to me.

JACK to E. W*****D.—Telegram' returned wire immediately full address Jack Craven Kelly's Library Vigo-street.

MY dearest one I will write





THIS HABIT WAS DESCRIBED IN 'THE COPPER BEECHES,' 'THE ENGINEER'S THUMB,' AND THE VALLEY OF FEAR, AND PROVED USEFUL IN 'THE ADVENTURE OF THE BRUCE-PARTINGTON PLANS' AND 'THE ADVENTURE OF THE RED CIRCLE'...





*...WHERE I WAS ABLE TO FOLLOW COMMUNICATIONS
BETWEEN THOSE INVOLVED IN THE CASE, AND AN
ADVERTISEMENT LED TO UNCOVERING THE TRUE
IDENTITY OF JOHN GARRIDEB.*



**YOU WERE ALSO NOT ABOVE PLACING AN
ADVERTISEMENT YOURSELF TO LOCATE SOMEONE
CONNECTED TO A CASE, AS IN A STUDY IN
SCARLET, THE SIGN OF FOUR...**



... 'THE NAVAL TREATY,' 'THE BLUE CARBUNCLE,'
'THE DISAPPEARANCE OF LADY FRANCES CARFAX,'
AND 'THE GREEK INTERPRETER' — THE LAST
ACTUALLY PLACED BY MYCROFT.



THE EARLIEST REFERENCE TO AN AGONY COLUMN
APPEARED IN 1853, BUT PERSONAL
ADVERTISEMENTS HAD ALREADY BEEN APPEARING
IN THE TIMES OF LONDON.



A CARD.—It the Lady who a Gentleman handed
into her carriage from Covent Garden Theatre, on Wed-
nesday the third of this month, will oblige the Advertiser with a
line to Z.Z. Spring Garden, Coffee House, saying if married or
single, she will quiet the mind of a young Nobleman, who has
tried, but in vain, to find the Lady. The carriage was ordered to
Bond-street. The Lady may depend on honour and secrecy.—
Nothing but the most honourable interview is intended. The Lady
was in mourning, and sufficiently clothed to distinguish her for
possessing every virtue and charm that man could desire in a female
that he would make choice of for a Wife. Deception will be de-
tected, as the Lady's person can never be forgot.

THESE USUALLY SOUGHT MISSING RELATIVES OR FRIENDS OR SENT SECRET MESSAGES BETWEEN LOVERS.



FOR ME, THESE REPRESENTED SOURCES OF DATA (AS A MEANS OF MONITORING CRIMINAL ACTIVITY AS WELL AS BITS OF INFORMATION THAT, WHEN CONNECTED WITH OTHER BITS PROVIDED A MORE COMPLETE PICTURE OF AN EVENT OR INDIVIDUAL) AS WELL AS A SOURCE OF AMUSEMENT, SUCH AS DECODING THE SECRET MESSAGES BETWEEN LOVERS.

M. A. W.—12.11.88. Later on account of illness. Write to address I gave you, or advertise.—Shall be in town after 16th inst.

MIN—NU NU.—Am dying. Write, suspense terrible.—NETCHUE.

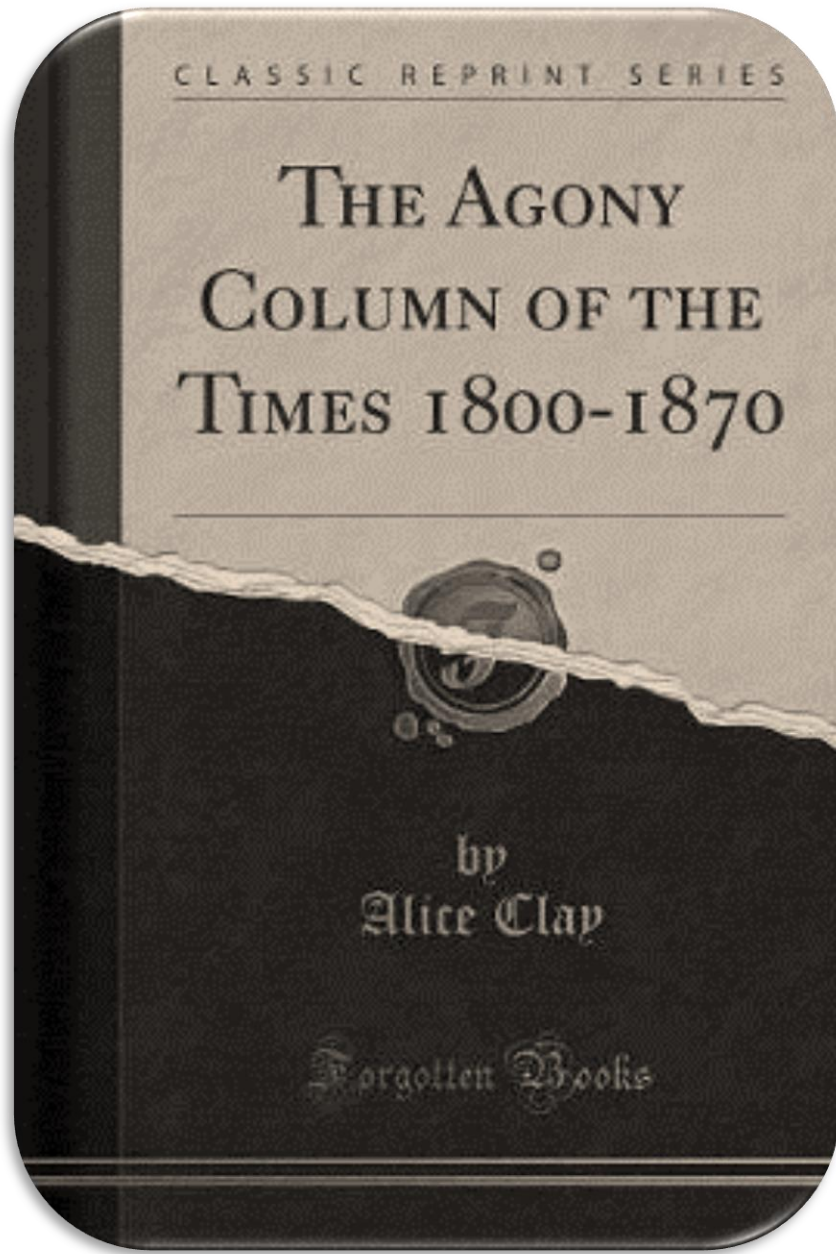
SWEETHEART.—“Be just Sweetheart,” etc. I want you to write (here) something known only to ourselves. In a fog about you! Hendou Skater!

TULIP—VARIEGATED.—In mercy’s sake darling tell me about your own health and happiness you are indeed brave and true but silence on these matters will rack my brain. Will you go for letter (to same place as previously arranged a little while ago) the first opportunity after Monday, it will contain important information. May God bless you. True till death.

W. H. D. wants to hear from Maggie M. He has written frequently to Henry-street.

5.—Cannot write, “envelope.” Ignorance of address. Will you arrange M. If not, it must be last. The question you asked last Wednesday you will never know. You shall see me again. Only for you I shall not leave England, and all Summer.—2.





SO POPULAR WAS THE COLUMN AND READERS' INTEREST IN DECIPHERING AND FOLLOWING THESE SHORT MISSIVES ALICE CLAY IN 1881 PROVIDED INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO DECODE THE MESSAGES IN HER COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS OF SOME THAT APPEARED FROM 1800-1870.



SHE NOTED THAT THE EARLY ANNOUNCEMENTS
APPEARED TO BE DIRECTED AT MATRIMONIAL
REQUESTS AND QUITE SUPPORTED THE ROMANTIC
NOTION OF 'LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT.'



EMMA to **JACK**.—My dearest boy, I am alone.
I must see you. I want you to come early one day next
week, and take me for a coach drive. You arrange which day?
Place of meeting? At what time? And let me know soon as
possible. Fondest love. Write daily. Be kind to me.

JACK to **E. W*****D**.—Telegram' returned
wire immediately full address Jack Craven Kelly's Library
Vigo-street.

TODAY'S PUZZLERS CAN TRY THEIR HAND AT
DECODING USING JEAN PALMER'S 2008 COLLECTION
THE AGONY COLUMN CODES & CIPHERS.



Wndr, wpng, nd wrshp flw.

Jean Palmer



**FAIR WARNING, THIS PASTIME COULD PROVE
QUITE ADDICTIVE, AS I NOTED IN 'THE
ADVENTURE OF THE NOBLE BACHELOR' AS ONE OF
ONLY TWO PARTS OF THE PAPER I READ.**



BY THE MID-20TH CENTURY, THE AGONY COLUMN HAD BECOME AN ADVICE COLUMN OVERSEEN BY AN 'AGONY AUNT' ALTHOUGH THE ROOTS OF PUBLISHED LETTERS FROM THOSE SEEKING GUIDANCE COULD BE TRACED BACK TO JOHN DUTTON.

The Athenian Gazette

Resolving WEEKLY all the most
Nice and Curious Questions.

Propos'd by the **INGENIOUS**

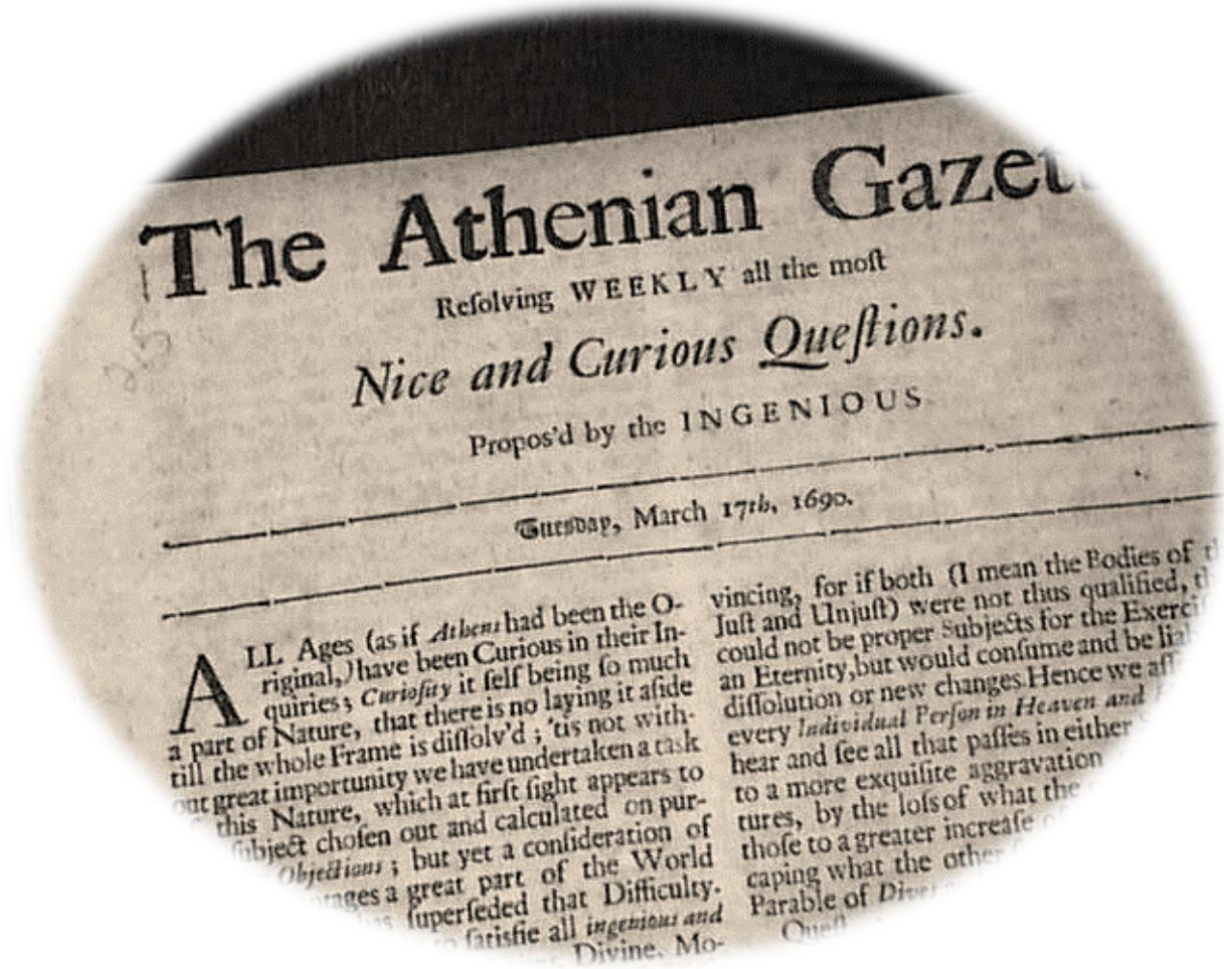
Tuesday, March 17th, 1690.

ALL Ages (as if *Athens* had been the Original,) have been Curious in their Inquiries; *Curiosity* it self being so much a part of Nature, that there is no laying it aside till the whole Frame is dissolv'd; 'tis not without great importunity we have undertaken a task this Nature, which at first sight appears to be chosen out and calculated on purpose for our Objections; but yet a consideration of the great part of the World, who are so much captivated by that Difficulty, makes us think it not unprofitable to endeavour to satisfy all ingenious and Divine. Mo-

vincing, for if both (I mean the Bodies of the Just and Unjust) were not thus qualified, they could not be proper Subjects for the Exercise of an Eternity, but would consume and be liable to dissolution or new changes. Hence we are to hear and see all that passes in either of these *Individual Person in Heaven and Earth* to a more exquisite aggravation of their Misfortunes, by the loss of what they are capable of, those to a greater increase of their Misery, by the loss of what they are capable of. Parable of Dives and Lazarus.



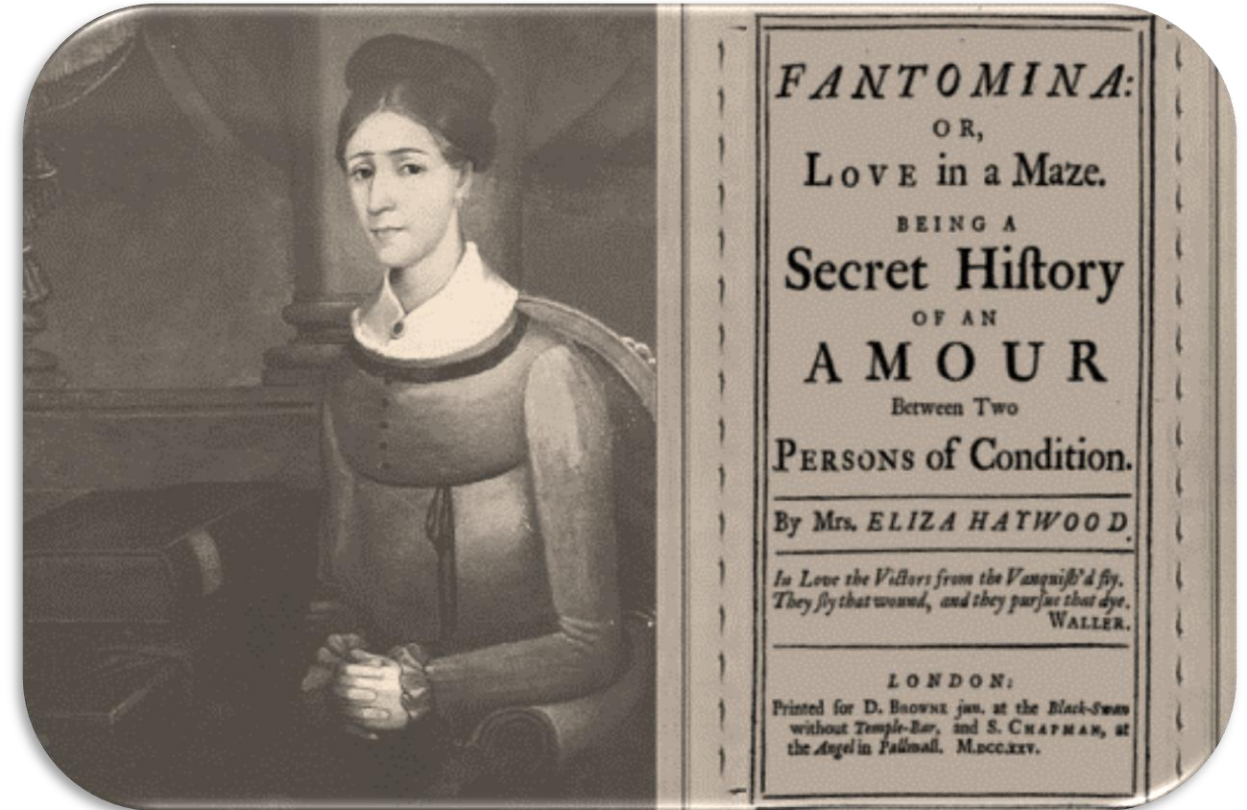
HE ALLOWED READERS TO SEEK GUIDANCE IN LETTERS WHICH HE PUBLISHED IN HIS ATHENIAN GAZETTE... OFTEN SUCH CORRESPONDENCE SOUGHT ADVICE ON HOW TO CARRY ON AN ADULTEROUS AFFAIR, BUT ALSO OFFERED AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION AS OTHERS PROVIDED ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS RAISED.



AFTER WORKING FOR DUTTON ANSWERING SOME OF THESE REQUESTS, DANIEL DEFOE CREATED HIS OWN PUBLICATION, REVIEW, AND BECAME ITS AGONY UNCLE IN 1704.



WOMEN ENTERED THE ADVICE WORLD IN 1740 WHEN MRS. ELIZA HAYWOOD AT THE FEMALE SPECTATOR AND MISS FRANCES MOORE AT THE OLD MAID ADDED SUCH COLUMNS TO THEIR PUBLICATIONS, FIRMLY ESTABLISHING THE COLUMN AS ADVICE FROM 'AGONY AUNTS.'





**DESPITE THE DECLINE IN NEWSPAPER READERSHIP
IN RECENT YEARS, A NEED STILL EXISTS FOR
SUCH ADVICE BUT REQUESTS NOW APPEAR IN
BLOGS, ONLINE MAGAZINES, FORUMS, FACEBOOK,
AND OTHER DIGITAL OUTLETS.**



THOSE RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS ABOUT MONETARY, RELATIONSHIP, FAMILY, OR OTHER PERSONAL PROBLEMS NOTE THAT WRITERS PURSUE SUCH ANONYMOUS ADVICE DUE TO A LACK OF TRUSTED FAMILY OR FRIENDS WITH WHOM SENSITIVE INFORMATION CAN BE SHARED.



THE AGONY AUNT OR UNCLE STILL SEES THEIR ROLE AS ACKNOWLEDGING THE CORRESPONDENT'S STORY, PROVIDE FEEDBACK AND SHARING OTHER SOURCES OF HELP, WHERE NEEDED... FOR THOSE SEEKING COMPANIONSHIP RATHER THAN ADVICE, PERSONAL ADVERTISEMENTS STILL EXIST.



Ask Ashley: Hit us, Ashley, one last time

Last Updated: 3:03 PM, May 27, 2012

Posted: 9:18 PM, May 26, 2012

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+1 0

Tweet 9

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Ashley Dupre

Dear Readers:

you've taught me.

I won't be giving any advice today. Instead, I want to tell you how much

When I started this column over two-and-a-half years ago, I was unsure how it would be received. I had been dealing with the repercussions of the Love Guv scandal, one of the toughest times in my life, and watching the collapse of Tiger Woods when I felt the need to voice my opinion. The Post published a story about my take on Tiger and soon after asked if I would contribute this column.

I'm proud to say that Ask Ashley has been a greater success than I ever thought. Not a financial one, but rather a success in letting people see that I'm more than just the girl in the headlines.

OFTEN REFERRED TO AS 'LONELY HEARTS COLUMNS,' THESE PROVIDE AN AVENUE FOR THOSE SEEKING A RELATIONSHIP TO PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION OF THEMSELVES AS WELL AS THEIR PREFERENCES FOR A COMPANION.



AND GIVEN LIMITED SPACE WITH WHICH TO DO SO (OFTEN BEING CHARGED BY THE CHARACTER OR LINE) A CODE HAS DEVELOPED – JUST AS WITH THE PERSONAL MESSAGES IN THE AGONY COLUMN—IDENTIFYING RELATIONSHIP STATUS, (E.G. DIVORCED OR WIDOWED) ETHNICITY OR NATIONALITY, AND GENDER.



A	Asian
ACA	All calls answered
AL	Animal lover
AQU	Aquarius
A/S/L	Age/Sex/Location?
AARI	Aries
B&D	Bondage and domination
B	Black
BB	Body builder
BBW	Big beautiful woman
BF	Boyfriend
BHM	Big handsome man
BHM	Bald headed man
BI	Bi-sexual
BIF	Bi-sexual female
BIM	Bi-sexual male
C	Couple
C	Christian
CAN	Cancer
CAP	Capricorn
CD	Cross-dresser
CU	See you
D	Divorced
DDF	Drug and disease free
DF	Drug free
DOB	Date of birth
Dom	Dominate male
Domme	Dominate female
FA	Fat acceptance

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ANOTHER SET OF ABBREVIATIONS PROVIDES ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, SUCH AS LTR FOR 'LONG TERM RELATIONSHIP' OR NSA FOR 'NO STRINGS ATTACHED.'



Lonely Hearts



Online Dating

The Guide

*Meet Your Match Safely without
Heartbreak and Financial Pain*

*Alfredo Larich
www.heartsfocus.com*

WITH THE ADVENT OF VERY PRIVATE DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS, THE AGONY COLUMN AS A MEANS FOR NOT-SO-SECRET MESSAGING BETWEEN LOVERS HAS GONE BY THE WAYSIDE.



AS RECENT AGONY AUNTS NOTE, HOWEVER, THE NEED FOR ADVICE STILL EXISTS AS DOES A MEANS FOR MEETING OTHERS.



I WOULD MOST LIKELY FIND SUCH COLUMNS EVEN MORE FULL OF 'GROANS, CRIES, AND BLEATINGS' THAN IN 1902, BUT STILL A MEANS TO KEEP A FINGER ON SOCIETY'S PULSE.



Ask Anita!

Dear Anita,

My wife says that my clothes are too old and that it's time for me to go shopping to buy new clothes. Anita, it's true that my **shoes, shirts and jeans** are almost 20 years old, but I like them – they feel comfortable! Also, I just don't like to go shopping for clothes. It takes a long time to find clothes that I like, and I don't like **fitting rooms** – they're too small. Should I go shopping with my wife to buy new clothes, or should I stay at home and watch TV in my old clothes?

George

Dear Anita,

Hi Anita! I love to read your advice columns. I read them very week. Maybe you can help me – my husband's birthday is next week, and I want him to buy some new clothes for himself (he loves to wear his old clothes, but it's time to buy some new clothes). Also, I want to give him a new **necktie** ... or should I buy a new **shirt** for him if can't ask him because I



Billy



SO, WE HAVE COMPLETED TOPIC # 060 IN OUR SERIES...

IN TOPIC # 061, WE WILL BE LOOKING AT TRAVEL THROUGHOUT ENGLAND IN THE VICTORIAN PERIOD.



ORIGINAL SOURCE MATERIAL FOR THIS TOPIC:

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- [HTTPS://FOURTHGARRIDEB.COM/2018/09/03/DATA-DATA-DATA-THE-RED-CIRCLE/](https://fourthgarrideb.com/2018/09/03/data-data-data-the-red-circle/)



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"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"

IS CREATED THROUGH THE INGENUITY & HARD WORK OF:

JOE FAY
LIESE SHERWOOD-FABRE
RUSTY MASON &
STEVE MASON

