

Baker Street Elementary

Presents

"The Life and Times in Victorian London"



Baker Street *Elementary*

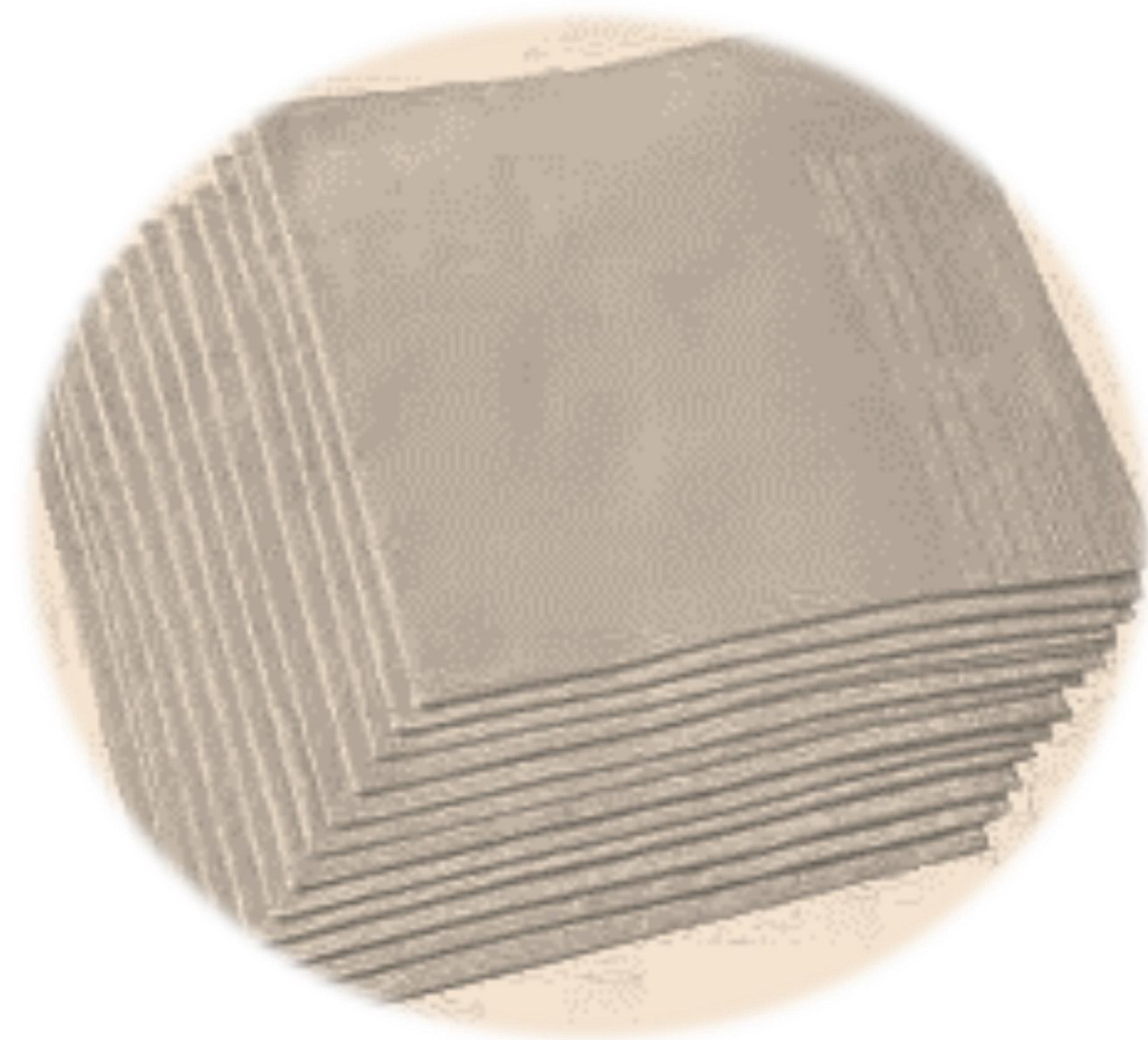
The Life and Times in Victorian London
086 -- *A Handy Helper* -- February, 2022



WELCOME TO TOPIC # 086... TODAY HOLMES AND I
WILL BE LOOKING AT HANDKERCHIEFS DURING THE
VICTORIAN PERIOD.



*ALTHOUGH HANDKERCHIEFS MIGHT APPEAR TO
HAVE A LIMITED (AND OUTDATED) USE IN
CONTEMPORARY CULTURE...*



...THEY SERVED A VARIETY OF PURPOSES FROM THEIR EARLIEST APPEARANCES, SEVERAL OF WHICH ARE ILLUSTRATED THROUGHOUT THE SHERLOCK HOLMES' STORIES.



THE FIRST MENTION OCCURRED IN A STUDY IN SCARLET, WHEN JEFFERSON HOPE REMARKED THAT POISONING ENOCH DREBBER WAS PREFERABLE TO 'FIRING OVER A HANDKERCHIEF' (A DUEL).



HANDKERCHIEFS WERE NEVER MENTIONED IN THE STORIES AS BEING USED TO CLEAN ONE'S NOSE, BUT SEVERAL OTHER USES WERE INCLUDED...



...WIPING AWAY TEARS (THE SIGN OF THE FOUR) AND SWEAT ('THE ADVENTURE OF THE BERYL CORONET,' 'THE ADVENTURE OF WISTERIA LODGE,' AND 'THE ADVENTURE OF THE DEVIL'S FOOT')...



...AS A GAG ('THE ADVENTURE OF THE SOLITARY CYCLIST' AND 'THE ADVENTURE OF ABBEY GRANGE'); AND TO BIND A WOUND ('THE ADVENTURE OF THE ENGINEER'S THUMB').





WHILE MEN OFTEN CARRIED A HANDKERCHIEF IN THEIR POCKET ('THE ADVENTURE OF THE LION'S MANE), SOME, TAKING THE HABIT FROM THE MILITARY...





...CARRIED IT IN THEIR SLEEVE ('THE ADVENTURE OF THE BLANCHED SOLDIER'), AND OTHERS, SUCH AS GYPSIES, TIED LARGE ONES AROUND THEIR HEADS ('THE ADVENTURE OF THE SPECKLED BAND').



THE HUMBLE HANDKERCHIEF HAS A LONG HISTORY, ALTHOUGH ITS CONTEMPORARY USE DID NOT APPEAR UNTIL...



...THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY WHEN THE DUTCH PHILOSOPHER ERASMUS NOTED THAT USING ONE'S SLEEVE FOR SUCH A PURPOSE WAS BOORISH.



*CHINESE SCULPTURES FROM THE CHOU DYNASTY
(1122 BCE) DISPLAYED A DECORATIVE CLOTH
HEAD COVERING, ASSUMED FOR PROTECTION
FROM THE SUN.*



THE CITY AND HAN

AMONG THE EARLY CHINESE EXPORTS WERE
SILK HANDKERCHIEFS.



THE JAPANESE HAVE USED 'HANKACHI' SINCE THE NINTH CENTURY.



**ROMANS USED SQUARES TO WIPE AWAY SWEAT
(SUDARIUMS) AND THREW THEM TO START
GLADIATOR GAMES.**



THEY BECAME A FASHION ACCESSORY BY THE END OF THE 17TH CENTURY.





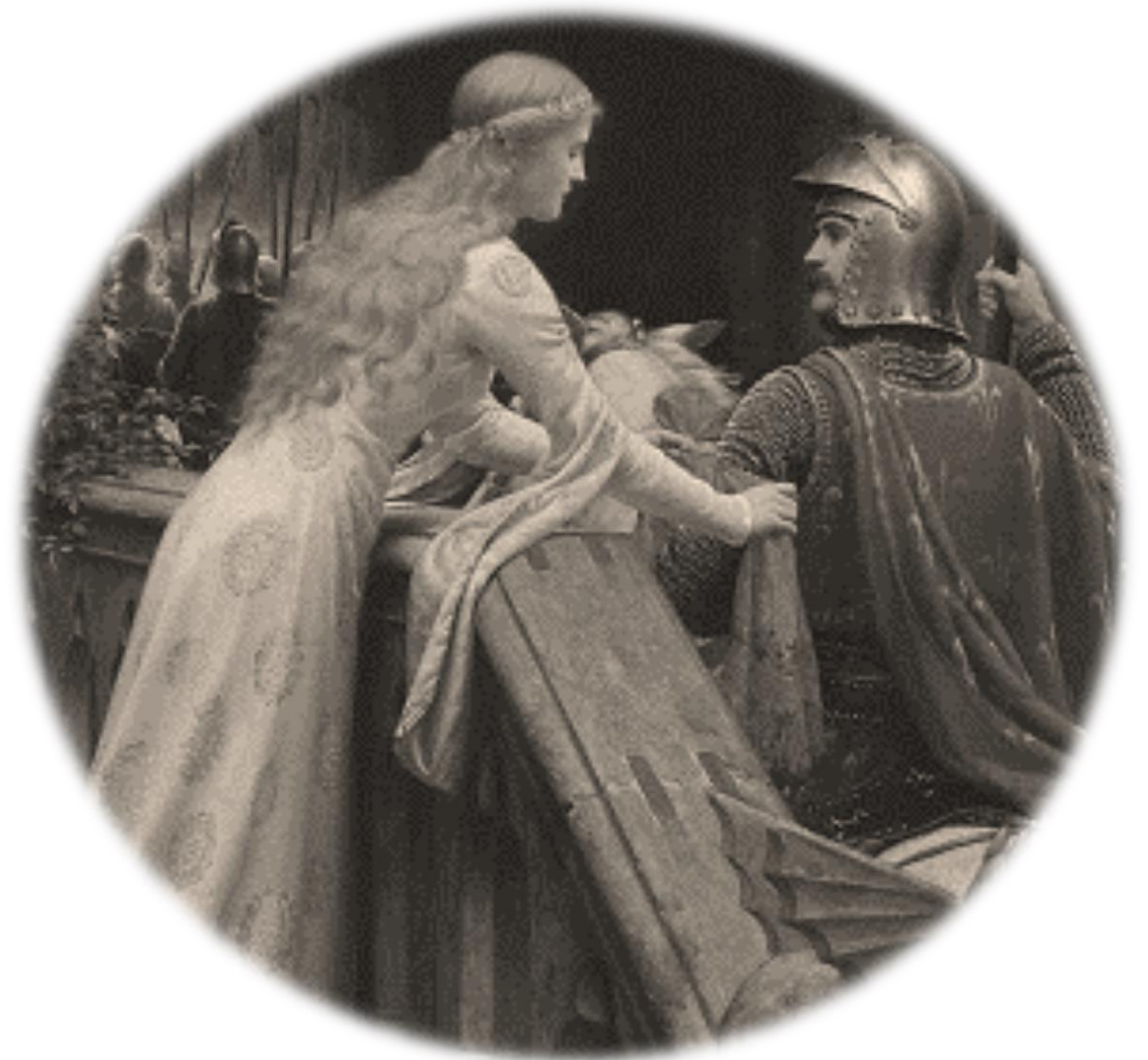
ORIGINALLY ARRIVING AS A KERCHIEF (A COVERING FOR THE HEAD), THE HANDKERCHIEF (TO BE HELD INSTEAD OF WORN) APPEARED IN THE 1500s.



**HANDKERCHIEFS BECAME AN IMPORTANT MEANS
OF SENDING MESSAGES, ESPECIALLY WHERE
ROMANCE WAS CONCERNED.**



**KNIGHTS WOULD INDICATE THEIR LOVE BY TYING
A HANDKERCHIEF TO THE BACK OF THEIR HELMETS.**



A YOUNG LADY WOULD DROP HER HANDKERCHIEF
FOR A YOUNG MAN TO RETRIEVE.



SHOULD THE GENTLEMAN KEEP IT, HE DECLARED
HIS LOVE FOR HER.





*SHE MIGHT ALSO SEND HIM ONE SHE
EMBROIDERED HERSELF OR A SINGED ONE TO
DECLARE HER BURNING PASSION FOR THE MAN.*



SHOULD SHE CATCH HIS EYE, SHE MIGHT HOLD IT IN THE MIDDLE TO INDICATE A LATE-NIGHT MEETING.



HE WOULD WAVE HIS OWN IN RESPONSE, TO SHOW HE'D GOTTEN THE MESSAGE... RETURNING THE OBJECT LATER BROKE OFF A RELATIONSHIP.





POPULARITY FOR THE ITEM CONTINUED
THROUGHOUT EUROPE FROM THE 1500s INTO THE
TWENTIETH CENTURY.



ITALIAN DESIGNS WERE THE MOST DESIRABLE.



*THEY WERE MADE WITH THE FINEST FABRICS AND
WERE EMBELLISHED WITH NEEDLE LACE.*



THESE WERE OFTEN SCENTED WITH PERFUME AND
COULD BE HELD OVER THE NOSE AND MOUTH TO
COMBAT FOUL ODORS... OF COURSE, YOU SCENTED
YOURS WITH CREOSOTE IN THE SIGN OF THE FOUR.



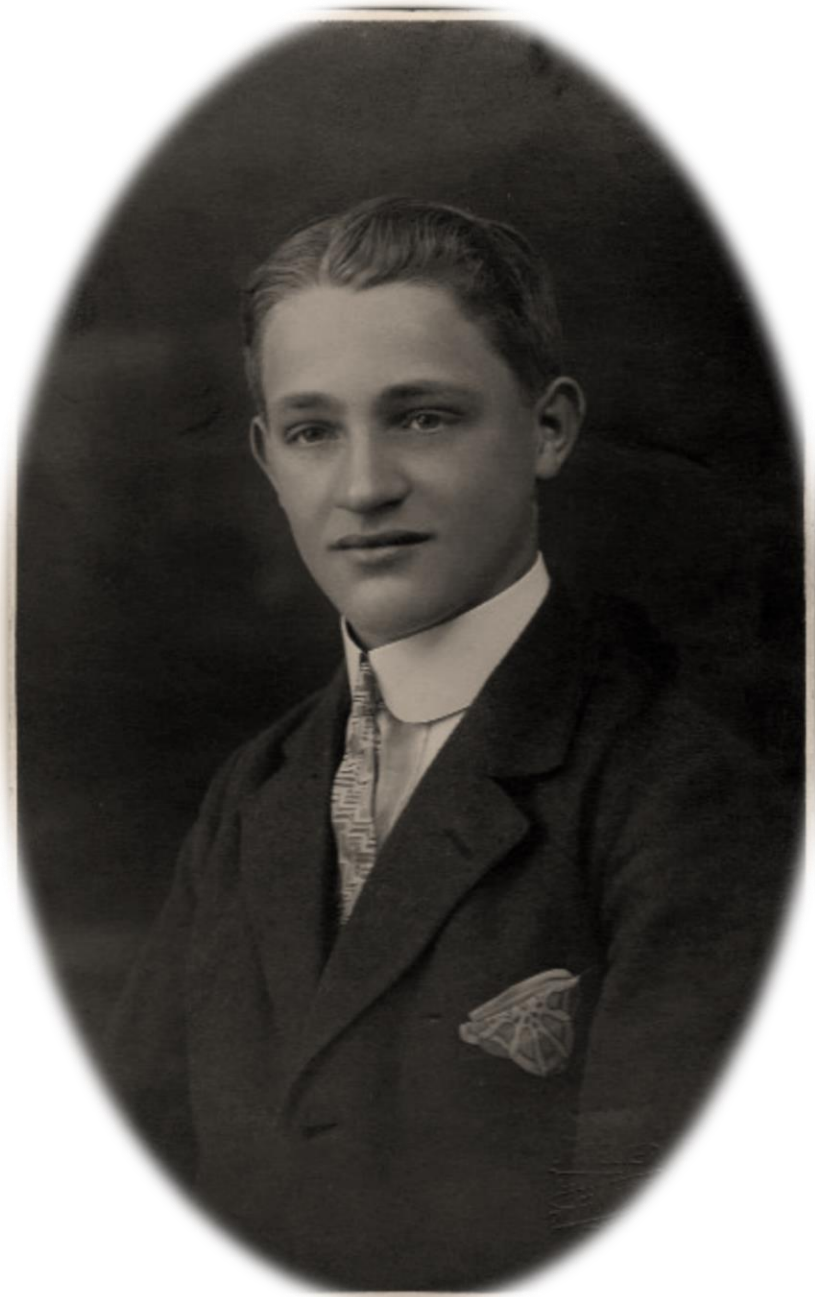
BY THE LATE 1500s, THEY WERE SO VALUABLE,
THEY WERE LISTED IN WILLS, USED IN DOWRIES,
AND GIVEN AS PRESENTS TO NOBILITY.





THEY ALSO GREW IN SIZE TO THE POINT THAT KING LOUIS XVI OF FRANCE DECLARED NO ONE COULD HAVE ONE LARGER THAN HIS.





THE POCKET SQUARE BECAME A MEN'S FASHION STAPLE IN THE LATE 19TH CENTURY WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF THE TWO-PIECE SUIT.





MEN DIDN'T WANT THEIR CLEAN HANDKERCHIEF MIXED IN WITH COINS, ETC. IN THEIR POCKETS AND MOVED THE CLOTH TO THEIR UPPER OUTSIDE BREAST POCKET.





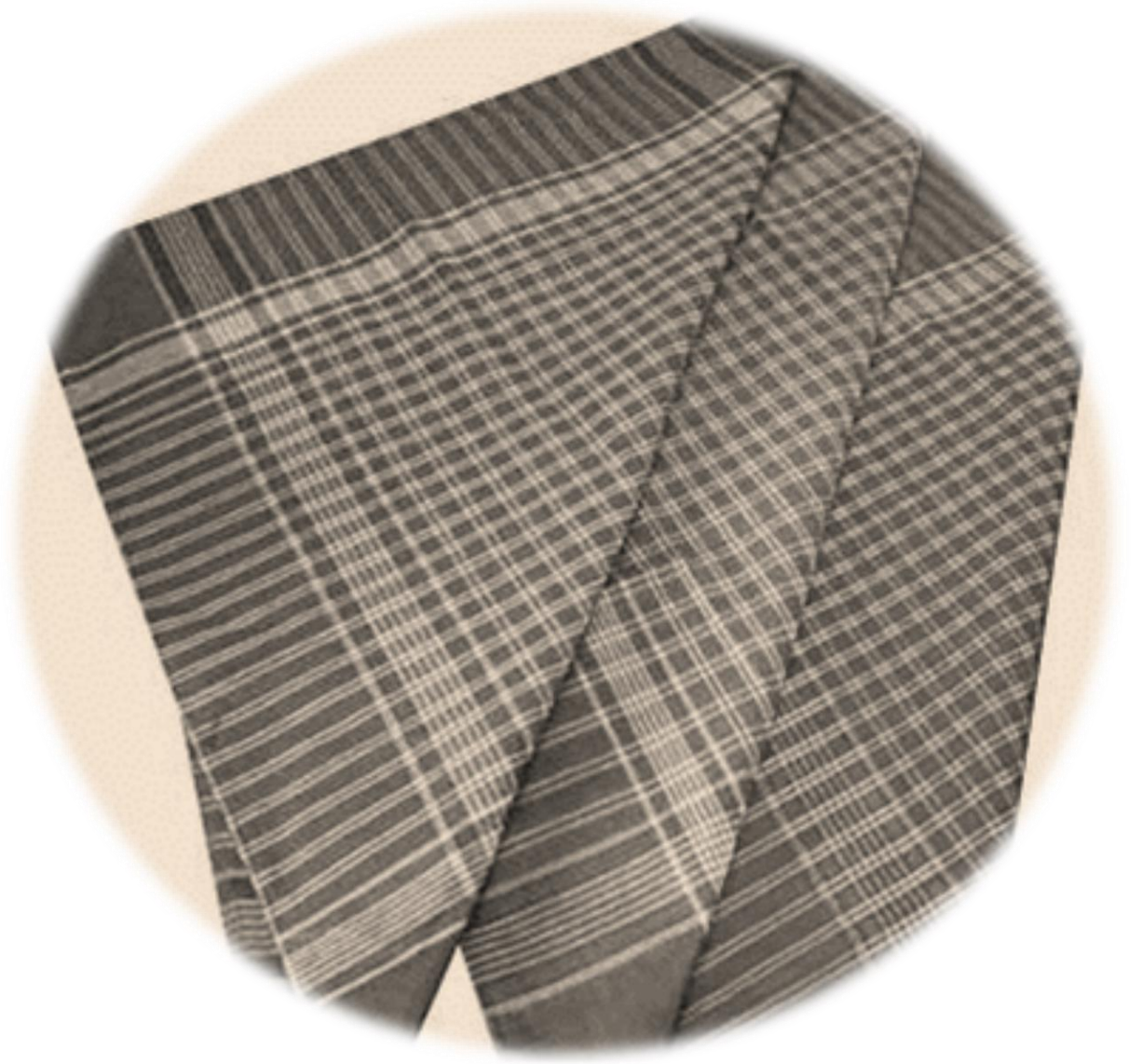
*THE FASHION TREND BEGAN IN ENGLAND
AND SPREAD FROM THERE, IN PART, FROM
THEIR USE BY ACTORS SUCH AS CARY GRANT
AND GARY COOPER.*



WHILE NOT REQUIRED FOR A FORMAL SUIT, MANY MEN STILL WEAR ONE IN THEIR JACKET.



THESE ARE DISTINGUISHED TODAY FROM A NORMAL HANDKERCHIEF BY A ROLLED HEM AND CAN BE WORN IN SEVERAL DIFFERENT STYLES...



...FROM A FLAT SQUARE RUNNING PARALLEL TO THE POCKET EDGE TO A PUFF THAT SHOWS MORE.



DESPITE CONTINUED USE IN MEN'S SUITS, THE HANDKERCHIEF ITSELF IS NO LONGER THE FIXTURE IT ONCE WAS. ITS DEMISE BEGAN WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF THE PAPER TISSUE.



Reasons to Carry a Handkerchief



'GAYETTY'S MEDICAL PAPER' (A BROWN, ROUGH, THIN PAPER THAT CONTINUED TO BE AVAILABLE IN PARTS OF EUROPE THROUGH THE 1970s)...



...APPEARED IN 1857, BUT THE TISSUE PAPER
RECOGNIZED TODAY WAS NOT DEVELOPED UNTIL 1920.



KIMBERLY-CLARK PRODUCED A DISPOSABLE, SOFT, ABSORBENT PAPER DEVELOPED BY 'CREPING' (A PROCESS OF MICROFOLDING) THAT BROKE DOWN THE PAPER FIBERS.



"DON'T PUT A COLD IN YOUR POCKET"

MY SWEETHEART CRIED,
AS I STUFFED A DAMP
HANDKERCHIEF IN MY POCKET.
SO NOW I'M SMART... IT'S
NOTHING BUT SOFT, IMMACULATE
KLEENEX FOR ME! USE
EACH SHEET ONCE --
DESTROY IT.

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"Tell me
Another" says
KLEENEX
and win \$500

for every "Cleanest True Confession"
published. Mail to KLEENEX at
119 North Michigan Avenue,
Chicago, Ill.

THE COMPANY INTRODUCED KLEENEX, FIRST AS A MEANS OF REMOVING COLD CREAM, AND LATER FOR BLOWING ONE'S NOSE, WITH THE SLOGAN, 'DON'T CARRY A COLD IN YOUR POCKET.'



ALTHOUGH HANDKERCHIEFS HAVE, FOR THE MOST PART, DISAPPEARED IN THE U.S., THEY REMAIN POPULAR IN JAPAN.



Illustration and text copyright 1933, Kleenex Co.

One hand
takes the cream, the
other takes
KLEENEX!

Kleenex's patented pull-out carton feeds tissues
as you need them, convenient — economical

MOST JAPANESE CARRY AT LEAST ONE OR TWO, PRIMARILY FOR DRYING ONE'S HANDS IN PUBLIC RESTROOMS...



**WIPING ONE'S FACE ON A HOT DAY, AND
COVERING ONE'S MOUTH AND NOSE IN THE EVENT
OF A FIRE.**



*AS THE JAPANESE DEMONSTRATE, THE LOWLY
HANDKERCHIEF STILL PROVES ITS USEFULNESS IN
A VARIETY OF WAYS — JUST AS IT DID MORE
THAN 100 YEARS AGO.*



SO, WE HAVE COMPLETED TOPIC # 086 IN OUR SERIES...

IN TOPIC # 087, WE WILL BE LOOKING AT USING IMPRESSIONS FOR CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS IN THE VICTORIAN PERIOD.



ORIGINAL SOURCE MATERIAL FOR THIS TOPIC:

- [HTTPS://WWW.BLOOMSBURYFASHIONCENTRAL.COM/PRODUCTS/BERG-FASHION-LIBRARY/Dictionary/THE-DICTIONARY-OF-FASHIONHISTORY/HANDKERCHIEF](https://www.bloomsburyfashioncentral.com/products/berg-fashion-library/dictionary/the-dictionary-of-fashionhistory/handkerchief)
- [HTTPS://HANKYBOOK.COM/HANKYBOOK-BLOG/](https://hankybook.com/hankybook-blog/)
- [HTTPS://TOPDRAWERSHOP.COM/BLOGS/BLOG/WHY-CARRYING-A-HANDKERCHIEF-NEVER-WENT-OUT-OF-STYLE-IN-JAPAN](https://topdrawershop.com/blogs/blog/why-carrying-a-handkerchief-never-went-out-of-style-in-japan)
- [HTTPS://WWW.SHPGROUP.EU/TIPS/FROM-THE-HISTORY-OF-HANDKERCHIEFS/](https://www.shpgroup.eu/tips/from-the-history-of-handkerchiefs/)



ORIGINAL SOURCE MATERIAL FOR THIS TOPIC:

- [HTTPS://WWW.ETYMONLINE.COM/WORD/HANDKERCHIEF](https://www.etymonline.com/word/handkerchief)
- [HTTP://MARGARETROEDESIGNS.COM/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/HANDKERCHIEFHIST.PDF](http://margaretroedesigns.com/wp-content/uploads/handkerchiefhist.pdf)
- [HTTPS://WWW.RAMPLEYANDCO.COM/PAGES/THE-HISTORY-OF-THE-POCKET-SQUARE](https://www.rampleyandco.com/pages/the-history-of-the-pocket-square)
- [HTTPS://WWW.STUDIOSUITS.COM/BLOG/LOOKING-BACK-HISTORY-POCKET-SQUARES/](https://www.studiosuits.com/blog/looking-back-history-pocket-squares/)
- [HTTPS://WWW.ARISTOCRACY.LONDON/HOW-TO-FOLD-YOUR-POCKET-SQUARE/](https://www.aristocracy.london/how-to-fold-your-pocket-square/)
- [HTTPS://WWW.VALMET.COM/MEDIA/ARTICLES/TISSUE/THE-HISTORY-OF-TISSUE-PRODUCTS/](https://www.valmet.com/media/articles/tissue/the-history-of-tissue-products/)
- [HTTPS://WWW.HERALDBANNER.COM/OPINION/COLUMNS/ON-SECOND-THOUGHT-PASS-ME-A-KLEENEX-INTERESTING-HISTORY-OF-TISSUESHANDKERCHIEFS/ARTICLE_FF685E36-42A3-11E9-838E-BBF1C1CFAA20.HTML](https://www.heraldbanner.com/opinion/columns/on-second-thought-pass-me-a-kleenex-interesting-history-of-tissueshandkerchiefs/article_ff685e36-42a3-11e9-838e-bbf1c1cfaa20.html)



Baker Street Elementary

"The Life and Times in Victorian London"

IS CREATED THROUGH THE INGENUITY & HARD WORK OF:

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