

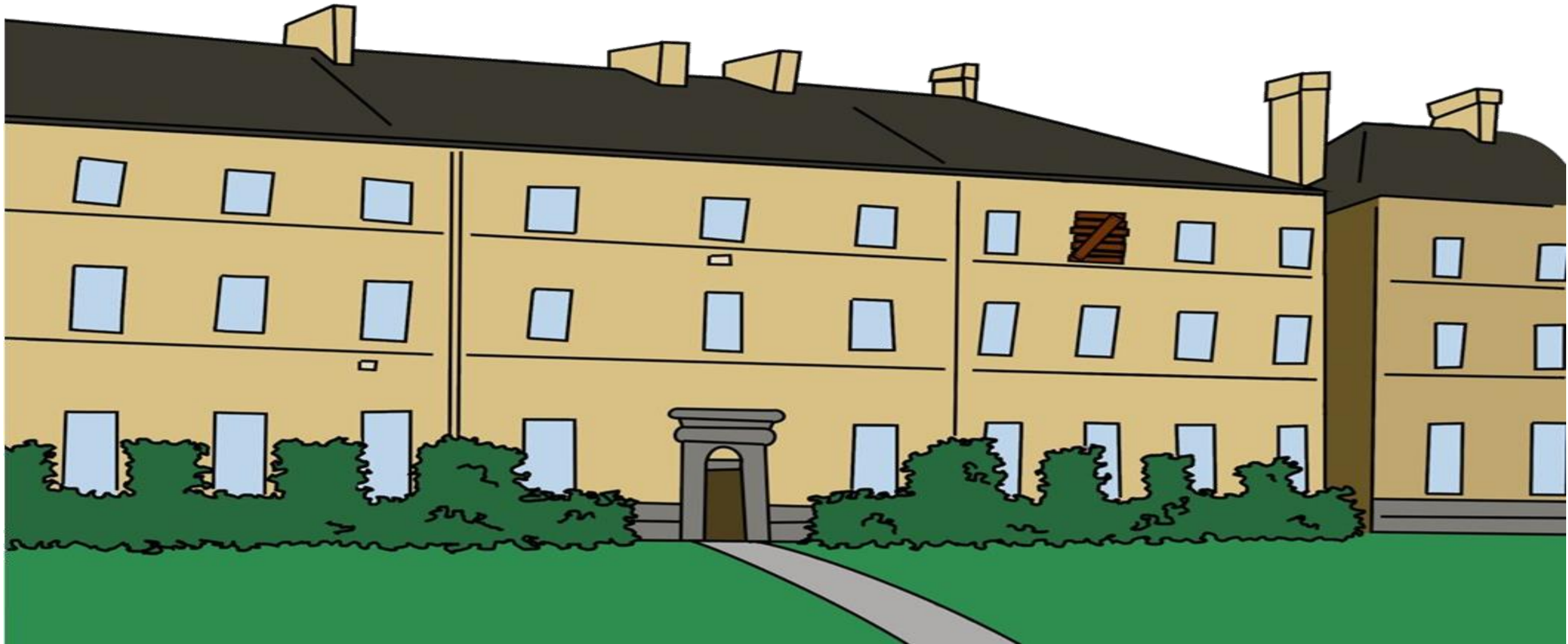
Baker Street *Elementary*

PRESENTS
"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"



Baker Street *Elementary*

THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON
112 -- VICTORIAN FIREPLACES -- FEBRUARY, 2022





WELCOME TO TOPIC # 112... TODAY, WE WILL LOOK AT FIREPLACES DURING THE VICTORIAN PERIOD.



**IN VICTORIAN ENGLAND, CENTRAL HEATING WAS
A DISTANT DREAM IN THE FUTURE ALTHOUGH
STEAM HEATING WAS INVENTED IN 1850.**



***MOST VICTORIAN HOUSES WERE HEATED BY
FIREPLACES BURNING COAL OR LOGS IN
EVERY ROOM.***



VICTORIAN FIREPLACES WERE INITIALLY MADE OF MARBLE OR SLATE BUT LATER CAST IRON FRAMES BECAME POPULAR AND HAD COLORFUL TILE INSETS DOWN EITHER SIDE AND A DECORATIVE MANTELSHELF MADE OF SLATE OR PINE.



EARLY VICTORIAN FIREPLACES HAD FLORAL PATTERNS IN THE IRON CASTING BUT BY LATE VICTORIAN TIMES THE IRON FIREPLACES WERE PLAINER WITH SIMPLE LINES.



CHEAPER HOMES HAD MANTELS MADE OF WOOD OR SLATE AND HAD THEM PAINTED TO LOOK LIKE MARBLE IN ORDER TO IMPRESS VISITING GUESTS.



GENERALLY VICTORIAN FIREPLACES REFLECTED THE STYLE OF THE HOME, WITH GRANDER HOUSES HAVING SOME VERY ORNATE AND LOVELY FIREPLACES.



FURNISHINGS AND ARCHITECTURE DURING THE VICTORIAN ERA GRADUALLY CHANGED AND BECAME GOTHIC REVIVAL AND THIS ALSO INFLUENCED THE STYLE OF FIREPLACES.





GENERALLY LARGE AND COVERED WITH GRAND ORNAMENTATION, THEY BEGAN TO INCORPORATE HERALDRY, TRACERY AND MEDIEVAL STYLES.





THE LATER ARTS AND CRAFTS MOVEMENT IN
LATE VICTORIAN TIMES ALSO IMITATED
SIMILAR TECHNIQUES.



SOME VICTORIAN FIREPLACES HAD A RATHER ECCLESIASTICAL LOOK WITH A POINTED INNER ARCH ABOVE THE FIRE, RATHER LIKE A CHURCH WINDOW.



THE FIREPLACES WERE EXTREMELY IMPOSING BUT FORTUNATELY, VICTORIAN HOMES GENERALLY HAD LARGE ROOMS WITH HIGH CEILINGS SO THE FIREPLACES DID NOT LOOK TOO OUT OF PLACE.



*SOME OLD VICTORIAN HOUSES MAY STILL HAVE
THEIR ORIGINAL FIREPLACES.*



**THE ANTIQUE MARBLE AND CARVED WOOD
DESIGNS SHOW HOW TALENTED CRAFTSMEN WERE
AT CREATING SUCH BEAUTIFUL WORKMANSHIP.**



HEAVY METAL FIREBACKS WERE USED IN LATER TIMES TO RADIATE THE HEAT OUT INTO THE ROOM AND WERE ALSO USED AS DECORATION.



**ALONG WITH VICTORIAN FIREPLACES, FIRE
SCREENS WERE THE FOCAL POINT OF ANY ROOM IN
THE HOUSE.**

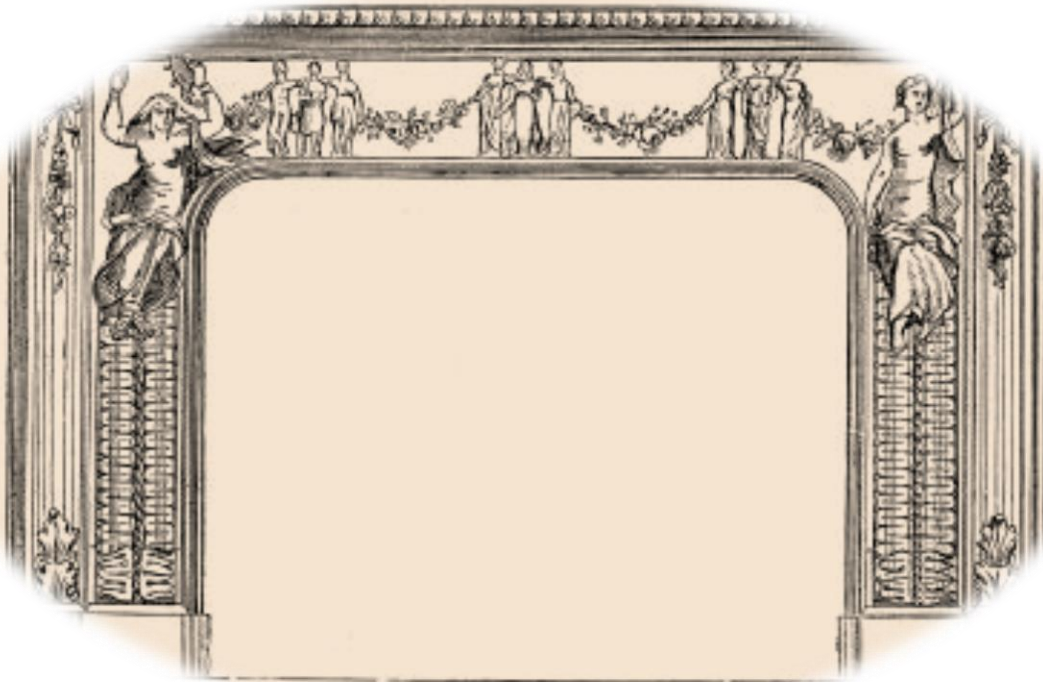




THE LADIES OF THE HOUSE WOULD SHOW OFF
THEIR EMBROIDERY AND TAPESTRY SKILLS BY
EMBROIDERING FIRE SCREENS AND MANY OF THEM
WERE WORKS OF ART.



THE FRAMES AND FEET OF FIRE SCREENS WERE CARVED FROM SATINWOOD, ROSEWOOD OR MAHOGANY AND SUPPORTED SCREENS MADE OF FABRIC, STAINED GLASS OR PAPIER-MACHÉ.



*OTHER COLLECTABLES ASSOCIATED WITH
VICTORIAN FIREPLACES INCLUDE LOG BOXES,
OFTEN MADE OF BRASS;...*



...FIRE DOGS THAT CRADLE LOGS AND ACCELERATE BURNING; POKERS, BELLOWS, COAL TONGS AND TOOL STANDS.



SO, WE HAVE COMPLETED TOPIC # 112 IN OUR SERIES...

IN TOPIC # 113, WE WILL BE LOOKING AT THE CREATION OF CHRISTMAS CARDS DURING THE VICTORIAN PERIOD.



AboutBritain.com

ORIGINAL SOURCE MATERIAL FOR THIS TOPIC:

- [HTTP://WWW.ABOUTBRITAIN.COM/ARTICLES/VICTORIAN-FIREPLACES.ASP](http://www.aboutbritain.com/articles/victorian-fireplaces.asp)



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"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"

IS CREATED THROUGH THE INGENUITY & HARD WORK OF:

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