

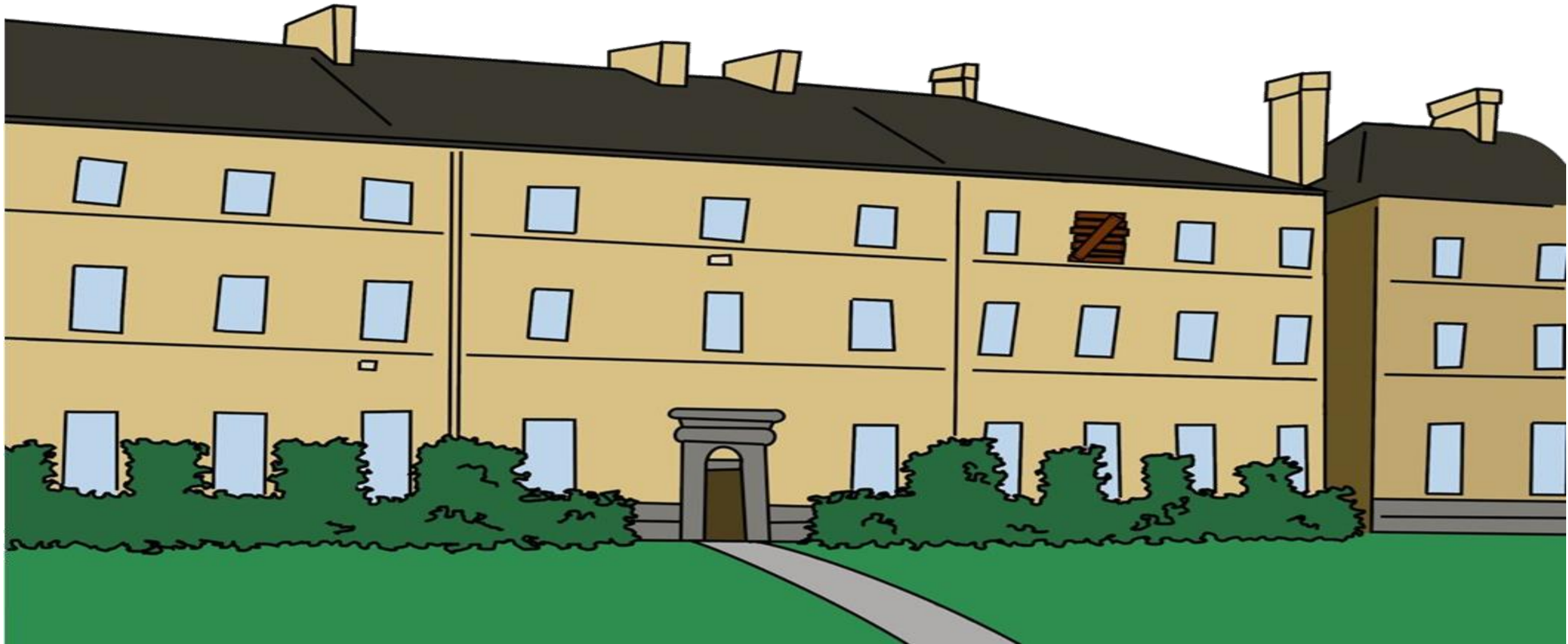
Baker Street *Elementary*

PRESENTS
"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"



Baker Street Elementary

THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON
A020 -- SPREADING THE WORD -- JANUARY, 2022



WELCOME TO TOPIC # 020... TODAY HOLMES AND I
WILL BE LOOKING AT THE MAIL SERVICE DURING
OUR TIME.



THROUGHOUT THE SHERLOCK HOLMES' STORIES,
YOU AND I CONSTANTLY COMMUNICATED WITH
EACH OTHER, LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS AND
CLIENTS THROUGH LETTERS AND TELEGRAMS SENT
AND RECEIVED THROUGHOUT THE DAY, OFTEN
WITH REPLIES COMING ONLY A FEW HOURS AFTER
THE FIRST IS SENT.



GIVEN ITS SPEED AND EFFICIENCY FOR SENDING AND RECEIVING MESSAGES, THE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM DEVELOPED IN VICTORIAN ENGLAND HAS BEEN LABELED THE PRECURSOR OF THE PRESENT-DAY INTERNET.



UNTIL THE MID-1800s, A FAMILY MEMBER WHO TRAVELED OR MOVED AWAY FROM HOME QUICKLY LOST TOUCH WITH THOSE WHO REMAINED BEHIND... A LETTER WAS SIMPLY BEYOND THE REACH OF MANY.



INN Well Bestowed.

An Account of the New Design contriv'd for the Increase of Trade, and Ease of Correspondence, to the great Advantage of the Inhabitants of all the Towns, and Conveying of LETTERS or PACQUETS without any Pound Weight, to and from all parts within the County of Middlesex, and Westminster; and the Out Parishes within the Weekly Bills of Mortality.

For One Penny.

There is nothing tends more to the Increase of Trade and Business than a speedy, cheap, and safe way of Correspondence, which being observed, and more extended in all Places where that is wanting. For as Motion is the Soul in Natural Bodies, gives Life to Trade by its Circulation; so Correspondence like the Vital Spirit, gives it Soul and Motion, and the more that thro' it abounds in any Place, the more doth that Place increase in Riches, Strength, and Vigour.

But in this Age it is not to be expected that any New Design can be conceived for the Publick Good, without meeting many evil Censures and Objections, from the Foolish and Malicious; therefore 'twas not likely this should escape that common Fate. Yet We hope to all the reasonable and Candid, who are willing to understand their own Interest, this Paper may be Satisfactory.

For his undertaken by the Methods of this Correspondency settled, that any Person may provide himself his Letter or Packet shall safely come to any place directed to, lying within the Cities and Suburbs of London and Westminster, and all their contiguous Buildings, also to Poplar, Rotherhithe, Limehouse, Tower and Blackwall; to Bermondsey, Southwark, and so to Newmarket; to Hackney, Hingston, and all other places within the Weekly Bills of Mortality, be it farther or nearer, to and from any of the aforesaid Places, For One Penny.

The times for taking out of Letters to any of the aforesaid Places, to be in the Summer time from Six in the Morning to Nine at Night, and at reasonable hours agreeable to the Winter Season. To the most remote Places Letters shall be sent at least Five times a day. To Places of quick Negotiation within the City, and in the Town time for service of the Law Business, &c. at least Fifteen times a day.

No Letters that come about Nine at Night, to be delivered till next Morning (except such Letters as are for the Post-Office Generall). By this means all Persons, as well Gentlemen, Lawyers, Shopkeepers, and Handicrafts Men, that make use of Correspondence, vndered by Posters and poor Postmen, and all others, have their Letters sent for a Penny, which is usually cost Three Pence, six Pence, or a Shilling, Now to oblige Men to pay more when they can hardly be cheaper served, were to impose an illegal Tax upon the Inhabitants within their Countrey. Besides many Journeys of Taylors, Wagners, and other poor Artificers, and their servants, will be spared, who now consume much time abroad in going to and fro, to the impoverishing of their Families, because they cannot extravagantly pay a Porter for a Mileage, or

of Carrying a Letter. But how this will be employed in their Callings at home, as the Letter Business of their Countrey.

And therefore all Gentlemen, Citizens and others, for their own sake, are obliged to encourage this Undertaking, and discourage all those who only for their private Interest, endeavour to obstruct, or to pervert it, to the detriment of the great Benefit.

For notwithstanding the Objection that some to (say with the Vulgar, on the behalf of the Posters, whilest Chancery and Rancorous Proceedings is a great Scandal to their Society. There needs not much be said in Answer.

But for Satisfaction to the well meaning among them, and all others, We Answer:

1. That most of the Employments in this Undertaking had never been without it, by reason of the great Charge of Postridges, Messages being usually dispatched by the Messengers, fit Apprentices or Servants, to the great loss of their time.
2. More Business increasing with our more Earthly (being their proper Employments) to be carried, than their Lads by Letters can amount to.
3. They have no Authority to Monopolize the Delivery of Letters to themselves, it being by Law free for any Man.
4. Divers of the Ticket-Posters, and many poor Postmen, are employed in this Undertaking, who have been good Citizens, and deserve more Encouragement than most of those that pretend to follow by.
5. Use if so Men shall be suffered whom the Posters apprehend injurious to them, then should the Hackney Coachmen, and Wagoners, be put out of their Callings, that the Posters may have the more Business; and every Shopkeeper for fear of displacing their Servants (the Posters) shall find more, and gain less, than they might to humour them; for what is by any Man lived by his Expedition, must finally again be sent amongst the Tradesmen.

This use is not being a wrong as any, none being compelled, prohibited, or restrained hereby, it being left free to all Persons either to embrace the benefit of this Undertaking, or to employ Posters at their Pleasure; so that in good season, the Posters Quarrel is against the whole Body of the Inhabitants in their Cities.

For if they employ Posters and not make use of this Correspondance, then is there no ground of Complaint; but if they find a Benefit in Conveying their Letters, &c. this way, and send the Posters, then is their Quarrel really against the Inhabitants, and not the Undertaking, who will have more cause to humour (if it may be) than the Posters.

If it were granted prejudicial to the Posters (which is not allowed) yet the Letters to yield to the Greater, and the Privilege to the Publick, being in all well-regulated Kingdoms Publick Good was never found to stand in Private Controversy; for if the Posters and Quills must have been suppressed for Writing Clerks and Fishers, Navigation for Carriers, Publick Water-works for the sake of Tankard-Sellers, and the like of these put down for up a new Contrivance of Turn-Spirits; yet through the reasonable Invention may destroy some sorts of Callings, they follow here the same have hitherto found they have found new ways of Living, for indeed they have industry, which is a great and Publick Good. The same Objection may be made to the Post Office Generall, and especially against the Pettit Officers for carrying Letters to the Towns to Carry their Letters, they not being Posters nor some of the Posters; so that whatsoever is said against this Undertaking reaches upon

Some of the Conveniences of this Undertaking are as follows:

1. That it will be a great Benefit to the Poor, who are hereby give notice to Friends of their Affairs correspond about necessary Occurrences in Law.
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THE BRITISH POST OFFICE WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1682 AND WAS USED FROM ITS INCEPTION AS A SOURCE OF REVENUE TO FINANCE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE ALMOST CONSTANT WARFARE WITH FRANCE.



WHEN NATIONAL FINANCES LAGGED, THE COST OF MAILING A LETTER WOULD INCREASE... THE CHARGE WAS BASED ON THE DISTANCE AND NUMBER OF PAGES SENT, OFTEN ADDING UP TO MORE THAN THE LOWER-CLASS DAILY WAGE.



**THE BURDEN WAS ALSO ON THE RECIPIENT TO PAY
THE POSTAGE... IT BEING CONSIDERED UNSEEMLY
TO PREPAY THE SERVICE AND SUGGEST THE
RECIPIENT WASN'T ABLE TO AFFORD IT.**



TO REDUCE COSTS, THE WRITER MIGHT TURN THE PAGE HORIZONTALLY AND WRITE PERPENDICULAR TO THE ORIGINAL TEXT AND USE A WAX SEAL TO AVOID THE ADDED CHARGE OF AN ENVELOPE.



Prince of Wales
29th Dec 18.12.98.
My dear Wyndham

I am very sorry to hear about dear old Hastings and regret that I cannot help as I would like. However if you care to add my mite put my name down for a fiver which I enclose. All thy best wishes for the season

Sincerely Yours.

William Curzon

ANOTHER TRICK WOULD BE TO INCLUDE A CODE ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE LETTER... THE RECIPIENT WOULD GET THE MESSAGE, BUT AVOID THE CHARGE BY REFUSING THE LETTER'S RECEIPT.



WITH A BRITISH SQUADRON ABROAD—THE ARRIVAL OF MAIL



**1837 BECAME A WATERSHED YEAR FOR
COMMUNICATIONS IN BRITAIN AND THE WORLD.**



DURING HER FIRST YEAR AS MONARCH, QUEEN VICTORIA CREATED A COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY ROWLAND HILL, TO STUDY THE POSTAL PROBLEM.





HE HAD ALREADY NOTED ISSUES SUCH AS THAT MENTIONED ABOVE AS WELL AS THE UNNECESSARY COST OF LETTER CARRIERS HAVING TO MAKE NUMEROUS TRIPS TO DELIVER AND COLLECT POSTAGE WHEN THE RECIPIENT WAS NOT AT HOME.



*IN RESPONSE, HE PROPOSED A UNIFORM PRE-PAID
POSTAL RATE OF ONE PENNY.*



IN 1840, THE PENNY POST WAS INAUGURATED,
ALLOWING FOR ANY LETTER UP TO ONE OUNCE TO
BE SENT THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY FOR A PENNY.



IN MAY 1840, THE PRE-PAID POSTAGE STAMP WAS INTRODUCED ALONG WITH PRE-PAID ENVELOPES, CALLED 'MULREADIES' AFTER A WELL-KNOWN ARTIST WHO ILLUSTRATED THEM.

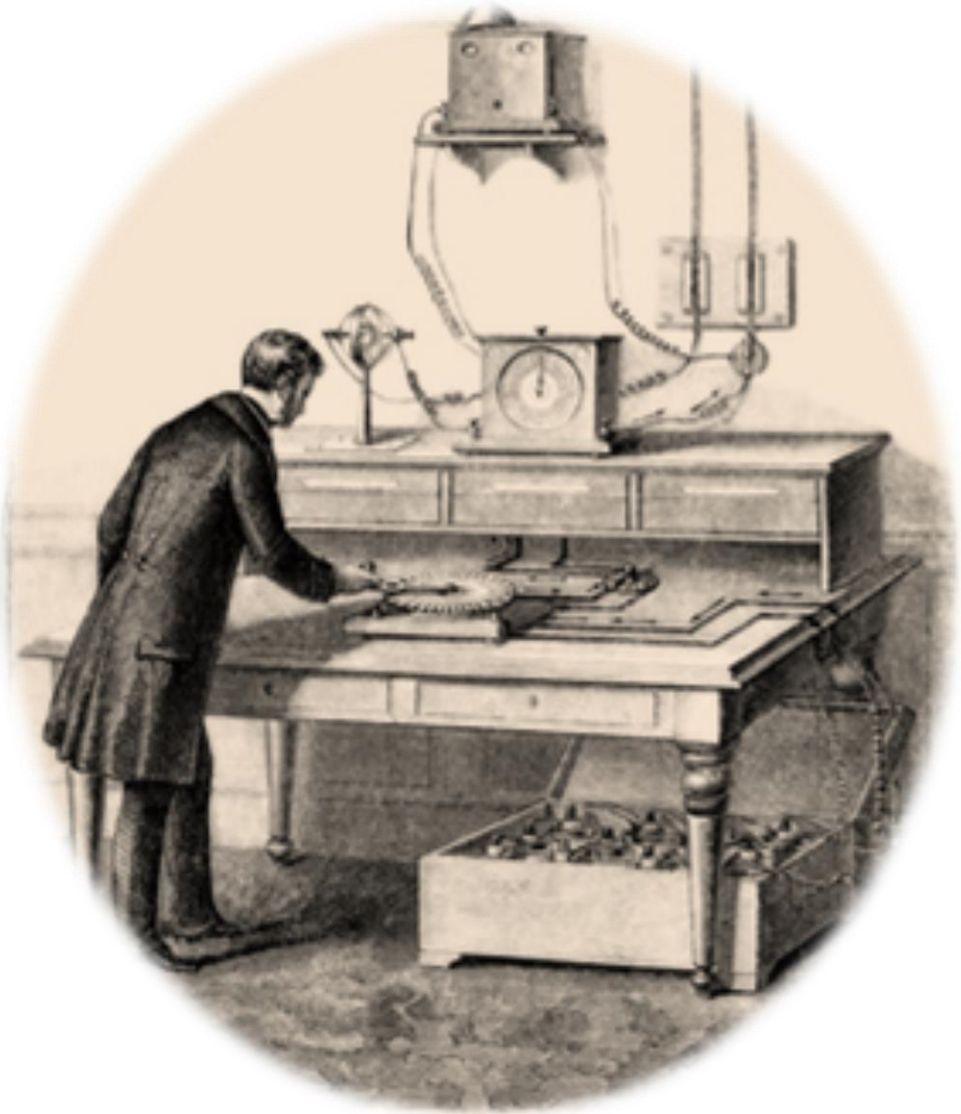




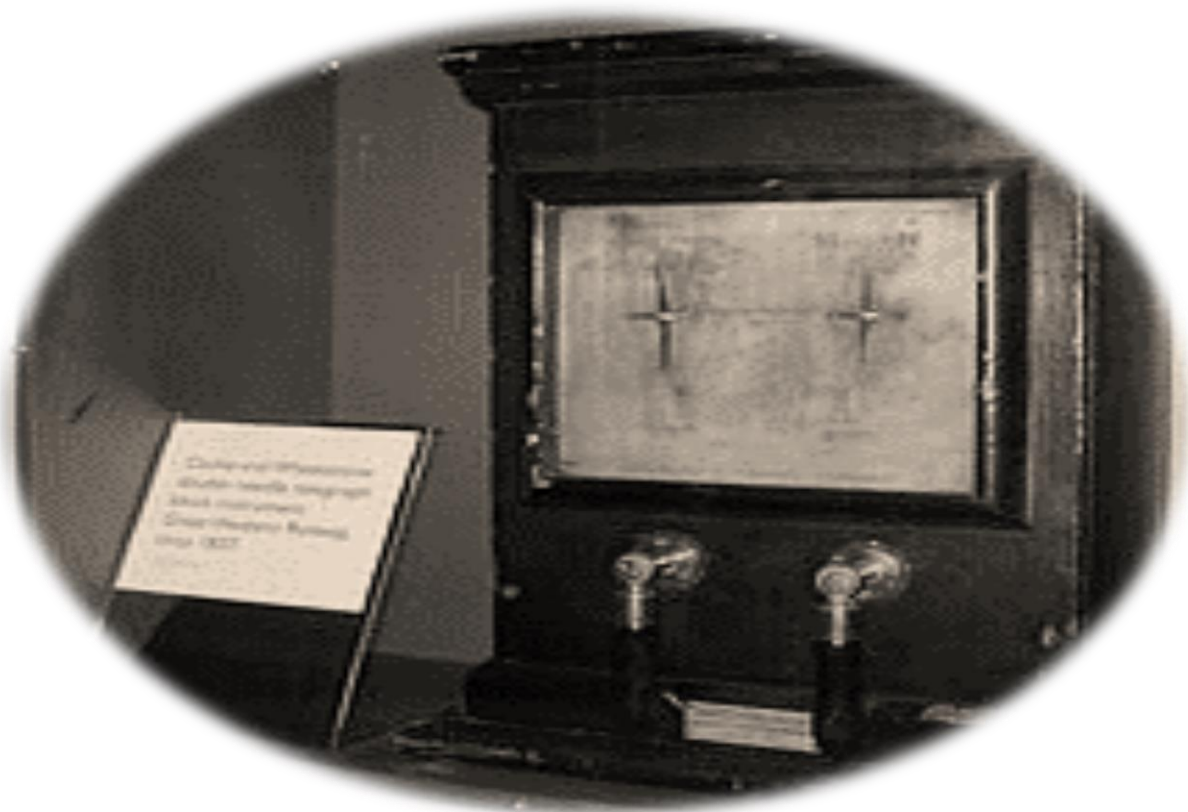
ALSO IN 1837, CHARLES WHEATSTONE AND WILLIAM COOKE DEMONSTRATED THE FIRST ELECTRICAL TELEGRAPH, SENDING MESSAGES BETWEEN CAMDEN TOWN AND EUSTON RAILWAY STATIONS (ABOUT NINETEEN MILES APART).



THEIR DEVICE INVOLVED USING AN ELECTRICAL CURRENT TO CREATE AN ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELD TO MOVE NEEDLES LOCATED ON A GRID CONTAINING 20 OF THE 26 LETTERS OF THE ALPHABET TO SPELL OUT MESSAGES.



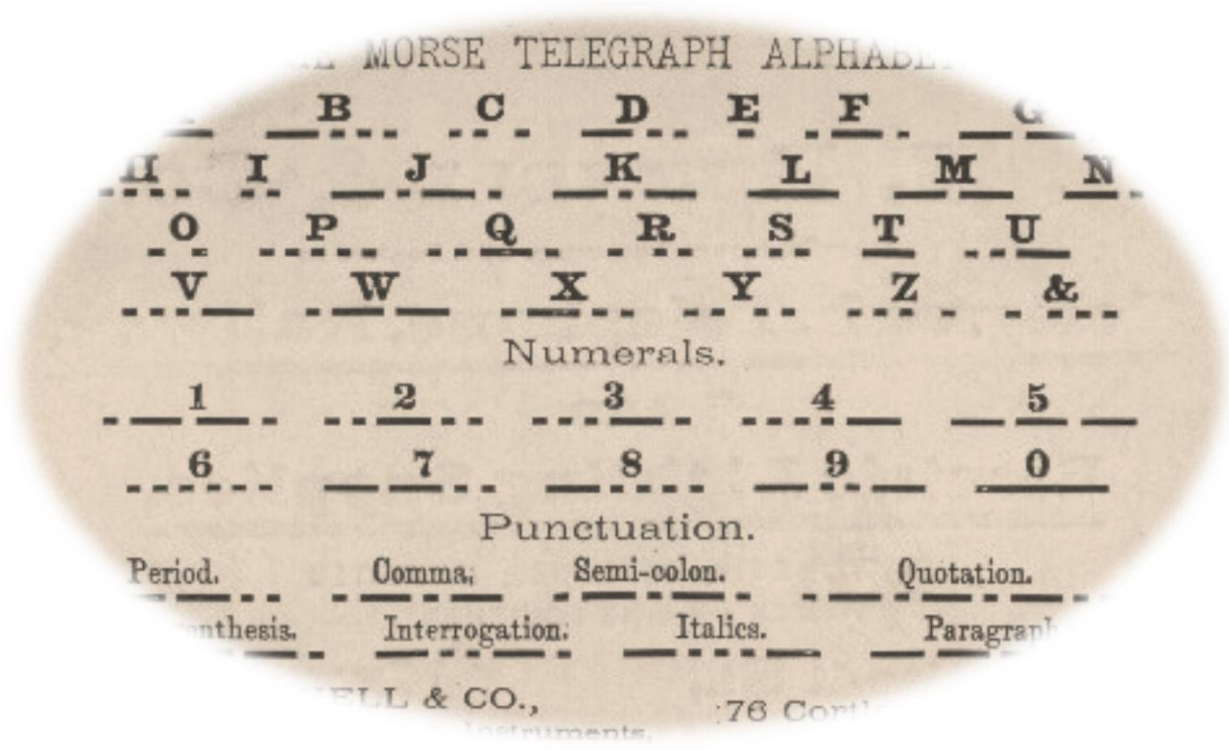
AT FIRST, THE SYSTEM WAS USED TO SEND INFORMATION ALONG RAILWAY LINES TO MONITOR TRAINS' LOCATIONS, BUT ITS COMMERCIAL VALUE WAS SOON RECOGNIZED AND THE DEVICES WERE INSTALLED IN POST OFFICES ACROSS THE COUNTRY TO SEND OTHER MESSAGES AS WELL.



THE WHEATSTONE AND COOKE DEVICE, HOWEVER, REQUIRED SIX ELECTRICAL CABLES, AND WHILE THEY WERE ABLE TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OVER TIME IT WAS SAMUEL MORSE, ALFRED VAIL AND LEONARD GALE WHO ARE CREDITED WITH THE WORLD'S FIRST GLOBAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK.



THESE MEN HAD BEEN WORKING ON THEIR OWN ELECTRICAL TELEGRAPH USING A SINGLE CABLE AND CODE OF 'DOTS' AND 'DASHES' TO SEND MESSAGES.

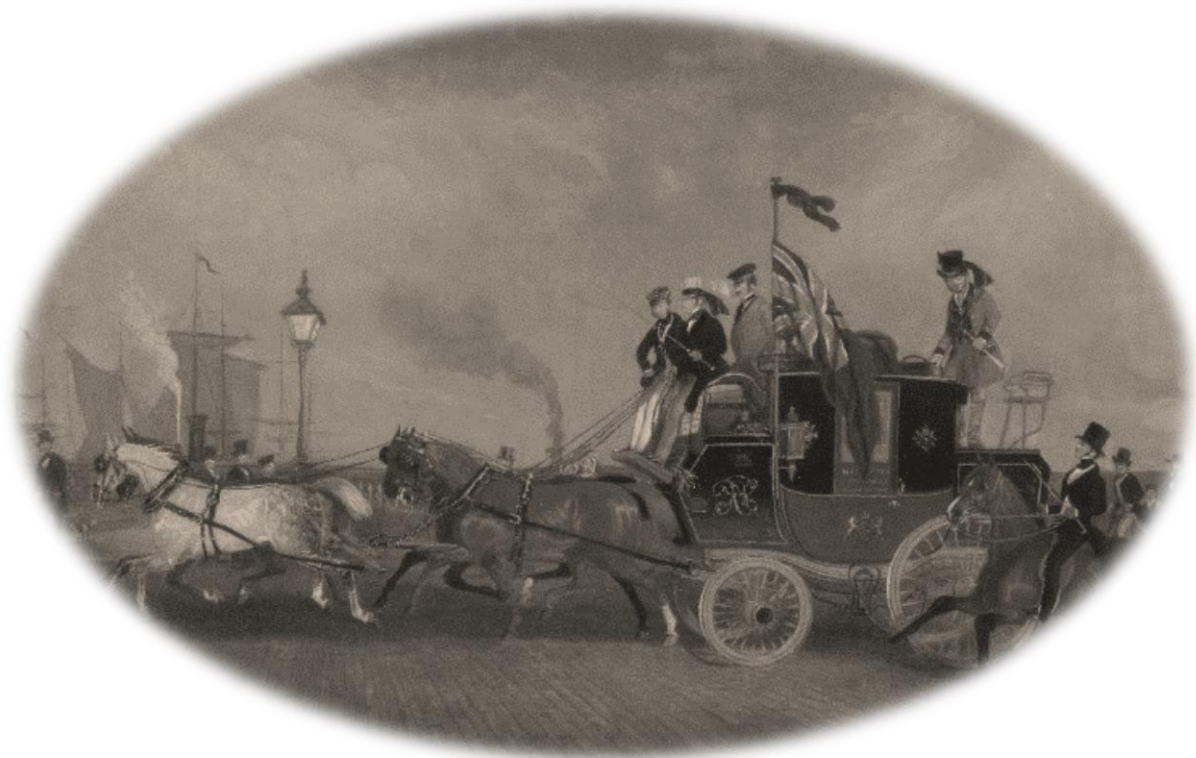




THEY ONLY GOT AROUND TO PATENT IT IN 1840,
BUT ITS GREATER SIMPLICITY MOVED THEM AHEAD
OF THE WHEATSTONE AND COOKE DEVICE.



UNTIL THE INTRODUCTION OF THE PENNY POST AND TELEGRAPHY, THE SPEED OF COMMUNICATION HAD NOT CHANGED SIGNIFICANTLY FROM ROMAN TIMES.



WITH THE ADVENT OF HILL'S REFORMS, THE VOLUME OF MAIL INCREASED EXPONENTIALLY, LEADING TO NUMEROUS DELIVERIES EACH DAY... TWELVE IN LONDON AND ELSEWHERE AT LEAST SIX... AND TELEGRAPHED MESSAGES TRAVELED EVEN FASTER.



A MURDERER KNOWN TO HAVE BOARDED A TRAIN AT ONE STATION WAS APPREHENDED UPON HIS ARRIVAL AT PADDINGTON STATION AFTER THE POLICE RECEIVED A TELEGRAM WITH HIS DESCRIPTION.



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA - POSTMASTER-GENERAL - DEPARTMENT.

RECEIVED TELEGRAM

The first line of this telegram contains the following particulars in the order named.

Place of Origin.	Words.	Time Lodged.	No.
Melbore	36/1	9a	7E

Sent at.....
Ch'nl. No.....
By.....

Remarks. Sch. C.2554. 10/195

To Postal acknowledgment.
Personal
Mr J Roddy 20 Emily St
H. Beane

This message has been received subject to the Post and Telegraph Act and Regulations.
The time received at this office is shown at the end of the message.
The date stamp indicates the date both of lodgment and of receipt unless otherwise shown after the particulars of time lodged.

Distrec 1319 To Inform you that
VX 8007 a J Roddy previously
reported missing is now reported
owner of war entered car
Minister for the

*FOR YOU AND I, SUCH SPEED SERVED US WITH THE
RAPID RESPONSES NEEDED AS WE SENT ENQUIRIES
ACROSS THE CITY, COUNTRY, AND THE WORLD.*



RECEIVING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IN A MATTER OF HOURS OFTEN GAVE US THAT ONE ESSENTIAL BIT NEEDED TO SOLVE A MYSTERY.



SO, WE HAVE COMPLETED TOPIC # 020 IN OUR SERIES...

IN TOPIC # 021, WE WILL LOOK AT THE COINS OF THE REALM IN VICTORIAN ENGLAND.



REFERENCES FOR THIS TOPIC:

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Baker Street Elementary

"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"

IS CREATED THROUGH THE INGENUITY & HARD WORK OF:

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LIESE SHERWOOD-FABRE

RUSTY MASON

&

STEVE MASON

