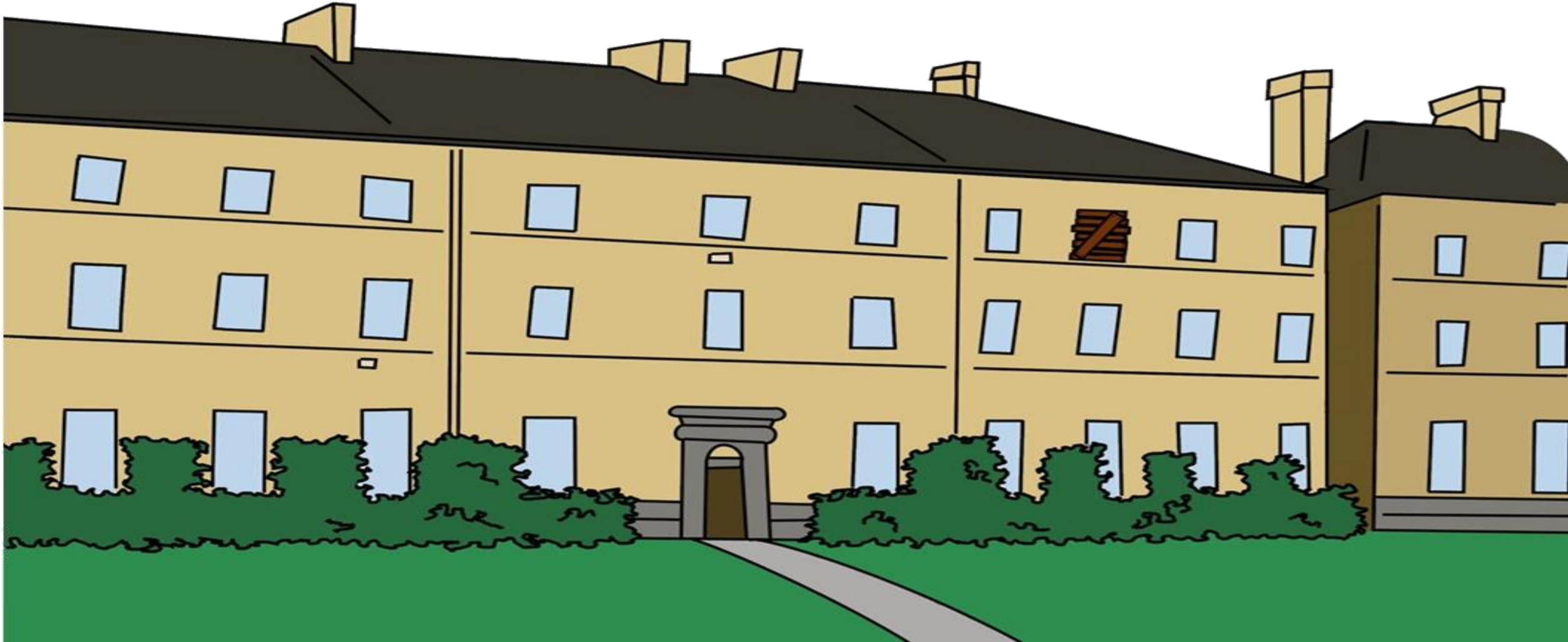


Baker Street *Elementary*

PRESENTS
"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"



Baker Street *Elementary*

THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON
A022 -- THE BRITISH MUSEUM -- JANUARY, 2022



**WELCOME TO TOPIC # 022... TODAY WE WILL BE
LOOKING AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM, AMONG THE
LARGEST AND MOST COMPREHENSIVE COLLECTION
OF ARTIFACTS IN EXISTENCE.**



FOUR DIFFERENT STORIES IN THE SHERLOCKIAN SERIES REFERENCE THE BRITISH MUSEUM: TWICE TO SERVE AS LOCATION MARKERS, AND TWICE AS THE SOURCE OF INFORMATION TO HELP SOLVE A CRIME.



IN 'THE MUSGRAVE RITUAL,' YOU IDENTIFIED YOUR FIRST LONDON LODGINGS AS "AROUND THE CORNER FROM THE BRITISH MUSEUM."





THE INSTITUTION'S ROLE AS A REPOSITORY FOR A WIDE ARRAY OF ARTIFACTS AND KNOWLEDGE, HOWEVER, SUGGESTS THAT MY SELECTION OF THIS ADDRESS MIGHT HAVE BEEN MORE THAN JUST A COINCIDENCE.





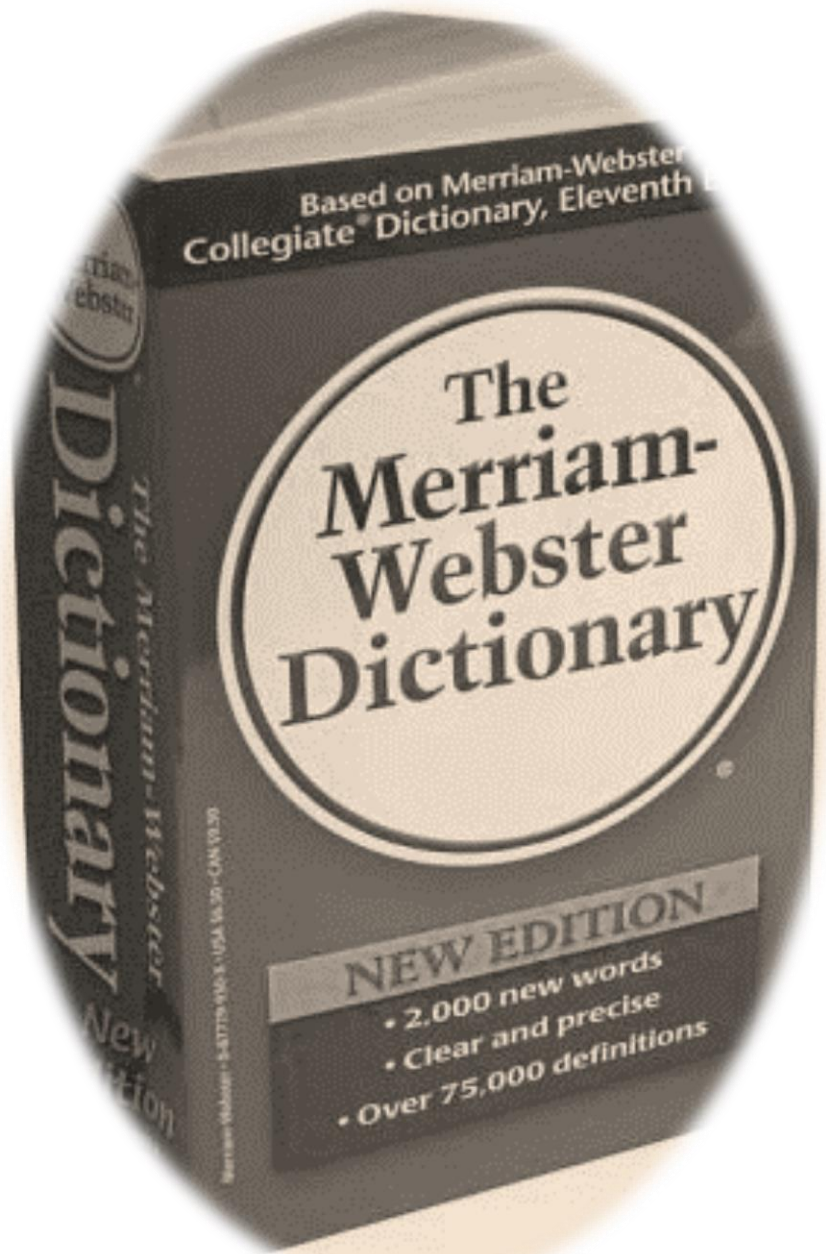
IN THE TWO OTHER NARRATIVES, I CONSULTED
THE MUSEUM'S COLLECTIONS AND EXPERTS TO
LEARN THE MAN KNOWN JACK STAPLETON IN THE
HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES...





...HAD BEEN A WELL-KNOWN AUTHORITY ON ENTOMOLOGY UNDER ANOTHER NAME AND THE ODD REMAINS FOUND IN THE WISTERIA LODGE KITCHEN CAME FROM A VOODOO RITUAL.





MERRIAM-WEBSTER'S DEFINITION OF A MUSEUM IS 'AN INSTITUTION DEVOTED TO THE PROCUREMENT, CARE, STUDY, AND DISPLAY OF OBJECTS OF LASTING INTEREST OR VALUE.'



*WHILE THE COMMON CONCEPT OF THE 'OBJECTS' IN
A MUSEUM INVOLVE PAINTINGS, SCULPTURES, OR
ITEMS OF HISTORICAL OR SCIENTIFIC INTEREST...*



**...THE ORIGINS OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM INVOLVES
BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS AS WELL AS
ANTIQUITIES AND NATURAL HISTORY SPECIMENS,
MAKING IT A 'UNIVERSAL MUSEUM.'**



THREE PRIVATE COLLECTIONS (BEQUEATHED BY SIR HANS SLOANE; ROBERT HARLEY, 1ST EARL OF OXFORD; AND SIR ROBERT COTTON) FORMED THE ORIGINAL CATALOGUE... THEY WILLED THEM TO THE KING, AND THROUGH HIM, THE BRITISH NATION.

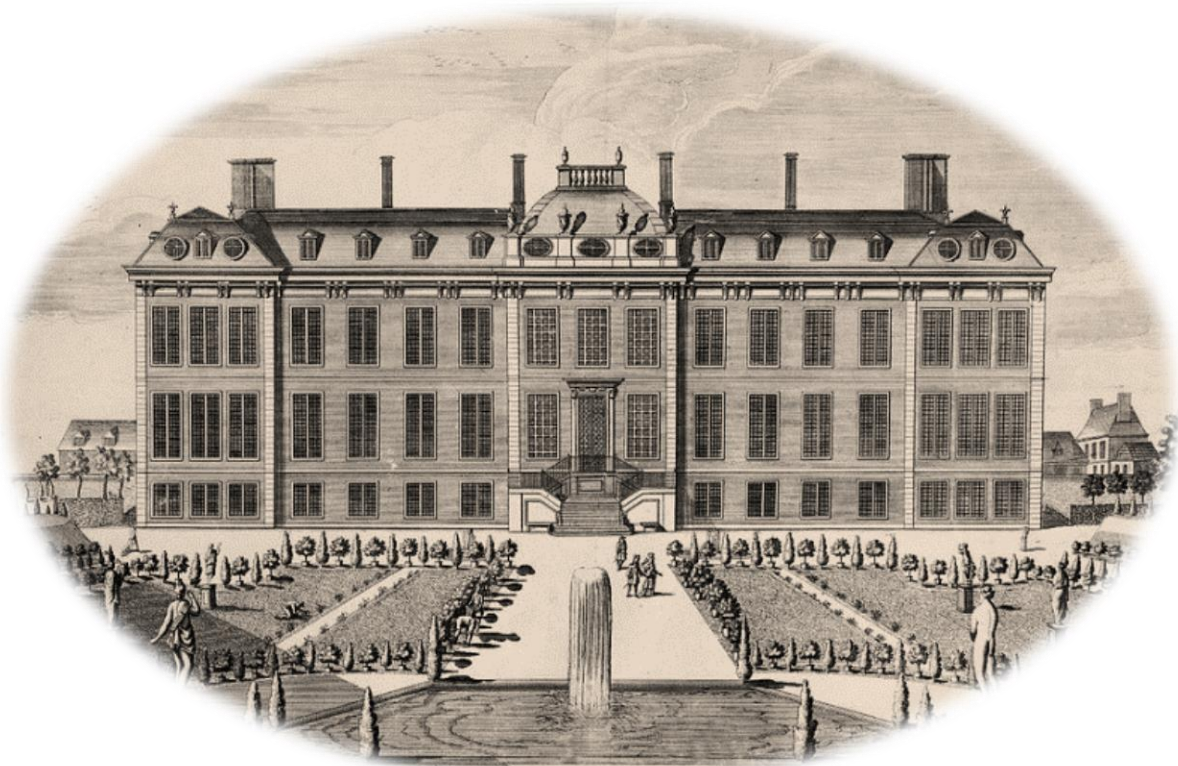




IN 1753, PARLIAMENT ESTABLISHED THE BRITISH MUSEUM FROM THESE ESTATES, ADDING TO THEM THE BRITISH MONARCHS' ROYAL LIBRARY IN 1757.



WHEN THE INSTITUTION OPENED AT MONTAGU HOUSE
IN 1759, IT CREATED THE FIRST NATIONAL MUSEUM,
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND BELONGING TO ALL.





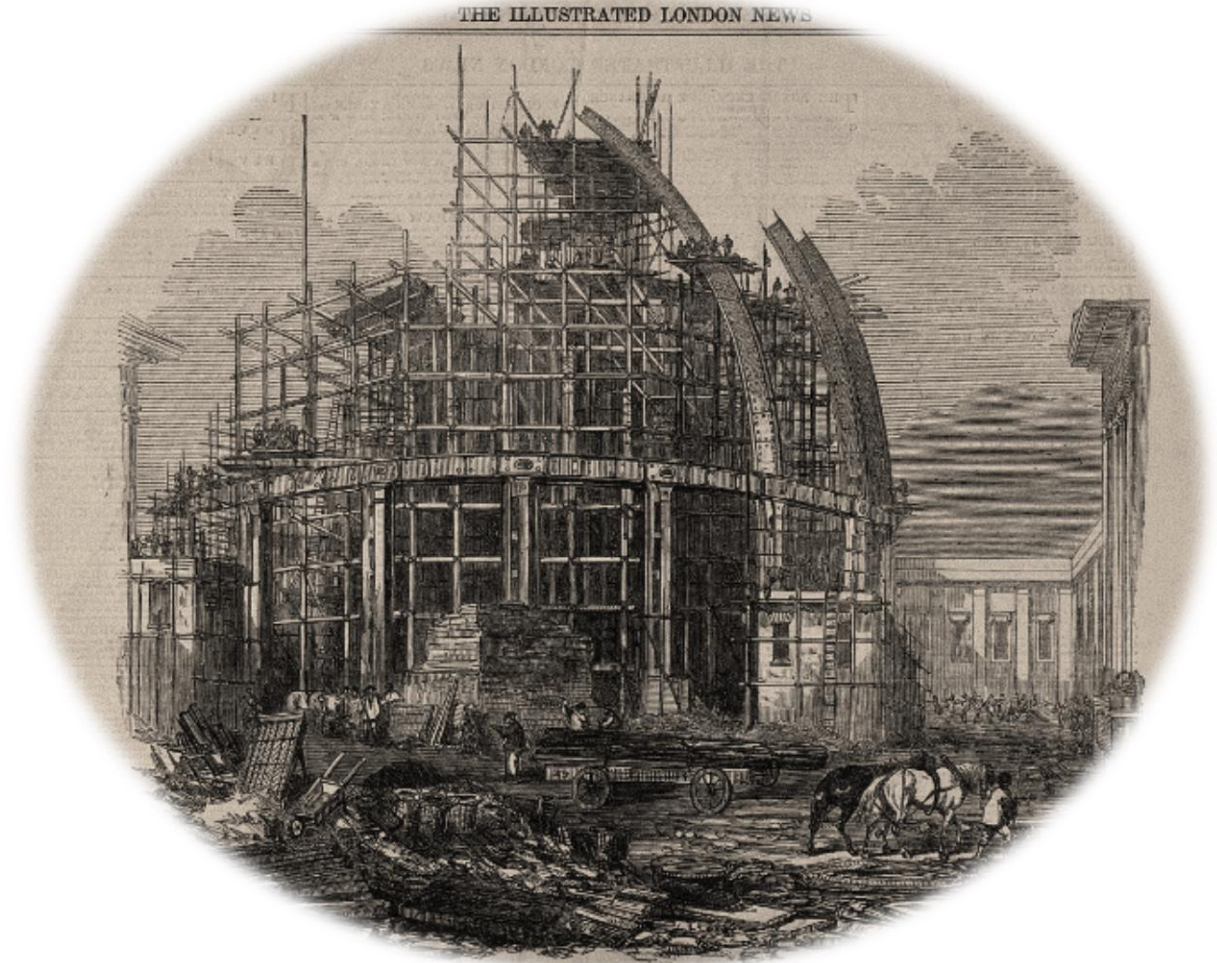
*THE COLLECTION CONTINUED TO GROW, ADDING
OBJECTS FROM THE JAMES COOKS' TRAVELS TO
THE SOUTH SEAS, ANTIQUITIES FROM EGYPT,
ROME, AND GREECE, AND THE EXCAVATIONS FROM
ASIA MINOR.*



THE INSTITUTION QUICKLY OUTGREW ITS ORIGINAL BUILDING, AND IT WAS REPLACED BY GREEK REVIVAL STYLE CONSTRUCTION ON THE SAME SITE IN THE EARLY 1800s.



DESPITE THE ADDITIONAL SPACE, THE FACILITY WAS CONTINUALLY SHORT OF ROOM, AND SEVERAL WINGS WERE ADDED TO RELIEVE PRESSURE.



ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS ADJUSTMENTS WAS
THE CAST-IRON CIRCULAR READING ROOM BUILT
IN AN ORIGINALLY EMPTY QUADRANGLE.



THE ROOM OPENED ON MAY 2, 1857 AND FOR ONE WEEK (MAY 8-17) THE PUBLIC WAS ALLOWED TO INSPECT THE STRUCTURE. 62,000 VISITORS PASSED THROUGH DURING THAT TIME.



THOSE ACTUALLY INTERESTED IN USING THE ROOM TO CONSULT THE WRITTEN MATERIALS HAD TO APPLY TO THE PRINCIPAL LIBRARIAN FOR A READER'S TICKET.

Permission to use the Reading-Room will be withdrawn from any person who shall write or make marks on any part of a printed book, manuscript, or paper belonging to the Museum.

Index Mark	Name of Author, or other heading of the volume.	Title	Place	Date	Year
2500-a	Paris (Mattieu)	Eng Hist -	Low	1849	82
3rd	Berlin - cont. Lit.				

(Signature) M. Stoddard
 (Number of the Reader's Seat) C. 1

Please to return each Volume of the Catalogue to its place, as soon as done with.

H & R (11708) 100,000 : -P1



281900 July 15. 8. 05

No. 5666

BRITISH MUSEUM,

24th May

SIX MONTHS

The Director of the British Museum
begs to inform W. Bram
Stoker

that a Reading Ticket will be delivered to
him on presenting this Note to the
Clerk in the Reading-room, within Six
Months from the above date.

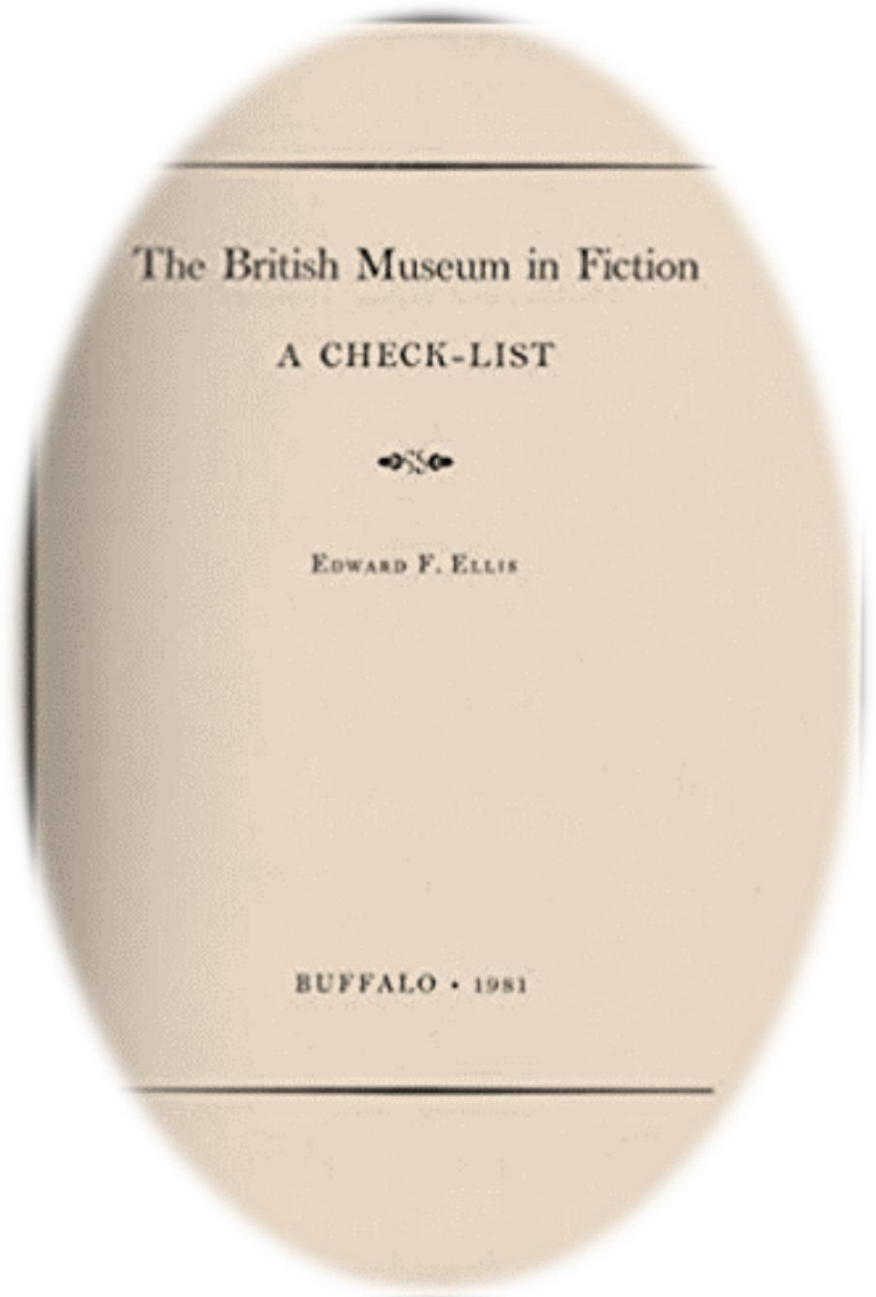
*N.B.—Persons under twenty-one years of age
are not admissible.*

W B & L (x)—17746—5000-2-4

**AMONG THOSE REQUESTING THE PRIVILEGE WERE
KARL MARX, VLADIMIR LENIN, BRAM STOKER, AND,
OF COURSE, SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE.**



EDWARD ELLIS COMPILED A LISTING OF ALL THE REFERENCES TO THE BRITISH MUSEUM IN FICTION, AND PUBLISHED A 179-PAGE TOME OF SUCH CITATIONS...



*...WHICH INCLUDES DOYLE'S SHERLOCKIAN PIECES
AND ONE MORE NON-SHERLOCKIAN PIECE, 'THE
LEATHER FUNNEL' FROM ROUND THE FIRE STORIES.*



THE CONSTANTLY GROWING HOLDINGS FORCED THE MUSEUM TO MOVE ITS NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTION TO A NEW BUILDING IN SOUTH KENSINGTON IN 1881, FORMING THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM.



*IN 1973, THE LIBRARY COLLECTION WAS MOVED TO
HELP CREATE THE BRITISH LIBRARY.*



**IN 2000, THE ORIGINAL READING ROOM REOPENED
TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC AFTER UNDERGOING
RECONSTRUCTION AND RESTORATION.**



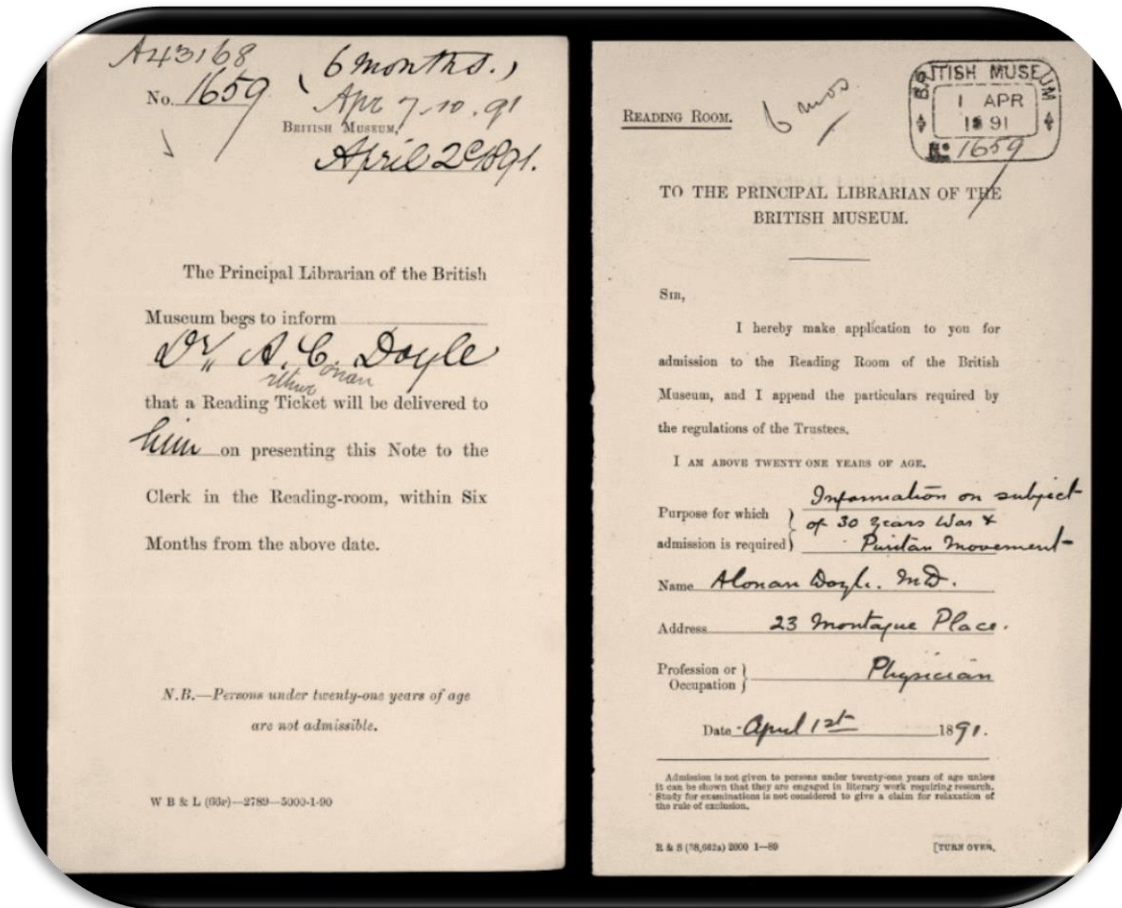
MORE THAN 25,000 BOOKS AND OTHER WRITTEN MATERIALS, PRIMARILY ABOUT THE CULTURES ON DISPLAY AT THE MUSEUM, ARE AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW.



**IT IS STILL THE MOST VISITED ATTRACTION IN
THE UNITED KINGDOM WITH MORE THAN 6.5
MILLION VISITORS EACH YEAR.**



GIVEN MY PROXIMITY TO THE MUSEUM AND THE BREADTH OF ITS COLLECTION, IT CAN BE CERTAIN I HAD MY OWN READER'S TICKET AND MADE MUCH MORE USE OF THE INFORMATION STORED THERE THAN MENTIONED IN THE STORIES.



**WHAT BETTER MEANS TO FILL YOUR BRAIN ATTIC
THAN THROUGH THE EVER-MOUNTING HOLDINGS
THAT MAKE THE BRITISH MUSEUM THE
ATTRACTION IT CONTINUES TO BE.**



SO, WE HAVE COMPLETED TOPIC # 022 IN OUR SERIES...

IN TOPIC # 023, WE WILL LOOK AT THE USE OF CHLOROFORM IN OUR ADVENTURES.



References for this topic:

- DOYLE, ARTHUR CONAN; RYAN, ROBERT. THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES
- [HTTP://WWW.MERRIAM-WEBSTER.COM/DICTIONARY/MUSEUM](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/museum)
- [HTTPS://EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/WIKI/BRITISH_MUSEUM](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Museum)
- [HTTPS://WWW.BRITISHMUSEUM.ORG/ABOUT_US/THE_MUSEUMS_STORY/ARCHITECTURE/READING_ROOM.ASPX](https://www.britishmuseum.org/about_us/the_museums_story/architecture/reading_room.aspx)
- [HTTPS://WWW.BRITISHMUSEUM.ORG/ABOUT_US/THE_MUSEUMS_STORY/GENERAL_HISTORY.ASPX](https://www.britishmuseum.org/about_us/the_museums_story/general_history.aspx)
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Baker Street Elementary

"The Life and Times in Victorian London"

IS CREATED THROUGH THE INGENUITY & HARD WORK OF:

JOE FAY

LIESE SHERWOOD-FABRE

RUSTY MASON

&

STEVE MASON

