

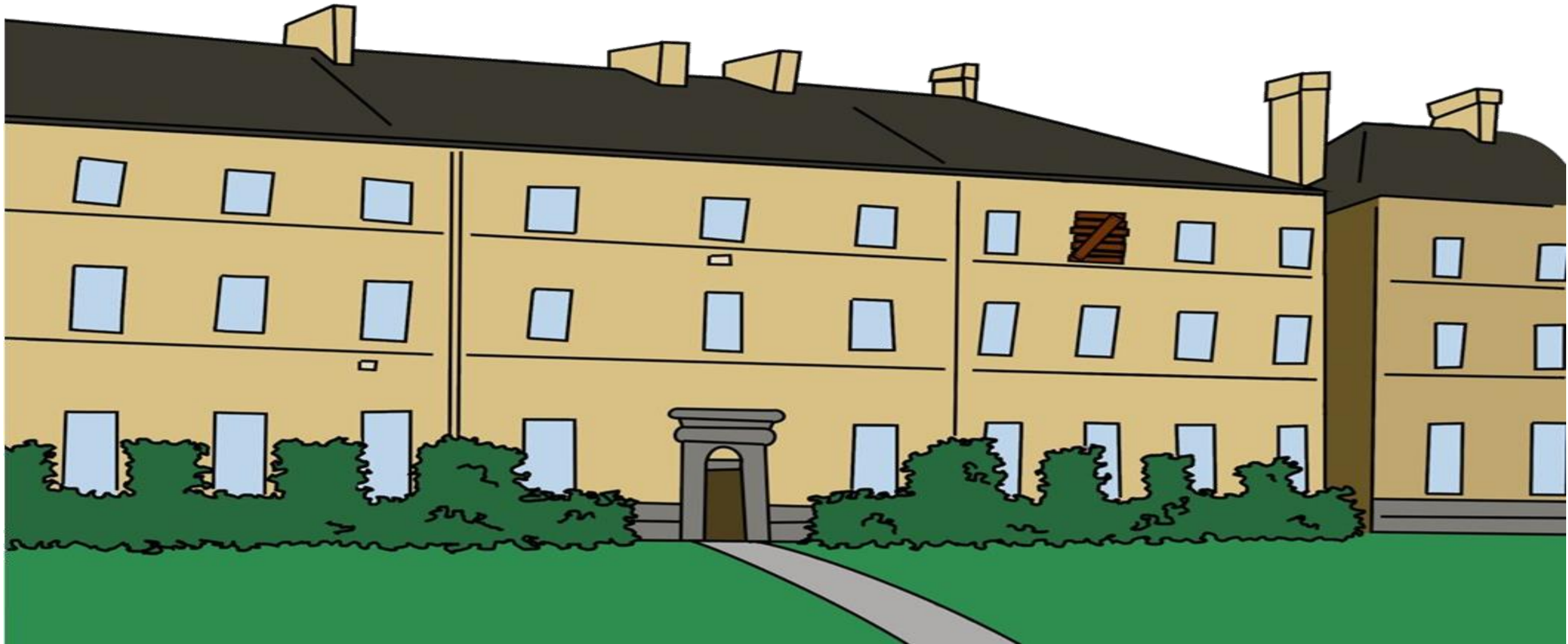
# Baker Street *Elementary*

PRESENTS  
"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"



# Baker Street Elementary

THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON  
# A028 -- EN GARDE -- JANUARY, 2022



**WELCOME TO TOPIC # 028... TODAY, HOLMES AND I WILL LOOK AT THE SPORT OF FENCING DURING THE VICTORIAN PERIOD.**



SHORTLY AFTER MOVING INTO 221B WITH YOU, I PROVIDED A LIST OF YOUR CHARACTERISTICS.



### **Sherlock Holmes—his limits**

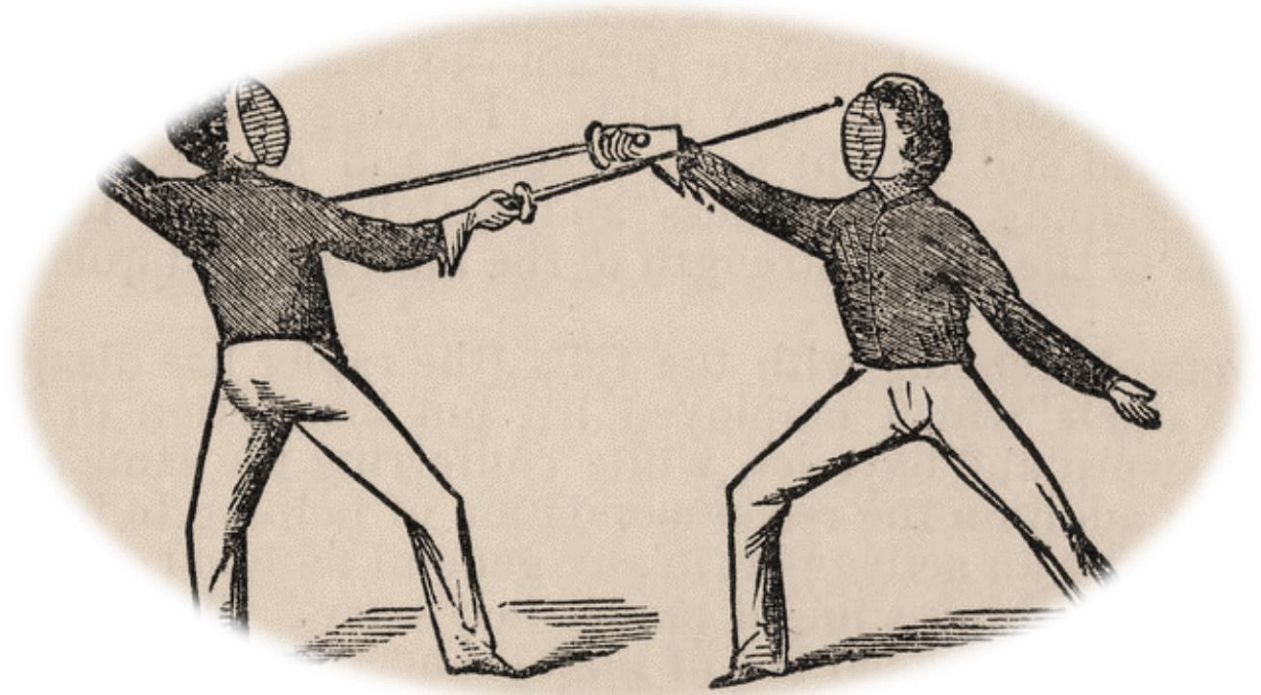
1. Knowledge of Literature.—Nil.
2. " " Philosophy.—Nil.
3. " " Astronomy.—Nil.
4. " " Politics.—Feeble.
5. " " Botany.—Variable.
6. Knowledge of Geology.—Practical, but limited.
7. Knowledge of Chemistry.—Profound.
8. " " Anatomy.—Accurate, but unsystematic.
9. " " Sensational Literature.—Immense.
10. Plays the violin well.
11. ***Is an expert singlestick player, boxer, and swordsman.***
12. Has a good practical knowledge of British law.



AMONG THEM WAS YOUR EXPERTISE AS A  
SWORDSMAN AND LATER, YOU NOTED FENCING  
AND BOXING WERE YOUR ATHLETIC TASTES  
DURING YOUR TWO YEARS AT COLLEGE.



AT THE TIME OF YOUR STUDIES IN 1874 (WHEN THE CASE OF THE GLORIA SCOTT OCCURRED) FENCING WAS STILL TAUGHT IN COLLEGES AND SPECIAL SCHOOLS BECAUSE OF ITS ROLE IN DUELING.



*THE SHIFT TO BEING ONLY A SPORT, INSTEAD OF DETERMINING A QUESTION OF HONOR BETWEEN TWO MEN, WAS NOT COMPLETED UNTIL 1890.*







**FENCING AND SWORDPLAY DATE BACK TO THE EGYPTIANS.**





**A BAS-RELIEF IN A TEMPLE BUILT IN 1190 BC  
DEPICTS A COMPETITION USING STICKS WITH  
BRONZE PLATES AT THE END.**



*SOME COMBATANTS ARE SHOWN WEARING PROTECTIVE MASKS... FOUR CENTURIES LATER, THE SPORT APPEARED IN THE GREEK OLYMPIC GAMES AND WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE ROMAN CAMPS ABOUT A HUNDRED YEARS AFTER THAT.*



**SWORD FIGHTS CONTINUED THROUGH THE CENTURIES AS A WAY OF SETTling DISPUTES... DURING THE AGE OF CHIVALRY, LOYALTY, BRAVERY AND TRUTH WERE ALSO DETERMINED BY COMBAT BETWEEN KNIGHTS.**





IN THE LATE 1400s, SWORDSMANSHIP EXPLODED  
ACROSS EUROPE, THE EPICENTERS BEING IN  
GERMANY AND FRANCE.



FENCING GUILDS AND ACADEMIES TAUGHT THE USE OF THE RAPIER, AND THE FRENCH FENCING ACADEMY FORMALIZED THE POSITIONS USED AS THE PRIME, SECONDE, TIERCE, QUATRE AND LUNGE.



*A ROMANTIC VIEW OF SWORDSMANSHIP DEVELOPED,  
EMPHASIZING IT AS AN ART AND AS A MEANS OF  
DEFENDING ONE'S HONOR THROUGH DUELING.*



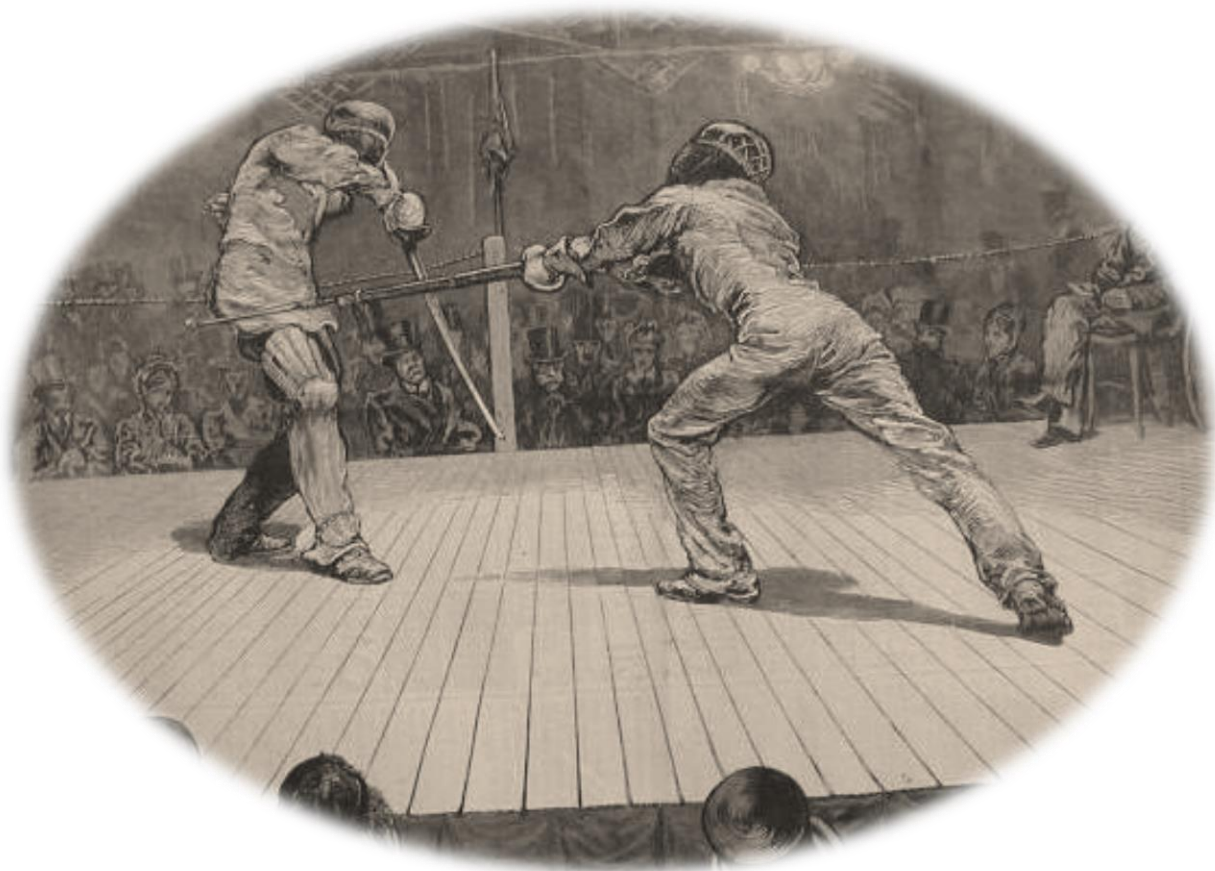




**A MAN'S MASCULINITY WAS DETERMINED IN PART  
BY HOW MANY DUELS HE HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN.**



**DUELING DECLINED SHARPLY IN THE MID-NINETEENTH CENTURY, AND FENCING MOVED TO BEING A SPORT.**

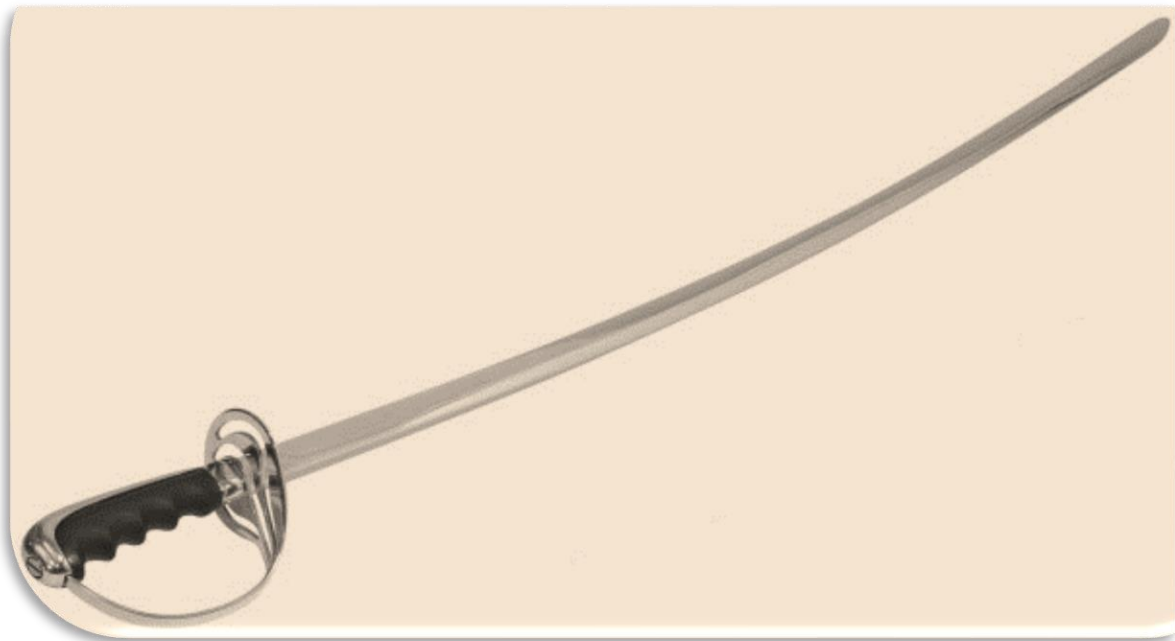


THE FIRST OLYMPIC GAMES IN 1896 INCLUDED FENCING WITH THE FOIL (A FLEXIBLE, LIGHT — UNDER ONE POUND — SWORD WITH A RECTANGULAR CROSS SECTION)...

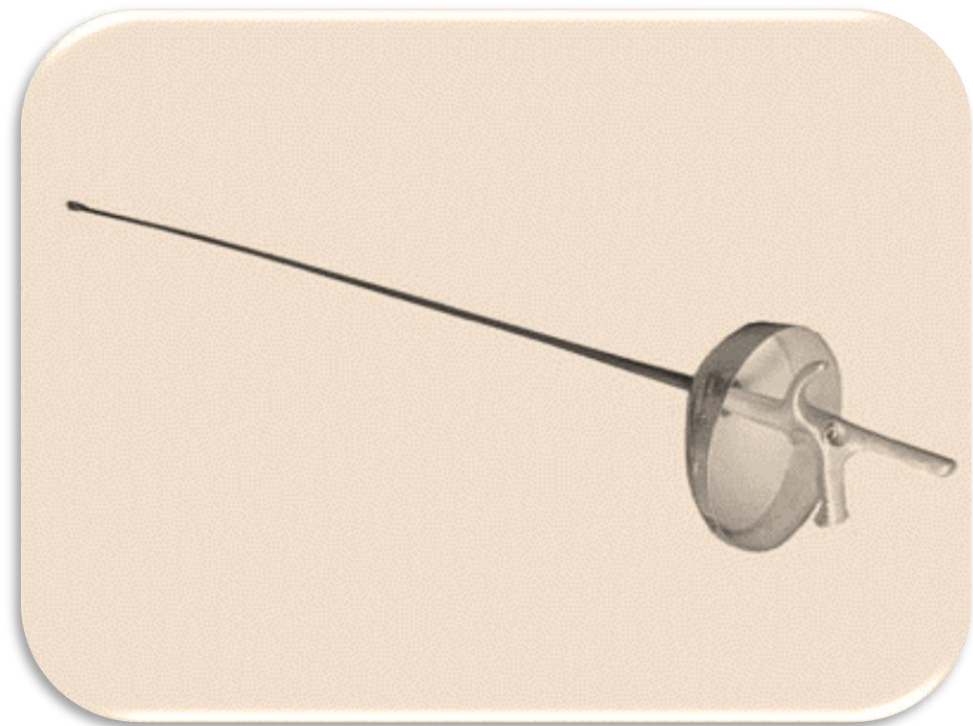




...AND THE SABRE (A WEAPON THIRTY-FIVE INCHES LONG, STIFFER THAN THE FOIL WITH AN 'I' OR 'V' CROSS SECTION).



THE ÉPÉE (THE STIFFEST SWORD WITH A TRIANGULAR CROSS SECTION AND A 'V' SHAPED GROOVE IN THE MIDDLE) WAS INCLUDED IN THE 1900 GAMES.



THE 1924 OLYMPICS INCLUDED WOMEN'S FOIL  
COMPETITION, BUT WOMEN'S ÉPÉE WAS NOT  
INTRODUCED UNTIL 1996.





*BECAUSE FENCING WITH THE FOIL HAD BEEN TAUGHT IN SCHOOLS AND MOST WERE SKILLED IN ITS USE, IT BECAME THE FIRST WEAPON USED IN SPORTING COMPETITIONS.*





A JUDGE AND FOUR WITNESSES DETERMINED THE VICTOR IN A 'BLANK DUEL,' OR MATCH.



THEY WOULD COUNT THE NUMBER OF HITS BY THE FOIL'S BUTTON END AS WELL AS THE MANNER AND RELATIVE SPEED OF THE STRIKES.





*WHILE NOT SPECIFIED IN THE SHERLOCKIAN STORIES, GIVEN HIS PARTICIPATION IN THE SPORT DURING COLLEGE, YOU WERE MOST LIKELY AS FORMIDABLE AN OPPONENT WITH THIS WEAPON AS WITH YOUR FISTS.*



SO, WE HAVE COMPLETED TOPIC # 028 IN OUR SERIES...

IN TOPIC # 029, WE WILL LOOK AT THE USE OF PAPER DURING THE VICTORIAN PERIOD.



## REFERENCES FOR THIS TOPIC:

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- [HTTPS://WWW.OLYMPIC.ORG/FENCING-EQUIPMENT-AND-HISTORY](https://www.olympic.org/fencing-equipment-and-history)
- [HTTP://WWW.SWORDSMEN101.COM/HISTORYOFFENCING.HTML](http://www.swordsmen101.com/historyoffencing.html)





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"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"

IS CREATED THROUGH THE INGENUITY & HARD WORK OF:

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