

# Baker Street *Elementary*

PRESENTS  
"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"



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THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON  
# A053 -- TWO YEARS AT COLLEGE - FEBRUARY, 2022





*WELCOME TO TOPIC # 053... TODAY, WATSON AND I WILL DISCUSS MY TIME AT UNIVERSITY...*



IN 'THE MUSGRAVE RITUAL,' I NOTED I MET  
REGINALD MUSGRAVE WHILE 'AT UNIVERSITY.'



**ALTHOUGH BY THE 1870s, SEVERAL  
UNIVERSITIES HAD FORMED TO PROVIDE  
HIGHER EDUCATION TO THOSE NOT  
MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND...**



...**'GOING TO UNIVERSITY'** REFERRED ONLY TO OXFORD OR CAMBRIDGE--THE ONLY TWO UNIVERSITIES IN ENGLAND PROVIDING THE CLASSICAL EDUCATION DIRECTED AT THE UPPER CLASSES.



**BOTH UNIVERSITIES WERE FOUNDED AS  
RELIGIOUS TRAINING INSTITUTIONS,  
SEEKING TO  
PREPARE PRIESTS AND SCHOOL TEACHERS.**



**AS TIME PROGRESSED, THE TRAINING IN LOGIC  
AND DEBATE WAS ALSO RECOGNIZED AS A NEEDED  
SKILL FOR LAWYERS AND ADMINISTRATORS  
NEEDED BY THE STATE.**





**GIVEN ITS MAJOR ROLE AS TRAINING THOSE  
DESTINED FOR THE PRIESTHOOD, CHURCH  
MEMBERSHIP WAS REQUIRED FOR THOSE  
ENTERING THE UNIVERSITY...**



*...SHIFTING FROM THE CATHOLIC CHURCH TO THE ANGLICAN CHURCH UNDER HENRY VIII.*



**WHEN YOU MENTIONED YOU AND REGINALD WERE  
IN THE SAME COLLEGE, YOU WERE REFERRING TO  
THE UNIVERSITIES' COMPOSITION.**



**THE UNIVERSITY IS ACTUALLY A FEDERATION OF 'COLLEGES' (CURRENTLY 31 AT CAMBRIDGE AND 38 IN OXFORD) ALL OF WHICH OFFER SIMILAR COURSES OF STUDY WITH THEIR OWN LECTURE HALLS, HOUSING, AND DINING FACILITIES.**



THEY ARE DISTINGUISHED FROM ONE ANOTHER BY EACH HAVING A UNIQUE 'FLAVOR,' THAT CATERS TO DIFFERENT POPULATIONS... FOR EXAMPLE, JESUS COLLEGE AT OXFORD WAS FOUNDED FOR WELSHMEN.



**OXFORD WAS KNOWN FOR CLASSICAL STUDIES  
(LATIN AND GREEK LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE),  
WHILE CAMBRIDGE FOR MATHEMATICS.**



*ONE OF THE MOST WELL-KNOWN COLLEGES AT OXFORD IS CHRIST CHURCH WAS A MONASTERY BEFORE BECOMING A SEAT OF LEARNING UNDER HENRY VIII.*



*ITS RESIDENTS HAVE INCLUDED ALBERT EINSTEIN,  
13 BRITISH PRIME MINISTERS AND LEWIS CARROLL.*





*SIMILARLY, ISAAC NEWTON, CHARLES DARWIN, CHARLES BABBAGE, AND LORD BYRON STUDIED AT CAMBRIDGE.*



**THE COLLEGES MAINTAINED A GREAT DEAL OF AUTONOMY UNTIL THE MID-1800s WHEN THE UNIVERSITY STRUCTURE DEVELOPED AN EXAMINATION SYSTEM.**



**UNDER THE OLDER SYSTEM, PROSPECTS HAD TO APPLY TO EACH COLLEGE SEPARATELY AND, ONCE ADMITTED, COMPLETE THAT COLLEGE'S FINAL EXAMINATIONS... THIS CHANGE WAS INTRODUCED TO ENSURE A MINIMUM STANDARD OF KNOWLEDGE AND A MORE COHERENT STUDY PROGRAM.**



*WHILE 'AT UNIVERSITY,' YOUNG MEN'S DAILY SCHEDULE INVOLVED DAILY CHAPEL ATTENDANCE, MEETING A FEW TIMES A WEEK WITH A TUTOR (A FELLOW, OR TEACHER, AT THE COLLEGE)...*



*...TO DISCUSS AN ESSAY OR OTHER WORK PREPARED BY THE STUDENT, ATTENDING THE OCCASIONAL LECTURE, AND A GREAT DEAL OF SOCIAL TIME WITH OTHER STUDENTS, INCLUDING SPORTS.*



*WHILE MANY EQUATE THE TWO SCHOOLS, REFERRED TO IN THE COMBINED TERM OF 'OXBRIDGE,' A DEEP RIVALRY EXISTS BETWEEN THEM.*



PERHAPS THE MOST PUBLIC FRICTION BETWEEN THE TWO IS THE ANNUAL OXFORD-CAMBRIDGE BOAT RACE ON THE THAMES OCCURRING IN EACH SPRING SINCE 1826 (WITH SOME EXCEPTIONS, SUCH AS THE TWO WORLD WARS)... OXFORD WON THE MOST RECENT, IN APRIL 2017, BRINGING THEM WITHIN TWO RACES OF CAMBRIDGE (80-82).



*YOU MENTIONED YOU SPENT ONLY TWO YEARS AT UNIVERSITY IN 'THE ADVENTURE OF THE GLORIA SCOTT,' SUGGESTING YOU DIDN'T COMPLETE YOUR STUDIES.*





**WHILE SOME STUDENTS LEFT BECAUSE THEY  
FAILED EXAMINATIONS, IT WAS NOT UNCOMMON  
FOR THOSE FROM ELITE SOCIETY...**



**...TO LEAVE AFTER TWO OR THREE YEARS—ONCE THEY REACHED AGE 21... A DEGREE WAS NOT NEEDED TO STUDY FOR THE BAR OR ENTER POLITICS.**





**GIVEN MY RATHER PRIVATE NATURE AND DECISION TO PURSUE A COMPLETELY INDEPENDENT CAREER FIELD OF CONSULTING DETECTIVE, MY DECISION TO LEAVE WAS CERTAINLY NOT OUT OF THE ORDINARY.**





AND HAVING LEFT, I WAS ABLE TO HONE THE SKILLS I NEEDED TO BECOME THE MOST FAMOUS OF SUCH DETECTIVES.



SO, WE HAVE COMPLETED TOPIC # 053 IN OUR SERIES...

IN TOPIC # 054, WE WILL BE LOOKING AT MY USE OF DISGUISES IN OUR ADVENTURES.



## ORIGINAL SOURCE MATERIAL FOR THIS TOPIC:

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"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"

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