

Baker Street *Elementary*

PRESENTS
"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"



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THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON
A055 -- NOT YOUR TYPE -- FEBRUARY, 2022



*WELCOME TO TOPIC # 055... TODAY HOLMES AND I WILL
BE LOOKING AT TYPEWRITERS DURING OUR PERIOD.*



THE SHERLOCK HOLMES' STORIES HOLD TWO REFERENCES TO TYPEWRITERS... IN THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, LAURA LYONS MADE HER LIVING ON A REMINGTON TYPEWRITER.



A TYPEWRITER'S SPECIFIC CHARACTERISTICS REVEAL WHO WAS SENDING LETTERS TO MARY SUTHERLAND... AS THESE TWO STORIES ILLUSTRATED, THIS PARTICULAR INVENTION CREATED A WHOLE NEW CAREER AND A NEW BRANCH OF FORENSICS TOWARD THE END OF THE 1800s.



WHILE MACHINES TO PRINT LETTERS HAD BEEN DEVELOPED THROUGHOUT THE 19TH CENTURY, CHRISTOPHER LATHAM SHOLES WAS THE FIRST TO CONSTRUCT A PRACTICAL MACHINE.



**IN 1873, HE SIGNED A CONTRACT WITH THE
REMINGTON GUNSMITHS, AND THE FIRST
MACHINES WERE SOLD IN 1874.**





THESE FIRST MACHINES TYPED ONLY CAPITAL LETTERS... THE MODEL 2, INTRODUCED IN 1878, INCLUDED A SHIFT KEY THAT ALLOWED FOR BOTH CAPITAL AND SMALL LETTERS.





*IN ADDITION TO CREATING A NEW MACHINE, A WHOLE
NEW PROFESSION WAS BORN: THE FEMALE TYPIST.*



**E. REMINGTON AND SONS SPECIFICALLY MARKETED
THEIR PRODUCT TO THE DAUGHTERS OF MIDDLE-
CLASS BUSINESSMEN...**



*...WITH KEYS DESIGNED FOR DAINY FINGERS AND
PROMOTED AS REQUIRING 'NO MORE SKILL THAN
PLAYING THE PIANO.'*



**IN SHORT ORDER, THE TYPEWRITER WAS EXPORTED
TO ENGLAND ALONG WITH THE FEMALE TYPIST
AND OFFICE WORKER.**



**BY 1911, MORE THAN 125,000 WOMEN HAD GONE
TO WORK IN OFFICES.**



IN ADDITION TO CREATING THE PROFESSION OF 'TYPEWRITER,' THE INVENTION SPARKED OTHER DEVELOPMENTS, SUCH AS THE 'TOUCH SYSTEM,' CREATING A MORE EFFICIENT METHOD OVER THE TWO-FINGERED 'HUNT AND PECK' APPROACH TO TYPING AND COURSES OFFERING TO TEACH THE METHOD ALONG WITH OTHER OFFICE SKILLS LIKE STENOGRAPHY.



WHILE STATUS (MIDDLE-CLASS OR HIGHER) WAS A REQUIREMENT AT THE BEGINNING FOR WOMEN TO ENTER OFFICE WORK QUALIFICATIONS OF THE 'TWIN' SKILLS OF STENOGRAPHY AND TYPEWRITING OPENED THE DOOR FOR MORE WOMEN INTO THIS FIELD.



FIVE TIMES AS MANY MEN WERE COUNTED AT OFFICE WORKERS IN 1911, COMPARED TO 1896.



**FEMALE OFFICE WORKERS, ON THE OTHER HAND,
INCREASED 500 TIMES... SOME OF THIS INCREASE
WAS PURELY ECONOMIC... FEMALES EARNED LESS THAN
A THIRD WHAT YOUNG MEN WERE PAID AS CLERKS.**



THEY WERE ALSO DISMISSED ONCE THEY MARRIED
AND HAD LITTLE OPPORTUNITY FOR PROMOTION IF
THEY REMAINED SINGLE, KEEPING THEIR WAGES
LOWER THAN MEN... THE TYPEWRITER ALSO
CORRESPONDED TO A RISE IN BUSINESS
DOCUMENTS AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY.



NOT ONLY DID THE TYPEWRITER CREATE MORE
UNIFORMITY AND READABILITY IN DOCUMENTS, IT
ALSO CREATED THE ILLUSION OF ANONYMITY...



*...NOT AVAILABLE WITH HANDWRITING,
ILLUSTRATED BY THE TYPEWRITTEN NOTES MISS
SUTHERLAND RECEIVED IN 'A CASE OF IDENTITY.'*





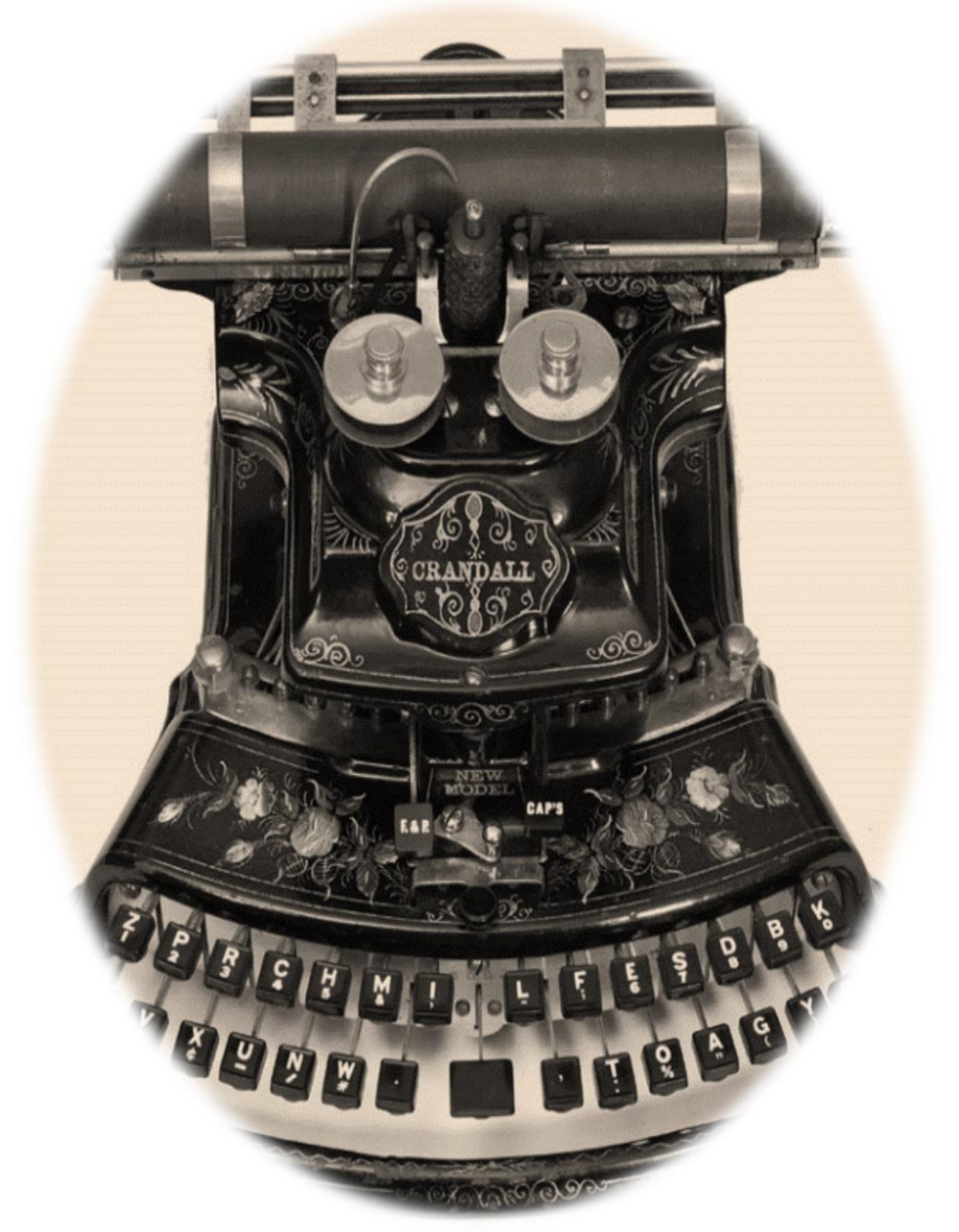
INTERESTINGLY, THIS STORY PROVIDES THE EARLIEST KNOWN REFERENCE TO THE PECULIARITIES OF AN INDIVIDUAL TYPEWRITER LEADING TO THE MACHINE'S IDENTITY.



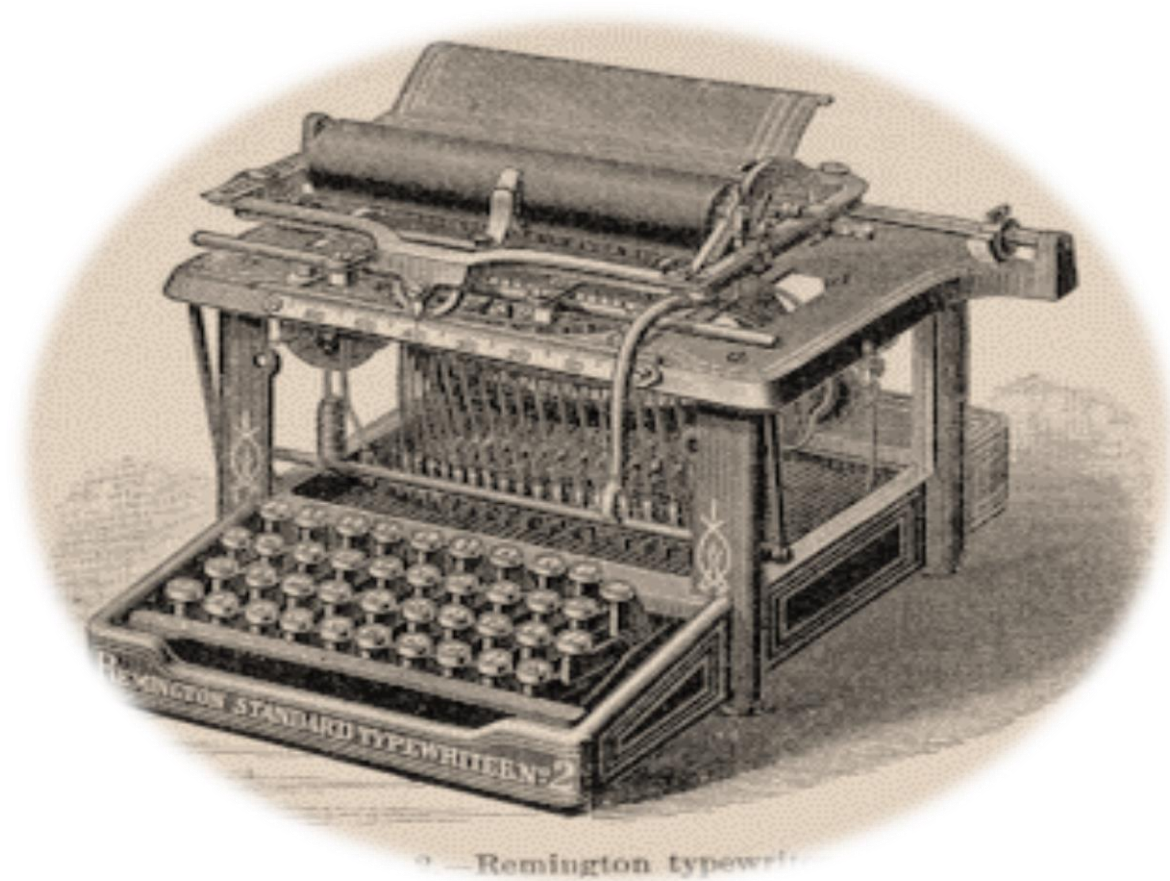
THE STORY, WRITTEN IN 1891, PREDATES THE FIRST KNOWN COMMENT BY A DOCUMENT EXAMINER THAT APPEARED IN 1894 AND FIRST LEGAL CASE (LEVY V. RUST) IN 1893.



WILLIAM HAGAN NOTED THAT THE MORE TYPEWRITERS ARE USED, THE MORE DISTINCT THE ALIGNMENT AND SPECIFIC IDIOSYNCRASIES OF SPECIFIC LETTERS.



A TYPEWRITER MECHANIC POINTED OUT THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN RECEIPTS PRESENTED BY THE PLAINTIFF AND THOSE PREPARED ON THE DEFENDANT'S TYPEWRITER...



*...WERE TOO DISSIMILAR TO HAVE BEEN WRITTEN
ON THE SAME MACHINE.*



*THE JUDGE FOUND FOR THE DEFENDANT WITHOUT
CITING ANY PREVIOUS CASES.*





**FOLLOWING THIS CASE, ADDITIONAL DECISIONS
RECOGNIZED THE USE OF TYPEWRITING
IDENTIFICATION AS ACCEPTABLE EVIDENCE.**



WHILE THE TYPEWRITER HAS GIVEN OVER TO THE COMPUTER AND PRINTERS, DOCUMENTS PRODUCED ON THESE MODERN DEVICES CAN STILL BE TRACED BACK TO THE MAKE AND MODEL, AND EVEN A UNIQUE MACHINE.





*AS I NOTED MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO,
TYPEWRITERS HAVE LEFT THEIR MARK—NOT ONLY ON
THE PAPER, BUT ON BUSINESS SOCIETY AS A WHOLE.*



SO, WE HAVE COMPLETED TOPIC # 055 IN OUR SERIES...

IN TOPIC # 056, WE WILL BE LOOKING AT WARM DRINKS DURING THE VICTORIAN PERIOD.



ORIGINAL SOURCE MATERIAL FOR THIS TOPIC:

- [HTTPS://WWW.BRITANNICA.COM/TECHNOLOGY/TYPEWRITER](https://www.britannica.com/technology/typewriter)
- [HTTP://WWW.BBC.COM/NEWS/MAGAZINE-23432653](http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-23432653)
- ROBERT WALLER, "WOMEN AND THE TYPEWRITER DURING THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS, 1873-1923." *STUDIES IN POPULAR CULTURE*, 9:1 (1986)
- GREGORY ANDERSON, *THE WHITE-BLOUSE REVOLUTION: FEMALE OFFICE WORKERS SINCE 1870*, MANCHESTER: MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY PRESS, 1988
- SALLY MITCHELL (EDITOR), *VICTORIAN BRITAIN: AN ENCYCLOPEDIA*, NEW YORK: GARLAND PUBLISHING, 1988
- DAVID CROWN, "LANDMARKS IN TYPEWRITING IDENTIFICATION," 58 *JOURNAL OF CRIMINAL LAW, CRIMINOLOGY & POLICE SCIENCE* 105 (1967)
- [HTTP://WWW.FORENSICSCIENCESIMPLIFIED.ORG/DOCS/HOW.HTML](http://www.forensicssciencesimplified.org/docs/how.html)



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"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"

IS CREATED THROUGH THE INGENUITY & HARD WORK OF:

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