

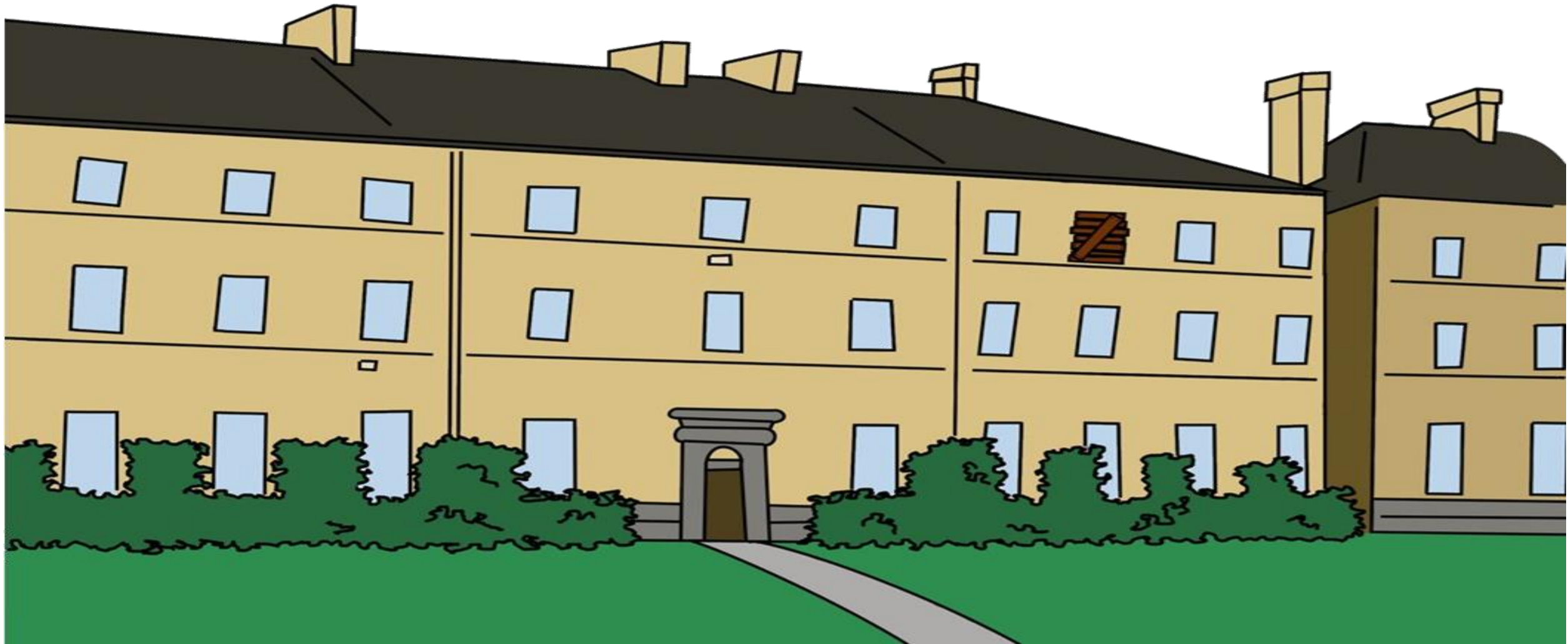
# Baker Street *Elementary*

PRESENTS  
"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"



# Baker Street *Elementary*

THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON  
# 091 -- "THAT VOODOO YOU DO SO WELL" - NOVEMBER, 2022





**WELCOME TO TOPIC # 091... TODAY, WATSON AND I WILL LOOK AT THE PRACTICE OF VOODOOISM DURING THE VICTORIAN PERIOD.**





IN 'THE ADVENTURE OF WISTERIA LODGE,'  
INSPECTOR BAYNES, YOU, AND I FOUND SOME  
RATHER ODD ITEMS IN A HOUSE'S KITCHEN: A  
HUMAN FIGURE WITH A SHELL BELT, A DEAD WHITE  
COCK, A PAIL OF BLOOD, AND CHARRED BONES.





**BASED ON THESE FINDINGS, BAYNES ARRESTED GARCIA'S COOK FOR HIS EMPLOYER'S MURDER TO LURE THE ACTUAL PERPETRATOR FROM HIDING.**





**I EXPLAINED THE COOK'S OBJECTS WERE  
RELATED TO AN ANIMAL SACRIFICE MADE TO  
APPEASE THE GODS BEFORE ATTEMPTING AN  
IMPORTANT ACTIVITY.**



WHILE I INDICATED I HAD RESEARCHED THE PRACTICE  
AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM, THE DESCRIPTION HAD  
LITTLE TO DO WITH TRUE VOODOO RITUALS AND  
MORE ABOUT MISINFORMATION COMMONLY REPORTED  
IN THE 1800s.



**THE ORIGINS OF VODOU—THE CURRENTLY  
PREFERRED SPELLING—ARE TRACED BACK TO HAITI,  
ALTHOUGH IT INCORPORATES MUCH OF VODUN, A  
WEST AFRICAN RELIGION PRACTICED BY ABOUT 30  
MILLION PEOPLE.**





*IN ADDITION TO A SUPREME BEING, BONDYE,  
OTHER SPIRITS (LWA OR LOA) HAVE DOMINION  
OVER VARIOUS PARTS OF LIFE, AND DEPENDING  
ON THE WORSHIPER'S NEEDS...*



... OFFERINGS ARE MADE TO THE SPIRIT CONTROLLING THAT ASPECT—SUCH AS A FARMER WOULD FOCUS ON THE SPIRIT OF AGRICULTURE, OR ONE DESIRING LOVE TO ANOTHER SPIRIT.



# VODUN

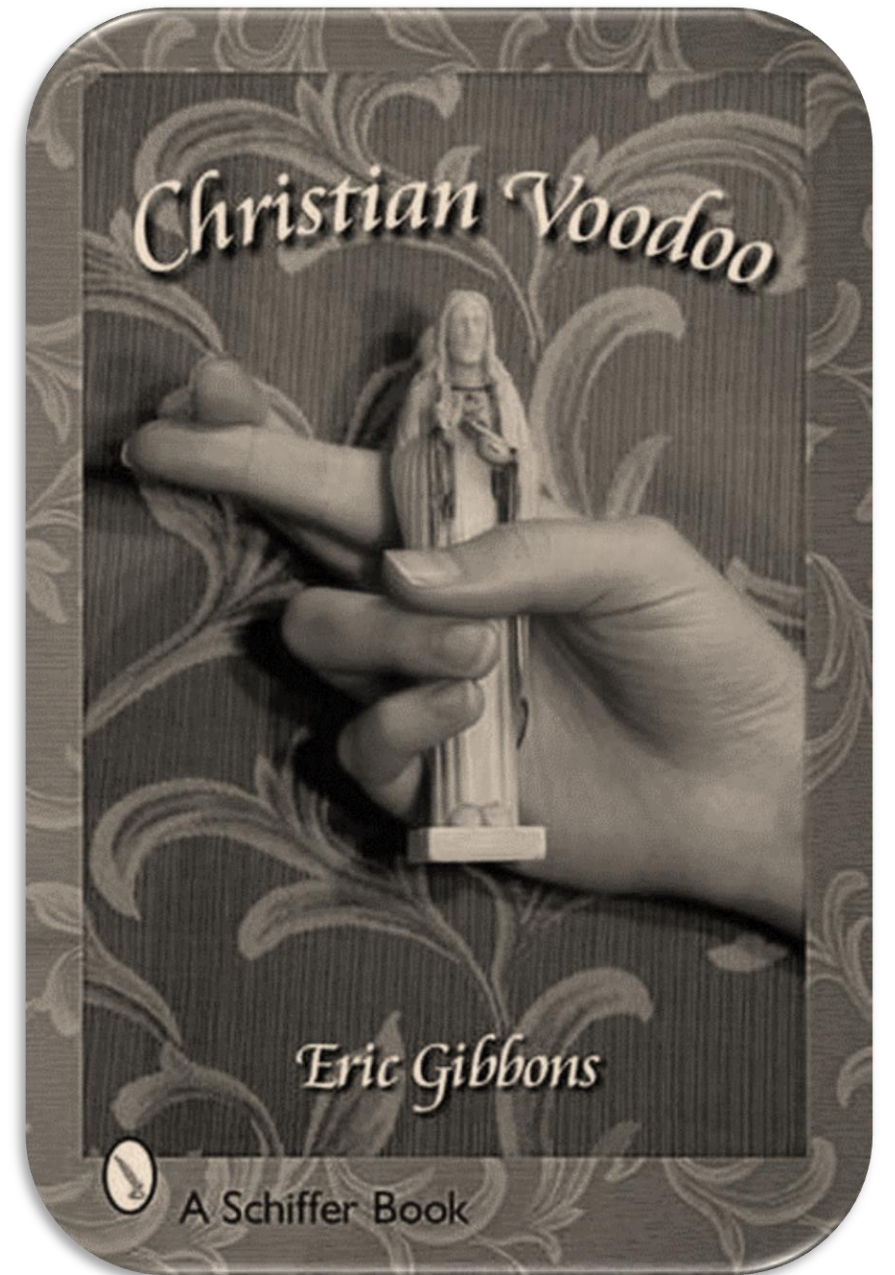
The Definitive Guide  
to  
VOODOO  
& Its Practices



\$25

Digital Publishing by:  
[www.NuwaupuOnline.com](http://www.NuwaupuOnline.com)

WHEN THOSE FROM WEST AFRICA WERE BROUGHT TO HAITI, BRAZIL, CUBA, AND LOUISIANA AS SLAVES, THEY INCORPORATED ASPECTS OF THIS RELIGION INTO ROMAN CATHOLICISM WHEN THEIR OWNERS 'CONVERTED' THEM. OVER TIME, MANY OF THE SPIRITS BECAME ASSOCIATED WITH CHRISTIAN SAINTS.



**OFFERINGS TO THESE SPIRITS CAN INCLUDE ANIMAL SACRIFICE, A PRACTICE APPEARING IN MANY RELIGIONS INCLUDING ISLAM AND HINDUISM... CURRENT PRACTICES ARE MOVING AWAY FROM SUCH SACRIFICES ALTHOUGH THEY MAY STILL OCCUR IN MORE RURAL AREAS.**



*WHEN SUCH SACRIFICES ARE MADE IN VODOU,  
THE ANIMAL IS THEN COOKED AND SHARED  
AMONG MEMBERS, PRIMARILY THE POOR.*



**CURRENT PRACTICES ARE MOVING AWAY FROM SUCH SACRIFICES ALTHOUGH THEY MAY STILL OCCUR IN MORE RURAL AREAS.**





*A HIGH PRIESTESS IN NEW ORLEANS, A VEGAN,  
HAS REPORTED NO PROBLEM COMPLETING HER  
RITUALS WITHOUT SUCH TRADITIONS.*



*SIMILARLY, THE USE OF FETISHES HAS BEEN MISREPRESENTED.*





**TALISMANS USED FOR MEDICINE OR SPIRITUAL POWER  
CAN BE FOUND IN WEST AFRICAN MARKETS AND MAY  
INCLUDE STATUES OR DOLLS REPRESENTING GODS AND  
DRIED ANIMAL PARTS.**



*THE ELABORATELY CRAFTED IMAGES PROVIDE A PERSONAL CONNECTION TO THE SPIRITS AND HAVE NO PURPOSE RELATED TO HARMING OR CONTROLLING ANOTHER PERSON.*



*PERHAPS THE MOST MISUNDERSTOOD ASPECT OF  
VODOU RELIGION IS SPIRITUAL POSSESSION.*





**WHILE SOME RELIGIONS VIEW SUCH PRACTICE AS EVIL, VODOU PRACTITIONERS SEEK SUCH AN EXPERIENCE.**



SPIRIT POSSESSION IN  
FRENCH, HAITIAN,  
AND VODOU THOUGHT

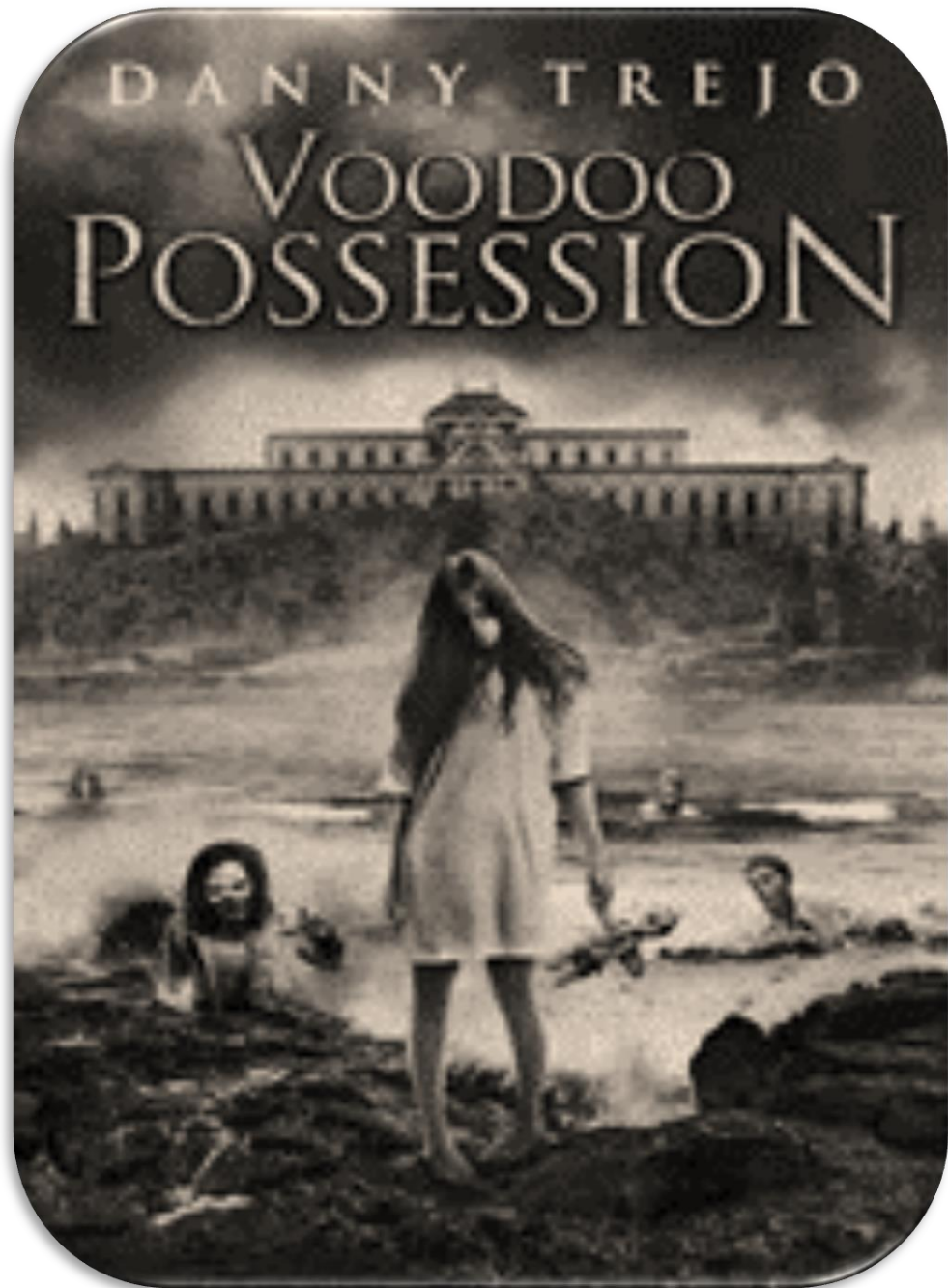
AN INTELLECTUAL HISTORY



ALESSANDRA BENEDICTY-KOKKEN

*THE BELIEF IS THAT A SOUL CAN LEAVE A BODY DURING POSSESSION, WITH A SPIRIT REPLACING IT AND CREATING A SORT OF RELIGIOUS FRENZY.*





*SUCH CONTROL IS DIFFERENT FROM ZOMBIES WHO LACK THEIR SOUL AND CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BOKORS BY MAGICAL MEANS AND HAVE NO RESEMBLANCE TO THE HUMAN-EATING MONSTERS IN CURRENT FILMS.*



**THE ORIGIN OF SUCH DISTORTED VIEWS OF  
VODOU PRACTICES CAN BE TRACED BACK TO  
VICTORIAN PUBLICATIONS PROVIDING SECOND-  
HAND ACCOUNTS OF SUCH ACTIVITIES.**



**WHILE THE ACTUAL EVENTS HAVE BEEN OBSCURED BY TIME, A TRIAL IN HAITI IN 1864 CONDEMNED EIGHT MEN AND WOMEN TO DEATH FOR THE MURDER AND CANNIBALISM OF A YOUNG GIRL.**

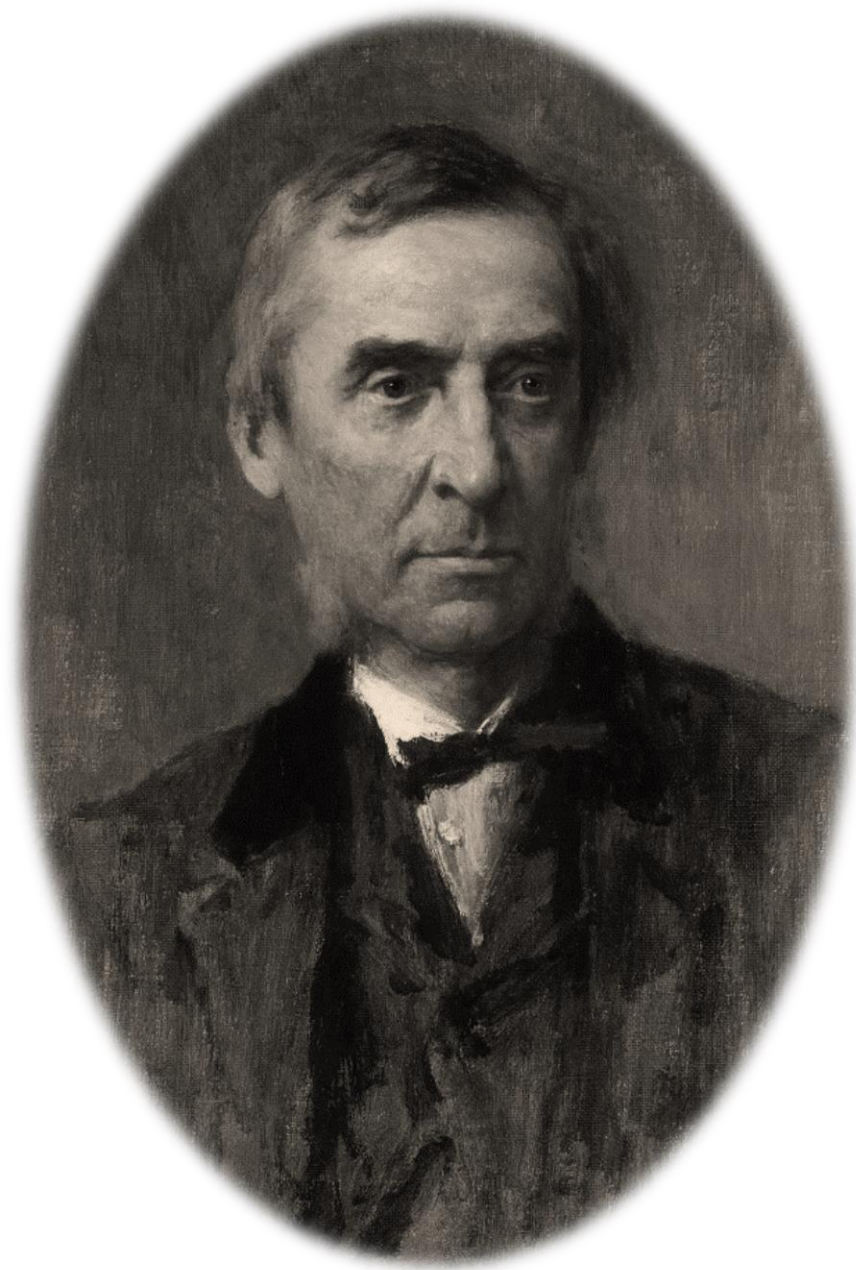




*EUROPEAN PAPERS CARRIED THE STORY, AND SIR SPENSER ST. JOHN REPEATED THE TRIAL'S PARTICULARS IN HIS COMMENTARY OF HIS TIME AS THE BRITISH CONSUL-GENERAL IN HAITI.*



**ANOTHER BRITON, JAMES FROUDE, REPORTED INCIDENTS OF SERPENT WORSHIP AND ANIMAL AND CHILD SACRIFICE A PRIEST SHARED WITH HIM IN 1888.**



**WILLIAM NEWELL, HOWEVER, SUGGESTED THESE ACCOUNTS WERE 'MYTHS,' COMPARING THE DESCRIPTION—AND EVEN THE NAME—TO PRACTICES OF A EUROPEAN SECT IN THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY.**

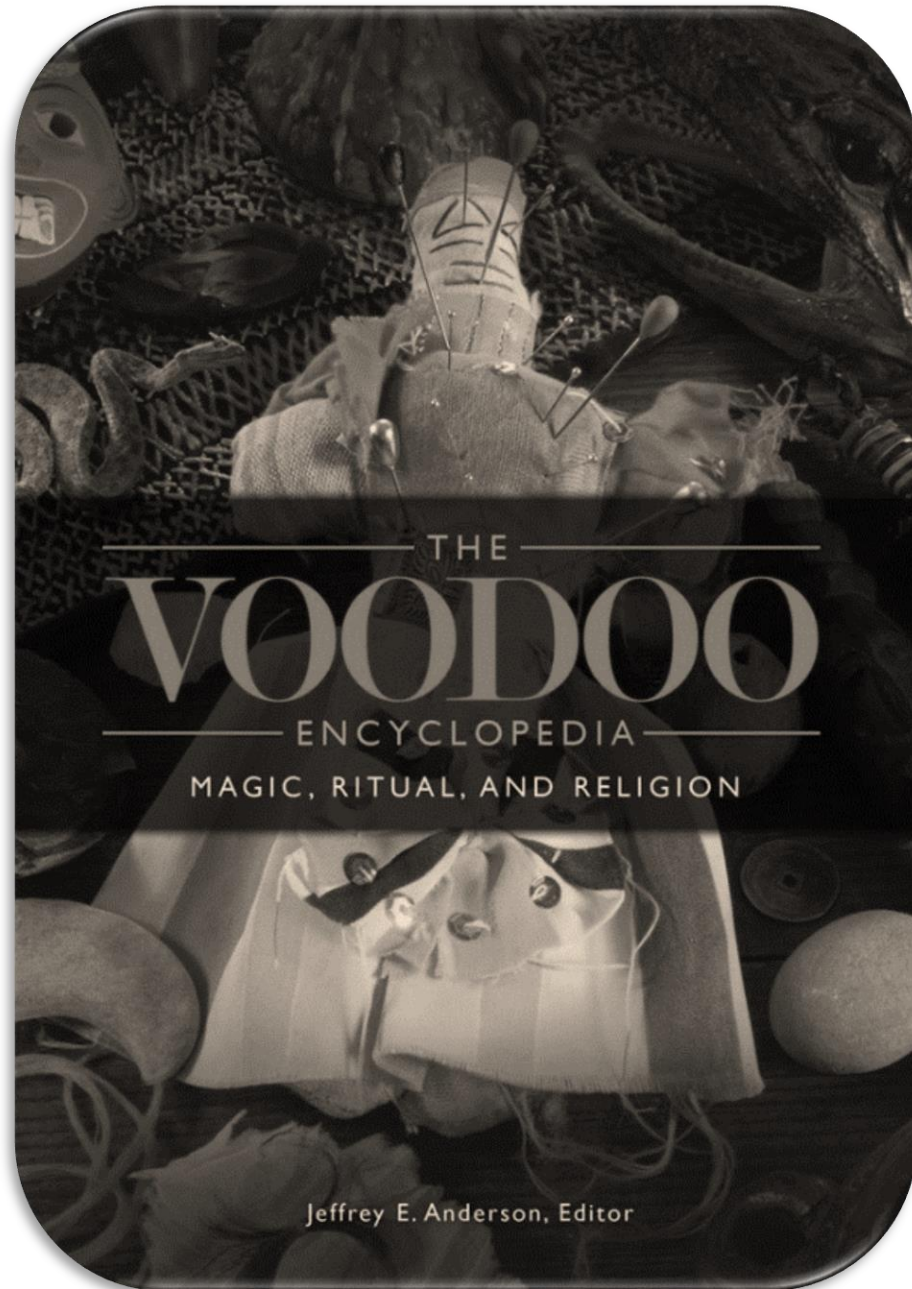


WHILE I RECOGNIZED THE ITEMS THE COOK LEFT IN THE KITCHEN AS PART OF A VODOU RITUAL, I DEPENDED ON ECKERMANN'S TREATISE TO PROVIDE THE MEANING AND PRACTICE BEHIND THEM...



... REPEATING THE MISCONCEPTIONS PREVALENT  
IN VICTORIAN ENGLAND AND PERPETUATED  
TODAY IN HOLLYWOOD.





*THE FACTS REGARDING THE COOK'S ACTIVITIES  
CLEARED HIM OF ANY INVOLVEMENT IN THE  
MURDER, JUST AS UNDERSTANDING VODOU'S TRUE  
BELIEFS AND CUSTOMS WOULD STRIP THE  
PRACTICE OF ITS MALIGNED MYSTIQUE.*



*SO, WE HAVE COMPLETED TOPIC # 091 IN OUR SERIES...*

*IN TOPIC # 091, WE WILL BE LOOKING AT THE USE OF CURARE AS A POISON  
DURING THE VICTORIAN PERIOD.*



## REFERENCES FOR THIS TOPIC:

- [HTTPS://WWW.LIVESCIENCE.COM/40803-VOODOO-FACTS.HTML](https://www.livescience.com/40803-VOODOO-FACTS.HTML)
- [HTTPS://WWW.NPR.ORG/TEMPLATES/STORY/STORY.PHP?STORYID=1666721](https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyid=1666721)
- [HTTPS://SLATE.COM/CULTURE/2013/11/ANTHONY-KAREN-A-PHOTOGRAPHERS-LOOK-INSIDE-A-HAITIAN-VOODOO-RITUAL-PHOTOS.HTML](https://slate.com/culture/2013/11/anthony-karen-a-photographers-look-inside-a-haitian-vooodoo-ritual-photos.html)
- [HTTPS://WWW.VICE.COM/EN/ARTICLE/GVMNWB/THE-VEGAN-VODOU-HIGH-PRIESTESS-OF-NEW-ORLEANS-ISNT-INTERESTED-IN-ANIMAL-SACRIFICE](https://www.vice.com/en/article/gvmnwb/the-vegan-vodou-high-priestess-of-new-orleans-isnt-interested-in-animal-sacrifice)
- [HTTPS://MACAULAY.CUNY.EDU/SEMINARS/LUTTON07/ARTICLES/V/O/D/VODOU.HTML](https://macaulay.cuny.edu/seminars/lutton07/articles/v/o/d/vodou.html)
- [HTTPS://WWW.SMITHSONIANMAG.COM/HISTORY/THE-TRIAL-THAT-GAVE-VODOU-A-BAD-NAME-83801276/](https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/the-trial-that-gave-vodou-a-bad-name-83801276/)
- JAMES ANTHONY FROUDE, THE ENGLISH IN THE WEST INDIES, LONDON: LONGMANS, GREEN, AND CO. 1888
- WILLIAM NEWELL, "MYTHS OF VODOO WORSHIP AND CHILD SACRIFICE IN HAYTI," THE JOURNAL OF AMERICAN FOLKLORE, VOL. 1, NO. 1, 1888





# 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

