

# Baker Street *Elementary*

PRESENTS  
"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"



# Baker Street *Elementary*

*The Life and Times in Victorian London*  
# 110 -- *Victorian Fashion Accessories* -- February, 2022



WELCOME TO TOPIC # 110... TODAY WE WILL BE  
LOOKING AT ACCESSORIES TO WEAR DURING  
VICTORIAN PERIOD...



**NO WELL-DRESSED VICTORIAN LADY WOULD EVER  
DRESS WITHOUT ADDING A HOST OF VICTORIAN  
FASHION ACCESSORIES.**



**BONNETS, GLOVES, HAIR ORNAMENTS, PARASOLS,  
STOLES, BAGS, FANS, SHOES AND JEWELRY WERE  
ALL PART OF DAILY ATTIRE.**



*VICTORIAN DRESSES WOULD BE FINISHED WITH A  
PIN, BROOCH OR CAMEO.*





**FIGURES WOULD BE CARVED ONTO PUTTY, SHELL,  
GREEN LAVA, CORAL, CARNELIAN, MALACHITE OR  
EVEN REAL TORTOISESHELL...**





*...AND THEN MOUNTED ONTO TOOLED STERLING SILVER OR GOLD SURROUNDS WHICH WERE TRIMMED WITH SEED PEARLS.*





*HUMAN HAIR OF A LOVED ONE, OR EVEN OF A  
DECEASED FAMILY MEMBER, WAS CRAFTED  
INTO BRACELETS...*



**...BROOCHES, HAIR CLASPS, LOCKETS AND OTHER FANCIFUL ACCESSORIES, AND WERE THE HEIGHT OF VICTORIAN FASHION.**



HATS AND BONNETS WERE FRIVOLOUS AFFAIRS...  
THEY WOULD BE TRIMMED WITH FRILLS, FLOWERS  
AND FEATHERS.



**BONNETS IN THE 1830s HAD A WIDE BRIM AND WERE AN ESSENTIAL PART OF VICTORIAN FASHION.**



**MILLINERY WAS A SPECIALIST TRADE AND PROFESSIONAL MILLINERS BROUGHT BACK IDEAS FOR THE LATEST STYLES FROM NEW YORK AND BOSTON.**



THE PUBLICAN'S "MISSIS"

*EASTER BONNETS WERE PARTICULARLY POPULAR  
WITH THE ADVENT OF SPRING.*





OFTEN IT WAS MORE THAN JUST FEATHERS OF EXOTIC BIRDS THAT WERE USED AS AN ACCESSORY TO TRIM A HAT.





*IN 1875 THE MERLE, OR BLACKBIRD, WAS STUFFED AND USED WHOLE AS A POPULAR HAT TRIM.*







*MOST SOUGHT-AFTER WAS THE MERLE BRONZE, A BEAUTIFUL BRAZILIAN BLACKBIRD WITH BLUE AND BRONZE SHADES ON ITS BODY AND WINGS.*





**BIRDS WERE MOUNTED ON WIRES AND SPRINGS  
TO GIVE MOVEMENT AND LIFELIKE APPEAL AS THE  
LADY WALKED ALONG.**



**PEACOCK BREASTS, WHOLE PIGEONS, COCK'S  
PLUMES AND OSTRICH FEATHERS WERE ALL PART  
OF VICTORIAN FASHION AND HEADWEAR.**



PARASOLS WERE INTRODUCED INTO VICTORIAN FASHION IN THE MID-1850S.



THEY WERE USED TO KEEP THE SUN OFF A LADY,  
WHO WOULD NEVER WANT TO SHOW ANY HINT OF  
A SUNTAN WHICH WAS ASSOCIATED WITH  
PEASANTS AND SERVANTS.



**THESE FOLDING UMBRELLAS WERE MADE OF SILK  
AND HAD A DEEP SILK FRINGE AND A LONG TASSEL  
ATTACHED TO THE VERY TOP.**





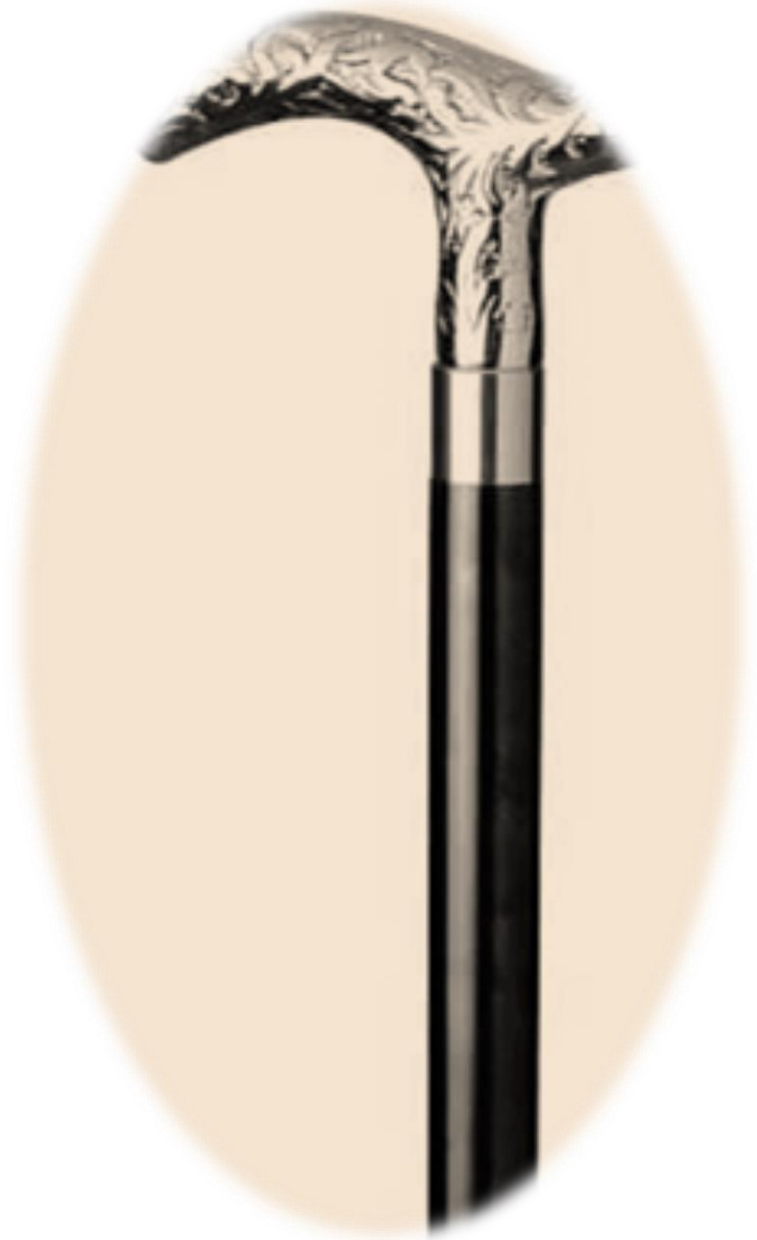
THE VERY BEST PARASOLS HAD TILTING SHADES  
FOR ANGLING AND THE HANDLES WERE  
OCCASIONALLY MADE OF CARVED IVORY RATHER  
THAN WOOD.







THESE WERE MADE FROM SILVER, IVORY,  
WHALEBONE, RHINOCEROS HORN OR  
CONGLOMERATED HORN.





**FANS WERE FAR MORE THAN MERE VICTORIAN FASHION ACCESSORIES; THEY WERE OFTEN TERMED A 'LADY'S SCEPTRE'.**



*A GRACIOUS UNFURLING OF A FAN MAY INDICATE  
ENCOURAGEMENT OF A LOVER...*



*...AND MANY AN INVITATION WAS GIVEN OR  
ACCEPTED MERELY BY THE INDICATION OF A FAN.*



THEY COULD INDICATE TEMERITY OR ANGER,  
CONFUSION OR MERRIMENT BY THE WAY THEY  
WERE USED.



**MADE OF PAINTED SILK OR LACE ON A DECORATED  
STICK, FANS WERE ALWAYS WELL EMBELLISHED  
AND DECORATIVE.**



**VICTORIAN SHOES ARE STILL HIGHLY COLLECTABLE  
AND CAN STILL BE FOUND AT AUCTIONS.**



*PRACTICAL HIGH TOP LACED SHOES WERE MADE  
IN THE SOFTEST LEATHER AND HAD LOW HEELS.*







LADIES VICTORIAN BOOTS WOULD BE FASTENED WITH A LINE OF NEAT BUTTONS.





*DANCE SHOES AND WEDDING SHOES WERE MADE OF SILK AND DYED TO MATCH THE DRESS.*



*SILK OR SATIN SLIPPERS, OFTEN DECORATED WITH A RIBBON FLOWER OR ROSE, WOULD BE WORN AROUND THE HOUSE.*



SO, WE HAVE COMPLETED TOPIC # 110 IN OUR SERIES...

IN TOPIC # 111, WE WILL BE LOOKING AT THE MEN'S DRESS CODE DURING THE VICTORIAN PERIOD.



# AboutBritain.com

## ORIGINAL SOURCE MATERIAL FOR THIS TOPIC:

- [HTTP://WWW.ABOUTBRITAIN.COM/ARTICLES/VICTORIAN-FASHION-ACCESSORIES.ASP](http://www.aboutbritain.com/articles/victorian-fashion-accessories.asp)



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"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"

IS CREATED THROUGH THE INGENUITY & HARD WORK OF:

JOE FAY  
LIESE SHERWOOD-FABRE  
RUSTY MASON  
&  
STEVE MASON

