

Baker Street Elementary
& The Victorian Web

Presents
"The Life and Times in Victorian London"



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& *The Victorian Web*

The Life and Times in Victorian London
32 - Stained Glass and Gaslight -- 04/04/2017

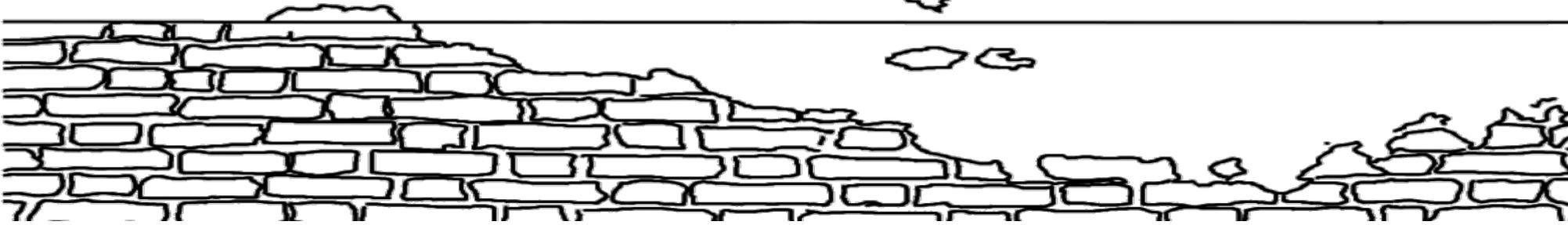




*Welcome to topic number 32...
Today Master Doyle and I will be
looking at colors during the
Victorian period.*

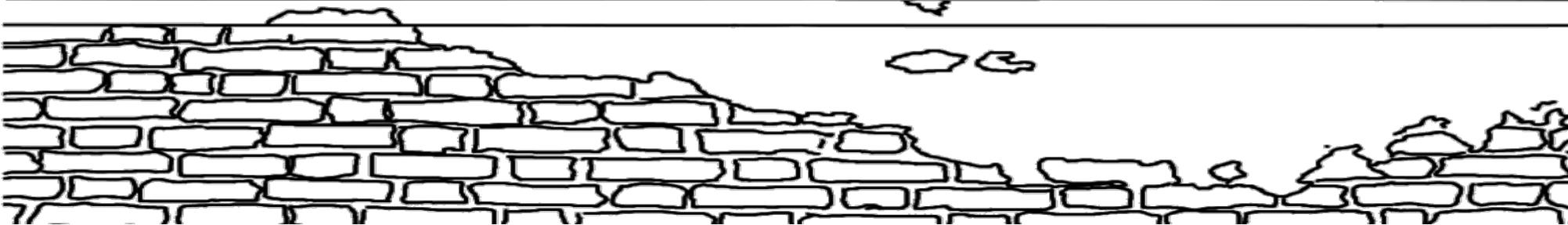


Most Victorian houses have stained glass fanlights above the front door and ceramic tiles around the porch.





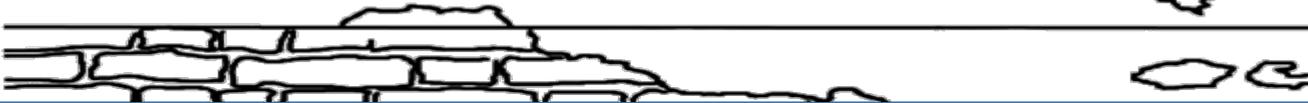
On a sunny day, or if there is a street lamp nearby, the wall inside is splashed with yellows, reds, blues, and greens.

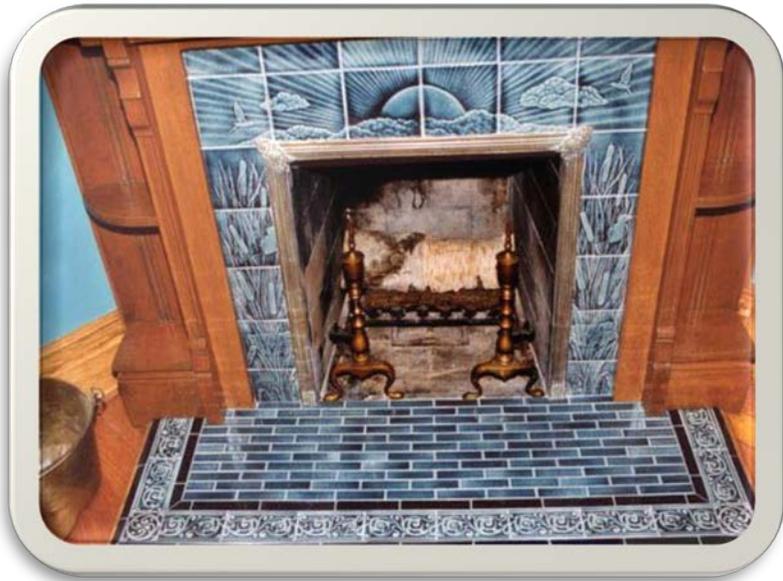


If the house has a vestibule or front hallway, the inner door might also have stained glass panels or, at least, panes frosted into patterns of flowers or urns.



Tiles on the floor tend to be more somber, such as drab greens or browns.





The floor of the fireplace is usually tiled, too, in geometric patterns, while fireplaces are almost always surrounded by colored and patterned tiles, below the mantel piece where a prized ceramic vase or clock will be set.



The colors inside a house does not necessarily reflect the lack of color in the London outdoors.

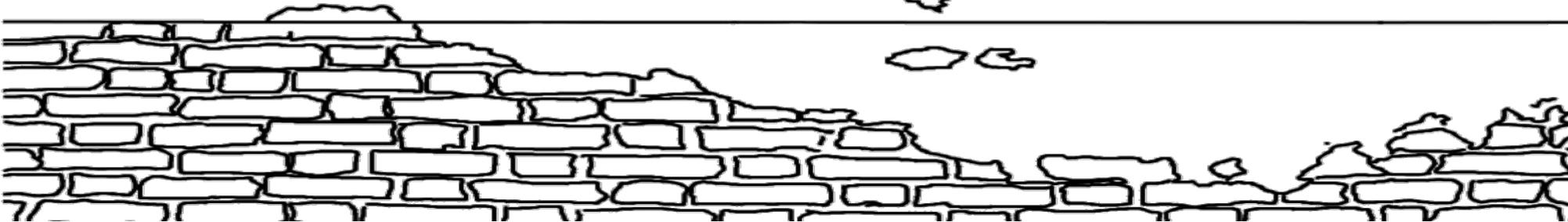


Lowrie's paintings of Manchester with its mill chimneys could be one of dozens of northern towns.





London, nicknamed The Smoke, is also a great industrial city in its own right.





Even the rain, at times, is black, while particles of coal can fall from a clear sky if the wind is right.



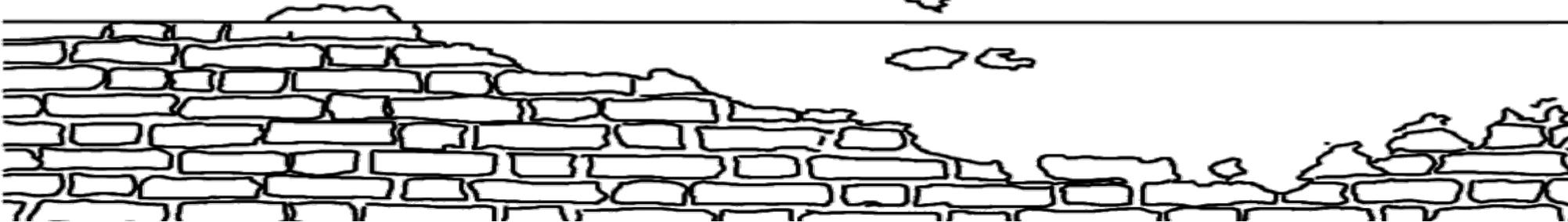


The great Victorian public buildings are unimaginably blackened.

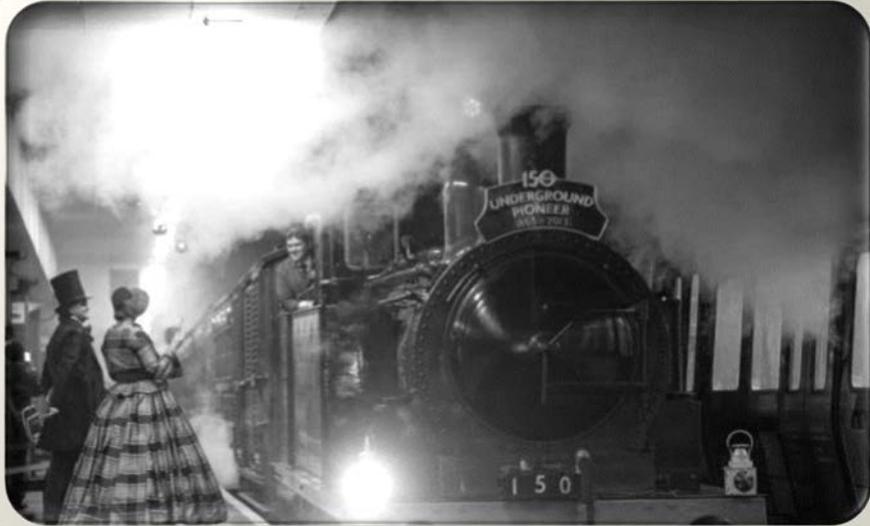




Even St Paul's, built of fine pale stone from quarries overlooking the sea on Portland Bill, will be black as coal throughout Queen Victoria's reign.



When Victorian England isn't horse drawn, it is coal fired and steam driven.



Outside the front door of most houses is a man-hole opening into a coal cellar.





The coalman carries a sack which he drops, mouth down, directly over the coal hole with a single flick of the body.



Side streets are gas-lit, if lit is not too strong a word for the faint pools of light around each lamp post.



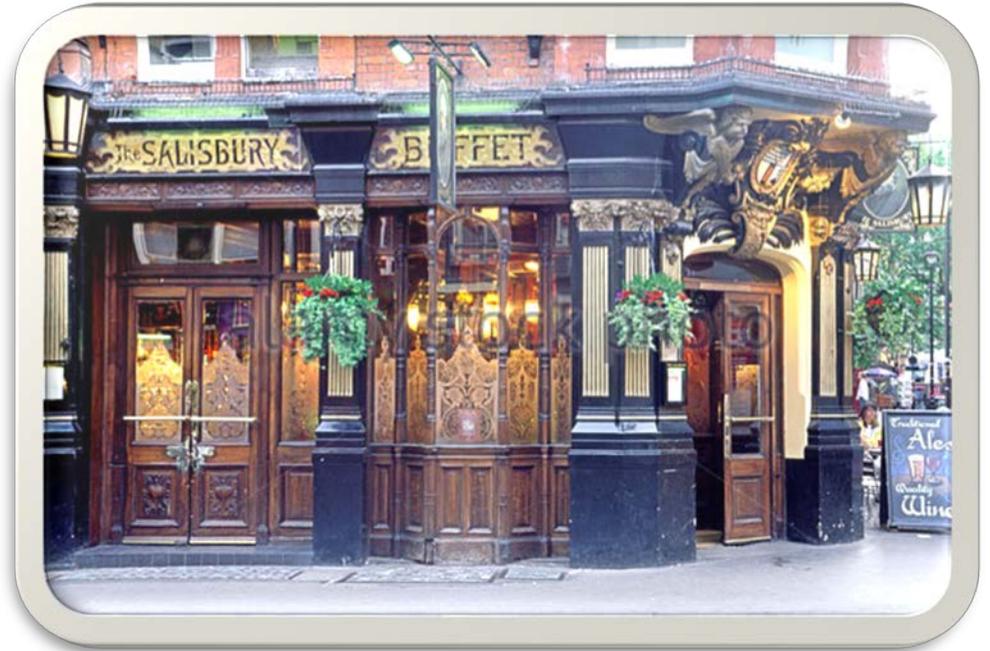
At dusk a lamp lighter runs from post to post carrying a long pole with a flame and a hook on top; the hook opens the tap, the flame lights the jet.

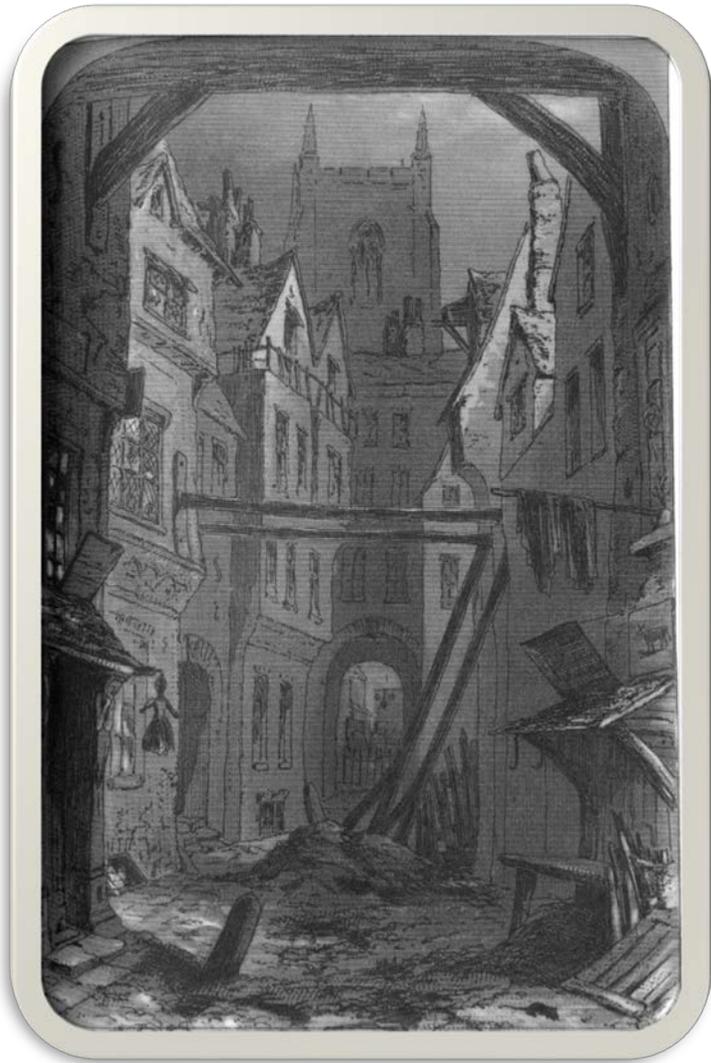


Gasometers, where gas is stored, are great steel cylinders which rose and sank in and out of holes in the ground as they fill and empty.



Many Victorian pubs, on the other hand, are bright and glittering and therefore perhaps all the more inviting.

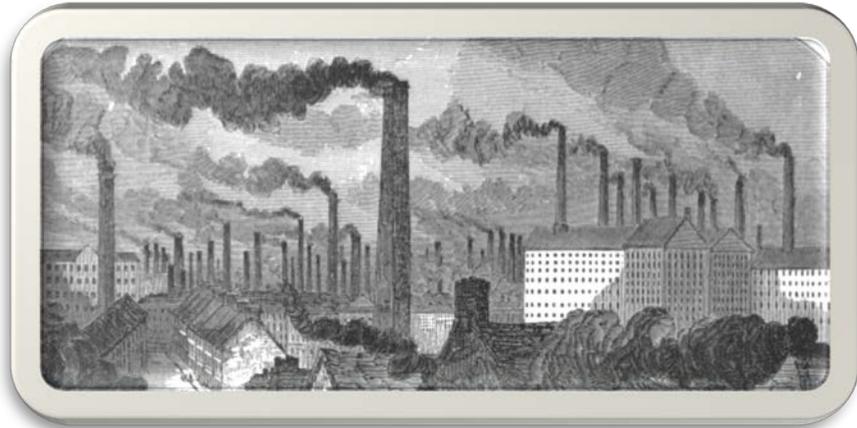




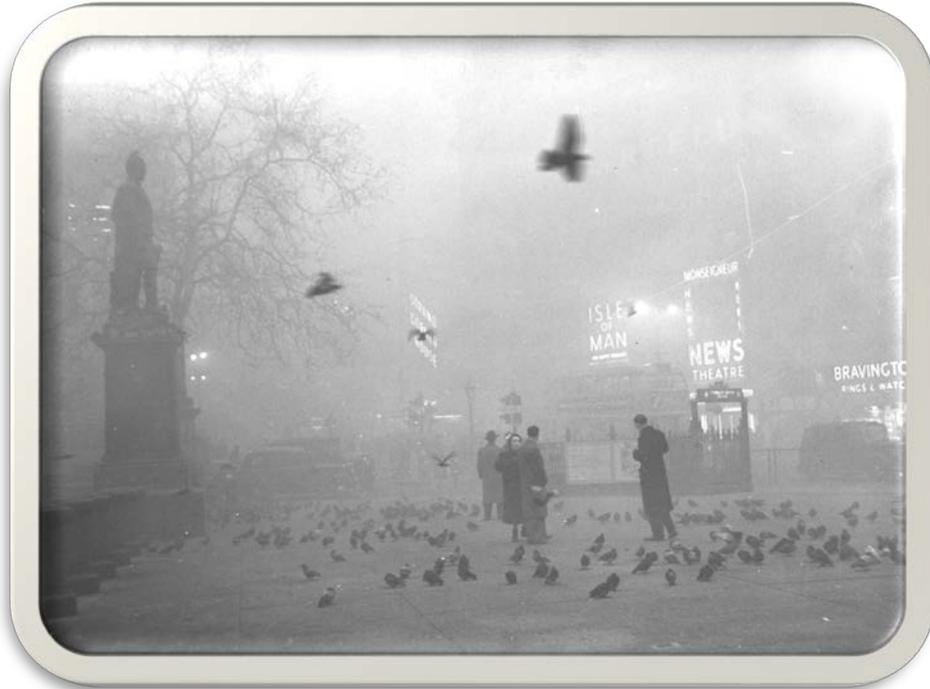
Dickens opens Bleak House with a long description of a London fog.



Later generations will call it smog – a deadly mix of fog and smoke otherwise known as a London Particular or a pea-souper (it is a strange yellowy green color and almost as opaque as pea soup).



The deaths of over a thousand people in the last great smog of 1952 will lead to the Clean Air Act, and the unintended end of blackened buildings.



By then, most of the stained glass will be gone as well, along with tiled porches and fireplaces.



*So we have completed
topic 32 in our series...*

*... yes, but we'll be
back with another
topic soon...*





The Victorian Web

literature, history, & culture in
the age of Victoria



Original Source Material for for this topic:

- Dick Sullivan, <http://www.victorianweb.org/art/stainedglass/sullivan.html>



Baker Street Elementary

"The Life and Times in Victorian London"

IS CREATED THROUGH THE INGENUITY & HARD WORK OF:

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