

*Baker Street Elementary*

*Presents*  
"The Life and Times in Victorian London"



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*The Life and Times in Victorian London*  
*# 053 - Victorian Women's Fashion -- 08/17/2017*





*Welcome to topic number  
53... today we will be looking  
at women's fashions...  
specifically dresses and  
other garments...*



*Strangely, none of the boys wanted to participate in this discussion, so I will cover it by myself...*



*In our time, women's fashions are very elegant and trimmed with lace frills, braid, fringes, and gathers.*



*When you see a skirt that forms a circle around the woman, it is being supported by a "crinoline." which is a rigid frame.*



*Our society's modesty dictates women  
still cover their arms and legs.*

*The less exposed skin, the more  
respectable.*



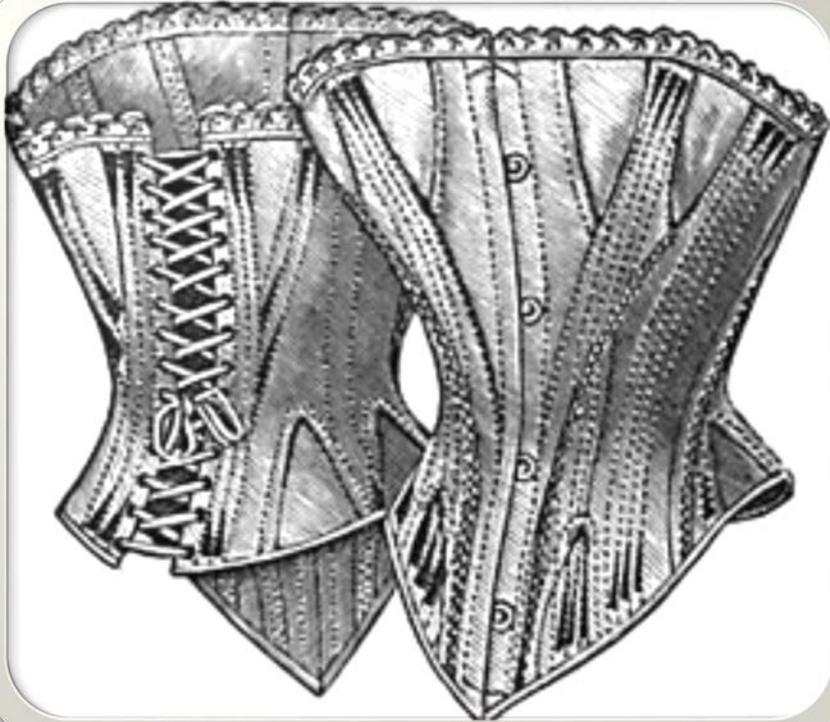


*The bodice, the part of a woman's dress (excluding sleeves) that is above the waist, are worn as tightly as possible.*



*The corset is worn underneath the bodice, and helps give a woman an hourglass figure.*

*But they are so painful.*



*To pinch the body shape down even more, women will resort to inserting whalebones and steel into the bodice to hold their figure to the desire shape.*





*People thought Victorian women are prone to fainting due to their delicate emotional nature...*



*... when it is actually the London heat, or the massive clothing layering we must endure, which restricts our ability to breathe!*



*During mid-century,  
several undersleeves  
become popular, worn  
under the dress sleeve  
itself.*



*A second collar would be added to the dress.*



*The dresses are too complicated for the average woman to sew themselves, so they would hire a seamstress or tailor to make the dress.*



*A "pelerine" or short cape or jacket is worn for outdoor conditions. You can recognize them by the pointed ends in the front of the outfit.*



*Gloves are worn, even in the summertime, adding to the body temperature. A woman will carry a fan or parasol, as well as wearing hats, to help cool off.*



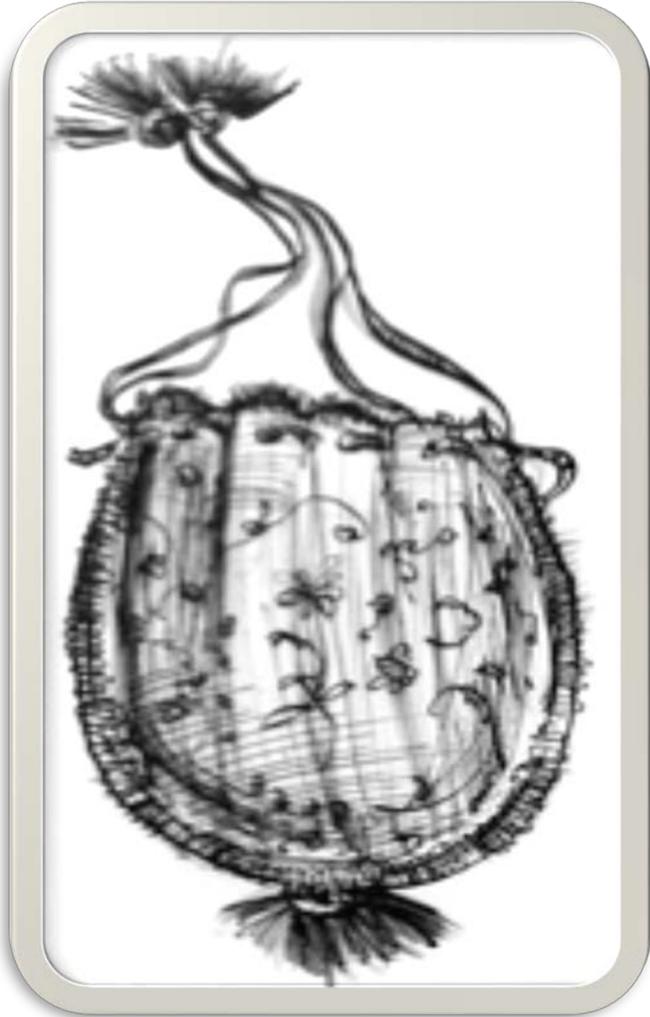
*Muffs are used in the winter to keep our hands warm. Heavier, felt hats are worn in winter to help insulate our heads.*



*Summer hats are adorned with flowers and ribbon.*

*Many times, the ribbon will reach down to the woman's lower back.*





*A lady will always carry a purse or "reticule" for their personal effects.*

*Beads are used to make the purse, which is sewn onto a fabric backing.*





*Toward the latter half of the century, French styles began to influence the fashions of Victorian England.*



*This will include three-piece  
silk outfits for afternoon  
outing with your friends.*



*Also in the latter half of the century, a bustle will replace the hooped skirt in popularity.*

*This will enhance the posterior area of the dress.*

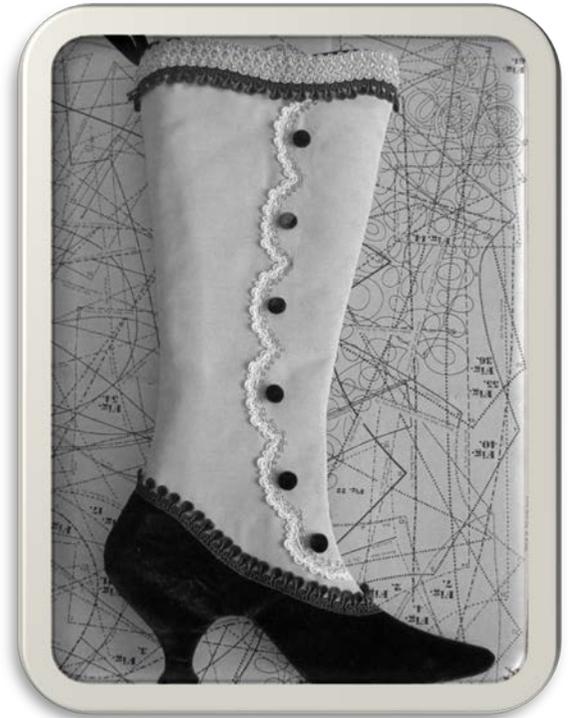




*Sadly, these dresses will tend to hang down enough to drag in the dirt and mud, making them filthy after each wearing.*



*Under all the layers, women usually will wear thick silk stockings to protect their legs and ankles from weather.*



*So I have completed  
topic 53 in our series...*

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



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"The Life and Times in Victorian London"

IS CREATED THROUGH THE INGENUITY & HARD WORK OF:

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