

Baker Street Elementary

Presents
"The Life and Times in Victorian London"



Baker Street Elementary
& *The Victorian Web*

The Life and Times in Victorian London

073 - Victorian Dresses & What is Underneath -- 09/15/2018



Welcome to topic number 73... Victorian Dresses... Thanks so much to AboutBritain.com for use of their summary text for this lesson...



Lyndsay, Victorian dress are traditionally very elegant and lavishly trimmed with all manner of lace frills, braid, fringes and full gathers.



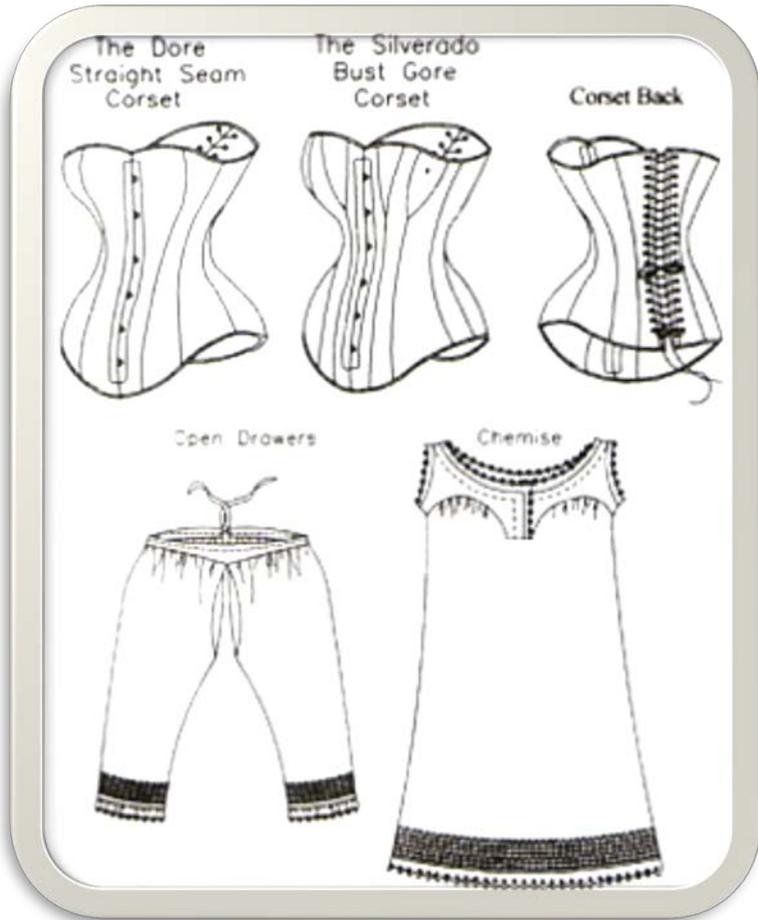
Full skirts are supported on a rigid frame called a crinoline and later bustles at the rear will be the height of Victorian fashion for well-to-do ladies.





You're right, Irene, however, prudishness still governs the covering of a lady's arms and legs right down to the ankle.



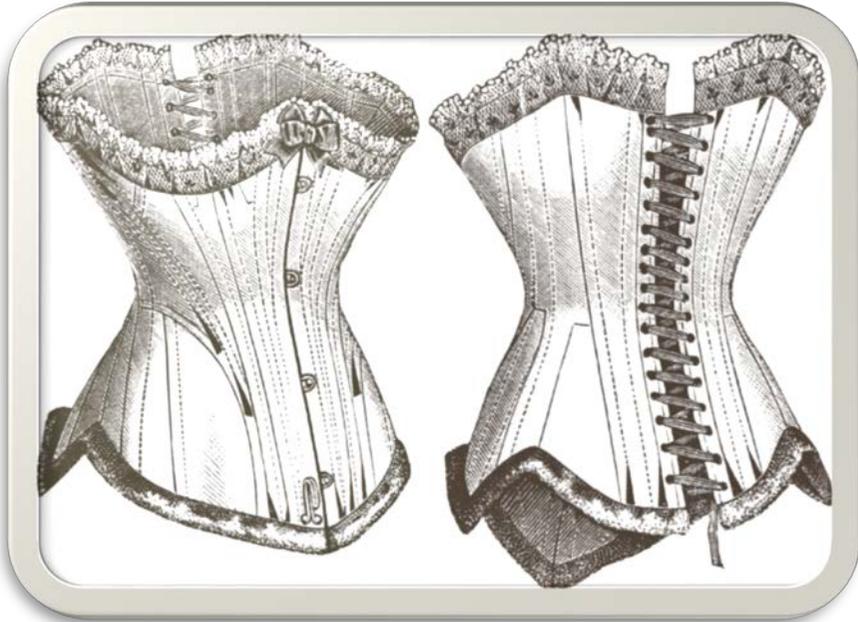


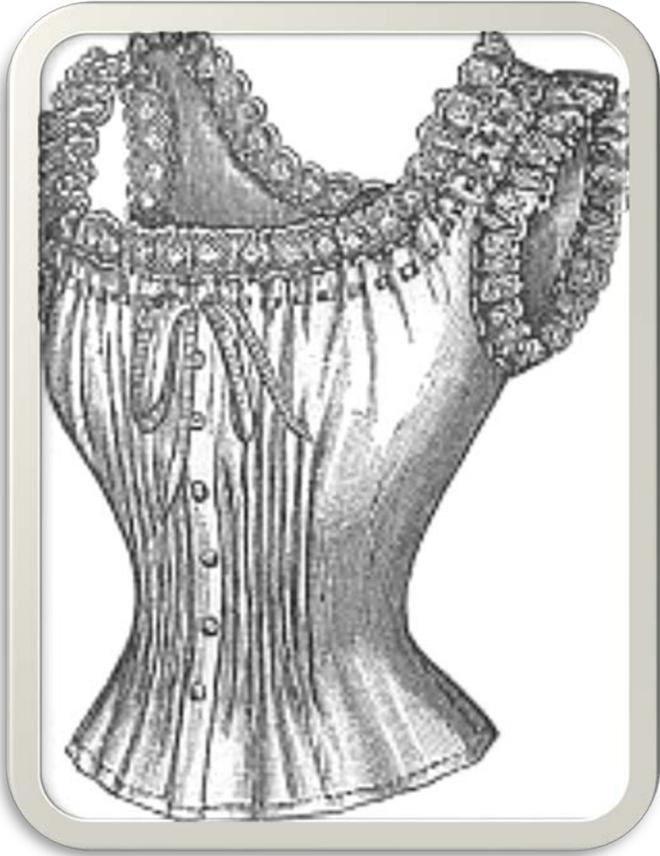
Beneath the full skirts, which themselves may have at least three yards of fabric, are numerous petticoats and layers of undergarments.



By contrast, bodices are worn tightly fitted.

Laced corsets, like straight-jackets, are used to give women a narrow waist and shapely body...





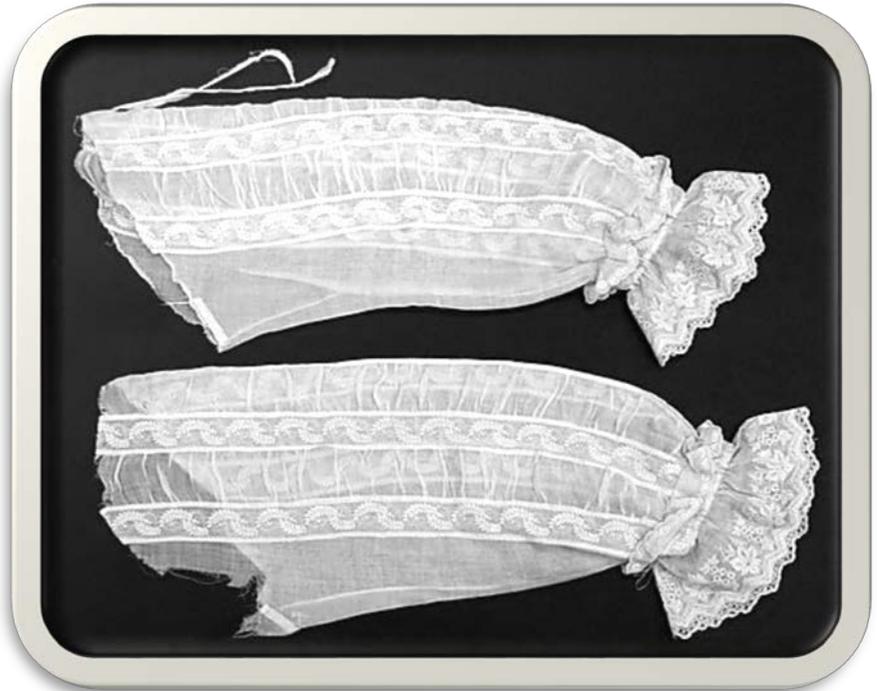
*... contoured further by
the addition of
whalebones and steel
inserted into the bodice.*



*No wonder Victorian ladies
are prone to fainting,
either from the heat of so
many layers, or from the
inability to breathe!*



Victorian dresses are finished with several layers of under sleeves beneath the wide dress sleeves of the 1850s and trimmed with fine lace or other detail.



*An additional collar
finishes the dress.*

*Everything is handmade
for the wearer by a
tailoress or dressmaker.*



To complete the outfit when venturing outdoors, Victorian dresses are topped with pelerines, which are short capes or sleeveless jackets, often made of fur.



*They are finished
with long pointed
ends at the front.*

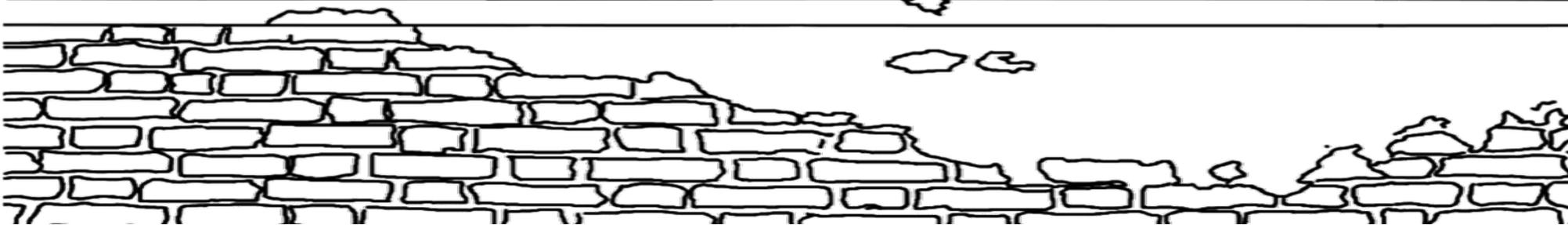


*In summer, ladies carry
a fan or parasol and
hats and gloves are
always worn.*





In winter, fur muffs keep hands warm and pretty silk summer bonnets are replaced with felt hats.



Hats are generally trimmed with yards of ribbon and artificial flowers are used for decoration.



A Victorian lady always carries a purse or reticule.

They are usually made of beads stitched onto knitted fabric in pretty designs.





*The top is either a
drawstring or a
metal clasp.*



From 1865, Victorian dresses are influenced by French fashion.

For afternoon visits to lady friends of similar social standing, three piece silk outfits are popular.



The bodice is slightly less tight and a cape across the shoulders is in matching silk braid with a fringe or tassels for attractive movement.



These fancier dresses often have a wide ribbon belt to match from which long decorative panels fall down at the back.

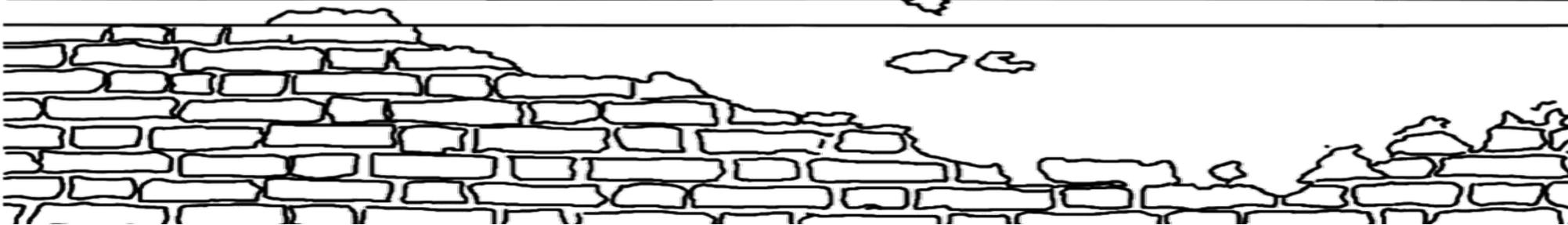


*They are decoratively
trimmed with ruched silk
ribbon, silk braid and
matching tassels or a fringe.*





Instead of a full hooped skirt, later designs of Victorian dresses will have most of the gathers and fullness at the back of the skirt, in what will be known as a bustle.





Often these fine afternoon dresses will have a small train at the back which will be most impractical to wear in the dirty streets.



In winter, beneath their full skirts ladies wear full length woolen petticoats.



*They have a drawstring waistband
and a button at the back.*

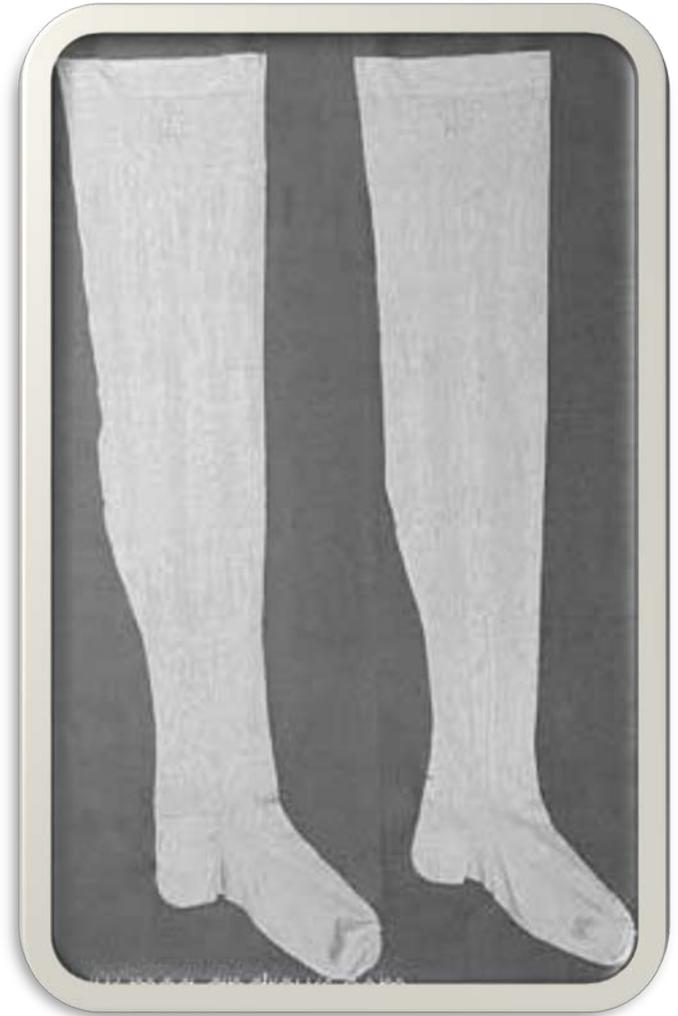
*Around the hem, embroidery
finishes the undergarment.*



Queen Victoria is known to have her monogram embroidered around the hemline along with thistles, roses and shamrocks.



*Thick silk stockings
complete the
undergarments of
Victorian dresses.*



... and Lyndsay, may I say you look fetching in your dress and bustle.

Thank you so much !



*Again, thanks to
AboutBritain.com for their help...
So we have completed topic 73 in
our series...*

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



Original Source Material for this topic:

1) <http://www.aboutbritain.com/articles/victorian-dresses.asp>



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"The Life and Times in Victorian London"

IS CREATED THROUGH THE INGENUITY & HARD WORK OF:

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