

*Baker Street Elementary*  
& The Victorian Web

Presents  
"The Life and Times in Victorian London"

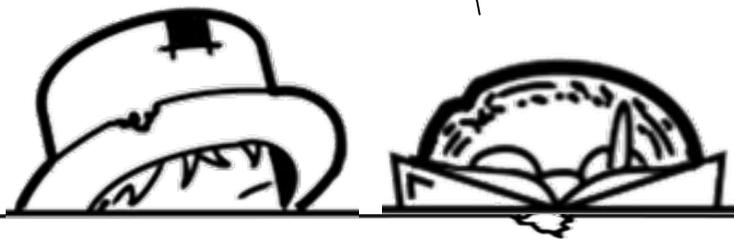


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*The Life and Times in Victorian London*  
# 077 - Victorian Fireplaces - 09/26/2018



*Welcome to topic number 77... Victorian  
Fireplaces... Thanks so much to AboutBritain.com  
for use of their summary text for this lesson...*



*In Victorian England, central heating is a distant dream in the future, although steam heating is invented in 1850.*



*Most Victorian houses  
are heated by  
fireplaces burning coal  
or logs in every room..*



*Victorian fireplaces are initially made of marble or slate, but later cast iron frames become popular and have colorful tile insets down either side and a decorative mantelshelf made of slate or pine.*



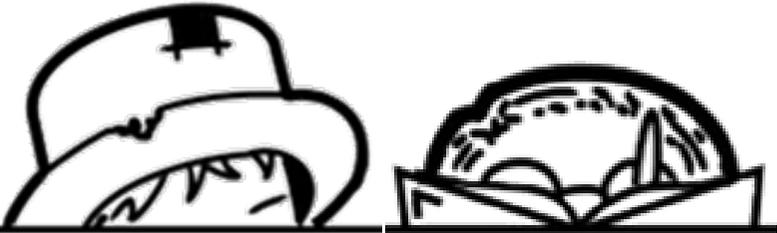
*Early Victorian fireplaces have floral patterns in the iron casting but by late Victorian times the iron fireplaces are plainer with simple lines.*



*Cheaper homes have mantels made of wood or slate and have them painted to look like marble in order to impress visiting guests.*



*Generally Victorian fireplaces reflect the style of the home, with grander houses having some very ornate and lovely fireplaces.*



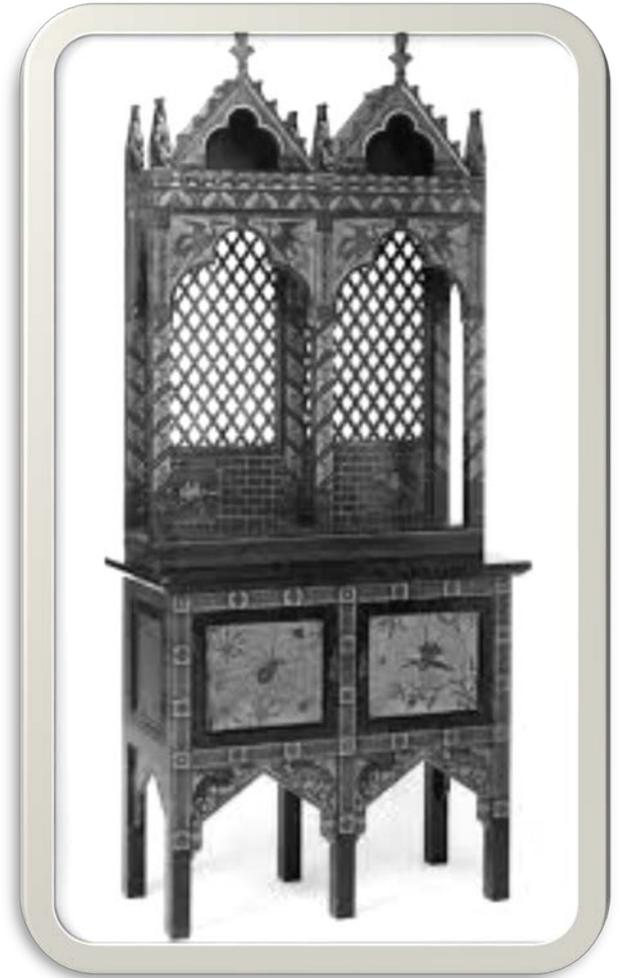
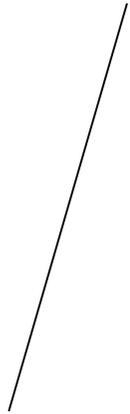
*Furnishings and architecture during the Victorian era gradually change and become Gothic Revival and this also influences the style of fireplaces.*



*Generally large and covered with grand ornamentation, they begin to incorporate heraldry, tracery and medieval styles.*



*The later Arts and Crafts movement in late Victorian times also imitates similar techniques.*



*Some Victorian fireplaces have a rather ecclesiastical look, with a pointed inner arch above the fire, rather like a church window.*



*The fireplaces are extremely imposing, but fortunately Victorian homes generally have large rooms with high ceilings, so the fireplaces do not look too out of place.*



*In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, some old Victorian houses may still have their original fireplaces.*

*The antique marble and carved wood designs show how talented craftsmen are at creating such beautiful workmanship.*



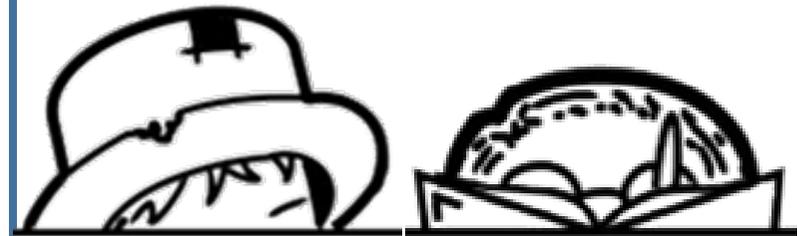
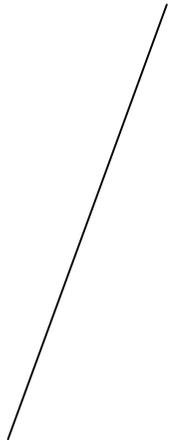
*Heavy metal firebacks are used in later times to radiate the heat out into the room and are also used as decoration.*



*Along with Victorian  
fireplaces, fire screens  
are the focal point of  
any room in the house.*



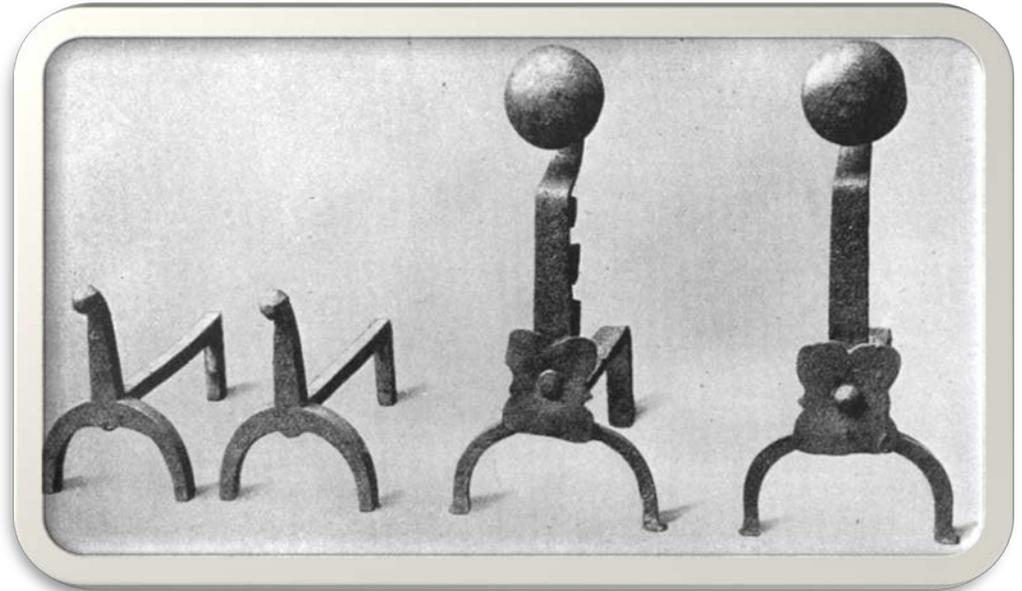
*The ladies of the house show  
off their embroidery and  
tapestry skills by embroidering  
fire screens and many of them  
are works of art.*



*The frames and feet of fire screens are carved from satinwood, rosewood or mahogany and support screens made of fabric, stained glass or papier-maché.*



*Other collectibles associated with Victorian fireplaces include log boxes, often made of brass; fire dogs which cradle logs and accelerate burning; pokers, bellows, coal tongs and tool-stands.*



*Again, thanks to  
AboutBritain.com for their help...  
So we have completed topic 77 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-toys.asp>



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"The Life and Times in Victorian London"

IS CREATED THROUGH THE INGENUITY & HARD WORK OF:

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*WE ARE EXTREMELY  
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