

*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*  
# 091 - Care for a Cuppa? -- 11/24/2018



*Welcome to topic number 091... The Canon will have thirty-five references to tea and thirty-one for coffee (plus one that describes the color of Miss Mary Sutherland's dress in "A Case of Identity).*





*While Britain is known for its tea-drinking, coffee also has its place in the culture, having made its way to the island before the first tea leaf arrived.*



*Coffee is recognized as having been introduced by a Turk in 1637 in Oxford where students and instructors created "The Oxford Coffee Club."*



*The first coffeehouse, The Angel, was opened there in 1650, followed two years later in London by a coffee stall run by Pasqua Roseé, a Greek (now, somewhat ironically, the site of a Starbucks).*



*From the beginning, these establishments were considered places where men in their periwigs could gather to discuss topics of the day...*



*... gossip, write, and review  
what others had written—all  
fueled by a dark brew served  
in dishes with unlimited refills.*



*The first recorded sale of tea was at an auction in 1658, but was first made popular among the aristocracy by Portugal Princess Catherine of Braganza who married Charles II when she brought her habit with her in 1662.*



*Soon, the practice spread from the elite to the middle class where it was consumed in... coffeehouses*

*Prior to 1689, tea was taxed in liquid form.*



*The tea merchants would brew it in the morning, pay the tax to the collector, and serve it throughout the day.*



*In 1689, tea leaves were taxed instead, and could be brewed throughout the day.*



*Only men  
frequented  
coffeehouses.*



*Women would have the men bring the leaves to be used for home consumption and social events such as tea parties...*



*... where the beverage was served from silver teapots into fine china cups.*



*While tea is drunk throughout the day (from breakfast onward), "afternoon tea" raises the traditional tea party to a social institution.*



*According to lore, in 1841, Anna Maria, the wife of the seventh Duke of Bedford, introduces a light meal of small sandwiches and pastries and tea to see her through between lunch and dinner.*



*She is soon inviting  
friends to join her, and  
the ritual is born.*



*Afternoon tea should not be confused with "high tea."*



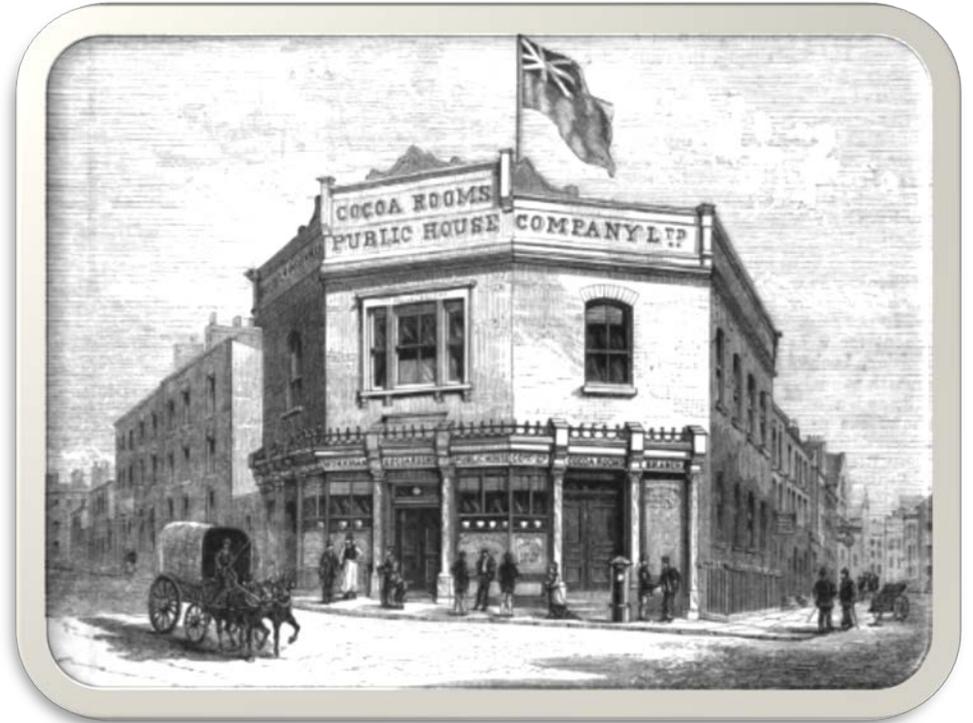
*With the arrival of the industrial revolution, working class families have shifted their main meal of the day to the late afternoon.*



*While tea is still served, hot and much more substantial meal accompany it when everyone arrive home from school or work.*



*The rise of the temperance movement leads to an increase in tea and coffeehouses that offer non-alcoholic alternatives to pubs.*



*Tea's popularity also increased issues related to smuggling and even a war with China.*



*Due to high taxes the government placed on tea (there was a certain "tea party" in Boston to protest such tariffs), smugglers brought in the product and undercut legitimate sellers.*



*The government finally succumbed to pressures and eliminated the tax in 1785.*



*Tea continues to be a major part of the British diet, with the average British man drinking about thirteen cups a week, and women drinking about eleven.*



*Coffee drinking will increase significantly since the 1970s...*

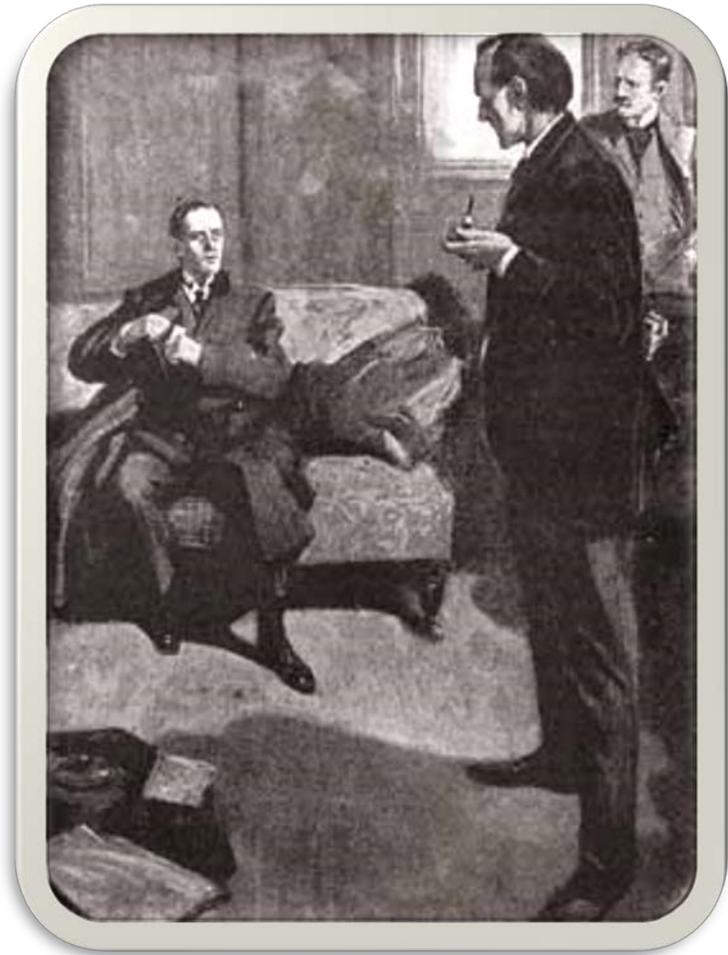


*... a result of a swing in preferences as well as a push to reduce workplace "tea breaks" under Margaret Thatcher will lead to fewer cups being consumed each year.*



*Holmes and Watson will not be above consuming both tea and coffee, but as with other Victorians, tea will offer a social moment unique to British culture.*





*The two will sit down to high tea in The Valley of Fear, not "high coffee."*



*So we have completed  
topic 91 in our series...*

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



## Original Source Material for this topic:

- 1) Doyle, Arthur Conan. The Complete Sherlock Holmes: with an introduction from Robert Ryan (Kindle Locations 7273-7274). Simon & Schuster UK. Kindle Edition.
- 2) <https://bradshawsguide.org/about>
- 3) <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/rail-journeys/Great-Continental-Railway-Journeys-Michael-Portillo-gets-back-on-track/>
- 4) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bradshaw%27s\\_Guide](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bradshaw%27s_Guide)
- 5) <https://bradshawsguide.org/about>
- 6) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George\\_Bradshaw](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Bradshaw)
- 7) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bradshaw%27s\\_Guide](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bradshaw%27s_Guide)
- 8) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George\\_Bradshaw](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Bradshaw)
- 9) Doyle, Arthur Conan. The Complete Sherlock Holmes: with an introduction from Robert Ryan (Kindle Location 7275). Simon & Schuster UK. Kindle Edition.
- 10) <https://www.americanexpress.com/icc/trademarks.html>



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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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