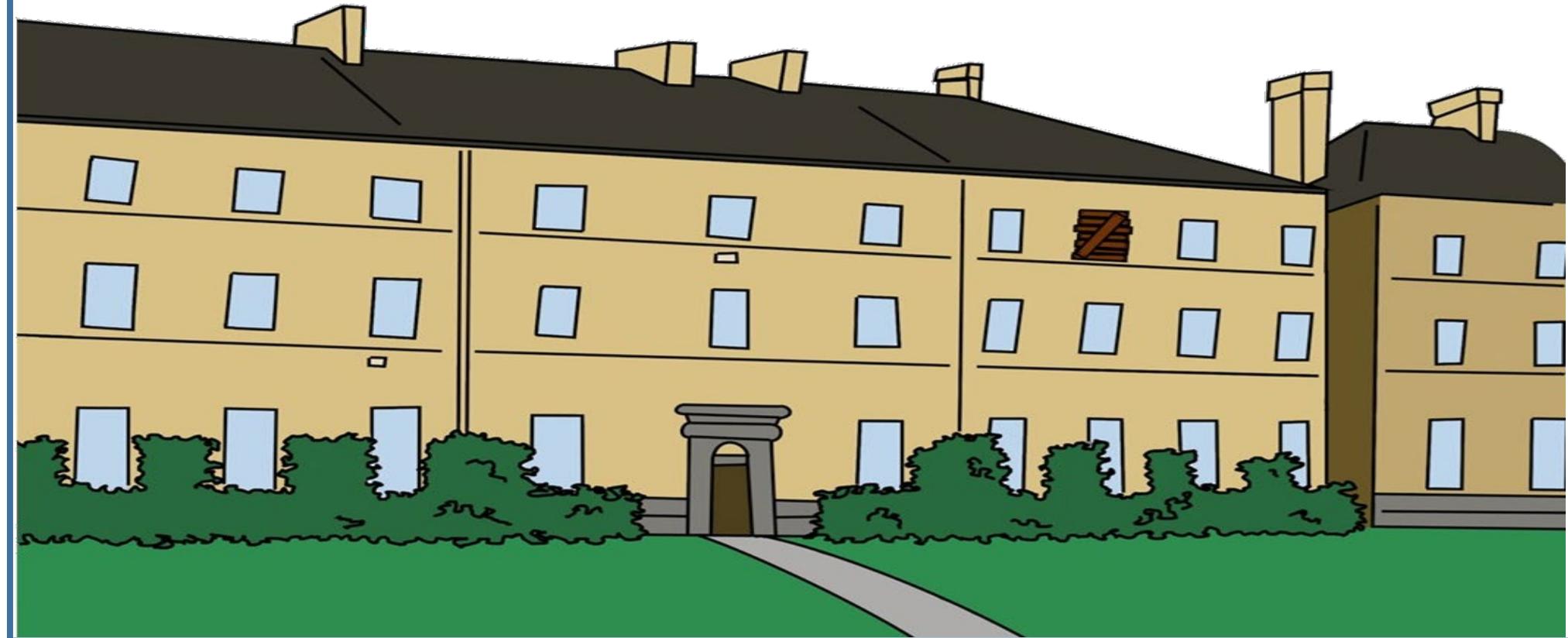


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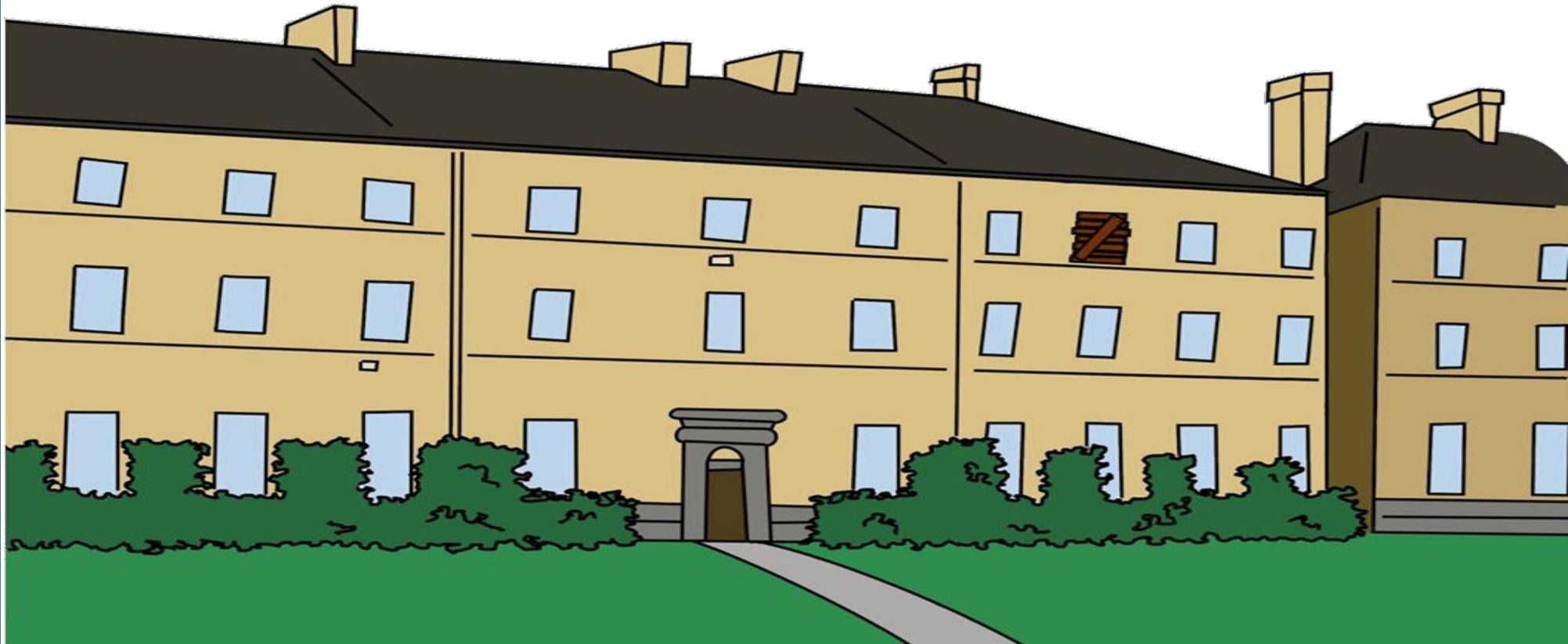
Presents

"The Life and Times in Victorian London"



*Baker Street Elementary*

*The Life and Times in Victorian London  
# 097 -- Expanding the Brain Attic - 09/10/2019*

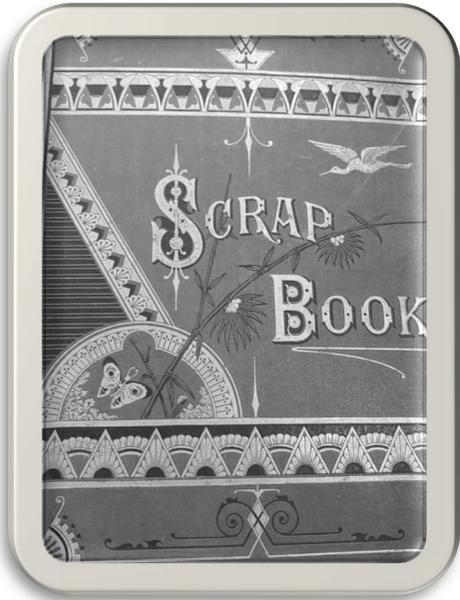




*Welcome to topic number 097...  
Today, Master Gregson and I  
will look at supplemental means  
to keep your memories around.*

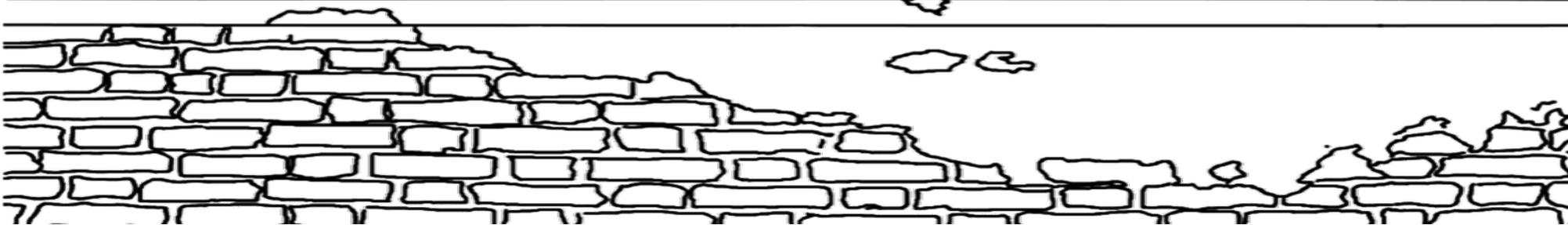


*In "The Adventure of the Three Students" and "The Adventure of the Red Circle," Watson will describe Holmes' use of scrapbooks as a resource in his investigations.*





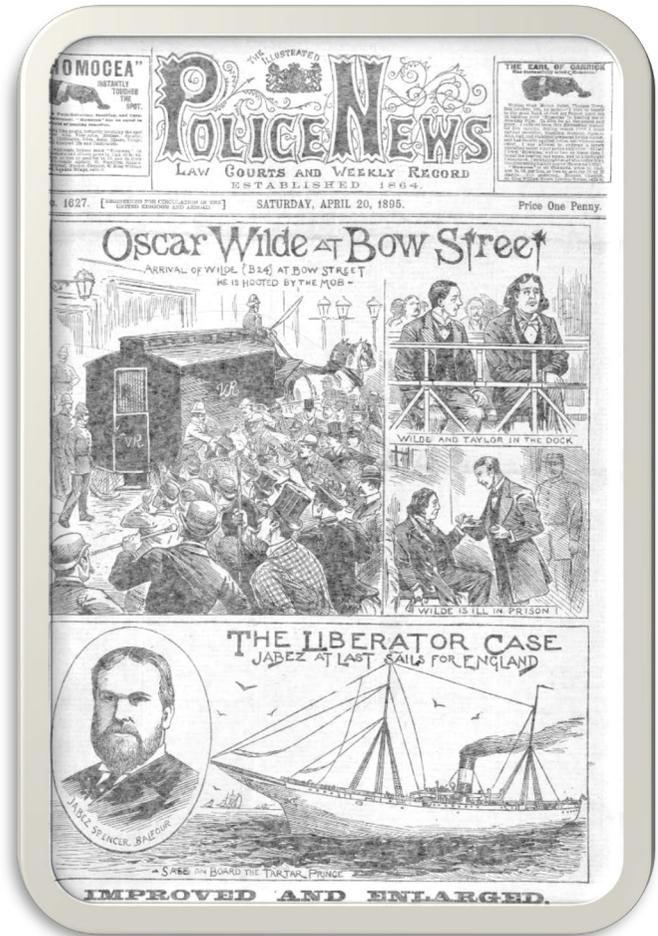
*When he is first introduced in A Study in Scarlet, Sherlock shares how he kept clippings and extracts of different cases and other news items in scrapbooks.*



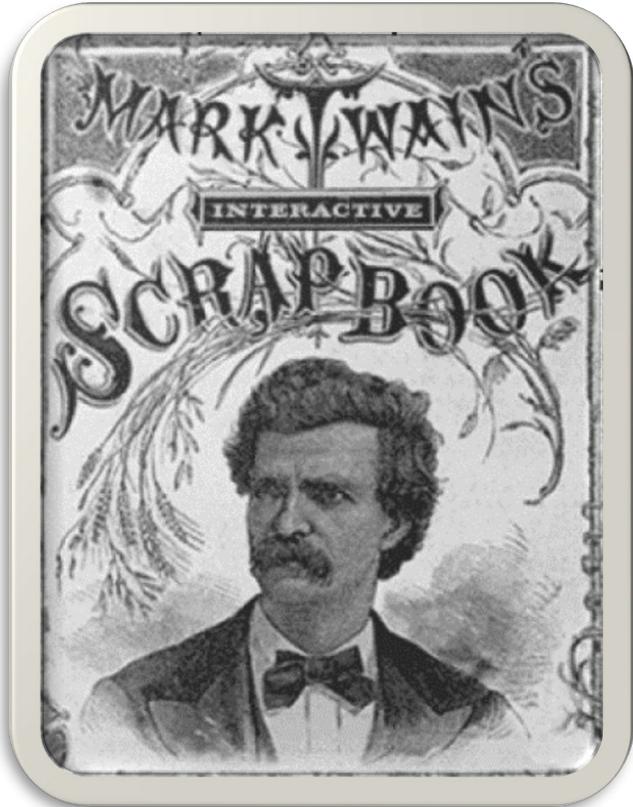
*He has created a number of such albums because in "The Empty House," Watson will describe the group as "formidable."*

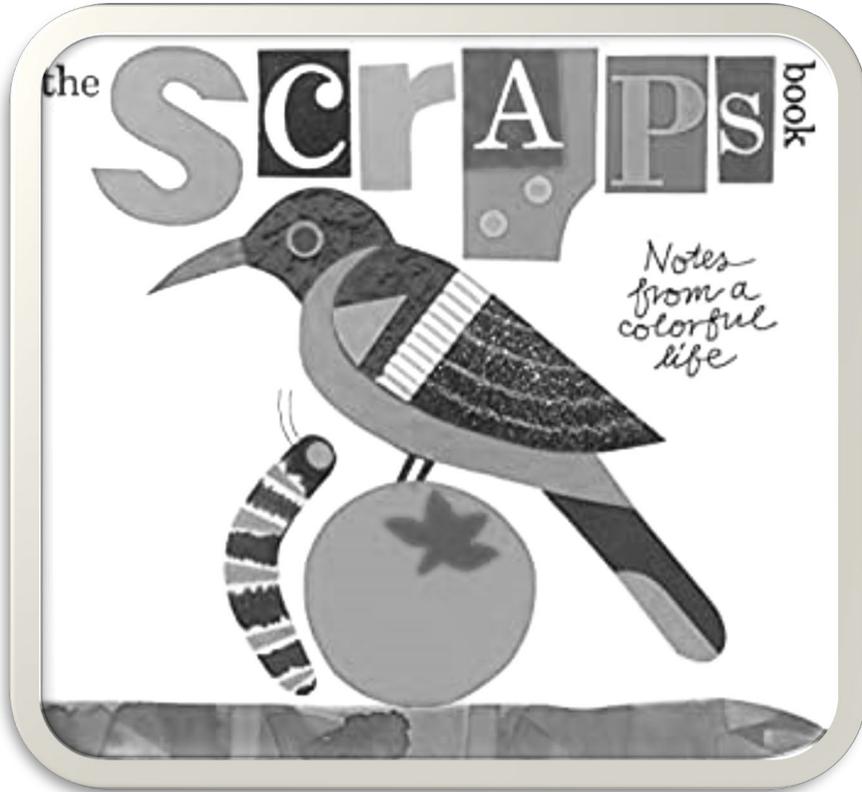


*In addition, their contents appear to contain compromising information on some individuals because Watson comments there are those who would like to see the volumes burned.*



*The first use of the term "scrapbook" (meaning a book with blank pages for pasting items onto them) was recorded in 1821. The verb "scrapbooking" will first appear in 1879 and will be popularized by Mark Twain.*

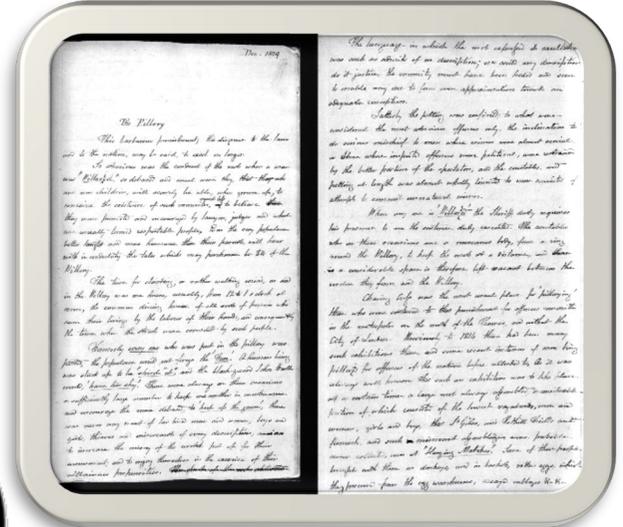




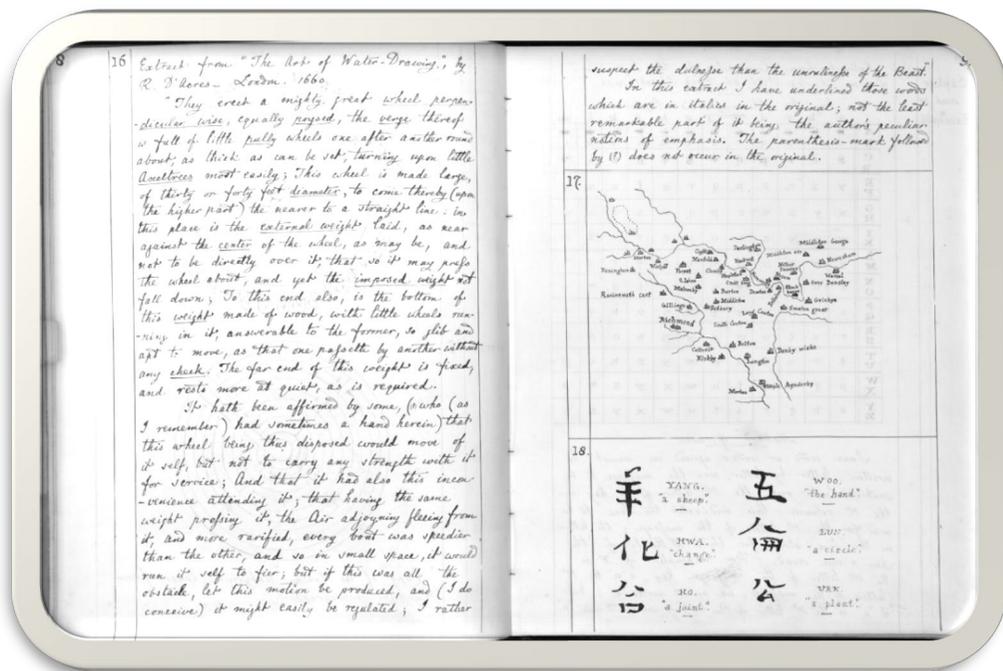
*Prior to the rise in preference for this term, a person merely "scraps."*



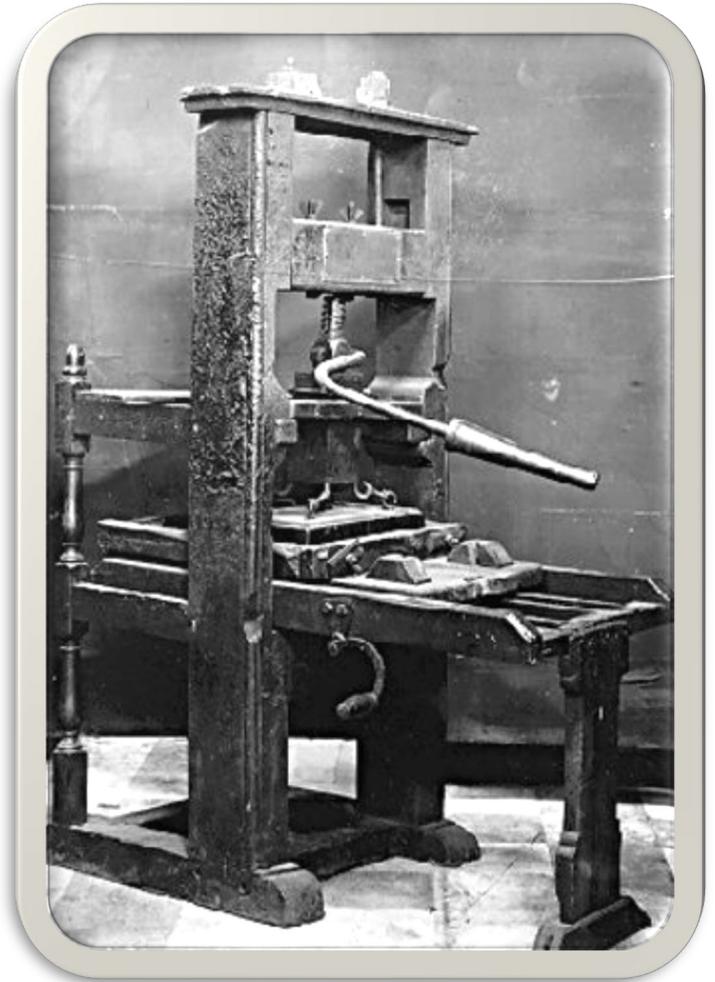
Even before the term "scrapbook" gains popularity, the practice existed. People recorded personal thoughts and experiences in blank-paged journals and diaries since the Middle Ages.

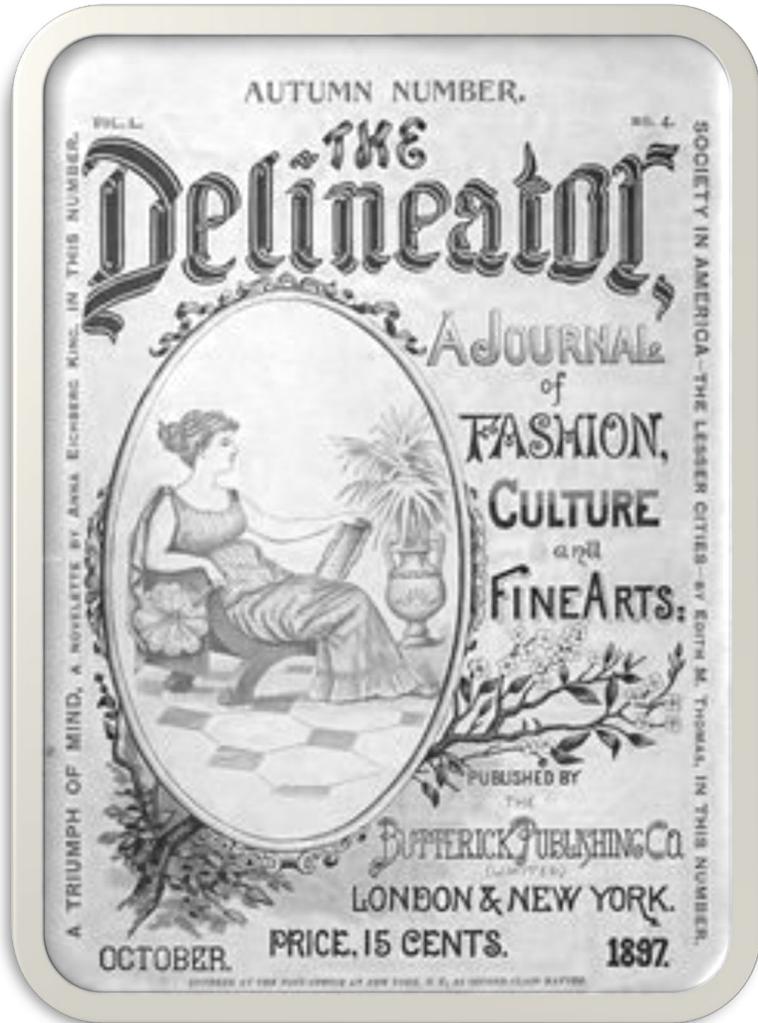


By the Renaissance period, "commonplace books" were used to record quotes and notes from different sources.



*The invention of the printing press provided more access to books and other printed materials and keeping notes on all these ideas represented people's response to this first "information overload."*





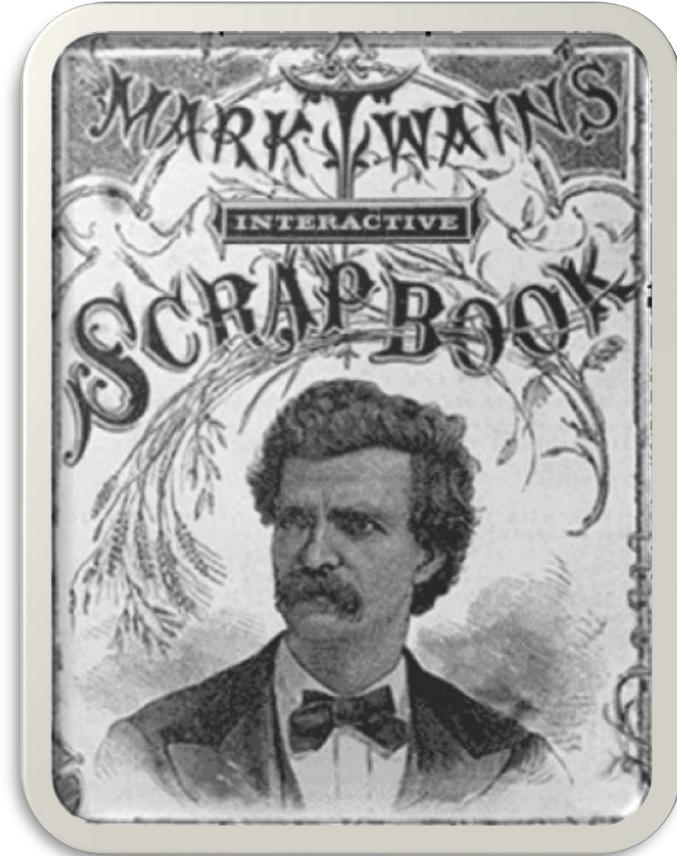
*By the 1800s, as newspapers and other daily or weekly publications flourished, information became much more transitory—changing with each edition of the paper or magazine.*



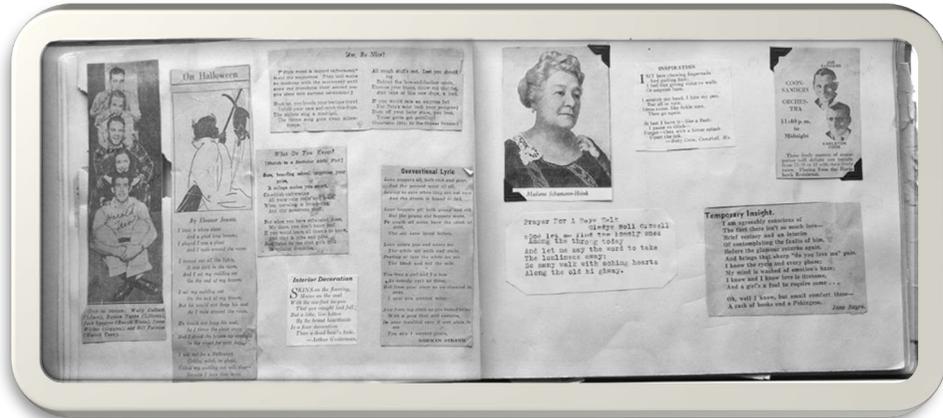
*To preserve items of interest, many read with "a pair of scissors in hand" like Louisa May Alcott; ready to "scissorize" and paste their "gleanings" into scrapbooks.*



*In addition to popularizing a term, Mark Twain will develop and patent a scrapbook with preinstalled gummed lines. The scrapbooker would wet the lines to activate the paste to hold the item in place.*



The popularity of this hobby also affected newspaper production. Dailies would actually provide short articles of interest (sometimes from foreign papers as well as other publications) labeled "for your scrapbook."



*Sherlock's volumes will most certainly include some of these pieces, particularly those related to criminal activity from around the world.*

Phrenologist (examining head): "You are  
oct, my dear sir."  
Subject: "Never wrote a line of poetry in my  
life."  
Phrenologist: "Incredible! My dear sir, you  
should try your hand. You have taste, love of  
beauty, poetry, and art."  
Subject: "How do you know?"  
Phrenologist: "Oh, easily enough. This bump  
over the left temple reveals it. It is an open  
book to the one who—"  
Subject (checking him): "And the most re-  
markable thing about it is that the bump  
appeared only yesterday."  
Phrenologist: "Phenomenal! I cannot account  
for it."  
Subject (gloomily): "I can."  
Phrenologist: "Indeed! How?"  
Subject: "I called a man a liar."



*As well as papers and other informational materials, the printing industry also produced more personal items such as calling cards ... (provided to gain an invitation into a house), postcards, and greeting cards—all of which could be collected and preserved in albums.*



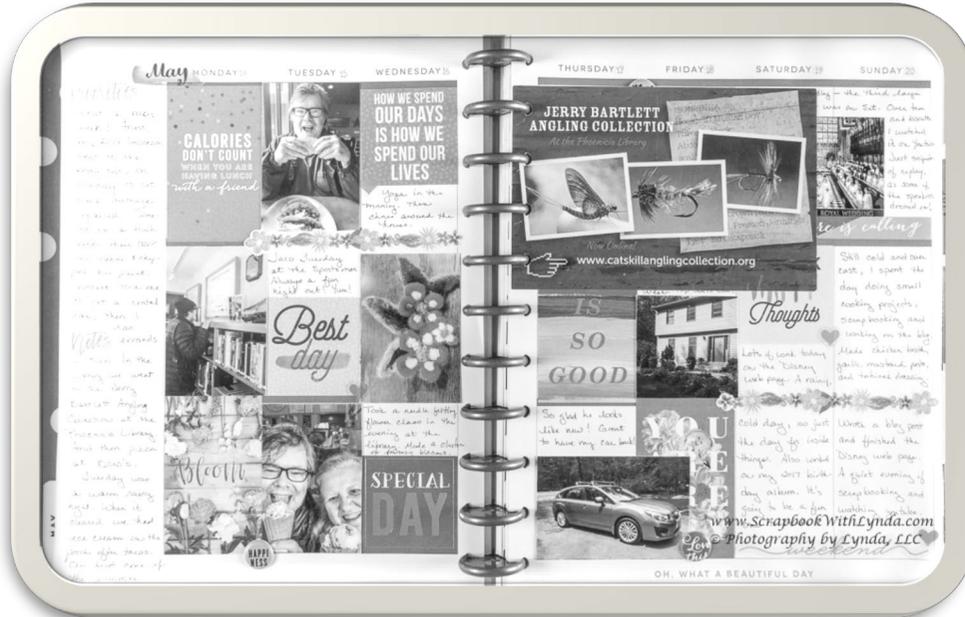
*The popularity of these items and special albums to preserve them shifted the hobby toward a more feminine pursuit.*



*From the early 1900s to 1980, scrapbooking might have involved some additional items, such as photos, but Marielen Christensen ushered in the modern age of scrapbooking at the 1980 World Conference on Records.*



At the invitation of organizers, she displayed 50 scrapbooks with her unique photographic and record-keeping system that resonated with participants. Of particular note was her use of plastic protectors for each page.



*After the conference, she returned to Spanish Fork, Utah and opened the first store dedicated to scrapbooking, attracting visitors from around the country. Scrapbooking became a way of preserving memories through photos, keepsakes, and other items in an organized fashion.*



*With the popularity of Pinterest and similar sites, the collection of memories and photos has moved into the digital age and increased sharing among enthusiasts.*



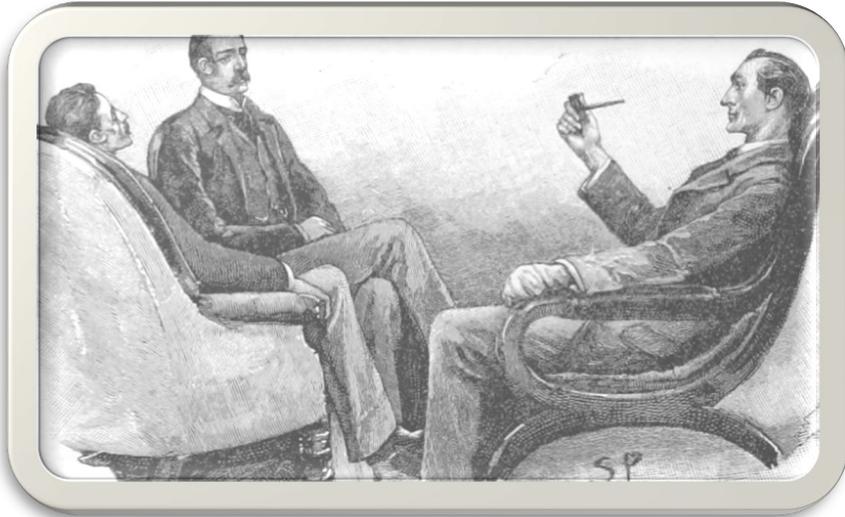
*At the same time, holding a concrete bit of history has not completely faded away. When certain events occur, such as the election of Barak Obama, newspapers still sell out despite extra print runs.*



*For Sherlock, scrapbooks served as an extension of his brain attic. If he needed some place to store information that might be of use, but not immediately, the albums preserved and organized information for use in some future adventure.*



*One wonders if one of these volumes contains a page or two devoted to the Copernican Theory and the composition of the solar system, ready for consultation when called upon.*



*So we have completed  
topic 97 in our series...*

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



## References for this topic:

- <https://www.scrapbook.com/articles/history-of-scrapbooking>
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RUSTY MASON

&

STEVE MASON

