

A Victorian Etiquette Primer

A Netbook by Pythagoras (<http://www.hardpoints.de>)

Moral Values

- ✎ Always keep your word.
- ✎ Lying is seen as very vulgar.
- ✎ Always protect those weaker than yourself.
- ✎ Knowledge is valuable for its own sake.

Addressing Others

- ✎ Never approach a person to whom you have not been formally introduced.
- ✎ Never address your social betters first, unless you are on intimate terms
- ✎ Address all your acquaintances by their title and last name

Calling Cards

- ✎ Hand out your cards during the first event of the season.
- ✎ When arriving uninvited or at a large event, leave your card with the butler.
- ✎ If the person you call upon is not present, fold the top right corner to say: "You need not return this call - I'm just dropping by."

Ladies

- ✎ A lady never smokes or gambles for money.
- ✎ A lady never calls alone upon a gentleman except upon a matter of business or on a professional call.
- ✎ If riding with a lover, place her on your left, so that people know she's not your wife.

✎ Letters from a mistress should always be sent to a gentleman's club, and delivered face down on a salver, so that the name or handwriting cannot be recognized.

✎ Unmarried girls don't wear dark colours or much jewellery.

✎ A man should not sit down as long as a lady is still standing.

✎ While travelling a lady will not even let her husband enter rooms that are restricted to women.

Faux-Pas

✎ By divorce, you become a social pariah.

✎ Avoid topics such as religion or politics during social events.

✎ The waltz is considered quite scandalous in England.

Shopping

✎ It is not polite to look at things that you do not intend to buy.

✎ Before examining an item for flaws, the vendor should be asked politely.

✎ Do not haggle.

✎ A gentleman will not carry his purchases home himself but will have them sent.