

# Helena Blavatsky's Home in London

## While She Lived and Worked at 17, Lansdowne Road

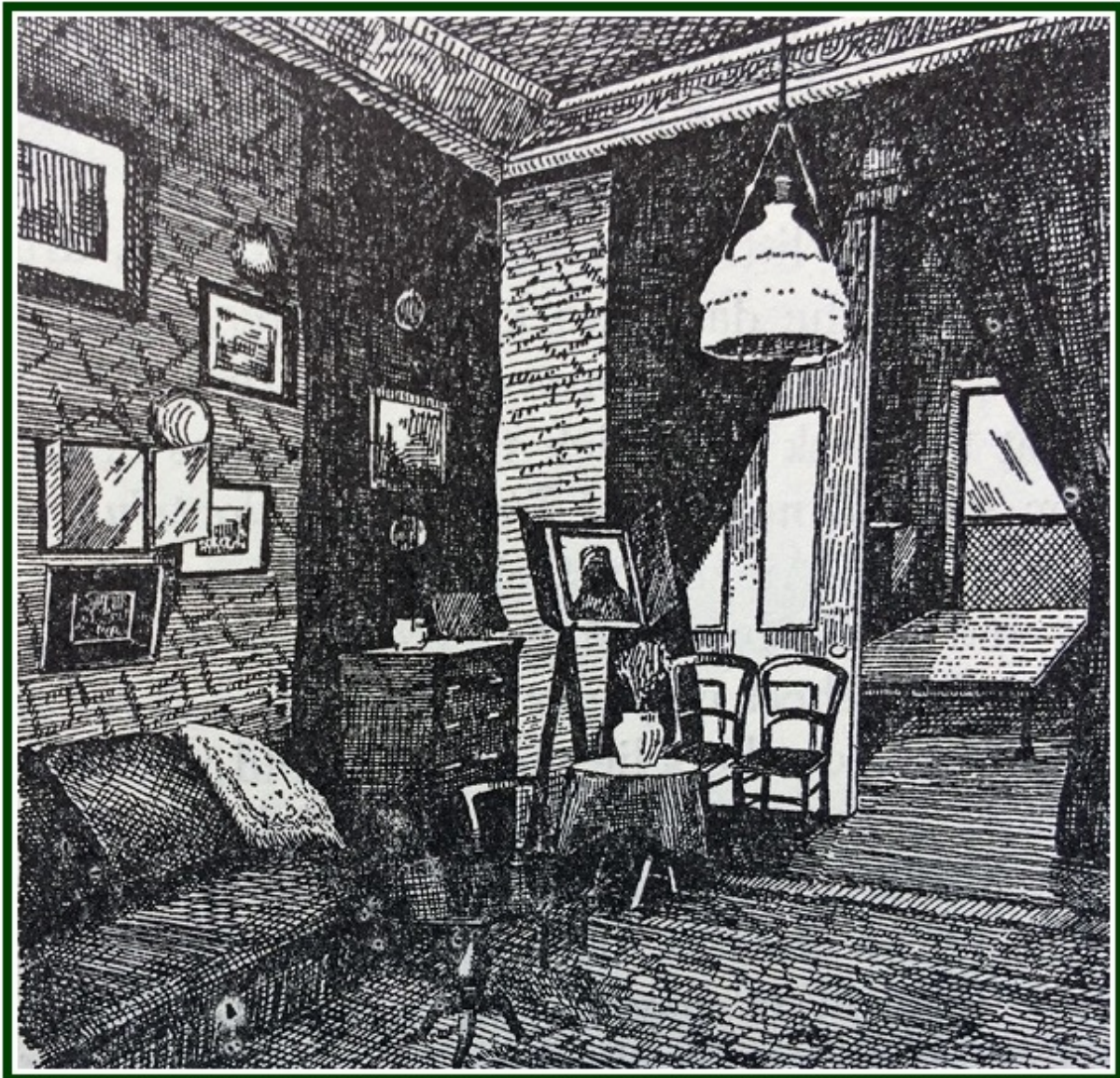
Carlos Cardoso Aveline



Partial view of the image made by Mr. Judge

Drawing with pen and ink, William Q. Judge made an image to show the office of Helena P. Blavatsky in Lansdowne Road, Holland Park, London, in 1887-1888.

“... The dining room in front”, he said, “opened into the work room behind. The front one was seldom used for anything but meals, except when a crowded meeting compelled visitors to sit there. Folding doors divided the rooms from each other. The view of this room is taken from the corner near her desk and shows the sofa where Mr. Harbottle and others one evening during Lodge session saw plainly the astral form of a Hindu sitting and calmly watching the people.”



Her home was simple. She lived with austerity. Judge goes on:

“The picture on the easel is that of an old Eastern friend of H.P.B.’s - of her Master, in fact, as she often said. The little round and rickety table was used very often in the mornings for holding a frugal breakfast, for H.P.B. was always up and at work very early each day. It was purposely placed in this picture, as it had actually been used just before the view was taken. Such is the magnificence with which the successor of de Saint-Germain was surrounded.” [1]

The next image is a photo published by [TheosophyCanada.com](http://TheosophyCanada.com). It offers a more focused view of the same table commented by Judge.



### **A Kodak Camera in the 1880s**

Blavatsky's working day was too long. She took little rest and her diet was not adequate.

The following photo was taken by W. Q. Judge with a Kodak camera. It shows HPB at work in Lansdowne Road. [2]

In this 1888 image, Blavatsky is working at the same desk where she wrote most of "The Secret Doctrine".

Judge says the photo was taken in the morning.



Parts of the manuscript of “The Secret Doctrine” are in front of HPB. She used to work surrounded by photos of friends from every part of the world.

How did theosophists feel, personally, as they met Blavatsky or were in her presence? William Kingsland, her personal student, writes:

“There were those who were attracted to her by the magnetism of her personal influence, by her extraordinary intellect, by her conversational powers, and even by her militant unconventionality. But I was nor one of these. It was her message that attracted me; it was as a teacher that I learnt to know and love her. Apart from her teachings I might have looked upon H. P. B. as an interesting and unique character, but I do not think I should have been attracted to her, had not her message spoken at once right home to my heart. It was through that message that I came to know H. P. B., not as a mere personal friend, but as something infinitely more.” [3]

Mrs. Alice Leighton Cleather, a direct disciple who like William Kingsland was loyal *to the end*, wrote about the moment she first saw H.P.B. in Lansdowne Road:

“When we were ushered into the well-known double drawing-room on the ground floor my attention immediately became riveted on the figure of a stout, middle-aged woman seated with her back to the wall before a card table, apparently engaged in playing Patience. She had the most arresting head and face I had ever seen, and when she lifted her eyes to mine, on Mr. Keightley presenting me, I experienced a distinct shock as her extraordinarily penetrating blue eyes literally ‘bored a hole’ through my brain.”

Alice goes on:

“She looked steadfastly at me for a few seconds (most uncomfortable ones for me) then, turning to Mr. Keightley, remarked indignantly: ‘You never told me she was like this!’ - absolutely ignoring his assertion that he had repeatedly done so. Exactly what ‘like this’ indicated I never subsequently discovered. Such was my introduction to the greatest incarnated Soul of our times; but at that early date I realised nothing more than that she took one’s breath away; and that ‘life was never the same again.’ From that moment I became her devoted disciple...”. [4]

Significant books and writings by Alice Cleather are available in our [associated websites](#) which help us understand the true mission shared by HPB and her students across the centuries.

## NOTES:

[1] “Echoes of the Orient”, by William Quan Judge, a three-volume compilation of the short writings by Judge; Point Loma Publications, San Diego, California, 1975, see vol. I, pp. 243-244.

[2] “Echoes of the Orient”, by W. Q. Judge, Point Loma Publications, vol. I, pp. 244-245.

[3] “[What H. P. Blavatsky Taught Us](#)”, by William Kingsland.

[4] From the article “[The Guardian Wall That Protects Mankind](#)”.

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The article “**Helena Blavatsky’s Home in London**” is published at the associated websites since 26 September 2021. An initial version of it is part of the November 2019 edition of “**The Aquarian Theosophist**”, pp. 10-13.

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