



THE BIMETALLIC QUESTION

Box 883 Stock Exchange Tower
Montreal, Canada H4Z 1K2

Minutes of the Meeting of The Bimetallic Question June 2nd, 2016

Date of our next meeting: Thursday, August 4th, 2016 at 6:30pm at the Westmount Public Library, Westmount Room, 4574 Sherbrooke Street West, Westmount, QC.

The quiz at the next meeting: *The Adventure of the Retired Colourman*, prepared by Anne Millar and presented by Paul Billette.

Next meeting's toast presenters: The Master: Raf Jans; Dr. Watson: Wilfrid de Freitas; *The Woman*: Kristin Franseen; Mrs. Hudson: Chris Herten-Greaven; The Society: Bruno Paul Stenson.

Minutes of the meeting of the Bimetallic Question held on Thursday, June 2nd, 2016 at the Westmount Public Library, Westmount Room, 4574 Sherbrooke Street West, Westmount, QC.

Present: Carol Abramson, Rachel Alkallay, Jack Anderson, Maureen Anderson, Paul Billette, Patrick Campbell, Louise Corda, David Dowse, Philip Ehrensaft, Susan Fitch, Kristin Franseen, Chris Herten-Greaven, Raf Jans, Miyako Matsuda-Pelletier, Anne Millar, Erica Penner, Kathryn Radford, Bernard Robaire, Bruno Paul Stenson, Melodie Tardieu, and our Montreal Steampunk guests Alexandre Adam and Kate Fredette.

Regrets: Arlene Scher.

[*How do I have my regrets included in the minutes? Simply call or email a Sherlockian colleague(s) whom you think will be attending the meeting. Ask them to express your regrets at the start of the meeting, and they will be duly recorded on the attendance sheet and in the minutes !*]

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by our Sovereign, Carol Abramson at 6:30 pm.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS AND GENTLE TRANSACTION

Thank You to Lars and Wilfrid !

Once again we would all like to thank Lars Lovkvist for so generously donating books from his outstanding collection of detective fiction and nonfiction to the Bimetallic Question.

We also thank Wilfrid de Freitas for his help in arranging for their transportation and display at our meeting. Let us hope that everyone present was able to find a "Blue Carbuncle" of a reading treasure to bring home.

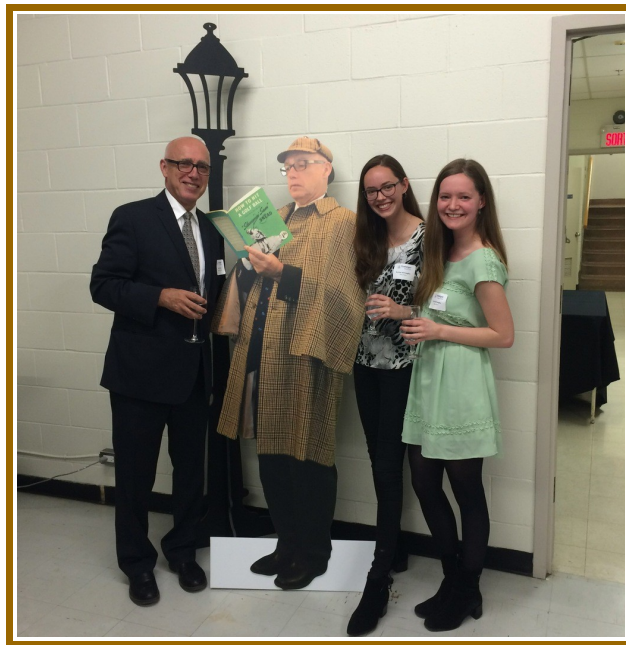
Welcome Melodie !

It is with great pleasure that we welcome a new member to our Society, Melodie Tardieu.

A student in Environmental and Wildlife Management at Vanier, Melodie searched us out on the Internet and was intrigued enough to join us tonight. We enjoyed her company and thoughtful contributions and look forward to many more.

1. The Case of the Disappearing Principal

Our Sovereign, Carol Abramson offered congratulations to good friend, long-time Bimetallic Question member, and, along with his family, faithful supporter of our annual dinner, Geoff Dowd, on his retirement as principal of Trafalgar School for Girls.



Geoff Dowd and Sherlock Holmes with Trafalgar celebrants.

What could have been more fitting for Geoff than a Sherlockian-themed retirement party christened *The Case of the Disappearing Principal* !? Trafalgar's website reports that the event, held there on May 5th, raised more than \$45,000 for student bursaries and the school wish-list. Geoff was overwhelmed with good wishes in advance of his upcoming retirement this July, so that, in his words, "Disappearing more quietly seemed not to be an option". See all the great event photos on the school website at: <http://www.trafalgar.qc.ca/page.cfm?p=2051>

2. Glad You Could Make It !

We were all going to wish Patrick Campbell a speedy recovery from a visit to the hospital but he beat us to it by being present and active at our June meeting. Good show, Patrick.

3. All Good Wishes to Wilfrid

Our co-founder, Wilfrid de Freitas, will have a hip replacement operation on June 21st at St. Mary's Hospital. After the procedure he will be convalescing and rehabing at home. God speed a swift and successful recovery.

4. Upcoming Museum Tours

The review of the last meeting's minutes determined that clarification was in order pertaining to Bruno Paul

Stenson's offers of museum tours to the Chateau Ramezay and Redpath this summer and fall. See the email attachment accompanying these minutes (same as the flyer distributed at June 2nd meeting) for full details.

5. Toast to the Master by Kristin Franseen

Whatever his faults as a chronicler of strict historical and scientific details, Dr Watson obligingly catalogs Sherlock Holmes's many quirks and interests. There is the famous list in *A Study in Scarlet*, which lets the reader know that the great detective knows every sensational case of the last century and has a practical, but limited knowledge of geology, but knows nothing of practical gardening.

But, despite this list, Holmes's interests are not necessarily confined to those details immediately necessary to the case at hand. He quotes *Twelfth Night*, is an avid fan of the violinists Pablo de Sarasate and Wilma Norman-Neruda, and apparently picks up enough about astronomy somewhere to follow the reception of Moriarty's *The Dynamics of an Asteroid*.

Then there are his own "trifling monographs." Some of them make enough sense as records of extraordinary cases--the one on the shape of the human ear, for instance, might go a long way to unraveling disguises (or perhaps catching the less-than-diligent safe-cracker who left their stethoscope at home)--but what practical purpose could the early English charters or the polyphonic motets of Orlando di Lasso serve for the would-be detective? Although Renaissance music does not figure in any of Watson's recorded cases, perhaps this provides a clue as to the location of one of those stories to which Watson applies "due discretion." Although Les Klinger and others have argued that Holmes would not have heard Lasso's motets in London prior to the turn of the twentieth century (when Richard Terry began introducing Renaissance music to the repertoire at Westminster Cathedral), choir director Laura Wiebe notes in her dissertation that "concerts given by the Oxford Glee and Madrigal Society...created more opportunities for the performances" and "during the last part of the nineteenth century...presented an appealing array of English Renaissance music, as well as some Continental works by Lasso and Marenzio (in English translation)." Perhaps Watson got his chronology a bit out of order in the stories collected in *The Return*, and Holmes began his motet project as a favor to an acquaintance at Oxford. In any event, perhaps we should consider more fully those topics about which Holmes was, if not the Master, then at least a devoted connoisseur.

6. Hearty Congratulations to Kristin

Paul Billette brought us news that Kristin Franseen has won two important prizes from the S.Q.R. M., the Quebec Society for Music Research, at their recent 2015-2016 conference. Kristin tied for first place in the evening's Audience Choice category presenting her paper, *Temperaments Akin to His Own: Sexuality as Subtext in Rosa Newmarch's Tchaikovsky Project*. She also won the Conference Prize for best paper for *The Secret Life of Rosa Newmarch: Innuendo and Musical Biography, ca. 1900-1915*. A big round of applause for Kristin!

7. An Upcoming Honour for Bruno

Carol Abramson announced that Bruno Paul Stenson will be receiving an important award relating to his many years of stellar volunteer work in Montreal. More details to follow.



Show and Tell

8. Solve This London Mystery

Louise Corda brought an intriguing London tour guide published in 1984, which featured this handsome etched glass Sherlock Holmes image, seen above. Can you guess, or can you tell us with certainty, the London locale of this image of the Master?

9. *Lost London* and *The Baghdad Railway Club*

Jack Anderson passed around a book of *Lost London in Colour* by Brian Girling depicting colourized post cards of Victorian and Edwardian buildings that no longer exist; buildings and byways that Sherlock and Watson surely must have known. This called to mind, on a similar note, how the historic buildings of Glasgow, Scotland, for a century clouded in fog and covered in grey-black soot are now being sand blasted and scrubbed clean to bring out their true beauty.

Jack also had a copy of the *Baghdad Railway Club* by Andrew Martin. Set during WW I, it follows the adventures of a railway detective as he ferrets out spies and killers. Susan (an emerging railway buff) bought the book from Jack for a .50¢ donation to our meeting's refreshment fund. Jack reports being hooked on this author and has collected all of Martin's books

10. The Conan Doyle Collection of Characters

Patrick Campbell sprung upon us a collection of 1923 Turf cigarette cards with the heading *Conan Doyle Collection of Characters*. He has 24 different cards in all but misses Number 12, Katherine Stoner. Of interest to collectors of these cards is that some have the information printed on their reverse sides in green ink, while others from another later 1996 issue have it in black. Patrick noted that he was born in 1923, "But whether I smoked at that time, I don't know".

11. A Sherlockian and Victorian Cultural Feast

Miyako Matsuda-Pelletier has once again reviewed for us several interesting articles featured in the magazine *Totally British*. She has also written a piece on the eating habits of Victorian England, and taken a look at Isabella Mayson Beeton and the creation of her classic bestseller, *Beeton's Book of Household Management*. Please feast on Miyako's offerings:

Totally British magazine's May 2016 issue is introducing many interesting TV shows and movies, including *Houdini and Doyle* starring Stephen Mangan and Michael Weston. As we all know, Conan Doyle believed in the supernatural and the spirit world. In this show the American illusionist Harry Houdini, who originally came from Budapest, Hungary and was the son of a Jewish rabbi, has totally the opposite beliefs. He trusts in science and logic and believes that science can't prove the existence of a supernatural world or of God. Yet I feel Doyle's desperation, as a doctor and a man of science, as his wife Touie (Louise) lies ill in bed in the hospital. He was in a complex situation. The series takes place in 1901, the year of Queen Victoria's passing, and yet we can already see a woman police constable, Adelaide Stratton adding much interest to this show.

Incidentally, do you remember child actor Milo Parker who played Roger in *Mr. Holmes*? He is now featured in the new series, *The Durrells*, which takes place in 1935. He plays the young Gerald Durrell, who later wrote about his childhood life in books like *My Family and Other Animals*. This show made me laugh and cry, and it's a lot of fun to see the Durrell family on here on Corfu Island, Greece. I recommend this show to everyone highly.

The June 2016 issue of *Totally British* is introducing *The Hollow Crown*, starring Benedict Cumberbatch who plays the Master in *Sherlock*. If you're a *Downton Abbey* fan, be sure to watch Hugh Bonneville, who played the Earl of Grantham, in this new show set in medieval England. Here he is playing Gloucester, with the great actress Dame Judi Dench playing Cecily Neville, the mother of Richard. Incidentally you probably know that Britain has embraced the news, in 2012, of this medieval king's skeleton being found under a car parking lot in Leicester! An even more remarkable fact is that Mr. Cumberbatch is the late king's second cousin, 16 times removed! When I heard this news through the Associated Press and BBC News I asked myself, "Was Mr. Cumberbatch born to play Richard III, instead of Sherlock?" *The Hollow Crown* is a very long trilogy, 2 hours each, the story starting with Henry VI in part 1 and 2 and Richard III, and it's no-nonsense serious drama with Shakespeare's 17th century English language. My husband and I are not Anglophones and we do need the subtitles to read the English language text, but it's definitely worth watching to learn the history of medieval England for sure! So if you're a Cumberbatch fan, it's a *must*! In the U.K. those enthusiastic fans (particularly ladies) call themselves "Cumberbitches", and his true royal blood certainly adds to this show, and the descendants of the House of York must be content to see him play Richard III !

Do you wonder what kind of food people were eating in the past? I work in a restaurant and when I watch movies, I love looking at the dining scenes! When Sherlock Holmes and Watson (and their clients and friends etc.) go to a restaurant, I wonder, what were they having for dinner? What were they actually eating? Of course Holmes and Watson are fictitious characters by Conan Doyle, but maybe Conan Doyle himself went to dine out at those fine restaurants in London, such as the Savoy Hotel and the Carlton Hotel? With his wife Jean and his friends etc? I happen to have this old book that I found at the Salvation Army - maybe 10 years ago or so - *Great Cooks and Their Recipes*, by cooking scholar Anne Willan. From Yorkshire, England, she was educated at Cambridge University and later trained at the Paris Cordon Bleu. It's fascinating to learn here how Europeans were eating, from the 14th century onward. Willan introduces us to the great French chef Auguste Escoffier (1846-1935), who was head chef at the Savoy Hotel and the Carlton when Conan Doyle was living in London, in the 1880s. Escoffier and the Ritz people then teamed up to take over the Savoy Hotel where the rich and famous were hanging

around, such as the Rothschilds, the Vanderbilts, the Morgans etc. He served them his famous dishes like coupe Yvette, Sole Alice etc. In the 1880s the hotel manager-owner César Ritz had persuaded rich and famous ladies to dine in public for the first time in history, because some ladies had jobs as professional actors, singers. Even Lily Langtree who was the lover of Bertie, the Prince of Wales, and cited as a model for Irene Adler, was often dining at the Savoy, maybe eating pêches Melba (peach Melba) one of Escoffier's creations, (poached peaches on a bed of vanilla ice cream, set in a swan of ice). I suppose it was great publicity for the restaurant and hotel to tell the public that they receive illustrious clients, to eat and spend their time there. To me, it is interesting to find that a great chef like Escoffier worked in London in broken English until his retirement in 1919, and not in Paris. Does this mean that London offered more opportunities for chefs like him? Is this because the British Empire had more money and celebrities than elsewhere? I heard that the Ritz Hotel was past master at attracting glittering clientele, and "great cuisine" added the crowning touch. I'm almost certain Conan Doyle and his friends enjoyed Escoffier's cooking at the Savoy Hotel !!

For Dickens fans:

I suppose that Dickensians know who Isabella Mayson Beeton is. She lived from 1836-1865 and was the authour of the most successful European cookbook ever published, Beeton's *Book of Household Management*. It was first published in 1860, with over 1500 recipes, and Isabella was only 24 years old when she produced this book! Unfortunately she passed away at only 29 after giving birth to her fourth child, but scholars agree that she had crammed more practical experience into her book than most women could in a much longer lifetime! I always wonder, "What are they eating?" when I watch shows like *Masterpiece Theatre*, even *Tea Time*. "What are they, or were they, having with tea?" And oh yes, thanks to Mrs. Beeton, I found out that baking powder was invented several years before her book's publication. I always use baking powder to bake cakes and pancakes, thinking of those Victorian ladies who were making muffins, shortbread, and buns before baking powder. Ladies then were using buttermilk or molasses and the dough probably didn't rise as much. Isabella was born Isabella Mary Mason in London in 1836 and her father passed away when she was five. Her mother remarried and her stepfather already had kids. Together, they became a family with 21 children. Therefore, as you can imagine, from her tender young age she must have been entrusted with much of the housekeeping and cooking duties. She met Samuel Beeton at age 19, a young publisher, and she and Samuel began working on *The Englishwoman's Domestic Magazine*, to give tips to young married couples on living in difficult financial situations, publishing articles like, *Can you live on £300 a year?* How much is £300 today in Canada?! A recipe was featured for *Rhubarb and Orange Jam* because rhubarb was economical. It's amazing to me to see a Victorian lady like her already writing so many recipes in the 1850s with carefully listed ingredients, cooking time, servings, and even the approximate cost! I think we can still cook and bake the way those ladies in Victorian England did, after I take a look at these recipes. When book became a bestseller in England and her husband wasted no time in making the most of such a hot property which publishers yearn for. But working so hard was very difficult for her (and they had lost two children already in infancy) but their third child was a healthy son. Yet sadly after giving birth to her fourth child, she became ill and passed away. Samuel was overwhelmed and in 1886 (about 20 years after her death) he went bankrupt and was forced to sell his copyrights to other publishers, Ward, Lock and Tyler. But this book is a door to the Victorian dining room which, Isabella says, should be about 68 degrees. Does anyone want to make her Christmas pudding?!

12. Let's See You Get Out of This

A Montreal company has created a real life escape adventure experience at two local venues under the name A/MAZE (Montreal's Escape Game). Each game lasts about 45 minutes and you can choose from a military facility, a prison break, a laboratory or a lost temple at the Saint Jacques Street location in Old Montreal or a pirate ship, a museum robbery or a circus at Fairview Shopping Centre on the West Island. Basically you are in a locked room and you have to find the clues that will allow you to escape in a limited time. It is for 5-8 people and prices range from \$15.00-\$30.00 depending on the scenario you choose. Sounds like a lot of fun and Carol Abramson has tried it at an Ottawa location. Their tag line is, "Prove your worthiness, *veni vidi vici*. Don't forget to escape before it's too late". A show of hands determined members are interested in trying out A/MAZE as a future Society event. <http://www.amazemontreal.com/>

13. A Study in Charlotte

Kristin recommends the book *A Study in Charlotte* by Brittany Cavallero who coincidentally got her Masters at the University of Wisconsin Madison where Kristin did hers. This pastiche is set 100 years after the original Holmes adventures, and features descendants of Holmes and Watson who are high school students. We hear it will be a trilogy. Who did Holmes end up marrying? It's not revealed here. One has to read the Mary Russell series for that info!

14. Fabulous Finds at the Fraser Hickson Library Auction

Wilfrid de Freitas informed us that the Fraser Hickson Library is having an auction of books from its collection on June 4th to help raise funds for its Mini Libraries in the city.

Some of the books to be auctioned are from its huge antiquarian collection and include many first editions and volumes donated to the library by famous Montrealers.

Some examples are:

- Samuel Johnson's *Dictionary of the English Language*, second edition. This is the first dictionary that gives uses of the word, not just descriptions.
- William Whewell, *History of the Inductive Sciences*, third edition. Traces the history of science from ancient to modern times.
- Eikon Basilike, *The Pourtraicture of His Sacred Majestie in His Solitudes and Suffering*, 1649. This early edition is a purported spiritual autobiography attributed to King Charles I of England and was published within days of his beheading.
- Books from Louis-Joseph Papineau's own library, one of which is signed by the man himself.

We can still help the Fraser Hickson Library serve our community by visiting their ongoing smaller book sales at 2165 Madison, near Upper Lachine Road.

<http://fraserhickson.ca/antique-book-auction/>

<http://fraserhickson.ca/minibiblios-3/>

15. Reading Material for All Good Sports

Just as there was the great debate in the 1890s whether to establish a monetary system based on gold or silver, at one time in North America there was also much talk of whether to play the game of cricket or rounders. Rounders won out as written in Chris's book, *Rules of the Game: The Complete Illustrated Encyclopedia of all the Sports of the World*, and rules are outlined with the pathway for its evolution to the game of baseball shown.

16. Montreal Steampunk

As Chris was almost concluding his presentation we had a knock at the door and Bruno Paul Stenson hurriedly jumped up to welcome in two surprise visitors, Baron Celsius Von Farenheit and his colleague Kathou, Gardienne d'enfants (Alexandre Adam and Kate Fredette) of Montreal.



Alexandre Adam and Kate Fredette

The Baron and Kathou were decked out in an eclectic ensemble of Victorian attire blended with over the top science fiction garb. They describe the Steampunk movement as "Victorian Futurism", an artistic representation inspired by the ultra imagination of science. Their members young and old create and share outfits with high Victorian hats, suits, dresses, shoes and all their accessories and then personalize them with quasi science fiction gadgets that they beg, borrow and construct to produce an effect that is definitely out of this world. Surely characters from major films like *20 Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*, *The Wild, Wild West*, and *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen* inspired their fashion statement. Montreal Steampunkers, of which there are about 100, get invited to public and private events to enhance everything that they touch. Creative individuals who combine a love of history, science and exhibitionism, they are truly a breed apart. For more information about Montreal Steampunk, just Google.

Thank you Alex and Kate for enriching our meeting and thank you Bruno for inviting them.

<https://www.facebook.com/SteampunkMontreal/>



Wings worn by Kate, borrowed from a friend.

17. Toast to Dr. Watson by Maureen Anderson

As we all know life doesn't always happen the way we want it to or the way we planned or hoped for, and I wonder what path Dr. Watson would have followed had he not been introduced to Sherlock Holmes, a consulting detective.

Dr. Watson received his medical degree from Bart's in the London School of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of London in 1878. Then he subsequently trained incidentally as an assistant surgeon in the British Army. He joined the British forces in India with the 5th Northumberland Fusiliers before being attached to the 66th (Berkshire) Regiment of Foot. He saw service in the Second Anglo-Afghan war, and was wounded at the Battle of Maiwand by a flintlock musket ball. He suffered enteric fever and was sent back to England on the troopship H.M.S. Orontes. With his health ruined he was given a monthly pension of 11 shillings 9 pence for 9 months, a lot of money back then.

A major detour is about to occur. Dr. Watson in 1881 was introduced by his friend Stamford to Sherlock Holmes, the Master behind Dr. Watson's future detours as, narrator, confidante and friend. Dr. Watson's life forever changes. He cannot control what would happen next, especially being the flatmate of Sherlock Holmes who had all sorts of visitors knocking on his door, from members of the Royal Family to government officials, toughs, and the Baker Street Irregulars. Dr. Watson remained steadfast in his bravery through it all and he made the changes and decisions that were so necessary to help him survive and strengthen, in spite of the dangers he was placed in and disappointments that came his way. His courage grew in spite of the adversities and in spite of the adventures of Sherlock Holmes. To Dr. Watson, a gentleman who traveled life's detours.

18. Meeting Up With Visiting Sherlockian Joe Marino

Joe Marino, who has Montreal roots and last lived here some 40 years ago, is a member of several Sherlockian societies in England, Ireland, Canada, the USA and Japan. He contacted us to say he will be back in town for a visit with family from June 27th to July 2nd and would love to meet up with some Montreal Holmesians as well. So it is planned that members can rendezvous with Joe and his wife Elaine on Wednesday, June 29th at 12:00 for lunch and conversation at the Jardin Nelson, 407 Place Jacques Cartier at the Old Port. This promises to be a fine occasion with plenty of Sherlockian camaraderie and good food. We look forward to hearing news of all Joe's experiences and views as a follower of the Master.

19. Toast to *The Woman*, Irene Adler, by Anne Millar

In many a toast to *The Woman*, real-life inspiration for The Master's first short story sortie and victorious opponent has been frequently laid, like flowers to the star, at the feet of Lola Montez. But even after hearing of her exploits and, ah, whip-crack zest for life, the person my mind always brings up is - not her.

An actress with as many colourful and layered tales as lavish costumes, an operatic singer of remarkable and unique voices, notorious both for her sex life and breeches roles - the only person I can think of as a real life

Irene Adler is Sarah Bernhardt. I even have a history tidbit tying The Divine Sarah's time-line to the 1891 story of Irene's sole appearance: Bernhardt was married, from 1882 until his death in 1889, to Aristides Damala, but was very rumoured to be involved with the Prince of Wales in the later years of her marriage. A reversed role, as it were, and not at all the same plot.

It also probably doesn't help my brain's sorting and filing that the Granada actress for the role of Irene was a russet-locked Gayle Hunnicutt.

But - what does it matter, whose echo is in the story, the queen of the "spider dance" or a celebrated Hamlet. The Woman is herself the best kind of role: not overdone, overplayed, overused - unlike certain professors. The problem is solved, the characters leave the stage, and we are left only the memory of Irene Adler - The Woman!

Special Note: Kristin told us that the Sarah B, is a Montreal ascinthe bar named for Sarah Bernhardt and located at the InterContinental on St. Antoine. <http://montreal.intercontinental.com/en/sarahb>

20. It's All According to Hoyle

Chris gamely seized a brief moment in the waning latter portion of our meeting to show us a second book, *Hoyle's Rules of Games* by Albert H. Moorehead and Geoffrey Mott-Smith. The cover proudly claims it is in its 100th printing and 7.5 million copies sold. The original author Edmond Hoyle (1672-1769) was such a recognized authority on card games that he inspired the expression, often used to reassure the hearer regarding the fairness of a given situation, "It's all being done according to Hoyle."

21. Toast to Mrs. Hudson by Carol Abramson

Chris having been heavily occupied in engaging and confounding Moriarty's agents since our last meeting, he was unable to bring us his planned toast to Mrs. Hudson. But he avows he will most gladly favour us with one at our August gathering, and Carol this night led us in an impromptu raising of our glasses to, Mrs. Hudson!

22. Quiz on *The Adventure of Black Peter* prepared by Raf Jans:

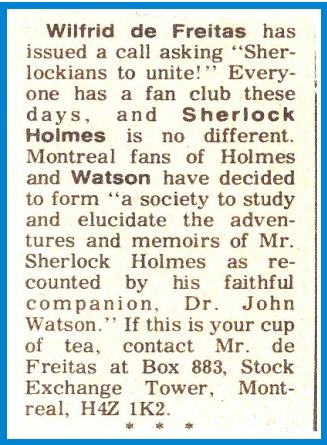
The results: 1st Carol Abramson 37½ /50
2nd Erica Penner 37 /50
3rd Anne Millar 31½ /50

Quiz prizes: Three splendid Sherlockian books.

In critiquing the story, the unanimous feeling of all quiz participants was that Inspector Hopkins was a complete fool if he thought young Neligan could have committed the murder of Black Peter. Hopkin's theory would have been ripped apart in any court of law. What had the state of the police investigation force sunk to ?!?!?!

23. Toast to the Society by David Dowse

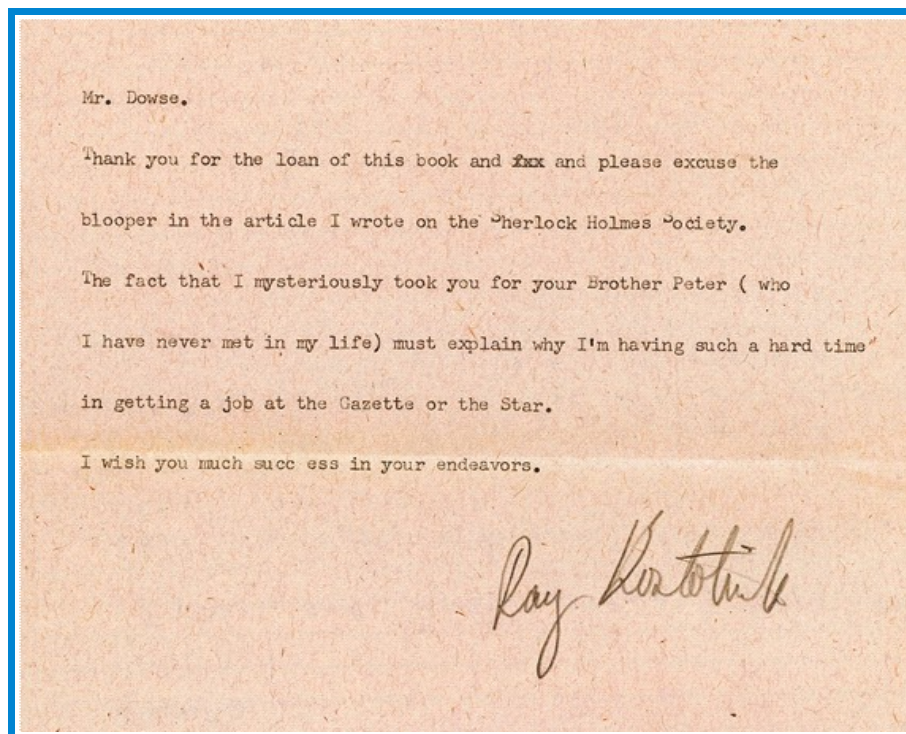
The Society took its first breath of Sherlockian air in 1979. Here are three snippets from those very first days. The first is the very small ad in the Montreal Star newspaper that Wilfrid took out to announce the formation of the Bimetallic Question.



Wilfrid de Freitas has issued a call asking "Sherlockians to unite!" Everyone has a fan club these days, and **Sherlock Holmes** is no different. Montreal fans of Holmes and **Watson** have decided to form "a society to study and elucidate the adventures and memoirs of Mr. Sherlock Holmes as recounted by his faithful companion, Dr. John Watson." If this is your cup of tea, contact Mr. de Freitas at Box 883, Stock Exchange Tower, Montreal, H4Z 1K2.

* * *

The second is the apologetic letter sent to me by a reporter for the West Island News and Chronicle, Ray Kostolnik.



The third is a picture in my parents' home of our first encounter, Wilfrid and I. It was a, "You have been in Afghanistan I perceive" moment.



David Dowse and Wilfrid de Freitas

Ladies and Gentlemen, I give you our creation and our evolution. To the Bimetallic Question.

24. A Splendid September Victorian Tea

Our Sovereign, Carol Abramson and her husband Jacob have invited Bimetallic Question members to a Victorian Tea at their home on Saturday, September 17. More details to follow and costumes are encouraged.

25. Close of the Meeting

Carol Abramson, Sovereign, thanked us all for coming and brought our meeting to a close at 8:50 pm.

Our dear friends, you would confer a great favour upon us by joining us at the next meeting of "THE BIMETALLIC QUESTION" which is being held on Thursday, August 4th, 2016, at 6:30p.m.

New Bimetallic Question members are welcome!

Bring a friend to our next meeting to share an amazing evening with us, and it will be our pleasure to provide a complimentary beverage and meeting delicacies. Following that, should they be intrigued enough to wish to join us, Society membership is an astonishingly reasonable \$25.00 per individual, or \$35.00 per family per year. Reach our Florin/Treasurer Paul Billette for more detailed information at pabillette@hotmail.fr or send your contact information and cheque to:

The Bimetallic Question, Box 883 Stock Exchange Tower, Montreal, Quebec H4Z 1K2.

Have you detected any errors or omissions in these minutes? If so, please do not hesitate to report same to our Scribe/Recording Secretary David Dowse at: daviddowse@hotmail.com.

A tip of the deerstalker hat to our Sergeant-at-arms and Vintner Hudson, Raf Jans, for printing and mailing Society minutes to all members requesting the paper version.

Please email a copy of your toast to susanruthfitch@yahoo.ca as this enables electronically pasting it into Society minutes without re-typing it, and so prevents increased wear to the sleeves of our Webmaster and Secretary Susan Fitch (as observed by Sherlock Holmes in IDEN).



Bonus Delight: Here is a fine toast given by Rachel Alkallay at our April 7th meeting.

TOAST TO THE MASTER

by

Rachel Alkallay

S is for Sanity, of which Sherlock has plenty;
H is for Humble - of which he knew not;
E is for Evidence: Sherlock insisted on that;
R is for Resourceful - of which Sherlock was a master;
L is for Logic - Sherlock's mainstay;
O is for Obvious - the clue Sherlock saw, that others did not;
C is for Curious - Sherlock was insatiable;
K is for Know-It-All - and Sherlock certainly knew it all, and more;
H is for Home - and Sherlock loved 221B;
O is for Opium - enough said;
L is for Loyal - witness Sherlock's loyalty to his one friend;
M is for Mind - and what a one Sherlock had;
E is for the Empty House - of joy! Sherlock is returned to the world!
S is for Sincere - on which Sherlock's reputation could be staked.

TO THE MASTER!