



THE BIMETALLIC QUESTION

Box 883 Stock Exchange Tower
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Minutes of the Meeting of The Bimetallic Question October 6th, 2016

Date of our next meeting: Thursday, December 1st, 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 Greek Interpreter*, prepared and presented by Chris Herten-Greaven.

Next meeting's toast presenters: The Master: Ronnie Zilman; Dr. Watson: Karl Raudsepp; *The Woman*: Susan Fitch; Mrs. Hudson: Kristin Franseen; The Society: Raf Jans.

Dear Toasters: Please email your toast to David Dowse and Susan Fitch - Thanks!

Minutes of the meeting of the Bimetallic Question held on Thursday, October 6th, 2016 at the Westmount Public Library, Westmount Room, 4574 Sherbrooke Street West, Westmount, QC.

Present: Carol Abramson, Rachel Alkallay, Mark Altosaar, Louise Corda, Wilfrid de Freitas, David Dowse, Susan Fitch, Kristin Franseen, Chris Herten-Greaven, Raf Jans, Miyako Matsuda-Pelletier, Anne Millar, Elliott Newman, Kathryn Radford, Karl Raudsepp, Arlene Scher, Bruno Paul Stenson, Melodie Tardieu, Ron Zilman, and our guests Emily Kaplan and Claire Maryniak.

Regrets: Jack Anderson, Maureen Anderson, Paul Billette, and Patrick Campbell.

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

ITEMS OF BUSINESS AND GENTLE TRANSACTION

1. Welcome to our guests!

Emily Kaplan, friend of Rachel Alkallay, is a teacher of 4th grade boys and was invited to our meeting to see what we were all about.

Claire Maryniak, a co-worker guide at the Chateau Ramezay with Bruno Paul Stenson also joined us for the first time.

Welcome to you both.

2. Review of the Minutes from Our Last Meeting

Wilfrid led all in praising David and Susan for their excellent work on the superb minutes. The colour pictures of the Victorian Tea were spectacular !

3. Toast to the Master by David Dowse

In a parallel universe, the Other Sherlock...

List of characteristics:

Unflinching loyalty to his Sovereign

Superior powers of observation

Ability to deduce actions, events and personalities from the minutest of clues.

Master of disguise, champion boxer, fencer, martial arts master and top marksman.

Incredible memory

Limitless stamina

A network of invisible spies to do his bidding

An intimate connection to a very powerful figure in the government of the most powerful country in the world.

No immediate family or friends who could be compromised or threatened.

A lone wolf.

In a parallel universe Sherlock Holmes would be the world's prime assassin, bomber, spy and fixer.

Whether it was in Afghanistan, Russia, Germany or America, Holmes would be sent to do those special jobs of eliminating a threat, thwarting a terrorist or getting rid of an inconvenient despot.

He would introduce himself as Holmes, Sherlock Holmes, and he would have a licence to kill.

I give you, *Sherlock Holmes 001*

Show and Tell

4. An Autumnal Reflection

Louise Corda found in the July 30th, 2016 Montreal Gazette a very autumnal quote of Conan Doyle's, from *The Stark Munro Letters*:

"Are we mere leaves, fluttered hither and thither by the wind, or are we rather, with every conviction that we are free agents, carried steadily along to a definite and predetermined end?"

5. Names We Know and Trust

Karl J. Raudsepp read a piece that he got from the Smithsonian Museum on the possible origins of Holmes and Watson's names. For Karl's full text concerning Edwin Holmes and Thomas Watson, who in 1878 joined forces to form the Bell Telephone Company, please see the attachment included with your emailed minutes.

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/videos/category/history/what-the-real-watson-and-holmes-did-for-a-li/>

6. Update on the JonBenét Patricia Ramsey Case

Chris Herten-Greaven read from a UK tabloid newspaper a proposed explanation for the disappearance of the child fashion star JonBenét Ramsey. It is suggested in the article that her nine year old brother, out of built up resentment at his sister's extreme popularity, and in a fit of rage, hit and killed her with a flashlight and that their parents on discovering the deed did their best to conceal evidence in an effort to save the boy. Police had been careless in securing the crime scene, in effect facilitating the cover-up which deflected suspicion from the family.

Chris also recounted a second story of a similar case with a family covering up a murder by a sibling to save the remaining child from going to jail or into institutional isolation. Many years later this cold case was solved using forensic dentistry (bite mark analysis). Both cases show the lengths people will go to to protect loved ones, in particular their children!

7. British Literature and Classical Music

Kristin Franseen showed us a book, *British Literature and Classical Music 1870-1945* by David Deutsch discussing topics that were current in Holmesian London. Chapters include:

Music in Society's Margins, about bringing music to the poor or immigrant communities in London;
Music and Sexuality, sort of concerning, what one might call, odd things going on at concerts.

8. Rachel's Reflections on *Blood Relative*

Rachel borrowed and read Chris's book *Blood Relative*, by Michael Gray, discussed in the last minutes, and found agreement with the author's premise that there are oddities in the way the Bolsheviks murdered the Russian royal family and entourage, shooting as many as 14 people and a dog, then burning and moving the bodies to two different sites to dispose of the remains clandestinely. Rachel feels that this is a true detective story and not just an empty conspiracy theory. It sure makes for a good read.

9. Miyako on Downton Abbey Doings and News of a New Victorian Woman Detective

Miyako Matsuda-Pelletier treated us to more of her news reviews from issues of the Canadian magazine Totally British. This time in her report we learn of the new adventures of Downton Abbey stars, and of a new Victorian era mystery novel featuring a female detective. Miyako also discusses a Downton Abbey piece in French from Paris Match magazine, introducing the real masters of Highclere Castle. Many thanks to Miyako for her devotion in keeping us abreast of all things British. Here is her report:

Now that Downton Abbey is finished, the show's stars are taking on some intriguing new roles. Michelle Dockery who played Lady Mary, has signed up to portray the owner of a New Mexico ranch in *Godless*, a Netflix drama mini series, set in the nineteenth century. Can you imagine her in an American western as a homesteader? And the "quiet" (?) town where she lives is mysteriously made up entirely of women ! Since Steven Soderbergh is involved with this production, I suppose it could be a bit like a fantasy show.

Penelope Wilson, who played Isobel Crawley, is starring in the ITV drama *Brief Encounters*, along with a Steven Spielberg movie of renowned children's author Roald Dahl's *The BFG*, in which she plays Queen Elizabeth.

And the new ITV Victorian thriller series, *Ann Cotton*, features Joanne Froggatt, who played *Downton Abbey*'s Anna Bates, taking on a very dark new role as the first recorded female serial killer in Britain.

More exciting news for Downton fans is that ITV is offering a drama show about Lord Carnarvon! This 4-part mini series, *Tutankhamen*, takes viewers back to Egypt's Valley of the Kings in the 1920s. The real owner of Highclere Castle became famous for digging in the ancient Egyptian kings' tombs. New Zealand actor Sam Neill plays George Herbert, the 5th Count of Carnarvon, who financed the expedition, working with innovative archaeologist Howard Carter, here played by Max Irons, son of Jeremy Irons.

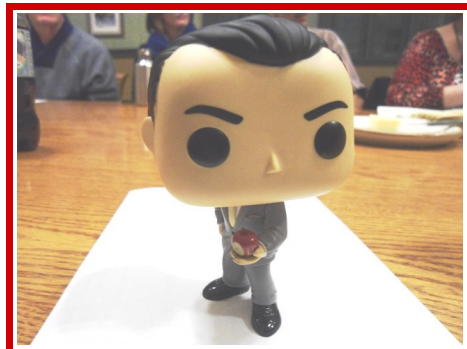
Also, as we all know, *Downton Abbey* has become popular in many countries around the world. Would you be surprised to learn it is a big hit in France? I found this feature article in Paris Match magazine's June 2016 issue, introducing us to "the real masters of Highclere Castle", Lady Fiona and Lord Carnarvon. I didn't know they had Labrador dogs! They've named their dogs Alfie and Bella, just like Robert Crawley the Earl of Grantham's faithful Labrador dog. Now that the castle itself has become a main character in this cult favourite series, the Count and Countess of Carnarvon are opening its doors to the public to raise revenue for the property's expensive maintenance.

In this article by Marion Mertens it's quite fascinating to read how the French people think about this show, and about the British aristocratic lifestyle. The article covers the true history of Highclere Castle and the Carnarvons, starting in the eighteenth century, with the estate's 2,000 hectares of land, and its farms and livestock. We learn about the family's most famous member, George Herbert. He was the 5th Count of Carnarvon, born in Highclere Castle in 1866 and died in, guess where?? Cairo, Egypt in 1923. He was fascinated by everything Egyptian, especially the Pharaohs, and teaming up with archaeologist Howard Carter they managed to find the tomb of Tutankhamen. But several weeks later, Herbert caught a terrible fever and passed away. People thought it was the curse of Tutankhamen! But now inside Highclere, there is a museum area where people can see Egyptian treasures.

Oh, and fans remember that Downton Abbey became a hospital for soldiers during World War I, right? Here Mertens writes about Lady Almina who was the daughter of Sir Alfred de Rothschild. Not only did Lady Almina's personal fortune save the Castle and allow it to survive, but she also helped to give moral support for the wounded soldiers during the war. Unfortunately in the 1920s, things got tougher financially, and the family ended up selling many family assets, until they met, of course, Julian Fellowes, who is an aristocrat himself as Baron Fellowes of West Stafford, in Dorset. Being a personal friend and a regular visitor of Highclere, he suggested renting it as a location for films like *Eyes Wide Shut* and Bollywood flicks, and of course for his own creation, *Downton Abbey*. For six years, TV crew members and actors worked there to film 52 episodes. With such a mega success, the Carnarvons are working hard to receive visitors and guests from all over the world today.

Let's hope Julian Fellowes comes up with some movie versions of *Downton*.

And finally, returning to the subject of Victorian era detecting, *A Laetitia Rodd Mystery - The Secret of Wishtide*, is a new book by Kate Saunders. It offers the tale of a character who is a widow but also an ace undercover private detective! Mrs. Rodd goes to work as a governess in Lincolnshire to investigate why a rich man's heir is going to marry an "unsuitable" lady. Ms. Saunders has signed up for five more books in her Laetitia Rodd mystery series. I do hope this will eventually become a TV series as well! Can't wait to see this lady detective in Victorian England!



Sherlock's Moriarty in Miniature

10. Anne Millar's Sherlockian Finds

Anne Millar, recently back from a Star Trek convention in Las Vegas, sprung upon us a figurine of Professor Moriarty from the BBC series *Sherlock*, and also a 1930 edition of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* with a radio tie-in, showing the photo of the at that time well known actor Richard Gordon who portrayed Holmes on the radio, and lastly a miniature sketch by a friend of a laughing, "behind the scenes", Jeremy Brett.

Wilfrid de Freitas recalled how many people do not know that Jeremy Brett played "Freddy" in *My Fair Lady*. The role was especially memorable for the musical number, *On the Street Where You Live*.

Editorial note: Vetran stage actor Richard Gordon played Sherlock Holmes on the radio from 1930-33. Please see links for more information and broadcast downloads.

<http://www.greatdetectives.net/detectives/big-list-shows/sherlock-holmes/>

<http://www.oldtimeradiodownloads.com/actors/richard-gordon>



11. The German Sherlock Holmes Society Magazine

Raf Jans had for our pleasure a German Sherlock Holmes Society magazine, which he had brought back from a recent trip to Germany. <https://sherlockholmesmagazin.wordpress.com/>

12. Toast to Dr. Watson by Paul Billette, read by Wilfrid de Freitas

Paul Billette prepared the toast to Dr. Watson and due to his absence, it was read by Wilfrid.

Many of us are familiar with the famous Doctors in history. We saw the movie about Doctor Doolittle. As young adults we thrilled to the exploits of Doc Savage. Football fans had Doc Blanchard; baseball fanatics Doc Gooden. O.K. Corralers had Doc Halliday. If you were Afro-Centrics, you had Dr. Schweitzer and Dr. Livingstone. Movie fans had Doctor Kildare and Doctor Gillespie, James Bond had Dr. No.

But we, sherlockians, have the most famous doctor of all. Wounded veteran of foreign wars, brave, always dependable, willing to go the extra mile, fleet of foot, unselfish, possessor of a cunning sense of humor, and a fixed point in a changing age. In addition, he is very handy with the women.

We have met many physicians in Sherlock Holmes' cases: Grimesby Roylott, Leon Sterndale, and many others. Let us propose a toast to our favorite doctor. To: DR. WATSON

13. The Importance of Being Emailed

Wilfrid encouraged everyone to email a copy of their toast to David and to Susan, in addition to giving David a paper copy at the meeting, as this makes electronic formatting of our Society minutes very much easier.

14. Bruno's Sherlockian Redpath Museum Tour

Originally scheduled for October 9th, (which turns out to be a Thanksgiving weekend holiday), but now on for Sunday, October 16th at 12:30, Bruno will give us a tour of the Redpath Museum, price \$7.00. It will be a Sherlock Holmes-themed tour, with Bruno using specific items from the collection that have Canonical meaning for us. He has stated that he will prove beyond doubt that Sherlock Holmes was in Montreal to open the Redpath Museum in 1882. Game on !!

15. Stop the Presses:

This report just received: Bruno Paul Stenson has graciously given us a review of the August 13th tour he gave of the Chateau Ramezay. Thank you Bruno.

The Adventure of the Museological Sherlockians A studiously unbiased account by Bruno Paul Stenson

It was a dark and stormy night. Somewhere. In Montréal it was merely drizzling at noon. A group of Bimetallic Question members had begun to gather at the Château Ramezay Museum in Old Montréal for a tour of the museum scheduled to begin at noon:30. With them were members of the Montréal Dickens Fellowship whose archives had been donated to the Château Ramezay during the 39-year adjournment that followed its meeting of mid-October, 1963. Rumours that the Montréal Dickens Fellowship intended to use the tour of the Château Ramezay as a screen for the kidnapping of their archives remain unfounded.

At the appointed time, Château Ramezay guide and Bimetallic Question member Bruno Paul Stenson appeared in full 18th-century gentleman's outfit. This prompted well deserved oohing and aahing from the assembled visitors. Once the adulation had died down, the tour began.

The Château Ramezay being a museum of history, the comingled members of the Dickens Question were taken on a trip through time beginning with a *mise en situation* of the Château itself, the early-18th-century home and office of then-governor of Montréal, Claude de Ramezay (now deceased). This was followed by a chronology of Montréal/Québec/Canadian/American history, from pre-contact Amerindians to the end of the 19th century. Along the way, the visitors were treated to a model reconstruction of a typical period Amerindian village; the Salle de Nantes, the walls of which are adorned with elaborately carved mahogany panels from the 18th-century French home of a fur-trade official; items from the Canadian Revolution (a.k.a. the Rebellions of 1837-38); a turn-of-the-20th-century automobile and much more.

Highlights reserved for this group with sneaky connections to their guide included a view of the fireproof stone lining between the first and second floors, a private musket demonstration by a re-enactor from the Compagnies franches de la Marine, and a walk along the usually-closed rear balcony which was opened specially for the group. One highlight for visitors with particularly green thumbs was a tour of the museum's gardens. At the front of the building, an English-styled garden with curved path and natural-looking plant layouts. At the rear, a French-styled garden with straight paths and geometric plant layouts. The latter is located where Claude de Ramezay's garden was situated, but is only one-sixth the size of the one cultivated by the governor. Divided into four sections, it includes an area dedicated to herbs and medicinal plants, another for food plants, a third dedicated solely to pleasing sights and odours, and a fourth consisting of berry bushes and fruit trees. The

most appreciated feature of this last section was the forest of apple trees being grown in *espalier*, a technique whereby the trees are grown against a wall, with only the branches on the left and right sides of the trees being allowed to grow, making the trees take up surprisingly little space.

All in all, the Bimetallic Question and Dickens Fellowship members were delighted with their visit, and with their extraordinarily knowledgeable and affable guide. Similarly, their modest guide was delighted by their presence and attention. The tour being over, all went their separate ways secure in the knowledge that they had proven beyond any doubt that the members of these two societies of Victorianaphiles could walk the walk and not merely talk the talk as they had emulated the Master who, in "The Adventure of Wisteria Lodge", spends a morning at the British Museum.

16. A Victorian Tea to Surpass All Others

Wilfrid once again paid tribute to Carol and Jacob Abramson, along with their daughter-in-law Julie for their amazing Victorian Tea held Sunday, September 18th. It featured "an unbelievable spread". All in attendance raved. Wilfrid and others who had experienced teas in posh London venues noted they paled in comparison to Carol's splendid event for the Society. Well done and thank you, Carol !

17. Weird Traffic and Wonderful Instruments

Bruno Paul Stenson's weird musical instrument exhibition and demonstration at the Stewart Museum went swimmingly but Bruno noted the horrendous traffic jams in and around Île Ste. Hélène that day both before and after the presentation.

18. We Will Miss the Willow Place Inn

Wilfrid brought news that the Willow Place Inn in Hudson will close November 1st. The present owners felt that it was too much of a burden to to keep it going. The peak season from May to October was not enough. Hope is that someone else will take it on.

Wilfrid brought fond memories of the first Bimetallic Question Birthday dinner held at the Willows. There delivered to Wilfrid at the table was a brown envelope addressed to him, with RACHÉ scrawled in blood on the back and inside were those 5 orange pips. A night to remember !

For those interested in reading more and viewing pictures of those early days of the Society, Susan Fitch informs us that you will soon be able to access special treasures from the Bimetallic Question Archives on the web.

19. Off the Basic Title

Rachel Alkallay corrected us on the title of her book on obscure and eclectic museums in Montreal. It is: *Montreal's Other Museums: Off the Beaten Track*, which Kathryn saw was written up in The Gazette last month.

20. Toast to the Woman by Kathryn Radford

The last time I had the honour and privilege of raising a glass to the WOMAN was a few years ago. At which time, I referred to CHERCHEZ LA FEMME, a phrase most misogynist and most Sherlockian, as seen in an oft-repeated quote from Doyle in correspondence.

"Holmes is as inhuman as a Babbage's calculating machine and just about as likely to fall in love".

Holmes himself says in *The Valley of Fear*, "I am not a whole-souled admirer of womankind",^[41] and in "The Adventure of the Second Stain" finds "the motives of women... inscrutable.... How can you build on such quicksand? [...]". In *The Sign of the Four* Holmes says, "I would not tell them too much. Women are never to be entirely trusted—not the best of them". I assure you that the most winning woman I ever knew was hanged for poisoning three little children for their insurance-money".

It occurred to me then that other than Mrs Hudson, Watson's bride, and the WOMAN, the women met by Sherlock are usually victims. Someone like 'the hanged mother of three' seems the exception. I started looking for a body count, how many women, how many murderesses in the canon. Then I remembered the old expression Poison is a woman's weapon. Poison does come up enough in the canon but not always in a woman's hands. So is poison really a woman's weapon?

Moving from Victorian times to criminology online and a few quirky researchers provided some modern numbers, mainly American from the Federal Bureau of Investigation Supplemental Homicide Report data from 1999 through 2012, the latest available, with data on 195,578 murder cases.

First, few women do commit murder. Very few serial or mass killers are female. Also, by now, the gun is the weapon of choice for both sexes. However overall, poison is 8/9th on the list for men and 6th on the list for women. Given the few murders committed by women, the percentages nuance the above rankings.

The first thing to recognize is that men commit 90 percent of all murders hence every kind of weapon is used much more by males. But we can still review the weapon preferences of men and women separately. Men use guns 66% of the time. Women use guns approximately 39% of the time. They are likely to use a knife, beat their victim to death or strike them with a blunt object. After guns, poison is the sixth most common way for a woman to kill.

Still, poison is not a very popular weapon, used in just under one-half of one percent of murders. That's using a definition of poisoning that includes standard poisons, and also murdering with a poisonous use of narcotics or sleeping pills. This does not include poison gas, which the FBI lumps under asphyxiation.

Even with that tiny share, poison was still used in 901 murder cases listed in the data. The vast majority of cases involve one killer and one victim, and they knew each other well.

Women are seven times as likely as men to choose poison as their murder weapon. As I indicated before, there are nine male killers for every one female killer. So, in raw numbers, more men kill with poison than women do. But among men, poison is used in just over one-third of one percent of killings. But for women, it is used in more than 2.5 percent of killings.

Statistics or damned statistics, let's ask the question, "Other than guns, which weapons are used by men and which are used by women?"

Poisoning stands out, again, as women are almost four times as likely as men to use poison. The only other weapon with a bigger difference is drowning, used seven times as much by women (but used less than a third as often as poisoning, only 311 killers).

And when you break out both the killer's race and sex, you see white women are the most likely to be using poison when they kill.

Source: [Federal Bureau of Investigation Supplemental Homicide Reports, 1999-2012 wapo.st/wonkblog](https://www.fbi.gov/wapo/st/wonkblog)

The FBI data does not detail what poisons are used. But it also shows that killers over 30 are more than twice as likely as younger killers to resort to poison.

Daughters are the most common female relatives and sons are the most common male relatives murdered with poison. And not surprisingly, poison is used in more than two percent of husband-killings. But it is used in just over one-half of one-percent of wife-killings.

Now, Sherlock would never be worried about being poisoned by a wife, for him, the only female remained far off, an ideal, always simply THE WOMAN.

A TOAST TO THE WOMAN!

Dan Keating analyzes data for projects, stories, graphics and interactives. He was part of a team that won a Pulitzer at *The Miami Herald*. [Follow @dtkeating](#)

21. Order Your Sherlock Holmes Bookplates Here

This report just in: Chris Herten-Greaven has arranged to have the excellent Sherlock Holmes book plate discovered by Kathryn Radford reproduced for us. A sheet of 10 peel and stick bookplates is \$1.50. If you have not already done so, please let Chris know if you would like to order some. cwhertengreaven@videotron.ca

22. Planning Our Next Birthday Dinner and Searching for Our Next Sovereign

Two important items for discussion were now tabled by Sovereign Carol Abramson.

First Carol brought up the subject of our annual Sherlock Holmes Birthday Dinner. It will be held on Saturday, January 21st at the Atwater Club. Details regarding the menu, prices and activities and guest speaker are all to be finalized and will be forthcoming. Please be in touch with Carol if you would like to provide any kind of entertainment such as music, or a skit, etc.

A couple of names have been put forward as possible speakers. Erica Penner suggested by email Montrealer Monique Polak, an author of many books for young adults, and who speaks on Victorian literature, specifically

Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*. Susan Fitch gave us the name of Montreal mystery author and lawyer Peter Kirby, whose most recent book, *Open Season*, won the 2016 Arthur Ellis Award from the Canadian Crime Writers of Canada. They will both be enthusiastically investigated but if you have any other candidate please let us know.

And we heard with some amazement Carol's announcement that her two year tenure as Sovereign is now coming to an end (how time flies when we are having fun!) so we need to find a new head of the Bimetallic Question for the next two years. If you or any member you know would like to take on this mantle, please drop us a line. We are always looking for someone to keep our Society alive, growing, and thriving.

23. Data's Sherlockian Dream

Melodie Tardieu met Brent Spiner who played "Data" in *Star Trek the Next Generation* at Comiccon in Montreal last summer and got him to sign a picture taken of him as Sherlock Holmes in the series. Melodie had a chance to ask him if he would like to star as the Master in a Sherlock Holmes movie or TV series and he replied, "I would love to" as he had been a Conan Doyle fan since childhood. <http://www.montrealcomiccon.com/>

24. Toast to Mrs. Hudson by Melodie Tardieu

Melodie Tardieu gave us her first ever toast. It was to Mrs. Hudson and everyone gave her appreciative applause. Well done Melodie and many more to come, please!

For me Mrs. Hudson is the most mysterious woman in the Canon. Little is said about her life, and even her first name was subject of debate. She has long been the landlady of both Holmes and Watson, sometimes even putting herself into dangerous situations for them. Whether she finds a thrill to those situations is never known but we do know that her job is not an easy task, having the worst tenant in London. Dr. Watson also doesn't do her much justice in his writings, making her seem as a background figure or a benevolent ghost. She is seen as their caretaker and motherly figure.

She also follows Holmes in his retirement days in Sussex. We wonder why she would leave her city life in London to live almost in isolation with Holmes and his bees. When residing in London, did she have much social interaction, aside from the detective and his Boswell? I believe she was part of Holmes's circle of unique friends.

As I say this, I can imagine the credit scene of "The Empty House" in the Granada series where Mrs. Hudson brings up her glass of champagne for a toast between all three of them, or when in the Russian adaptation of 1979, with Rina Zelyonaya as Mrs. Hudson, both she and the Doctor cried on the shoulders of their friend seeing that he was alive.

We have little insight on how her mental and emotional state might have been. Her appearance is not described enough, leaving us to wonder about her looks and age. The only indicator for us to ponder on, being her footstep. I would like to imagine her as not just being any kind domestic. Mrs. Hudson is our own little mystery we must solve. I would now like to bring a toast to our long suffering landlady, Mrs. Hudson.

25. Quiz on *The Adventure of the Missing Three-Quarter* prepared and presented by Wilfrid de Freitas

The results: 1st Raf Jans 22.5 / 44
 2nd Karl J. Raudsepp 15 / 44
 3rd Carol Abramson 13 / 44

To everyone's surprise there were no prizes.

The next quiz will be on the *Adventure of the Greek Interpreter* and it will be given by Chris Herten-Greaven.

Comments on the Adventure:

Some general reflections:

Mr. Cyril Overton, of Trinity College, Cambridge: "Why, Mr. Holmes, I thought you knew things. Great Scott! cried the athlete....I didn't think there was a soul in England who didn't know Godfrey Staunton, the crack three-quarter, Cambridge, Blackheath and five Internationals. Good Lord!

Mr Holmes, where have you lived?"

It certainly shows Holmes's limitations in his knowledge of current English culture and society. It's like saying to us, Who is Wayne Gretsky?

The whole story seems to be composed of just dialogue.

Holmes failed !!! He did not find Godfrey Staunton before the game was played, only after.
The general feeling is that such a story could not happen today due to the instant and elaborate dissemination of all types of information on the Web. Everyone is now connected and up to date.

Miyako penned these additional thoughts on the story for us: We can note the description of the client in this adventure as, "Mr. Cyril Overton - an enormous young man, sixteen stone of solid bone and muscle", and we know that 1 stone is 14 pounds or 6.350kg. Therefore Overton must have weighed about 98kg or 224 pounds. By the standards of late nineteenth century England, he must have looked like a giant, and must have grown up in good economic circumstances to have achieved such stature. I wonder how Godfrey Staunton survived financially as a student at Cambridge, given that he is an orphan and his nearest relative, Lord Mount-James, never allowed him a shilling. Was he helped by Dr. Leslie Armstrong? To wed secretly and let his wife live in a cottage for over a year, how did Godfrey manage? When was a scholarship system first established in England? At the time of this adventure, was university education available for the poor?

26. Toast to the Society by Susan Fitch

Susan gave us a very funny Seuss-inspired poem to honour our Society.

**A Seussian Toast to the Society
by
Susan Fitch
After *Hop on Pop* by Dr. Seuss
Theodor Seuss Geisel**

Meet, meet
We like to meet,
So do come in and take a seat.
How grand to greet you ! Here's your seat.

Eat, eat
We like to eat.
Cheese, crackers, pâté, are a treat.
Please pass the treat so I can eat.

Tell, tell
We show and tell.
In fact, we do it very well.
It's well that we do show and tell.

Quiz, quiz
We do our quiz.
It makes our poor brains pop and fizz.
It might make *your* brain pop and fizz!

Dress, dress
We like to dress
Like Sherlock Holmes in Inverness
and deerstalker. That's how we dress.

Guess, guess
How do we dress?
In skirts that go down to the floor
From Value Village, that's *our* store!

Dues, dues
We pay our dues
If not on time, then now and then;
Again, again, and now and then.

Clues, clues
We find the clues,
Solutions Moriarty rues.
How Moriarty rues our clues!

Toast, boast
It is no boast
We really, really like to toast
The Master, Watson, Irene, too
And Mrs. Hudson, me and you.
(*Society* includes *you*, too!)

Glistening, listening
If you're still listening,
Raise up your glass, so bright and glistening,
To honour our Society
Of one and all and me and we!
Raise up your glass to you and me,
And all of our Society!

To the Society!

27. Close of the Meeting

Carol Abramson, Sovereign, called our meeting to an early close at 8:30 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, December 1st, 2016, at 6:30 p.m.

Our talented Sovereign Carol Abramson can be contacted at: ciz.abramson@yahoo.com

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

Emailing a copy of your toast to both David and our Webmaster and Secretary Susan Fitch makes the process
of including it in the minutes quite a bit easier. Thanks! susanruthfitch@yahoo.ca

New Bimetallic Question members are most welcome. Why not consider bringing a friend to our next meeting to
share an amazing evening with us! Membership information details can be obtained from our Florin/Treasurer
Paul Billette at: pabillette@hotmail.fr

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