

# Minutes of the Meeting of The Bimetallic Question February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017

**Date of our next meeting:** Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 6:30 pm at the Westmount Public Library, Westmount Room, 4574 Sherbrooke Street West, Westmount, QC.

**The quiz at the next meeting:** The Adventure of the Naval Treaty, from The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes, prepared and presented by Carol Abramson.

**Next meeting's toast presenters:** The Master: Kristin Franseen; Dr. Watson: Patrick Campbell; *The* Woman: Ron Zilman; Mrs. Hudson: Miyako Matsuda-Pelletier; The Society: David Dowse.

**Minutes of the meeting of the Bimetallic Question** held on Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 at the Westmount Public Library, Westmount Room, 4574 Sherbrooke Street West, Westmount, QC.

**Present:** Carol Abramson, Rachel Alkallay, Mark Altosaar, Jack Anderson, Paul Billette, Patrick Campbell, Louise Corda, David Dowse, Susan Fitch, Kristin Franseen, Chris Herten-Greaven, Louise Halperin, Taya Ismail, Raf Jans, Miyako Matsuda-Pelletier, Elliott Newman, Bernard Robaire, Bruno Paul Stenson, Melodie Tardieu, and Ronnie Zilman.

Regrets: Maureen Anderson, Wilfrid de Freitas, and Karl Raudsepp.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by our new Sovereign, Raf Jans at 6:30 pm.

#### ITEMS OF BUSINESS AND GENTLE TRANSACTION

## 1. Review of the Minutes from Our Last Meeting

Susan Fitch had filled in as Recording Secretary for David Dowse at our previous meeting, and no errors or omissions in the December minutes were voiced, except for Susan's own declaration that the typo in item 17 in her toast to Irene Adler was only left there on purpose, to check if we were paying attention!

## 2. Delicacies from the Four Corners of the World

We welcomed Chris back to his former position on our slate as Hudson, and he delighted our palates by providing us with a generous spread of two different pâtés, a quince jelly from Spain, tasty wheat crackers, and a choice of Port or dry sherry for toasting.

## 3. Toast to the Master by Bruno Paul Stenson

Referring to Sherlock Holmes as "the Master" can surprise - and even confuse - those not initiated into the Sherlockian universe. The Master...of what?

In the second half of the nineteenth century, as the game became very popular, expert chess players came to be known as masters. However, there is no indication in the Canon that Holmes ever played chess. Indeed, it is perhaps unlikely that he did so given that in *The Adventure of the Retired Colourman* he calls excelling at chess "one mark [...]of a scheming mind". We can therefore strike this meaning of the word off our list.

"Master" is, famously, what Igor calls his mad-scientist employer. A cynical view of the Watson-Holmes relationship might draw parallels with the Igor-Mad Scientist relationship, but there is nothing in Watson's portrayal in the Canon that would suggest so pathetic a level of toadyism in the good doctor, and certainly no instance of his having uttered the immortal phrase "Yes, Master". So, strike two in our attempt to define Holmes's mastership.

A Master's degree is a graduate degree conferred upon students having demonstrated mastery of a specific, rather narrow field of study. Its name originated in the 13th century with a decree that anybody with such a level of education should be allowed to become a university teacher or master. While Holmes's expertise in chemistry suggests he might have had an advanced education in this field - at Oxford or Cambridge, some would suggest - his utter ignorance of other academic fields such as literature and philosophy cast doubt upon his having much studied at the university level at all. Certainly he could not have obtained a Master's degree in 19th-century Britain and have remained so ignorant of literature and philosophy. Besides, I have a Master's degree and have so far failed to have anybody call me Master. So, strike three...

However, three strikes in this instance do not signify that we are out of possibilities. Indeed, deductive reasoning based on clues in the Canon would indicate that Sherlock Holmes is a master of, well... deductive reasoning. Therein lies his charm, his claim to fame and his grasp on longevity. Only a Master can have outwitted the criminals who crossed his path and even the police whose path he regularly guided.

Ladies and gentlemen, I give you The Master.

### 4. About Traditional and Electronic Minutes

David asked if we could clarify as we enter the new year how many of our members are opting to receive minutes by email only, and how many still ask to receive a copy of the paper minutes by regular mail, (in addition to minutes by email). Paul gave us the good news that membership has risen and we have now have four more members than we did last year. Susan, who regularly compiles and

updates our official membership list, tells us that to the best of her knowledge we now have 18 members wishing to receive their minutes by email only, and 19 wishing both the paper and email editions. These numbers include copies of the minutes sent to our friends of the Society, Mark Alberstat, editor of Canadian Holmes, and Peggy Perdue, curator of the Sherlock Holmes collection at the Toronto Public Library.

Thanks to all those members who have opted to receive their minutes by email only, which helps us reduce our stationery, printing, and postage costs. If you still receive the paper minutes and would like to switch over to receiving them by email only, please let us know. All this being said, it is understood why some members still want to receive their minutes printed on our special cream-coloured Bimetallic Question stationery, and choosing this option is entirely okay too!

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## 5. A Cordial Reminder Regarding Membership Dues

The 2017 Bimetallic Question membership dues are now requested. It is \$25.00 for a single membership and \$35.00 for a family. If you'd like to maintain your membership, please forward your cheques to our treasurer Paul Billette at 220 Redfern Avenue, Apt. 26, Westmount, QC H3Z 2G3 or give them to him (or Raf) at our next meeting. If we don't hear from you by April 6<sup>th</sup>, we'll assume that you wish your membership to lapse and don't want to receive the minutes and other Society news. We value your participation and hope you'll stay with us, so if you have any concerns at all regarding membership dues or any other membership issues whatsoever, please feel free to discuss them with Raf, Paul, Susan, or Chris.

# 6. Whose Crime Is It Anyway?

New member Taya Ismail donned the mantle of Moriarty in the play *Whose Crime Is It Anyway?* which was performed by students at Westmount's The Study school on January 25<sup>th</sup>. Wilfrid de Freitas, Susan Ravdin, and Susan Fitch attended and had the pleasure of sitting with Taya's uncle (and guest at our December meeting) Nigel Penney.



Susan Fitch, Taya Ismail, Wilfrid de Freitas, and Susan Ravidin. Photo: Nigel Penney

Susan told us how the audience enjoyed the play tremendously, with her own face being sore from laughing afterwards, at all the very funny Sherolckian, and other, puns in the play. For those who

missed it, Taya brought along to our meeting a DVD of the play and copies can be had for \$4.00 each. Taya took a list of names of members who would be interested in buying a DVD copy. All profits from the sales will go to support The Study's sister school in Nicaragua, as indeed did all the ticket sales the evening of the performance. Congratulations to Taya and all her fellow performers! Well done!

# 7. Would a Society by Any Other Name Be as Special?

Newly-minted member Louise Halperin, who was brought to us by her friend Susan Fitch, was curious about the meaning of our Society's name, The Bimetallic Question. Susan, Patrick, and Paul contributed to a discussion focusing on bimetallism itself as the basis for our Canadian currency within our monetary system, on which Mycroft was an expert. (BRUC)

David Dowse, our co-founder, delved into the past and explained that in 1979, Wilfrid de Freitas and he were interested in forming a new Sherlock Holmes society in Montreal, rather than taking the long drive down the 401 to attend meetings of The Bootmakers of Toronto.

Paramount in their search in the Canon for an appropriate name, the two Sherlockians wanted to have a Canadian connection. In their search, they came across the passage in *The Adventure of the Bruce Partington Plans* where Sherlock is describing to Watson his brother Mycroft. "We will suppose that a Minister needs information as to a point which involves the Navy, India, Canada and the bimetallic question; he could get his separate advices from various departments upon each, but only Mycroft can focus them all."

That is the origin of the name of our Society. Further, if you will look at the Society logo on our stationery you will see two coins, a silver one for Watson and a gold one for Holmes and a question mark wafting up out of Sherlock's pipe.

## 8. Sherlock Holmes Birthday Dinner Musings

Our Sovereign, Raf Jans, wanted to acknowledge the superior work done these past two years by Carol Abramson to keep our Society vibrant and entertaining. He also heaped praise on all those who had a hand in making our Master's 163<sup>rd</sup> Birthday Dinner such a rousing success:

Carol Abramson, Master of Ceremonies; Susan Fitch found and introduced our guest speaker Peter Kirby; Rachel Alkallay, event gifts; Susan Ravdin (Wilfrid's wife), menus; Melodie Tardieu played for us a lovely violin interlude from Antonin Dvorak's Symphony No. 9, *From the New World*; Kristin Franseen, Taya Ismail, Anne Millar, and Melodie Tardieu performed a highly amusing theatrical playette written by Anne; Paul Billette liaised for us with the Atwater Club; and Bruno Paul Stenson provided an amusing Victorian slide show.

Rachel Alkallay felt that the dinner was chock full of fun, lasting until about 11:30. She loved Carol's mini-quizzes, devoured the devilishly delicious chocolate cake, but thought the vegetarian offering of three rolls of manicotti was somewhat skimpy. What?!! No sides?!!

There was the issue of a price hike for next year's dinner. Paul explained that by reducing the number of hors d'oeuvres to three dozen instead of five dozen we kept the costs down for this year. We will see what can be done for next year.

Elliott, Patrick, Kristin and others all agreed that our guest speaker, Peter Kirby, was one of our absolutely best ever. Peter had great technique in explaining why it is so hard to tell a pure "mystery" story just on its own nowadays, in our era of ever present cell phones and security cameras. He stated that his "crime fiction" novels are more character-based than many mysteries. Today, with all the advances in computerized crime scene investigation, the closed room puzzle just doesn't work so often anymore.

We all enjoyed how Peter wove into his presentation, undoubtedly on purpose, those ghastly Canonical errors and blasphemies at which we all roared our disapproval.

We can keep in touch with Peter at his author website: www.peterkirby.ca

Regarding planned improvements for next year, there were two problems that took some of the sparkle out of the Birthday Dinner. The noise from the dance party coming from right next door was one, the other was the lack of a microphone for our speakers and toasters.

## 9. Toast to Dr. Watson by Kristin Franseen

For all that Holmes chided Watson for "inserting a love story into the fifth proposition of Euclid," it is through Watson that we know of all of Holmes's quirks and eccentricities that remain memorable in Holmesian thought and adaptations to this day. Alongside the cozy setting of 221b Baker Street, thrilling adventures, and surprising clients, victims, and villains they encounter, it is Watson who presents a thorough, if not always scientific, case study of Sherlock Holmes. Various Sherlockians including June Thompson and Les Klinger have noted Watson's increased references to psychology over the course of the Canon (including in tonight's story), and more than a few adaptations have expanded Watson's role as Holmes's doctor (examples that come to my mind include the made-for TV movie *The Case of the Silk Stocking*, in which Watson marries a psychoanalyst who carries around a copy of Krafft-Ebing, Nicholas Meyer's *The Seven Per-Cent Solution*, and Lyndsay Faye's *Dust and Shadow*). This led me to wonder what sort of case study Watson might write of his own "resident patient." Having read both a number of Watson's stories for fun and a number of medical case studies for my own research, I decided to give it a try.

Case I--Private consulting detective (his words), English, aged 37, unmarried. Youngest son. Father descended from English county squires, mother of French extraction. Believes that his artistic temperament derives largely from maternal grandmother. Largely estranged from family, but has remarked that "art in the blood is liable to take the strangest forms." Tendency towards preoccupation with work to the exclusion of physical well-being. Maintains no more than one or two close relationships at a time. Claims a strong distrust of women, but is generally well-liked by landlady and female clients. Plays the violin, and boxes. Occasionally shows signs of neurasthenia when not engaged on a case. Discounts sentiment, but keeps a number of mementos of past cases.

With all due respect to his literary and medical colleague Havelock Ellis, how fortunate we are that Watson preferred to write his sensational tales! To Watson!

## Show and Tell





## 10. We Enjoy a Brace of Woodcocks

Chris showed us two fine collectible china plates, each with a different painting of a brace of (two) Woodcocks, noting that there were several occasions in the Canon in which Holmes and Watson dined on woodcocks. One of the plates he had brought to an earlier (April 2016) meeting, and noted that his second, newly acquired plate by Johnson Brothers had the more accurate artwork. Woodcocks are served as a brace due to their small size and delicious flavour, and hunting lore describes gunners attempting to kill two birds with one shot. The birds' characteristic defensive zig-zag flight pattern makes this a big challenge, and helps keep the species with us for future generations.

## 11. Sail, Steam and Splendour

Also brought along by Chris was a large picture book entitled, Sail, Steam and Splendour, Luxury Travel: A Picture History of Life Aboard the Transatlantic Liners by Byron S. Miller. It showed the contrast in treatment of the rich and poor in accommodation, food, and service. The opulence of the outfitting of the ships as well as the engineering marvels displayed to propel these floating hotels was awe inspiring.

#### 12. The Sherlock Holmes Handbook

Jack Anderson put on the table a small but entertaining book, *The Sherlock Holmes Handbook: The Methods and Mysteries of the World's Greatest Detective*, by Ransom Riggs Smith. A very funny book looking at the lighter side of the Master with enjoyable illustrations by Eugene Smith.

## 13. London's Great Railway Century and Be Sure to Bring Your Bradshaw's

Jack also showed us, *London's Great Railway Century:* 1850-1950, by Keith Scholey. It outlined how the building of the railway systems allowed London to grow from some 200,000 to over 6 million souls by the 1900s.

Lastly Jack showed us a great tome of a book, famously and fondly known to travelers far and wide simply as "Bradshaw's". Originated by English printer and Quaker George Bradshaw (1801-1853) in 1839, it allowed passengers to consult it in any season and get from anywhere in England to where they wanted to go as efficiently and quickly as possible. Even with the myriad of different railways, all the dates, times, and stations were listed in Bradshaw's to be consulted. You could set your watch by Bradshaw's railway guides and the British railways, noted Jack. Rachel rightly pointed out how amazingly careful and heroic the proofreaders of Bradshaw's must have been in those days.

## 14. Toast to the Woman by Susan Fitch

"Thinking Outside the Box"
Toast to *The* Woman: Irene Adler

Here we are in February, and if you are looking for a novel idea on where to go to celebrate Valentine's Day with <u>The</u> Woman in your life, I would like to recommend a visit to Les Cours Mont-Royal, in the former Mount Royal Hotel, to see the exhibition of over 1,000 totally amazing Barbie dolls, Barbie Expo. The exhibition is permanent, it's free, and there are donation boxes allowing visitors to make contributions to the Make a Wish Foundation for kids facing big medical challenges.

Like Irene Adler, Barbie has, at times, when considered merely as a confining stereotype, been a controversial figure over the years. But with Irene, as with Barbie - just ask Sherlock Holmes - you need to think outside the box of your preconceived ideas. For millions of women the world over, both Barbie and Adler have endured and stood the test of time, as positive and powerful representatives of womanhood.

The main point here is that somewhere along the line in *A Scandal in Bohemia* Irene Adler reinvented herself and kept one step ahead of whatever life threw at her, something most women find out they need to learn to do at one time or another in life. And Barbie, this 11 1/2 inch tall tiny much-beloved children's toy has also reinvented herself time and time again, and is now officially reclaimed as a feminist icon.

The fact that Barbie is no mere stereotype is amply evidenced here in this exhibition, where the dolls themselves are individual works of art, many with uniquely sculpted faces. I was amazed to have the chance to see Barbie dolls representing the "Bond girls", accompanied by a "Daniel Craig" Ken doll,

"Priscilla" with "Elvis", and "Judy Garland" with her *Wizard of Oz* pals "the Tin Man, the Scarecrow, and the Lion". There's a "Tippi Hedren" Barbie being menaced by several crows, from Alfred Hitchcock's *The Birds*, alongside a "Fay Wray" Barbie held aloft in King Kong's giant ape hand. Royal watchers will have the opportunity to give a wave back at "William and Kate" as Ken and Barbie dolls...Or is it Ken and Barbie as William and Kate dolls? Anyway...



Victorian Barbie with Cedric Bear

Do you love designer fashions? It seems like every major designer I have ever heard of has created stunningly beautiful Barbie-sized fashions for this exhibition. And there's a "Coco Chanel", herself, Barbie doll, gazing confidently out of her glass case at us.

Alas, I searched in vain for an Irene Adler Barbie, but three favourites reminded me very much of her: "Victorian Barbie with Cedric Bear" (Cedric is a noted teddy bear of the era), "Romantic Interlude Barbie" in her black velvet evening coat and hat, and "Society Hound Barbie" attired in Edwardian dress, and at her side is her elegant and loyal Greyhound companion.

Before you leave the exhibition step inside the 7 foot tall bright pink Barbie Box (it resembles a telephone booth) to get your picture taken as the one-of-a-kind unique living-doll that you yourself, lady or gentleman, really are.

Yes, when all is said and done, as Sherlock Holmes himself would be the first to remind us, when it comes to <u>Irene Adler</u>, to <u>women</u>, and to <u>Barbie</u>, you've truly got to remember one thing: Always think outside the box!

To Irene Adler!

## 15. You Gotta Have Style

On a recent visit to Dorval, David Dowse came across an announcement for Living Victorian Style: A Matter of Etiquette, at the Dorval Museum of Local History and Heritage, running from now till July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The opening hours are Thursday to Sunday from 1pm to 4:30pm and the exhibition is free. Find it at 1850 Lakeshore Drive.

http://www.westislandblog.com/live-victorian-style/

#### 16. The Narrative of John Smith

David also displayed a book, *The Narrative of John Smith*, by Arthur Conan Doyle, his long-lost and long-unpublished first novel. This early work, although in David's opinion, not a spellbinding great read, does show glimpses of the technique of story-telling that was to emerge later from Doyle.

"Through John Smith, a 50 year-old man confined to his room by an attack of gout, Conan Doyle holds forth on a range of subjects - literature, science, religion, war, politics - in dialogue either with himself, or with a number of visitors who pass through his room." - *cf* the dust jacket.

## 17. Angels of Darkness

Patrick Campbell recalled another long-suppressed and highly controversial Conan Doyle work, one which he once had the opportunity to discuss in detail with a relative of the author. Now published by the Baker Street Journal and edited by Peter Blau, *Angels of Darkness* is a drama in three acts based on the second part of *A Study in Scarlet*.

www.bakerstreetjournal.com/angelsdarkness.html

## 18. The Master Himself Will Protect Your Books

Chris brought with him to the meeting more of the Sherlock Holmes self-adhesive book plates that he had made for us. They bear the warning: "The theft of this book is being investigated", with a splendid line-drawing of the Master. Please get in touch with Chris if you would like to order yours, at a very reasonable cost of \$1.50 for a sheet of 10 bookplates.

## 19. Toast to Mrs. Hudson by Rachel Alkallay

Rachel gave a thoughtful impromptu toast noting how while Mrs. Hudson did not say very many words in the Canon, with the few words she did use, she said a lot. In this she compares favourably to those we encounter who are frequently heard to use a great many words to say not very much. Mrs. Hudson is also known as a woman of courage for her assistance to Holmes, in re-positioning his profile double in the window of 221B in *The Adventure of the Empty House*, famously foiling Sebastian Moran. To Mrs. Hudson!

## 20. Inquiries Concerning The Empty House

David expressed his perplexity regarding a couple of passages from *The Adventure of the Empty House* and asked members to consider them and perhaps offer solutions.

As Holmes describes his escape from Moriarty and the Reichenbach Falls, he says, "Moriarty's gang left two of its most dangerous members...(and later) learning that only one of my enemies was now left in London." We know that one of these most dangerous enemies was Colonel Sebastian Moran. Who was the other one and why had he left London and where had he gone?

#### 21. Miyako's British Culture and Entertainment Report

Miyako Matsuda-Pelletier has taken the time and made the effort to scan the local and international media to bring us up to date news of our favourite Sherlockian and mystery artists. She painstakingly writes her reviews and opinions on the latest quiz and presents them to us at the meeting. She is a true devotee of the Master and we are much in her debt for all the work she puts in. It is my job as your loyal scribe to condense this cornucopia of entertainment and bring you, our members, the fruits. First, from the Montreal Gazette, December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016, "The game's afoot as brilliant detective returns" contributor Jill Lawless from the Associated Press reports on the opening of season four of *Sherlock*. Benedict Cumberbatch is in top form along with Martin Freeman. "Viewers will see more of Sherlock's

vulnerabilities as he faces crises both personal and professional." Miyako wonders how Conan Doyle would have reacted to such a messed-up Holmes.

Next a tidbit from a Québecois magazine, Riches et celébrès, the sad news that Martin Freeman and his real life partner Amanda Abbington, our Dr. Watson and Mary Morstan, have decided to separate after 15 years together. Miyako speculates that this may have something to do with Mary's exit from the series. So sad!!

Miyako has reviewed articles from Totally British magazine's December 2016, January 2017, and February 2017 issues.

In issue #50, the first episode of the new *Sherlock* series, *The Six Thatchers*, John and Mary have a baby daughter, Cumberbatch comments. "Sherlock is not quite in love with babies, but he has got a deep affection for the child, because it belongs to two people he cares about."

Also in the new series we get a new character, Culverton Smith, one of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's finest villains, played by Toby Jones. Although a little man, Toby Jones somehow, weirdly gives an impression of a genuine physical threat - he creates an extraordinary amount of menace. "This second episode in the series is entitled, *The Lying Detective*.

Miyako feels that the actors in their roles are ageing as we enter season four, especially Watson. Watson also brings out his ladies man side with some flirtations towards other women.

The new season is as fast paced and often disjointed as the character Sherlock himself. Miyako and I both feel that a single viewing is not enough to see the depths of players and what makes them tick. Enjoy!!

Another of Miyako's favourite British mystery series is *Endeavour* starring Shaun Evans as a young Endeavour Morse solving crime in 1900s Oxford. On top of the excellent detective stories, Miyako enjoys the lovely countryside landscapes of Oxfordshire.

On a slightly different note, she brings our attention to a book, *The Disappearance of Emile Zola* by Michael Rosen. It seems that Zola was in exile in England in 1898 after penning *J'accuse*. Miyako wonders if Conan Doyle had the chance to meet him.

Totally British's December issue offers information on shows like *My Mother and Other Strangers* starring Hattie Morahan, also of *Mr. Holmes* and *Arthur and George* fame.

Reviewed was the show, *The Crown* with interviews with Matt Smith and Claire Foy. Following *Downton Abbey,* there is a real appetite for the British Royal Family and the British aristocracy in a time very different from today. Finally there was a glimpse of Benedict Cumberbatch in his role as Marvel comics character Dr. Strange.

Unfortunately due to space requirements I have only been able to give you brief snippets of the wonderful contributions of Miyako. Lucky are those who have attended our bi-monthly meetings that they were served the full course. What a delicious gift!! Thank you, Miyako, and keep it coming.

## 22. Quiz on The Adventure of the Six Napoleons prepared and presented by Raf Jans

Results:

1<sup>st</sup> Carol Abramson 50 2<sup>nd</sup> Ron Zilman 40

3<sup>rd</sup> Mark Altosaar and Miyako Matsuda-Pelletier tied at 34 points each

Unfortunately due to the fact that our meeting was running late, we did not have a chance to have any round table discussion of the adventure. Miyako wrote some of her reflections on the story (summarized by David):

Miyako was surprised that the word "Mafia" was used in 19<sup>th</sup> century England. Her impression was that it was associated with the U.S. gangster scene in the 1930s.

It took a Japanese living in Italy, Ms. Nanami Shiono, who wrote her 1972 book, *Le Lettere dall' Italia* to inform Miyako about Sicily and its heyday up until the unification of Italy in 1859. The industrialization of the north and the relegation of Sicily to a poor farming region opened the door for

the Mafia to be born. The Mafia has had its ups and downs with the two World Wars but now it seems to be in control of most industries in Sicily. Holmes encountered the far flung tentacles of the Mafia in *The Adventure of the Six Napoleons*. One wonders whether Professor Moriarty, and his web of European criminal associations, had a partnership with this organization.

## 23. Anticipate a Taller Reward for a Tall Challenge

Paul revealed that Society funds will be used to enlarge the Bimetallic Question Quiz Trophy so that we can have room at the base to accommodate the new name plaques of future winners, the first of which will be Carol Abramson's as our winner for 2016. Congratulations, Carol!

# 24. Toast to the Society by Carol Abramson

This evening, on a cold winter's night, we seek the fellowship of others to study, to discuss, to share the companionship of a common quest, a deep interest in the life and cases of the most famous consulting detective of all times, Sherlock Holmes. We gather in this warm, comfortable room, sharing port and sherry, pâté and cheese, discussing our latest finds in related books and articles, as part of a society where all are equal members. In the divisive times in which we currently live, our society is a model for all. None concentrates on another's race, religion, ethnic origin, social status or economic condition. We are here as partners, members of a society, sharing what we have and know, where the only recognized sacrilege is suggesting that the Master, Sherlock Holmes, could possibly be deceased. May the rest of the world take lessons from us. To the Society!

## 25. Close of the Meeting

Raf adjourned the meeting at 9:00 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, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017, at 6:30 p.m.

Our distinguished Sovereign/President Raf Jans can be contacted at: raf.jans@hec.ca

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: <a href="mailto:daviddowse@hotmail.com">daviddowse@hotmail.com</a>

New Bimetallic Question members are always 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 or at www.bimetallicquestion.org

A tip of the deerstalker hat to our Half-crown/Sergeant-at-arms Hudson, Chris Herten-Greaven, for making members and guests feel most welcome at all our meetings. <a href="mailto:cwhertengreaven@videotron.ca">cwhertengreaven@videotron.ca</a>

Our Half-sovereign/Secretary-webmaster and Tin Box/Archivist duties are shared by the purrfect pairing of Susan Fitch and Esmeralda Fitch. Reach them both at: <a href="mailto:susanruthfitch@yahoo.ca">susanruthfitch@yahoo.ca</a>

