

A SPECIAL NOTE FROM THE SOVEREIGN

When Wilfrid saw that the quiz for our next meeting was on Charles Augustus Milverton, he invented a book fair in California which he just had to attend - which means he won't be here on February 4th. Before you let out a sigh of relief, be warned that Carol Abramson has agreed to stand in for him and run the meeting. So if you were thinking "While the cat's away... etc.," then think again: the expression An Iron Fist in a Velvet Glove springs to mind! Please give Carol the support you never give Wilfrid...

**Minutes
of the meeting
of
The Bimetallic Question
December 3rd, 2009**

Date of the next meeting

Thursday, February 4th, at 6:30 p.m. at:
The Westmount Public Library
(Westmount Room)
4574 Sherbrooke Street West
Westmount, Quebec

The Quiz at the next meeting

**"The Adventure of Charles Augustus
Milverton"**
prepared by David Kellett

Minutes of the MEETING of the BIMETALLIC QUESTION held on Thursday, December 3rd, 2009 at the Westmount Library (Westmount Room), 4574 Sherbrooke Street West, Westmount, Quebec.

Present: Carol Abramson, Rachel Alkallay, Jack Anderson, Maureen Anderson, Stanley Baker, Paul Billette, Marie Burrows, Roger Burrows, Patrick Campbell, Wilfrid de Freitas, Geoff Dowd, Sarah Dowd (guest), David Dowse, Ann Elbourne, Susan Fitch, Chris Herten-Greaven, David Kellett, Lars Lovkvist, Roy Mercado, Elliott Newman, Mietek Padowicz, Naomi Padowicz, Erica Penner, Lawrence Reich, Carole Rocklin, Arlene Scher, Ron Zilman

Regrets: Kathryn Radford, Nancy Walkling

CALL TO ORDER:

Wilfrid de Freitas called the meeting to order promptly at 6:30.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS AND GENTLE TRANSACTION

(Incorporating Show and Tell, Prefixes and Suffixes, Balls and Wax)

1. First Toast – To the Master

By Geoff Dowd

I first heard the term “meta-narrative” in 1985, employed by a visiting scholar amidst other overblown academic language to describe the life, thinking, and activities of some of Shakespeare’s characters before and after the conclusion of certain plays. Isn’t this just what we Sherlockians take delight in when speculating on the world in and around the Canon?

Much earlier, I had begun developing my interest in Sherlock Holmes after finding in my father’s bookcase a copy of Christopher Morley’s 1944 wartime edition of *Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson: A Textbook of Friendship*. The first tale included was “A Study in Scarlet,” the right text for a beginner beginning at the beginning. From the Criterion Bar to Baker Street and beyond, I discovered a world of the imagination with the power to excite my own speculation about a vanished Victorian London inhabited by its only consulting detective.

The anthology also includes “The Final Problem” and “The Empty House.” What really happened between the episode at the Falls and Holmes’s return to 221B? I now suspect (some years later, and emboldened by the academic notion of meta-narrative) that for the better part of two years, Mr. Holmes and Miss Adler carried on a torrid affair in New York. Sigerson indeed!

In the texts, in our hearts, and in our minds, as we travel between and around the tales we read and reread, Sherlock Holmes continues to excite our wonder, admiration, and overheated imaginations. Ladies and gentlemen, join me in a toast to The Master.

2. “Meta” Unmasked

In view of Geoff Dowd’s challenging diction in his Toast to the Master, we might want to understand the notion of “meta-narrative” he introduced to our questing assemblage.

“Meta,” from Greek, means “after,” “beyond,” “with,” “adjacent,” “self.” “It is a concept used in English to indicate a concept from another concept, used to complete or add to the latter.” (*Wikipedia*)

It may also mean “at a later stage of development.” (*the free dictionary*)

“In critical theory, and particularly postmodernism, a metanarrative ... is an abstract idea that is thought to be a comprehensive explanation of historical experience or knowledge... (It is) a story

about a story, encompassing and explaining other ‘little stories’ within totalizing schemes... (These stories) are told in order to legitimize various versions of ‘the truth.’” (*Wikipedia*)

This system of knowledge appears to rely on the theory of a chaotic universe and the need, therefore, of an anecdotal, *ad hoc* way of explaining experience, using as its foundation, Wittgenstein’s theory of the “models of discourse.”

According to *Wikipedia*, the earliest reference to meta-narrative seems to have appeared in 1979 in a tome by Jean-Francois Lyotard who used the theory to explain the use of thought and language in post-modernist literature. Being of shockingly limited intellect your Lowly Scribe has difficulty in visualizing how this theory could have been used to explain aspects of character in Shakespearean plays. However, your L.S. will henceforth dedicate himself to self-improvement, and is grateful to Geoff for this provocative exercise. We need more of them.

3. **Movie! Movie!**

Yes, folks, in our indefatigable efforts to bring you entertainment that feeds the mind and provides respite from the travails of lower Westmount, we are off to see the preview of the new *Sherlock Holmes* movie. Since we are encouraged to come in Sherlockian costumes, we shouldn’t have any difficulty in finding each other. And Montreal shouldn’t have any difficulty in finding us either.

We have had several unofficial debates in our Society about the quality, intent, marketing, commercialism, and right-to-life of this film. While there have been no suicide, abortion, or terrorist threats related to the upcoming film, passions have run as high as a Vermont town meeting during Spring flood season. We trust that there will be no nutshell, orange peel, apple core, or chicken bone throwing at the screen as there used to be by the rabble at actors during the days of the Globe, before the days of Orville Redenbacher. There was, however, a suggestion that we storm the critics’ booth. This is perfectly within acceptable limits of behaviour, much on a par with the Vicar’s sudden return to feigned consciousness when, surrounded by his spilled and tossed pewter cups, he sits bolt upright to cry out, “Indeed, another sticky bun! What, ho! What, ho!” before tilting forward again to rest his head noisily on the table while Tony Hancock and Sid James stare at each other open-mouthed, trying to figure out what to do with him.

In order to get us into the mood and condition us to the crassly commercial nature of the film, Wilfrid offered us posters publicizing the film, in two sizes. The smaller size is ideal for covering your bathroom mirror so that the first thing you would see in the morning is Robert Downey Jr. and Jude Law in appropriately Victorian hues (i.e. dismal absence of colour). The larger poster is huge, and printed on both sides. Knowing this in advance, one would think that the verso side would have the reverse image of the two stars, i.e., the backs of Robert Downey, Jr. and Jude Law with their *derrières* (French) *in flagrante* (Latin). We who monopolize the keyboard at the BmQ spare no effort to demonstrate our imagination, erudition, and familiarity with foreign languages.

Further pre-movie perks included a key drawing for promotional key rings. There were also enough dishwasher-safe (top shelf) illustrated plastic drinking glasses to go around.

4. **Movie! Movie! – The Report**

By Wilfrid de Freitas

On Monday evening, December 21st, 2009, around fifty members and their guests met at Centre Ice (yes, it’s still there!) in the old Montreal forum (now a movie-plex) on St. Catherine Street, prior to a special preview of the new movie *Sherlock Holmes*, with Robert Downey Jr in the title role and Jude Law as Dr Watson. Things appeared to be going fine: lots of buzz in anticipation of what (from the advance publicity) promised to be a radical departure from the usual format of a cerebral Holmes and a somewhat less intellectually acute Watson. Many photos were taken (including the one overleaf, courtesy of David Kellett) and a selection will be on our website in due course.



Quite suddenly the place seemed to be swarming with other people (how dare they!) and the line-up for our complimentary tickets (courtesy of Warner Brothers to whom we are most grateful) snaked ominously towards the entrance. Those of us who had received ours earlier made our way down the escalator, where another queue was forming at the entrance to the actual theatre. Once inside, it was a bit of a mob scene: only then did we find out that there were in fact seats reserved for our group, but no one had bothered to tell us or the security guard who was by now completely overwhelmed. Those of us now entering quickly snagged said seats! Meanwhile, unbeknownst to us, some of our members upstairs were turned away because of overbooking (fear not; they have since been sent complimentary tickets to see the movie at their leisure).

I won't attempt a review (others have done and will continue to do so), save to offer a general observation that the director seemed to be using Holmes and Watson as a vehicle for some really stunning special effects. Following the screening, some twenty-five members and guests repaired to the nearby home of Wilfrid and Susan for a seasonal drink and snacks and, naturally, to express their (often vociferous) opinions of the movie. That there were as many pro as con might lead one to believe that perhaps the director had got it just about right!

5. Special Toast – In Memoriam

Mietek Padowicz proposed a special toast to the memory of Maggie Jones, a leading actress with the television series, *Coronation Street*. Ms. Jones had been in her role since the inception of the program 35 years ago, although less so recently, and not at all henceforth.

6. An Improbable New Book

Roger Burrows introduced a printout from the Internet describing a new book, *The Improbable New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, a collection of pastiches by famous authors including Stephen King and Laurie R. King.

7. A Disappearing Book

Paul Billette showed us a book he picked up recently for \$12 from Indigo. It's entitled *The Case Files of Sherlock Holmes*. It provides evidence and artifacts from various cases. Aside from the standard bound-in pages (in color), there are bound-in waxed sleeves containing the "evidence." It's a "fun"

book. However, there's a caveat: evidence tends to fall out of the sleeves which open at the top, especially when one carries the book upside-down or shakes it in that position.

8. **Vas Iss Das?**

Erica Penner was in Dresden, Germany recently, and got to see a new operetta featuring Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson as the leading characters. The story involves two private detectives who are having trouble drumming up business. They come up with the brilliant idea of dressing up as Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, and the business pours in. However hard they try to tell people they are not Holmes and Watson, their adoring public does not believe them. It's entitled *Der Mann, der Sherlock Holmes war*.

9. **Second Toast – To Doctor Watson**

By Roger Burrows

What's your attitude towards Dr. Watson?

Mine is one of sympathy:

- He had a brother who was an alcoholic and died young;
- He joined up to "do his bit" and almost got killed;
- He was invalided out of the army on 11/6d a day;
- He found someone to share rooms with, who turned out to be a drug addict with a liking for malodorous chemical experiments and indoor target practice with a revolver;
- He married an heiress whose fortune ended up at the bottom of the Thames and who died within a few years;
- His literary efforts were derided by his so-called best friend;
- Subsequently, commentators have claimed that he had as many as four wives, was gay, and was a woman (although not, as far as I know, at the same time).

Despite all this, he survives in our midst as a model of integrity, a trusty companion, someone who will never let you down.

Please raise your glasses to Dr. John H. Watson, Survivor of Baker Street!

10. **How Have You Been Pheeling Philately?**

Marie Burrows received her Sherlock Holmes stamps from Great Britain. She had offered to order them on behalf of anyone who was interested, but there were no takers. This caused Elliott Newman to observe that we are a group of spontaneous enthusiasts. Your Lowly Scribe takes this to mean that we politely support each other's passions – from a respectful distance. L.S. wishes Elliott would express himself more clearly during meetings. It would make his job as L.S. much easier.

Paul Billette also announced the release of a series of stamps from Guernsey celebrating the 150th anniversary of the birth of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle before he was a Sir.

11. **First There Was R2D2, Now There's 1XL**

Susan Fitch showed us an ancient penknife, about three inches long, in a polished steel case, with two well-used blades made of blue steel, swivelling out at opposite ends. There was an inscription on it, reading 1XL. It was manufactured by George Wostenholm, Sheffield, England. Susan brought the knife because like the knife in tonight's story, "The Boscombe Valley Mystery," the blades were

dull. The question was raised: "Why is it called a penknife?" to which various desperate answers shot back:

- "Because it's the size of a pen."
- "Farmers never know when they might need one in a pig-pen."
- "Because you need a penknife for whittling, so it's called that."

and more.

This is a game we play. Somebody asks the question, we flop on the line, knowing all along that the person asking the question already knows the answer. But we are good-natured folk, and we play along.

You need to know about swans: a male swan is a cob, and a female a pen.

Although quills for writing were commonly taken from the outer feathers of the left wings of geese (Why left? Think.) as long ago as 700 A.D. when they began to replace reed pens, these reliable writing instruments were not as prized as swan feathers. The feathers of female swans (pens) were used, and not those of the males (cobs).

We presume this might be because the male quills were not porous enough to hold ink. They might also have been too stiff or brittle to cut back when sharpening the writing tip.

Thus, there is a connection between "quill" and "pen." Our language evolved today's writing instrument into a "pen," and not a "quill," by acknowledging our debt to the beautiful female swan, and relegating the goose to its place in the bedrooms where its down fills the duvets of those of us who have one. Can you imagine Parker's having developed the capillary action fountain cob?

The "penknife's" etymology derives, obviously, from the small, folding knife that people would carry around with them to cut back the slanted, writing end of the swan's or goose's feather, to resharpen it, and restore the porosity (we imagine) of the quick, that pulpy, keratin matter inside the quill so that the shaft of the pen could now absorb ink.

12. E.D. Isn't for Everyone

Wilfrid de Freitas acknowledged that he received an e-mail from Maria Sweeney informing him that she could help reverse his erectile dysfunction. While he disclaimed any knowledge of this person, he did look around the room anxiously. Someone was heard to ask for a demonstration of her cure. We then got back to the business of the day which was ... um ... ah ... oh, yes! Show and Tell, being painfully reminded that with the onset of E.D. also comes ... um ... ah ...

13. Things That Go Jump in the Night

Jack Anderson announced that Maureen and he lived through a real-life mystery last week-end. It began with the flashing of lights into their room from outside, and then an incessant pounding. What seemed at first to have been the landing of a rather large spacecraft in the park across the street from their rather pretty non-Victorian cottage, turned out to be a police car with two his-and-hers occupants, banging on the Andersons' front door. They said they were responding to a 911 call at their address. The Andersons were quite surprised at this, since they hadn't made the call, and the only other living occupants in the place were their cats. All and sundry made a tour of the telephones and concluded that no such call had been made. However, when they checked on the fax machine behind a locked door, it was established that the fax machine had dialed 911. This was quite a puzzler, since although several Bimetallicans opined that one or more cats must have inadvertently pressed 9, then 1, and 1 again, it would have been difficult for them to get past the locked door, do the deed, and get out. Much bandying-about of theories took place, and L.S. was truly proud of the

analytical and creative way his buddies took to the chase. The legitimate surmises that were thrown about freely are too numerous and of high quality to mention here. L.S., however, knew the truth: the lonely fax machine, feeling neglected and somewhat depressed, had intended to order out for pizza and simply, misdialed. Of course, it admitted nothing. It was embarrassed. But it got its sought-after attention. So, all ended well, and Maureen and Jack and the cats could get back to sleep, and the his-and-hers police officers could either go to Tim Horton's, or find an all-night pizza joint.

14. Eggzactly

Wilfrid de Freitas showed us a crockery eggcup he'd bought in Ballarat, Australia. In the area is a frontier-type village similar in intent to Ontario's Upper Canada Village. The Australian version is along the lines of a Scottish Village. The eggcup is generic.

15. Our Dinner

It's official. Our annual dinner is set for Saturday, January 23, 2010. Professor Biro will be our guest speaker. We have reports that he is psyching himself up to meeting and speaking to us.

16. XEDOC

David Kellett announced that Bill Gates of Microsoft had bought one of the few existing Leonardo da Vinci codexes for \$30 million, a steal. These catalogues were created by da Vinci. The illustrations in them were sketched in a reverse-process by da Vinci, by using a mirror. At \$30 million each, it is commonly agreed that they would be cheap at half the price.

17. Quiz – Results

Story: "The Boscombe Valley Mystery"

Possible total: 60 (63 with bonus)

Winners were:

Rank	Name	Score	Prize
1.	David Kellett	52	Audio tapes of BBC SH dramatizations
2.	Carol Abramson	51½	Book: <i>A Manual of Detection</i>
3.	Susan Fitch	42	A delightful collection of book marks

Next Month's story: "The Adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton"

18. Third Toast – To the Woman

By Elliott Newman

Irene Adler finds herself uniquely positioned in the canon which, except for Adler and Mrs. Hudson, does not dwell too much on the convincingness or depth of its female characters. To understand the Adler phenomenon, I'd like to talk about Dostoevski's *Crime and Punishment*, nearly unanimously regarded as one of the world's first, and arguably the best, detective novels. Yet the novel is strange, is it not, because from the outset we know who the murderer is, and what his motives were. So there was no mystery there. What sets this novel apart and above are the depths to which the author probes Raskolnikov's psyche, how he develops his aberrant theory of superiority, and the unique way he has his hero finally come to confession and redemption. Porfiry Petrovitch is no Sherlock Holmes. He is a flaccid 35-year-old detective in Petersburg who *knows* Raskolnikov is guilty. He uses neither induction no deduction, but intuition. How far away from Holmes can you get? The women in the Russian novel are treated in depth, and all reflect the Russian character of unburdening themselves of their *angst*, resentments, consumptive complaints, beliefs, and petty

problems, onto the first stranger. No mystery there. Hardly fertile ground for a female mystique. Yet, *Crime and Punishment* was *the* mystery novel of the 19th century. SACD provided in his canon what Dostoevsky (forgivably!) had omitted from C & P: a *femme fatale*, a heroine (wronged in the Victorian, post-Romantic sense), yet gifted and empowered beyond imagination. In other words, larger than life.

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Society, I give you the uniquely Sherlockian Irene Adler, The Woman.

19. **A Room with a View**

Wilfrid de Freitas has confirmed our reservation of the Reading Room for another year of meetings. We are particularly pleased with this room – its size and ambiance. It has been quite some time since we have been annoyed by librarians interrupting our peaceful deliberations. We are pleased that they have seen the error of their ways and have extended our lease. We thank them, and we thank Wilfrid for arranging this.

20. **It Isn't What You Think**

Peter Blau is arguably the world's leading authority on Sherlock Holmes. He posts a 30-page newsletter regularly on the internet (and as ink-on-paper via subscription) under the banner of Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press. An American, he is quite approachable, affable, and modestly articulate. He shares his vast knowledge of goings-on *re* the Sherlockian network worldwide, and will inform us on our monitors of the week-long upcoming gala hosted in New York City by the Baker Street Irregulars.

21. **More Playing Around**

We performed another Sherlockian reading *entre nous*, this time of “The Stoner Case” (The Speckled Band). Patrick Campbell supplied the scripts, and provided a fascinating background to the genesis of the play. First though, here are the performers of the first part of the first scene which was read at our meeting:

Sherlock Holmes – Mietek Padowicz

Mrs. Hudson – Carole Rocklin

Dr. Watson – David Dowse

Helen Stoner – Ann Elbourne

And here is Patrick's well-researched and detailed background to the play. Your L.S. apologizes for any misinterpretations of Patrick's excellent and detailed notes as well as verbal explanation:

1. *The Speckled Band* first appeared in the *Strand* as a short story in February, 1892.
2. The story again appeared, this time in *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, on October 14, 1892 (1st edition).
3. Doyle wrote the play *The House of Temperley*, based on his novel *Rodney Stone*, and it opened in 1910.
4. The play failed and closed because of the death of the king that week.
5. Because the theatre was already hired, Doyle put on *The Stoner Case*, opening June 4, 1910.
6. Reading at the Westmount Public Library December 3, 2009.

22. Fourth Toast – To Mrs. Hudson

By Jack Anderson

(taken from *Encyclopedia Sherlockiana* by Matthew E. Bunson)

“Mrs. Hudson was always there to give Holmes ... all of his needed comforts ... (he declared of her in *The Naval Treaty*) “her cuisine is a little limited, but she has as good an idea of breakfast as a Scotswoman.” Watson’s assessment of her was much more effusive in his account of *The Dying Detective*. Mrs. Hudson, the landlady of Sherlock Holmes, was a long-suffering woman. Not only was her first-floor flat invaded at all hours by throngs of singular and often undesirable characters but her remarkable lodger showed an eccentricity and irregularity in his life which must have sorely tried her patience ... The landlady stood in the deepest awe of him (Holmes) and never dared to interfere with him, however outrageous his proceedings might seem. She was fond of him, too, for he had a remarkable gentleness and courtesy in his dealings with women.”

To Mrs. Hudson!

23. Fifth Toast – to the Society

By David Dowse

(David read Patrick Campbell’s Toast to the Society from Nov. 27, 1996):

I have been asked to make the toast to our Society, The Bimetallic Question. It is fortunate that you asked me – for if you had asked Conan Doyle he would have refused and said we were all crazy. If you had asked Holmes he would have rebuked you for he loathed every form of society. So it is just as well that you asked me, because I can ask you to raise your glasses and say ... long life to our Society and a very, very Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukah to one and all!!

To the Bimetallic Question!

24. Future Toasts

To The Master	-	Naomi Padowicz
To Dr. Watson	-	Arlene Scher
To The Woman	-	Roy Mercado
To Mrs. Hudson	-	Ann Elbourne
To The Society	-	Mietek Padowicz

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, February 4th, 2010, at 6:30 p.m. Bring a friend.

For the latest society news or updates on our history, please go to:

<http://www.bimetallicquestion.org>

Editorial footnote

The Bimetallic Question has provided a home for Sherlockians for over 30 years now. For those of us who are too young (or too old) to recall its founding, Wilfrid asked me to include a copy of the original article in the *Chronicle* that began it all (see overleaf).

Sherlock Holmes Society

Avid Sherlockians seeking fellow hobbyists

By RAY KOSTOLNIK
of the Chronicle

He is known to his admirers as "The Master" and original copies published of his exploits as the world's first private consulting detective are called the "Sacred Writings".

His origins and demise are cloaked in mystery as baffling as the criminal cases he thrived the world in unlocking and his methods were so effective that he was required reading by detectives in the French Surete some 30 or 40 years ago.

Man or myth, he is Sherlock Holmes and his renown has given rise to a world-wide following of Sherlockian Societies.

Dorval resident Peter Dowse and Montreal Wilfred de Freitas would like to join with other local hobbyists to form a Sherlock Holmes Society in the Montreal area.

"The 'raison d'être' for the society," said de Freitas Saturday, "is for the benefit of avid collectors of old books and the discussion of stories with the aim of adding new insight and perspective to the stories."

Beside acquiring a membership for their society Dowse and de Freitas are recruiting their drabs for a name — all Sherlockian Societies have one, usually harking back to

one detail of the plot of a Sherlock Holmes episode.

SOCIETIES

The Toronto-based Sherlock Holmes Society, for instance, is known as the "Boot-makers", after the Hound of the Baskervilles incident in which Henry Baskerville's boot is used to give his scent to the dreaded hound that terrorizes the Heath country in which the story is set.

The Baker Street Irregulars are one of the most distinguished Sherlockian Societies in North America and membership is only possible by invitation. True to the Victorian candor of the time in which Sherlock Holmes lived, the Baker Street Irregulars will not accept women members. There is an affiliate society in Japan.

Interestingly enough, Dowse and de Freitas believe that the great detective not only existed but is still alive at the age of 125.

"He lives on Sussex Down," said Dowse to the nodding concurrence of de Freitas, "in Surrey, England where he keeps bees. It's widely known," adds de Freitas, "that there is an ingredient in bee's honey that promotes longevity."

They draw attention to the famous incident at Reichenbach Falls in the Swiss Alps



Peter Dowse of Dorval (left) and Wilfred de Freitas of Montreal would like to form a Sherlock Holmes Society and call on all West Island Sherlockians to unite. They are seen here in front of a movie marquis for the latest adventure of the Victorian super-sleuth, now playing on the West Island.

on May 4, 1891, where, locked in a death struggle with his arch-enemy Dr. Moriarty, Holmes and the villain were seen to plummet into the 650 foot ravine and disappear in the spray.

MISCONCEPTIONS

While Moriarty evidently died in the fall Holmes reappeared to a fiancée after Dr. Watson three years after the incident.

Another popular misconception about Sherlock Holmes is the belief that the 56 short and 4 novel length stories existing were the product of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's fertile imagination but this, too, is false.

Dowse and de Freitas maintain that Dr. Watson confided the details of all these stories to Conan Doyle, who promptly wrote them down and had them published.

A surprising amount of "Writings on the Writings", as Sherlockians describe anything published about the original copies of the Sherlock Holmes collection, widely varied in their themes.

COOKBOOK

Peter Dowse has one book entitled "Mrs. Hudsons Cookbook" after the housekeeper at Holmes and Watson's Baker Street residence in London.

In it are listed recipes for such inspiring fare as Cold

Fowl Kedgeres and Mrs. Hudson's own Jerusalem Artichoke Soup.

On stage and screen, a small army of actors has attempted to portray Sherlock Holmes since the turn of the century starting with William Gillette in 1899. Basil Rathbone delivered captivating screen portrayals of Holmes in the late thirties and forties. George C. Scott played Holmes in 1971 and Star Trek's Leonard Nimoy did the part on television and on stage in 1975.

The most recent evidence of Hollywoods love affair with Sherlock Holmes is Murder by Decree with Christopher Plummer as "The Master", which has the great detective on the trail of Jack the Ripper and promises to unearth a sinister side of the Victorian Age.

"There must be enough Sherlockians in the Montreal area to start a Society here," de Freitas said, "and we welcome book collectors and anyone interested in the study of the adventures of Sherlock Holmes."

Local Sherlockians may address themselves in writing to Wilfred M. de Freitas Esq., Box 889, Stock, Exchange Tower, Montreal, H4Z 1K2. Name address and telephone number should be provided.