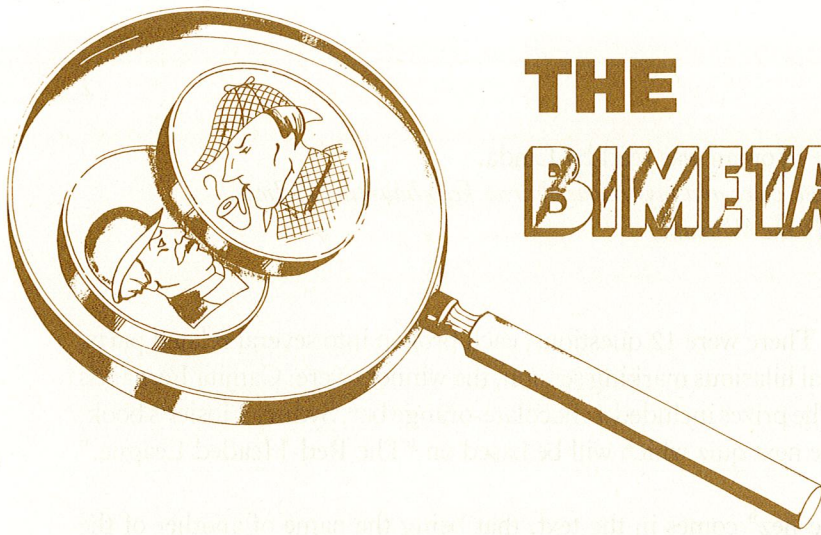


4 APRIL 2001



# THE BIMETALLIC QUESTION

Box 883 Stock Exchange Tower  
Montreal, Canada H4Z 1K2

The next meeting of the BIMETALLIC QUESTION will held be on Thursday (NOT Wednesday), June 7, 2001 at 6:30 p.m. SHARP at the Westmount Library (Westmount Room), 4574 Sherbrooke Street West, Montréal, Québec. PLEASE PAY ATTENTION TO PARKING SIGNS!!!

The NEXT QUIZ will be prepared by CANJITA FERNANDS based on THE RED-HEADED LEAGUE.

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MINUTES of the MEETING of the BIMETALLIC QUESTION held on Wednesday, April 4, 2001 at the Westmount Library (Westmount Library), 4574 Sherbrooke Street West, Montréal, Québec.

Present: Stanley Baker, Paul Billette, Patrick Campbell, Paul Clarke, Wilfrid de Freitas, David Dowse, Linda Huntoon, Francis Lalumière, Elliott Newman, Charles Purdon, Colin Semel, Nancy Walkling, Karin Winkler  
Regrets: Claude Campbell  
Guests: Canjita Fernands, David Kellett, Lawrence Reich

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## CALL TO ORDER

David Dowse opened the meeting at 6:35 p.m. with a toast to the Master, one of a set of five toasts provided, this time, by Paul Billette. Others are requested to make similar sets of toasts for future meetings.

*The character who left a name, at which the world grew pale, to point a moral, or, adorn a tale.  
To Holmes!*

Francis Lalumière (returned from the grave) gave us a brief summary of his travels in California and Virginia, and he is now back in Montréal as an editor of a new magazine.

## SHOW/TELL

Patrick and Wilfrid gave a brief review of their visit to the BSI Birthday Dinner in New York, and there was a general discussion about the upcoming "Footprints of the Hound" seminar in Toronto.

The toast to Dr. Watson was read by Wilfrid.

*The most agreeable of all companions, a simple, frank man, without high pretensions to an oppressive neatness; one who loved life, and understood the use of it; obliging alike at all hours; above all of a golden temper, and steadfast as an anchor.  
To Watson!*

VENATIO ADEST

The toast to The Woman was read by Linda.

*Who provided unattainable love and whose voice and mysterious charms keep haunting Holmes.  
To the Woman!*

## QUIZ

Nancy handed out "The Five Orange Pips" quiz. There were 12 questions, each broken into several related parts, with a maximum possible score of 66. After the usual hilarious marking session, the winners were: Canjita Fernands (58), Paul Clarke (49) and Charles Purdon (47). The prizes included a chocolate-orange bar, Sydney Hosier's book, "Murder, Mrs. Hudson." Canjita will prepare the next quiz which will be based on "The Red-Headed League."

Wilfrid had noted that the term "the golden pince-nez" comes in the text, that being the name of another of the stories in the Canon. There was some general discussion on "The Five Orange Pips," and while there were some weaknesses, most seemed to find some good points in the story, even if the end was rather weak.

The toast to Mrs. Hudson was read by Elliott.

*She who managed to command respect from the often misogynous Holmes.  
To Mrs. Hudson!*

## VARIA

Following the quiz, David set out to act out a series of charades - after explaining the rules (his rules). The meeting was split into two groups: Stanley's team and Nancy's team. Most seemed to enjoy the charades and Wilfrid suggested that, at some future meeting, the two competing groups perform the charades themselves, now they know the rules!

The toast to the Society was read by David.

*For providing good company, good discourse, good cheer and the very sinews of good living.  
To the Society!*

David said that we can no longer meet in the library on Wednesday evenings; only Tuesdays or Thursdays are available. There was a show of hands and the majority chose Thursday (the first Thursday of every second month starting in June 2001).

Wilfrid has brought the Jones-Lingaard-Kelly Archives to the library to review, on the understanding that, if they take over all or part of the archives, each item will have a bookplate acknowledging the donation. Designs for such a bookplate are requested from our members.

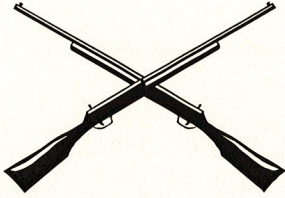
Charles advised that membership fees are \$18.00 and minutes will not be sent if fees are unpaid.

David said we need to seek members who will takeover some of the executive positions in the club (and the various posts and descriptions are attached to these minutes).

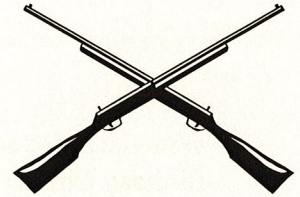
## ADJOURNMENT

We closed up shop at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patrick Campbell / cac



## BIKERS BEWARE



On Wednesday, March 7, eight members of the notorious Bimetallic Question met under the railway arches behind Montréal's Central Station. This location houses the rifle range where the Canadian National Railway Police practice with their firearms. The event had been arranged by Charles "von Herder" Purdon, our Master-at-Arms.

This was the Fourth Colonel Sebastian Moran Target Shoot, and members present were Maureen "Annie Oakley" Anderson, Jack Anderson, Paul Billette, Patrick Campbell, Professor Paul Clarke (*what is a pharmacologist doing practicing with firearms?*), David Dowse, Charles Purdon, Peter Reiner, and guests Richard "Dead-Eye Dick" Buche and Timothy Campbell.

After a brief talk on range safety by Charles and our host and range officer, Bill Kuebler, the marksmen and markswoman took their positions, one by one, at the firing posts. There were ten such posts, where the contestants faced down the range to a cardboard rectangle 8½ x14 inches in size, slung from an arrangement of wires so that the target could be brought back to the shooter by turning a handle at the back of the range. A chair and a padded rifle rest were provided for those who preferred, or the shorter could stand and fire in the traditional stance.

On the upper part of the target card were seven circles, numbered outward from 10 to 4, the widest circle being 2¾ inches in diameter, which looked pretty small as the target was 30 feet down range. The weapon used was a .177 calibre Beeman air rifle with a telescopic view, and the projectile a flat-nose waisted affair with a hollow base, so allowing the pressure to spread the projectile to give a tight fit in the bore. Each shooter was allowed four practice shots which allowed him or her to make an appropriate adjustment to their chosen aiming point.

With these shots fired, the shooters turned their attention to the lower part of the target, a silhouette bust of Holmes, 3 inches wide by 4½ inches high, and only a single shot was allowed, just as Colonel Sebastian Moran was limited in The Empty House.

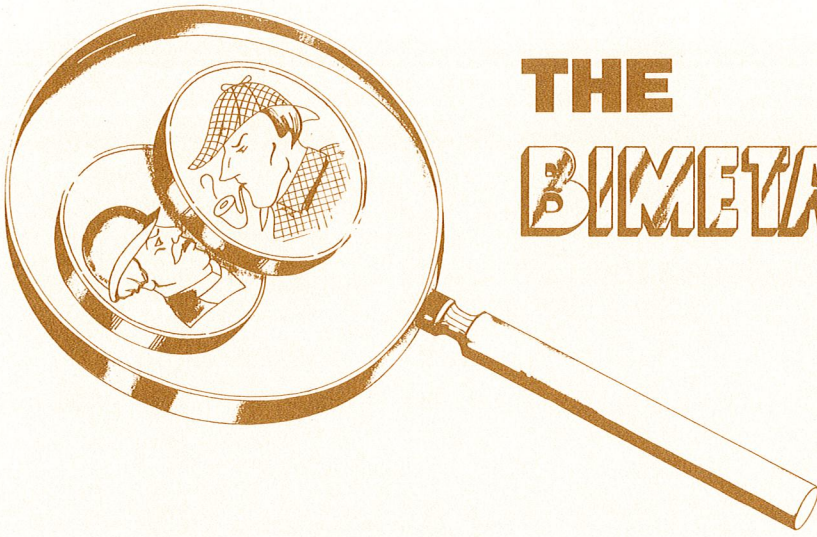
With our eight members, two guests and our host each fairing five shots, it is astonishing to report that all 55 shots were somewhere on the rectangular target, and a goodly number in or very close the initial circular target. I would suggest that the Hell's Angels and the Banditos think twice before tangling with the Questionables!

Now as to the single shots that actually counted, poor Holmes was fairly peppered with hits at the base of the skull, the scalp, the throat, the jaw, two through the eyes and one or two more or less central. At this point Charles turned the target over to display target rings scored from 10 down to 3 and declared the contest to be a tie between Richard and Timothy, so there was a shootout, at an increased range of 60 feet with two ranging shots and a single "counter." The trophy, consisting of a silhouette of Holmes with a handsome brass plate attached, was won by Timothy on the understanding that he has it only until the same time next year when the fifth shootout will be arranged. But how is it that the guests were the finalists? Are our members that polite?

Thanks to Charles for organizing the event, and to our host for allowing us to use the CN range, one of the very few let on the Island of Montréal.

Incidentally, one of the Sherlockian highlights of a visit to London is to attend a performance at the Late Joys, a Victorian music hall in the railway arches under Charing Cross Station, just behind the Sherlock Holmes Pub ... and just as at the CN range, all events had to stop while departing trains rumbled over our heads!





# THE BIMETALLIC QUESTION

Box 883 Stock Exchange Tower  
Montreal, Canada H4Z 1K2

DATE: 4 APRIL 2001  
MEMO TO: D. DOWSE  
FROM: C.J. PURDON

SUBJECT: WEDNESDAY MEETINGS

I HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY MS CATHERINE SWIFT OF THE WESTMOUNT PUBLIC LIBRARY THAT THE WESTMOUNT ROOM WILL NO LONGER BE AVAILABLE TO US FOR OUR MEETINGS AS IT WILL HENCEFORTH BE RESERVED EXCLUSIVELY FOR LIBRARY BUSINESS EVERY WEDNESDAY EVENING.

MS SWIFT RECOMMENDED THAT WE PICK EITHER A TUESDAY OR A THURSDAY EVENING AS THESE DAYS ARE USUALLY AVAILABLE DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF EACH MONTH.

PERSONALLY I WOULD PREFER THURSDAY AS MY TUESDAY EVENINGS ARE USUALLY TAKEN UP BY THE ST. JAMES LITERARY SOCIETY MEETINGS.

*Charles*

TUES 5  
THURS. 8  
JUNE 7  
6:30

