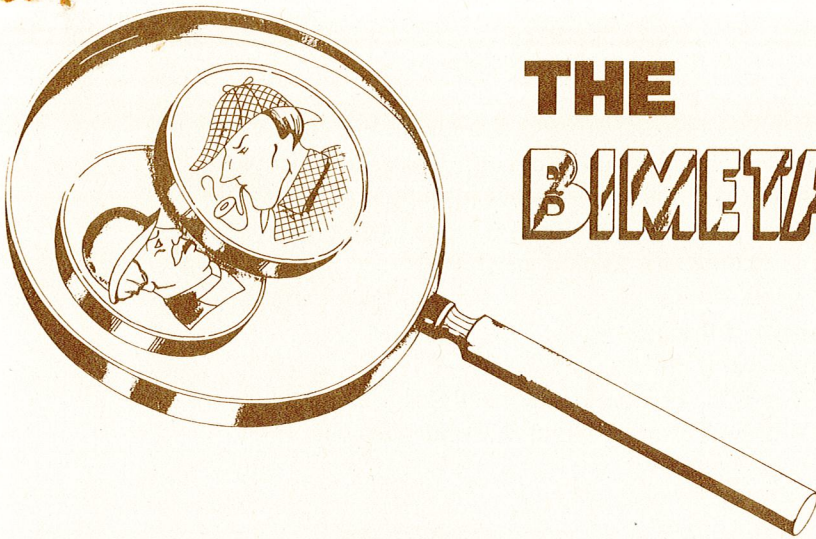


4 OCT 2001



# THE BIMETALLIC QUESTION

Box 883 Stock Exchange Tower  
Montreal, Canada H4Z 1K2

October 4, 2001 Minutes

The next meeting of the **BIMETALLIC QUESTION** will be held on Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2001 at 6:30 p.m. SHARP at the Westmount Library (Westmount Room), 4574 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal, Quebec. PLEASE PAY ATTENTION TO PARKING SIGNS!!!!

**The NEXT QUIZ:** The Boscombe Valley Mystery, prepared by Elliott Newman.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS IN MONTREAL

. Sherlock Holmes's Birthday Dinner to be held January 19, 2002 at Du Vieux Port. Details will follow under a separate mailing.

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**MINUTES** of the MEETING of the BIMETALLIC QUESTION held on Thursday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2001 at the Westmount library (Westmount Library), 4574 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal, Quebec.

**Present:** Patrick Campbell, Charles Purdon, David Dowse, Paul Billette, David Kellett, Elliott Newman, David Kellett, Stanley Baker, Bernie Brodtkin, Rachel Alkallay, Heather Wileman-Brown and Maureen Anderson;

**Regrets:** Jack Anderson

**Guests:** Arnold Glassman -

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**CALL TO ORDER:** David Dowse opened the meeting at 6:37 pm and welcomed those present. He reminded us that meetings will be held on Thursdays being the only evening the library is available.

**SHOW/TELL:** With the anticipated arrival of the media, members excelled themselves with the variety of their Sherlockiana. Patrick Campbell brought in a compendium of Sherlockiana and a treasure trove of sherlockian era coins. Several deerstalkers were brought in for the occasion of the media. Other items included miniature Sherlockian lead figurines, menus from Sherlock Holmes Pubs and restaurants, books and several Cabinet Photographs, which came into use in 1866 to 1906. For more details on Cabinet Photographs see end of this months minutes.

Members this month had to prove their observation skills by examining 22 items for approximately a three-minute period and then using Holmes one-of-a-kind skill of observation to indicate all that was observed. Holmes would have been proud of the results.



**QUIZ:** The Quiz commenced at 7:21 p.m. David's first Sherlockian Quiz ("A Scandal in Bohemia") of 66 detailed questions. Silence filled our singular establishment, as a most challenging Holmesian Quiz was conducted and interesting prizes were awarded. The tone of the responses varied from lighthearted fun to erstwhile scholarship. Prizes included Mordecai Richler's last book, Sherlockian videos, potential collector's items to be sure and let's not forget the delightful bottle of Folonari. Well done David!

**The winners of the quiz were:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize 47/66 – Elliott Newman (Mordecai Richler's Last Book)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize 41/66 – Patrick Campbell (Red Wine Folonari Valpolicella)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize 33.5/66 - Charles Purdon (Video – Terror by Night & Holmes Dracula File)

**TOASTS**

**This evening's toasts were performed by:** Elliott Newman - **To The Master** followed by Paul Billette - **To Dr. Watson** ensued by Rachel with **To The Woman**, supervised by Heather Wileman-Brown - **To Mrs. Hudson** ending with David Dowse's - **To The Society**

**TO THE MASTER**

Read by: Elliott Newman

It was October again. The streets were quiet and the evening fog concealed what little that did happen. He sat there in his armchair, knees up and fingers drumming. It amazed, and bothered him, that between the first madness of Spring and the last slow days of Summer, the criminal class of London could have become such a boring and unimaginative lot! Even so, as he returned to his palimpsest and cuttings, he knew that any day now, much to his dismay, his boredom would be broken. For soon the schools would re-open and the PROFESSOR would be back!! TO THE MASTER.

**TO DR. WATSON**

Read by: Paul Billette

Although we refer to Sherlock Holmes as "The Master", it must be remembered, that if not for Dr. Watson, we Sherlockians would not be here tonight. I quote from Dr. Watson's writing of the "Final Problem":-

"In an incoherent and, as I deeply feel, an entirely inadequate fashion, I have endeavoured to give some account of my strange experiences in his company." Our meeting here tonight is proof that Dr. Watson was by no means incoherent or inadequate. In fact, we owe him a debt of gratitude. TO DR. WATSON.

**TO THE WOMAN:**

Read by: Rachel Alkallay

Talking about romance and understanding love has always been a mystery to me. And so it might have been for the Master. So here's to Irene Adler and the one mystery that perhaps Sherlock Holmes could not solve. TO THE WOMAN!



**TO MRS. HUDSON**

Read by Heather Wileman-Brown

Assuming that Mrs. Hudson is a childless widow, is it to fill the empty nest, that she adopted her two eccentric lodgers? I wish here to pay a tribute to that heroic lady who, without flinching, accepted to see her house successively transformed into a confessional-box, a smoke-screen, a tricks and jokes shop, a rifle-range, a chemical laboratory, a "shooting gallery" – in a word: a piggery. TO MRS HUDSON!

**TO THE SOCIETY:**

Read by: David Dowse

Being, at this time in my life, a most infrequent participant in the events of "The Society", I am delighted to be asked to give this toast. It brought home to me the fact, that the abstract concept of a toast to "The Society" is misleading. What we are in fact toasting is a collection of warm, vital, friendly, witty, welcoming and caring human beings, who in total, make up this "Bimetallic Question".

I deeply appreciate the fact that one can come and enjoy a very pleasureable evening, bi-monthly, as well as other outside activities, however infrequently, and although we are of many and varied backgrounds, the common bond holding us together as "The Society" could be well emulated by the wider "society" in which we are living, through these troubled times.

So I would ask you to raise your glasses to ourselves, not in a boastful way, but gratefully, because this is in fact the real meaning of "The Society". I give you the Society: May we go from Strength to Strength!

*Note, any members who have particularly good toasts please submit them to David Dowse for future use.*

**ADJOURNMENT -** The meeting closed at 9:03 p.m.

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**MRS HUDSONS CORNER:** In honour of our next Story: **The Boscombe Valley Mystery**

### **Smoked Salmon and Parsley Pate**

Sherlock Holmes was pacing up and down the platform, his tall, gaunt figure made even gaunter and taller by his long grey travelling-cloak and close-fitting cloth cap. "It is very good of you to come, Watson," said he. "It makes a considerable difference to me, having someone with me on whom I can thoroughly rely ... If you will keep the two corner seats I shall get the tickets."

*THE BOSCOMBE VALLEY MYSTERY*

Makes 4 sandwiches:

½ lb (250 g) smoked salmon  
2/3 cup (150 mL) chopped fresh parsley  
1/3 cup (75 mL) whipping (35%) cream  
¼ cup (50 mL) butter, softened  
1 tbsp (15 mL) lime juice  
1 tsp (5 mL) sugar  
½ tsp (2 mL) salt  
¼ tsp (1 mL) pepper  
¼ tsp (1 mL) nutmeg

Remove any small bones from the salmon. In a food processor, puree the salmon with the parsley, cream, butter, lime juice, sugar, salt, pepper, and nutmeg. Put the mixture into a small bowl and chill until needed.



Mrs. Hudson often prepared food for Holmes and Watson's journeys across England. Sandwiches filled with a smoked salmon pate would have been greatly appreciated by Watson. I'm not sure, did Holmes even enjoy eating? I believe he received his nourishment from his pipe.

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**Clues on global events:**

**New York, New York - The Baskerville Bash 2002 - January 11, 2002**

The good folks in NYC are already planning for **The Baskerville Bash 2002** in celebration of The Master's 148th birthday. If you are going to NYC for the weekend, then you just might want to take in **The Baskerville Bash**. **The Bash** has always been a great affair filled with good food, good entertainment, and good Sherlockian fellowship. If interested, please send \$75U.S. for each participant to: P. J. Perry; 346 East 87th St. # 4A; New York NY; 10128-4844 by December 15, 2001.

**Cape May, New Jersey - The game's afoot in Victorian Cape May - March 8-10, 2002**

A suspense-filled weekend encounter with Sherlock Holmes in Cape May, New Jersey. For more information please call: (609-884-5404, 800-275-4278) or visit <http://www.capemaymac.org>.

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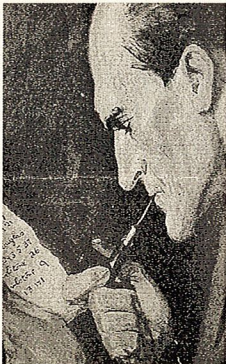
**Reports on Past Events:**

The conference held in Toronto, October 19-21 to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* was a howling good time! The presenters were exceptional and the volunteers were outstanding.

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**All that remains** is to end the minutes by challenging you with the **Puzzler** for that is what awaits those brave enough:

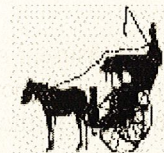


- 1) Holmes' favourite school: (10)  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 2) Holmes' favourite spot: (2 Words) (3,8)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- in the city of (11):  
\_\_\_\_\_

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at the December 6th meeting.

Must dash, the next adventure awaits,

Maureen





**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Members who would like to actively participate in contributing articles, recipes or information on upcoming events, etc. for the newsletter are welcome. Please contact Maureen Anderson at (514) 696-2603.

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For fellow Sherlockian and family historians currently inspecting cabinet photographs, note the following:

### ***THE CABINET CARD (approx. 1866 - 1906).***

A card stock product, nearly four times the size of previous photographs on card stock. The larger size created new problems of photographic quality. Flaws that were not obvious in the smaller cards now became very visible. This gave rise to a new skill of photo retoucher. Success in retouching led to innovations in the darkroom and at the camera. Diffusion of the image reduced the need for retouching. This led to verbal skirmishes between photographers who insisted in "truth in photography". Opponents called retouching degenerating, demoralizing, and untruthful practices. Cabinet cards can be further dated by color of stock, borders, corners and size.

### ***QUICK DATING GUIDE TO CABINET CARDS***

The earliest American made cabinet cards have been dated only to the post- Civil War period, beginning in 1866. Design and colors of these cards followed those of the cards of that time. Cabinet cards are rarely found after 1906.

#### **Card Colors:**

1866 - 1880 White card stock of a light weight.

1880 - 1890 Different colors for face and back of mounts.

1882 - 1888 Face of buff, matte finished, with a back of creamy yellow, glossy.

#### **Borders:**

1866 - 1880 Red or gold rules, single and double lines.

1884 - 1885 Wide gold borders.

1885 - 1892 Gold beveled edges.

1889 - 1896 Rounded corner rule of single line.

1890 - 1892 Metallic green or gold impressed border.

1896 Impressed outer border, without color.

#### **Corners:**

1866 - 1880 Square, lightweight mount.

1880 - 1890 Square, heavy board with scalloped sides.

*-Photographs mounted on card stock.*

The most popular mount sizes were:

Carte-de-visite 4 1/4" x 2 1/2"

Cabinet card 6 1/2" x 4 1/2"

Victoria 5" x 3 1/4"

Promenade 7" x 4"

Boudoir 8 1/2" x 5 1/4"

Imperial 9 7/8" x 6 7/8"

Panel 8 1/4" x 4"

Stereograph 3" x 7"

For your reading pleasure, I suggest visiting Watson's Quick Mystery at <http://www.sherlock-holmes.com/mystery.htm> they add a new mystery every couple of months. On-line members bookmark this page. For those of you without web access I present you with;





# THE CASE OF DEATH IN THE DRAWING ROOM

by Mystery Contest Prize Winner, Angie M. Lai

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It had been a fairly quiet Friday in Baker Street. Holmes had spent much of the day cross-indexing his records of crime, while I finished chronicling another of our cases. Now, as we sat in armchairs opposite each other, discussing events found in the day's newspaper, Mrs. Hudson's knock came at our door.

"Come in!" Holmes called. Our landlady entered.

"A telegram for you, Mr. Holmes," she said, and withdrew.

"It's from Lestrade," he commented. "'Come at once to 23 Hill Street. Woman murdered.' Well, Watson, grab your coat and come! The game is afoot."

We soon arrived on the scene. Inspector Lestrade greeted us at the front door of the victim's house. "A bad business, this," he said. "Messy, too. The poor woman's head 'as been shattered like an eggshell. 'Ere's the murder weapon." He held out a revolver, its handle and the napkin which he held it in, bloody.

"Have you any suspects?" Holmes asked. "None at present, Mr. 'Olmes," answered the little inspector.

"We talked to the servants. They'd been given the night off and were out the whole time. They just came back and found the woman like this."

"Did she have a husband?"

"Yes. The servants said that 'e usually is at 'is club until late, but we've summoned 'im to return 'ome. It looks like it was a burglar who killed 'er."

"What makes you think an intruder did this?"

"There's a 'orrible mess in there---things broken all over the place," Lestrade replied.

"Hmmm," Holmes murmured. "May we inspect the premises?"

"Certainly."

Lestrade led the way into the house. In the middle of the drawing room floor lay a body, covered with a sheet. Holmes gingerly lifted the sheet from her face. He flinched slightly and carefully laid the sheet down again.

"Whoever did this possessed great physical strength," he commented.

"There is certainly severe damage to her skull." He began to inspect the area around the dead woman's body, looking for clues, oblivious as to anything going on around him. Presently we heard the constable outside speaking with a newcomer, a man.

"Please, I beg you...what is going on? What is the meaning of this?"

Lestrade went to the door. Holmes and I followed.

"Mr. George Warren?" Lestrade asked.

"I am. What is the meaning of this?"

"Let 'im go, Constable, let 'im go," Lestrade said to the young officer who was restraining the man.



"Thank you, sir. Could you please tell me why the police are here? Is everything all right? Is it--oh, Mary! My beautiful Mary! Is she all--"

"I regret to inform you, Mr. Warren, that your wife is no longer with us," Holmes said quietly.

"Please come with us sir," said the inspector.

We entered the house. When Warren saw the mess, and the white sheet-covered body, he completely broke down.

"Now, then, Mr. Warren. If you'll cooperate with us and answer all our questions, we will be much obliged."

"Yes. Yes, sir." He never took his eyes from the murder weapon which Lestrade held in his hands.

"Where 'ave you been all evening?"

"At...my...club," Warren replied, his eyes welling with tears again. "Oh, please, sir! Find the the monster who beat my poor Mary to death!"

Holmes looked sharply at the man. "We shall try our best, my dear sir," I said.

"And after what you just said, we shall have to look no further," Holmes declared.

"What do you mean, Mr. 'Olmes?" Lestrade asked, surprised.

## HOLMES' SUDDEN SOLUTION

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"Allow me to explain, Inspector," my friend answered. "You hold the murder weapon in your hands, correct?"

"Why, yes," he replied.

"Mr. Warren has not as yet been informed as to the manner of his wife's death, correct?"

"Yes."

"Therefore, he could not have known right away that she had been beaten with the gun and not shot. He is your killer, Lestrade."

"How dare you!" Warren shouted.

"I'm sorry, but Mr. 'Olmes 'as been right on occasion," Lestrade said. "I 'ave no reason to doubt 'im now." And with that, he snapped a pair of handcuffs on George Warren.

"Well, Watson," Holmes said, taking out his pipe and lighting it, "we seem to have cleared up this little matter rather quickly, wouldn't you say?"