

# THE BIMETALLIC QUESTION

Box 883 Stock Exchange Tower  
Montreal, Canada H4Z 1K2

January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2002

The next meeting of the **BIMETALLIC QUESTION** will be held on Thursday, February 7, 2002 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** will be prepared by Wilfrid de Freitas based on The Adventures of Charles Augustus Milverton.

**MINUTES** of the MEETING of the BIMETALLIC QUESTION held on Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2001 at the Westmount library (Westmount Room), 4574 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal, Quebec.

**Present:** Maureen Anderson, Stanley Baker, Paul Billette, Patrick Campbell, David Dowse, Wilfrid de Freitas, David Kellett, Francis K. Lalumiere, Anita Miller, Elliott Newman, Heather Wileman-Brown, Karin Winkler.

**Regrets:** Jack Anderson, Charles Purdon

**Guests:** Norah E. Plenderleith -

**CALL TO ORDER:** David Dowse opened the meeting at 6:33 p.m. and welcomed those present. He reminded us that meetings would be held on Thursdays being the only evening the library is available.

**SHOW/TELL:** Francis Lalumiere surprised us with a license plate from Virginia: 221B. Books ranged from The True Crime Files Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Rediscovered by Stephen Hines, The History of the Valley of the Dee (John Mackintosh L.L.D.) published in Aberdeen. The World's Greatest Sherlock Holmes Quiz by Dale Corps; Patrick Campbell's copy of Mrs. Beeton's Book of Household Management was a personal delight and ended with Rudyard Kipling's "Kim".

Equally unforgettable was Patrick Campbell's reading from KIM. The reading inspired me to reread KIM and research the various versions of KIM's Game played around the world. David Kellett's discussion on billiards and Thurston's sparked my curiosity as to the differences between billiards and North America's pool. My findings on KIM's Game and billiards can be found at the end of this month's minutes. I hope you'll find them as enjoyable as I have.

There was a buzz of activity as members discussed their personal collections. Interests ranged from pens to entomology...Treasures honoring their collections have been found as they rummaged through antique shops, church and garage sales and more recently, on the Interet. I sat back astonished, listening carefully

to their adventures. Alas, their accounts provided me with some vital clues to locating my next collectable. Undoubtedly there will continue to be others who will follow the hunt. "The game's afoot!" *Some treasures have left their marks indelibly upon our memories, and these, should be shared.*

QUIZ: The Quiz commenced at 7:30 p.m. Elliott Newman's first Sherlockian Quiz was based on The Boscombe Valley Mystery. It contained 26 challenging questions. A diagram showing the immediate area of the mystery accompanied the quiz. Our fellow sleuths emerged into the mystery and took to the task at hand.

- **The winners of the quiz were:**
- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize 47/81 Wilfrid de Freitas (illuminated magni-fold)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize 42/81 – Francis Lalumiere (Mastercraft Measuring Tape)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize 41.5/81 - Patrick Campbell (Shortbread cookies & black gloves)

Elliott entertained us with readings while awarding the prizes. My personal favourites:

**Second Prize with: Mrs.** Hudson motioned me in. I found Holmes to be quite distraught and in low spirits. He lay supine on the divan, a rubberized sack filled with ice on his noble forehead. "Ah, Watson," he moaned as though the ghost of that infernal Baskerville hound were coursing through his very soul. "I fear my reach has at last exceeded its grasp. Try as I might, I have not as yet been able to ascertain how even **Mastercraft** can ravel twelve feet into two inches". "It is indeed a conundrum for the ages," I offered helplessly. His ensuing moan wafted out into Baker Street, Coursed surreptitiously past footpads and scholars alike, made its way past Piccadilly, and wrapped itself sinuously around Nelson's monument, a silent snare for unsuspecting pigeons. JUST DESSERTS -----

Followed by the Third Prize Winner: "Aha!" Holmes exclaimed. "The perpetrator of this vile deed is obviously a member of the African Tribe known as pygmies, has a glove fetish, has been through Kitchener, Ontario in winter time by way of Korea, is a meticulous eater, and communicates flawlessly in the English and French Languages. You have, no doubt, read my monograph on the 8,743 different types of shortbread cookies known to both occidental and oriental civilizations?"

I can barely contain my excitement as to what will follow with our next Quiz: The Adventures of Charles Augustus Milverton.

## TOASTS

This evenings toasts were performed by: Wilfrid de Freitas **To The Master** followed by Francis Lalumiere - **To Dr. Watson** ensued by Anita Miller 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: Wilfrid de Freitas

Usually, a toast to someone is full of compliments, glowing reports of his achievement and, in general, a summary of why the person concerned is worthy of a Toast to begin with.

Clearly, after nine years of toasting the Master among ourselves, one would think that everything, both good and bad, had been said about him – and one would be right – nearly!

When considering the task at hand, an apparently selfish thought crossed my mind and that was: had it not been for the Master, I would not have had so much pleasure out of life over the last 15 years: I would not have met you my friends: I could not have enjoyed the enormous body of literature and films which has been built up around a figure who, some people would have you believe, is fictitious. Yes my friends, there are such people in the world today. But not present with us tonight, I'll wager!

The American constitution in part refers and, indeed, encourages "...the pursuit of happiness". I'm sure I speak for all of us here when I say that is why we're here, and the central reason for us being here in the pursuit of happiness is the Master and his cases. What greater honour can someone ever receive, than to be the reason for so many people's enjoyment? None, I would venture of respond.

And so, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my pleasure (you see, more pleasure!) to ask you to charge your glasses and drink to the person who has given us all so much enjoyment out of life, the Master – Sherlock Holmes. Hear Hear!

TO THE MASTER.

**TO DR. WATSON**

Read by: Francis Lalumiere

"Despite constant criticism and sarcasm, which would have made a lesser man flinch, he remains forever loyal to Holmes. He endured the most heinous of deceptions on Holmes' part good-naturedly; he nursed Holmes through the throes of drug addiction, and even broke him of the habit. He was ready to join Holmes in any danger, unwilling to have Holmes alone when in danger, ready even to accompany Holmes on a life and death flight to the continent on a moment's notice. Here's to Dr. John H. Watson, the most loyal of friends, the most understanding of doctors, the most dedicated of chroniclers and the most patient of men." I give you, DR. WATSON!

**TO THE WOMAN:**

Read by: Anita Miller

SONNET XXVII

Weary with toil, I haste me to my bed,  
The dear repose for limbs with travel tired;  
But then begins a journey in my head.  
To work my mind, when body's work's expired:  
For then my thoughts, from far where I abide,  
Intend a zealous pilgrimage to thee,  
And keep my drooping eyelids open wide,  
Looking on darkness which the blind do see:  
Save that my soul's imaginary sight  
Presents thy shadow to my sightless view,  
Which, like a jewel hung in ghastly night,  
Makes black night beauteous and her old face new  
Lo, thus, by day my limbs, by night my mind,  
For thee, and for myself, no quiet find.

William Shakespeare

TO THE WOMAN!

**TO MRS. HUDSON**

Read by Heather Wileman-Brown

As we all know, tradition was very important in the time of Mr. Holmes – Queen and country, tea and crumpets – that sort of thing.

Although the role of women has changed greatly over the years since Queen Victoria, our Mrs. Hudson embodies the role of woman of her time.

It has been said of her that she had as good an idea of breakfast as a Scotswoman, and was already to lay out an extra place setting for unexpected guests who could arrive at any hour.

She did not, however, object to expanding her role and lending a hand in any way possible, such as crawling on the floor to rotate a wax bust in the story of the Empty House.

But one thing has not changed over time, Mrs. Hudson had to put up with all of Holmes' little idiosyncrasies, the late night callers, the bullet holes and the Baker Street Irregulars!

But she was not a fool; Holmes paid a princely sum for his lodgings. So let us raise our glasses to Mrs. Hudson, the traditional woman.

**TO MRS HUDSON!**

**TO THE SOCIETY:**

Read by: David Dowse

For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat:  
I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink:  
I was a stranger, and ye took me in.

Matthew 25:38

Any group which offers a meaty problem, drink, and companionship to friend and stranger alike, and makes of the stranger a friend, is truly a blessed society: Ladies and Gentlemen -

**THE BIMETALLIC QUESTION!**

Note: members are encouraged to submit toasts to David Dowse for future readings.

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

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**MRS HUDSONS CORNER:**

*Lemon Loaf (With a Secret)*

Beat together ½ cup butter and 1 cup of sugar.  
Add the grated rind of 1 lemon with to 2 beaten eggs to above. Mix well.  
In a separate bowl, blend 1 ½ cups flour with ½ a teaspoon of salt and 1 teaspoon of baking powder.  
Add the flour mixture alternately with ½ cup of milk to the egg mixture.

Bake at 350 degrees for approximately 50-60 minutes.

While loaf is baking, mix the juice of half a lemon with ¼ cup sugar to prepare the secret glaze. When loaf is baked, remove from oven and spread glaze over the top right away. Time is of the essence!

Mrs. Hudson perhaps surprised Watson and Holmes with Orange Loaf, a variation, by replacing the lemon rind and juice with that of an orange. I have taken this a few steps further and prepared lime, mandarin and tangerine. Remembering once the investigator has the proper attitude about facts and theories, as well as an effective approach; it is time to collect facts. The Baker, like Watson, chronicles the facts known as “the recipe”.

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### WHAT'S HAPPENING GLOBALLY:

#### The game's afoot in Victorian Cape May - March 8-10, 2002 –

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

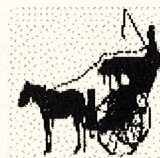


1. Who was the wise and tactful page at Baker Street?
2. Who was the solitary cyclist?
3. Who was the head boy of the Baker Street Irregulars?

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at our next meeting on Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup>:

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 at [j-m.anderson@sympatico.ca](mailto:j-m.anderson@sympatico.ca).

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## 'Billiards'

The word 'Billiards' has come to mean different things to different people. Presumably, the original word Billiard meant the original game of Port and King billiards played with the hoop and skittle. Later and still today in England it has come to mean the descendent of this game played with two white and one red ball - we'll call this 'English Billiards'. But as other games began to be played upon the table, Billiards could sometimes simply mean any game played on a Billiards table.

In America the word Billiards has different meanings. It can again mean the entire family of cue games played on a table. However, because there are two sorts of table - those with pockets and those without, the American games are divided in two. The generic term for games played on a table with pockets is either 'Pool' or 'Pocket Billiards' while games played on tables without pockets are referred to as just plain 'Billiards' or 'Carom Billiards' or just 'Carom'. Not only does this further confuse the term 'Billiards'; it also overlaps with the quite different Indian game of 'Carrom'. Games played on tables with pockets will be 'Pool'; games played on pocketless tables will be called Carambole or Carom Billiards.

The origin of the Billiards family of games is partially shrouded in mystery but it is many centuries old and almost certainly derived from an out-door game of the croquet family played during the 14th century in Northern Europe.

During the middle-ages and even back to ancient Egypt, many sports were played with balls, clubs, maces or bats and skittles. There are ancient pictures depicting games that are clearly the forerunner of modern Skittles (Americans will know this as 10 pin bowling), Bowls, Quoits and Tennis, for instance. Records do show one game that is related to Billiards. Sometimes known as 'Ground Billiards', the game was played on a small outdoor court with a hoop at one end and an upright stick at the other. This Croquet-esque pastime required people to strike balls around the court with maces. No rules are known for the game at this time but it seems entirely possible that they would have been pretty similar to the rules outlined for Port & King Billiards in the following section.

### **Port and King Billiards**

At some point in the 1400s, people began to play a version of Ground Billiards indoors on a table as well. It's likely that the green cloth was supposed to represent the lawn from which the game had been stolen. [Adaptation of outdoor sports for the indoors has happened to other games in Northern Europe at one time or another including Quoits, Old English skittles and Western Skittles and Bowls - presumably players did not want to stop playing when the long nights and inclement weather of winter set in]. The earliest evidence found for the existence of Billiards played on a table was in 1470 in an inventory of items purchased by King Louis XI of France. Listed were "billiard balls and billiard table for pleasure and amusement.". Earliest mentions in England were in 1588 when Billiard tables were in the possession of The Duke of Norfolk and the Earl of Leicester as well as Mary, Queen of Scots, who had a billiard table in her prison cell while she awaited execution.

### **Variations:**

#### **Life Pool**

Known at the time simply as "Pool", the game is an eliminative game for a number of players each of which uses a different coloured ball as their own cue ball in order to pot the cue balls of the other players. The name 'pool' comes about because each player lays a stake, which is pooled, the winning player being the recipient of the pool.

#### **Pyramid**

Another English game which used to be played on a Billiard table, 15 red balls were lined up in a triangle and players took turns to try to pot them with the white ball. This game is a key one in Billiards history since the triangle formation was copied in the creation of important later games - Snooker and the first American Pool game - Fifteen Ball Pool.

#### **Snooker**

Snooker is actually a combination of Life Pool and Pyramids, the 15 red Pyramids balls are racked up in a triangle together with the 6 balls from Life Pool, which are placed separately. In the UK, Snooker enjoyed a huge increase in popularity from the late 1970s onwards and during the 1980s & 90s was a major television sport.

# Rudyard Kipling

## 1865-1936

Baden-Powell needed a concept around which to build the younger boy program of Scouting. He found it with a popular book by the respected British author, Rudyard Kipling. Rudyard Kipling was born in Bombay, India. From 1892 to 1889, he was on the editorial staff of the Civil and Military Gazette, the daily newspaper of Lahore, India, for which he wrote short stories. In 1892, he married an American girl, Caroline Balestier. Many of his first writings were about the British soldier in India. *The Jungle Book* was written in 1894. It was originally published in chapter form in the American children's magazine, *Saint Nicholas*. From 1892 to 1896, the Kiplings lived in Brattleboro, Vermont on an estate belonging to Mrs. Kipling's family. In the pleasant New England surroundings, he wrote *Captains Courageous* and the two *Jungle Books*. These books earned him the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1907. Kipling was the author of "The Scout's Patrol Song" which was the official Boy Scout song. Part I of the 1908 booklet, "Scouting for Boys" included a condensed version of Kipling's *Kim*. He was also the father of a Scout and later a commissioner in the British Scouting program. In 1924, he attended a rally of 6 thousand Wolf Cubs at the Imperial Jamboree at Wembley where he witnessed what Baden-Powell had made of his writings.

Jungle Book and Cub Scouting

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## The Origins of Kim's Game

One of the games used in many Boy Scout camps is Kim's game. The game is so well known that many times it is referenced without even an explanation of how the game is played. It is simple, fun, and challenging. However many American Scouters have forgotten its origins. The original *Handbook For Boys* refers to it simply as "Kim's game" without the lengthy explanation that Baden-Powell had in his handbook.

Rudyard Kipling was a friend of Baden-Powell. B-P borrowed much from Kipling's ideas in Scouting. He wrote the story of *Kim*, which was published in 1901. Part I of the 1908 booklet, "Scouting For Boys" included a condensed version of Kipling's *Kim*.

In Kipling's story, Kim becomes friends with a dealer in old jewelry and curiosities who is a member of the government intelligence service. The man saw that Kim had potential for the same. He gave Kim lessons on noticing small details and remembering them. A tray full of jewels was uncovered. Kim looked at them for a minute before they were again covered up. Kim is beaten by a youth in this game. He then played the "Jewel Game" often to increase his powers of observation.

Here are the instructions as given in the first BSA handbook:

Place about twenty or thirty small articles on a tray, or on the table or floor, such as two or three different kinds of buttons, pencils, corks, rags, nuts, stones, knives, string, photos - anything you can find - cover them over with a cloth or a coat.

Make a list of these, and make a column opposite the list for each boy's replies.

Then uncover the articles for one minute by your watch, or while you count sixty at the rate of "quick march." Then cover them over again.

Take each boy separately and let him whisper to you each of the articles that he can remember, and mark it off on your scoring sheet.

The boy who remembers the greatest number wins the game.

# SHERLOCK & KIMS GAME

## The Test of Observation:

Who better to instruct the skill of observation, than the master, Sherlock Holmes! Looking for a challenge to improve your observation skills, why not play KIMS GAME. The following variations of Kim's Game can be adapted to suit your interests. Although Holmes displayed a vast knowledge of the uses and properties of tobacco in solving cases, there may come a day when my knowledge of chocolates and other sweets supercedes that of the master. As you can see I'm fond of the smelling/tasting version of Kim's Game.

### **Italian Kim's Game:**

Give each small group a copy of the map of Italy. Play Kim's game using this map.

After letting the groups study the maps for a given length of time, have them turn the map over and then ask questions such as: Which body of water lies to the south of Italy? What city is almost in the centre of Italy? What mountains lie in the north of Italy? What color is the country to the east of Italy on this map? Etc.

To check, have the groups look at the map again and then repeat the questions so they can see if they had the correct answers. Then give each child a piece of paper and a pencil and challenge them to draw the outline of Italy. While all of them probably know it is shaped like a boot, let them see how close they can come to the actual outline. With so many maps available, this game can be adapted to any country.

### **Kim's Compass Game:**

When teaching compass points (sitting inside a tent) use a cardboard mock-up of a compass and on each radius place an item. Candy gets attention, so does different coin currencies! Cover up the board and start asking questions. What was sitting North-North East? What did you see at South? This can be adapted in so many ways.

### **Flying Saucer Kim's Game:**

Have a bag instead of a tray, with your 20 objects in it. You need the assistance of two helpers for this. One helper takes the article out of the bag and tosses it to the other, who holds it up, names it and puts it in their bag (or throws it back to the bag holder, which ever works for you). After all the objects have done their flying saucer act the children have 5 minutes to record as many of them as they can. Scoring 1 point per item remembered.

### **Mime Kim's Game**

This is a camping game. In the bag have a list, which the children can not see of 20 camping related articles. Reach into the bag, and one at a time mime the action of taking out and using 20 articles that you would have at camp, i.e. a flashlight, matches, etc. After you have done all 20 actions the children see how many they can remember. Scoring 1 point per item remembered.

### **Hearing Kim's Game:**

This version requires some preparation and a tape player. Make a cassette tape of 10 sounds that you would hear. This could be 10 nature sounds, or 10 city sounds, or a mixture of the two. Unlike the above versions, the children record what they think they are hearing as they hear them. So, you play your first sound, and the children are given 10 seconds to write down what they think it is, then you play the second sound, etc. Scoring 1 point for each correct response.

### **Smelling Kim' Game:**

10 baggies with wet sponges that have been soaked in vinegar, maple syrup, coffee, orange pop, water, ketchup, mustard, etc, are lined up and numbered. The children smell the contents of each bag and immediately mark down their conclusion. The bags need to be covered so that they do not get hints by colours, or textures. This one can also be a tasting game, each child tastes with a drop of the liquid put on their tongue with a tooth pick. For reasons of health, a tooth pick is only used once and never dipped into a bag a second time. Salted water and sugar water can also be used for the tasting version. Scoring is the same as above.

### **Feeling Kim's Game:**

This is done much the same way, with textures being the thing guessed. Cooked spaghetti, a bag of elastics, macaroni noodles, peeled-sectioned oranges, sand, raw diced carrots, etc. In between each feeling there may need to be a place to rinse your hands. Or you could use latex gloves for each person. Immediately after feeling something they could record their guess, someone could be taking dictation for this! Scoring as above.