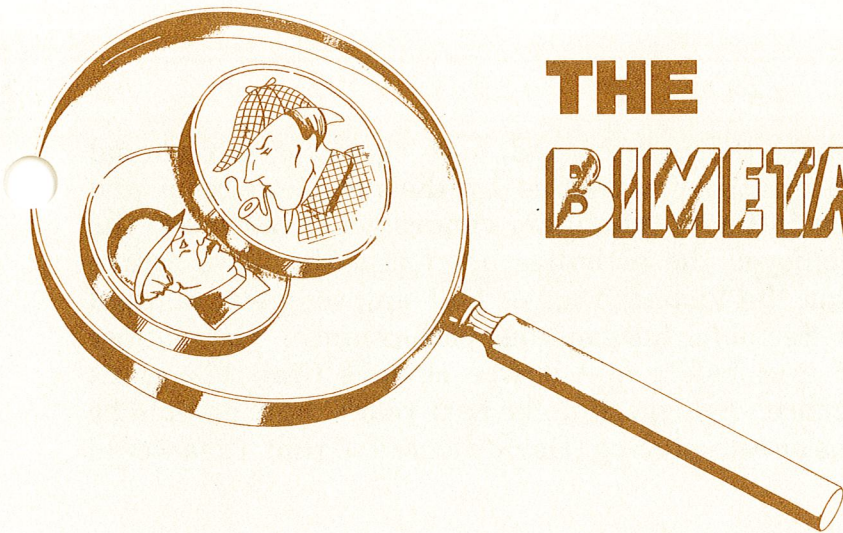


3 FEB 99

THE BIMETALLIC QUESTION

Box 883 Stock Exchange Tower
Montreal, Canada H4Z 1K2



The next meeting of the **BIMETALLIC QUESTION** will be held on Wednesday, April 7, 1999 at 7:30 p.m. at the Coach House of the Montréal Badminton & Squash Club, 3529 Atwater, Montréal, Québec. **TOASTS WILL BE IMPROMPTU FOR THIS MEETING.**

MINUTES of the **MEETING** of the **BIMETALLIC QUESTION** held on Wednesday, February 3, 1999 in the Coach House of the Montréal Badminton & Squash Club, 3529 Atwater, Montréal, Québec. Our meeting place was arranged courtesy of Elizabeth Wirth of the University Women's Club.

REMINDER

Please forward 1999 annual dues (\$18.00)
to Wilfrid de Freitas a.s.a.p.

Present: Rachel Alkallay, Claude Campbell, Patrick Campbell, David Dowse, Jesse Gryn, Jackie Murdoch, Simon Petzold, Tage Sagmark, Colin Semel, Nancy Walkling, Linda Watson, Lise Winer
Guests: Pam Georges (UWC)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by the incoming Sovereign, David Dowse. Members were arriving later than usual because of our new location and difficulty with parking. We will now have to take our chances on the street and compete for parking spots with the racquet club. David Dowse welcomed all to the first meeting of the new year.

ANNUAL DINNER

David opened the evening with a short review of the evening's itinerary as well as a short reminisce of the Sherlock Holmes Annual Birthday Dinner held on January 15, 1999 at the La Brochette de Vieux Port in Old Montréal.

Nancy Walkling thanked the organizers for their efforts and, once again, for our annual feast. Colin Semel remarked that the atmosphere created by the reception room and members was informal, relaxed and more intimate than other venues we have used in the past. New member, Jackie Murdoch enjoyed the activities but found the main course wanting. It was unanimously agreed that the Victorian music hall sing-song was a grand success and those present thanked Colin Semel for his generous performance. The number of guests/newcomers was greater than ever before and it was obvious that this year's publicity of the event made all the difference. A suggestion for next year's dinner would be more participants in appropriate costume or role-playing (David remarked that Tago would make an excellent Tago).

Photographs were circulated by Patrick, Colin and Wilfrid. Orders could be marked on the photographs desired, payment in advance, and they would be delivered at the next meeting.

SHOW/TELL

David remarked on our members eclectic tastes and opened this part of the meeting for members to offer their finds.

Colin read from the *Ellery Queen Magazine* (February 1999, p. 63) about the Sherlock Holmes Society. It was riddled with inaccuracies, but being an American publication, we would overlook any discrepancy. David said that the EQ 1997 edition also carried an excerpt.

Simon Petzold wanted information on the *Sherlock Holmes Magazine*: Who publishes it? Is it available locally? Patrick said that it was published by David Stuart Davies in England and could furnish more details if desired.

Nancy Walkling reported that Mary Finnegan was still on sabbatical and was now in South Africa. She had just completed a 5-week camping trip. It was asked if there was any Sherlockian interest in South Africa.

Jesse Gryn said that his school textbook, *Myths, Frauds, and Mysteries in Archaeology*, contained passages concerning Sherlock Holmes.

REVISITING THE FIRST MEETING

David thought it would be interesting to offer excerpts from the minutes of the first meeting of the Bimetallic Question on Wednesday, May 23, 1979:

A small "blurb" was published in a West Island newspaper announcing the first meeting of Sherlockian enthusiasts at the Officers' Mess of the Armed Forces Reserve Headquarters on Atwater. The meeting place had been arranged by the late Bob North. Fifteen attendees participated of which only one lady was present. Toasts were presented by passing around a Royal Doulton toby mug of Sherlock Holmes. Annual dues of \$5.00 were collected and elections were held for the first executive. Coins mentioned in the Canon were decided upon as titles for the various positions of the Executive. [A discussion ensued regarding the many interpretations of the bimetallic question.]

COLLOQUIUM 2000

A colloquium kit will be compiled for past events from the Montréal 1990 event through to Toronto 1996. It will be available in the near future. Preparations for our next colloquium at McGill University, June 6-8, 2000 are underway. The Executive will meet and recruit a team for the event.

PRESENTATION

The trophy for the *Quizmaster Trophy for 1998* was presented to Rachel Alkallay. Congratulations, Rachel!

QUIZ

Patrick had prepared the quiz on **THE VALLEY OF FEAR**. Each participant was asked one question and assigned 1 point for each correct answer. Most participants were unable to answer their assigned questions but appeared to have little difficulty in answering their competitors' questions. Nancy Walkling ran away with the contest with 12 points (3); Lise Winer close on her heels with 11 points (2); and Colin Semel with a very respectable third place finish of 9 points (1). Someone suggested we challenge the Bootmakers to a quiz battle; has anyone some idea how this could be worked out?

The quiz for the next meeting will be based on **THE ADVENTURE OF THE ILLUSTRIOUS CLIENT** and will be prepared by Nancy Walkling.

RESULTS FROM DAVID DOWSE'S CONTEST

David revealed the results from the contest he presented at the annual dinner regarding his 12 most favourite stories from the Canon. He received 6 submissions; thanks all who participated, and presented all with prizes for their efforts:

Nancy Walking matched 6/12 (received *Lament for the Molly Maguires*)
Jesse Gryn matched 5/12 (received *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes*)
Lise Winer matched 4/12 (received *The Spy of Scotland Yard*)
Charles Purdon matched 3/12 (received ?)
Heather Wileman-Brown matched 2/12 (received ?)
Patrick Campbell matched 1/12 (received *The Crime Doctor* and *The Crime Lab*)

David's list was:

- The Man with the Twisted Lip
- The Adventure of the Six Napoleons
- The Adventure of the Bruce-Partington Plans
- The Problem of Thor Bridge
- The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle
- The Crooked Man
- The Resident Patient
- The Greek Interpreter
- The Adventure of the Priory School
- The Adventure of the Copper Beeches
- The Valley of Fear
- The Sign of Four

The key to all the above stories was that deductive reasoning was used to reach their conclusions.

NEW LOCATION

Several venues have been sampled and the time has come to make some decision on a permanent meeting place. What should be done? Should the meetings "float" or "settle"? The consensus was that tonight's accommodations seemed the most logical as it was in the proximity of our previous meeting place. Pam Georges (UWC representative) discussed the strong possibility of our using these accommodations on a regular basis but Elizabeth Wirth should be contacted to make any final decision and to arrange for proper remuneration for its use. The Executive will confer and finalize these arrangements.

SUGGESTIONS FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

The following ideas were put forward: games nite, pub visit/brewery tour, lawn bowling, cricket match, billiards, railway museum visit, summer picnic (Hudson or Rawdon), guest speakers, quiz challenge with Toronto society, music hall sing-song, airgun shoot, curling, exhibits (organize with local library), 20th Anniversary Celebration (May 23), contests, polo day (Hudson), hunter trails (scented drags, no live fox or animals of any kind pursued), web page.

It goes without saying that any or all of these events would require willing participants to do the "leg work" necessary to see these events to fruition. Any volunteers !?!

ARCHIVES

A permanent installation for our archives was discussed. Wilfrid de Freitas has put out "feelers" with the Westmount Library. Questions were raised as to accessibility to the materials, library fees, and non-residents' membership to the library, etc. These concerns will be investigated. Pam Georges offered the possibility of the UWC accommodating our archives. Again, this would have to be discussed with Elizabeth Wirth.

PLAY READING

Two scenes were read from Patrick Campbell's play, "Tides of the Wight." Patrick also announced that a play reading would take place on February 18 at Scofield Hall in TMR at 2:00 p.m. Interested parties should contact him for details.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was closed at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Claude Campbell

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