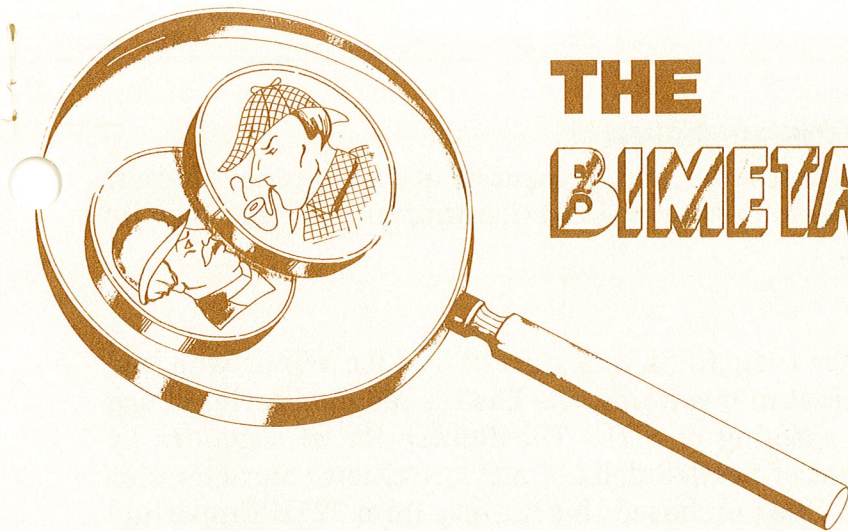


7 APRIL 99

THE BIMETALLIC QUESTION

Box 883 Stock Exchange Tower
Montreal, Canada H4Z 1K2



The next meeting of the BIMETALLIC QUESTION will be held on Wednesday, June 2, 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, April 7, 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.

Present: Rachel Alkallay, Stanley Baker, Claude Campbell, Patrick Campbell, David Dowse, Linda Huntoon, Jesse Gryn, Simon Petzold, Charles Purdon, Colin Semel, Nancy Walkling, Linda Watson, Heather Wileman-Brown, Lise Winer

Guests: Peter Nash, Peter Reiner, Elizabeth Worth (UWC)

Apologies: Johanne King

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by the our Sovereign, David Dowse. Old members and guests were welcomed with a toast offered by David. He opened the evening by explaining that we were to be interviewed by Global TV this evening, but circumstances beyond their control had forced a "no show" for this evening. June has been tentatively scheduled for their visit.

David announced that he and Elizabeth Wirth have finalized the arrangements, and we will be able to make use of the University Women's Club for our next three meetings. Many thanks to Elizabeth for her kind interventions on our behalf.

David next opened the floor to those present to introduce themselves and to give a brief rendition as to how they became involved with Sherlock Holmes and the Bimetallic Question.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

David had prizes remaining from the contest he had presented at the annual dinner. Distribution of prizes went to Heather Wileman-Brown (*Detective Magazine*, *The Armchair Detective*) and Charles Purdon (2 tapes).

SHOW/TELL

Our regular segment for members to offer their finds was started by Lise Winer who had two items of interest: With her avid interest in mysteries, she has turned up a series of dog lovers mysteries (with the appropriate spoofing of SH): *The Barker Street Regulars* by Susan Conant. Her second find was a set of nested dolls of a Sherlockian characters (as Moriarity inside Watson inside Holmes). She purchased this novelty from 221B Emporium in London, and she was stopped at customs in Heathrow and asked to identify this oddity.

Heather Wile-Brown had two books of very special origin: *The Tales of Sherlock Holmes* was found after rummaging through family bookcases. Upon opening the flyleaf, she discovered an inscription which indicated that this book had been a Christmas present to her paternal grandfather from his mother in 1915. Her second volume was *Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes* and was published in 1894.

Patrick Campbell returned a Sherlockian cookbook, *Dining with Sherlock Holmes: A Baker Street Cookbook* by Julia Carbon & Frederic H. Rosenblatt Sonnenschmidt (Fordham University Press, 2nd ed., New York), belonging to Heather and commented that this was one of the best he had seen with the recipes connecting well with the stories. He also commented on a book, *Sherlock Holmes the Detective* by Roger Johnson. Roger was a lead speaker at the Montréal colloquium and is presently preparing a history with the a spotlight on our society.

Linda Watson passed around a pair of "gators." Variations discussed were "spats," and one of the American versions was "que-gators."

David displayed an assortment of past Christmas gifts such as puzzles, mystery boards games, posters with SH motifs, and a silhouette carving of SH commissioned from his brother-in-law. On the subject of games, David suggested that our next meeting be devoted to a "Games Nite," and encouraged members to bring along their choices so we might have a variety to choose from. David also challenged those present to read through his game called "Baker Street." The rules appear to be quite complicated so some prior study would be needed. Jesse Gryn picked up the gauntlet and will become a "master" of the game.

VARIA

At the last Executive Meeting, Ms. Wayling from the Westmount Library was present, and made a plea of our Society to volunteer for one of their summer themes for the Children's Library, namely *Sherlock Holmes and the Victorian Age*, targeting young children between the ages of 3-16. It was discussed at length and suggestions were put forth (e.g., scavenger hunt, displays, play readings, etc.). Ms. Wayling will sift through the possibilities and will be in touch regarding an appropriate activity. Volunteers will be needed, so anyone who is interested in participating should contact either David or Wilfrid.

Wilfrid has made a second request that the archives be moved from his home as soon as possible. David will contact Elizabeth Wirth to discuss space available to house our archives at the UWC.

Patrick announced that Charles Purdon is completing the 5th edition of the Society's history (*The Axioms of the Game*) which will subsequently be printed as a pamphlet for our next colloquium. Thanks to Charles for his conscientious and continuing efforts in keeping our information material up-to-date.

Patrick also mentioned that Wilfred deFreitas' duplicates of the photographs from the annual dinner were not ready. Colin Semel had extra copies but those who wanted them were not present.

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter has been received from Francis Lalumière, a former member, who is presently residing in California. He would like to continue as a member, albeit long distance, and receive any correspondence we send out. Francis has secured a position with the illustrious Lucasfilm of Star Wars fame. We wish him success and hope to see him at some future event.

QUIZ

Nancy Walking had prepared the quiz on THE ADVENTURE OF THE ILLUSTRIOUS CLIENT. Test papers were distributed and members went to work to complete the quiz in the allotted time. The quiz was concise and left little margin for debate. Patrick Campbell was first with 32½ points (3), Claude Campbell was second with 26 (2) and Lise Winer came in third with 24 points (1), with an honourable mention for Rachel Alkallay at 23 points. Nancy kindly supplied prizes for the top three scores.

The quiz for the next meeting will be based on THE ADVENTURE OF THE THREE GABLES and will be prepared by Patrick Campbell but could be postponed to our next meeting if the "Games Nite" is in full swing.

PLAY READING

The final scene from Patrick Campbell's play, "Tides of the Wight" was started but had to be cut short due to time constraints.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Claude Campbell
Half-Sovereign

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