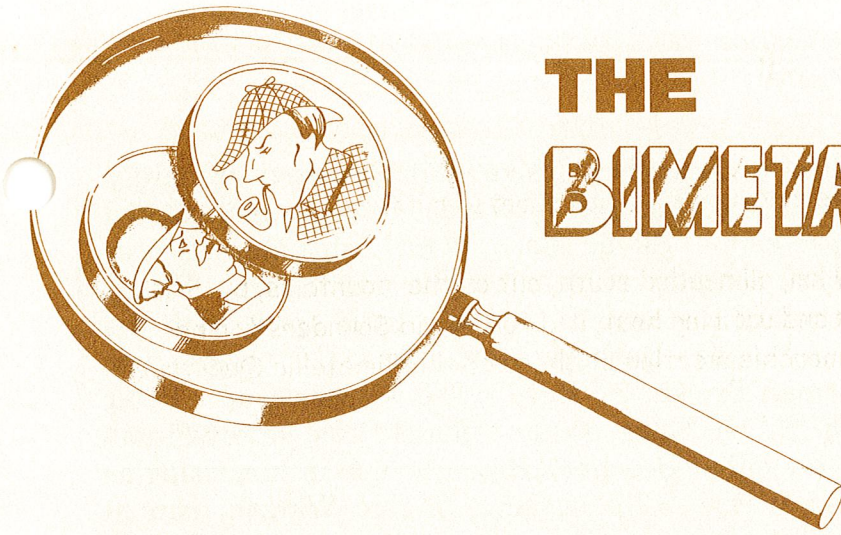


2 JUNE 99

THE BIMETALLIC QUESTION

Box 883 Stock Exchange Tower
Montreal, Canada H4Z 1K2



The next meeting of the BIMETALLIC QUESTION will be held on Wednesday, August 4, 1999 at 6:00 p.m. at the Westmount Library, 4574 Sherbrooke Street West, Montréal, Québec.

MINUTES of the **MEETING** of the **BIMETALLIC QUESTION** held on Wednesday, June 2, 1999 in the Coach House of the Montréal Badminton & Squash Club, 3529 Atwater, Montréal, Québec.

Present: Rachel Alkallay, Stanley Baker, Richard Buche, Claude Campbell, Patrick Campbell, David Dowse, Barbara Anne Howard, Linda Huntoon, Jesse Gryn, Simon Petzold, Charles Purdon, Peter Reiner, Linda Watson, Heather Wileman-Brown, Lise Winer

Guests: Carole Rocklin

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. David Dowse opened the evening by reading an excerpt from *Have His Carcass* by Dorothy L. Sayers where a Holmes and a Watson were debating the discovery of a horseshoe.

SHOW/TELL

Heather Wileman-Brown passed around a pair of antique Victorian needlework (embroidery) scissors. She had also brought along a flyer from a secondhand bookstore (located on Stanley Street) called "The Family Jewels." Linda Watson announced that she will be published in the next issue of *Canadian Holmes*, June 24th (The St-Jean-Baptiste edition?!?). Patrick Campbell is preparing an article that will subsequently be published on the "dark lantern." He was able to obtain much valuable information while on his last trip to England. Scotland Yard graciously invited him to view their collection and archives in a secret location outside of London.

Jesse Gryn asked if there was any material that could be used as advertising in bookstores or appropriate venues. Claude Campbell is working on a pamphlet (and possible poster) that could be used in the future. She will forward a proof to Charles Purdon when ready.

LET THE GAMES BEGIN

This evening was designated a "Games Nite" and members broke off into various groupings to apply their knowledge and skill to the games brought forward. One group gathered together on the floor to play the horse race game, "Silver Blaze," which consisted of three races, each of the races governed by more complex rules than the one before. Heavy gambling on the results, up to 25¢ for each of the owners, added a little spice, with the winners as follows: 1st Race - The Rawdon Stakes - Barbara Anne Howard; 2nd Race - The Devonshire Steeplechase - Heather Wileman-Brown; 3rd Race - The Wessex Cup - Peter Reiner. The favourite for the Wessex Cup, Silver Blaze, owner Colonel Ross, jockey Simon Petzold (black cap, red jacket) unfortunately fell at Beecher's Brook, which is surprising as Beecher's Brook is at Aintree, while the Wessex Cup is, according to Watson, run at Winchester. It was noted that Silver Blaze was also penalized for bumping and boring, so perhaps Colonel Ross should seek the services of Lester Piggott.

Our Sovereign led a second group that took over the only available large table, playing a game called "Sherlock Holmes, Consulting Detective." The solutions to the case in question, as proposed by Lise Winer and Jesse Gryn, turned out to be incorrect, while the correct deductions were drawn by David Dowse, who just happens to be the owner of the game (something afoot there!).

Richard Buche was present and contributed several jigsaw puzzles, all with Sherlockian or Victorian themes, as well as puzzle games such as "Mastermind." Claude Campbell and Richard worked diligently on a difficult yet intriguing puzzle of a Victorian study very reminiscent of Sherlock Holmes drawing room. Gradually, the puzzle drew other members to the table, and a round of musical chairs provided each member a chance to place a piece or two towards its completion.

VARIA

Lise Winer delivered a toast to Mrs. Hudson:

*Here's to Mrs. Hudson,
A great housekeeper and then some.
She served up the partridges,
And cleaned up the cartridges.*

QUIZ

The quiz originally scheduled for the evening has been postponed until our next meeting on August 4, 1999. The quiz, prepared by Patrick Campbell, will be based on THE ADVENTURE OF THE THREE GABLES.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Claude Campbell
Half-Sovereign

/cac