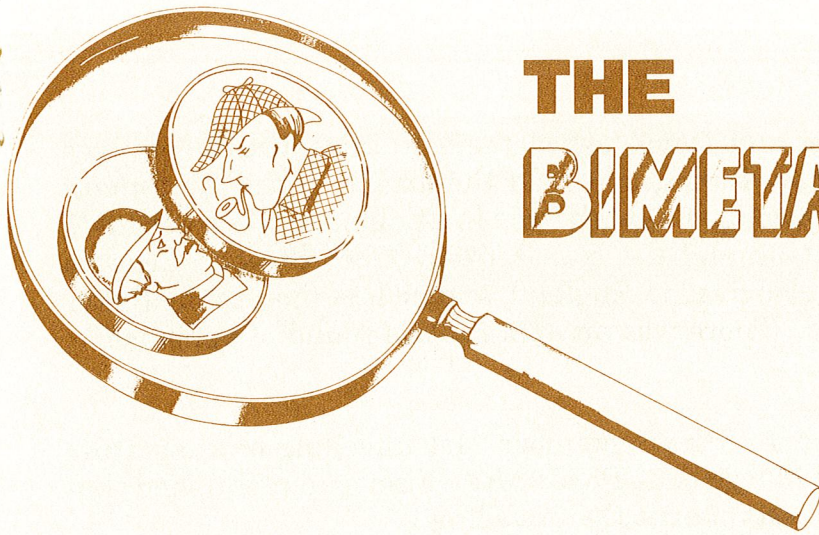


6 OCT 99



# THE BIMETALLIC QUESTION

Box 883 Stock Exchange Tower  
Montreal, Canada H4Z 1K2

The next meeting of the **BIMETALLIC QUESTION** will be held on **Tuesday, December 7, 1999 at 6:30 p.m.** at the **Westmount Library (Westmount Room), 4574 Sherbrooke Street West, Montréal, Québec.** PLEASE PAY ATTENTION TO PARKING SIGNS!!! Volunteers are needed to propose toasts: Phone Claude Campbell at 747-7987 and choose your toast.

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**MINUTES** of the **MEETING** of the **BIMETALLIC QUESTION** held on Wednesday, October 6, 1999 at the **Coach House of the Montréal Badminton & Squash Club, 3529 Atwater, Montréal, Québec.**

**Present:** Rachel Alkallay, Stanley Baker, Claude Campbell, Patrick Campbell, Wilfrid de Freitas, David Dowse, Mary Finnegan, Linda Huntoon, Peter Reiner, Colin Semel, Sandy Tabori, Nancy Walkling, Heather Wileman-Brown

**Apologies:** Charles Purdon, Carole Rocklin

**Guests:** Rebecca Bekhov, Paul Billette, Carole Irgo

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## **CORRECTIONS TO THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**

- (1) Colin Semel a.k.a. "The Invisible Man" was present at the meeting.
- (2) The meeting time should have been noted as 7:30 p.m. not 6:45 p.m.

## **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 p.m. Our Sovereign, David Dowse apologized for the delay in accessing the building but welcomed all to the last meeting that will be held at the Coach House. Unfortunately our meeting schedule is not conducive to the University Women's Club calendar of events, so we will be looking into the Westmount Library location once again. David will extend our thanks for their kind assistance of the last few months.

David continued with a brief excerpt from *The Hare Apparent*, and concluded his introductory comments with a toast to John Watson.

Again, newcomers were in attendance, and David asked them to introduce themselves briefly. Paul Billette, a friend of Stanley Baker, had read the article in the *Westmount Examiner* and decided to attend our gathering. Paul has lived in England and is a graduate of the London School of Business, just around the corner from Baker Street. Rebecca Bekhov, a friend of Carole Rocklin, has also lived in England, and no less than in the Baker Street-Marylebone Road neighbourhood. There was an appreciative round of applause.

### **SHOW/TELL**

Wilfrid de Freitas reminded those present of the September 21st unveiling of the statute of Sherlock Holmes at Baker Street and Marylebone Road. Mary Finnegan mentioned that there was a segment on CBC's "On the Arts" about the unveiling.

The summer garden party, held August 14th at Doug Grove's summer home, was another successful event. There is a possibility that a similar event may take place during the winter months but, of course, this would have to be discussed with Doug and interested members. Patrick Campbell **moved** that a formal card of thanks be sent to Doug and his wife for their exceedingly generous hospitality. Stanley Baker **seconded** the motion. **Passed unanimously.**

David circulated the *Puzzle Catalogue*, and Mary added that she had found it very enjoyable. Heather Wileman-Brown passed around a tiny button promoting the Granada TV Series. Nancy Walking brought copies of the *Westmount Examiner* article on our Society and last meeting for those interested.

Patrick announced that he is presently helping George Vanderburgh edit a new script by the late James Moss Cardwell. The script, "Mrs. Hudson? Mrs. Hudson!!" is also being transformed into a musical and the score will be by Jim Ballinger. A copy was circulated.

Wilfrid kindly recited the poem, "Father Sherlock."

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

David quickly reviewed the highlights of the last Executive Committee Meeting held in late September. Three major items were related:

- (1) **Archives Problem:** A proposal will be put forward to donate our archives to the Westmount Library, and then to work out some lending arrangement thereof. Stanley offered the clout of his membership, if necessary.
- (2) **Meeting Location(s):** With the ending of our arrangement with the UWC, we will make a formal request to the Westmount Library for the reservation of their facilities/room. It is a popular choice with the Executive and members have expressed their preference as well. Parking is tricky but not impossible, and our meeting time would have to be moved up about 1 hour. [No strong objections were raised about this proposal.]
- (3) **Colloquium:** The colloquium is scheduled to be held in June (9-11), and arrangements are now being made with McGill University. Tasks have been distributed, but volunteers are still encouraged to participate.

## **QUIZ**

David distributed the quiz on **The Sussex Vampire**, which he had retrieved from his archive of April 2, 1985. Looseleaf paper was distributed, and the quiz was read aloud, question by question. As par for the quiz segment of our meetings, questions and comments were plentiful after each question was read. David's only clue was to use reasoning and the skill of deduction to reach the logical answer. When all was said and done (and that's not an easy thing with our members), the winner was Patrick (32 pts.), Nancy second (30 pts.) and Wilfrid was third (25 pts.) Prizes were awarded to the top 5 marks.

The honour of preparing the next quiz was passed over to Stanley Baker who selected **THE DYING DETECTIVE** for our next challenge.

On the subject of challenges, Nancy brought a jigsaw puzzle, and offered it to anyone brave enough to take it on. [Let us know how long it takes to complete.]

When discussion and debate about the quiz had quieted down, Rachel Alkallay offered her toast **TO THE WOMAN**: *To one of the finest actresses in the world. But more importantly, to the only woman, the only person, who ever bested Sherlock Holmes. TO THE WOMAN!*

## **VARIA**

David distributed an information sheet and membership form to our new guests. Patrick distributed the updated telephone chain lists to volunteers.

David brought up the fast approaching birthday celebration in January, which will be held as to close January 6th as possible. The Brochette St-Paul was a strong contender, especially with our contact, Richard Buche (the price was reasonable, too [the menu offered; it goes without saying, that Richard is priceless!!) A guest speaker would be welcome this year as a change of pace.

Other events were discussed but much was left up in the air. As usual, we need volunteers to check out details and report back to the members.

David will search out plays from our archives for possible readings at future meetings, but in the meantime, he had pulled out an old manuscript of Patrick's about the bimetallism of English currency, that had won first prize as the Article of Year from *Canadian Holmes*. Patrick did the honours and gave us a reading.

A toast **TO MRS. HUDSON** was made by Mary: *A good cleaning lady, a good cook, and we don't know what else!?! TO MRS. HUDSON!*

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was closed at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Claude Campbell

/cac

