



# THE BIMETALLIC QUESTION

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If the slightest suggestion of springtime conjures images of crocuses and other things that last in the barnyard bloom'd 'way back in English 201, and brings forth to the awakening senses the creaking and groaning of hansom cabs in the muck of London's byways, you have not truly experienced spring until you have hop scotched with alacrity of spirit if not limb past the defrosting doggie pucks that have puckishly eluded the arthritically-gripped Metro bags of Westmount's stately ladies and form a pungent, nugget-like trail up to the twin glass doors of the Westmount Public Library for the next meeting of the Bimetallic Question.

Know ye then, that due to Moriarties beyond our control, **THERE IS A CHANGE IN**

## THE DATE OF OUR NEXT MEETING:

**THURSDAY, APRIL 10**

At the usual time of 6:30 p.m.

We apologize in advance to all of you who are going to show up on April 3, only to find our usual meeting room otherwise occupied. Therefore, we beseech those of you who do manage to read this newsletter before the afternoon of April 3, to

**PLEASE TELL YOUR FRIENDS OF THE NEW MEETING DATE.**

This is a one-time only change from our dependable schedule.

Other meetings will continue, as ever, on the first Thursday of each month.

The particulars of the case should be familiar to you by now:

The Westmount Public Library  
(Westmount Room)  
4574 Sherbrooke Street West  
Montreal, Quebec

(Oft on an early spring's night, some say, when the wind is in the trees, and the moon is a ghostly galleon toss'd upon cloudy seas, the great hound comes baying, baying, up to the library door, and being the intelligent fellow we know he is, carries his own Metro bag clamped firmly in his jaws in order not to inconvenience the stalwart devotees of things



Sherlockian who will assemble themselves on this occasion only, on the second Thursday of April, to wit, April 10, at 6:30 p.m.

Survivors of the hound and its shorter-legged coterie will reminisce, resurrect, and re-enjoy the adventures of the World's Greatest Consulting Detective (WGDC). Our purpose is to gather and celebrate the Great Detective with discussions, lectures, films, quizzes and any other methods we can deduce.

*Remember to pay close attention to parking signs while parking.*

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**The Next Quiz:** "The Man with the Twisted Lip" prepared by Elliott Newman

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**Minutes** of the MEETING of the BIMETALLIC QUESTION held on Thursday, February 6th, 2003 at the Westmount library (Westmount Room), 4574 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal, Quebec:

**Present:** Rachel Alkallay, Elliott Newman, Mac Belfer, David Kellett, Stanley Baker, Paul Billette, David Dowse, Colin Semel, Mark Schleifer, Lawrence Reich, Anita Miller, Patrick Campbell, Jack Anderson and Maureen Anderson

**Guests:** Mark Schleifer

**CALL TO ORDER:** David Dowse opened the meeting at 6:32 p.m. and welcomed those present. Those who forget where they were that night need only consult the above list. We're glad to help.

#### **AN HISTORIC UPDATE OF NO LITTLE IMPORT:**

Those of you daring to read through this truncated newsletter and minutes of the previous meeting may in your perspicacity detect a certain desperation on the part of the writer of the document. The last meeting generously sentenced Elliott to write the newsletter which after much yelling, screaming, and loss of blood, he graciously agreed to do. It is with deep gratitude and relief that Elliott is pleased to continue to draw breath through the continued participation of Maureen Anderson. Maureen has agreed to write the minutes at the meeting, hand them over to Elliott through the magic of the internet (would Mrs. Hudson have approved?), Elliott thereupon puts his brain to sleep, writes the minutes from back to front, adding whatever baubles he might find at Wal-Mart, and then scorches the internet wires back to Maureen who blushes deeper than claret, wags her head in disbelief, and proceeds to dupe some photocopy czar to publish them. Maureen is still doing all the work. Whew! Thanks, Maureen!

#### **A MODEST PROPOSAL #1:**

We are planning to expand the content of the newsletter with regular reviews and comments about Sherlockian literary spinoffs and other leading detective or crime fiction. The reasons we are planning this are:

- a) The canon is limited. It cannot grow. While we cannot know everything there is to know about it, we can easily fry our brains if we keep going over and over the same ground.
- b) Sherlockian literature subsequent to Conan Doyle never fails to flatter the author, heap honour upon the World's Greatest Consulting Detective (WGCD), and enlarge on the characters in the canon and their potentialities.
- c) There is an amazing tradition in detective fiction that seems to evolve from Sherlock Holmes. This influences a lot of contemporary detective fiction that we read, watch on television, and see at the movies. The in-gathering of subsequent and contemporary non-Sherlockian detective and crime literature at our meetings and in our newsletters will bring our appreciation of the WGCD into a fuller and evolving perspective.
- d) The Bimetallic Question is a great little group, and it can become greater. We need to offer more things to more people, to appeal to a broader interest base.
- e) Please let us know what else we might offer so that more of us might invite more of our friends to attend meetings and take an active role in the society.



## **A MODEST PROPOSAL #2:**

In keeping with the spirit of you-get-out-of-something-what-you-put-into-it, we are inviting all and sundry to share their special talents, interests, and time with us in helping to make The Bimetallic Question a place of more enrichment, more humour, more engagement, greater challenge, and greater camaraderie. We want to hear from more of you more of the time, and we invite you to present us with pet projects of yours that add new and interesting ~~dementia~~ dimensions to what we abnormally do. We are actively seeking volunteers of the think-and-do variety, and we welcome all. Not only will it be fun; it's painless. See David Dowse, Maureen Anderson, Paul Billette, or Elliott Newman. Fame and fortune await!

## **SHOW/TELL:**

Discussions included: Hobnailed Boots, Hope & Glory, Proto-type mystery endings such as killed in Shootout, Hanged, put in prison, Sleuth kills bad guy, etc. Members were advised to visit the following Sherlockian site:  
[www.angelfire.com/KS/Landzastanza/sherlockian.html](http://www.angelfire.com/KS/Landzastanza/sherlockian.html)

David Kellett challenged our minds by circulating a photo among the members and asking whom the man in the photo was. Although it was an amazing resemblance to a young Jeremy Brett (the Sherlock Holmes) it was really the missing explorer Mallory.

It was suggested that a thank-you letter be sent to the Montefiore Club with a complimentary copy of last months' minutes.

David Dowse our illustrious Sovereign and Elliott Newman our newly appointed Secretary are passionate about collecting pens and related paraphernalia. If you have any such items collecting dust or attracting mice in drawers or cupboards, David and Elliott would be very interested in speaking with you.

David Dowse challenged us to a few Whodunits. Congratulations Jack on your correct response: *The door should have been pushed out instead of in.*

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## **TOASTS**

This evening's toasts were impromptu, except for the Toast to Dr. Watson, which was read by David Dowse and prepared by Paul Billette.

Toast to the Master – David Dowse

Toast to the Woman – Stanley Baker

Toast to the Society and to Charles – David Dowse

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**QUIZNUNCS:** David Kellett provided a great quiz with incredible prizes.

Paul and Rachel protested that no half points were being awarded.

**The top winners of the quiz were** Elliott Newman, David Dowse, and Jack Anderson. (Actually this report on the winners of the quiz might be stranger than fiction. The proper registry of winners, so assiduously noted by Maureen has gone into that great clue-basket in the sky. If we have erred in citing the above as winners of the gorgeous Chinese prints generously donated by David Kellett, we apologize. Rumour has it that Elliott will be preparing the next quiz.)



## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting closed promptly at 8:58 p.m.

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### **THE SHERLOCKIAN BOOKSHELF - A taste of post-Sherlock Sherlock fiction.**

*Another Scandal in Bohemia* (originally entitled *Irene's Last Waltz*)

by Carole Nelson Douglas (1994, also available in paperback, New York: Tom Doherty Associates LLC)

From the back jacket:

American diva Irene Adler, introduced in *A Scandal in Bohemia* as the only woman to outwit Sherlock Holmes, returns for a rematch when the murder of a humble bead-girl in Paris spirals into an international plot to reshape the map of Europe. Irene, drawn into the puzzling plight of Queen Clotilde, her successor in the King's affections, finds much rotten in the state of Bohemia. As Irene and her dashing barrister husband, Godfrey Norton, and everyone's favorite Victorian spinster, Nell Huxleigh, careen from Paris salons to Prague castles, Holmes is just behind with an agenda of his own. Before the adventure ends, thrones will tremble, the mystical clay monster of Prague called the Golem will walk, and Irene will confront her deadliest opponent.

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### **MRS HUDSONS CORNER:**

#### **Tipsy Twisted Orange Smiles**

##### **Ingredients:**

Half of a large orange for each person

Brown sugar

Drambuie liqueur or Grand Marnier

Mint leaves as decoration

##### **Method:**

- Cut the oranges in half and use a grapefruit knife to cut the flesh away from the skin.
- Cut the orange segments into bite-size pieces resembling lips in a smile.
- Spoon a small amount of Drambuie or Grand Marnier onto the oranges.
- Leave the oranges at room temperature until you are ready to go on to the next stage.
- Sprinkle brown sugar on the top of the oranges and grill under your broiler until the sugar starts to bubble.
- Decorate with a sprig of mint before serving.

***This is a variation to the Tipsy Oranges recipe found at the following web-site:***

[http://www.rampantscotland.com/recipes/blrecipe\\_index.htm](http://www.rampantscotland.com/recipes/blrecipe_index.htm)



**MRS HUDSONS CORNER (Continued):**

**Twisted Chicken Lips**

1 cup mayonnaise  
1/4 cup snipped chives or chopped green onions  
1 tablespoon prepared horseradish  
2 teaspoons Dijon-style mustard  
1 tablespoon lemon juice  
2 cups bread crumbs  
1 teaspoon garlic salt & 1 teaspoon cayenne pepper  
1/2 teaspoon dried oregano  
2 eggs  
2 tablespoons virgin olive oil & 1 tablespoon water  
30 chicken lips (if our sleuths have difficulty finding chicken lips, 4 boneless skinless chicken breasts will do)  
1 large baking sheet sprayed with PAM or equivalent.

1. In a bowl, combine the first five ingredients mayonnaise, chives, horseradish, and mustard and lemon juice. Cover; chill for about 30 minutes.
2. Combine breadcrumbs, garlic salt, cayenne pepper and oregano in a shallow dish; mix well. In a measuring beaker or small bowl, beat together eggs, virgin olive oil and water.
3. Cut each chicken breast into 1-inch strips to make chicken lips. Dip chicken lips into egg mixture, allowing excess egg mixture to drip back into bowl. Dredge chicken in crumb mixture, turning to coat evenly. Place chicken lips on the prepared baking sheet.
4. Bake chicken in a Preheated oven set to 400°F. Turn lips over halfway through cooking, until golden brown. Cooking time will vary depending on fullness of lips. Average thickness 15 minutes. Serve the twisted lips while hot with various dipping sauces. Note these are spicy and your guest's lips may also twist with delight.

This recipe is a mixture of three of Maureen's favourites for Chicken Fingers with a slight twist.

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**All that remains** is to end the minutes by challenging you with a few **Puns**. This is what awaits those with courage: Complete the following:

- 1) Shotgun wedding: A case of \_\_\_\_\_ or death. (4)
- 2) A hangover is the \_\_\_\_\_ of grapes (5)
- 3) Does the name \_\_\_\_\_ ring a bell? (6)
- 4) Reading while sunbathing makes you \_\_\_\_\_ (4-3).
- 5) A man's home is his castle, in a \_\_\_\_\_ of speaking. (5)
- 6) What's the definition of a will? (Come on, It's a dead \_\_\_\_\_ (8!)

**Answers to last month's Puzzler:** 1) retained & deficiencies 2) brains 3) fellow & criminal

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My dear friend, you would confer a great favour upon me by joining us at the next meeting of "THE BIMETALLIC QUESTION" which is being held on Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2003 at 6:30 p.m.



