



THE BIMETALLIC QUESTION

Box 883 Stock Exchange Tower
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The next meeting of the **BIMETALLIC QUESTION** will held be on **Wednesday, May 17, 2000 at 6:30 p.m. SHARP at the Westmount Library (Westmount Room), 4574 Sherbrooke Street West, Montréal, Québec.** PLEASE PAY ATTENTION TO PARKING SIGNS!!!

REMINDER
PLEASE FORWARD YOUR 2000 ANNUAL DUES (\$18.00) TO WILFRID DE FREITAS A.S.A.P.

member?

The **NEXT QUIZ** will be prepared by Peter Nash based on **THE NORWOOD BUILDER.**

MINUTES of the **MEETING** of the **BIMETALLIC QUESTION** held on Wednesday, April 5, 2000 at the **Westmount Library (Westmount Library), 4574 Sherbrooke Street West, Montréal, Québec.**

- Present:** Rachel Alkallay, Stanley Baker, Paul Billette, Bernie Brodtkin, Patrick Campbell, Wilfrid de Freitas, David Dowse, Linda Huntoon, Peter Nash, Simon Petzold, Charles Purdon, Peter Reiner, Colin Semel, Nancy Walkling, Heather Wileman-Brown, Karin Winkler
- Apologies:** Claude Campbell
- Guests:** Jack Anderson, Maureen Anderson, Chris Mueller, Penny Mueller, Bernie Brodtkin

CORRECTIONS TO THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

It was Nancy Walkling and not Linda Watson who will arrange the choral presentation.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by our Sovereign, David Dowse, at 6:45 p.m. The meeting commenced with our 16 members and 4 guests introducing themselves and stating when and how they became aware of Sherlock Holmes. Some surprising revelations came to light.

Stanley Baker noted the recent sudden death of our member, Richard Aboud, and Stanley said that he had passed on our condolences to the family.

Jack Anderson said that he had once been to Wyndam's Theatre for the Jeremy Brett play, and had taken a box, there being no other seats available, but that it was well worth the expenditure. Wilfrid de Freitas noted that he and a small group from the society had attended the same play, and were able to go backstage and meet Brett, noting that it was his birthday on the day and they have photographs to prove it! There followed a brief discussion on the merits of Jeremy Brett, some being very much for his portrayal but others did not find him to be the Holmes they knew.

SHOW/TELL:

We had a number of fine items: an article from the *New York Times*; an article on London clubs; a Waltham watch (c. 1895); a video, "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes in the 22nd Century"; an actual sovereign coin (c. 1880) with the beautiful "George and the Dragon" on the obverse; two books, "The Lost Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" and "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes: A Collection by Peter Haining"

QUIZ

The quiz, or inquisition, was presented by Rachel Alkallay, based on that fine story *The Greek Interpreter*. There were 30 questions that gave, Rachel claimed, a possible 61 points. As usual, the best part was the marking of the quiz, with everyone fighting for half and quarter points, and Rachel laying down the law with a vengeance, but weakening a little when it was proved that there was an error in #10. In a desperate attempt to gain points, Jack claimed that Mr. Melas was a short man wearing a sporran, but it availed him not. Anyway, it was all good clean fun, and Nancy scored a creditable 28½ points, followed by Peter Nash with 20 and Patrick with 19½. Rachel had, most generously, brought three prizes; in fact, only one is required. Your scribe was not quick enough to record the first two, but his third place netted a fine, and appropriate, dictionary of Greek phrases, so "*sas ef haristo ghia ton kopo*, Rachel."

Nancy will be busy moving, so Peter Nash will give the next quiz, for which he chose **THE NORWOOD BUILDER**.

COLLOQUIUM

David announced details of the colloquium and it was explained that we must soon decide whether to proceed or not. A total of nine of those present undertook to pay up now (4 members) or put their cheques in the mail shortly (5 members).

Patrick Campbell explained that, to date, we have 30 people actually signed up, whereas at our first colloquium in 1990, we had 36 at this point. Of the 30, 13 are from Ontario, 11 from the States, and 6 from Montréal. If we tried to run the affair with only those people, we would incur a loss of \$1,600. We have calculated that, with the four who signed up at this meeting, and the other five who have promised to sign, we would still be in a negative position; but there is a fair chance that more will sign up. **So please get those cheques in as soon as possible.** Also, we still need volunteers for registration on Friday, June 2 (PM), and to man (or woman) a book table where members' books could be sold, with a 10% cut for the society. **Will someone take on that task Friday afternoon?** We also need someone to operate the slide projector and the overhead projector. None of the speakers have yet asked for a video machine.

THE COLLOQUIUM IS THE MAJOR EVENT OF THE YEAR, SO PLEASE DO YOUR BEST TO ATTEND AND BRING AS MANY GUESTS AS YOU CAN. WE NEED AT LEAST 50 PARTICIPANTS TO SIGN UP TO REACH THE **BREAK-EVEN** MARK.

VARIA

As we still lack volunteers to propose toasts, David, Stanley, Rachel, Wilfrid and others gave short *ad hoc* toasts, but most of the members had emptied their glasses by the third toast, so the balance had to be mimed. We still have no volunteer to take over the post of **Mrs. Hudson**, and look after the supply of grog. **Remember the days when we had real glasses?**

The last major event of the all too short evening was an advance video for the fine new David Stuart Davies play, "The Last Act." This is a one-man play that has toured the British Isles, and got great reviews at the recent New York birthday dinner. The actor is Roger Llewellyn. A playbill was circulated citing the many accomplishments of Llewellyn, from Shakespeare to *Yes, Minister* and from Hedda Gabler to *Apocalypse Watch*. The producer, Joseph Ajlouny approached us to see if the play could be put on in Canada, and plans are to have it run in Halifax, St. John, Ottawa, Toronto and points west. We just may get it here, perhaps at the time of the colloquium, but we would need more support to make it feasible. Llewellyn's performance in the advance video seemed to stun our members, who watched in perfect silence. As Roger said, "You could hear a pin drop." A copy of the play and various reviews were circulated.

Respectfully submitted
Patrick Campbell/cac