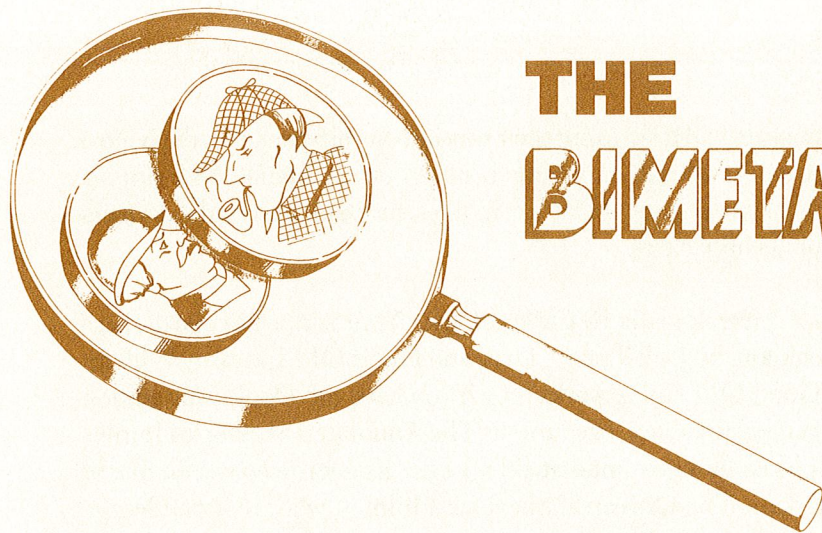


17 MAY 2000



# THE BIMETALLIC QUESTION

Box 883 Stock Exchange Tower  
Montreal, Canada H4Z 1K2

The next meeting of the BIMETALLIC QUESTION will held be on Wednesday, August 2, 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  
IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID YOUR ANNUAL DUES  
(\$18.00) TO WILFRID DE FREITAS, THESE MINUTES  
WILL BE THE LAST YOU WILL RECEIVE .

The NEXT QUIZ will be prepared by Stanley Baker based on THE BRUCE PARTINGTON PLANS. This will be the quiz for the Colloquium.

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MINUTES of the MEETING of the BIMETALLIC QUESTION held on Wednesday, May 17, 2000 at the Westmount Library (Westmount Library), 4574 Sherbrooke Street West, Montréal, Québec.

Present: Stanley Baker, Paul Billette, Patrick Campbell, Gordon Gottlieb, Jesse Gryn, Linda Huntoon, Simon Petzold, Charles Purdon, Heather Wileman-Brown, Karin Winkler

Apologies: Rachel Alkallay, Claude Campbell, David Dowse

Guests: Denise Rodriguez Lamosa

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## CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Patrick Campbell, in the absence of our Sovereign, David Dowse, at 6:45 p.m.

The meeting commenced with introduction, with Gordon Gottlieb returning to us, claiming his name was William Wadsworth Longfellow! A bona fide guest was Denise Rodriguez Lamosa, who claimed to be a political refugee seeking asylum. We did not learn from what place, but she seemed to enjoy our meeting.

VENATIO ADEST

## SHOW/TELL

Simon rolled up his sweater and showed where pickpockets had tried to cut their way into his hip pocket in the Métro - their failure being a testament to the stout cavalry twill material. All crime is not in print. Stanley had similar experiences in Florence and in Nairobi, but with less happy results. Heather, in the same vein, told of the dangers of using credit cards and e-mail, and the subtle exploits of hackers.

Heather also produced a copy of a *Sherlock Holmes Encyclopedia* by Orland Park. Your scribe has one of these and finds it no match for *The Encyclopedia Sherlockiana* by Jack Tracy. That, and *Good Old Index* by William D. Goodrich, are really all you need, although the *Good Old Index* works only if you have the Doubleday edition (one volume or two) of the Canon. The other major general reference, of course, is *The Annotated Sherlock Holmes* by William S. Baring-Gould, now perhaps to be replaced by a new annotated by Leslie Klinger, who will be one of our speakers at the colloquium. The last major reference is *The Universal Sherlock Holmes*, whose editor, George Vanderburgh, will be another of our speakers, but it is in five volumes!

Gordon seemed to have attended some event put on by Pipiloti Rist, but my notes give no details.

## QUIZ

The quiz was presented with the torture being applied by Gordon Gottleib in the absence of the perpetrator Peter Nash, unfortunately not able to attend. (A quick recovery, Peter, we need you at the colloquium.) Actually, it was a good straightforward quiz on *The Norwood Builder*. Due to a late start and the need to be out by 9:00 p.m., we did not have time to exchange views on the story which had an interesting connection to our own society through Gresham. The quiz was won by Stanley, with 14¾ points, Patrick came next with 14, and Paul came third with an even dozen; not bad scores out of a possible 17 points (perhaps one for each of the 17 steps up to 221B).

## COLLOQUIUM

Patrick gave a summary of the speakers and others who would be attending our colloquium (June 2-4) and about where the various events, including the play, "Sherlock Holmes - His Last Act," would be held. To date, some 47 participants have signed up and Stanley and Gordon said they would be joining us. Linda and Jesse promised to help with the book tables on Registration day.

## VARIA

There were two short play readings, a curious little thing about the home life of Watson and Mary, and the well-known "The Painful Predicament of Sherlock Holmes," attributed to Conan Doyle, but believed more likely to have been dashed off by William Gillette as a curtain-raiser, and as a vehicle for Ethel Barrymore. The main claim to fame was as the first stage appearance of Charles Chaplin as Billy the Page.

Regrettably, there are no brilliant toasts to report, David being absent, but Stanley offered to bring along a bottle of port and one of sherry in future. Who finished up with the our glass (not plastic) glasses? Maybe if someone would bring the glasses and Stanley would bring the vintage, all we would need is some volunteers to give the toasts. **What about it?!?!**

## ADJOURNMENT

So ended an all-too-short evening the delightful Westmount Library.

Respectfully submitted  
Patrick Campbell/cac