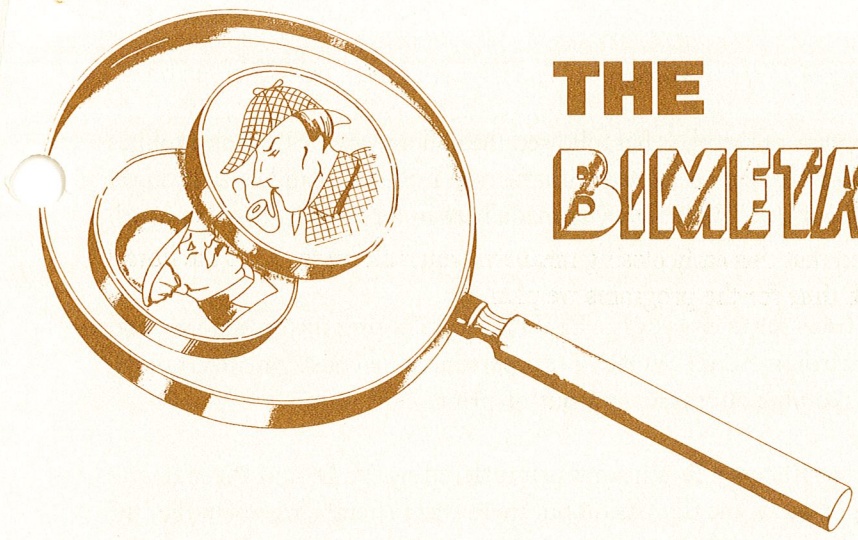


THE BIMETALLIC QUESTION



Box 883 Stock Exchange Tower
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The next meeting of the BIMETALLIC QUESTION will held be on Wednesday, December 1⁶ 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!!!

The NEXT QUIZ will be prepared by Rachel Alkallay based on THE ADVENTURE OF THE SIX NAPOLEONS.

MINUTES of the MEETING of the BIMETALLIC QUESTION held on Wednesday, October 4, 2000 at the Westmount Library (Westmount Library), 4574 Sherbrooke Street West, Montréal, Québec.

- Present: Rachel Alkallay, Stanley Baker, Paul Billette, Bernie Brodtkin, Patrick Campbell, David Dowse, Mary Finnegan, Linda Huntoon, Peter Nash, Peter Reiner, Carole Rocklin, Linda Watson, Heather Wileman-Brown
 - Regrets: Claude Campbell, Charles Purdon
 - Guests: Elliott Newman, Denise Rodriguez Lamoso
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CALL TO ORDER

David Dowse called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m., and those present introduced themselves, including two guests. Some did not have copies of the list of members, so we must assume that they are not members in good standing [so get you dues paid up, please]. *(Please note that members do not receive a list of current members; only the Executive Committee receives a copy. If they did not receive minutes of the last meeting, then they are not current with their dues - cac.)*

David asked whether we should continue to have toasts, and all agreed the practice should continue, and there was some discussion as to how the toasters should be selected. David suggested that each of us prepare five brief toasts, and this will give us a pool of toasts [or should it be a rack of toasts] to draw from. Toasts, and these are set by our Constitution, are for *The Master, Dr. Watson, Mrs. Hudson, Irene Adler [The Woman]* and *The Society*.

It was noted that Paul Billette had brought the society glasses and a bottle of port, so David proposed the toast to *The Master*, which we drank standing. Peter Reiner offered to bring a bottle himself, and David accepted. Well done, Paul. You are now The Sixpence (sommelier). Who has the badge of office?

SHOW/TELL

Linda Huntoon began by reading her laudatory review of the play that followed the colloquium, "Sherlock Holmes — The Last Act." If Linda lends us her copy, we will have it circulated with the next minutes. Linda also brought in an article from *The Gazette* about a film on *The Hound of The Baskervilles* made here in Montréal. It seems it will first be released as a video.

Carole Rocklin had an article about Holmes as a basis for term papers. Paul had been hitting the bookstores, and had located a book on *The Napoleon of Crime*, concerning Adam Worth, a real person and a consummate criminal. Rachel brought a copy of her book *Cats 22*, a slim volume of poetry, now out-of-print.

Bernie Brodtkin brought news of a book alleging that Fletcher Robinson was murdered by ACD, and Peter Reiner had a second newspaper with the same story. There was some discussion but there was general agreement that the story is most unlikely. Someone noted that the book, in most editions, starts with a dedication to Mr. Robinson by Doyle, saying that the legend had been recounted to Doyle by Fletcher Robinson, and thanking him for the idea. Check your own copy.

QUIZ

Heather Wileman-Brown's quiz on *The Speckled Band* was handed out at 7:50 p.m. and collected at 9:15 p.m. The usual hilarious marking session followed. Winner was Rachel who scored 39 out of a possible 101. Runners-up were Bernie and Peter Nash, each with 35 points and Patrick brought up the rear with 30 points. Appropriate awards followed. Rachel will do the next quiz, and she chose *The Adventure of the Six Napoleons*.

TOASTS

Brief toasts were proposed during the evening to the usual five main characters, and a special for the evening — a toast to the late Pierre Elliott Trudeau. A single red rose was passed around, and all noted the fragrance. Suggest someone reads Holmes' curious eulogy to the moss rose [in *The Naval Treaty*] at our next meeting.

VARIA

David raised the question of our library and archives, and it was agreed this matter must be looked into. He also announced the luncheon planned with The Goose Club of Vermont, and gave details. They expect some 10-15 of their members, and we will go down as a group during the morning, taking some show-and-tell with us. A list was circulated and the travel arrangements will depend on the numbers interested and transportation available.

David is arranging the birthday dinner [probably at Au Vieux Port in Old Montréal]; date to be established. Perhaps Richard Buche will lend his help, as it all worked so well the last time.

The reading of scenes from "The Speckled Band" was postponed due to lack of time [we must be out by 9:00 p.m. sharp], but Patrick gave a brief review of how "The Speckled Band" was written, rehearsed and performed in a total elapsed time of two weeks due to the failure of Doyle's play about boxing, "The House of Temperley," based on the novel, *Rodney Stone*. This was a case of a play based on one of the stories, the opposite of play "The Crown Diamond," where the story (*The Mazarin Stone*) was based on the play.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting closed at 9 p.m., but all are reminded that this early closing means we must all try to get to the library for a 6:30 p.m. start or there will never be enough time for the programs we plan.

Respectfully submitted,
Patrick Campbell/CAC