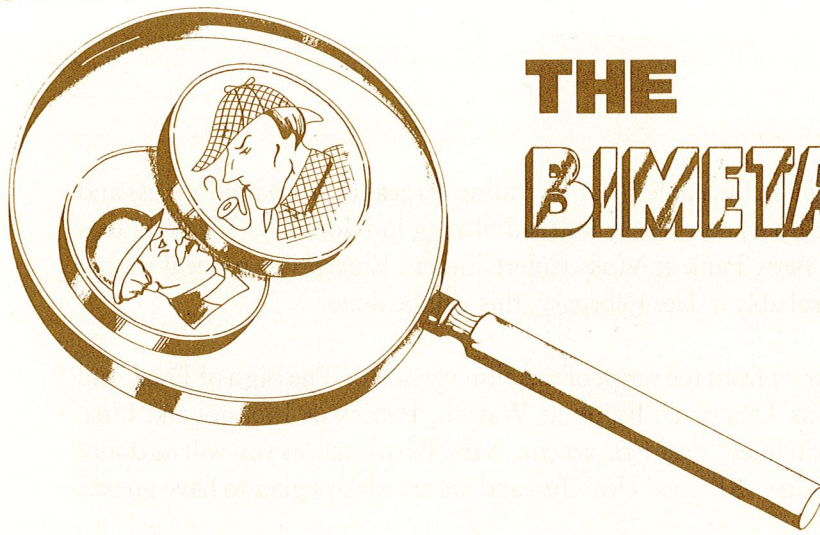


6 DEC 2000



# THE BIMETALLIC QUESTION

Box 883 Stock Exchange Tower  
Montreal, Canada H4Z 1K2

The next meeting of the BIMETALLIC QUESTION will held be on Wednesday, February 7, 2001 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 Charles Purdon based on THE SIGN OF FOUR.

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## 147th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE MASTER'S BIRTHDAY

Saturday, January 20, 2001

6:00 p.m.

Du Vieux Port

39, est rue St-Paul

Vieux-Montréal, Qc

Reservations are required and payment (\$35.00/person) must be in advance.

Make cheques payable to *The Bimetallic Question* and  
must be received no later than January 15<sup>th</sup>.

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MINUTES of the MEETING of the BIMETALLIC QUESTION held on Wednesday, December 6, 2000 at the Westmount Library (Westmount Library), 4574 Sherbrooke Street West, Montréal, Québec.

Present: Rachel Alkallay, Jack Anderson, Maureen Anderson, Stanley Baker, Paul Billette,  
Patrick Campbell, David Dowse, Peter Nash, Elliott Newman, Charles Purdon

Regrets: Claude Campbell, Karen Winkler

Guests: Una Kaye, Lawrence Reich

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### CORRECTIONS TO THE MINUTES

It seems that the last minutes recorded, in two places, Peter Reiner, when they should have read Peter Nash; apologies to all.

### CALL TO ORDER

David Dowse called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Member who have not received minutes most probably have not paid their dues; please act accordingly.

VENATIO ADEST

## SHOW/TELL

Una Kay, our guest for the evening, had been brought in by Stanley (our recruiting sergeant). Una is an actress and she acts the part of Mrs. Bernstone in *The Sign of Four*, now nearly finished filming in Montréal. Una told us a little about the film and suggested that we write to Betty Palik at Muse Entertainment Enterprises to see if we can get ourselves invited to the première of the film, probably in late February; this will be done.

Una had thoughtfully brought along a ten-page extract from the script of this film version of *The Sign of Four*, and we had a reading, with Stanley as Chorus, Peter as Thaddeus, Elliott as Watson, Patrick as Holmes and Una, herself, reading the part of Mrs. Bernstone in a "gor'blimey" East End accent. Mrs. Bernstone, as you will no doubt remember, was the housekeeper at Pondicherry Lodge. All good clean fun and we are always glad to have guests, particularly guest so entertaining.

## QUIZ

The quiz followed, set by Rachel in one of her more mischievous moods, based on *The Adventure of the Six Napoleons*. Winners were Charles (24½), Paul (21) and Peter (20½). As the winner, Charles decided that the next quiz, for our next regular meeting, will be based on *Sign of Four* [Spencer Blackett, Newnes, Collier] or *The Sign of Four* (Lippincott's), depending on which publisher you favour.

## TOASTS

At the last meeting it was agreed that all members should composed five brief toasts, one for each of the usual luminaries. A total of **only five** were collected, so please make a New Year's resolution to complete your assignment. At intervals during the evening, the usual toasts were given, and Paul dispensed some rather nice port and sherry — Thanks, Paul!

## VARIA

A discussion began on the recent movie *Hound of the Baskervilles*, filmed in and around Montréal. Those present were asked to rate the film on a scale of 1 to 10, and opinions varied from 1 to 8, but average a rather poor 4.5. Most agreed that Kenneth Welsh did a good Watson, but none seemed to favour Matt Frewer's Holmes.

All agreed the sets were quite good, except that it was difficult to accept a Dartmoor covered with trees. The saddest bit was when that great line that closes Chapter 2, "*Mr. Holmes, they were the footprints of a gigantic hound,*" was entirely wasted by Dr. Mortimer, or rather the scriptwriter [Joe Wiesenfeld]. That line, one of the most dramatic in English literature, had been changed to the following: "*Sir Charles' were not the only footprints on the ground ... there were others ... but they were not human ... they were the footprints ... of an enormous hound, fully the size of my outstretched hand,*" and here Dr. Mortimer outstretches his hand, without making it clear if that was the size of the hound or of the footprints. Holmes, busy eating an apple, for some obscure reason, does not seem moved by the line, perhaps understandably. For that gaffe alone the film could be condemned. This, and several other changes to the story, for no apparent reason, show just how little that grand tale, still in print after 98 years, was understood by the writers. Let us hope Muse Entertainment Enterprises does a little better with *The Sign of Four*.

Afterwards, three copies of the newsletter of The Goose Club of The Alpha Inn, "The Uncrumpled Morning Paper," was circulated, and those who went down to Burlington, Vermont discussed our visit and agreed something similar should be planned for next year.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Campbell / cac

## TOASTS

**TO THE MASTER:** We all admire the incisive reasoning of the world's first consulting detective, and his success in unravelling the most obscure crimes; we know he took a sly pleasure in telling Dr. Watson just how the facts had been deduced, and the case solved. But may I ask you all to compare the two stories written by Holmes, *The Blanched Solider* and *The Lion's Mane*, with all the other tales as recorded by Dr. Watson, and you will see that even Holmes had his limitations. (PJC)

**TO DR. WATSON:** Doyle originally intended to give the name Ormond Sacker to our beloved John H. Watson, M.D., late of the Army Medical Department ... aren't you glad he changed his mind ...? (PJC)

**TO THE WOMAN:** May I propose a toast to one of the principal characters in the Canon, yet one who is recorded of speaking only five words, "Good night, Mr. Sherlock Holmes!" .. and good night to your, Irene Alder! (PJC)

**TO MRS. HUDSON:** Mrs. Hudson is not quoted verbatim very often in the Canon, a mere 39 words, yet she is one of the principal characters! What does that tell you? (PJC)

**TO THE SOCIETY — The Bimetallic Question (DD)**

The greatest empire in the world  
 The greatest city in the world  
 The greatest criminals in the world

One man who can give counsel to world sovereigns as well as country governesses;  
 Who can refuse service to a king and look into a problem of a lost goose.

A man with eclectic interests and eccentric habits.  
 Not someone to easily live with.

He knew himself and his strengths and was at times very condescending to lesser mortals.  
 Those individuals who were lucky to present a problem engaging enough for him could be assured that a solution would be arrived at.

I give you a man for all reasons, a man of reason ... Sherlock Holmes.

