

3 OCT 2002

The next meeting of the **BIMETALLIC QUESTION** will be held on Thursday, December 5th, 2002 at 6:30 p.m. SHARP at the Westmount Library (Westmount Room), 4574 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal, Quebec. Please pay close attention to parking signs while parking your hansom carriages as Inspector Lestrade's men would not hesitate to provide summons to those of us who blacken the law. Arguably, the Omnibus is the simplest method of transport, no need to worry about parking.

The Next Quiz: MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES. XIII-- THE ADVENTURE OF SILVER BLAZE" prepared by Colin Semel.

Minutes of the MEETING of the BIMETALLIC QUESTION held on Thursday, October 3rd, 2002 at the Westmount library (Westmount Room), 4574 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal, Quebec:

Present: Maureen Anderson, Jack Anderson, Rachal Alkallay, Paul Billette, David Dowse, David Kellett, Colin Semel, Linda Huntoon, Shigeko Betts, Elliott Newman

Guests: The spirit of former members:

Regrets: Patrick Campbell, Stanley Baker

CALL TO ORDER: David Dowse opened the meeting at 6:42 p.m. and welcomed those present.

SHOW/TELL: Members reminisced Charles' past adventures. It was stated that Charles had been attending Bimetallic's Question at the age of 16. Photographs circulated showing his unique skill of disguise, similar to that of our master.

Colin Semel read an essay written by Charles Purdon entitled, "*The Curious Matter of Watson's Rank*", which David Dowse discovered on the cover of Canadian Holmes, the publication of The Bootmakers of Toronto - article on the actual military rank of Dr. Watson.

Paul showed copies of pictures of annual dinners that sparked interest and suggestions for our next birthday celebration planned for January 2003. A survey is attached to provide details from our fellow sleuths on their preferences for this event. Please note majority will rule. Completed forms should be returned to my attention no later than December 6th.

David brought the society's complete treasure-trove of videocassettes, books and Sherlockian memorabilia to our meeting bequeathed to our society by former members. The **JONES-LINGARD-KELLY ARCHIVES** were reviewed and put up for auction as our benefactors would prefer they be passed on to those of us who would appreciate and use them, not relegate them to a basement or attic. All donations were put into the society's coffers. Remaining items of the **JONES-LINGARD-KELLY ARCHIVES** are being stored with Maureen and Jack Anderson.

David reminisced regarding his friend who went backpacking in China, and while there purchased some Sherlock Holmes stories written in Chinese.

The origins of The Bimetallic Question were discussed. It was stated that Sherlock's brother Mycroft was introduced in The Bruce Partington Plans as an expert on Canada, India and the Bimetallic Question. Hence our society's name, "The Bimetallic Question". Complete historical details on our society are included in this month's minute.

TOASTS

This evening's toasts were impromptu and included a toast to Charles.

***QUIZ:** The Quiz commenced with a brief introduction on rules by David Kellett as it was engineered to Who Wants to be A Millionaire with a few alterations. We were not permitted to contact a friend, or poll the audience or perform a 50/50. The one opportunity provided for advancement during difficulty was one free "PASS" to be used at the 1st question we could not answer as the moment a sleuth answered incorrectly their game was no longer afoot. Silence fell as David began to provide the answers. There was no room for discussion, or squandering of half points. As you can see from the following scores David slued the sleuths.*

- **The winners of the quiz were:**
- 1st Prize 7/20 Colin Semel (Place Jacques Cartier Print)
- 2nd Prize 4/20 was tied with Elliott Newman (Plateau Print) & David Dowse (Montreal in Winter Print)

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting closed promptly at 9:10 p.m.

MRS HUDSONS CORNER:

VICTORIAN KISSES

9 eggs
White sugar
Lemon

Beat the whites of nine fresh eggs to a stiff froth.

Mix egg white mixture with fifteen spoonfuls of fine white sugar and five or six drops of essence of lemon. **Drop mixture on paper with a teaspoon, sift sugar over them, and bake them in a slow oven.**

COLONIAL STYLE EGGNOG

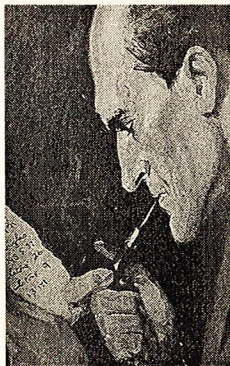
12 eggs
1 cup sugar
1 quart cream
1 splash of Vanilla
Dash of nutmeg
1 swig of grog

- Separate eggs at room temperature. Beat yolks until creamy, with half portion of sugar.
- Continuing beating until whites until peaked. Add other half portion of sugar, and beat cream until stiff.
- Fold all ingredients together. Add vanilla to taste.
- Pour into container and refrigerate for at least one day. Shake before serving.

Source: The dark depths of my mind.

Varia: Reminder, there will be a vacancy effective January 1, 2003 in The Bimetallic Question's committee. Anyone interested in securing the position of secretary should contact David Dowse.

All that remains is to end the minutes by challenging you with the **Puzzler** for that is what awaits those brave enough:



- 1) When was Sherlock Holmes flogged?
- 2) What was used as the Flogging device?
- 3)

We hope to see you at the next meeting. Must dash! The next adventure awaits.

Your humble servant,
Maureen

FLOGGING

SHERLOCK HOLME'S FLOGGED

As the topic of flogging was discussed, I have included a brief history on flogging.

From the coves of County Cork to the hills of Connemarra comes a strange tale that's shrouded in mist and mystery. Can it be true that ate his genius? After much savage fighting amidst the wharf paraphernalia, the villain is flogging the detective with a hanging chain, when a superhuman effort by Holmes hurls the assassin off the dock and into a fishing net. The man becomes entangled within and chokes to death. Help arrives in the form of Lestrade and crew as Holmes collapses, expressing concern for Watson.

A brief history on flogging

Flogging, Whipping, Scourging, Lashing, Caning; These are all different names to what is perhaps the oldest form of corporal punishment. Over the centuries, whipping has taken various forms: From the ritual of the British Naval Flogging on one hand to the vigilante Horse-whipping of the old American West on the other. Other versions included the public flogging at the colonial whipping post or the carnival-like atmosphere of the medieval goal in the Town Square.

The flogger, in various forms, has played a surprisingly vital role in shaping the history of mankind. Throughout the centuries, our ancestors have incorporated it not only into their sexual practices, but into their spiritual, judicial and even medical practices as well.

Flagellation in the name of a god is far from being a rare thing. Nearly all of the mother religions, the ancient mystery cults of the great Mediterranean civilizations of Greece, Egypt, Rome and Persia, and even the religions of Islam and Christianity have, at some point in history, incorporated flagellation into their spiritual rites and practices.

Flagellation for punishment's sake has been practiced throughout the world. In ancient Rome, judges would decorate the walls of their courtrooms with various types of scourges in order to strike fear into the hearts of criminals. Many of who would be ordered to endure whippings of such severity that more than just a few of them died from the wounds inflicted upon them. Austrian soldiers who misbehaved were made to run the terrible gauntlet; Russia has the knout; China still has the great bamboo; Turkey governs with the stick; the Siamese have their nightly birches; and, in Africa, there is 'mumbo jumbo'.

Flogging has also been reputed to have a good amount of medicinal value as well. At various times throughout history, it has been promoted as a way of 'stirring up the body's stagnating juices, dissolving the precipitating salts, purifying the coagulating humours of the body, clearing the brain, purging the belly, circulating the blood and bracing the nerves.' It has been used as a treatment for insanity, laziness, depression, obstruction of the bowels and even for lockjaw and choking. And, during the years 1348-1349, when the Black Death was sweeping through

Western Europe, it was promoted as both a preventative and a cure for the plague. Thank goodness for modern medicine.

SURVEY

Montefiore Club

A full course meal comprised of four hors d'oeuvres per person, soup or salad, main course choice of broiled Atlantic Salmon or stuffed breast of chicken with mushrooms, dessert, coffee or tea and Montefiore cookies and squares costs \$43.00, including administration charges and taxes.

House wines are \$31 per bottle all-inclusive and the average price per alcoholic drink is \$5.95 all-inclusive. They do not have cash bar services and therefore should we want each person to buy their own liquor and wines we can arrange it with tickets and would then have to round up the figures to \$31 and \$6.

Or Vieux Port

Murder Mystery (Performed by members) or Speaker

Speaker possibilities:

