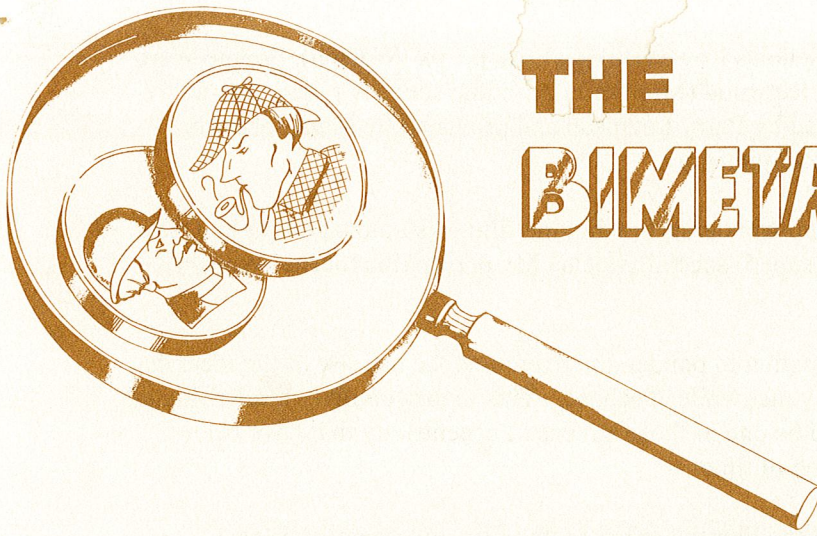


1 AUG 2002



THE BIMETALLIC QUESTION

Box 883 Stock Exchange Tower
Montreal, Canada H4Z 1K2

The next meeting of the **BIMETALLIC QUESTION** will be held on Thursday, October 3rd, 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: David Kellett will prepare "The Adventure of the Illustrious Client," found in *The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes*.

No quiz this meeting... Film instead

Sad News: Although we received a positive update on Charles Purdon at the meeting of August 1st, it is with tear filled eyes that I must inform you that our honorable Treasurer and dear friend, Charles Purdon on August 6th, 2002 has resigned himself to his eternal rest. The value of Charles' services will nevertheless be permanently recognized.

Charles' last act for The Bimetallic Question was arranging the Watson Thurston's Billiard event which took place September 3rd, at the McGill Faculty Club. Thank you Charles for arranging this event. In your honour, we have dedicated the trophy: *The Charles Purdon Memorial Award*.

Minutes of the MEETING of the BIMETALLIC QUESTION held on Thursday, August 1st, 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, Anita Miller, Colin Semel, Francis Lalumiere and Wilfrid de Freitas

Guests: Sydney Ghan, Philippe Mathieu and Mac Belfer

Regrets: Patrick Campbell

CALL TO ORDER: David Dowse opened the meeting at 6:32 p.m. and welcomed those present.

SHOW/TELL: Members who gathered for our meeting August 1st to view the film "*Young Sherlock Holmes*" had to put on their deducing caps and partake in the adventure "*How to Operate a VCR*", a 20th century cagey invention that can still foil attempts of man to comprehend its existence and value to mankind. Great thanks go to Francis and Philippe who deduced the volume control was on the top of the television and could not be controlled by the remote. Most importantly, thank you to Colin Semel for reserving the video and David Dowse for arranging the necessary equipment.

The stars of *Young Sherlock Holmes* were: Nicholas Rowe (Holmes), Alan Cox (Watson), Sophie Ward (Elizabeth), Anthony Higgins (Rathe), Susan Fleetwood (Mrs Dribb), Freddie Jones (Cragwitch) and Nigel Stock (Waxflatter). The film was directed by Barry Levinson and produced by Mark Johnson. Executive producer, was none other than Steven Spielberg.

With Steven Spielberg's involvement, there is no wonder as to why; the film was nominated for an Oscar for best visual effects. Indeed, there are some superb special effects. My personal favourite: Watson's hallucinations.

One must have an open mind and active imagination to ponder and overcome the novelty of the idea, that Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson originally met while at school. This theory involves a rewriting of their historic first meeting. For me, this would be one of those havens of eccentricity that have been celebrated in English fiction since the beginning of time.

Sherlock Holmes purists will wince at some of the liberties taken in this film, but overall it is an enjoyable romp through mid-Victorian England.

TOASTS

This evening's toasts were **To The Master**, **To The Queen Mom**, and to **Charles Purdon**.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting closed late this evening, at 9:10 p.m. due to the length of our feature film.

MRS HUDSONS CORNER:

Nursery Cheese Niblets

Whether known as Twinkletoes-Tiddly on Toast or Baby's Bunny Rabbit, nursery cheese niblets is a Welsh rarebit made with milk instead of beer, and even though it is a childhood classic, it is still one of my most favourite meals.

1 tablespoon Butter
1 ½ cups shredded cheddar cheese
¼ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon dry mustard
1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
1/3 cup milk
1 egg yolk
4 slices of hot, buttered toast

Melt the butter in a double boiler. Stir in the cheese, salt, dry mustard, Worcestershire sauce, milk, and blend well. After the mixture is hot and well blended, add the egg yolk (slightly beaten) and stir until smooth. Pour over hot buttered toast. Cut the toast into small "niblets" and serve immediately.

For the non Victorian kitchen sleuths: To make cheese sauce in the microwave, melt butter 30 seconds on high. Add all ingredients except the egg yolk. Microwave on high for 8 minutes, stirring and turning bowl after every 2 minutes. Stir in slightly beaten egg and microwave for 30 seconds longer. Because of differences in microwave wattage, times may vary slightly.

Source: The Victorian Nursery Companion – written by Sarah Ban Breathnach.

Varia: Please bring a memento or story about Charles to our next meeting, October 3rd, so we; The Society, can reminisce and drink a toast in his honor.

There will be a vacancy effective January 1, 2003 (not in the Red Headed League) however, in The Bimetallic Question's committee as Maureen Anderson will be taking evening courses that will prevent her from continuing in the capacity of Secretary. Anyone interested in securing this position should contact David Dowse.

Reports on Past Events:

Watson Thurston's Billiard Night

The evening started with a quiet, smooth pace gaining intensity as it progressed. The first round commenced with the task being the first to reach 51. This was quickly reduced to 21 for us less experienced players.

In the grand scheme of things, there were several competitors who had the necessary attributes to rise to the top of the field. David Kellett, Patrick Campbell, Wilfrid de Freitas, Stanley Baker, Lawrence Reich, Paul Billette, Jack Anderson, Shigeko Betts, Mac Belfer to name a few; but as the elimination rounds continued, one by one, players were eliminated, leaving two finalists (Paul Billette and Lawrence Reich for bragging rights; and of course to share the top prize, ***The Charles Purdon Memorial Award***. Time did not permit a playoff between our evening's winners. Congratulations gentlemen. Well Done!

David Kellett a veteran to the game, (professional level player) after winning the 1st round against Patrick Campbell bowed out of the competition and provided guidance and encouragement to the members who were eliminated in the 1st round.

After it was over and done with, it was the exuberance and fearlessness that we all have that withstood the fierce competition and the mystery of the game "Billiards". I was very pleased not only with the turnout, but the level of sportsmanship and enthusiasm over the event.

My view on Billiards

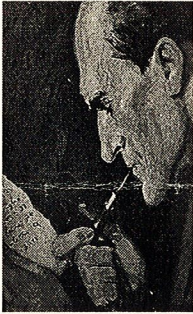
Billiards arguably has more rules than any other sport, but if you take the time to learn to appreciate that they are there to help rather than penalize, you will enjoy the game that much more. There is no need to commit the rules to memory, however, knowledge of some of the basic rules is recommended. Aside from the rules of the game there are a variety of tips do's and don'ts that are designed to help you with your game while displaying consideration for other billiard players.

David Kellett forewarned me months prior to this event, that he was a professional player, which I took at the time to be a challenge. After watching him arrive with his very own cue, which resembled Colonel Sebastien Moran's air rifle (as it was in several parts which David easily assembled for his victorious 1st game) I decided it was a well placed warning and it would be best for me to play my first game with someone at my skill level and who would possibly take pity on me.

I observed the goings on at the various tables, hoping to learn a trick or two. After watching stances closely and cue positioning, I realized not only is it a game of skill and talent; it is a game of mystery. Similar to shooting, it takes a steady hand, a poised aim and determination to meet your target. You should also take into account the unexpected, as the master once stated: Once you eliminate things like chaos and unpredictability which offer a variety of intriguing trajectory to your ball.

My opponent (Professor Moriarty) in a previous reincarnation, brings me back to reality with his perfect 6. And so it goes, shot after shot until I was eliminated. Then it came to me, my observations complete. Men are better skilled at billiards. It was passed down from generation to generation. Only men were permitted in the clubs. Well gentlemen, move over! Not only have times changed, but after David Kellett and Patrick Campbell's expert advice to Shigeko and I, we were able to improve our game 100%.

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



- 1) In which story do Holmes and Watson call each other by their first names?
- 2) What four letters are the most often-used letters in English? ____ ____ ____ ____
- 3) Using all of the following letters: QUIETSONHITCABLETIME please identify three words that have meaning to Montreal's Sherlock Holmes Society.

Answers to last month's Puzzler: Will be provided in the October 3rd minutes as they pertain to our next quiz.

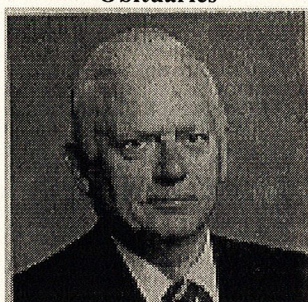
We hope to see you at the next meeting. Must dash! The next adventure awaits.

Your humble servant,
Maureen

Charles J. Purdon

It is with great sadness and a deep sense of loss that members and friends of The Bimetallic Question (Montreal Sherlock Holmes Society) mark the passing of the singular Charles Purdon. He served as Sovereign, Shilling and valued adviser for over 15 years. He was a driving force in calling out the troops to such functions as our two colloquiums, birthday dinners, billiards night and airgun shoots. Charles recently tallied up our accounts as our treasurer. He was a great sounding-board and doer in our Society. He will be sorely missed. Thank you, Charles, for making our society so much richer. The Bimetallic Question

The Gazette, Montreal, Saturday, August 10th, 2002
Obituaries



CHARLES J. PURDON

Born in Verdun, Quebec in 1928, died August 6, 2002. Pensioner CNR Technical Research Centre. Son of the late Charles A. and Hildegard (nee Fricker) of London, England, predeceased by his sister Rose-Marie, brother James, he is survived by his sister Roxanne Bradshaw, nephew Peter Aldersley, Kiley and Aiden, nieces Paula Aldersley and Roger and Nancy Smith (nee Aldersley), Tim and their children Eric and Gregory of Bath, Maine.

Educated at St. Willibrord', Sir George Williams and McGill. Late of the 2nd Reserve Battalion, Victoria Rifles of Canada. Mr. Purdon was a past president and life member of the St. James Literary Society and the Montreal Sherlock Holmes Society (The Bimetallic Question), a member of the Faculty Club of McGill University, the Verdun Lawn Bowling Club, he was also one of the founders and a life member of the Lower Canada Arms Collectors Association; he was the author of several papers on the history of firearms.

In lieu of flowers please donate to the charity of your choice. Private Funeral.

The Gazette, Montreal, Friday, August 9th, 2002
Obituaries & Memorials

The Executive Committee and Members of THE ST. JAMES LITERARY SOCIETY, INC. extend their heartfelt condolences to the family of:
CHARLES J. PURDON
Past President, Secretary – Treasurer and very special life member.

The Gazette, Montreal, Friday, August 25th, 2002

DIED: Charles Purdon, past president and life member of the St. James Literary Society and the Montreal Sherlock Holmes Society, and a founder of the Lower Canada Arms Collectors Association, of leukemia. Mr. Purdon died at Montreal General Hospital on August 6th, 2002.

He was born September 5th, 1928, grew up in Verdun and was educated at St. Willibrord's School, Sir George Williams University and McGill University.

He served with the 2nd Reserve Battalion of the Victoria Rifles of Canada during World War II. Mr. Purdon worked for 44 years as a purchasing agent for Canadian National Railways' research laboratory, retiring in 1986.

He is survived by his sister. A private funeral was held August 10th, 2002.

CONDOLENCES RECEIVED:

Linda Huntoon: I was saddened today to read in the Gazette the Obituary of Charles Purdon. I know he had backed away from his activities with the Bimetallic Question because of health problems, but I was shocked nonetheless to read of his death.

He was a lovely man, and as part of the backbone of the Society, he will be sorely missed. Could you please pass on my condolences to family and friends, and know that I shall make a donation in his name to my charity of choice, the Canadian Lung Association.

If you could include my condolences to the Society in your next newsletter, it would be much appreciated. I have not attended a meeting in quite some time; perhaps you could write back to me and let me know when will be the next get-together. We should all bring some memento or story about Charles, and of course, drink a toast in his honor.

Sincerely,
Linda Huntoon

Maureen Anderson: Charles was of an ardent, affectionate, and grateful temper, he was simple in manner and address, and displayed an inbred courtesy of the most agreeable character. Since joining the Bimetallic Question only a few years ago, I have been an admirer of his fierce, independent intelligence, of his originality and daring as a Sherlockian. I have benefited from his experience and encouragement. My memories of Charles will be enduring ones. Donation made in Charles' name to, the Leukemia Research Fund.

Excerpt from: *Home, Wounded*

My soul lies out like a basking hound,
A hound that dreams and dozes;
Along my life my length I lay,
I fill to-morrow and yesterday,
I am warm with the suns that have long since set,
I am warm with the summers that are not yet,
And like one who dreams and dozes
Softly afloat on a sunny sea,
Two worlds are whispering over me,
And there blows a wind of roses
From the backward shore to the shore before,
From the shore before to the backward shore,
And like two clouds that meet and pour
Each through each, till core in core

A single self reposes,
The nevermore with the evermore
Above me mingles and closes;
As my soul lies out like the basking hound
And wherever it lies seems happy ground,
And when, awakened by some sweet sound,
A dreamy eye uncloses,
I see a blooming world around,
And I lie amid primroses,--
Years of sweet primroses,
Springs of fresh primroses,
Springs to be, and springs for me
Of distant dim primroses.

By: Sydney Dobell