

About Dr. Bernard Hoeter

World Citizen and Honourary Life Member of The Society of Notaries Public of BC, Dr. Bernard Hoeter is a German-born, multilingual academic and a former practising Notary, President, and Director of The Society.

He studied law in Germany, coming to Canada in 1952. A founding member of The Society of Translators and Interpreters, in 1959 Bernard became a BC Notary, the first to speak five languages. Today, a great many of the members of our Society are multilingual; their languages include Hindi, Farsi, Chinese, Italian, Spanish, German, and French.

Note: On the **Find a Notary** page of our Website (www.notaries.bc.ca), simply enter the language in which you prefer to do business. A list of suitable Notaries will appear, for your convenience.

Bernard was the only BC Notary ever admitted to the Order of St. John; he was Treasurer of the Priory Knights Hospitaller of Western Canada, then Knight Commander, and was awarded the Commander's Star Order. ▲

Dr. Hoeter: a Rare Treasure, Indeed

It has been my distinct pleasure to know Dr. Hoeter for the past 34 years.

I first met Bernard in the Fall of 1972.

At that time, the rules of The Society required Notary applicants to be at least age 25. The day I turned 25, I applied to become a BC Notary!



Our rules, then as now, required that an applicant's name be circulated to The Society's membership for approval-in-principal. Because I was considered so young, two members expressed concern to Dr. Hoeter as to my qualifications to become a Notary. I received a letter from him requesting me to appear at the Secretariat for an interview.

I was already nervous when I boarded the Victoria plane to fly to

Vancouver but, when I walked into The Society office, my nervousness turned to terror. There was this very tall, extremely distinguished gentleman demanding to know why I thought I was qualified to become a Notary. I don't remember my answers but they must have been acceptable to Dr. Hoeter.

Our education program was much different in the '70s. We took the majority of our courses by correspondence. The "live" courses conducted by The Society were taught by Dr. Hoeter.

Not only did he teach us the necessary courses for becoming BC Notaries, he conveyed what a great honour it is to carry on the tradition of Notary Public. I learned from Dr. Hoeter the history of Notaries and their international importance.

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As the years passed, I grew to know Bernard as our Secretary, a fellow Board member, mentor, and friend. He never forgot to send a message of congratulations when he learned about something in which I was involved.

Dr. Hoeter is a rare treasure in our notarial world. ▲