

Wayne Braid

Dr. Bernard Hoeter: a Unique BC Notary



In this issue of *The Scrivener*, we honour one of our own—the undisputed King of BC Notaries, Dr. Bernard Hoeter.

Many people pass through our lives. Some leave a lasting impression for one reason or another; they may be mentor, teacher, colleague, friend, advisor, or a person of authority in our life.

For me, Bernard is all of these!

When I applied to enter the education program to become a BC Notary, I was “summoned” to Vancouver to meet with Dr. Hoeter, Secretary of The Society.

Of course I was somewhat nervous as we always are, going into an interview. I had prepared myself well. I knew exactly what I was going to say and how I would answer what I expected to be standard questions.

I arrived early and introduced myself to the receptionist, who asked me to wait because Dr. Hoeter was busy.

Half an hour later, I was ushered into his office to meet him. Handsome antiques and valuable *objects d’art* steeped the room in dignity and decorum.

He was standing—talking on the phone and looking out the window. The presence of the man was immense. At that moment, everything I had planned to say fell out of my head!

He waved me in and motioned for me to sit, which I did . . . in his chair!

As soon as he was off the phone, he faced me and said, “Vell, do you think you can do my job already?!” I realized what I had done and stumbled meekly around to the other side of his desk and prepared myself for the next question!

The years that followed showed me various facets of Dr. Hoeter—the teacher, the scholar, the wine connoisseur, the advisor, and our most respected Honourary Member.

“Why do you live in Terrace?” he thundered! I gave him my best answer, which seem to satisfy him, then we talked about my present and past business experience and why I wanted to be a Notary.

That discussion is as alive in my memory now as the day it took place. The years that followed showed me various facets of Dr. Hoeter—the teacher, the scholar, the wine connoisseur, the advisor, and our most respected Honourary Member.

I have had the pleasure of visiting at his home, of sharing a meal or fine wine and hors d’oeuvres with him and his lovely friend and companion Erika. During our time together, I always

learn something new from Bernard on topics I never thought would even interest him.

At our Notary conferences, at some time during the events Dr. Hoeter always would get up and impart wisdom to the group. Emphatic and skillful in his remarks, he would pass on to his fellow members a lesson he had learned or knowledge he had gained through his extensive reading and study of history.

One of the ways The Society of Notaries Public of BC honours Dr. Hoeter is the award presented in his name to the Notary student who scores the highest marks on the six examinations set by the Attorney General’s examiners.

This award has been given since 1986. Our first winner was Susan Davis, our current Second Vice President! Here are recent winners of the **Dr. Bernard Hoeter Award**.

2001: Harman Virk
2002: Tamara Thorpe
2003: Kim Guthrie
2004: Filip de Sagher
2005: Norm Redden
2006: Lu Hong

Today’s BC Notary is as unique as this fascinating man. Our Notaries have, through their dedication to education and service to the public, created a profession unlike any other in North America. Much of the credit for where and who we are today can be attributed to Bernard Hoeter—a man with vision and a passion for his profession.

He truly is a living legend. ▲