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Reed Dickerson: An Appreciation

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Reed Dickerson: An Appreciation

E.A. DRIEDGER*

F. Reed Dickerson retiring? I don't believe it! He may be ending his tenure at Indiana University, Bloomington, and that will be an irreparable loss to the University, but, knowing him as I do, that does not mean sitting in a chair playing his trumpet. I am sure that more gold will continue to flow from his pen.

My acquaintanceship with Reed Dickerson goes back a long time. He came across a modest little paper on legislative drafting I had published many years ago, and I came across his text, *Legislative Drafting*,¹ the forerunner to his later text, *The Fundamentals of Legal Drafting*.² We at once recognized that we were kindred spirits, and began to correspond. Strangely, though, we did not meet face to face until just a half a dozen years ago; several times at meetings of committees of the Canadian Bar Association, at a seminar in Bloomington, Indiana, on the teaching of legislative writing, and also in Ottawa on his return from a meeting of the American Bar Association in Montreal. We also both appeared before the Renton Committee in London, England, although at different times, but we read each other's evidence. I feel, therefore, that I am qualified to pass judgment on him and his works—articles and texts—most of which I have read with delight. If I were a Supreme Court of nine Justices, I am sure the judgment would be unanimous.

His reputation as an authority on legislation, both interpretation and writing, and on legal writing in general is worldwide. Our language does not have appropriate adjectives to describe his works and his contributions; brilliant, outstanding, superb, are much too pale. His writings are not mere academic exercises; what he recommends and exhorts is being accepted and followed, not only by bill drafters, but by the profession at large in all English-speaking countries. His influence is ever-growing and will continue to flourish long after we have all taken leave of this terrestrial domain.

*Q.C.; Professor Emeritus of Law, University of Ottawa; Former Deputy Minister of Justice & Deputy Attorney General, Canada.

1. R. DICKERSON, *LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING* (1954).

2. R. DICKERSON, *THE FUNDAMENTALS OF LEGAL DRAFTING* (1965).

I join with the multitude in honoring Reed for his writing and teaching and in wishing for him many happy years in his "retirement."
