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Johnny Veeder QC 1948–2020

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Johnny Veeder QC 1948–2020 From the General Editor

Thirty-six years ago, with a handful of arbitration aficionados, Johnny Veeder founded *Arbitration International*, later providing yeoman service as the journal's second General Editor. He pushed the journal to aim at delivery of high-quality scholarship in the English language, on a broad spectrum of topics related to resolution of cross-border disputes, both public and private.

At that moment, for better or for worse, international arbitration found itself moving into the realm of serious big business, leaving behind its earlier status as a 'cottage industry' permeated by the culture of French and Swiss legal artisans, or specialists working in particular fields such as insurance or construction. In his farewell as General Editor, Johnny noted the exponential increase in global trade that overlapped the journal's early decades, bringing a concomitant increase in the number and size of arbitral proceedings.¹ More and bigger proceedings triggered elaboration of new national arbitration statutes, as well as the teaching of arbitration at the university level. In this transition, Johnny played a vital role, provoking scholarly exchanges on ways to improve proceedings and to modernize arbitration's legal framework, so as to balance rival goals of efficiency and fairness while enhancing delivery of awards both just and final.

Remembrance of Johnny by his colleagues implicates an intertwining of the personal and the professional. Those touched by Johnny's work recall not only brilliant lectures, or arbitration hearings speckled with keen analysis of case law and elegant parsing of treaty language. We also remember mellow musings on legal history during friendly dinners irrigated by wine and laughter.

For my part, it was a privilege to work with Johnny at the LCIA and on this journal, as well as to sit with him on arbitral tribunals. Better still were visits from Johnny and his wife Marie, herself a native New Englander, when they sailed from a mooring on the North Shore of Massachusetts Bay to my own spot on the South Shore of that august body of water separating our homes.

1 VV Veeder, 'A Personal Editorial' (2005) 21 *Arbitration International* 441. On founding the journal, see VV Veeder, 'Jan Paulsson Retires as General Editor' (2003) 19 *Arbitration International* 1.

Jan Paulsson, another General Editor of this journal, recently evoked the court of legendary King Arthur by describing Johnny as ‘Sir Galahad and Merlin in one’. The knight Sir Galahad exemplified integrity and courage, while the wizard Merlin, mentor to royalty, astonished everyone by his wisdom. Johnny had all those qualities.

Arbitration International will commemorate Johnny with a Special Issue featuring essays about matters where Johnny’s intellect and energy came to bear. In the interim, this brief editorial serves as a feeble marker in the ongoing narrative of Johnny’s influence upon the realm of international arbitration.

Rusty Park, Boston