



In Memoriam: Jean Paul Vinay (1910-1999)

(Article kindly provided by the Vinay family)

Dr. Jean Paul Vinay passed away peacefully in his home in Oak Bay, Victoria, B.C. on Saturday, April 10th 1999.

Dr. Vinay was one of Canada's most eminent linguists and scholars, who profoundly influenced the development of translation, second language instruction and general linguistics in this country and abroad for more than half a century.

Jean Paul Vinay was born in Paris, France, July 18th 1910. The family soon located in Le Havre, where Jean Paul received his early academic training. After attending the Ecole des Arts Decoratifs in Paris, he undertook studies in English philology and literature and obtained the licence ès lettres from the Sorbonne in 1932. In the course of several stays in England and Wales, he attended the University of London, where he received an M.A. in Phonetics and Philology in 1937. After service with the French army during 1939-40 as a liaison officer with the British Expeditionary Forces, he returned to an academic career and was awarded the agrégation d'anglais (1st place) in 1941. He subsequently served as Chief Inspector of Modern Languages in the schools of the city of Paris. In 1946, Jean Paul Vinay came to Canada where he began a distinguished career as professor and head of the department of Linguistics and Translation at the University of Montreal. In addition to the development of translation studies marked by the publication of the seminal work *Stylistique comparée du français et de l'anglais* (recently translated to English), he directed the publication of the bilingual Canadian Dictionary in 1962 and became well known to the general public through his CBC television course *Speaking French*. In 1967, Professor Vinay moved to Victoria, where he served as Head of the Department of Linguistics and subsequently Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. During this period, he was awarded a doctorate by the University of Ottawa in 1975 and named Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, by Concordia University in 1985. Dr. Vinay retired from the University of Victoria as Emeritus Professor of Linguistics in 1976, but he continued throughout the rest of life to contribute learned articles to various publications and participate actively in the intellectual and cultural life of Victoria.

Many awards and distinctions have been conferred on Dr. Vinay; he was named Officier d'Académie (Palme académique) and Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur (France), Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, and Member of the Order of Canada. He was the recipient of the Canadian Confederation Medal, the Queen's Jubilee Medal and the 125th Anniversary of Canada Medal and numerous other honours.

However well-known his distinguished career may be in scientific circles and among the public at large, Jean Paul Vinay will best be remembered by his family and many acquaintances as a beloved parent, relative and friend who, with unfailing generosity, wit and good humour, enriched the lives of all with whom he came in contact.

Jean Paul Vinay was preceded in death by his wife Marie-Paule in 1988. He is survived by a sister, Mauricette Vinay of Le Havre (France); four children, Marie-Elizabeth Taggart, François Vinay, Marie-Emmanuelle Bartle, all of Victoria, and Patrick Vinay of Montreal; thirteen grandchildren and a great grandson.

Funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Friday, April 16, followed by burial at Royal Oak Cemetery.

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