

In Memoriam
ROBERT A. HUNTER

FILED

SEP 18 1961

[Signature]
Deputy Clerk

Presented at the Memorial Exercises
Held in the First Judicial District Court
Under the Auspices of the Shreveport Bar Association
on September 18, 1961

Robert A. Hunter, 82, and for 61 years a Louisiana lawyer, passed away in Shreveport on March 15, 1961. He was born on January 7, 1879, and was admitted to the Bar on May 22, 1900. On June 30, 1903, he was married to Miss Marie Prudhomme of Natchitoches.

He practiced law in Alexandria until October 1913. He then moved to Shreveport where he practiced his profession until his retirement in June 1958. Among his professional activities he served as City Attorney of Alexandria, Lecompte, and Pineville; he was Assistant United States Attorney at the time he moved to Shreveport, and he later served for a time as United States Attorney when Judge Whitfield Jack presided in the Western District of Louisiana. Among religious honors which were conferred upon him, he was a Knight of St. Gregory.

In his long and busy life as a lawyer he participated in many important cases and made outstanding contributions to the formation of the jurisprudence of the State and the nation in varied fields of the law. In his notable career at the Bar he maintained the highest standards and steadfastly upheld the best and most admirable traditions of his profession, never yielding to the pressures and convenience of expediency nor ever sacrificing principles to any degree for the attainment of success. In his practice he was diligent and industrious and his wide and thorough knowledge of the law and his tenacious devotion to his convictions as to the merits of his cause made him a formidable opponent. His adversaries found him fair and just and his associates knew him as a generous colleague in sharing credit for achievement. His courtesy and obvious sincerity inspired respect and confidence. He has left behind him an admirable and enviable record.

In personal temperament and character, Robert A. Hunter was a gentle gentleman, to whom it was almost a sin to offend another even unintentionally. Modest in the exhibition of his talents, he was yet firm in holding to his convictions. He truly regarded the law as the lawyers of legend considered it, as his mistress. Punctilious in the treatment of his colleagues, he could not readily yield to their ideas conflicting with his own conclusions; but even then he was not unduly insistent.

He was not selfish with his legal attainments, being always glad to help others; and he particularly enjoyed guiding young men in their studies when preparing for the Bar. He depended on fact and reason to prove his case and secure a judgment. No politician, he stood by his friends and lent no willing ear to their critics.

There is no pattern or formula for the development of a Robert Hunter. Those who met him in the courtroom quickly learned that his mind worked like a swordsman's blade, a blade honed on the hard-ribbed rules of the Ten Commandments, and stropped to a gentler edge on the principles of the Civil Code of Louisiana. Those who knew him long realized the unique quality of his mind. From the hub of a Christian character and the philosophy of a genteel Southerner, his mind reached out in all directions like the spokes of a limitless wheel, seeking knowledge of all manner of things, not for gain or fame, but simply because they were true.

Robert Hunter was living proof that life is more agreeable to the educated mind; for he found pleasure in learning, and, having learned, like Epictetus he used this knowledge to understand and appreciate the great festival of life. More than that, he was able to spread his interest and enjoyment to others, causing them to see innumerable facets of life which his mind, like a telescope, brought into their view. He had fun with his mind, and he could show his friends the way to join him--with equal ease whether the friends were three years old or eighty.

A cross-section of his activities at a time during the last few years of his life demonstrates the expanded field of his interests: for the guidance of a New York Surrogate Court, he gave a decisive and lengthy deposition analyzing the history and principles of Louisiana probate procedures; then, too, he was growing his roses and lecturing on the subject to a society of rosarians; he delivered the general eulogy at Memorial Services of his own judicial district, and of a neighboring district; and--close to his heart--he was engaged in writing down the stories which he had told orally to generations of children for

many years--the happy narrative of a mythical kingdom on the Island
of Lingaloo.

There could be no more fitting tribute to the memory of Robert A.
Hunter than to assert with confidence that of the many friends he
made in life, he lost not one.

Respectfully submitted,

Memorial Committee

Wm. J. Long

Hollingsworth B. Barrett

J. N. Marcantel