

Off With Richard Horowitz's Head

By Victor Bedikian

The following article brought a smile to Dick's face whenever he spoke of it. For this reason, we have decided to reprint it here. It was originally published in the June 1987 issue of Interface.

Cries of "off with his head" were heard around the Orlando Marriott at high noon on March 23, 1987, as sixty or so irate RCI members milled around the anteroom of meeting room Tangerine B. The head they were crying for belonged to Credentials Committee chairman Richard M. Horowitz, AIA, RCI.

The Roof Consultants Institute had staged its first examination for the certification of roof consultants and the man most responsible for the content of the test was our most notorious Mr. Horowitz. To say that the test was difficult is like saying electrocution is uncomfortable. The first part consisted of 400 multiple choice and true-false questions covering legal and ethical aspects of roof consulting, roofing systems, testing

methodology, specifications, construction and design principles. This part had to be completed in three hours (26 seconds per question). The second part had several practical problems which had to be answered within one hour. For many of the examinees whose last test had taken place some twenty years earlier, it was a trial by fire.

Although most of us who took this exam would like to have Richard boiled in hot coal tar pitch at EVT, we all acknowledge that he achieved credibility for RCI in testing for certification of roof consultants. His was a difficult task and he pulled it off with great verve and nerve. Kudos should also go to Richard Canon for his leadership as president and to the members who submitted the questions and answers that were used.

Richard M. Horowitz Award

Board of Directors Names Interface Award for RCI's Renowned Past President, Fellow, and Exceptional Member.

The award given for the best technical article published last year in *Interface* will be named after the late Richard Horowitz — a fitting tribute to his literary style and breadth of knowledge. Richard had the rare gift of finding the perfect words for any occasion, and he exercised this talent with prolific ease.

Articles published in *Interface* will be judged annually at RCI's convention. Contact Headquarters for more information.