

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Honorary Degree Citation
The degree of Doctor of Letters, honoris causa,
conferred on Dr. Robert Binghurst
Thursday, June 9, 2016

Madam Chancellor, I am delighted to present Robert Bringhurst, a distinguished Canadian of letters in every sense: poet, linguist, cultural historian, philosopher, editor, and typographer.

Robert Bringhurst has published more than 40 books of poetry and prose over the last four decades. His wide-reaching and influential body of work is renowned for its intellectual curiosity and linguistic clarity. His distinctive poetry frequently invokes literature and myth from sources as diverse as the ancient Greek poets, and the epics of the Haida. His prose includes books on subjects as varied as literature, linguistics, and visual art

The Elements of Typographic Style is considered a classic in its field, the standard used by students around the world.

One of the great linguists of our time, Robert Bringhurst is also celebrated for his work in the translation and interpretation of Native American oral literature. He has had a decades-long fascination with the classical Haida poetic tradition, and was instrumental in bringing their art and literature to the attention of the world. He collaborated with artist Bill Reid to produce *The Raven Steals the Light*, a retelling of ten Haida Trickster myths. His monumental trilogy, *Masterworks of the Classical Haida Mythtellers* – an undertaking to which he dedicated twelve years of his life was described by Margaret Atwood as

awarded the 2004 Edward Sapir Prize for the first volume of the trilogy, A Story as Sharp as a Knife.

Excellence in 2005; and in 2013, he was made an Officer of the Order of Canada for his outstanding

an anthology honoring his life and work was published featuring a range of notable Canadians.

Eloquent and erudite, always guided by a passion for the elegant written word, Robert Bringhurst has greatly enriched our cultural landscape.

Madam Chancellor, on behalf of the Senate of this University, I ask that you now confer upon Mr. Robert Bringhurst the degree Doctor of Letters, *honoris causa*.