

Marc Mislanghe

I met Marc twelve years ago (2002) when Ray Price and I were embarked on a study of Hewlett-Packard in preparation for our strategic history of the company, *The HP Phenomenon: Innovation and Business Transformation*, Stanford Press, 2009. Art Fong pointed us toward Marc as someone who was a ‘collector’ of HP instruments; who better to know about such folk than Art, Mr. Microwave himself.

I had a trip scheduled shortly to Europe with Intel; I used the opportunity to connect with Marc in Paris in 2004, where he took delight in sharing his modest collection, especially re stories about Logic Analyzers. He and I had numerous friends in common from his days in the French HP organization, and he showed me a great time in his city. Marc, as others have mentioned, was a gourmand and a wine connoisseur. We walked, we talked, I penned a small monograph about Logic for him that later was the basis for the memoir segment now in his collection (and still later, the core of a book, *Permission Denied: Odyssey of an Intrapreneur*, Amazon Books, 2013).

His vision for the HP Museum was bold, but wildly impractical without corporate support. Characteristically, he ignored the problems and charged ahead. He had already met both Kenneth Kuhn and Glenn Robb on-line; we decided that a formal meeting in Palo Alto would be a splendid idea, and might lead to some corporate enthusiasm. That trip occurred in Spring 2007; we were able to get HP’s main auditorium in Building 20A (headquarters at 3000 Hanover Street) for a sizable audience. Ken, Glenn and Marc each presented; it was a stellar show, still available in DVD form from this website.

Corporate enthusiasm never materialized in terms of financial support, but it did open up both the HP and the Agilent archives for these intrepid entrepreneurs who couldn’t understand why this history of such a fabled company had to be done only by “outsiders” and alumni. In fact, this is the fate of most companies and their history; the beauty here is that Marc’s zeal produced something rarer than hen’s teeth—the collection herein speaks for itself. It would be hard to find a collection of any American corporation’s history of the past century done with more care, completeness, and perspective. All done on his own time, with his own funds, with unbounded enthusiasm—and with the skills to refurbish every single instrument, and put it back in working order.

It is our loss that Marc was taken too soon—it is our opportunity to preserve and extend his vision as a legacy not just to HP but to him as well.

Chuck House, December 26, 2014