

A tribute to Albert Prat by George Box

Albert had a unique combination of admirable qualities. I have so many happy memories of him, it's difficult to know where to start.

He was a visionary. He saw the importance of Statistics for engineering and science, and in particular, the Design of Experiments and the use of Time Series. Three decades ago he was teaching these things to hundreds of students. Even now, many teachers of engineers and scientists in this country have not even begun.

He was quick to see what were the important issues in any problem and he knew what to do about them. As you know, his solutions could be very ingenious.

He was a superb organizer. I am still amazed by the wonderful conference that he put on in Barcelona — dinner at the Palace with strolling musicians and singers — one of the most delightful evenings I can remember.

His generosity knew no bounds. We can never forget the kindness he showed to Claire and myself. He loved to make people happy and he knew how to do this. At his wedding I remember a stack of champagne bottles that stood four feet high and five feet across. The bottles had no labels. I asked him where these came from, and he smiled and said, "I know a man."

He was a master chef, and was especially pleased when his friends savored his delicious cooking.

Albert had a great sense of fun, and I can see now his wonderful smile. He touched so many of our lives and we will forever remember that touch.