



## Who, What, Where was/is Helmut Schwarz

It was August 1982 when I attended a conference as a representative of Elsevier Science for the first time in my life. There were about 1000 participants at that International Mass Spectrometry Conference in Vienna. It was exciting to meet so many famous scientists whose names I had often seen in the International Journal of Mass Spectrometry and Ion Processes. I kept my eyes and ears wide open and tried to remember which faces and voices belonged to which names. It was not always easy since I met about 100 new people every day. However, there was one person there who I knew immediately I would never forget. He approached me because he was looking for one of my Elsevier colleagues. What struck me were his shining, penetrating eyes, which looked so friendly at the same time. It was of course der Herr Professor Helmut Schwarz.

Little did I know that I would meet and contact him regularly in the next 20 years because, there and then, Helmut accepted an editorship of the International Journal of Mass Spectrometry and Ion Processes starting in January 1983. Thus, not only has Helmut reached the respectable age of 60 this year, but he has also been an editor of the journal for 20 years!

Helmut has been an excellent editor with many innovative ideas. However, it has not always been easy to deal with him. The desk editors and typesetters in particular often had a hard time with him because his handwriting was atrocious and usually totally illegible. The corrections he wrote on the proofs of his papers did not seem to make any sense, so that the necessity

of having to make second proofs was more a rule than an exception. Rather than acknowledging that quite a few “typing errors” were a result of his poor handwriting, Helmut sometimes exploded when he saw the many errors in his proofs. With the introduction of personal computers, the desk editors heaved a sigh of relief expecting they would no longer have to try and decipher Helmut’s handwritten notes and corrections. It was a big disappointment to find that Helmut refused to have a computer in his office claiming that he was too old to learn how to use it.

When Mike Bowers asked me to write something about Helmut in the special issue on the occasion of his 60th birthday, it occurred to me that I only knew him from a publisher’s point of view. I therefore decided to invite a number of his friends, colleagues and former students to write a concise vignette expressing something they found characteristic of Helmut. I specifically asked for a handwritten text, because I thought that would be more personal and it might convince Helmut that it is not impossible to write legibly. The vignettes are collected and published on the following pages together with some photos and a collage of photos which together show some of the places where Helmut has been in the past 20 years.

Dear Helmut, congratulations on your 60th birthday and 20 years’ editorship of this journal. It has been, and remains, a privilege to know you.

Swan Go (Formerly Publishing Editor of the International Journal of Mass Spectrometry)

Helmut: Remember,  
the opera isn't over  
'til the fat lady sings!  
Chuck DePoy

Clarity, urgency of story  
telling, heart-pounding:  
opera or your publication?  
Viel Glück, Gerhard

Lieber Helmut,  
in dankbarer Erinnerung  
an eine tolle Zeit an der  
TU-Berlin und wunderbare  
Musikerlebnisse (Elektra!)  
Herzlichen Glückwunsch  
Hans-Günther

Dear Helmut,  
Congratulations on  
behalf of whole of  
Elsevier! You are  
exceptional as editor,  
scientist, human!  
To a good future  
for you and WWS  
MICHEL

質量無限  $M/Z = \infty$   
Infinite possibility  
with your ion chemistry!  
Shuji Kato

Congratulations  
Helmut!  
60  
It will soon be  
playtime!  
Keith and Christine

THANK YOU  
FOR A RCH +  
INSPIRING TIME  
IN BERLIN!  
Christoph H.

Guide to Berlin  
The city of Berlin contains  
many marvels of which it  
can be proud, and one of the  
most marvellous is Helmut,  
as guide to the city, as  
expert to its art and music, as  
one of its most outstanding  
scientists, and as friend  
who can brighten the  
darkest winter day. Long may  
he live! Jack Dunitz

Happy Birthday  
Helmut!  
Your wonderful  
Science is always  
stimulating and  
entertaining!!  
Best wishes,  
Scott Gronert

Lieber Helmut,  
ganz herzliche  
Glückwünsche zum  
60. Geburtstag!  
Dein Renato

Many thanks for the  
science, friendship,  
opera, concerts,  
and bike-trips which  
we shared.  
All the best for the future  
Bretton Apolig 2/15/03 1/03



Helmut in black and white.

Glückwunsch zum  
60-ten Geburtstag von  
Helmut, ein begeist-  
erter und schneller  
Kollege in Wissenschaft  
und Reisen. Nico

To an excellent  
scientist - musical  
and civilised  
too! Best wishes  
Dudley

FREUDE!  
Hm

Happy Birthday  
Helmut

Helmut  
Twinkling eyes and laughter  
Vienna 1982; devoted editor  
Mozart's life - in German!  
Happy 60th birthday  
Andrew

Manfred Kopper



On Helmut's life-long struggle to win back the conductor  
of his beloved Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra:

"If you in his time was the bottle:  
Would Eisenstein fellow or Rattle?  
The musicians would vote,  
but without Helmut's quote!  
"He returned to the arms of metal."  
Never mind - alles gute für die nächsten sechzig!  
Thomas (pudlo)

The "afterglow" of your warm  
friendship and extraordinary  
science enriches me all!  
Therese Brienbaum



Château Schwarz anyone?

Helmut,  
Your career is an  
inspiration - now I'm  
not afraid to be 60!  
Congrats! Alan Marshall

Die schönen Haydn  
und Shostakovich  
quartette in Berlin  
Erinnerst du dich?  
Dein Tomas (B)

It is  
always a chal-  
lenge for me to  
decipher his hand-  
writing. Sometimes  
he even asks ME  
what HE has  
written...  
Andrea Beck,  
Secretary

Helmut has taught me a lot.  
What I admire most,  
in retrospect,  
is how he awakened  
passion for science in us.  
Many birthday

To the maestro of physical organic  
chemistry. I wish for many more years  
of collaboration and fruitful research.  
Peter Belmont



