

CHEMICAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

ROGER S. BOROVOY

Transcript of an Interview
Conducted by

David C. Brock

at

Boston, Massachusetts

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(With Subsequent Corrections and Additions)

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This oral history is part of a series supported by grants from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. This series is an important resource for the history of semiconductor electronics, documenting the life and career of Gordon E. Moore, including his experiences and those of others in Shockley Semiconductor, Fairchild Semiconductor, Intel, as well as contexts beyond the semiconductor industry.

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ROGER S. BOROVOY

1935 Born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on 13 April

Education

1956 B.S., Chemical and Electrical Engineering and Business,
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
1959 J.D., Harvard Law School

Professional Experience

1961-1963 Chevron Research
Patent Attorney

1963-1974 Fairchild Camera Instrument Corporation
Patent Counsel

1974-1983 Intel Corporation
Served as Vice President, General Counsel, and Secretary

1983-1987 Served on Boards of Directors for six high technology start-up companies

1987-1995 Brown & Bain
Of Counsel

1995-present Fish & Richardson, P.C., Silicon Valley office
Of Counsel

ABSTRACT

Roger S. Borovoy worked as counsel at both Fairchild Camera Instrument Corporation and Intel Corporation, placing him at the heart of the semiconductor revolution in America. He begins his oral history discussing his choice of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) for his undergraduate degree, as well as his early interest in the law, especially patent law. After a short period of time at Chevron Research, Borovoy began to work as Patent Counsel at Fairchild Camera Instrument Corporation, meeting Gordon Moore; Borovoy quickly became entrenched in the burgeoning electronics industry and legal issues surrounding intellectual property and patents. After fighting legal battles with Motorola, and dealing with international licensing issues, he moved on to working for Intel in 1974. Throughout the remainder of the oral history, Borovoy reflects upon the AMD processor agreement, the Chip Protection Act, Gordon Moore and the culture of Intel, as well as his life after leaving Intel. He provides great insight into what life was like in technology development from the 1960s to the present, the way fortunes were won and lost, and how a select group of people changed the world.

INTERVIEWER

David C. Brock is a senior research fellow with the Center for Contemporary History and Policy of the Chemical Heritage Foundation. As an historian of science and technology, he specializes in oral history, the history of instrumentation, and the history of semiconductor science, technology, and industry. Brock has studied the philosophy, sociology, and history of science at Brown University, the University of Edinburgh, and Princeton University (respectively and chronologically). His most recent publication is *Understanding Moore's Law: Four Decades of Innovation* (Philadelphia: Chemical Heritage Press), 2006, which he edited and to which he contributed.

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