

Two Giants and a Shorty

323, one of Tektronix's Smallest Scopes

Akio Morita, Howard Vollum and the Tektronix-Sony Affair

Giovanni Becattini

References

The following references are used in this book:

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- [QT11KP] The Last Plug-ins – Tektronix 11000-Series Plug-ins – Quacktech
- [SCLI] Some Classical Instrument – coming soon
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- [QT324] Two Giants and a Shorty – Tektronix 323/324 - Quacktech

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Two Giants and a Shorty

Those who have come to know me a little through my books will surely understand that, among the many stories I have had the opportunity to write, this is probably one of the ones I enjoyed the most.

This book is not only about transistors or vacuum tubes, and its true protagonist is not—even if it is indeed fascinating—the Type 323/324 oscilloscope itself. Rather, it is about the relationship between two remarkable individuals whom I deeply admire: Akio Morita, co-founder of Sony, and Howard Vollum, co-founder of Tektronix—two men profoundly different in many ways, yet incredibly similar in spirit.

They are figures who deserve a place in history far more than many politicians or military leaders, because their lives were devoted to building. Not merely to personal (and certainly deserved) profit, but to the release of an immense creative force that shaped technology, industry, and ultimately society itself.

In my book [QT11302], I referred to people like them as “forgotten heroes.” Behind each of these individuals lies a life dedicated to ambitious goals: people with vision, who pursued bold ideas and faced countless challenges with persistence and passion. They endured setbacks, celebrated breakthroughs, and continued forward simply because they believed in what they were building.

What follows is a short episode drawn from their great lives.

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*To my wife
and my family*