

George Box: The legacy of an ‘Accidental Statistician’

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George E.P. Box was one of the greatest statistical minds of the 20th century, and a legendary figure among his peers. His contributions to the discipline of statistics include papers and books that are widely known and cited in such diverse areas of practice and research as experimental design, response surface methodology, time series analysis, Box-Cox transformations, Bayesian inference and robust methods. However, perhaps his greatest contribution to the discipline has been his perspective of Statistics as a philosophy --- the tangible essence of an iterative learning process. To George Box, statistical tools and methods provide the logic and the language of the modern scientific method. He has greatly influenced consecutive generations of researchers and practitioners, not only in his own field of statistics but also in engineering and industry. In addition to his brilliance, he was also known for his wit, skits, and storytelling.