

From 1980-1992, I was an editor and subtitler at SBS so enjoyed the wisdom and companionship of Martin during some of those years.

One amusing anecdote comes to mind concerning working with Martin. He was such a reliable expert in so many fields, Shakespeare, Milton, Keates and on so much to do with the world's history that, lazy as we colleagues often were, too idle to walk across the large editing room to consult the many reference books, we'd just call out or interrupt Martin who was steadily working at editing some tricky text or other. However, on one such occasion when, in those pre google days, many of us had prevented Martin from concentrating on meeting a deadline, he had simply had enough of it. On the back of his shirt he had affixed a notice declaring:

MY PROGRAM IS DUE TO AIR TOMORROW. IN THE PAST HOUR, I HAVE ANSWERED 48 questions on a variety of topics people could have sought for themselves. I WILL NOT BE ANSWERING ANYTHING IN THE NEXT TWO HOURS, SORRY, MJ. And he rightly turned his back on us, pushing his chair into one of the glass subtitling booths. We got the message but alas, failed to heed it for long. He was our go-to person for so much. How I miss his wit and intelligence!

Renée Goossens