

# Accounting Historians Notebook

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## Message from the president [1980, vol. 3, no. 1]

Richard P. Brief

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# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The main event this year is the Third International Congress of Accounting Historians. It will be held at the London Business School from the 16th to the 18th of August. Main speakers include Professors Basil S. Yamey, Tito Antoni, Williard E. Stone and M. Ernest Stevelinck. Some 50 papers will be presented and the program also includes the Haskins Seminar.

In addition, the regular history session and the annual business meeting of the Academy are scheduled at the American Accounting Association annual meeting in Boston during August. (The schedule for those attending the annual meeting and Congress will be rather tight!) Tom Johnson is organizing the history session and it promises to be an interesting one. Most of the papers will deal with issues related to auditing, a subject which is now being rediscovered.

Ed Coffman has become a co-editor of the *Journal* and Williard Stone has been "promoted" to advisory editor. In addition, Dale Fleisher has

become a co-editor of the *newsletter* and Ashton Bishop has taken over the *Working Paper Series*. Other Academy members who retain important responsibilities in the publications area are Gary Previts, Maureen Berry, Dale Buckmaster and Hans Johnson.

Perhaps the most important issue we face concerns the Academy's relationship with the AAA. Essentially, the problem is to decide whether to remain independent of the AAA or to become an affiliated section. Having just become President, I can frankly say that I am not sure what the best course of action is. Naturally, your opinions on this question are welcome.

I hope to see many of you in Boston. In the meanwhile, if you have any suggestions, let me hear from you.

Richard P. Brief

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## A BOOK RECOMMENDATION FROM THE EDITOR

The long awaited book, *A History of Accounting in America*, by Gary Previts and Barbara Merino, is now available. This editor has not only read the book, but has also used it already in a graduate seminar course. As might be expected from such noted authors, the book is excellent. The volume is recommended both for classroom use and for personal reading. Believe it or not, the students could not put it down; they were generally reading ahead of the assigned chapters.

Previts and Merino consider the social, political, economic, and personal elements of each major period in the development of American accounting including important original accounting writing from Puritan times, the classical thought and practice of the Great Depression, and the contemporary "bottom line" culture of the 1970's. The humor, anecdotes, warm friendships and bitter controversies that underlie the growth of a profession are highlighted in this text. The book includes almost everything that a reader would find interesting, even a murder mystery.

The book is available for \$17.95 from Ronald Press, P. O. Box 092, Somerset, NJ 08873.

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## SECRETARY SAYS TO PAY DUES

Academy secretary, Al Roberts, says that members should pay their 1980 dues immediately or something awful will happen (he didn't say what). The rolls for the membership directory will be closed on June 1. Anyone who has not paid their dues by June 1 will have their name deleted from the new directory.

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## THE ACCOUNTING HISTORIANS NOTEBOOK

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